



Wanneroo Horse and Pony Club - Pony Club WA Club of the Year 2018

Wanneroo Horse and Pony Club (WHPC) is the Club of the Year. Put simply; it is a fantastic club. Why fantastic? Well, there are so many fantastic reasons.

One fantastic reason is the Committee; as every member worked tirelessly to ensure WHPC remained a friendly, welcoming and inclusive club that upheld the mission, aims and objectives of Pony Club WA.

Secondly, the Committee ensured that stuff got done. It boasts a long list of achievements including; re-establishing the cross country course while respecting and complying to Bush Forever, winning a grant for solar panels which represents a significant financial saving in the future, worked with the City of Wanneroo to maintain and develop the grounds including consultation on plant species and fire risks, established a system for maintaining club records, published newsletters, maintained communications utilising social media, held club events, operated a canteen that offered healthy options and returned a profit to the club, established a relationship with the local Men's Shed where they were able to build and supply cross country obstacles, and managed funding to ensure a healthy bottom line.

Thirdly, WHPC ran some pretty fantastic events. From fantastic rallies with fantastic instructors who delivered the PCWA syllabus through engaging lessons, to Give Pony Club a Go Days, to Hack Days and Combined Training Days which incorporated dressage and showjumping. These events catered well to young and inexperienced horses or riders and saw local competitors as well as others from further afield attending multiple days.

Another fantastic reason is WHPC's members. While the Committee aimed for a friendly, welcoming and inclusive club, that can only happen with a friendly, welcoming and inclusive membership. WHPC's members contribute to the club because it is their club.

As an example, one senior riding member dropped everything, packed the float and headed for the PCWA State Active Riding Championships in Moora, at an hour's notice! Why? Because her WHPC team needed her when other plans went astray. Another riding member took on the music, choreography and training for the Musical Ride at the PCWA State Dressage Championships in August. No mean feat, as anyone who has ever stitched (or stapled) a costume together for a horse will know! That effort resulted in WHPC placing third overall and first for costumes by the way. Another member took on the challenge of bringing the club to Generation Z by establishing an Instagram account with the goal of promoting the club to members and the broader community, ensuring all posts remained positive and supportive. WHPC's red and green could be seen at competitions across the state this year, and win, lose or draw, the smiles were just as big.

In a time when many clubs across Australia, as well as the state, are experiencing declining numbers, WHPC is proud of maintaining its membership over recent years, to increasing membership by in excess of 10% over the past year.

WHPC enjoys a fantastic relationship with the City of Wanneroo as well. In fact, at the recent WHPC Awards Presentation and Annual General Meeting, Mayor Tracey Roberts remarked that, being so fiercely protective of the Wanneroo name, she is so proud of this club which bears that name as it has such a big heart.

Our members step in to help others without hesitation. Ponies were loaned and shared, horses were floated, children looked after, busy bees were done with laughter, sausages sizzled, and rostered duties covered whenever anyone needed help.

Well, the year is done, and everyone stepped back and looked at their club with pride. WHPC is a fantastic club!