**Presidents AGM Report – 8 May 2015**

The best part of pony club for me is seeing all the keen faces of riders and ponies lined up outside the club rooms waiting to tell their stories of what they have been doing with their ponies the weekend before. It is a very positive experience.

**Membership**

* 46 Riding members, 14 adult riding members!
* 23 rallies planned and 21 rallies completed with consistent attendance of around 26 riders

**Events**

* It all started with a most success clean up working bee! We shifted heaps of rubbish to get our season off to a clean start!
* Cross country practice evenings were an absolute fizzer – I can only put that down to them starting too early in the season. It was only later on in the second half of the season did I start getting requests for people to use our grounds.
* District Dressage was held very successfully on our grounds – they looked a picture and we did a good job with presenting our grounds.
* Congratulations to our riders that made the Waitemata Dressage Team – once again our branch is achieving well at representative level – more about that in prize giving
* Then came our ODE – which we did a good job of. The entries were disappointing and with the additional costs involved this is not the big money making event of old sadly. There was also controversy about our cross country course and the online entry system let us down at results time which caused a lot more work after the event.
* Congratulations to Zoe Ander for making the Waitemata Rodney Champs Team and for coming third in the A1 class. This is a huge achievement at the National Level.
* Congratulations to Riley Sewell, Caitlin Cornelius and Sam Gradowski Smith for making the Area Dressage Champs Team and to Peta Kuluz for being reserve.
* Congratulations to Beth Clothier for making reserve for the Cambridge Champs Show Jumping team.
* There are many other successes but that is for prize giving.

**Fund raising**

* It is necessary for our voluntary organisation to make additional money through the season to keep our club viable.
* Thanks to Dee Hunter for her creative fund raising ideas. Dee provided the baths for sale and also donated a large firewood pile for the club to split and sell – This generated $4000 for our club, three times the amount raised through our ODE. Without this income our finances would be looking dire.

**Committee**

* I have tried to be as organised as possible with rally dates, meeting dates and event dates set well in advance and by keeping the members well informed along the way.
* Thank you to all members of the committee this year who have all contributed in their own way. It is good for people to play to their strengths and contribute where they can.
* I’d like to make special mention of Kim for a tight rein on our finances and being a speedy and effective Executive Committee member, Megan Plumbley who has been a rock with the pony club email, Jenny for being really effective as our junior ride co-ordinator, Michelle for keeping us fed and watered every rally and Karen for running our website, facebook and for establishing the Adult Ride group. This has been a very successful re-introduction of the adult ride and the feedback has been great.

**Instructors**

Thank you to our team of Pony Club Coaches and Chris for leading them. They have looked very smart in their pink coaching vests. The riders have enjoyed wonderful instruction again this season and I have observed really happy riders during the rallies. Our certificate results are great with badges being gained at the junior level, four passes at D+ level, 9 passes at C level and 3 riders going forward on 23 May to sit the C+ ridden exam.

Paying for instructors is our biggest outlay each season but hiring quality pony club trained instructors delivers great results for our riders. I would like to ensure that we are always balancing the group size with our financial constraints. Whilst it is desirable to keep group sizes small we also need to consider if we can afford to sustain that model.

**Grounds**

A heartfelt thank you to Richard and Mary Lloyd who continue to support Wainui Pony Club in many ways. They are incredibly generous allowing us to use their beautiful farm as our home ground and Richard is always willing to listen to our requests and share his knowledge with us. We are very grateful to Richard and Mary for their generosity and support.

Paul Croft has continued to oversee our ground maintenance and cross country build programme and has been quietly mentoring Stephen Simpson into this role. Paul has the ability to get all manner of materials donated to us and the first class country course is an awesome legacy for us to enjoy.

**Parents**

A colleague recently said to me that when you put kids, sport and parents together it is a recipe for fireworks!! Well at pony club we have ponies thrown into that fireworks mixture also!! However, Wainui Pony Club doesn’t fit this description at all and once again we have had excellent contribution from our parents to run the club and the event days. It cannot be done without you all contributing, this is a VOLUNTARY organisation and it would be good to see all parents stepping up not just the same old familiar faces.

Let’s see how many of you are willing to take on roles in our elections shortly!

END