

Our Board

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|---|---|
| Jim Whitaker CHAIR |  |
| Margaret (Marg) Connolly VICE CHAIR |  |
| Margaret Augerinos SECRETARY |  |
| Jackie Knight FCCA TREASURER |  |
| Paula Byrne Judges Portfolio |  |
| Julie Sain |  |
| Stacey Locastro MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS |  |

From the Board

We have been working hard behind the scenes to continue growing Western Dressage around the country.

Our website is constantly being updated with new information so be sure to keep a close eye on that.

We are going strong with our Strategic Plan and it's on track which is great! Our AGM was held on 8 November and we thank those members who joined us for the meeting. We farewelled our Treasurer Jackie Knight who has done an outstanding job and been a huge part of the success of western dressage so far – thank you and we will miss you Jackie! We also farewelled Marg Connolly – thank you Marg for your fantastic contribution. The AGM saw 2 new board members join us: Laurel Davis and Pam Nelson. We look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.

Please send in your pics and short write ups for us to include in our newsletter – we are all western dressage family and love to share what you have been getting up too 😊

How to start Western Dressage in Your area

Other incorporated organisations that wish to conduct Western Dressage events as part of their existing program may apply to become an Affiliate. An annual fee is paid to WDA-AUS and a formal agreement between WDA-AUS and the Affiliate is accepted. These Affiliates may conduct Western Dressage events as approved by WDA-AUS and subject to WDA-AUS Rules and Guidelines.

Regional Branches enable groups of like-minded individuals to participate in local

Links –

WDA website <https://www.westerndressage.com.au/>
Rules https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/d32836_daf71a45b5604de2aae206b139dbb694.pdf

Email: westerndressageaustralia@gmail.com

Any Newsletter articles please email staceylcastro@westnet.com.au

Western Dressage events. A WDA-AUS Subcommittee of at least three (3) current financial Senior or Associate Members is required to form and operate a Branch on behalf of the national Association. Individual Membership with WDA-AUS is all that required to participate in Branch activities and functions

Club & State News

News from QLD **TARGA RALLY** meets **WESTERN DRESSAGE**

Have you heard of the Targa Rally? No? Well it is run by Targa Australia & **is the world's largest, longest and hardest tarmac motorsport rally event** & is held in Tasmania.

This year however, after three years in the making, it was also held in Tropical North Queensland on August 31 to September 2.

Aptly called **Targa Great Barrier Reef**.



This was round three of the four event CAMS Australian Targa Championship. Entries sold out within 2 weeks and saw over 215 entries from Australia and overseas. There were over \$20 million worth of vehicles entered & included some of the best exotic supercars and historic sports cars. They competed in various stages covering 200kms of the picturesque and challenging roads throughout TNQ.

It was such a success that it will return next year on Aug 30 – Sep 1, 2019. The competitors rallied together at local venues for staged starts over the 3 days.

Spectator crowds were drawn to those venues, as they were able to view the cars and meet the car crews. Many of the rally competitors were amazed at the beautiful surrounds that they were racing through; overall it was very good for the economy and very positive for tourism. It also drew attention to Western Dressage.

One of staging venues was the Malanda Showgrounds, west of Cairns. The North Queensland Quarter Horse Association (WDA-AUS affiliate), were holding the first show of their second annual Western Dressage Series competition at the covered arena at the same venue.

The vehicles rumbled in through the top gate and made their way around the sports oval, to line up beside the covered arena, **parallel to "C"!**

An air horn was to be used to start each group of racing vehicles in stages.



There were a few anxious moments for the NQQHA committee and riders alike, anticipating the reactions of the horses when the rolling starts were to commence. The Targa Rally stewards were fantastic. They liaised with the committee prior to the arrival of the vehicles, to ensure the least impact on the western dressage event. They were very considerate of the horses and riders, signaling when the air horn would sound and they did their best to keep the engine revs to a minimum. It was very well managed.

36 tests were ridden that day and the horses took all of the Targa Rally action in their stride, it was a credit to all. Many of the rally spectators came to the arena fence to watch the tests being ridden, giving very positive feedback to officials.

A few of the horses and riders visited the rally start line to admire the cars and take photos.

It seems several of them were also serious car enthusiasts. A couple of the youth competitors were very excited to let their father know that he was missing out on this awesome show of "horsepower" due to being away on the Variety Bash – Australia's longest running and most famous charity motoring event.

A few Targa Rally crews approached the western dressage competitors, requesting to take photos of the riders and their horses. It seems several of them were horse enthusiasts also, showing knowledge of western events including western dressage and reining.

Overall it was a great experience for all and it put the spotlight on Western Dressage. The show went off without a hitch.



Pictured - the NQQHA's youngest and oldest western dressage competitors interact with the Targa Rally competitors and spectators alike. Both were heard discussing their desire for a Mustang, not sure if they meant the 4 legged, 4 wheeled type or both ☺



ARTICLE BY PAULA BYRNE. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULIANE CORICA'S NQQHA FACEBOOK PAGE

Rider Profile

Sandy Ogg has been riding horses most of his life, in recent times he has been involved with cutting horses. In the last 3 years, since moving to Innisfail Far North QLD, he has gotten involved in western dressage through



his local affiliate club North QLD QHA.

Sandy has shown his trained cutting gelding, One Eighty as well as young cutting bred fillies, One Roan Ambition and One Special Whiz. He believes western dressage is a great discipline to help get young horses out into the show scene in an encouraging and safe environment. Sandy also feels that western dressage helps teach riders to ride with more precision and accuracy and to really think about how they are riding their horse.

He believes that western dressage is growing in popularity as it offers an opportunity for all types of riders and horses with varying abilities to train and compete and move forward in the discipline.

Calendar of Events

WA

November: 23 – WAQHA, State Equestrian Centre, Brigadoon

December: 16 – Christmas Show including Annual General Meeting, Foxwood Farm

QLD

Maryborough Equestrian Centre 2019

January: 25, 26, 27, 28

March: 8, 9, 10

June: 21, 22, 23

July: 26, 27, 28

September: 6, 7, 8

November: State Show 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Western Dressage South East Qld Branch 2019

March: 30,31

May: 18,19

June: 8,9

August: 24,25

October: 12,13

North Queensland Quarter Horse Association

2019 dates TBC

VIC

December: 9 – Sanctioned Show, Victoria's Stables, Pakenham South

2019

February, April, June - Sanctioned shows. Dates and venue TBC