

## **Galston Equestrian Club – Message from President - April 2008.**

Since 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 a dedicated group of locals formed a steering committee to progress the necessary requirements to establish an adult horsemanship club in the Hornsby Shire. On the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008 a community meeting was organised to finalise a name and elect a committee. The meeting was well attended at the Arcadia Community Hall and agreement was reached about the name of the club and the acceptance of an interim constitution in order for elections to take place.

### **Summary of Steering Committee**

The interim committee members were: Barbara Anderson

**Cherie Luck** without whom we would not have progressed as quickly – Cherie has done a lot of work communicating and keeping the Blogg alive;

**Rita Kolano; John McFadden; Donna Horwood; Bill McLaughlin; Anne-Marie Church; Gillian McCall; and Sue Southey.**

A number of local community members have been working with council for some time to establish grounds for riders in the Hornsby Shire. The MARA group continue to meet regularly and agreed that to establish a riding club we should follow guidelines written by the Australian Sport Commission for establishing new clubs or associations. To that end we held a Founding Meeting at Arcadia Community Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008.

The tasks at the meeting were to identify a way forward and to brainstorm using specific questions to ascertain what role the club should play in the community. All attendees were given an opportunity to speak and their views documented.

The meeting also established an Interim Committee in order to progress the work of developing the required documentation to establish the club. The Interim Committee has worked hard since January to produce the materials needed to progress the legal aspects of establishing a club. As Chair of that committee I would like to personally thank all members of that Committee as everyone has contributed and worked cooperatively with each other, Council and the Pony Club to move progressively forward.

Everyone has had a part to play and we now have a draft constitution, guidelines for the club and have researched many aspects of establishing a club, developed submissions, Banner for the IGM meeting, flyers and forms etc. Every meeting we have held has been minuted including the meeting with Council in relation to the grounds. All this information is available to the New Committee. It is imperative that the Club is registered without delay to ensure our access to the new grounds at Galston and develop our presence in the community.

The committee was elected with members of the interim committee choosing not to nominate for ongoing commitment at this time. The new committee thank them all for their work since January.

The new committee is:

Barbara Anderson	President
John McFadden	Vice President
Cherie Luck	Secretary
Andrea Taylor	Treasurer
Gillian McCall	Publicity Officer
Rita Kolano	Website Officer

Linda Barton	Membership Secretary
Suzanne Bellette	Promotions and Fundraising Officer
Prue Mettam	Pony Club Liaison Officer
Mary Werick	Committee Member
Gregory Don	Committee Member

The committee is currently meeting fortnightly to complete the tasks related to registering the club, monitoring the development of the facility to ensure it meets our requirements and to establish access to the grounds on a regular basis.

The minutes of all meetings are emailed to all those who have registered interest in the club with Cherie and we have had valuable input from interested parties attending meeting to put their ideas to the committee. We value everyone's input and appreciate all efforts to assist us in establishing the Galston Equestrian Club.

As the first President of the Galston Equestrian Club I look forward to seeing the club established and providing the adult horse enthusiast with challenging and fun times with their beloved partners – the horse. **The club is for Horses, Owners, Riders and Social Enthusiasts (H.O.R.S.E.)**

Barbara Anderson

24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.