



Equestrian Victoria

Annual General Meeting 2015 Board & Discipline Reports



EV Chair 2015 Report

The past year for the new EV Board has been both challenging and exciting.

With EV on the brink of insolvency at the end of the 2014 financial year with a deficiency on its balance sheet of \$370,000, carrying a loss in FY14 of \$289,408.00, many events having run at a loss; the new EV Board had a mammoth task on its hands to turn the future of EV around.

It gives us great pleasure to be able to announce that Equestrian Victoria has posted a modest profit this financial year of \$84,557 after a history of substantial losses over several previous years.

Members will note upon reading the financials that the total gross income is lower than in the previous years. The auditors have removed from the EV income statements the levies which EV collects from the members on behalf of EA, which amounts to approximately half of your membership fees. EV is effectively an agent for EA and thus these funds do not form a part of our income as they belong, and are forwarded to EA.

The turnaround of our financial position is a result not just of a very substantial effort to rework our financial processes introducing effective budgeting and proper financial reporting to the Board each month, but also of the enormous amount of work the board have done to rein in costs and to make some of our practices more efficient and cost effective.

All our Event committees have worked tirelessly this year to produce fabulous events on tight and detailed budgets which are sustainable for EV. Included within this was regaining control of the MI3DE, which last year was outsourced; run this year by EV successfully and profitably in June, organized at very short notice by the EV Eventing Committee under the tireless leadership of Janet Houghton.

I cannot thank all of our volunteers enough for the very valuable and important contribution they have made. Without them we could not offer to you the premium events that we do. If the financial position had not been turned, EV would be in a very different place from where it is today.

We still have a long way to go to put the organization into a safe financial place and enable the deep investment back into our disciplines, which they need so badly.

The EV Board have worked to bring in other new measures this year also; among these are an MOU with VEIS to strengthen Interschools, a Media Policy which will come into place on 16-11-15 and we have contributed substantially to the finalization of a National Social Media Policy. Litigation, and other disputes at all levels have now been resolved and I thank the Board members who worked tirelessly to bring this about.

Communication at all levels was something identified at our very first meeting that needed improving; and yes, we know we still have a long way to go. However we have developed open and meaningful communication between the EV and EA Boards and with other States and are quietly connecting with other Victorian equestrian groups such as HRCVA and PCAV in an endeavor, with them, to bring better events and opportunities to all equestrians.

The new EV Board has been more engaged this year in the affairs of EA during the year. Not only has it played a role in a number of the major issues confronting EA this year, but also has developed strong relationships which will ensure that the concerns of EV are heard sympathetically; as EA itself undergoes a process of rejuvenation under its new chair, Judy Fasher

The Dressage Festival in December will see the inclusion of HRCVA events that will contribute to this being a memorable festival. We and HRCVA have much in common with each other yet have tended to run along unconnected lines. We believe that a united front will not only create exciting further opportunities for us all but also will enable us to present a much stronger face in times of need or adversity. Many of us still remember how voiceless and powerless we were in the EI breakout.

This has been a year of remediation. The accounts and processes have been scrutinized and corrected and will be further refined in the next twelve months. Our long term goal is to restore EV's financial reserves so we can invest back into the disciplines and increase the range of opportunities that we can offer you.

Eventing have applied for a grant to help develop judges, TD's, and stewards which will be of great benefit to all disciplines.

We are in the process of detailed discussions with Parks Victoria to identify the parameters with in which we can work to redevelop Werribee and restore it to its position of a truly National Equestrian Centre. Shortly we will come to you our members and seek detailed guidance from you, as to what you want from both EV and the venue of which EV is a joint stakeholder along with Polo.

This turn around process has made a huge call on the board members time and I would like to especially thank them for their efforts as it is often forgotten that they are doing this considerable extra work as volunteers. Our heartfelt thanks go to every member who has contributed to the positive working of Equestrian Victoria and thank you to all members for your ongoing support.

Ingrid Green, Chair Equestrian Victoria Board



EV CEO 2015 Report

The 2014 Annual General Meeting brought a number of new members to our Board and a new Chair in Ingrid Green. The Board as a whole have worked tirelessly to give key direction to the office and the disciplines within EV. The key focus being our financial position and the path forward. Additionally, we will continue to look at strategies that can see us work together both internally and externally with other equestrian organisations to continue to build the benefits of membership with Equestrian Victoria

I would like to thank our entire EV office staff and event directors and committee members and all of our wonderful volunteers who have worked tirelessly this year to ensure that the best available services and events have been provided to our membership. We will continue to look to improve as the IT system continues its implementation.

Major Achievements:

Annual Awards

Our 2014 EV Awards night brought a large crowd of over 230 guests to Crown Casino to celebrate the achievements of our members, volunteers, administrators, officials, event organisers and our horses.

The Victorian award winners were nominated for the EA Awards, and we were proud to see Thoroughbred Riding Club win the Gow Gates Club of the Year Award, and the Werribee Jeep Australian Show Jumping Championships secure the AIS Event of the Year Award.

It was an honour to have Colin Kelly inducted into the EA Hall of Fame for Service to Sport, and Victorian horse Darien Powers inducted into the Outstanding Horse Category of the EA Hall of Fame.

Events:

Equestrian Victoria had the pleasure of hosting a number of prestigious events, many of which were Australian Championships:

- 2014 Werribee Jeep Australian Show Jumping Championships.
- 2014 Peter Horobin National Interschools
- 2014 Australasian Show Horse and Rider Championships
- 2015 PSI Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships as part of Dressage and Jumping with the Stars (DJWTS)
- 2014 Saddleworld Dressage Festival – State Championships
- 2015 Barastoc Horse of the Year Show
- 2015 Saddleworld Melbourne International 3 Day Event
- 2014 Peter Horobin State Interschools

Greg Pratt, CEO Equestrian Victoria



Financial Report

I am extremely pleased to be in a position to report that Equestrian Victoria Ltd has successfully managed to significantly improve its financial picture in the 2015 financial year with an Audited profit of \$84,557 and cash reserves increasing by almost 45% to sit at \$169,795. Equestrian Victoria Ltd however still has a way to go with an accumulated loss of -\$285,875 which will need to be considered in the years to come.

The Board has worked collaboratively and effectively together to ensure that Equestrian Victoria Ltd remains solvent with the cash flow necessary for operations. This has however resulted in some difficult decisions being made for the betterment of equestrian sports in Victoria. Discipline Chairs have worked exceptionally hard in this challenging environment to meet the requests of the members and the demands of the balance sheet. A task that was often difficult to manage yet was ultimately successful and I congratulate them on this great result benefitting all members.

We have a focus moving forward to reduce the accumulated loss and return Equestrian Victoria Ltd to financial health with continued profits and adequate cash reserves. All Discipline Chairs are charged with the responsibility to make sure that we can achieve this goal by continuing to service their members and by consistently providing profitable events. We are clear in our intent that we will not disadvantage the members of today and will look to reinvest profits from events into all disciplines.

We will remain strategic in our focus for the benefit of all disciplines as we carefully move Equestrian Victoria Ltd towards a financially sound and solid position. We are passionate about responsibly delivering on this vision and on securing our sports viability into the future. Thank you for your support as we optimistically work towards a bright future.

Mark Griffiths Finance Chair



Dressage Victoria

Report to Equestrian Victoria Annual General Meeting October 2015

All DV managed events over the last year have made small profits and we are now returning small amounts of funding to Squads and education programs. EV subsidises the squads by paying the venue fees and the dressage levy goes towards judge education. EV is also looking to juggle the balance between offsetting the debt with investing back into discipline development.

Major Dressage Events during 2014/15 have been considered successful on most criteria. The reintroduction of the CDI at MI3DE was a crowd favourite. We have used the EMG to manage and support many of our major events. DJWTS, SDF and the YRDC were all great events during FY 14/15. A new event director, Marli Plant has come on board to run the SDF.

The new DJEP committee has been very active and recently signed up a strong group of "H" levels to start the journey. This season we have increased the Dressage Levy to \$2 per test to help fund DJEP seminars.

The Dressage Victoria Squad sponsored by Pryde's EasiFeed has recently named their new Squad and held their first two Training weekends. We take pride in knowing that this Squad is one of the few in Australia that meets and trains together regularly.

Our Victorian Dressage Young Rider Squad & Program sponsored by Saddleworld and Equissage has recently reformed with great success. The broader and inclusive format started with 58 riders joining for the first training weekend. The very positive feedback from attendees has prompted another 8 to join for the second training weekend.

With the help of an active member volunteer, Dolly Joyce, we now have the Mitavite AOR Leaderboard. All events on the DV calendar now acknowledge AOR riders and award 1st – 3rd ribbons within each class and AOR results are recorded on the Mitavite Leaderboard. After only a few months the interest is strong and thank you to Dolly for this success.

The clear weakness in DV operations is grassroots level competition. This is clearly seen in the non metropolitan regions of Victoria where only a few EA clubs hang on by a thread. I have given this issue my personal attention over recent months visiting regions and talking with the remaining club committees. Twenty six percent of Victorian Dressage competitors live more than 100km from Melbourne, yet the vast majority of events are in outer Melbourne. Apart from needing an overhaul of rules effecting grassroots members, I have been able to encourage some regional groups to give EA another go. Elmore in northern Victoria is a case in point. I recently attended their new Elmore Equestrian Centre opened by Joe Hockey. Elmore had received \$0.5M of Federal funding. Stage 3 of their development was 108 undercover demountable stables and immaculate toilet and shower block. This adds to the 88m x 66mm indoor, the 6 sand arenas, two warm up arenas and 7 hectare grass competition field. With DV support they have formed the Elmore E C and have secured EA event dates on our Calendar.

In September I had an important meeting with HRCV Board members seeking areas for cooperation. We found some ideas to pursue. Cooperation between our Judge groups, development of a joint Protocol Day Calendar, HRCV at the SDF 2015 and generally improving communications between the two groups.

We have streamlined the way we build our DV Calendar. The latest Calendar has no clashes and slightly fewer events (65). We have brought forward building the 2016/17 calendar, which is now completed, because we found it increasingly hard to hold bookings at venues when confirmation was coming in May for a season beginning in July. By reducing the number of events in 2013 & 2014 we have noted that the same number of tests ridden over fewer events means more entries at each event.

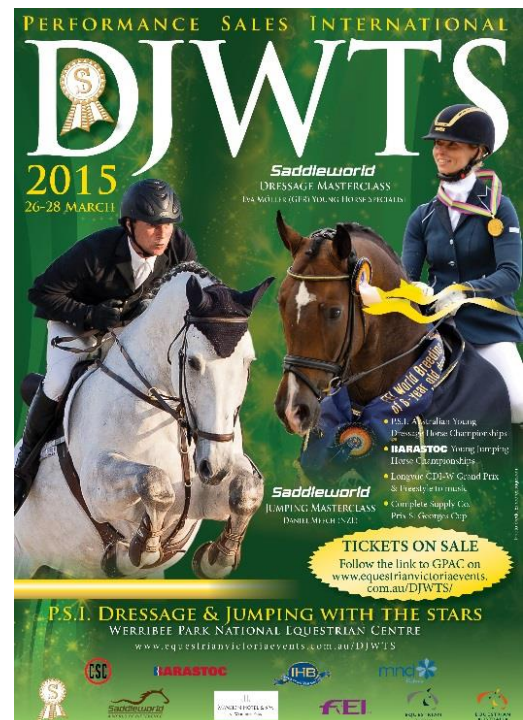
We issued 1976 Dressage Performance cards in 2014/15 and a growing number were Ponies (330), a similar number to previous years of 7,000 tests were ridden in DV Calendar events. Judge numbers are stable with a recent small increase. General membership is good and Dressage's share of membership is steady.

With the expansion of Elmore Equestrian Centre and a huge roof over the warm up arena at Tatura, Victoria now has at least four major venues capable of holding large Dressage events. WPNEC, Boneo, Elmore & Tatura. No other State has so many well-appointed venues. While managing costs at these venues is a challenge, we take heart in knowing that we are the envy of the rest of the land.

To improve the running of weekly club events DV have agreed to trial the compulsory use of trained Stewards at all events from 1/1/16. Stewards are currently being trained for this purpose. 22 attended a recent Stewards seminar at WPNEC held by Chris Wallis. We note that many of the incidents that spoil a pleasant day at an event could be avoided with the help of a knowledgeable official. We look forward to seeing the value of this initiative.

Our two priorities over the next year are addressing our grass roots membership and the balance between offsetting the financial debt and investing in further developing the sport.

Michael Bragge, Chair Dressage Victoria

PERFORMANCE SALES INTERNATIONAL
DJWTS
2015
26-28 MARCH

Saddleworld
DRESSAGE MASTERCLASS
FOR ADULTS & YOUNG RIDERS 17 YEARS & UNDER

Saddleworld
JUMPING MASTERCLASS
DOUBLE MICH 2/2/1

TICKETS ON SALE
Follow the link to GPAC on
www.equestrianvictoriaevents.com.au/DJWTS/

P.S.I. DRESSAGE & JUMPING WITH THE STARS
WERRIBEE PARK NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
www.equestrianvictoriaevents.com.au/DJWTS

Logos for sponsors: CSC, HARASTOC, IHB, mnc, FEI, and others.

Eventing Victoria

2015 has been a busy year for Victorian Eventing. At the conclusion of each calendar year we call for applications and we currently have 152 riders registered across the three squads. Our squads continue to be supported by Prydes and Equissage. Nine of our riders have made National Squads. In February they travelled to Sydney for a National Training camp.

The autumn season included the welcome return of Tonimbuk Horse Trials. The Interschool National Eventing qualifiers were also incorporated into four of our EV events so we could get a more consistent picture of horse/rider combinations.

We are very lucky we have a proactive committee as early in the year we took back the running of Melbourne International Three Day Event at short notice. It included a visit from the President of the FEI, Ready Set Trot and 40 children; we introduced Young Horse Classes and brought show jumping onto the Bruno lawn. We shared the spotlight with the Dressage riders on the Saturday & Sunday night with the CDI-W. The event was a success both as a competition and financially.

We have worked hard to communicate better with our officials and have given them training opportunities as well as setting up an exchange program with New Zealand to increase the opportunity of International experience. We redesigned our process for supplying medical services to events and worked hard to improve communication with our organising committees and support for running their events. The Eventing Levy Trust was introduced which as well as covering the medical levy will also provide a resource that organising committees and officials can apply to for funding for help with safety equipment, training of officials and FEI calendar fees among other things. The Eventing Victoria Horse Trials in September were successful and after the cancellation of Tooradin due to the strangles outbreak on the venue we took on the running of the Spring Horse Trials in October at WPNEC.

In conclusion I would like to thank my hard working committee members as well as all the other eventing committees throughout Victoria. Thanks also to the officials and wonderful volunteers who continue to support our riders.

Janet Houghton, Chair Eventing Victoria



Jumping Victoria

Jumping as a sport in Victoria is seeing fantastic participation numbers across all levels. The pinnacle event in Australia continues to be the Australian Showjumping Championships which require a full year of work from each of the volunteers who form a large and cohesive ASJC committee. Their input is pivotal to the success of this show which this year saw record entries and five rings of jumping offered. This show has set the benchmark for all other shows to follow. We have been advised by EA that we have the rights to run this show for at least another two years. The contribution of this group of people to the sport, not only at state level, but national level also cannot be underestimated. The flow on effect is felt in many ways. The successful development of shows leading into the event, the raising of the bar for all major jumping events in the country are just two examples of the profound effect this show is having in the sport. I would like to take this opportunity to thank this committee of dedicated volunteers and recognise their achievements. The ASJC committee and I were very proud that this year The Australian Showjumping Championships were recognised by EA as The Event of the Year.

Victoria has actively continued to support the calendar framework development to ensure that the shows on offer service the sport. It has offered a program of development for officials that has been widely supported with two judge's clinics and two course designer clinics ensuring the development of new officials and the promotion of existing ones. Thanks go to the bank of loyal delegates that represent the clubs of Victoria in coming together each month as the Jumping Victoria committee. This is the vehicle for the strategic planning of our sport and all organising committees and clubs are encouraged to become a part of this committee.

We also acknowledge in this annual report our fantastic sponsors and volunteers that underpin all our activities as jumping is very dependent on these groups and the support they give, not just to Jumping Victoria and the ASJC but all events in the state.

The young rider squads continue to deliver an encouraging and engaging vehicle for those entering our sport. The longevity of these squads is only achieved because of the relevance and resource that these weekends provide our Junior and Young Riders. It is definitely a priority of JV to continue this formula going forward. Many thanks to all of our coaches; Gavin Chester, Paul Williams, Adam Wootten and Alex Rooney for their efforts over the year and congratulations to all the riding members of the squads for the results that they are achieving. Hygain is to be commended for again supporting the squads as the naming right sponsor.

Victorian riders have had continued success at all levels with horses and riders coming through the ranks. The current Australian Junior Champion Jasmine Dennison should be acknowledged here and Reserve Senior Champion Steven Hill and his wonderful horse Yallambis Bellini Star who have been the frontrunners on the national senior stage this year.

Throughout the past decade JV has had fantastic support from Annie White as EV Jumping Coordinator. Annie has unfortunately now decided to move on from this position. She has been a passionate and dedicated administrator for JV and my right hand person throughout my time as a Committee member of JV and now as Chair of JV. Her input and work ethic have been invaluable and she will be sorely missed. We wish Annie all the best in her future endeavours and cannot thank her enough for her assistance to myself and especially the squads over the years.

Paul Williams, Chair Jumping Victoria



Photo: Michelle Terlato

Show Horse Victoria

2014/15 The year of change for Show Horse

Show horse has seen some major changes over the past twelve months; we were subject to a governance review which saw Show Horse Victoria take a new shape and direction. The EV Board called for nominations and appointed a new committee. The newly appointed Show Horse committee was handed strict guidelines from the governance review that would ensure equality, transparency, fairness, growth and prosperity, these guidelines also eliminated perceived and actual lines of conflict.

Nationals 2014 - The committee's first task was to tackle our biggest event of the year 'Show Horse Nationals'. This was a big test for the newly formed committee but we all pulled together to achieve a remarkable outcome. We were very lucky to have the knowledge, support and assistance of an EMG (Events Management Group) which realistically got us off the ground to run another successful, competitor friendly and financially viable Nationals 2014. 2015 Nationals 30 Year anniversary will see the event undergo a face lift and offer more accessible social scene activities to ensure the event can be enjoyed by all.

The Victorian Show Horse committee also tendered for the Show Horse Nationals "2016/17/18", our tender was voted to be successful by the National Show Horse committee!

EV State Titles and Barastoc HOTY 2015 – Both major events on the calendar however due to Barastoc HOTY suffering financial troubles during an economically unstable time and running at a loss of \$19,000 in 2014 as well as showing losses in 12/13. The committee had to make some very difficult decisions. What steps could we take for 2015 to ensure show horse had a sustainable future in Victoria?

It was decided to merge the two events (EV State titles & Barastoc HOTY) and make Barastoc Horse of the Year our National qualifying event. Cuts to the schedule had to be made, reducing the programme from four days to two whilst losing some sections (Owner rider & children's etc). Regardless of the cuts the committee and EMG still had to be very conscientious when budgeting to ensure the events viability but still produce a quality, well run show. We achieved our financial goals as well as competitor and spectator goals receiving an abundance of amazing support, feedback and comments "Best Barastoc Ever".

Moving forward, we are now back to a solid foundation and building block where we can once again develop and grow the show. Barastoc 2016 will see the addition of another day making the show a three day extravaganza and we will have our National qualifying programme with the welcomed addition of identical National children's qualifying classes. Barastoc HOTY 2016 will also showcase eight breeds as well as Pony and Open Dressage, Carriage Driving, Working Hunters, Sporting Horses and five HRCVA rings (These sections run autonomously).

Barastoc HOTY won't be all smooth sailing as new challenges arise for 2016. Unfortunately our major sponsor Barastoc has made the marketing decision to further reduce sponsorship for the event as they are spreading their sponsorship over other disciplines and areas. National qualifying children's classes are welcomed however will certainly have a financial impact on our budget. Careful diligent budgeting will be taken once again to ensure the event is viable and sustainable whilst still being an extravaganza!

Amateur Show 2015 – This show was the committee's initiative to cater for all members, specifically designed for nonprofessional competitors who compete purely as hobbyist and don't derive income from showing horses. We wanted to offer a show that 'gave back', encouraged and supported our entry level competitors. This was of course our first year hosting such an event therefore some risks had to be taken, all risks paid off seeing in excess of one hundred entries! We hosted a well-supported show that was heavily sponsored with product, vouchers and money. Competitors took home some wonderful prizes. We hosted amateur open, amateur hunter, senior horse, junior and newcomer rings. This show will continue to grow and we look forward to hosting it again in 2016.

Clinics 2015 – We welcomed the return of our winter show horse clinics, the committee offered all members the opportunity to further their tuition and train with some sensational coaches. These clinics were well supported, we offered a very inviting and welcoming vibe with each clinic having tea and coffee as well as lunch time BBQ's. We would like to further our clinics over the next twelve months but members support is imperative.

Judges Seminar – We hosted our judges seminar at the namely Oaklands Junction "Inglis sales complex". We had 70+ people in attendance, training and reaccrediting with our show horse judges scheme. We had some exceptional presentations given by: Dr Rowan Luxmore, Mr David Ross, Mr Peter Heagney, Mr Greg Gerry & Mrs Helen Heagney. We also had a lunch time "Inglis Tour" hosted by Mr Heagney which was exceptional! Giving everyone a great inside view of how the complex operates, we were also very lucky to hear Peter give a short taste of how an auctioneer markets a horse in the sale ring.

It's been an enormous twelve months for show horse Victoria with many achievements. The committee are very proud of what has been achieved and improved. Communication is one area we have invested a considerable amount of time, improvements include updating and reminding emails, updated website and updated Facebook page. Our members own the future of our sport and we believe that their input is imperative to our direction and ultimately our success. We consistently welcome feedback and all suggestions, issues or criticisms are brought to the committee to be heard. Members have a motivated and dedicated committee with a wealth of knowledge and experience who are approachable, come to us and give us your feedback. We would like to explore our options over the next twelve months with what can be achieved from working with brothering organisations 'to better the sport' for all.

We are excited about what the next twelve months has in store for show horse in Victoria. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank our members for their ongoing support and wish you all the best of luck at our up and coming shows.

Mitchell Fox, Chair Show Horse Victoria

