



## December 2015 News from Pony Club Australia

# New Helmet Standards

In October 2014 the CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and the EU (European) body for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) withdrew the **EN1384 Helmet Standard** as the standard to test helmets. This standard is currently being revised by the CEN. Whilst this standard is being revised, the CEN have released a bridging standard for European made helmets – called the VG1.

### What has PCA done in response to this?

PCA have performed a review of the EN1384, VG1 and also the current AS/NZS 3838 helmets standards. We have compared the testing required for each standard. It would appear from this review, that the VG1 standard is superior to the EN1384 standard. This is also superior to the AS/NZS 3838 (Australian) standard. PCA therefore finds that any helmet tested and meeting the VG1 helmet standard is acceptable for use in all Pony Club activities.

### Helmets need to comply with the following standards

AS/NZS 3838 (AU)

PAS 015 (UK)

ASTM F 1163 (USA)

VG1 (Europe)

EN 1384 (Europe) *only acceptable for helmets made **up to and including 2015**.*

### What should PC members do in response to this?

- The change above only affects members that have a European made helmet, or are considering purchasing one.
- Members are recommended to check the standard and year of manufacture for their helmet.
  - ✓ *Helmets with the EN1384 standard, made in 2015 or older, are acceptable for use in PCA.*
  - ✓ *Helmets with the EN1384 standard plus the VG1 standard, are acceptable for use in PCA.*
  - ✓ *Helmets with the VG1 standard are acceptable for use in PCA.*
  - ✗ *Helmets with the EN1384 standard made in 2016, will not be acceptable for use in PCA*
- Remember to follow the manufacturer's instructions for use, in the instance of a fall and observe its usable life. The AS/NZS 3838 standard advises that helmets meeting this criteria have a usable life of 5 years.



## Visit from Pony Club UK

Pony Club Australia Director Jacinta Withoud, PCA Western Australia Chair Judy Rose and Executive Officer Lee-Anne Smith recently hosted a visit by Pony Club United Kingdom Trustee (director) Mrs. Jane James.

The retention and engagement of associate members (18-25yrs) in pony club is a common goal for Pony Club in both the UK and Australia. In the UK, associate members are nominated at events to interact with riders and offer them mentorship in correct conduct, horsemastership, rules and riding craft. PCAWA shared news about its Riders Advisory Panel (RAP) that meets regularly to receive professional development and to give a voice to the riding members of the association.

Discussion extended to best governance practices and the need for strategic leadership from an association's Board, and for committees to drive operational initiatives for the association. PC UK has committees for all the major disciplines that PCA members currently participate in: Dressage, Mounted Games, Showjumping, Tetrathlon, Eventing, and Polocrosse. Showing the breadth and depth of equestrian sports in UK, it also has committees for Polo, Hunting, Racing and Endurance.

Both PCUK and PCA commented on changing demographics in its membership, where increasingly members want to participate in Pony Club yet had no access to their own ponies. The members in PCUK may join a PC Riding Centre and become a part of the Pony Club learning journey, following the PC syllabus in horsemastership and riding. This is something that the Ready Set Trot program in Australia can also assist with in all states of Australia and PCA is enthusiastic to promote further.

The Australian Summer weather and hospitality of the PCAWA team provided for a warm welcome to Mrs. James and her husband, who then travelled to attend the Australian International Three Day Event in Adelaide.



Pictured left to right - Jane James, Judy Rose, Jacinta Withoud, Lee-Anne Smith