

# ***From the Chief Instructor for 2012***

What a wonderful year it has been for our Pony Club in 2011!

I would like to thank Allison Cuschieri for her tremendous effort as Chief Instructor of the club for the last 2 years. What a way to finish her time in this role by bringing the club and three of our riders to victory within the Zone. It's going to be difficult to top that!

We have an exciting year planned for 2012. We are going to be training for different types of pony club competitions, and holding 'mini-competitions' during musters. We are also going to concentrate on making sure that all our riders are progressing with their pony club certificates and achieving horsemastership skills as well as improving their riding ability. There are going to be plenty of fun activities organised throughout the year, with some excellent suggestions from our 2011 Junior Committee.

If you have any ideas for activities that you would like to see included in the musters for 2012, please let me know and I will try to accommodate these requests.

Next year there will be a profile for each of the instructors in the club, so that you know something about the people who give up their time to stand out in the sun (and sometimes rain!) each fortnight and talk to you about horses. We have some very experienced people within our club and we are fortunate that they make themselves available to share some of their knowledge.

I will start off by telling you a little bit about myself, and what I hope to achieve for the SGVPC.

## Who is Jane Baldock?

I grew up around Warrnambool on the south coast of Victoria – very cold and wet! Horse-mad from birth, I pestered my parents to ride but had to wait till age 7 before the nearest riding school would accept me. I was 10 when I finally got my own pony and 14 before we moved to a town with a Pony Club. I competed at everything I could enter, but my pony didn't like jumping and we topped the record with over 40 refusals going around a cross country course at a Zone ODE! We also won first place in the dressage that day (which fortunately gave out dressage ribbons independently), so it wasn't all bad!



In 1995 I moved to England and studied as a horse riding instructor at the Talland School of Equitation and then the Huntley School of Equitation. It was great fun! I stayed in accommodation with 12 other students and rode 3 or 4 times a day for 6 months. I achieved my BHS AI, which is equivalent to the EFA Level 1, and I am still registered with the British Horse Society as an instructor.

I taught at a number of riding schools in the UK, and I enjoyed training young horses, but when I had Eleanor and Skye I had to give up the young horses and jumping for a while and concentrate on dressage. I competed in Official Dressage in the UK up to Elementary level, until my horse became chronically lame with osteoarthritis.

While living in England I was very fortunate to be able to regularly attend workshops for instructors, run by some of the best trainers in the world: Arthur Kottas-Heldenberg, Charles De Kunffy, Steven Clarke, and Captain Mark Phillips. <http://www.ttttrust.com> They taught me a lot about 'classical riding' and I am committed to developing riders with position and 'feel'.

I returned to Australia in 2006 and taught part-time at Wattle Creek Riding School for one year before we bought ponies and joined the SGVPC. I cross-qualified with a Certificate III in Sports Coaching, as well as regularly attending EA update clinics and workshops. Last year I became an 'F' level Dressage Judge and have almost completed my 'B' level Pony Club Instructor's qualification. Just to make sure I don't get too bored, this year I have accepted the Chief Instructor position at SGVPC!!!

My aims as Chief Instructor of SGVPC are:

to work with the SGVPC parents and riders to make the musters fun

to continue to improve the riding skills and horse knowledge of all our members

to encourage more parents to participate in training as instructors and contribute their experience and enthusiasm to the benefit and longevity of the club

to allow all of our riders to enjoy success regardless of financial or logistical constraints

to develop and work with a strong team of instructors for the club which will improve consistency of instruction and be less demanding on each individual instructor's time

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2012!

Jane Baldock

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