



New Zealand Pony Clubs Association Inc.

Riders Without Horses Programme Information

Riders Without Horses is a programme developed for New Zealand Pony Clubs with the intent of helping Clubs and Branches encourage potential members to join. Pony Club is acknowledged as the organization to belong to if you wish to learn how to ride and care for your pony but not all those who love horses have the opportunity to own one and join a Pony Club.

Riders without Horses provides the opportunity to accommodate both groups.

- Clubs will maintain a constant flow of potential members.
- Parents have the opportunity to discern if they really want to be involved.
- Children can work out for themselves if they really want to commit themselves to Pony Club.

The programme covers ten Rally Topics that may be worked on in any sequence to allow for *Riders without Horses* participants who join at different times. In some cases the *Riders without Horses* participants may work within existing Club efficiency certificate groups, encouraging integration of all members and using Club Chief Coaches as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

The theory based Rally Topics can be accessed from the existing New Zealand Pony Clubs Association syllabus of Instruction. The content is not restricted to the criteria for the early efficiency certificates of "D". Some criteria within the "C" certificate, has been included, as well some content on learning about Dressage and Jumping.

At the end of the 10 Rally Programme, 9 out of 10 participants may decide that Pony Club is not really for them and they may leave, but at least they leave knowing a little more about how to care for a horse and how to look after themselves when around horses. One participant out of 10 may stay on as a useful member of Pony Club, they may or may not acquire a horse, but it is up to the Club or Branch to ensure they continue with a learning process and a sense of belonging to Pony Club.

Current Pony Club Members can be encouraged to assist with *Riders without Horses* as part of their service to the Pony Club section of the "O" Certificate - or just generally, as part of upholding the principles of good citizenship and being an active community member. It's a great way to encourage a "mentor programme" in the Club, giving the older members a feeling of responsibility, and others - something to aspire to.

Coaches and parents who feel inadequate teaching the 'rider' aspect or are less mobile or those wishing to retire will find taking over the running of this programme keeps them involved with a real sense of worthiness.

Membership and subscriptions

Participants of *Riders without Horses* integrate into the pony club membership. Participants will pay an annual subscription to the Branch they participate at. This subscription will include the National affiliation fee for riding members.

As *Riders without Horses* will not be competing at all events, Clubs and Branches are advised that their subscription should be lesser than a riding member. As they will not have the opportunity to partake in Area selections for teams it should not include a levy to areas.

Riders without Horses will be entitled to receive a new members folder and record card. When they have completed the 10 rally plan, and review on the content, they will receive their *Riders without Horses* achievement certificate.

- Club and Branch Secretary's may receive a copy of the programme from the Executive Officer, P.O. Box 8626, Havelock North 4157.
- *Riders without Horses* record cards and Certificates are available from the NZPCA (see NZPCA order form)
- *Riders without Horses* members will be not be given equivalent clips for badges.