



## Getting sporty on horses' birthday

It seems appropriate that the third annual Dungog horse sports day will be held tomorrow on horses' birthday.

In Australia, it's every horse's birthday on August 1.

All thoroughbreds have the same birthday so their ages can be standardised for comparison because of the historical lack of records of actual birth days.

All thoroughbreds celebrate their birthdays on the same date, January 1 in the northern hemisphere and August 1 in the southern.

After the first time a horse is alive on August 1 it is considered a yearling.

The next August 1 it is its second birthday and it is considered two-years-old, even though it could conceivably be one year one day old.

The horse sports day is a joint venture between St Joseph's Primary School and Dungog Pony Club.

It was first held in 2011 and entries have grown steadily over the past three years.

Co-ordinator Nicole Osmond said they now have 60 schools from around the Central Coast, Newcastle, Maitland, Coalfields and the North Coast area coming to Dungog Showground for the event.

"We've got 200 entries this year which is a record," she said.

"We've picked up a lot of schools from up the coast which is good.

"Last year we were washed out twice so hopefully it will be good weather tomorrow and it can all go ahead as planned."

There will be riding and hack and pleasure hack classes as well as five sporting events with children from eight to 18 competing.

The pony club organises the running of the horse events and St Joseph's P & F man the canteen.

Three competitors will be Nicole's children Ben, Josh and Georgia.

Ben, 14, is coming off a high after winning the 13 to under 15 year's campdraft at the Glocalman Championships held at Wallambah, Wingham and Gloucester earlier in the month.

Josh, 11, and Georgia, 9, will also be competing in all the events on the day.

Check out the Chronicle website next week for all the photos from the horse sports day.

Visit [www.dungogchronicle.com.au](http://www.dungogchronicle.com.au)

• Above left: Josh, Ben and Georgia Osmond will be competing in tomorrow's Dungog school horse sports day at Dungog Showground.



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