



From the Lennon Collection, RW1574/92.

City's pony history



at the archives
Wayne Doubleday



ony club is an international organisation which originated in Britain to encourage young people to have fun as they developed skills and achieved proficiency in all aspects of equestrian events.

The objects of pony club are:
 ■ to encourage young people to ride and learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding;
 ■ to provide instruction in riding and horsemanship and to instil in members the proper care of their animals; and
 ■ to promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline.

Wagga and district
 In the early 1950s a meeting was held and the first Wagga and District Pony Club was formed, with council traffic inspector and impounding officer Bill Morrow as the first president.

Joe Hawkins was vice-president with Miss Jean Byrnes being secretary and George Edney as treasurer.

In 1954, membership had reached 30 girls, 12 boys and 15 associates with Mrs Roma Brideoake as instructor; Mrs Joan Cheney of North Wagga was secretary.

Pony club dress code at the time included a brown jumper, tie and cap.

Pound Flat at the western end of Kincaid Street was the venue for the first rally with later rallies being held at North Wagga and "Oak Hill", the property of Mr J Hawkins.

Twenty-five riders attended the first weekend camp in 1952, held at the showground in the Christmas school holidays.

The camps were so successful that they grew into seven-day events.

Two of the largest camps were held in

1962 and 1963 with 105 and 108 children attending respectively together with about 250 horses and 30 instructors.

By the mid-1960s families from all over the district joined the club, increasing its membership to 100 family members.

Lake Albert
 On February 6, 1977, the Lake Albert Pony Club held its first rally on land east of Lake Albert Common.

The chief instructor was Francesca Davies-Graham and Alistair Davies-Graham was president.

After the venue was moved to the Lake Albert Common, members and parents erected fencing and yards.

An old house was acquired and was used as a clubhouse until it was destroyed by fire.

Today

The tradition of pony club continues its success with two clubs in Wagga: Wagga and Bidgee District Pony Club with its facility situated at the corner of East Street and Oura Road, North Wagga, and Lake Albert Pony Club has its clubhouse and facilities at the Rawlings Park reserve, Mitchell Road, Lake Albert.

Both Wagga clubs continue to supply rider education, cross country courses, dressage arenas and working paddock areas.

The dedication of instructors continues to prepare young people for championships and give confidence to achieve their best at their chosen sport.

Many district riders have achieved outstanding success in equestrian events at national and international level.

THE CSU Regional Archives currently holds nearly four linear metres of records from various pony clubs in the immediate Wagga area.

These include records of administration, events results, membership and attendance books, newsletters, handbooks, events flyers, and a copy of *A Brief History of the Pony Club Association of NSW 1952-1988*.

■ **References:**

www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au: A Brief History of the Pony Club Association of NSW from 1952-1988 [CSU/RA RW2390/36]; Australian Pony Club Annual No. 1 1975 [CSU/RA RW2390/35]; Wagga Life, Winter 2010.

Compiled by June Dietrich

What you need to know

■ The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward enquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



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