



Member Information Booklet

McLaren Districts Riding Club
McLaren Flat Recreation Grounds
Main Road, McLaren Flat
Postal address: P.O. Box 1120 McLaren Flat



@mclarendistrictsridingclub



www.mclarendistrictsridingclub.net

ABOUT THE CLUB

The McLaren Districts Riding Club Inc. was established at the Recreation Grounds in 1981. The Club became affiliated with the Horse Riding Clubs Association in 1988 but in 2007, after a unanimous vote at our AGM, the club resigned from the HRCA to enable us to pursue our own agenda. In 2015 the Committee saw value in becoming an “EA affiliated club” allowing us to adapt procedures and policies that will see us continue well into the future.

Due to an increasing membership, the Club no longer needs to rely so heavily on funds from “Open Competition” days, enabling it to focus on the needs of its members through “Member only” rally days. This year the Committee has included many favourite events but also introduced some new events into the program and welcome any feedback, ideas and suggestions that you may have.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

SHORT TERM:

- To provide members with a structured program to obtain the benefits and enjoyment of correct education by well-qualified instructors in matters of horsemanship and training.
- To be recognised as an integral part of the McLaren District’s Community in addition to creating a community within the club..
- To ensure all economic and administrative decisions are managed effectively and efficiently to ensure longevity and financial security of the Club.
- To continue to develop protocols and policies ensuring the safety and welfare of members and their horses.

LONG TERM:

- To provide a safe equestrian complex where members can learn, train and develop their horsemanship skills.
- To provide a safe equestrian complex in which non-club horse owners/riders can train or compete at the invitation of the club.
- To provide the McLaren Districts community with an outdoor facility in which equestrian activities can be enjoyed in a semi rural environment.
- To promote competitive and social interaction with and provide support to other persons and groups involved in non-commercial equestrian activities.

MEMBERSHIP

The Club endeavours to keep membership fees to a minimum by using other fundraising ventures to help keep the Club financial.

Membership of the Club shall be comprised of the following categories:

1. Ordinary (single) Membership – a person who is a riding participant in club activities and shall have one vote.
2. Family Membership – a family, defined as one or two adults and their children and any child under 18 years residing with them as legal dependents and shall be entitled to two votes per family.
3. Associate Membership – a person who is a non-riding participant in club activities and shall have one vote.

Fees MUST be paid the first day you ride your horse on Club grounds.

For club insurance purposes, no person is permitted to ride on the grounds until full payment has been made. Club membership starts on January 1 of each year and ends on the 31st of December in the same year.

Membership fees are available on the website and Membership application form.

Half yearly membership runs from July 1st each year

Day Memberships are available for open events.

MEMBER VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

We ask our members to contribute, by way of volunteer help to assist with:

1. The smooth running of events (rally days and open events)
2. Allowing all members time to be able to participate
3. The maintenance of club grounds
4. Ensuring membership fees be kept to a minimum.

It is a requirement of membership, that all members give a minimum of 4hrs of volunteer service per year.

Signing the membership form is acknowledgement and acceptance of this requirement.

In addition to the compulsory requirements already listed, members are asked to assist with setting up/packing away of equipment and help where needed on the **rally days** that they attend.

As part of your membership, you are able to use the grounds and facilities at any time outside of rally days (unless weather conditions make the grounds unsuitable) A combination code to access the key-safe at the ground entrance will be issued from the beginning of each year and can be obtained from a committee member.

Due to club insurance and liability requirements, private use of the grounds is **STRICTLY** limited to **MEMBERS ONLY**. Misuse of grounds or sharing of the code with non-financial members will result in your membership being revoked.

PROGRAM

Rallies are held at the grounds generally twice per month on a Sunday, or as programmed by the Committee.

The program can be found on our website: www.mclarendistrictsridingclub.net

Regular updates on the club, including upcoming rallies, competition times and other information are available via our Facebook Page: @mclarendistrictsridingclub

The program is subject to change due to weather conditions or availability of instructors/judges/venues.

Should a change be necessary, members will be notified. Cancelled events will be rescheduled if at all possible.

SIGN IN

Please sign in at the club rooms on every club rally or open day.

All instruction/competition days **MUST** be paid for prior to riding. For some events you will receive a wristband when payment is received. You must present this wristband to enter any classes.

WEATHER

Where the forecast temperature is **34 degrees** or higher for Noarlunga on the preceding Saturday evening news, the rally will **automatically** be cancelled. Members will be advised via email and Facebook of any re-scheduling for that event.

If the grounds are too wet, members will be advised via email and Facebook of any re-scheduling for that event.

CANTEEN

Uniforms, drinks and snacks are available for purchase from the canteen at all events. Lunch will also be available on Open Competition days and most rally days.

Members may be asked to help on rally days with the canteen or BBQ in addition to the compulsory volunteer hours, or to provide a cake or sweets for the canteen.

YARDS

We have day yards available for use by members. On Members only days, these are available on a first come first served basis. Chains are available from the clubrooms, please ensure they are returned at the end of the day. On open days, members can book yards... these bookings can be made when you pre-enter.

Some yards will be reserved for members volunteering on the day, to ensure their horse can be kept secure. These will be clearly marked. Please ensure your yard is left clean and tidy when you depart, and all rubbish is placed in the bins.

Some yards are available for non-members on open days for a \$10 fee.

FLOAT PARKING

Please ensure you park where directed, and try and minimise the space you take up. We have limited parking available, so need to ensure we are economical with our parking.

Please note a float must be attached to a towing vehicle if a horse is tied to the float.

MANURE

An essential part of our lease agreement with the Recreation Park is that manure is to be spread **ONLY** within the clubs boundary (ie the grassed area inside the fence).

Manure must not be left in the float parking area, around trees or anywhere outside the fenced area of the riding club grounds.

GROUND

Entry gates must be closed at all times when horses are present. Please only take horses through the signed horse gate.

Dogs are not allowed within the grounds when horses are present and must be on a leash in other areas.

There is to be no smoking within 20 metres of the Clubroom

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK

WEB: www.mclarendistrictsridingclub.net **FACEBOOK:** @mclarendistrictsridingclub

Information such as the current program, newsletter and upcoming events with links to flyers/nomination forms and contact persons can be found on our website.

We also have photos from previous events, plus all the information you require about the club.

The website and Facebook page is updated regularly and is the best way to keep informed of what is happening at the club.

Please be aware when signing your membership form of the clause on the bottom stating you give your permission for photos of you and your horse taken at rally and competition days to be posted on the website &/or Facebook.

UNIFORM

Non-competition days

Jodhpurs - light or dark colour, but please no excessively bright or multi coloured jodhpurs. Club uniform (T-shirt and saddlecloth) or black top with Club logo and a black Club saddlecloth with club logo.

There is now have the option to provide your own top (t-shirt, long sleeved shirt, jacket or vest) and saddlecloth, and we can arrange for the club logo to be embroidered on (at your cost). You can leave your clothing or saddlecloth at the club on a rally day and it will be ready for the next rally day. We feel this gives people an option to wear clothing they like and feel comfortable in, but still maintain a club feel with the correct logo.

Uniform items are available in the club room for sizing, and can be ordered on rally days.

Competition uniform.

As we are an EA affiliated club, competition dress must be worn on **ALL** competition days

This consists of:

A shirt where the collar and parts visible externally should be white or cream or a pale colour. Stocks should be white, off white or the same colour as the coat, or a pale colour, piping trim is permitted. If the shirt has a business-style collar then a tie **MUST BE WORN.**

Neutral coloured Jodhpurs.

Riding jacket - the colour of the jacket should be in the darkish colour range. e.g. blue, green, black, grey or brown. Tweed jackets are also acceptable. Wearing a jacket is optional in hot weather conditions

Riding boots, either long or short. Long boots can be the same colour as the coat, short boots must be either black or brown only.

For dressage competitions gloves must be worn.

SAFETY

SAFETY IS IMPERATIVE for you, your horse and bystanders, and must be given the highest priority.

An Australian Standard helmet and flat-soled riding boots must be worn **at all times** when riding. If you are unsure if your hat is the approved version, please visit our website.

We encourage family and friends assisting you to wear suitable footwear to prevent any injury.

Please familiarise yourself with any First Aid trained people in attendance. These details will be provided at the clubrooms.

Spectators should be aware of horse movement at all times and take due care when in the Club Grounds. Spectators to give way to horses at all times. Small children should be in the care of a responsible adult at all times.

Horses known to kick must wear a red tail ribbon.

Only one horse at a time permitted in the round yard and there is to be no lunging in the arena.

Do not ride closer than 2 metres to the rear of another horse (an even greater distance is required if the horse in front has a red ribbon in its tail, indicating that it may be prone to kicking).

If your horse is misbehaving, please use your discretion to ensure your safety and that of other members and their horses by moving away quickly to avoid any potential problems. If you are unable to settle your horse, please ask for assistance...other members are only too happy to help.

Don't let your horse run close to or through spectators or other horses – common sense and safety go hand in hand.

Travel in the same direction as other riders when warming up. When passing oncoming riders, pass left hand to left hand. Never pass another rider from behind at a fast pace, especially if that horse is young or green.

It is club policy that no stallions are allowed to attend Riding Club events.

All horses being ridden over jumps must wear front boots.

Horses are to be properly treated/cared for – any neglect, ill treatment or bad behaviour towards a horse will result in the offending person being counselled by the Committee.

Abusive behaviour will not be tolerated, offenders will be asked to leave the grounds.

INSURANCE

McLaren Districts Riding Club holds a current public liability insurance policy.

PLEASE NOTE - This is NOT personal injury insurance

It is up to individual members to seek professional advice to decide what is appropriate in their circumstances. One source of information members might find useful is Equestrian SA.

HOW TO ENSURE GEAR SAFETY

Stitching and buckles on your bridle should be checked regularly. Keeping your gear in good condition will prevent cracking of the leather and possible breakage.

With regard to your saddle, regularly check the girth points and attached webbing for signs of wear and tear. You may like to get a reputable saddler to check your saddle for wear in areas of which you may not be aware. They will also be able to advise you

when to have the saddle repacked or the gullet altered to properly fit your horse (especially important as your horse changes condition/shape).

Stirrup leathers should be checked for rotting or cracking of the leather and to ensure the stitching is in good order. The stirrups should be neither too small, nor too large – generally a 1.5cm clearance at each side of the boot is required.

The girth itself should be in good order and kept clean to prevent girth galls.

CLUB TROPHIES

At the conclusion of each riding club year the club provides a range of trophies.

This includes high point trophies for junior and senior riders for points collected throughout the year for attendance and presentation of horse and rider.

We also present trophies for individual categories such as jumping, dressage and hacking, encourage and all rounder.

These are presented at our AGM and Christmas dinner at the end of the season.

BY-LAWS

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 1.1 Fees shall be determined for the following year at the Annual General Meeting and shall be payable on the first mounted rally day.
- 1.2 Members renewing membership and those joining before 30th June shall pay full membership fees. Those joining after 30th June shall pay one half of membership fees or a proportion as set by the committee.

UNIFORM

- 2.1 The uniform of the Riding Club consists of jodphurs (preferably bone, beige, white or banana coloured), club polo shirt or black t-shirt, vest or jacket with Club logo and black saddlecloth with club logo. Any hard hat as approved by the Horse Riding Club Assoc (with safety harness) and either short topped elastic sided fully soled riding boots (as recommended for juniors) or long top riding boots. Club competition days require the polo shirt to be substituted for a white collared shirt worn with the black club tie with gold and red diagonal striping club and bone jodphurs.
- 2.2 Members are encouraged to wear uniform at all Riding Club functions.
- 2.3 All riders attending a rally day must wear helmet and boots as described in 2.1 whilst on horseback.

SADDLERY

3.1 All horses are to be ridden in a saddle and bridle. Any variations in tack are subject to the discretion of the Riding Master and their appropriateness to the activity.

RALLY DAYS

- 4.1 Rally/open days shall be held on the second and fourth Sundays, or as per the program set by the committee at the commencement of the season.
- 4.2 Any rider or other member acting in an offensive or discourteous manner or in a manner likely to endanger others or their horses, render themselves liable to suspension from activities at the discretion of the Committee in attendance and to be reported to the committee for any further action.
- 4.3 No non-financial members to ride on club grounds.
- 4.4 Mounted members must display proof of financial membership.

STALLIONS

5.1 No stallion is to be brought to any Riding Club function.

DOGS

6.1 No dogs to be on club grounds during mounted rally days.

AGE OF HORSES

- 7.1 A horse should be a minimum of 4 years of age before taking part in jumping at Riding Club events.
- 7.2 The age at which a horse is capable of being ridden in flatwork at Riding Club events may vary slightly and will be considered individually by the committee.

INSURANCE

8.1 The Club provides public liability insurance only. It is up to the individual members to provide their own personal insurance for themselves and their horses.

AGE OF MEMBERS

9.1 Members are considered to be juniors if under 18 years of age before 30th September.

Officially updated and lodged with Office of Consumer and Business Affairs 8/3/01

9.1 updated at AGM 9/12/01

1.1,1.2,4.4,4.5 & 6.1 updated at Special General Meeting 9/7/02

