

MEDIA RELEASE

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Competitors Head to the Border for Long Weekend

The New South Wales Pony Club competition season is in full swing, with the first of the State Championships taking place over the Australia Day long weekend. The Pony Club NSW State Showriding and Dressage Championships were held at the well-equipped Murwillumbah Showgrounds from the 25th-27th of January, which provided excellent facilities at the tree lined showground that provided shade for horses, competitors and spectators to escape the warm weather.



Charlize Mackie from Zone 23. Paul Smith Photography

Over 140 riders took part across in the Championships, with many riders opting to compete across both championships, representing their Zone with a high level of presentation, sportsmanship and performance. Riders with the highest points in each championship were awarded with an Age Champion sash, trophy, and wool trophy rug thanks to Horseland, and Reserve Champions took home a sash, and an embroidered saddlecloth from Elite Horse and Pet Products. Associate Age Champions additionally took home a saddlecloth and voucher from Equissage, with Zone Champion Teams receiving a hat and voucher from Equissage also.

The State Showriding Championships started things off on the Friday and Saturday with events including Rider, Hack, Hunter, Handler, Pony Club Mount and Bareback classes among others. Competition was strong across the three rings, making it a difficult task for judges Rita Rodgers, Cathy Young, and Gail Iskra.

At the conclusion of classes the overall Age Champion and Reserve Champion in each age division were announced during the un-mounted presentation. In the Under 9 years, Charlize Mackie from Dural Pony Club in Zone 23 was the highest point scorer and declared the Age Champion, while Jemima Warburton from Gravesend Pony Club in Zone 8 was the Reserve Champion. Anastasia Blanch from Murwillumbah Pony Club in Zone 15 was awarded the 9 & Under 11 Years Age Champion in a tough field, with Olivia Thrift from Denman Pony Club in Zone 7 named as the Reserve Champion after a count back for Age Champion.



Makayla Tink from Zone 4. Paul Smith Photography

In the 11 & under 13 years Age group, Jacinta Sullivan from Congarinni Pony Club in Zone 9 was awarded the Age Champion and was the highest point scorer of the day, and Molly Callinan from Wallsend New Lambton in Zone 25 was the Reserve Champion. Ivy Pointon-Wales from Alstonville Pony Club in Host Zone 15 was the highest point scorer in the 13 & under 15 years age group, taking home the Age Champion Sash, Rug and Trophy, with Makayla Tink from Rawsonville Pony Club in Zone 4 in the Reserve Champion position.

15 & under 17 age group saw Cogarinni Pony Club (Zone 9) in the two top spots, with competitor Tahnee Sullivan the one to beat, being declared the Age Champion, while Lily-Rose Powell was the Reserve Champion. The Associates group had a home town victory, with Murwillumbah Pony Club (Zone 15) riders taking out Champion and Reserve Champion in the largest age group with 21 riders competing. Charlee Anthony was named the Associate Age Champion, while Chloe Pacey-Smith was just one point behind for Reserve Champion.

The Pony Club Association of N.S.W.

7/25 Victoria Street, Wollongong NSW 2500
Postal Address: PO Box 2085 Wollongong 2500
Phone: 02 4229 8977 Fax: 02 4229 8966

Email: admin@pcansw.org.au Website: www.pcansw.org.au

The overall Champion Zone for the State Showriding Championships was awarded to Zone 15 with riders Charlee Anthony, Chloe Pacey-Smith, Ivy Pointon-Wales and Anastasia Blanch scoring the most points for their zone with all riders being named Champion or Reserve Champion in their age group, while Zone 4 was declared the Fitness Check Presentation Award winners.

The event continued with the State Dressage Championships on Sunday. Competitors performed two dressage tests for their age group ranging from Preliminary to Elementary, with the combined highest scoring riders presented with Age Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

In the Under 11 years Age Group, Ava Peel from Denman Pony Club in Zone 7 took home the Age Champion, while Marley Yates from Mount Sugarloaf Pony Club in Zone 25 took home Reserve Champion. Queensland riders Jorja McCloskey and Shae Stubbs took out Age Champion and Reserve Champion respectively.



Marley Yates from Zone 25. Paul Smith Photography

The 13 & Under 15 years was the largest group for the Dressage Championship with 16 riders in total. Age Champion was awarded to Piper Wise from Queensland, followed by Angela Muller from Glenreagh Pony Club in Zone 9 in the Reserve spot. Lily-Rose Powell from Congarinni Pony Club in Zone 9 took out the 15 & Under 17 years Dressage Age Champion, going one better from her Reserve Champion in the Showriding Championship. Anastasia Haling from Kootingal Pony Club in Zone 5 gained the Reserve Champion award. In the Associates division it was another Queensland takeover, with Jana Stadelmann and Amelia Starkey being awarded Associate Age Champion and Reserve Champion respectively.

Zone 9 was named as the Champion Zone, with riders Jemma Whelen, Angela Muller, Lily-Rose Powell and Chloe Dwyer having the highest point scoring riders in their zone. Zone 9 were also awarded the Fitness Check Presentation Award.

The next Combined State Championship for Pony Club NSW will be the 2019 State Sporting, Campdraft, Team Penning, Team Sporting and Mounted Games Championships at Merriwa Showgrounds from the 13th – 16th April.

Thank you to the generous sponsors of the Pony Club NSW Combined State Championships: Horseland; HYGAIN; Equissage; Elite Horse and Pet Products; and Paul Smith Photography. All professional photographs are available on the Paul Smith Photography website to view and purchase, at www.paulsmithphotography.com.au. For more information, visit the Pony Club NSW Facebook page or website on www.pcansw.org.au

For more information:
The Pony Club Association of NSW
Contact: Rachel Ratini
Email: marketing@pcansw.org.au