

WD

WESTERN DRESSAGE

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



Photo Credit: Vivian Wearing

2018/2019 Annual Report

Western Dressage Association of Australia Inc.

Incorporated in Western Australia
Incorporation number: A1017989F

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Board Members – 2018/2019

Chairperson: Jim Whitaker (QLD)



Secretary: Margaret Augerinos (VIC)



Treasurer: Julie Sain (QLD)



Board Member/Judge Liaison: Paula Byrne (QLD)



Board Member/Communications:
Stacey Locastro (QLD)



Board Member: Pam Nelson (WA)



Board Member: Kim MacLean



Board Report

2018/2019 was another big year for the national association. The Board is proud to present the achievements of our association to you – our valued member.

We thanked and said goodbye to Jackie Knight and Marg Connolly for their wonderful contributions to Western Dressage at the turn of the year while welcoming 2 new board members Kim MacLean and Pam Nelson from Western Australia who also are working hard to develop the sport.

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. For that we “Thank you”.

New Rules & Tests

We commenced reviewing our tests and rulebook in 2016/2017. It has been an ongoing work of progress with our new tests being launched in January 2018, and our revised rulebook was formally launched at the end of the 17/18 year. Further, in March 2019 Level 2 and 3 tests were also updated.

Another exciting achievement is that we now have available caller audio tests for purchase through our merchandise link online. These can be purchased and then downloaded so you can have a caller at home to help with your training if you would like.

Trail Classes have begun to be developed and we aim to have them available sometime in 2020.

Judge Accreditation

Our interim judge accreditation program has remained steady holding 25 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 continued to keep the books closed for interim judges in Queensland, while looking at a possible close for our applications for Victoria and Western Australia. We still feel it is best practise to utilise and

support the current judges on the list to ensure their ongoing opportunities and development can be supported by way of opportunity to judge at events.

In progress is 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 18/19, Queensland has continued to grow strongly with many sanctioned competitions being held across the state by various clubs. They have now run 2 successful State Championships of which their 2019 show almost doubled in test numbers compared to 2018.

Western Australia and Victoria began running sanctioned events in 18/19, and they continue to work tirelessly during 18/19 to introduce, grow and develop the sport in their respective states. Victoria is steadily growing with Western Australia - picking up pace slowly but surely thanks to the hard working people of their organisation.

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. Recently we welcomed another affiliate to the Western Dressage family.

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. We currently have 4 branches (QLD: Western Downs, SEQLD; VIC: Western Victoria; NSW/ACT: Sydney/ACT) and hope to increase branch numbers in the next 12 months.

Competitions & Events

Event numbers during the 18/19 year have increased and reflect the growing nature of the sport.

Also on the increase is the number of western dressage clinics and come and try days held across the 3 states. 24 competitions events were run across Australia in the 18/19 year and there are indications that the number for the 19/20 year will exceed those.

Western Dressage 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.

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

Our website is important to us so we can stay connected with our members, communicate with our members and to help potential members by providing as much information as they need.

We work hard to ensure new up to date content is added regularly, and we hope to continue to grow the website to ensure it meets member needs and expectations.

The quarterly newsletter has continued and grown in content. It in addition to the website helps share news from state to state and is easy reading keeping members up to date with Western Dressage in Australia.

Hi-Points & Grading

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

National Hi-Points 2018/2019

This is the first year we have run the National Hi-Points system. As the sport continues to grow, and the standard increases, the hi-points system recognises and rewards the efforts of competitors. The national association has been extremely impressed not only with the

improvement in performances across the country, but also the incredible sportsmanship shown by riders.

Whilst there can be only one hi-point winner in each category, the national Board would like to recognise and acknowledge the hard work demonstrated by each and every competitor to present themselves and their horse according to the ideals and objectives of the sport.

Basic Champion: Teresa Russo & One Roan Rose (QLD)

Basic Youth Champion: Zoe Gravagna & Hollywood Chandel (QLD)

Level 1 Champion: Glen Scells & RKN Gee Whiz (QLD)

Level 1 Youth Champion: Zoe Gravagna & Ditto (QLD)

Level 2 Champion: Mandy Camfferman & Mondure Dunitlikeacowboy (QLD)

Level 3 Champion: Liz Tollarzo & Wandiera Rembrandt (WA)

Support to State Associations, Affiliates & Branches

The information kits and guidelines we developed last report have proved to be helpful tools. We appreciate feedback to help with improvements to be made as we review them

- 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. The Board is proud of the plan it has developed and pleased to report that we are progressing and working hard and tirelessly to deliver to our members.

We developed a solid Vision Statement and outlined a comprehensive 3-year action plan – outlined below.



**STRATEGIC PLAN
2018/2021**

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, Julie Sain, Paula Byrne, Stacey Locastro, Margaret Augerinos, Pam Nelson & Kim Maclean



Western Dressage Association of Australia Inc.

Finance Report

JUNE 2019

Prepared by: Julie Sain, Treasurer

Revenue for year to June 2019 was \$21,780 up \$5,085 on this time last year. Nett Profit is \$12,740 up \$8,014 compared to last year.

| Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019 | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Asset | | | |
| | Bank | 33,023.03 | |
| | Nominate | 763.14 | 33,786.17 |
| Liability | | | |
| | Event Insurance | (1,351.70) | |
| | WDA-QLD | (2,030.00) | |
| | WDA-WA | (356.25) | |
| | WDA-VIC | (243.75) | |
| | WDA - NSW | (63.75) | (4,045.45) |
| Long Term Liability | | | |
| | WDA-QLD (Life Memberships) | (485.00) | |
| | WDA-WA (Life Membership) | (90.00) | |
| | WDA-VIC (Life Membership) | (90.00) | (665.00) |
| Net Assets | | | 29,075.72 |
| Equity | | | |
| | Retained Earning | | 16,336.10 |
| | Current Year Earnings | | 12,739.61 |
| | | | 29,075.71 |

| | June 2019 | | | | June 2018 | | Variance on prior year | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|------------------------|---------|
| | Actual | | Budget | | 2018 | | | |
| Senior members | 170 | 15,300 | 112 | 10,080 | 51 | 9,180 | 119 | 6120 |
| Life members | 1 | 1,000 | 1 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1,000 |
| Associate Members | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 2,200 | (20) | (2,200) |
| Youth Members | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 880 | (8) | (880) |
| State Associations | 3 | 1,200 | 3 | 1,200 | 3 | 1,050 | 0 | 150 |
| Affiliate Clubs | 3 | 540 | 6 | 1,080 | 5 | 900 | (2) | (360) |
| Horse Registration | 69 | 1,725 | 65 | 1,625 | 26 | 650 | 43 | 1,075 |
| Event only member | 110 | 1,650 | 105 | 1,575 | 119 | 1,785 | (9) | (135) |
| Affiliate Show Fee | 7 | 350 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 50 | 6 | 300 |
| Donation | | 15 | | 0 | | 0 | | 15 |
| Totals: | | 21,780 | | 16,560 | | 16,695 | | 5,085 |
| Nett Profit | | 12,740 | | 7,810 | | 4,726 | | 8,014 |