

Macedon Pony Club History – Since 1973

2 Feb 2011 –

38 Years Riding Club Since April 1973 – 30th Year as Pony Club Since November 1981. Macedon Pony Club celebrates its 30th year as a member of Pony Clubs Victoria this year and its 38th year as a Riding Club.

6 April 2008

The sand arena costs are now expected to be \$46,000. The extra \$6,000 is due to the costs of archaeology surveys, excavation, archaeology 'dig' supervision by the Aboriginal community and the Cultural Heritage Plan imposed on the project by the Council.

A new grounds-use agreement is also entered into after months of tedious and intense negotiation with the 'environmental' department of the Council. It is also announced that once the arena is complete, fencing will be undertaken within two years.

16 August 2008

Equine Influenza has struck Australia, predominantly Qld and NSW. There were no recorded outbreaks in Vic. However, strict conditions are imposed by the Dept of Primary Industry. PCAV bans any horse activities subject to periodic review, until March 2008.

Effectively, pony club ceases to exist during this time. However, planning continues towards the major objective of the sand arena.

Additionally, an upgrade of the cross-country course is undertaken during this respite period.

1 April 2007

The 'heady' progress of the early part of the 2000 decade has subsided as the laborious pursuit with the Council is progressing slowly but steadily, towards the construction of the new sand arena. The club has managed to obtain a planning permit from the Council.

However, this is subject to the findings of an Aboriginal Heritage and Archaeological Survey. The Council has donated \$3,000 and an anonymous donation of \$5,000 has also been received. Providing the survey does not expose any unforeseen issues, the arena is optimistically expected to be completed during 2007 at a cost of approximately \$40,000.

2 April 2006

Plans for a sand-arena on the 'flat deck' are announced, there is a lot of fund-raising work and Council negotiation to be undertaken.

It is likely to be a two-year project.

4 April 2004

The continued growth of the club has put further pressure on the grounds; structure of groups and instructor resources, which has necessitated a cap of 80 on the membership. A shire grant is received to install picnic tables and seats near the club rooms.

22 November 2004

The cross-country course is planned to be upgraded at a cost of \$8,000 to bring it up to an 'accreditation' standard to enable a horse trials event to be run.

2003

The club shed is renovated and a verandah added to the toilets

July 2001

The Ménage is fenced, which is a major financial project

6 May 2001

A new cross-country course is back on the agenda after many years.

22 Jan 2001

Council grants \$1,000 to renovate the trailer and install blinds for the clubrooms.

2 April 2000

The Council provides a grant of \$1,000 to assist in the approved carport extension to the club rooms.

21 February 2000

The final top dressing is applied to the ménage, which completes the surface.

7 February 1999

The ménage is officially opened but top dressing is yet to be completed.

27 November 1998

Council approves and grants \$3,000 to establish the ménage.

21 September 1998

Council has approved the extension to build a twin Ranger's yard. This is constructed by club members at the October rally.

13 August 1998

The Council advises a schedule of 'user contributions' and outlines fees the club is required to pay over the ensuing three years for occupancy of Barringo reserve.

26 June 1998

Wet-weather (spray) jackets are approved as a part of the clubs' uniform for rallies and the first orders were received.

4 June 1998

Council was approached to duplicate the Rangers fenced yard to cater for the growth of the Ranger's group.

14 July 1998

Council expresses concern that base works for the ménage has proceeded without formal approval and requests that works cease until the master plan has been finalised. Once approved, retrospective approval will be given for the base works.

27 February 1998

Council advises that permission is granted for the club members to park their floats inside the pony club grounds.

14 July 1997

The Council has granted \$5,000 to fence the perimeter of the Barringo reserve.

24 June 1997

Toilets are approved by the Council. The Council requires a working committee to be formed for the other proposed works of 2 June, to plan for the development of the grounds.

2 June 1997

In the first year of the new President, the club approaches Macedon Ranges Shire Council for permission to build toilets on the grounds; a ménage; a fenced area for the newly formed 'Ranger's group, which caters for beginners; on-grounds float car parking; holding corrals; and extension to the clubrooms to house equipment and trailers.

1997 to 2002

The club enters a new era and grows its membership faster than any other period of time, from 30 to 80 members.

This fast-paced growth puts enormous stress on the club rally structure and finances. More groups require more instructors and areas to work. The South side over the creek, adjacent to the 'Duigan' land, is utilised in creative ways not previously required.

The new owners of the 'Duigan' land agree to use of the land with the proviso that no permanent structures are erected.

The club embarks on unprecedented fund raising ensuring the financial wellbeing of the club, which continues in the ensuing years.

This enables a series of major infrastructure projects.

30 March 1994

The club is informed that a part of the cross-country course will need to be dismantled and a new course designed and reconstructed, due to the sale of the privately held 'Duigan' land.

1992/1993

Construction of the first cross-country course is undertaken by the members. It is of such standard that the club bids to host the forthcoming State Championships. The bid is unsuccessful. The course meanders over the grounds and onto the unfenced adjoining land, South of the Barringo reserve, known as the 'Duigan' land.

January 1992

It's a four-day camp at Barringo Recreational Reserve, a great time is had until the Mt Macedon bushfire threatens the camp.

20 riders ride to the safety of nearby New Gisborne.

11 November 1991

Council issues a full license and authority to enter the land and to occupy the land, for the purpose of conducting pony/horse club activities and ancillary exhibits to maximum of 20 meetings per year. There are strict covenants issued with the license.

1 May 1991

The major achievement during 1989/1990 has been the club settling into the Barringo grounds and it now feels like home.

Although possession is nine tenths of the law, the incoming committee has to deal with the Shire of Gisborne and finalisation of a lease to ensure tenancy. The club has finally made a claim for

permanent occupancy of the Barringo grounds with the building of new club rooms. Completion of the facility should be the first and overwhelming priority of the new committee.

Establishing new and permanent headquarters for the club will assist greatly in the climate surrounding the club.

12 March 1989

It has been a year of frustration with the proposal to move to Barringo Reserve but hopefully, we are now here to stay.

13 March 1988

It is the club's AGM and a member proposes that the club be split into two clubs. One at the Barringo reserve and one at McBean Ave.

This is to satisfy some members who would like to remain at the McBean grounds. After more discussion the resolution is not supported and the club continues its pursuit of approval to use the Barringo grounds as one club.

10 March 1988

An entrance gate is installed at Barringo reserve to provide access, despite having no approval to conduct the March rally at the grounds. Subsequent meetings with the Council are arranged.

3 December 1987

Fitting in with school holidays for 1998, rallies are to be moved to the second Sunday of the month during 1998.

20 September 1987.

An Extraordinary meeting is held to plan a challenge to the Council's view that use of the Barringo reserve would be 'ecologically unsound'.

A meeting is being arranged with Councillor's at the grounds to fully explain the intended use of the grounds. Subsequently, a meeting between the shire Secretary and Town Planning Officer is held. The result is a recommendation by the Council representative's that the club apply for a planning permit and hold the next few rallies at the grounds. This allows any objections to be based on actual activities.

2 October 1986

Proceedings begin to put a tender to the Shire of Gisborne. This is to obtain Barringo Recreational Reserve (Cnr Barringo and Shannons Road, Barringo Valley) as the permanent pony club grounds. Reasons for the proposed change are that the existing grounds are too small for the clubs growing membership needs; Calder

Hwy is too noisy and dangerous; the current grounds have poor drainage, which render a significant portion of the grounds unsuitable when wet.

28 November 1985

An advertisement is placed in the local paper appealing for instructors to apply for commencement Feb 1986. Applicants are "on trial" at the January rally.

2 September 1985

All but one instructor are advised that their services were not required due to lack of funds and their lack of enthusiasm.

At the subsequent committee meeting, it is noted that the instructors have responded unfavourably to the letter.

1 July 1985

Crash helmets are introduced as a requirement for all (mounted) members as a condition of the new DC's appointment.

21 June 1985

Macedon Pony Club becomes an Incorporated Association known as Macedon Pony Club Incorporated.

5 September 1984

The club writes to the PCAV expressing disappointment at the PCAV AGM decision to rescind a motion advocating wearing of crash helmets whilst mounted.

4 July 1984

Rally days are moved to first Sunday of the month.

16 February 1983

'Ash Wednesday' bushfires ravage the McBean Ave Reserve (club grounds) resulting in substantial loss of club assets.

Some member's home properties are affected. Subsequently, after contact by the Central Zone Representative,

the zone is informed that despite the losses, the club intends to continue.

Over the ensuing months, the Victorian Government

donates \$1,137.60. Central Zone donates \$150. Woodend pony club

donates \$100 and coordinates assistance to members who

have lost gear. Gisborne South Pony Club's Junior Committee organises a

raffle to raise approximately \$200. Mrs G. Griffiths and

Mr F. Gillespie donate hay for members. Korumburra pony club offers to agist 14 horses. The Shire of Gisborne rebuilds damaged aspects of the grounds and pays \$278 to rebuild the bridge, which separated the club grounds into two areas.

The club manages to run a rally in March but the April Gymkhana is postponed until November.

17 November 1981

Macedon Pony Club completes its probationary club status and is accepted as a full member of the PCAV.

2 June 1981

Macedon Riding Club has applied for probationary membership of the PCAV and is accepted.

At this time the club's name is changed to Macedon Pony Club.

The uniform retains the blue sash but the tie changes to the official PCAV tie.

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10 February 1981

A blue sash is added to the maroon uniform jumper. The blue is the same colour of the tie, which has the MPC initials embroidered thereon. Riders tack is to be inspected every six months.

8 April 1973

Macedon Riding Club has commenced and is located at the McBean Avenue Reserve (cnr Calder Hwy) Macedon.

The club operates in a similar manner to that of a pony club by convening instructional rallies but is not a member of the Pony Club Association of Victoria (PCAV). Rallies are conducted on the second Sunday of the month.