

ANNUAL REPORT PCAV 2009

I cannot believe it is that time of year again to write reports. The last twelve months has gone so quickly. Firstly I must thank our outgoing chief Instructor Michelle Thomas who is taking some time out for herself at the moment after being severely affected by the Black Saturday fires. The zone is very appreciative of Michelle's efforts for the zone and we wish her well with the rebuilding of her house and hope to see her back on the DCI panel in the near future. The Zone extends a warm welcome to our new chief instructor Rachel Edwards who is bright and enthusiastic and we look forward to working with her.

Our DCI panel has been very busy organizing and running many Instructors Courses and we had a very successful Mary Longden Clinic at Glenbrae in July with excellent entries. Brenda Mitton's clinics have again been well attended throughout the year and are in popular demand. Our young riders greatly benefit from these clinics. Our C certificate testing is around the same number as last year and our two B Certificate candidates were fire affected and hopefully in time they will continue with this certificate. I wish to thank our DCI/ZA panel for their efforts throughout the year.

Despite some clubs and members in our zone being seriously fire affected we have been able to field teams in all state disciplines. We were able to field club teams this year in the State Horse Trials for the first time in ages with Seville winning first place which was a huge thrill for everyone. I want to congratulate all our clubs and riders who fielded teams this year you were great ambassadors for our zone.

Sadly we are losing two clubs this year to closure. Diamond Valley Horse & Pony Club and Yea Pony Club have closed due to lack of membership. This is a continuing problem for our zone with many clubs facing major problems with Councils in re-negotiating their leases and the unrealistic demands of some councils. Templestowe Pony Club has also faced problems with their grounds and will be merging with Donvale Pony Club in the future.

This has been an extremely difficult year for our Zone and clubs due to the fires, and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the fire affected Clubs and members of the Northern Metro Zone to thank everyone particularly pony clubs from all over Australia, adult riders, and organizations not affiliated with pony club for their donations of money, horse gear, jumps, games equipment, horses, time and labour their generosity has been amazing. In particular I would like to thank our CEO James Fitzpatrick whose professionalism and support to our clubs and members in assisting with the completion of the mountain of paperwork connected with grants etc has been fantastic. Thank you James.

Finally I would like to thank the NMZ Zone executive who have worked tirelessly again for the clubs in our Zone and for their support throughout the year.

Linda Smith
NMZ Zone Representative