

Great Australian PACKHORSE Race

OFFICIAL RULE BOOK



WELCOME:

Welcome to all our new and returning Mountain Cattlemen's entrants. The Committee has worked hard to prepare an enjoyable and fair challenge for all competitors, that draws on the riding and horsemanship skills displayed by mountain cattlemen and that fits with the space and terrain at Licola.

EVENT OVERVIEW:

The Great Australian Packhorse Race is split into at least three competitions, with the possibility of running an additional junior category this year.

Entries open: June 17 and are capped at 20 riders.

Entries close: On the day unless already full.

Categories:

Frank Ryan Open Packhorse Race – men or women aged 18 years and over

Ladies Packhorse Race – women aged 18 years and over

Neville Wright Junior Packhorse Race – 10-17 years

NEW Packhorse CattleKids – 10 – 13 years

Note; we will run the Packhorse Cattlekids event ONLY if we receive a minimum of three entrants, otherwise only the Packhorse Junior will run. If Packhorse CattleKids runs riders will need to be 10 – 13 years old and will be ineligible to enter the Junior event.

We are trying to source some loan packsaddles so that more people can have a go at this event. Please let us know as early as possible if you have one we can borrow. If we are unable to provide a saddle all entry fees will be refunded.

DATE/TIME:

Heats and finals will take place on Sunday

COMPETITORS TO PROVIDE:

- Packsaddle & pack bags
- Riding & packing horse
- 2 x blankets
- Billy
- Horse rug to fit competing horse
- 12 x cans full soft drink (375ml).

MCAV TO PROVIDE:

- Bags of sand
- Various other items which may be packed under normal packhorse trip circumstances

THE COMPETITION:

- Competitors are to start on foot.
- All items to be packed are to be laid out neatly as per the Judges' instructions. No gear is to be pre-packed prior to commencement of the event.
- Upon commencement of competition (crack of a whip), the competitor is to lead their saddled riding horse a short distance to pick up a billy then mount the horse.
- Competitor is to ride with billy in hand to their tethered packhorse (at any pace), dismount and either tether their riding horse or hand to a horse handler and pack their pack bags.
- The competitor must pack their own gear (2 x blankets, billy, horse rug and 12 x cans of drink) in addition to anything that the MCAV provides.
- The horse handler is not permitted to assist the competitor in any other way aside from

holding their riding horse.

- Once packed, the competitor is to re-mount and proceed with their packhorse through a set course at a trot to the finish. Riders stopping to adjust the pack will be penalised.
- Judges will note the order of finishing.
- On passing the finish line, the horse handler will take the packhorse and await the Judges' inspection. The pack must not be touched without the Judges' approval.
- Judges will be awarding points based on authenticity of pack, competitor's ability to pack and travel their horse for a period of 8 hours through mountainous bush riding and variable weather. Packs with straps not done up and not through keepers will be penalised. No clips are allowed on horse gear/pack saddle. Damaged packs or gear, packs not square or waterproof will be penalised.
- Any packhorse exceeding a trot between loading and the finish line must be checked immediately. Penalties for cantering will apply.
- Presentations will be made on Sunday after the MCAV Cattlemen's Cup Challenge presentations.
- The Judges' decision is final and no further discussion will be entered into.
- Ladies and juniors may have assistance from their horse handler lifting bags onto their pack saddle.
- Any competitor still packing their pack after the first competitor has returned to the start finish line will be disqualified.

SCORING

Competitors are awarded points based on the following (this may be subject to slight changes on the day, depending on number of competitors):

TRIP DEPARTURE & ARRIVAL	
1 st away	50
2 nd away	45
3 rd away	40
4 th away	30
5 th away	20
1 st home	50
2 nd home	45
3 rd home	40
4 th home	30
5 th home	20
Total Max Trip	100
AUTHENTICITY OF PACK	
Heritage design, fixed tree and Military Pack swivel tree	50
Modern design using velcro & plastic –	10
Total Max Pack	50
PACKING	
Packing of mystery items	20
Neatness/squareness	30
Waterproof	30
Pack suitable for 8 hours mountain riding	20
Total Max Packing	100
TOTAL MAX POINTS	250

Penalties

- Straps not in keepers – 5 points per strap
- Main surcingle around load displaced/come off – 25 points
- Surcingle twisted on the top – 10 points
- Surcingle twisted on the bottom – 20 points
- Ill-fitting packsaddle & unable to re-present another pack – 30 points
- Breastplate/britching/crupper twisted – 5 points per item
- Broken items – 5 points per item
- Packhorse cantering (after 3 strides) – 25 points per occasion
- Rider stopping to adjust their pack at any time throughout the course – 50 points
- Pack touched before the judge can inspect upon return from the course – 25 points
- Damaged packs/gear (depending on severity of damage) – 15 points

VET & GEAR CHECK

Event Manager: MCAV Horse Committee | Vet: to be confirmed

Gear check

Judges are entitled to disqualify any competitor or direct them to replace any gear deemed to be unsafe or unsuitable.

- Horse to be presented to the gear check judge fully saddled including bridle and breastplate.
- Rider to wear Australian Standard helmet (see below), vest (optional), stock whip, oilskin, etc.
- All gear must be in good, safe working order and must reflect the spirit of the Mountain Cattlemen.
- Gear will be checked on the appropriateness of use in mountain bush riding.
- All horses must have a breastplate fitted for the duration of the event.
- All riders must fasten a full-length oilskin to their saddle for the duration of the event (excluding any bareback components in the obstacle course).
- All riders must have fastened to their gear a leather stockwhip for the duration of the event unless required to be used eg in the whipcrack.
- Horses, saddles and breastplates presented during the Vet and Gear Check will be marked and the same gear must be used in all subsequent events over the course of the event (including the final event).
- Standing martingales and/or tiedowns **must not be used** at any time.
- Helmets must comply with current Equestrian Australia standards and must not have been in an accident. Helmets must fit the rider correctly. Approved numbers:
 - ✓ Current Australian standard AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) provided they are SAI Global marked.
 - ✓ New Australian standard ARB HS 2012 provided they are SAI Global marked.
 - ✓ Current American standard ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) provided they are SEI marked.
 - ✓ Current American standard SNELL E2001.
 - ✓ Current British standard PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) provided they are BSI Kitemarked.
 - ✓ Interim European Standard VG1 (01.040: 2014-12) with or without BSI Kitemark.

Dress code

- Approved smooth soled riding boots must be worn.
- Collared shirt with long sleeves and appropriate riding trousers.
- All riders must wear an Equestrian Australia Approved helmet at all times whilst mounted.

Vet check – health and soundness of horse

- All horses must be free of any substance or drug that affects performance. The Committee reserves the right to test.
- Present unsaddled horse for vet check and standing heart rate measurement.

- Horses are to be fit and sound (eg not lame, girth-galled or saddle sore etc).
- The horse must be able to be led at a trot to the satisfaction of the Veterinary Practitioner, otherwise it will be disqualified.
- Should a horse be vetted out before the competition commences, the competitor may use a spare horse as long as it is presented to the vet for inspection prior to the completion of the Vet and Gear Check.
- Once the competition begins, the same horse must be used for all phases of the event.
- Any horse/s found to have a contagious disease will be subject to the rules of quarantine or removal from the grounds as determined by the veterinary practitioner.
- The Committee may require a vet check at the conclusion of any/all events if it is deemed necessary, including the Final.