

**Chair:** Carol Paterson

**Secretary:** Shannon Durrant

**National Patron:** Gillian Rolton OAM



PO Box 7128, Brighton, Vic, 3186

ABN 95 090 080 265

P: (03) 9596 5390

E: [info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

W: [www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au](http://www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

21<sup>st</sup> June 2017

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Pony Club to Pentathlon**

Pony Club Australia is proud of its members leaving for Europe this week as a very big part of the Youth Olympic Games Squad in Modern Pentathlon. Congratulations to Nikita Mawhirt (Swan Valley Horse and Pony Club WA), Mikayla Hatten (also Swan Valley Horse and Pony Club WA), Tully Watt (Emu Creek Pony Club, Vic) and Darcy Wade (Stratford Pony Club, Vic).

There is an established pathway from Pony Club Tetrathlon to Modern Pentathlon, with Tetrathlon now part of Pony Club disciplines across Australia. Tetrathlon involves showjumping, running, swimming and shooting, so to move to Pentathlon Pony Clubbers need to pick up fencing. The availability of laser pistols in most states has made Tetrathlon more available to Pony Clubs.

Tully has been a member of Emu Creek Pony Club since the age of 4 and participated in most disciplines. Being a gifted cross-country runner and competitive swimmer, the appeal of Tetrathlon was very strong and she competed in the National Pony Club Tetrathlon in 2015, along with Darcy Wade who was the Junior Tetrathlon champion. Darcy was also a member of the 2016 National Pony Club team that competed in the international Tetrathlon in Ireland, placing fourth.

Nikita was already a strong swimmer and rider and has excelled in the other disciplines, travelling regularly across Australia to train and compete.

“Since picking up Pentathlon in 2014, I've loved competing in it and having the variety of training in 5 different sports. Although I knew it was never going to be easy, I've had many challenges to face and lots of hard work to struggle through. But I've always held onto the dream of competing at the Olympic Games” Nikita said.

Nikita is getting closer to that dream. Nikita achieved international qualifying times for the Junior (U/22) and Youth (U/19) level so will be staying on in Europe to compete in the Junior World Championships in Budapest in August.

Congratulations to Nikita, Tully, Mikayla and Darcy on this great achievement. Next step will be Japan in September for a spot in the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in 2018.



**Chair:** Carol Paterson

**Secretary:** Shannon Durrant

**National Patron:** Gillian Rolton OAM



**PONY CLUB**  
AUSTRALIA

PO Box 7128, Brighton, Vic, 3186

ABN 95 090 080 265

P: (03) 9596 5390

E: [info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

W: [www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au](http://www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au)



Nikita and Mikayla in their Australian uniforms



Nikita and Tully in training



Tully competing in Pony Club



Darcy competing in Ireland Tetrathlon 2016



**Chair:** Carol Paterson

**Secretary:** Shannon Durrant

**National Patron:** Gillian Rolton OAM



PO Box 7128, Brighton, Vic, 3186

ABN 95 090 080 265

P: (03) 9596 5390

E: [info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

W: [www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au](http://www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

**For more information, please contact**

Catherine Ainsworth

Chief Executive Officer

Pony Club Australia

Tel: 0438 174 222

Email: [ceo@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:ceo@ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

**About Pony Club Australia**

Pony Club Australia is a not-for-profit National Sporting Organisation recognised by the Australian Sporting Commission. PCA has over 40,000 members and 860 clubs making it the largest equestrian organisation in Australia. PCA is delivering equestrian education to young people across Australia and in China with an emphasis on safety, skill, animal welfare and fun.

