

WD

WESTERN DRESSAGE

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



Photo Credit: Vivian Wearing

2017/2018 Annual Report

Western Dressage Association of Australia Inc.

Incorporated in Western Australia
Incorporation number: A1017989F

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Board Members – 2017/2018

Chairperson: Jim Whitaker (QLD)



Secretary: Margaret Augerinos (VIC)



Treasurer: Jackie Knight (QLD)



Board Member/Judge Liaison: Paula Byrne (QLD)



Board Member: Marg Connolly (WA)



Board Member: Julie Sain (QLD)



Board Member/Communications: Stacey Locastro (QLD)



Board Report

2017/2018 was a bumper year for the national association. The Board is proud to present the achievements of our association to you – our valued member.

The achievements of western dressage across Australia has only been possible due to the incredible hard work and effort from not only volunteer national and state association board members, but also the huge numbers of volunteers, helpers, judges, coaches, trainers, competitors and others who give their time freely to help support and develop the sport in Australia.

New Rules & Tests

We commenced reviewing our tests and rulebook in 2016/2017. Our new tests were launched in January 2018, and our revised rulebook was formally launched at the end of the 17/18 year.

Our rulebook was developed for the Australian context and we thank the Western Style Dressage Association of Canada for permission to base our rulebook on their excellent and comprehensive version.

The tests have now been in use for most of 2018 and feedback is extremely positive. We are currently developing the remainder of our Level 2 and 3 tests and have some initial prototypes of in-hand and peripheral tests in development. We look forward to launching these new tests for the 19/20 competition season.

Judge Accreditation

Our interim judge accreditation program now sees around 26 judges accredited to judge western dressage competitions in Australia. This interim accreditation provides capacity for judges to enter the sport and assist us to meet the demands of the competition environment. Our efforts have been so successful that we have now closed the books for interim judges in Queensland and will soon close our applications for Victoria and Western Australia. Whilst it is important we have a large pool of judges to draw from, it is also important that we utilise and support the current judges on the list to ensure their ongoing opportunities and development.

We continue to work on our formalised judge accreditation program and this has required us to consider how to support, educate and mentor judges across such a huge geographic area with limited resources. We intend for our program to have a range of modalities including online delivery and testing, supplemented by informal coaching, mentoring and formal educational forums and seminars at key locations across the country.

State Associations

Our 3 state associations – Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria – continue to do a great job in promoting and developing western dressage in their states. We have such hardworking state committees who in addition to working on development plans, are also actively running events whilst branches and affiliate clubs grow and develop.

Events in 3 states are generally now fully subscribed and all 3 state associations have a comprehensive calendar of events for the current competition year.

During 17/18, Queensland was the only state to run sanctioned competitions and also ran its first state show in November 2017. Planning is underway for the second Queensland state show to be held in November 2018.

Western Australia and Victoria are commencing sanctioned events in 18/19, and they worked tirelessly during 17/18 to introduce, grow and develop the sport in their respective states.

Club Affiliates

We have a number of clubs across Australia who have formally affiliated with WDA-AUS. These affiliates play an important role in helping to promote and develop the sport. Affiliation provides the opportunity for these clubs to run western dressage events, including sanctioned competitions. We thank our Affiliates for their interest in the sport and look forward to continued strong relationships with them.

Branches

Our new structure and rulebook has facilitated the development of branch establishment as another way to deliver localised events and opportunities for our members. To date, we have had a successful branch establish in 17/18 – the South East Queensland Branch. We currently have a number of individuals/groups who are interested in further developing branches in QLD, WA and VIC.

Competitions & Events

Event numbers during the 17/18 year reflect the growing nature of the sport. Despite this, we are increasing in reach and number, with Victoria and Western Australian running unsanctioned competitions and both sanctioned and unsanctioned events in Queensland. We estimate around 25 competitions were run across Australia in the 2017/2018 year and a number of western dressage clinics and come and try days were also held across the 3 states.

Again, the strong feedback we hear at the national office is how welcoming western dressage is, and that it is providing another avenue for people to develop their equestrian interests. We are attracting interest from not only western performance competitors (reining, campdrafting, western pleasure), but also dressage (English) and other equestrian enthusiasts. Many people are finding western dressage is allowing them to diversify their interests and providing competition opportunities. In some places, we are finding that people engaging in western dressage haven't participated in any organised horse sports before. This is a great example of the reach of western dressage. Whilst it is providing an opportunity for serious competitors, it is also able to meet the needs of riders who are just starting out or looking for an opportunity to do something different.

Communications & Marketing

Over the last year we have worked hard to develop our communications and marketing reach.

Our website was redeveloped and contains easy to access links to all relevant information. New content is added regularly, and we hope to continue to grow the website to ensure it meets member needs and expectations.

We have also commenced a quarterly newsletter that aims to keep members up to date with events and news and items of interest.

In addition, we have also been featured in a number of publications including the Australian Performance Horse Magazine and the Western Horse Annual. These articles have been really well received and have served to introduce the sport to a whole lot of riders who have joined up in recent months.

Hi-Points & Grading

With the commencement of sanctioned competitions across 3 states, we will for the first time run a national hi-points tally from the 18/19 competition year. Results obtained by competitors during this season will also see grading points collated during the year, with formal gradings to apply from 1 July 2018. The national office will communicate these changes to all members shortly. The current rulebook available on our website outlines the process for grading and hi-points.

Support to State Associations, Affiliates & Branches

We have also worked hard to ensure we have a range of information and guides available to support our state associations, affiliates and branches. Over the last 12 months we have developed:

- Event Convenor Toolkit
- Event Emergency Management Toolkit

- Event Management Checklist
- Show Approval Form
- Results Template
- Branch Development Information Kit
- Branch Application Form

We will continue to develop the resources needed for the administration and development of the sport over the coming year.

Strategic Planning

The Board undertook a weekend strategic planning session in February 2018. Given cost restraints, this whole process was completed using video conferencing and online collaboration.

The Board is proud of the plan it has developed. We developed a solid Vision Statement and outlined a comprehensive 3-year action plan – outlined below.



VISION STATEMENT

To develop and govern a national equestrian discipline that supports and encourages the pursuit of classical dressage for any breed of horse and their rider. We value the harmonious partnership between horse and rider, building the relationship through ethical training, lightness of rein, suppleness, accuracy and with the wellbeing of the horse paramount.

OUR GOALS

Provide value for money & easily accessible membership services, that acknowledge and recognise member achievements, ensure they feel valued as a member and that are responsive to member needs and concerns.

WDA-AUS will ensure its ongoing financial viability through good financial governance and clear targets for growth and development.

Our organisation will be well governed and with strong leadership. We will work with integrity and to the highest standards, including promoting the highest ideals of the sport, safeguarding our members and the welfare of the horse.

Clear, concise marketing information is easily accessible, timely, relevant and helps to promote the sport in a positive light. We want our information to be educational, that encourages people to participate and that clearly demonstrates the benefits of western dressage and the differences between related disciplines.

The Board would like to thank all those involved including current and former board members, state associations, affiliates, branches, volunteers and competitors for their energy, interest, enthusiasm and commitment to developing western dressage in Australia.

Collectively we continue to achieve a huge amount. By working together, we can grow and develop the sport across Australia.

Finally, thank you to all the competitors, members and supporters who have put their faith into this developing sport. Your interest and enthusiasm is what motivates us to build a strong and viable organisation and develop the sport into a world class discipline. We know we have a way to go, but the future is bright and with our collective efforts we will achieve our goals.

Your National Board

**Jim Whitaker, Marg Connolly, Jackie Knight, Julie Sain, Paula Byrne, Stacey Locastro,
Margaret Augerinos**

Financial Report

Finance Overview of Year ended 30 June 2018

Whilst membership is fairly consistent with prior years, we recognise that membership numbers are not only integral to our future, but also help fund the strategic plan of the Association. In view of that, the Board listened to the feedback from the State Associations and decided at the start of FY19 to substantially decrease the membership fees for the year. The first 4 months of FY19 have seen a marked increase in membership numbers, however, we recognise the need to ensure that we are providing value to members to ensure the continued support when fees return to normal in FY20.

Financial Results for the year ended 30 June 2018

Revenue for year to June 2018 was \$16,695 up \$2,790 on this time last year. Net Profit is \$4,726 compared to \$5,629 last year. Expenses this year include website \$2,058, advertising \$660 and webex \$647.

The “normalised Net Profit” excluding these costs is \$8,091 and in line with the revenue increase on last year.

Profit and Loss for the year ended 30 June 2018

<i>membership period:</i>	July17 - June18		July16 - June17		July16 - June17	
June 2018	2018		2017		variance	
<i>Senior Members (\$180pa) \$66.25 to state</i>	51	9,180	54	9,580	(3)	(400)
<i>Life Members (\$1000) \$331.25 to state</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Associate Members (\$110pa) \$31.25 to state</i>	20	2,200	6	660	14	1,540
<i>Youth Members (\$110pa) \$0 to state</i>	8	880	5	500	3	380
<i>Affiliate Members - State (\$350pa <50, \$500 50-100, \$750 >100)</i>	3	1,050	2	700	1	350
<i>Affiliate Members - Club (\$180pa)</i>	5	900	4	440	1	460
<i>Horse Registration (\$25 per horse per lifetime)</i>	26	650	48	1,200	(22)	(550)
<i>Event only</i>	119	1,785	55	825	64	960
<i>Affiliate Show Fee</i>	1	50			1	50
		<u>16,695</u>		<u>13,905</u>		<u>2,790</u>
Net Profit YTD		4,726		5,629		(903)

	<i>Actual</i>
Costs	
Insurance	3,970
Nominate Fees	631
Webex	647
Marketing	660
Website	2,058
	7,966

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018			
Asset			
	Bank	20,429	
	Nominate	-	20,429
Liability			
	Event Insurance	(810)	
	WDA-QLD	(2,668)	
	WDA-WA	(415)	
	WDA-VIC	(231)	(4,124)
Long Term Liability			
	WDA-QLD (Life Memberships)	(360)	
	WDA-WA (Life Membership)	(180)	
	WDA-VIC (Life Membership)	(180)	(720)
Net Assets			15,585
Equity			
	Retained Earning		10,859
	Current Year Earnings		4,726
			15,585

State Associations

The following amounts were owed to the States at 30th June 2018. These have been reimbursed to the state associations.

	FY16	FY17	FY18	Total
WDA-QLD	556.25	2,840.00	2,667.50	6,063.75
WDA-WA	112.50	797.50	415.00	1,325.00
WDA-VIC	370.00	355.00	231.25	956.25
	1,038.75	3,992.50	3,313.75	8,345.00