

WELCOME TO VIEW HILL PONY CLUB

Pony Club is held throughout New Zealand in all areas where there are enough keen riders to run and support a club. Primarily it is standardized so that all riders are taught along similar lines in both riding and Horse mastership.

VIEW HILL is our local branch of Pony Club and is made up of about 75 members. Other neighboring branches are: Amberley, Balcairn, Belfast, Eyreton, Kaiapoi, Okuku, Oxford, Rangiora and Windsor. These ten "branches" makeup a `Club' which is known as NORTH CANTERBURY PONY CLUB. The `Club' ensures that each Branch is run under the guidelines set by the New Zealand Pony Club. Clubs are controlled mainly by the District Commissioner, the President and a Chief Instructor.

Now you understand what is commonly known as `Club level, it is time to learn that together Clubs make up an `Area'. North Canterbury, Christchurch and Hurunui all make up the CANTERBURY AREA. Group all sixteen areas together and you have the NEW ZEALAND PONY CLUB.

VIEW HILL Branch is therefore only a very small part of a vast world-wide organisation.

PONY CLUB RALLIES are held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month, starting at 10:30am. Parents are always welcome at these Rallies which are held at View Hill Domain over the summer months, and at Kowhai, March through to Labour Weekend. Members are expected to present themselves in the approved Pony Club dress: Lipstick red crew neck jersey (not fisherman's rib), white shirt, red tie, clean jodhpurs and boots, hairnet, hat and Pony Club badge. Horse and rider should appear clean and neatly turned out.

Pony Club Manuals, Badges, Clips and Performance Cards are available from your Junior Committee Treasurer, either at home or when she is at the riding school. We try to make each rally different and include instruction in Dressage, Show Jumping, Cross Country, Hunter Jumping, Horse mastership, Gymkhanas, Events and Games.

Once riders have attended five rallies and reached the required standard of riding, they may sit Pony Club Certificates and also be eligible for Pony Club Team events. Three of these rallies must be attended on the mount the rider wishes to use. Pony Club Certificates require a large amount of work in both ring and horse mastership, so are not easy to obtain, but most rewarding when you do! One pre-requisite to sitting certificates and competing in any Pony Club Event, is that the rider is a financial member. As a Pony Club Member you are eligible to compete in Inter Pony Club competitions such as One Day Events, Games Days, Dressage Days and Gymkhanas.

VIEW HILL Branch Chief Instructor is Mrs.E B Thomas, aided by her Chief Assistant and other senior riders.

Parents play a strong part in Pony Club activities, as riders need plenty of support whether competing or just riding. Officials and parents are able to discuss what is happening within the branch at Senior Committee meetings, and also help plan and organize future events. VIEW HILL is fortunate in that we have the use of Kowhai Riding School property for Rallies, Events etc. Several working bees are held each year and parents are encouraged to attend.

Finally we hope your membership will be enjoyable and successful.