

I'm Pyper Page, a current member of Mersey Valley Pony Club. I have been riding for 16 years and started my pony club experience at the Kentish Pony Club. I'm here to talk to you about my recent Pony Club Australia experience. But before I do that I would like to thank Mersey Valley Pony Club past DC Lucinda Alexandra for your support through my selection and my journey, all of those in Mersey Valley that followed through my experience, My Zone and also the state committee. I would also like to thank our very own Carol Hobson who I was fortunate enough to be able to have as coach on my exchange.

On the 3rd July 2018 Carol and myself jetted off to what was the experience of a life time. We met another team member that night and stayed in Melbourne, having our last Australian meal. Early the next morning we, met 2 other members of the team. we then caught the plane to Sydney to meet our chaperone and the other 4 team mates. All 8 team mates and our lovely coach and chaperone then jetted off on our 11 hr flight to Shanghai where we met our translators for the rest of our journey.

The first place we stayed at was where we competed called Yangshang waxi horse centre. we were accommodated here.

Our horse selection was the next day, where we were fortunate enough to be able to try lots of different horses, to make the best combination of a horse and rider. We then had two days to ride and help other Chinese riders. I was fortunate enough to have a 16hh Coco who was not the easiest to ride, but was definitely a horse I'm used to riding and that's why I chose her.

Competition day then came, in the weather we had the whole time which sat at around 35 degrees. Here, we competed against 92 Chinese riders and 8 Australians. Our first class was the 60cm where I came away with a clear but just didn't have the time, and this left me in about 15th position. Australia was lucky enough to come away with an individual win. Next class was the 80cm, where I unfortunately took down the second last rail but was still happy with results. The set out of the competition wasn't exactly what I thought, as horses were being ridden by 3-4 other people, in both competitions in the humid heat.

After the competition, we then were asked to compete in another competition which was the 90cm and 110cm classes. I was then asked to ride a horse in the 110 class where we weren't actually scored, but we all took it as another experience and opportunity.

At Our next destination, our group got split into 2 groups. My group was lucky enough to head to Caballero horse centre. This wasn't just any usual horse centre, this was placed on the 3rd story of a shopping mall, which myself and my team mates have never seen before. In The time we were there, we got to take a trip down memory lane, and ride ponies and play games on our ponies like we did when we were learning to ride. It was incredible to be able to teach young Chinese riders as they were so thankful for everything we do. The thing I remember the most is a little boy that I partnered up with gave me one of his own toys to say thank you, and this showed me that the Chinese would go above and beyond to show gratitude.

We were also able to do some site seeing and had an appreciation for the scenery on our journey.

Our next, and final stop was West End Pony Club. Here, we were also hosted out to families, which was such a great experience. My family had a little boy, who was a member of the West End Pony Club and he was also learning English. During the day we spent our time helping and riding with the younger kids, and at night time we got to have experiences with our host families.

Unfortunately our trip had to stop somewhere, so on the 15th July we all met together and jetted off back home to some cooler weather and some Australian food. I really enjoyed my time away and got

to see how a different culture do Pony Club. although they are only 2 years into the Pony club idea, I do see Chinese Pony club being a successful and productive Thing, especially if they keep receiving the awesome help that they are from Australian coaches, such as our very own Carol Hobson. they will definitely be ones to look out for in years to come.

Would I go back? I would love to go back as I made friendships with not only Australians but the Chinese and I got to experience things I wouldn't over here.

Once again thank you to all involved, if you have any Question please don't hesitate to ask.

behalf of pony Club Australia, I would like to start with a massive thank you to pony club China for helping us make our trip so successful and welcoming us with open arms! I think we were all a bit nervous coming into the experience but it has already been an absolute blast.

Our horse riding experience is very different at home in Australia compared to here at Yangshang, waxi. Your riders have a variety of different horses to choose from and ride at these fantastic facilities. In Australia we own our horses and ride them at home. Our riding styles are also quite different. It has been great to see China pony club be able to teach, ride and encourage so many young riders, as they are not only the future of this school but horse riding in China.

I would like to share with you with some of our experiences pony club Australia has r mgiven us. It has opened up a variety of opportunities for not only our team members you have seen in the past few days but also for our other fellow pony clubbers. Just a few opportunities we have had are; the international mounted games exchange, national and state competitions. We have also creating lifelong friends, shared the cultural experiences, and had different up bringings of pony club!

Pony club opens doors to many coaching and cultural experiences.

A few of our riders here have also competed for Australia against countries such as Canada, America and Great Britain.

It has been great learning your culture and the different riding practices and styles. Although not many of us have yet mastered the art of using chopsticks, the food you have here is delicious. Learning some of the Chinese language has been fun and a good laugh. Collectively as a team we would love to thank our interpreters, coaches, trainers and the horse owners. The horses you have allowed us to ride have been outstanding and a real privilege to ride.

A massive thank you too all the late nights that have gone into organising our trip. I know I have only scratched the surface but it is truly appreciated. If anyone has any questions about our riding and what we do, we would all be happy to answer and have a chat.

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