

Hobby Horse Riders

Hobby Horse Club Handbook



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Introduction to Hobby Horse Riders



We would like to introduce this fabulous new sport to Australian horse lovers, to enjoy the pleasure and freedom of spirit and imagination that the experience of riding your horse through fantastic adventures, overcoming obstacles, adversaries and challenges by riding your amazing Hobby Horse.

From Conventional to Extreme there is something for everyone. Bring your favourite horse or make your own. There are many types to choose from and patterns available to help you make your own.

**“Welcome to the Wonderful
World of Hobby Horses”**
– *Matty Sormani*

Realistic replicas of all the wonderful Horse Breeds throughout the world and the Mystical world of Fantastic Creatures, Jurassic Giants, Medieval Heroes can join you and come alive and partner you in your chosen field. Join other riders where you can share and learn all about this sporting activity.

HOBBY HORSE RIDERS CLUB

How to Start

STEP ONE

Send Invitation to a 'Come and Try Event'

Include: Time, Day and Date, Venue Address, rsvp with a short cover note explaining the activity, or it may even be a Birthday or Special Holiday Party for your friends.

Email for Invitation Template 1: [Click Here](#)

People can bring their own Hobby Horses or share or borrow one until they have their own. Some Clubs have a herd available. Good places to find them are local OP shops or discount stores or better still check out this Link: <https://hobbyhorseriders.com/stable-store?olsPage=products> video on how to make your own or Choose one of our Kits to get you started..

STEP TWO

On the Day:

Have a Check List of Activities

Include: The events you think would interest the people in your area.

Keep it really simple to start with and just use equipment that you have. A great place to source stuff is your local Council recycle shops or Charity shops.

- a. Dressage, and Showing
- b. Show Jumping and X-Country
- c. Cowboy and Western Trail Courses
- d. Jurassic and Fantasy Creatures
- e. Arts and Crafts
- Music and Dance

STEP THREE

Event Program:

9.00 am: Meet and Greet:

- a. House keeping - Venue Rules, Sign in Register, Bathrooms, First Aid etc.
- b. Introduce or Appoint - Host, Stewards and Officials, Instructor, Judge, Time Keeper. Arrange to fill these roles prior to the event. Or...

(Choose these from among the participants who can take turns in these roles as well as being contestants or riders.)

In general the idea is for the Participants to run their own events with minimal adult assistance.

Aim is for it to be a **'for the Kids, by the Kids' Project.**

9.30 am Ice breaker game - What am I ? card game

9.40 am Explain event:

e.g. **Show Jumping**, (Set up a course or just a couple of jumps, trot poles or Cavaletti's to start with. (Broom handles and curtain rods make great lightweight jump poles.

Discuss jump type and styles and rules of competition. (Use Equestrian Australia or Pony Club rules) or See **Event Rules** on <https://hobbyhorseriders.com/join>

This format can be used for all the different disciplines.

10.00 am Start Jumping or Riding.

10.30 am Short Break

10.45 am Lets go again 'Yeah'

11.30 am Refreshments and Hand out Survey.

<https://hobbyhorseriders.com/forms-and-subcriptions> for copy of one of ours)

Check Results: Most popular (Loudest Applause) Survey gets prizes (Lollies).

Survey helps you learn the most popular Hobby Horse activity or event of those attending so you can plan your **Next Club Muster.**

Learn: How often, When day/time and Where would suit the majority to attend the club days.

12.00 pm Collect Surveys and Hand Out a small Eco friendly gift pack containing:

a. Information and Contact Details and if budget allows include:

b. Brochure or Flyer - Email **Hobby Horse Riders** for a **free** copy Or make your own.

c. Stickers, Note Book, Pen topper, Colour Book, crayons. Horse Diary Hobby Horse Pattern, Links for Event Rules. Membership Application

We like to promote eco friendly products.

d. List of Benefits: Membership Card, (decide what you provide when you have a regular group of riders who can collectively decide how they would like to run THEIR Club.

Other Ideas: Caps, T-shirts, HH kit, toys, books, pens, lessons, use of event equipment, free horse hire (for new members) Competitions - Program ideas (templates), Event rules, Dressage Tests, Organisers check lists.

More help Contact Matty 0754470450

STEP FOUR

Planning the next Muster

Now that you have a group of people interested in forming a Hobby Horse Riders Club and their contact details, it is important to follow up with when the Next/First Club Day will be.

Send out a Welcome Back and Thanks for coming Note that also invites them to the **First Muster and Sign on Day**.

This should be done within 2 weeks of the Come and Try Day, while great memories of the fun they had are still fresh.

Include: Next Muster Day, Date, Time and Venue (chosen from what the majority in

the survey voted for) It should be no more than 4-6 weeks from Come and Try Event.

You could also Invite a Special Guest Coach (local Riding Instructor, Arts & Crafts or Dance Teacher) depending on the Type of Event the majority chose as their favourite in the survey.

PLEASE NOTE: All persons over 18 have a Blue Card “working with children check”.

Program Plan- Use the same format as the previous one but, modify as needed from what you learnt about what people wanted.

Your Guest Speaker can do the Intro talk, detailing their speciality area. Maybe a short update on house rules around safety and behaviour Respect for Venue especially if at a new venue.

Choose Venue (Can change to better suit activity of the day, but good to have a regular ‘Home’ base. (Private home, Public Park, National Park, Sports Complex, Indoor Community Hall, Council or School Hall, Gymnastic Centre etc)

By now I trust you have your Hobby Horse Club in full go mode and are Galloping off with to great start. Please Keep in Touch.

STEP FIVE

As your Club grows as we hope it does, and the workload needs sharing, you have a number of options to consider.

Up to this point once you have a regular group of participants, you could decide to share the fun and responsibility of decision making and ask members to take on tasks that they enjoy and help with organising the Musters.

This can become more formal with an executive Committee President, Secretary and Treasurer who (each undertakes a specific role and Members can even decide to become a more formal entity, like a Not for Profit business (sole trader or Pty Ltd) with a board of directors, an incorporated or unincorporated Club or Association and register your name with the Dept. of Fair Trading or relevant government body in your area.

This progression usually happens when there is a need to manage groups' funds, and set up a bank account on behalf of the Club. Usually two or more people are required to be signatories to these funds and all expenditure is approved before it is drawn.

Lots of information about formalising a Club is available with the Dept. of Fair Trading, and ASIC.

CONCLUSION

I hope this booklet has been helpful in starting up your HOBBY HORSE CLUB and look forward to hearing how you progress. **Please** send us feedback on what went well and what we can do better.

We are available to continue helping you develop and keen to have you join us when your members are ready to Compete in Local, Regional, State and National Competitions. And who knows, the Finland Championships might be your next Goal.

Happy Hobby Horsing

Matty Sormani

Hobby Horse Riders Australia

Email: admin@hobbyhorseriders.com

Ph: 07 5447 0450

Mob: 0429 870 870

92 Lockes Lane
Belli Park Qld 4562
Australia