



2022 - 2023

**WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA**

Australia's Western Dressage Governing Body

Incorporated in Western Australia 2014

Incorporation number: A1017989F

www.westerndressage.com.au

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022 – 2023



Jim Whitaker (QLD)
Office Holder - Chairperson to
November 2022.



Paula Byrne (QLD)
Vice Chair to December 2022.
Office Holder – Secretary.
Website manager.
Judge Convenor to February
2023.



Julie Sain (QLD)
Office Holder - Treasurer.
Events Coordinator, Awards
Convenor.



Teresa Russo (QLD)
Office Holder - Chairperson from
December 2022.
Newsletters & Communications.



Lyn Robertson (QLD)
Office Holder - Vice Chair from
December 2022. Judge convenor
portfolio from February 2023.



Pam Nelson (WA)
Committee Member to
November 2022.



Beth Noble (WA)
Committee Member. Assistant
to Awards Convenor.



Sue Franks (QLD)
Committee Member from
November 2022. Judge convenor
portfolio from February 2023.



Meagan Harrison (VIC)
Committee Member from
November 2022 to April 2023.



Rachael O'Dowd (VIC)
Committee Member from April
2023.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

This annual report reviews the period from July 1st 2022 to June 30th 2023.

At the start of that period, the duly elected Management Committee comprised of Jim Whitaker, Beth Noble, Lyn Robertson, Teresa Russo, Pam Nelson, Julie Sain and Paula Byrne.

The AGM was held on 17 November 2022. The term of office for each Management Committee member is two (2) years. Four (4) members namely Jim Whitaker, Lyn Robertson, Beth Noble and Pam Nelson completed their term, and their positions were declared vacant. Jim Whitaker did not renominate for a position and six (6) nominations were received. A poll was conducted at the AGM and as a result the members elected to the committee were Lyn Robertson, Meagan Harrison, Sue Franks and Beth Noble. Their term will expire at the 2024 AGM.

Nominations were also received from Pam Nelson and Rachael O'Dowd, who just missed out in the poll. In April 2023 Meagan Harrison resigned due to personal commitments and the casual vacancy was filled by Rachael O'Dowd as per the constitution rules.

It was a very busy and demanding year for the committee whose focus is always on meeting the short term and long term objectives of the Association. Several large projects were undertaken which were extremely challenging and time consuming. The intention of these projects was to guarantee uniformity in the rules and standards across Australia as a whole; and to represent the interests of the WDA-AUS members within Australia and Internationally.

PROJECTS

- ❖ **Constitution Review** – It was found that the constitution was outdated and not in compliance with the legislation. This created an unacceptable risk for the Association and its members. It was updated to meet the requirements of the current legislation as per the Associations Incorporations Act 2015 (original constitution made under the 1987 Act). Information was sent out to all WDA-AUS members, with a copy of the new constitution. A special general meeting was held on November 1st 2022 where a motion to adopt the updated constitution was passed by WDA-AUS members. The new constitution was then submitted to the governing legislative authority and was approved for enactment.
- ❖ **Defined Competition Show Categories** were implemented and each included set standards applicable in accordance with the category. The category of shows were defined as Online, Standard, Championship, State & National Shows. Program templates and examples were created for Affiliates to follow. Standardisation of awards relative to the show categories were applied accordingly. This provided for uniformity and equality for members across the country.
- ❖ **An Affiliate Incentive Program** commenced with the introduction of the designated show categories. It was initiated to support Affiliates in the running of either a State Show or Championship Show, once per membership year. WDA-AUS provides \$500.00 in sponsorship for these shows upon application.
- ❖ **A Lifetime Horse Recognition & Awards Program** was developed, replacing the Horse Grading System. This created a greater opportunity for members and their horses to continue showing, giving longevity to a horse's career. It also provided incentive to horse & rider combinations to strive for recognition of their own personal achievements. Award Certificates were designed and printed and sent out to recipients. These were well received, and the standard of the certificates compared to other associations was extremely high.
- ❖ **Awards Program Points** were redefined and set in accordance with the relative show category. This encouraged Affiliates to conduct shows up to the Championship level and also provided members with motivation to travel to shows outside their area to support the industry. Each different category of competition show has an allocated points table, which increases as the level of show increases.

- ❖ **New Rules and Amendments** to rules were necessary as a result of some of these projects. A distinct domino effect occurred as each project progressed. The changes needed were identified and voted on by the Management Committee for inclusion in the rulebook. Adding these to the rule book each time as they were identified was not ideal and created confusion. Therefore, a major review of the entire rulebook commenced for release in August 2023.
- ❖ **An Amateur Division** was introduced to bring WDA-AUS in line with other equestrian performance associations. Standards and rules were written for the competition show categories. An Amateur permit was developed in collaboration with Nominat so non-professional Life or Senior members could upgrade their membership category to include Amateur status. Developing the software through nominat has been problematic but once in place, WDA-AUS Affiliates will be encouraged to include an Amateur division at their events.
- ❖ **International Relations** is an important aspect to our relevance and growth. The Management Committee has continued professional communication with the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) relating to the development of western dressage in Australia, including judge education resources. Members have been encouraged to take part in the WDAA International Challenge and as a result Australia has been recognised as having a high standard of competition. WDA-AUS has supported our WDAA colleagues in this annual event and received positive feedback from them accordingly.
- ❖ **An Online Competition Show** was conducted as an event open to all members across Australia. An International Judge, Joanne Coy (USA WDAA Judge Educator, USEF Accredited), was commissioned to judge the event. Her personal appraisal, of the tests put before her for judging, was very positive and encouraging. It reinforced the quality of our riders and horses in Australia. This successful event was a National point earning competition.
- ❖ **The first official Judges Seminar** was conducted on December 3rd & 4th, 2022. It was open to all judges and was held at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre. Several Qld judges attended and a judge from Western Australia also travelled over to attend. It was a great chance for judges to come together in person to discuss a variety of topics. Resources obtained through the WDAA (USA) were utilised and consequently it was identified that Australia's standards were very good next to the USA standards. The seminar was reviewed, and an evaluation was done to determine its effectiveness and identify improvements necessary for future seminars. Accordingly, plans were put in place for a 2023 seminar to be held in Victoria and a 2024 seminar to be held in Western Australia.

In February 2023 the Judge Convenor portfolio was handed over from the Secretary to two other Management Committee members, Sue Franks and Lyn Roberton, who are experienced judges. This was done to allow dedicated attention to be given to the development of an education program for judges. They commenced work on the Victorian seminar for delivery later in 2023. The work done by past Management Committee members Thea Griffin and Margaret Augerinos must be acknowledged. Both volunteered their time on several occasions to develop and conduct judge's clinics in various locations across the country.

- ❖ **Event Organiser resources** were developed and published on a secure page on the website, with access permitted only by the use of a password. This measure was done to protect intellectual property and members personal data. The page is only available to Affiliate Committee members who organise events. It was designed so that event organisers had a single source location where they could access all current documentation relating to shows, risk management, member lists, program examples and requirements, a ribbon & rosette pictorial guide and judges contracts. It allows for a better orientation process for new Affiliate committee members taking on the duties of event organisers.
- ❖ **New Tests were written, tested and reviewed.** The last time the WDA-AUS tests were updated was 2017, five years ago. The new tests replaced the 2017 tests and Level Four tests were developed. All new tests were published by the end of the 2022-23 membership year, ready for use in the 2023-24 year, except for Level Four. There are 5 tests for this level pending validation prior to release. Feedback on the new tests was sought from members and while it was mostly positive, it was found that some

alterations were inevitably required. This was completed as necessary, and it was excellent that members notified WDA-AUS of any areas that needed attention.

- ❖ **The 2024 National Show** planning began early in 2023. The Management Committee faced some significant challenges in securing a date that did not clash with other equestrian events and subject to venue availability. A date of 16-18 August 2024 was set and the venue was secured and planning commenced. The Management Committee put out the call to members for interest in forming a sub-committee to assist in the organising of this National Event. WDA-AUS is fortunate to have had a few members and their partners volunteer to assist throughout the event. Other WDA-AUS members are working with the Management Committee in the background during the planning stages. The support shown by these people is remarkable.
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AFFILIATES – STATE, REGIONAL & BRANCHES

The number of competition shows remained quite stable amongst Affiliates with some increases in areas. The Affiliate committees organised a good number of competitions and training clinics for members, encouraging participation both competitive and social. New members have participated well in Come and Try classes. Affiliates were welcoming to newcomers and promoted the events well. Feedback suggests that there was a high level of support and encouragement provided, often resulting in new memberships.

Annual memberships opened a month early to lessen the pressure of membership currency on members and committees involved in competitions being held in early July. The results of this trial were found to be successful and likely to continue in the 2023-24 year.

The projects just outlined brought about changes in how Affiliate committees organise, advertise and conduct events, along with reporting results on events.

Most Affiliates embraced the changes to the show applications, standards, show requirements and the results reporting during the implementation and transitional phase. They demonstrated positive attitudes and exercised politeness during contact with WDA-AUS, this was greatly appreciated.

GOVERNANCE

The WDA-AUS Management Committee is charged with making decisions relating to the sustainability, growth, development and regulation of this sport in Australia. The Management Committee's decisions and actions were taken to ensure fairness for all members and affiliates, without favour towards any individual members, groups, affiliates or locations.

Prior to this reporting period, a well-meant constructive criticism provided by a well-respected equestrian official, outside of WDA-AUS cited that there was nowhere to go within western dressage. Meaning that it was somewhat of a dead end for competitors and their horses. There was no malice intended by the official.

Reflecting on that observation, the Management Committee remained focussed on the long term objective of having western dressage accepted as a legitimate western discipline in its own right in Australia. Achieving acceptance is difficult and can't be attained unless the proper standards are set and adhered to, while improving and maintaining a credible image and reputation within the industry. The WDA-AUS Affiliates are the pathway to building the required acceptance.

The projects undertaken and the subsequent changes were necessary to ensure that Western Dressage remains relevant in the changing and competitive environment of the western disciplines. The projects have now provided a progressive future of achievements for competitors and their horses.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

A total of 18 quarterly National newsletters have been published since its inception in 2018; 4 of which covered the 2022-23 period. From its humble beginnings 5 years ago, the newsletter has morphed into a professional publication that is heavy on content. A wholistic approach has been taken to provide members with a detailed quarterly overview of what is happening and what has transpired in the world of Western Dressage across the country. Contributions to the newsletter have always been welcome and gratefully received. However the newsletter depends on an extraordinary amount of volunteer hours put in by the WDA-AUS Communications & Marketing Officer.

The size of this publication has outgrown the platform being used to circulate it to members and publish it on the website. Other sporting associations have moved towards more professional interactive digital platforms. WDA-AUS will need to consider a more engaging publishing strategy in the short term or risk losing the ability to remain competitive in the equestrian sports environment.

In addition to the quarterly newsletter, member bulletins were generated on a monthly basis from January 2023. This strategy was established as a means to share relevant information coming from the Management Committee meetings, outlining to the WDA-AUS members areas that the committee is working on for the betterment of the sport.

The website continues to be a work in progress with updates to pages as required. Since the last annual report research was completed into a points recording system for each individual horse. The cost to set up the necessary software was very high and WDA-AUS would have had to pay an additional expensive ongoing monthly fee for the life of the plan. At this stage the project has been put on hold as an unacceptable financial burden that could not be maintained without passing on the costs to members. The WDA-AUS Chairperson and Secretary hosted a meeting with the software consultant of WDAA (USA) recently to discuss software options that may be of use or available to WDA-AUS in the future. Progress on this project is ongoing.

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2023

Revenue for year to June 2023 was \$ 28,474, a decrease of \$12,869 compared to the previous year's revenue. Nett Profit was \$5,231 at year end compared to a nett loss of \$6,254 as at June 2022. Decrease in revenue is attributed to the National Show being held in the previous year.

Profit and Loss for the year ended 30 June 2023

Membership period:	Jun-23				Jun-22			
June 2023	YTD Actual		YTD Budget		YTD		Variance on prior year	
Senior Members (\$90pa) \$21.25 to state	201	19,095	195	18,525	173	16,195	28	2,900
Life Members (\$1000) \$381.25 to state	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Associate Members (\$110pa) \$31.25 to state	3	150	-	-	-	-	3	150
Youth Members (\$110pa) \$0 to state	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Affiliate Members - State (\$350pa <50, \$500 50-100, \$750 >100)	3	1,200	4	1,200	3	1,050	-	150
Affiliate Members - Club (\$180pa)	5	900	5	900	4	720	1	180
Horse Registration (\$25 per horse per lifetime)	73	1,825	50	1,250	67	1,675	6	150
Event only	136	2,033	80	1,200	119	1,837	17	196
Affiliate Show Fee	35	1,825	34	1,700	33	1,650	2	175
Donation/Sponsorship		-		-		8,550	-	(8,550)
National Show Income		980				9,214		
Merchandise		466		300		452	-	14
		28,474		25,075		41,343		(4,635)
Net Profit YTD		5,231		3,573		(6,254)		11,484

	Actual
Insurance	13,239
Audios	326
Sponsorship	1,850
Magazine Promotion	385
Judges Seminar	878
Webex/Website	385
National Awards	1,182
LHRAP Award Certificates	151
TOTAL	\$18,396

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

June 2023			
Asset			
	Bank	23,812.82	
	Nominate	8,452.21	32,265.03
Liability			
	Event Insurance	-	
	WDA-QLD	(1,646.25)	
	WDA-WA	(287.50)	
	WDA-VIC	(457.50)	
			(2,391.25)
Long Term Liability			
	WDA-QLD (Life Memberships)	(76.25)	
	WDA-WA (Life Membership)		
	WDA-VIC (Life Membership)		(76.25)
Net Assets			29,797.53
Equity			
	Retained Earning		24,566.98
	Current Year Earnings		5,230.55
			29,797.53

State Association payments

The following amounts are reimbursed to State Associations each year after 30th June.

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	TOTAL
WDA-QLD	1987.50	1766.25	1871.25	1646.25	7271.25
WDA-WA	271.25	266.25	223.75	287.50	1048.75
WDA-VIC	420.00	245.00	457.50	457.50	1580.00
	2678.75	2277.50	2552.50	2391.25	\$9900.00

NATIONAL HIGH POINT AWARDS 2022 - 2023

The way in which every competitor presented themselves and their horses at events throughout Australia is to be commended. Good sportsmanship was demonstrated consistently and is a credit to the sport.

The WDA-AUS Management Committee thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

**The WDA-AUS Management Committee is proud to announce the 2022-2023
National Level Champions & Reserve Champions**

YOUTH	RIDER	HORSE
Champion	Hanna Corica	ONE SPECIAL WHIZ
Reserve Champion	Montana Hamilton	TAPT DANCIN DUNDEE

BASIC LEVEL	HORSE	RIDER
Champion	ROANIES ROC STAR	Teresa Russo
Reserve Champion	MONDURE APACHE CALBOY	Erica Watkins

LEVEL ONE	HORSE	RIDER
Champion	ROANIES ROC STAR	Teresa Russo
Reserve Champion	SMART NU RELEASE	Sue Franks

LEVEL TWO	HORSE	RIDER
Champion	SMART NU RELEASE	Sue Franks
Reserve Champion	MERRIBANK FLICKA	Lisa Halling

LEVEL THREE	HORSE	RIDER
Champion	TOO MUCH HOOTCH	Louise Harris
Reserve Champion	RU SIMPLEE AWESOME	Samantha Norton

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

STATE HIGH POINT AWARDS 2022 - 2023

The State High Point awards were presented recently in the individual States, by the Western Dressage Association of Western Australia, the Western Dressage Association of Queensland and the South Australian Affiliate Southern Star Western Performance Club. Congratulations to all competitors on your achievements, and it's excellent to have South Australia included in the awards.

The National Association appreciates the commitment by these recipients to the sport of Western Dressage.

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – WESTERN AUSTRALIA BASIC LEVEL		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
EEC ITS ALL GOOD	Beth Noble	1st
GENEVIEVE	Barbara Sloan	2nd
HARBURYS QUEST FOR DALLAS	Chandie Harding	3rd
DELATITE MIGHTY BLU DENIM	Mia-Jane Perry	3rd
BLING RUHLS	Berny Taylor	3rd

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – WESTERN AUSTRALIA LEVEL ONE		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
DELATITE MIGHTY BLU DENIM	Mia-Jane Perry	1st

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA YOUTH		
RIDER	HORSE	PLACING
Maddison Collins	KYALLA AUTUMN NIGHT	1st

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA BASIC LEVEL		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
BGW TRIBUTE	Marianne Peters	1st
BGW HARRY HOT WHEELS	Alli Mott	2nd
NIX THE LOOT	Jessica Sharkie	3rd
CDEES FULO FIRE	Marie Appelbee	4th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA LEVEL ONE		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
KYALLA AUTUMN NIGHT	Maddison Collins	1st
MERRIBANK FLICKA	Lisa Halling	2nd
SKY DANCER	Lyz Risby	3rd
CDEES FULO FIRE	Marie Appelbee	4th
NIX THE LOOT	Jessica Sharkie	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA LEVEL TWO		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
MERRIBANK FLICKA	Lisa Halling	1st

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND YOUTH		
RIDER	HORSE	PLACING
Hanna Corica	ONE SPECIAL WHIZ	1st
Montana Hamilton	TAPT DANCIN DUNDEE	2nd
Chloe Lough	CHESALON SHOCKER	3rd
Megan Chatfield	COCO NIOKA KING	4th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND BASIC LEVEL		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
ROANIES ROC STAR	Teresa Russo	1st
MONDURE APACHE CALBOY	Erica Watkins	2nd
KOORALA POKER FACE	Heather Marr	3rd
TAPT DANCIN DUNDEE	Montana Hamilton	4th
THE LAZY COLONEL	Julie Sain	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND LEVEL ONE		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
ROANIES ROC STAR	Teresa Russo	1st
SMART NU RELEASE	Sue Franks	2nd
CHESALON SHOCKER	Chloe Lough	3rd
RKN GEE WHIZ	Debbie Scells	4th
TASSAWOODS ACE	Vivian Wearing	4th
MONDURE APACHE CALBOY	Erica Watkins	5th
THE LAZY COLONEL	Julie Sain	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND LEVEL TWO		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
SMART NU RELEASE	Sue Franks	1st
RKN GEE WHIZ	Debbie Scells	2nd
TASSAWOODS ACE	Vivian Wearing	3rd
TOO MUCH HOOTCH	Louise Harris	4th
CHESALON SHOCKER	Chloe Lough	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND LEVEL THREE		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
TOO MUCH HOOTCH	Louise Harris	1st
RU SIMPLEE AWESOME	Samantha Norton	2nd

Your 2022-2023 National Association Management Committee 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.