

Riders Slide into Merriwa Championships



Anthony Shultz of Zone 25 will be back in 2019 to defend his title in the Campdraft Championship. Pic: Kristy Bullen.

The 2019 Pony Club NSW State Sporting, Team Penning, Campdraft, Team Sporting and Mounted Games Championships will be held at the Merriwa Showground from Saturday the 13th until Tuesday the 16th of April. The event is hosted by Zone 7, which encompasses the Upper Hunter region. This is the first of two major State Championships that the Zone will host this year, with the second being the State Showjumping and One Day Event Championship in July.

The event has attracted 600 entries from around New South Wales who will represent their respective Zones and Clubs in the competition. There is also a large contingent coming in from across the border in Queensland. Historically, Queensland have been very competitive in the disciplines on offer for the championships, keeping NSW riders on their toes. The State Sporting Championship will start off the competition on the 13th, followed by the Cattle Disciplines (Team Penning and Campdrafting) on Sunday the 14th. The 15th will host the Mounted Games Championships, and the Team Sporting Championship will wrap up the competition on the 16th.

This is the first time the event has been held in this combination- previous years have seen Sporting, Campdrafting and Team Penning being held together, with Team Sporting and Mounted Games held on a separate weekend. With such a favourable response from competitors, it appears to be a winning combination. The first Sporting and Campdraft Championships were held in Dunedoo in 1980, with Team Penning only being introduced recently in 2016, along with Team Sporting.

Riders will be busy practicing and preparing to travel to the championships with some competitors travelling over 8 hours from Cobargo in the South, and 30 riders making the trip from Queensland. Riders competing are aged between 7 and 24 years, with the largest age group being the 13 & Under 15 years and 17 & Under 26 years Sporting Championship, which both have 55 competitors in each group, with over 200 entries in the Sporting along. The Campdraft is also proving to be popular with 46 competitors in the 17 & Under 26 year old group.

The Merriwa Showground will be packed out with 264 horses being housed on site for the duration. Spectators are invited to come along and watch competition which starts at 8:00am each morning. There will be a number of trade stands in attendance to allow for some retail therapy. The local Zone 7 will run a Canteen for the duration of the event for breakfast and lunch. Two championship dinners will be held on Saturday and Monday, hosted by Zone 7 to settle into the competition in a relaxed atmosphere.

Merriwa is a small town in the Upper Hunter of NSW, with a population of around 1800 people. The influx of competitors, families, volunteers, officials, and supporters will be one of the highlights of the calendar for Merriwa, along with the Festival of the Fleeces and the Merriwa Springtime Show. Competitors are encouraged to dine and shop in the local town to see what's on offer.

The most successful riders in each Age group will be awarded the 2019 Age Champion award and receive a sash, trophy, HYGAIN feed voucher, Horseland wool rug, and gift bag from Ranvet. The most successful Zone and State will also receive awards with up to 4 of the highest point scoring riders from the same zone receiving a sash and trophy.

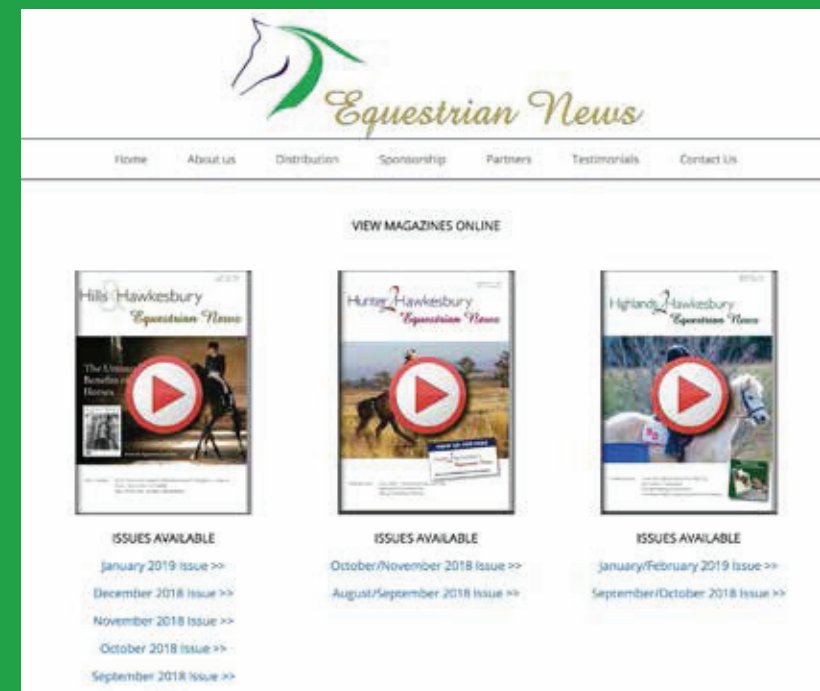
Thank you to the generous sponsors of the Pony Club NSW State Championships from Horseland, HYGAIN and Ranvet.

For more information, visit the Pony Club NSW Facebook page or website on www.pcansw.org.au



Anastasia Martin from Zone 7 was the 2018 Associate Sporting Champion. She will be attending the 2019 Championship in her hometown of Merriwa.

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Isabella Barbero

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To view Rider of the Month online go to www.equestriannews.com.au



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To enter, simply answer the questions on our website at www.pcansw.org.au/media/competitions and email to marketing@pcansw.org.au - and don't forget to include high quality photos of you and your horse!

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Every rider of the month receives an embroidered saddle cloth



Alana Richards
Age 19

Dressage, eventing, pony club, showing.

Pony Club: Loop Line Pony Club, Zone 10

Horse's Name: Prince Harry (Harry), Revelwood Noble Knight (Noble), Costa Fortune (Battles) and Silverthorn Spyker (Spencer).

How many years have you been riding horses?

10 years.



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Favourite Food? Pizza

Pony, Galloway or Hack? Pony or hack

Favourite Animal? Dog and horse

Favourite Movie? Divergent

Favourite thing to do when not riding? Playing with my dogs or driving dad's machinery.

What are some of your recent achievements?

Some of my recent achievements are winning Horse of the Year with Harry and being selected to attend the pony club state camp for dressage in January.

Tell us about your all-time favourite horse (name, colour, height, talents, personality, funny habits, etc.)

I love all my horses but if I had to pick my all-time favourite horse, it would have to be Harry.

Colour: chestnut

Height: 13.3hh

Breed: Arabian X Welsh

Talents: Harry is a super talented pony in any discipline I do on him. He is the perfect pony for dressage, eventing, pony club, showing, sporting and even though he is small... he has proved he can jump big winning the 1.20m 6 bar at Robertson show.

Personality: He's very cheeky and quirky but also a very sweet and affectionate pony.

Funny habits: When he's curious about something he snorts at everything!



Tell us your most memorable horse or riding story?

Riding at Sydney Royal Easter Show for the first time on Harry in the big main arena. I rode in 3 pony club classes (team of four, pairs and rider). I was picked to be the caller for the team of four and we placed second in both team of four and pairs. I also placed top 15 in my rider class out of a huge class with almost 40 riders.

What do you want to be when you're older?

A vet nurse or horse trainer.

Who inspires you in the equestrian world?

Michelle Baker inspires me because she is an amazing coach/ rider and has helped me improve so much as a rider. She helped me train my off the track thoroughbred through to elementary dressage and is currently helping me with my new 3 yr old Warmblood X German Riding Pony.

