

# 2021 - 2022 Annual Report



Western Dressage Association of Australia Inc.

Incorporated in Western Australia  
Incorporation number: A1017989F

[www.westerndressage.com.au](http://www.westerndressage.com.au)  
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## Board Members 2021 - 2022

Chairperson:  
Jim Whitaker (QLD)



Vice Chair/Secretary/Judge Convenor:  
Paula Byrne (QLD)



Treasurer & Events Coordinator:  
Julie Sain (QLD)



Newsletters & Communications:  
Teresa Russo (QLD)



Board Member  
Lyn Robertson (QLD)



Board Member:  
Pam Nelson (WA)



Board Member:  
Beth Noble (WA)



## Board Report

At the start of the 2021-22 year the duly elected board consisted of Jim Whitaker, Paula Byrne, Julie Sain, Lyn Robertson, Teresa Russo, Terri-Ann Dietzel, Pam Nelson and Beth Noble.

Members elected to the board at our AGM on 18 November 2021, were Jim Whitaker, Paula Byrne, Julie Sain and Teresa Russo. Terri-Ann Dietzel did not nominate for re-election and was thanked by the meeting chair for her service and contribution to the board and WDA-AUS.

As Covid 19 Pandemic restrictions began to ease, we saw our affiliates & branches move towards getting back to normal and offering clinics, competition and social events to members. While some plans were thwarted by restrictions and weather events, the members of the committees stayed strong and positive and did their best under the circumstances.

In March 2021 a few board members met at the ARBC Western Dressage Show and discussed the desire to host a National Show in order to give back to the members of our organisation. The proposal was tabled at a board meeting and over the coming months costings were done, a venue sourced and a date was set. From there it was all systems go and Australia's first ever National Western Dressage Show was held at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre at Caboolture on the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022.

The National Show was very well attended by local, intrastate and interstate members and judges, so much so that there were calls for this event to continue in the future. It will be a biennial event with the next one scheduled for 2024.

The WDA-AUS board would like to acknowledge the support and contribution made by our members, affiliates and branches not only for the National Show but throughout the 2021-2022 year. As we all know, the National, State, Regional Affiliate & Branch board and management committee members are volunteers. They have families, businesses, jobs and personal commitments to give focus to, but they still find the time to dedicate to progressing our sport, the sport of Western Dressage.

Western Dressage could not grow progressively or to the high standard that it does without the advice, guidance and training that is provided by a dedicated group of Clinicians, Judges and Coaches. They not only provide this in person but some have moved to using online platforms to support those who can't attend face to face sessions or who want help in between sessions. We are grateful to them and recognise their contribution to the objectives of this association.

We must also pay homage to all our sponsors, big and small. The National Show was very well supported by new and also long-time sponsors of western dressage including some of our affiliates and branches. Our newsletter highlights the National Show sponsors, as does the WDA-AUS website and social media page. The show would not have been possible without such dedicated and generous sponsors and we encourage all members to support the sponsors at every opportunity.

Thanks must also be given to the sponsors that support our affiliates and branches across Australia, you only have to follow the social media pages of our affiliates and branches to see the

sponsorship support they have. They proudly display details of their sponsors and give recognition for their contributions.

The National board has been successful in building professional relationships with the Western Dressage Association of America, the Australian Quarter Horse Association and the Australian Appaloosa Association. National breed societies have also been recognised with a view to establishing a working relationship in the future. As a result, the AQHA, AAA, ASHS and WDA-AUS have reciprocated in supporting each other at National and State levels during the year.

The AQHA recognise WDA-AUS as the Approved Performance Body for the discipline of western dressage and only allocate WD points to their members from WDA-AUS approved WD events. We are proud of this achievement. Board members have met in person with an AQHA director to discuss any issues that have arisen during the year, so that a suitable resolution can be achieved.

The WDA-AUS board members have the responsibility of managing the affairs of the association. We make decisions for the growth and betterment of western dressage throughout Australia. We regulate the sport through developing, upholding and maintaining rules, regulations and standards to ensure fairness in conduct and competition for all members, affiliates and branches. This is done with a high degree of integrity and without any personal agenda or individual gain. On occasion we have faced the challenges of having difficult conversations and have managed each situation professionally with fairness and without favour.

We focus on the continual enhancement of the image and reputation of western dressage to ensure its acceptance as a legitimate western discipline in this country and abroad.

We look forward to the future of the Western Dressage Association of Australia.

## Rules & Tests

Throughout the year changes have been required to some of the rules as they come to the notice of the National board. When something needs changing, it has a flow on effect and is not a simple task. Research has to be done, testing and validation is required. All of this takes time.

The Freestyle tests have been completed and are uploaded to the website ready for release. Originally it was planned to amend the current freestyle rules and as that commenced, it was identified that completely new rules had to be written. It was found also that there were impacts on attire and tack requirements too, which need addressing.

The Trail Class tests and rules remained under development during this period and require validation before they can be released.

The board considered the rulebook format and content during rule reviews. It was identified that a complete review of the rulebook format and content is necessary, plans are in progress to complete that and some work has begun.

## Judge Accreditation

Our judge numbers for 2021-22 grew slightly. The numbers being 11 x Qld, 6 x Vic and 5 x WA, 1 x NSW & 1 x SA.

As per last years annual report it was hoped that a judges seminar could be held after May 2022. This plan has come to fruition and will occur at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre in December 2022 and reported on in the 2022-23 annual report. Further plans are in place to conduct a seminar in Victoria and Western Australia in 2023.

The National Show contracted three WDA-AUS judges to officiate. Margaret Augerinos and Rachael O'Dowd from Victoria, and Carol Paterson from Queensland travelled great distances to attend the show and they were great ambassadors for the WDA-AUS judging fraternity. They presented themselves very professionally and genuinely had the competitor's enjoyment of the event in mind. They were ably supported by a variety of scribes who also presented themselves professionally in western attire and managed the test score recordings to a high standard.

A judge's contract was developed for the use of all show secretaries. It has removed the uncertainty of travel, accommodation and meal allowances. It is in line with the rulebook and makes an easy reference to these criteria.

## State Associations, Regional Affiliates and Branches

Some affiliates and branches continue to exercise initiative in event planning and fundraising so they can utilise judges from outside their local areas. They manage the cost of flights and accommodation well for judges, so they can give variety to their competitors. To maintain and grow participation at their events, they have offered incentives to encourage attendance. This has not been limited to one State, it's happened in several States where participants have travelled long and extra long distances to compete.

The numbers have remained constant during the reporting period.

There are 3 state associations – Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria. Queensland and Western Australia each successfully held their annual State Show. The management committee of the Victorian State association have actively been planning a State Show for the 2022-23 year.

There are 5 regional affiliate associations – 4 in Queensland and 1 in South Australia. Queensland and Victoria each have a branch.

Many of the management committees and show secretaries have transitioned to the electronic judges scoresheets available through Nominate.com.au Live Score system. Feedback received has been positive and as with every new system there have been some situations where greater familiarisation has been necessary. The WDA-AUS board has determined that procedural guidelines need to be developed to ensure consistency for all.

There has been continued success amongst some affiliates who submitted grant applications for equipment and resources. With great assistance from member Lori Keevers, WDA-AUS was successful in a grant application which contributed towards the cost of hiring the venue for the National Show. WDA-AUS is very thankful to Lori for her work on this.

## Competitions & Events

As previously mentioned, the first Australian National Western Dressage Show was successfully conducted in May 2022.

Overall a total of 28 shows were held during the 2021-22 year. They ranged from one day standard shows to two and three day events, including Championship and State Shows.

Other western dressage orientated events included clinics, training days and club days. These take a lot of organising and financial commitment, it is a credit to the affiliate and branch committees who demonstrate initiative and drive to make those happen.

Our number of members representing Australia this year in the USA WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge were down for a variety of reasons.

## Communications & Marketing

A total of 14 quarterly National newsletters had been published by the end of this reporting period, 4 of which covered the 2021-22 period. This is quite an achievement by the WDA-AUS Communications and Marketing Officer, who single-handedly produces this publication. She became a new Mum and still managed to do the newsletters for the year.

The quarterly newsletter has progressed well and is meeting the desired objectives. It provides a comprehensive insight into all things Western Dressage across Australia. It announces any changes in a timely manner and gives recognition to the achievements of members, affiliates and branches. Our sponsors are included each quarter and the articles are varied, relevant, personal and interesting. Over the 12 months WDA-AUS has encouraged committees and members to send in photos, suggestions, information, dot points on items of interest and events but the response has not been greatly forthcoming.

The National board again urges everyone to contribute to the quarterly newsletter, a quick email to [communications@westerndressage.com.au](mailto:communications@westerndressage.com.au) is all that is necessary.

Our website was updated to include a Sponsor page and a National Show page. The horse registration page was updated as registrations were processed. A steady increase in horse lifetime competition licenses occurred over the 12 months. The number of registered horses for the period ending 30 June 2022 totalled 440, compared to last years report of 377.

Plans for a new real time points record system commenced at the end of the reporting period and is in progress at this stage.

## National High Point Awards 2021 - 2022

Feedback from judges, show committees and clinicians has been very positive. Of note is the consistent improvement shown by the horse and rider combinations and the genuine camaraderie amongst competitors at all levels.

Personal feedback to the WDA-AUS board from newcomers to the sport, highlighted the friendliness and welcoming atmosphere experienced at shows held throughout the year, including the National Show.

Every competitor deserves credit for the way in which they presented themselves and their horses according to the ideals and objectives of western dressage in Australia. The WDA-AUS board thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

### The Board is proud to announce the 2021-2022 National Level Champions & Reserve Champions

YOUTH	RIDER	HORSE
Champion	Chloe Lough	Chesalon Shocker
Reserve Champion	Chloe Sentance	Tally S Xplicit Kiss

BASIC LEVEL	RIDER	HORSE
Champion	Gita Thomas	Shiney Nu Addition
Reserve Champion	Julie Sain	The Lazy Colonel
Reserve Champion	Heather Marr	Koorala Poker Face

LEVEL 1	RIDER	HORSE
Champion	Sue Franks	Smart Nu Release
Reserve Champion	Gita Thomas	Shiney Nu Addition

LEVEL 2	RIDER	HORSE
Champion	Vivian Wearing	Tassawoods Ace
Reserve Champion	Louise Harris	Too Much Hootch
Reserve Champion	Vicki Parker	Triandibo Insheplayin

LEVEL 3	RIDER	HORSE
Champion	Louise Harris	Too Much Hootch
Reserve Champion	Natalie Mitchell	Statford Mojave

Congratulations to the recipients of the National Level Champion and Reserve Champion Awards. The Awards will be mailed out to each recipient.

## Financial Results for the year ended June 2022

Revenue for year to June 2022 was \$ 41,078, an increase of \$10,058 compared to the previous year's revenue. Nett Loss was \$6,254 at year end compared to a nett loss of \$1,506 as at June 2021. Increase in revenue was due to Sponsorship & nominations for the National Show held in May 2022. Nett year loss is attributed to increase in Insurance costs and running our National Show.

### Profit and Loss for the year ended 30 June 2022

<i>membership period:</i>	<i>Jun-22</i>		<i>Jun-21</i>			
<b>June 2022</b>	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD		Variance on prior year	
Senior Members (\$90pa) \$21.25 to state	177 15,930	151 13,590	178 16,020	(1) (90)		
Life Members (\$1000) \$381.25 to state	- -	- -	- -	- -		
Associate Members (\$110pa) \$31.25 to state	- -	- -	- -	- -		
Youth Members (\$110pa) \$0 to state	- -	- -	- -	- -		
Affiliate Members - State (\$350pa <50, \$500 50-100, \$750 >100)	3 1,050	4 1,200	3 1,050	- -		
Affiliate Members - Club (\$180pa)	4 720	7 1,260	3 540	1 180		
Horse Registration (\$25 per horse per lifetime)	67 1,675	50 1,250	59 1,475	8 200		
Event only	120 1,837	50 750	51 779	69 1,059		
Affiliate Show Fee	33 1,650	24 1,150	28 1,400	5 250		
Donation/Sponsorship	8,550	-	-	- 8,550		
National Show Income	9,214					
Merchandise	452	350	542	- (90)		
	<u>41,078</u>	<u>19,550</u>	<u>21,806</u>	<u>10,058</u>		
Net Profit / Loss YTD	(6,254)	861	(1,506)	(4,748)		

	<i>Actual</i>
<b>COSTS</b>	
Insurance	16,334
Audios	240
State donations	2,277
Sponsorships	1,134
Webex/Website	219
National Awards	840
National Show	<u>24,912</u>
	<u>\$ 45,956</u>



## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2022			
<b>Asset</b>			
	Bank	21,015.92	
	Nominate	5,156.77	26,172.69
<b>Liability</b>			
	Event Insurance	-	
	WDA-QLD	(2,721.25)	
	WDA-WA	(351.25)	
	WDA-VIC	(627.50)	
			(3,700.00)
<b>Long Term Liability</b>			
	WDA-QLD (Life Memberships)	(76.25)	
	WDA-WA (Life Membership)		
	WDA-VIC (Life Membership)		(76.25)
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>22,396.44</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
	Retained Earning		28,650.37
	Current Year Earnings		(6,253.93)
			<b>22,396.44</b>

## State Association payments

The following amounts are reimbursed to State Associations each year after 30<sup>th</sup> June.

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	Total
WDA-QLD	2,008.75	1,987.50	1,766.25	1,871.25	7,633.75
WDA-WA	356.25	271.25	266.25	223.75	1,117.50
WDA-VIC	243.75	420.00	245.00	457.50	1,366.25
	<u>2,608.75</u>	<u>2,678.75</u>	<u>2,277.50</u>	<u>2,552.50</u>	<u>10,117.50</u>

**Your 2021-2022 National Board - Jim Whitaker, Julie Sain, Pam Nelson, Beth Noble, Teresa Russo, Lyn Roberton & Paula Byrne offer a Sincere Thank You To All Of Our Members & Their Families, Judges, Supporters, Volunteers & Sponsors Who Have Continued To Have Trust And Confidence In The Development Of Western Dressage In Australia.**