

westerndressageaustralia@gmail.com

Quarterly Newsletter Edition 1

Our Board

Jim Whitaker Chair	
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Julie Sain Board Member	
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From the Board

The Board are excited to bring you the first edition of our quarterly newsletter. We have been busy trying to bring bigger and better things to our Aussie western dressage family. A new upgraded website, strategic plan, discounted membership and scoring systems are just some of the recent happenings in WDA-AUS. We will continue to work hard to ensure you, the western dressage member, can get the most out of our wonderful sport, so stay tuned for future newsletters for articles and updates

Calendar of Events

WA

- Jun: 3-day Clinic and Judges seminar with Vivian Wearing at Foxwood Farm
- Jul: Training Day with Vanessa Hancox (venue and date TBA)
- Aug: 19th - Competition at Foxwood Farm
- Sep: Training Day with Vanessa Hancox (venue and date TBA)
- Oct: Competition (date TBA)
- Nov: 11th - Tests to be ridden at Magenup Adult Riders Group's Dressage and Show Jumping Day at Magenup Equestrian Centre
- Dec: Training Day/ Xmas Party at Foxwood Farm (date TBA)

QLD

WDAQ – 2019 events

- Jan: 25, 26, 27, 28
- Mar: 8, 9, 10
- Jun: 21, 22, 23
- Jul: 26, 27, 28
- Sep: 6, 7, 8
- Oct: State Show 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

NQQHA – North Qld

- WD Series 2 Show # 1 - 1st September 2018 - Malanda
- WD Series 2 Show # 2 – 13th October 2018 (Venue TBC)

VIC

2018

- Aug: 5th - Judges afternoon 3-6pm Foxden Equestrian Centre
- Sep: 1st – Treehaven Equestrian Centre. Non-sanctioned event
- Oct: (date tbc) - Show case afternoon at Foxden Equestrian Centre
- Oct: 21st - Un-sanctioned show Yarra Valley. Venue TBC
- Nov: TBC - Swan Hill
- Dec: 2nd - Christmas spectacular show and evening presentations - Ayr Hill Venue.

2019

- February, April, June 2019. Sanctioned shows. dates and venue TBC

Links –

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

Newsletter articles staceylocastro@westnet.com.au

Club & State News

News from WDAWA

Western Dressage is a rapidly growing sport in WA & is attracting riders from a variety of different disciplines. Many riders mentioned that they were attracted to the sport as it is open to any breed of horse and may be ridden bitless or in a snaffle or shank. Other reasons mentioned included the casual, friendly atmosphere, that the tests were easy to understand & ride and that Western Dressage provided an excellent alternative for those who like to compete in a Western event where the horses are encouraged to have more forward movement.

2018 has seen western dressage embraced by many Adult Rider Clubs in WA with several clubs running Western Dressage rally days & training test/have a go days. The response has been so positive that western dressage tests will be included in the WA ARCA Challenge for the first time in October 2018!

The number of judges has also grown in WA with several members being approved for interim judge's accreditation. Congratulations to the new judges!

In addition to several training days, WDAWA has also held several clinics this year including a three-day clinic with Viv Wearing in June. The clinic covered many different aspects of western dressage including a judging information day. All the clinic days were extremely well supported, and plans are underway to hold two more clinics with Viv in 2019.

Sanctioned competitions are also planned for August, October & December 2018 to allow all members ample opportunities to qualify for the WDAWA State Show which will be held in early 2019.

Western Dressage is growing steadily in popularity & with increasing members in WA ... the future looks bright indeed!

Rider Profile



Bobbie-Lee is an 18-year-old rider from Innisfail, Far North Queensland who has been riding horses since she was 2 years of age.

Her time in the pony club movement as well as other clubs has led to many great achievements and experiences throughout her involvement, including RDA.

She has been to China and Europe due to her involvement with horses and currently enjoys competing in Western Dressage at her local NQQHA club.

Western Dressage has been a useful training system for her horses and helped one in particular who struggles with relaxation at events.

Bobbie-Lee believes more youth riders are needed to help the sport evolve in Australia. She said they will greatly benefit from the judging and training systems in a chilled and supportive fun atmosphere that is western dressage. The ribbons are just beautiful, and the tests are easy to follow.



A LOOK AT HOW A LOCAL CLUB ESTABLISHED WESTERN DRESSAGE IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND BEFORE OUR 1ST SHOW

The North Queensland Quarter Horse Association (NQQHA) is a small but strong western performance club based in the Innisfail area on the Cassowary Coast. Members come from the Cassowary Coast, the Atherton Tablelands and Cairns region, with venues located at Innisfail and Malanda, about 1.5hrs apart.

Horsemanship clinics conducted are well attended by members. In recent times Western Dressage has been a focus of some clinics with participants learning about the gaits, paces, movements & figures. The club is very grateful to **Vivian Wearing, Sue Franks and Tip Griffin** for taking the time to come north to train, guide & educate us.

A few of the NQQHA committee members had joined Western Dressage Australia some time ago, but the nearest events were occurring at least 2 days drive south.

It was evident that if we wanted to regularly participate in this exciting new event, we would have to bring the sport to the north ourselves.

We wanted to be able to hold sanctioned classes for our members and non-sanctioned classes for our members and newcomers keen to give western dressage a go.

We needed help in putting together a program & listing it on nominate.com.au & ordering the beautiful WD ribbons. Our state body **Western Dressage Association of Queensland** helped out immensely, they donated the ribbons for our first show and guided us on putting together the program and working out how to determine the placings and awards for each level.

Our first show was successful and met with lots of enthusiasm. We included a clinic and judges information session. That success motivated us to progress it further.

We are proud to say that the NQQHA has successfully established Western Dressage in Far North Queensland and has just completed a **WD Series 1** - This consisted of 4 shows for the 2017-2018 year, culminating in 7 Hi Point awards.

Here is a précis of how we brought Western Dressage to Far North Queensland.

- 🏆 NQQHA is an incorporated club
- 🏆 NQQHA has public liability insurance
- 🏆 Before the first show, we affiliated with WDA-AUS – www.westerndressage.com.au \$180
- 🏆 Created interest and encouraged western dressage membership by facilitating an information session which included:

- Power point presentation on the rules, equipment & attire (put together by a member)
- Video clips of ridden tests with actual score sheets & judges' comments handed out to participants
- Video clips of ridden tests at levels we would offer at our show
- Handouts to assist an understanding of the figures & arena markers
- After a free lunch, we held a practical session to have a go at riding a test/s & various figures
- Practice calling
- Practice pencilling



1st SHOW – 3rd OCTOBER 2016

- 🏠 Venue & Judge booked
- 🏠 Show approval obtained from WDA-AUS & fee paid
- 🏠 Program entered on Nominate (help from WDAQ & Amy @ nominate.com.au)
- 🏠 Advertised via email & Facebook
- 🏠 Ribbons obtained (donated & template provided by WDAQ for future ribbon orders www.justribbons.com.au)
- 🏠 Clinic arranged for following day – bookings finalised
- 🏠 Event Draw sent out after nominations closed
- 🏠 34 Tests booked (sanctioned & non-sanctioned)
- 🏠 Marquees set up for judge & spectators
- 🏠 Fantastic volunteers locked in
- 🏠 Show Day & Presentations

We have a variety of rider & horse types and a growing interest with youth riders too. Not everyone is a WDA-AUS member yet, so we include non-sanctioned classes and day memberships at all shows so that everyone can participate.

We have now held 6 shows and on one occasion all tests were booked out within 3 days (46 tests). We've had to cap numbers for our 1 day shows and looking forward may have to hold a show over 2 days as numbers grow.

We use 2 venues, one is outdoors with a permanently set up dressage arena at the Innisfail Horse and Pony Club Grounds. The other venue is an undercover arena at the Malanda Pony Club grounds, where we hire the arena, dressage arena fence & markers and set them up undercover the day prior.

Riders and volunteers share pencilling, calling, marshalling and scoring duties.

Careful financial planning was undertaken to cover the costs of airfares and accommodation for judges & clinicians, who attended for 5 out of the 6 shows. We have 2 local judges however they also ride and or have family members that ride, so judging was shared on the day by the 2 local judges so there was no conflict of interest.

None of this would be possible if it weren't for the sheer determination and commitment by the small committee and support from the club members.

Now that we have a routine and know what is required, it's much easier to put a show on. The show template is set up on nominate and we just have to modify dates & small details each show.

After the show, we send in the results to the WDA-AUS office for recording & some members have a goal to attend the State Show after qualifying at our local shows.

The following program and draw may help guide your club committee in bringing Western Dressage to your area.



The NQQHA can highly recommend taking the initiative to start Western Dressage in your own area – it's an awesome event and very rewarding. Contact your State body in QLD, VIC or WA for more information, all have active Facebook pages.

NQQHA WESTERN DRESSAGE EVENT
Show #2 FNQ WD Series One
JUDGE: Mrs Laurel Davis
Malanda Indoor Arena, Malanda QLD

PROGRAM of Events

Saturday 2nd December

Event will run to a timed order - draws will be sent out prior to event

8:30am Start Time

1) Introductory Level TEST B (non sanctioned)

2) Introductory Level TEST C (non sanctioned)

3a) Basic Level TEST B (sanctioned) 3b) Basic Level TEST B (non sanctioned)

4a) Basic Level TEST C (sanctioned) 4b) Basic Level TEST C (non sanctioned)

5) Level One TEST B (sanctioned)

6) Level One TEST C (sanctioned)

7) Level Two Test A (sanctioned)

8) Level Two Test B (sanctioned)

Event information: NOMINATIONS DUE Monday 27th November MIDNIGHT Via Nominate

- This event will be conducted under WDA-AUS Rules & Regulations
- Riders must be Senior, Youth or Associate Members of Western Dressage Association of Australia or **pay the Event Only Membership Fee (\$15)** to compete in Non-sanctioned classes
- Riders must be Senior or Youth Members of Western Dressage Association of Australia and horse must have a **current competition license** to compete in **Sanctioned** classes. Horse owners do not need to be WDA-AUS members
- Sanctioned & Non-sanctioned classes for each test level will be run concurrently. Placings 1st to 5th will be awarded separately for each class
- Champion & Reserve Champion will be awarded to the highest average percentages across the two tests at each level for Sanctioned classes (same horse & rider combination)

- Champion & Reserve Champion will be awarded to the highest average percentages achieved by Youth in Sanctioned classes (same horse & rider combination – best two scores to be counted)
- Maximum of four tests per horse
- Two consecutive levels per horse allowed e.g. Basic/Level 1
- Horse may be ridden by more than one rider
- Riders may ride more than one horse
- Callers are permitted
- Refunds – horse vet certificate or rider doctor certificate required to receive refund after the closing date of entries
- Powered camping available, ~~Undercover~~ stables available
- SADDLES PERMITTED – Western Saddles or Swinging fender Stock saddles
- Minimum dress requirements Long sleeved western style shirts with a collar of any type, long pants, western hat or helmet, appropriate riding boots.

This event is the 2nd show in the FNQ WD Series for 2017/2018 season

Please ensure you are a current NQQHA Member to accumulate points toward the end of year HIGH POINT AWARDS. For more info email Secretary: nquarterhorseassoc@gmail.com

All NEW 2017 Western Dressage Tests can be found at: <https://www.westerndressage.com.au/tests>

TO ENTER Please go to the website www.nominate.com.au

This is an online booking service – simple – secure – easy to use

Go to: EVENTS → select Western Dressage → Scroll down and find NQQHA Western Dressage



TEST & TIME	RIDER	HORSE	
Intro level TEST B Non Sanctioned JUDGE Laurel Davis			
8:20 AM	Linda Lyons	Genetically Dun	NS
8:30 AM	Christie Walmsley	Miss Frosty Oak	NS
8:40 AM	Sandra Buckingham	Sonitas Playboy	NS
8:50 AM	Terese Russo	One Roan Ambition	NS
9:00 AM	Kylie Rhodes	Christmas in Hollywood	NS
9:10AM	Lara Blanckensee	Beau	Youth NS
9:20AM	Zoe Grevegna	Hollywood Chandel	Youth NS
10 min break			
Basic level TEST B Sanctioned + Non Sanctioned JUDGE Laurel Davis			
9:40AM	Rosemary Browning	One Fullo Scotch	S
9:50AM	Sandy Ogg	One Eighty	NS
10:00 AM	Christie Walmsley	Miss Frosty Oak	NS
10:10 AM	Susan Bisset	Zoe Stardust	S
10:20 AM	Julie Sain	Little Peppys Princess	S
10:30 AM	Paule Byrne	Strabbel Dunit it on Deck	S
10:40 AM	Terese Russo	One Roan Rose	S
10:50 AM	Sandra Buckingham	Absolootly a Playboy	NS
11:00AM	Pam Evans	Squid	NS
11:10AM	Linda Lyons	Genetically Dun	S
11:20AM	Alexis Evans	Tequila	Youth NS
11:30AM	Bobbi-Lee Philp	Ditto	Youth S
10 min break			
Level One TEST B Sanctioned JUDGE: Laurel Davis			
11:50AM	Paule Byrne	Strabbel Dunit it on Deck	S
12:00PM	Julie Sain	Little Peppys Princess	S
12:10PM	Susan Bisset	Zoe Stardust	S
12:20PM	Rosemary Browning	One Fullo Scotch	S
LUNCH BREAK 30 min			
Intro Level TEST C Non Sanctioned JUDGE Laurel Davis			
1:00 PM	Sandra Buckingham	Sonitas Playboy	NS
1:10 PM	Zoe Grevegna	Hollywood Chandel	Youth NS
1:20 PM	Terese Russo	One Roan Ambition	NS
1:30 PM	Lara Blanckensee	Beau	Youth NS
1:40 PM	Christie Walmsley	Miss Frosty Oak	NS
1:50 PM	Kylie Rhodes	Christmas in Hollywood	NS
2:00PM	Linda Lyons	Genetically Dun	NS
10 min break			
Basic Level TEST C Sanctioned + Non Sanctioned JUDGE Laurel Davis			
2:20 PM	Bobbi-Lee Philp	Ditto	Youth S
2:30 PM	Pam Evans	Squid	NS
2:40 PM	Linda Lyons	Genetically Dun	S
2:50 PM	Alexis Evans	Tequila	NS
3:00 PM	Rosemary Browning	One Fullo Scotch	S
3:10 PM	Julie Sain	Little Peppys Princess	S
3:20 PM	Paule Byrne	Strabbel Dunit it on Deck	S
3:30PM	Terese Russo	One Roan Rose	S
3:40PM	Susan Bisset	Zoe Stardust	S
10 min break			
Level One TEST C Sanctioned JUDGE Laurel Davis			
3:50PM	Sandra Buckingham	Absolootly a Playboy	NS
4:00PM	Christie Walmsley	Miss Frosty Oak	NS
4:10PM	Sandy Ogg	One Eighty	NS
10 min break			
Level One TEST C Sanctioned JUDGE Laurel Davis			
4:30PM	Julie Sain	Little Peppys Princess	S
4:40PM	Paule Byrne	Strabbel Dunit it on Deck	S
4:50 PM	Susan Bisset	Zoe Stardust	S
5:00PM	Rosemary Browning	One Fullo Scotch	S



ARTICLE BY PAULA BYRNE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NQQHA FACEBOOK PAGE