

# Member Information



The Club OFFERS

◆ Fun, relaxed environment, welcoming all ages & abilities

◆ Working Equitation: obstacles, dressage, pole/grid work, training, competitions

◆ Experienced trainers, free help & advice

◆ 100 acres of beautiful natural trails, escorted rides

FB  
@marionridingclub

Web:  
[marionridingclub.  
weebly.com](http://marionridingclub.weebly.com)



[marionridingclub  
@gmail.com](mailto:marionridingclub@gmail.com)

**Grounds: Equestrian Reserve within Shepherds Hill Recreation Park  
Ayliffes Road St Marys SA 5042**

Shepherds Hill Recreation Park is a protected area of approx. 100 acres 10 kms from Adelaide city centre in the City of Mitcham, with walking, riding & bike trails, and includes an Archery Park & a dedicated Equestrian Reserve

## About the Club

Marion Riding Club Inc started as a Pony Club in 1960, joined Horse Riding Clubs Association of SA in 1967 and ran as both a Pony Club and Riding Club 1967 - 1971. The Club moved to Shepherds Hill Recreation Park in 1970, becoming a Riding Club only in 1971.

We are very fortunate in being a club based inside a Recreation Park, which means we have access to wonderful safe trails should you wish to ride out after an event or even during the week.

We pride ourselves on being a friendly club, welcoming all levels and abilities. We aim to ride and train our horses in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere, with members enjoying the social aspects of horse riding too. Members can enjoy instruction from qualified instructors.

In 2021 we began basing our training and competition around Working Equitation. This is a fast-growing sport around the world, and we are hoping to establish greater participation in SA as it encompasses skills required for all disciplines.

**We welcome new members. Those who may just like to give it a try can choose Day Membership. Inexperienced riders and young horses are given utmost consideration. If you are not currently riding, why not join us as a Social Member and volunteer.**

**We appreciate your feedback & comments.**

### Mission

**To maintain the cultural tradition of connection with horses in the Adelaide urban area.**

### Vision

**To be a friendly, inclusive and supportive club that provides a wide range of training and competitive opportunities in Working Equitation.**

**To grow and promote the sport of Working Equitation in South Australia and educate horses and people of all ages and abilities.**



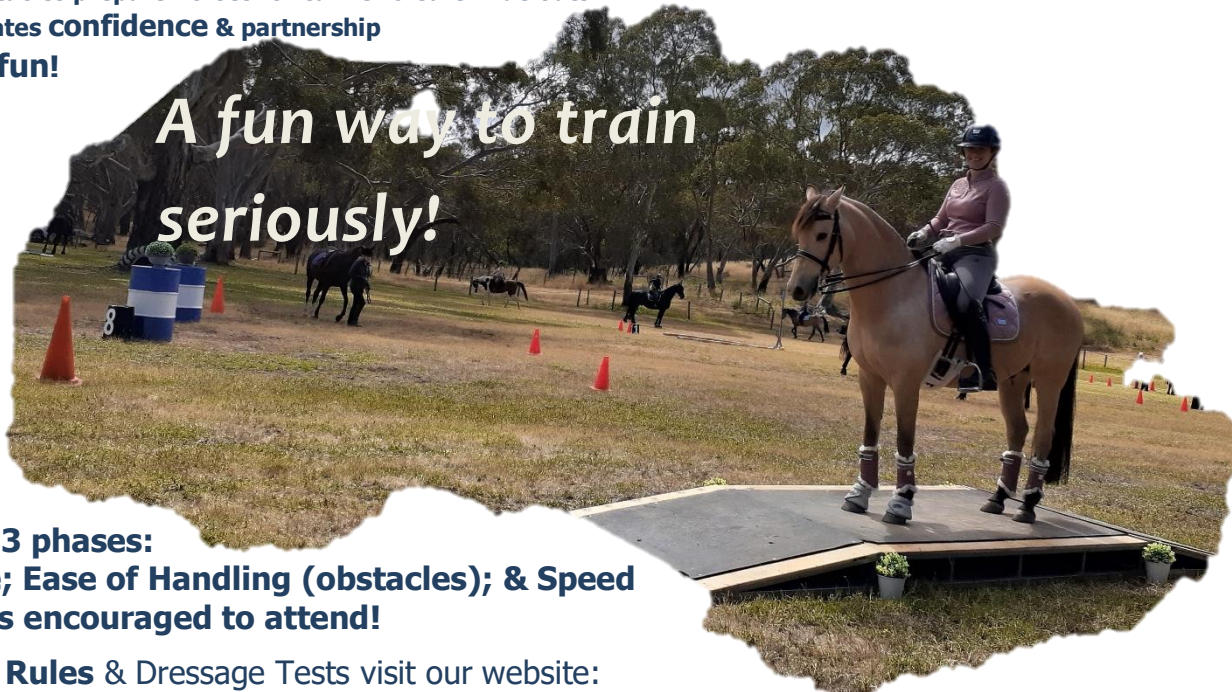
Member of Horse SA  
<https://www.horsesa.asn.au/>

Affiliated with Equestrian SA  
<https://www.sa.equestrian.org.au/>



## Why **Working Equitation?**

- ✚ The **balance & suppleness** of dressage, the **thrill** of speed events, the skill set of a **working Stock Horse**
- ✚ Training happens naturally, with **purpose & variety**
- ✚ Suitable for **any** type of horse – judged on **relaxation, harmony & self-carriage** above movement
- ✚ **Obstacles** prepare horses for calmer & safer ride outs
- ✚ Creates **confidence & partnership**
- ✚ **It's fun!**



**We offer 3 phases:  
Dressage; Ease of Handling (obstacles); & Speed  
Beginners encouraged to attend!**

For **Rules** & Dressage Tests visit our website:  
<https://marionridingclub.weebly.com>

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Senior Membership   | \$70.00  |
| Junior Membership (under 18)  | \$30.00  |
| Family Membership (up to 2 children)  | \$100.00 |
| Day Membership Insurance (must sign waiver)   | \$20.00  |
| Instructor based schools/clinics: TBA depending on instructor (Member & non mem fees apply) |          |
| Members joining from July are eligible to join at a reduced price.                          |          |
| Committee Members 1/2 price Senior membership   |          |
| Supporter Membership (social, non-riding)   | \$30.00  |

**Bank Details: Marion Riding Club BSB 805-050 Account No. 2343196**

NOTE: Members must sign a Waiver Form when they join. Non Members must sign a Waiver Form for every event they attend as participants (& pay Day Membership)

### **SAFETY**

- ✚ We acknowledge equestrian activities are potentially dangerous. Safety is important and must be given the highest priority – for you, horses & spectators. Gear must be clean & safe. The Club Safety Officer has the right to check. Make sure you check in so we have a record as to who is on the grounds.
- ✚ Please keep a distance between you and horses/riders around you. Travel in the same direction as other riders when warming up.
- ✚ When passing oncoming riders pass left hand to left hand.

## Marion Riding Club Inc: Member Information Booklet 2024

- ✚ If your horse starts to misbehave, move away from other horses to avoid any problems. If you are unable to settle your horse, ask for help as other members are always willing to assist.
- ✚ The gates situated at the entrance to the Park must be closed at ALL times.
- ✚ Spectators must give way to horses at all times. Small children must be under the supervision of a responsible adult at all times. Dogs must be on a leash (this is a requirement of the Park).

### EVENT DAYS

Entry fees are non-refundable unless a rider is available on the waiting list to take your place. This is at the discretion of the organising committee. No refunds will be issued or changes made to the Draw, from one week prior to competition date. If a day has to be cancelled for any reason, your fees will be refunded (or carried over).

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with what's happening: [www.facebook.com/marionridingclub](http://www.facebook.com/marionridingclub)

MRCI offers **Working Equitation** Come'N'Try Days, instruction and competition days. We also have Dressage days, Pub nights (with horse training discussion over pizza & wine).

Working Equitation is fun, focussing on developing good communication and partnership between horse and rider, and covers many aspects of horse training, using obstacles & poles to improve balance, bend, flexion and obedience. If you want help, just ask.

**DRESS: Safe, neat attire.** All disciplines – English, Western, Bitless are acceptable.

### INSURANCE

The club provides public liability insurance for financial members and volunteer insurance for our volunteers. This is however NOT personal injury insurance. It is up to the individual member to provide insurance for themselves and their horses.

Non-members must pay a Day Membership fee to cover public liability insurance.

### GROUNDS

The Park and grounds may be used out of event times, but club membership insurance does not cover you if it is not an official event. Only the oval & immediate surrounds is leased by the club and if riding out keep to the tracks and adhere to sign posted trails as some trails are not for horses. Always be aware of other park users. Keys to the entrance gate and arena are available for hire to members from the Secretary for a small fee.





### **MANURE**

As part of our lease agreement manure is to be spread within the grassed arena or preferably taken with you. Please leave your area clean and do not leave any manure in the float parking area. Please respect our grounds.

### **EXTREME WEATHER POLICY**

If extreme weather is forecast, the event will be cancelled & notices sent to participants & advertised on Facebook.

MRCI reserves the right to cancel any event at its absolute discretion if it is deemed that the prevailing or predicted environmental conditions, such as (but not limited to) extreme heat/thunderstorms, etc, present a serious risk to riders or officials.

**Hot weather:** If the temperature is forecast as 36<sup>o</sup> (Adelaide, BOM) or above on the Saturday morning prior, then the event day is cancelled. If in doubt, check Club Facebook page for updates.

If a Catastrophic day is predicted it is the policy of the Department of Environment & Water to close the park.

The Committee encourages sun protection for all outdoor activities.

**NOTE: All persons participate at their own risk.**

Marion Riding Club does **not accept liability** for any accident, damage, injury or illness to horses, riders, grounds, property, spectators or any other persons attending Club activities.

## **CLUB POLICIES**

### **1. GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

The Management Committee acknowledges the benefits of good governance, transparency, member participation and feedback to create a healthy organisation.

MRCI recognises that the culture of an organisation, which is determined primarily by the behaviour and attitudes of committee and active volunteers, influences what it does, how it is seen,

its relationships with stakeholders and its reputation, and can be an important determinant of whether the organisation is able to achieve its objectives and deliver on its purpose.

## **2. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MRCI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Members of the Committee of MRCI undertake that they will at all times act in accordance with the Objects as stated in the Constitution. Members of the Committee recognise that there are common law duties imposed on Directors and Officers and that they need to act according to these:

- to act honestly in the exercise of their powers and in the discharge of their responsibilities,
- to exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence,
- to declare any conflicts of interest,
- to not make improper use of information acquired to gain advantage for themselves or others,
- to not make improper use of their position to gain an advantage for themselves or others, and
- to ensure that to the best of their ability MRCI provides an environment which is free of discrimination and/or harassment in any form.

## **3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

MRCI aims to ensure that Management Committee members and/or any other persons acting on behalf of MRCI are aware of their obligations to disclose any conflicts of interest and to effectively manage those conflicts of interest as representatives of MRCI.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

MRCI is committed to ensuring that liability to risk in any form is minimised by ensuring that members are informed, by putting in place policies, regularly reviewing and updating these policies, inducting Committee members in their administrative roles and maintaining a raised awareness of best practice. 'Risk' is the possibility of an unwanted outcome for the organisation, volunteers, members, sponsors, or the general public.

A designated **Safety Officer** will be present at every event day. This person has the right to check your gear. Any instructions given must be followed.

### **Physical hazards**

Every attempt will be made to actively assess potential risk at all venues where MRCI has a presence and will put in place any necessary procedures, signs, and training as required to minimise the potential of accidents.

Approved helmets (ie meet Aus Safety Standards) must be worn at all times whilst mounted.

### **Financial hazards**

MRCI will ensure that it has in place correct and regular reporting procedures and is transparent in all its processes.

### **Reputational hazards**

MRCI encourages strong standards of behaviour and best practice in all areas – including governance, transparency, efficiency, use of social media and horse welfare.

### **Legal hazards**

MRCI recognises that it operates within a legal framework and the Management Committee need to be mindful of many laws that may impact upon the organisation. These may be in the areas of fundraising, workplace safety, discrimination, harassment, etc., as well as the rules relating to incorporation.

### **Child Safe Environment**

MRCI is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people is maintained at all times during their participation in any activities connected with MRCI. The Club is committed to providing a positive environment where children and young people feel safe, respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

### Reporting a child at risk

As the club provides sporting/recreational services which may include children, volunteers are mandated notifiers (ie have a legal duty to make a report if you suspect a child, or young person (under 18 years) may be at risk). If you suspect that a child is at risk of harm, report it. Your report needs to include a statement of your observations, information and opinions on which you base your suspicions.

To report your suspicions (on reasonable grounds) that a young person may be at risk, call the 24-hour Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78. Also report your suspicions to the club.

We encourage all volunteers to undertake FREE online training offered by the Office for Recreation & Sport in 'Play by the Rules'. <https://www.playbytherules.net.au/online-courses>

### 5. Financial Management

MRCI will provide benefits to its members in a financially sound manner.

MRCI will ensure that it has in place correct and regular reporting procedures, including but not limited to: two signatories for banking purposes, members of the Management Committee with necessary skills to fully understand the financial position and implications, and safe storage of financial and associated intellectual material.

MRCI will reimburse its volunteers for any authorised reasonable expenses incurred by them on behalf of MRCI, in a timely manner.

### 6. Volunteer Policy

MRCI relies heavily on the unpaid work of volunteers and values their contribution highly. All volunteers shall be treated with respect and gratitude for their contribution.

### MRCI promotes 'Play by the Rules' free online training:

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/online-courses> . By taking these courses we upgrade our knowledge and skills, creating safer, fairer and more inclusive environments for all people involved in sport.



### 7. Health and Safety

#### Smoke-Free

In order to meet our duty of care to volunteers, MRCI believes it has a responsibility to discourage smoking and therefore all MRCI events are smoke-free.



WE ARE AN ACCREDITED  
GOOD SPORTS CLUB.



### **Alcohol and Other Drugs**

Volunteers of MRCI have a responsibility to ensure that they take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others at events by not being affected by alcohol or other drugs to the extent that it impacts on their own or another person's safety.

MRCI events are usually alcohol free (should an event be held at which there is alcohol, the committee will ensure it is responsibly handled & consumed, with no underage drinking allowed).

### **8. Privacy**

MRCI is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information which the organisation collects, holds and administers. Personal information is information which directly or indirectly identifies a person.

### **9. Member Protection**

The Club appointed Member Protection Information Officer for 2024 is:

Helen Whittle ([hw@senet.com.au](mailto:hw@senet.com.au), M: 0414881606).

### **Bullying and Unlawful Discrimination**

MRCI is committed to providing an environment which is safe & welcoming, free of discrimination, bullying and any other form of harassment (including sexual), where individuals are treated with respect and dignity, and where children are protected from abuse.

MRCI will not tolerate behaviour which constitutes abuse, bullying, discrimination or harassment under any circumstances and will take disciplinary action against anyone who breaches the Member Protection Policy.

### **Disability**

Every attempt will be made to see that people with a disability have the same opportunity to access and participate in MRCI events and opportunities and volunteering on the same basis as those without disability. All volunteers will be treated with dignity and enjoy the benefits of an inclusive environment that values and encourages participation by all.

### **Equal Opportunity**

In compliance with the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 MRCI commits to ensure that no person is discriminated against on the basis of their gender, sexuality, marital status, pregnancy, race, age, or physical or intellectual impairment. The club is committed to ensuring that all people, regardless of their cultural background and ability, have equal access to sport and recreation opportunities.

### **Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the **MRCI Management Committee** to ensure that:

- they identify, prevent and address potential problems before they become formal grievances
- they are aware of, and are committed to the principles of communicating and information sharing with members and volunteers
- any grievance is handled in the most appropriate manner at the earliest opportunity
- all volunteers are treated fairly and without fear of intimidation, and
- such matters are kept confidential.

### **10. Social Media**

Social media offers opportunities to communicate with members and the wider public and other communities with shared interests. MRCI seeks to grow its social media base and use this to engage

with existing and potential members. We encourage our members to regularly check out our Facebook page, keep up to date, and like & share our posts.

MRCI is committed to providing an online environment free of discrimination and harassment, where individuals are treated with respect and dignity. All online participants are asked to assist in supporting fellow online users to meet this request.

### 11. Biosecurity

MRCI is committed to ensuring high standards of biosecurity for all horses participating in MRCI sanctioned events. MRCI recognises the importance of following good biosecurity measures to minimize the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

Any horse that displays any signs of illness should not leave their home yard. This also applies to any horse that has been in contact with a horse or horses that may have any transmissible disease.

All entrants to events will provide details of where the horse is kept including the PIC number.

### 12. Horse Welfare

The welfare of the horse is paramount. MRCI acknowledges the need to encourage, promote and educate horse owners and general public on horse welfare and any advances in our knowledge to improve treatment of and general conditions for horses.

All officials play a part in monitoring the general activities and welfare of animals on the grounds at each event.

MRCI also acknowledges the contribution of the International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) in developing guidelines to ensure optimal horse and rider welfare and safety & positive training.

#### Useful link:

<https://www.equitationsscience.com/ises-training-principles>



The Constitution and Rules of Marion Riding Club Inc can be accessed on the website :

<https://marionridingclub.weebly.com/>

Keep up to date with what's happening at:

[www.facebook.com/marionridingclub](https://www.facebook.com/marionridingclub)



Policies last reviewed Feb 2024