

EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 BOARD AND DISCIPLINE REPORTS



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DRESSAGE
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EVENTING
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Equestrian Victoria Chair Report 2016

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Welcome to the 2016 Equestrian Victoria Annual General Meeting.

The past year has included both the highs and excitement of the Rio Olympic Games with Victorian, Sam Griffiths being a member of the bronze medal winning team and fourth place individually; and the lows of the tragic accidents of two young eventing riders.

Throughout the year my colleagues on the Board, all of whom are volunteers, have donated an enormous amount of time and skills to the organisation. It's been a pleasure to work with this dedicated group of highly capable people.

The significant contribution made by the staff of Equestrian Victoria cannot be overlooked. The commitment, passion and dedication they have for our organisation is to be commended as they strive to deliver the best possible service to our members.

Our amazing volunteers make Equestrian Victoria unique in the running and hosting of high caliber events for all disciplines. An untold number of people help in a myriad of ways but without these unsung heroes these fabulous events and squads would not be possible. The organisation would be in a very different place without this amazing group of volunteers.

I cannot thank you all enough.

It is with pleasure that we are able to release the Audited 2016 Financial Statement for Equestrian Victoria.

For the second year in a row Equestrian Victoria has posted a profit, which has resulted in the net equity being returned to a positive status of \$116,456, after a long series of financial losses.

This turnaround is a result of an enormous amount of work to rein in costs in all areas and to become more efficient and effective. All our Event committees have produced amazing events on tight budgets to ensure the financial sustainability of EV.

Some events were held under incredibly tough conditions, which included the Australian Show Jumping Championships, held in the wettest three days in one hundred years; however the proactive committee constantly adapted and tweaked to the conditions and ran an amazing show of international standard. MI3DE ran under the tireless leadership of Janet Houghton. Her dedicated committee had great focus on risk mitigation following the tragic accidents earlier in the year and this has been talked about all over the country.

We have continued to work on our four main strategic pillars, which included membership, communication, financial responsibility and WPNEC.

Membership enjoyed a 7.5% growth overall in the last year. Communication has been assisted by a small grant to employ a digital media specialist to assist with all digital communications including the website, social media and the newsletter. The bookkeeping and accounting have been outsourced and our accounts continue to be scrutinised and refined. We are aiming to return to having a financial reserve, and then increase the range of opportunities and member service offerings, though we have already been able to appoint co-ordinators for the disciplines to help us to provide our members with better and more efficient service.

We have continued to work with the Victorian Polo Club, who along with EV, share joint tenancy of the venue. A grant was obtained to survey Victorian equestrian facilities and users. The response to a survey of our members exceeded 25% and preliminary reports have shown that there is an overwhelming desire to have WPNEC maintained and redeveloped as a peak Centre for Equestrian Activities.

Meetings with Parks Victoria have advanced and the document for lease renewal is anticipated to be presented by late January 2017.

The last two years have taken an enormous amount of time and energy by a large number of people, and I would like to thank each person for their tireless work, support and amazing contribution. A heart felt thank you to each and every member who has contributed in a positive way and for your ongoing support to this wonderful organisation. It is the collaborative encouragement for each and everyone's success that has produced these results.

Ingrid Green

Equestrian Victoria Chair



Competition images Courtesy of Equestrian Australia
Awards courtesy of OzEquestrian

Dressage Victoria Chair Report 2016

This report reviews the Dressage Victoria year 2015/16, recognising our many achievements and flagging the areas of concern. While volunteers provide a hugely important amount of work towards the success of Dressage in Victoria, at the centre of our operations on a daily basis are the EV Staff. I would like to thank Katrina & Iole Brzozek who left EV this year having been great contributors to Dressage over the last few years and welcome Rebecca Willis back to the EV office in the role as Dressage Co-ordinator. Rebecca's knowledge of the administration of the sport is invaluable.

At the centre of all Dressage events are the judges and our Dressage Judges Education Panel has had a very strong year. The relatively new panel led superbly by Jane Ventura has secured consistent funding from the Dressage Levy and applied it to an increasing range of education activities that is beginning to create more, much needed judges. Management of the many issues around judging can be a challenging task but Jane and her team have administered this area with professionalism.

While the Victorian Young Rider Dressage Squad had been a highlight for many families involved in Victorian Dressage, in recent years its activity had declined. In August 2015 DV, with the help of Jan Smith and many parents, relaunched the Victorian Dressage Young Riders Squad and Development Programme with a very strong response. Equissage have generously sponsored the programme. Nearly 70 families joined the group in their diverse activities over four weekends during the year. We consider this programme a real success.

The State Dressage Squad has taken many steps forward during FY 15/16. Veronica Steward and Rae Ansell have led the group to secure a generous sponsor, Pryde's Easifeed, conduct very successful fundraising and hold numerous training weekends and social functions. The strictly score-based selection process continues to be seen as a fair and effective system and recent comparisons with dressage squads in other States suggests that the Victorian model is going well.

Victorian elite riders are representing us well at the international level, with Mary Hanna representing Australia at her fifth Olympics and Maree Tomkinson the team reserve,

The DV major event calendar is the envy of the nation as we now have five CDI held in Victoria each year. PSI Dressage & Jumping With The Stars continues to attract the crowds. Thanks to event directors Deb McNicol and Sue McKay this event evolves every year and remains the highlight on many fans' schedule.

The 2015 Saddleworld Dressage Festival showed a considerable growth on the previous year. More than 400 horses attended, which represented an increase of 30%. Thanks to the professionalism of event director Marli Plant, the event received wide praise for its friendly atmosphere.

The planning for the 2016 Pryde's Easifeed Dressage Festival is well underway and this year's event director Annabelle Johnstone is expecting further growth in the numbers of horses attending. Additional entertainment is also planned for the Saturday night this year.

The Young Rider Dressage Championships held in Easter school holidays showed small growth in numbers this year. The event is moving to a new date, January and venue, Boneo Park for 2017. The event director Donna Desmet and her committee are looking forward to an exciting revamped event sponsored by Ellanbrae Park.

The CDI @ M3DE continued to attract the biggest crowd of the year with the indoor packed to the rafters for the Grand Prix Freestyle.

Thanks to all our event directors assiduously adhering to budgets, our activities have remained in the "black".

To ensure Dressage in Victoria represents both regional and city based riders, regional events have been encouraged to make participation and competing easier for those in outlying areas of Victoria. In the north Elmore Equestrian Club has affiliated and commenced events at the huge Elmore Equestrian Centre. Tatura F&NC has increased their activities further and continue to grow their involvement in the sport. In West Gippsland, Randall Park Equestrian centre has affiliated and is conducting EA events. In the west Western Victoria Dressage Club recently celebrated its 40th Birthday and continue to battle the tyranny of distance between members and venues. While further support is needed for the ongoing growth of the regional clubs FY 15/16 did make a start in the right direction.

The ADC has suggested that all States adopt a uniform Star Rating system for Dressage events. Five stars for a National Championship down to one star for a local club event. The idea being that some EA Dressage rules relating to number of judges, stewards etc. could be adjusted for different level events. This may help smaller clubs run local events.



Images Courtesy, Equestrian Australia



One of the highlights of the DV year was undoubtedly the growth the Amateur Owner Rider class. An initiative of the ADC three years ago, the advent of the Mitavite AOR Leader Board has created much more interest this year. Thanks to volunteer Dolly Joyce for collating results and securing sponsorship, 400 riders participated in the Leader Board. This class will continue to grow as we focus more attention on adding value to the membership of our many grassroots members.



With this same thought for the grassroots rider, EV admin sponsored and conducted a number of Protocol days at WPNEC and encouraged clubs to follow suit. From very few a couple of years ago we now have regular protocol days happening in Victoria with the number growing as riders enjoy the value of ring practise and expert feedback.

EV set the goal in 2014 to reach out to other organisations to seek common projects of mutual benefit. After previously having little to do with Government, EV has attracted several grants to help grow participation and enhance facilities. DV has also begun working with other equestrian organisations like HRCV and

PCAV. Both groups will be involved in the biggest Pryde's EasiFeed Dressage Festival ever in December 2016.

In recent years the printed Dressage Handbook has been replaced by the EV online calendars. We are uncertain about the efficacy of this approach but the number of tests ridden in Victoria for FY 15/16, 7,000, remained the same as the previous years. The rapid take-up of online entry systems by clubs may improve the dissemination of event information. We have striven hard in recent years to create a clash free calendar and despite a couple of exceptions this has been achieved. We are currently planning a two year calendar to give event directors better access to venue bookings.

The number of EV members nominating Dressage as their sport and the number of active Dressage Performance cards has continued grow at a healthy rate.

Two main areas of concern arose during the year. The cost of competing may be getting to a crucial point and the quality of riding surfaces needs improving. In one sense these issues are connected because the second will cost plenty of money and someone will need to pay for it. We need to look at the cost of competing in Dressage from a number of angles and see if DV can lead a rethink of event costs to help grow the grassroots.

EV is currently involved in the State Facilities Study, supported by State Govt. and negotiations with Parks Victoria for a new WPNEC lease that would involve major capital expenditure. DV is strongly advocating for these processes to materialise in a new arena area for Dressage at WPNEC.



DV has achieved all this with a very large and historically constructed committee. Over the last year discussions have commenced on the topic of restructuring the DV committee to be more effective and better represent all affiliated clubs. 2017 will hopefully see some progress on these areas of concern and a continuation of the achievements so far.

Michael Bragge
Dressage Victoria Chair

Eventing Chair Report 2016

In sitting down to write my report I looked back at the goals that we wrote down at our Strategic Planning meeting in 2015.

Strengthening Relationships with Riders

I feel the Committee are very proactive in responding to questions and requests for help from riders. Through squads, email, social media, phone calls and more importantly face to face at events. Open and honest discussion is welcome at all times. We had a request from a lower level rider to trial a grassroots section at our State Championships. It was a huge success and one that we will encourage Organising Committees to consider including in their events for next year.

Assist with the Smooth Running of Competitions Across Victoria and Support Organising Committees. Look at Risk/Crisis Management.

We have a Calendar Meeting twice a year to discuss timetabling as well as assisting the Organising Committees with the appointment of officials, medical support and the qualification & registration checks of horses & riders. We are in the process of creating a dedicated drop down box for Organising Committees on the Eventing website that will have all the documentation need to help with running their event. We have just run an informative Risk Management Seminar for O.C's to help them cover this critical aspect of their event planning. Thanks David May & Judy Croagh.

Eventing Levy Trust/Medical Levy

We introduced the Eventing Levy in September 2015 so we have had a full 12 months. Organising Committees have now been invited to submit applications for funds by the end of October. We are looking forward to being able to put money back into our sport through Organising Committees and the training of our officials.

Eventing Committee to Run Two Events:- Melbourne 3DE and State Champs for 2016 (and then there was Tooradin!)

All of these events were an enormous success and could not happen without countless hours of voluntary labour provided by your Eventing Committee. There is so much behind the scenes work that goes on.

We ran a last minute event in October 2015 having already run Melbourne 3 Day Event & our Spring Horse Trials because Tooradin had to cancel. This year's Melbourne was better than 2015 and next year with the Diamond Anniversary (60 years) and both Senior and Young Rider Oceania Teams competing it will be huge!

State Championships also managed to dodge the worst of the weather and run successfully this year at CIC following requests from riders for a FEI event in the spring season.

Eventing Staff

Karen Amore is our Eventing Administrator in the Equestrian Victoria office. She is a constant support for me, the committee and for all things Eventing, (the ever smiling voice on the end of the office phone). Bridget Croagh stepped in as Eventing Coordinator during a very difficult time for me personally and I will always be incredibly grateful for her bright can-do attitude and the hard work she did during her time at the helm.

Our new Eventing Coordinator is no stranger to most of you. Lynne Brown runs BSP Scoring, has had a long involvement with Yeringberg Horse Trials, maintains the requalification data base for Equestrian Victoria on a voluntary basis and also sits on a subcommittee of the National Eventing Committee looking into safety. Lynne's role will include checking entries and uploading results as well as helping me timetable Squad, (this last role may be news to her!!!).

Invest in Officials and Convene Forums, Seminars and Opportunities for Professional Development

We recognised the fact that in Victoria we were losing some of our valuable officials due to retirement. Judy Croagh with the support of the committee has been encouraging, recruiting & supporting our officials. We ran a discussion group at the State Horse Trials for TD's, Stewards, Ground Jurors and Will Enzinger spoke on behalf of the riders and as Chair of the National Eventing Committee.

This forum was such a positive approach to sharing information and seeing things from another perspective that we will definitely do it on a regular basis. There will be a 3/4 FEI course at Melbourne in 2017 and we are trying to get a 1/2 course also in Australia next year for National Officials that wish to take their initial step into FEI.



Squads and Review of HP Criteria

The Squads have been growing at a very pleasing rate. The introduction of the Development Squad has been successful in exposing a lot more riders to our Squad program.

Our High Performance Program recognises both National and State funded riders through reduced tuition at squads & all squad riders get support at National 3 Day Events. These funded squads are updated every 6 months in line with National Squad announcements. Prydes and Equissage continue to be valued sponsors of our Senior & Young Rider Squads.

In closing I look back on 2016 with mixed emotions. Whilst Australian Eventing celebrates a fantastic result at the Olympic Games we also remember two beautiful souls lost participating in the sport that we love. **#twohearts**

It is the support of the dedicated and amazing group of people who make up the Eventing Committee that keeps me going forward no matter what. NOTHING we have achieved this year would have been possible without them. Each and every one gives their all to the sport of Eventing - selflessly, tirelessly and endlessly.

Somehow, 'thank-you' just doesn't seem enough.

Janet Houghton
Eventing Chair

#RideWithUs



Bronze for equestrian eventing team © Getty Images

Show Horse Chair Report

Show Horse has seen some very welcomed changes and progressions over the past twelve months. Victoria has led the way in rewriting and ratifying both EA National Show Horse Rules and EA National Measuring Rules making them more clear, consistent and easier to interpret and understand. We have also commenced policy talks with other show horse governing bodies to achieve an outcome that will see these bodies work together on anti-doping and ban adoptions with the overall aim of a fairer, cleaner, better sport for all. These developments are a work in progress but we would like to think that these can be achieved over the next twelve months.

Nationals 2015 30 Year Anniversary

The most prestigious event of the year 'Show Horse Nationals'. Wow what an event! I think all who attended would agree that the new look given to the Nationals brought a new air and prominence for this event. The arena was simply spectacular, the monumental backdrop Sue McKay created when asked to give the event a 'facelift' exceeded all expectation.

The 2015 Nationals 30 Year anniversary was also the year of celebration. This saw many pieces of memorabilia on display creating much conversation and memory sharing. The social scene was made very accessible for all attendees adding to the enjoyment and celebration over the 30 Year anniversary.

The level of competition at the 2015 event once again reached new highs. Every year the horses and riders just keep getting better. Victoria proved to be the strongest team taking out the overall best performed team award. We are all set for 2016 with another very strong Victorian team and are very excited to welcome the best show horses in the country to our home state.



Barastoc HOTY 2016

Barastoc 2016 saw the addition of another day making the show a three day extravaganza with the welcoming addition of National Children's Qualifying classes. We also showcased eight breeds, as well as Pony and Open Dressage, Carriage Driving, Working Hunters, Sporting Horses and five HRCAV rings (These sections run autonomously). It must be noted that such additions have required very diligent budgeting ensuring the event was viable whilst still being an extravaganza!

Amateur Show 2016

This show was the committee's initiative to cater for all members, specifically designed for non-professional competitors who compete purely as hobbyists and who do not derive income from showing horses. We wanted to offer a show that 'gave back', encouraged and supported our entry level competitors.

This was our second year hosting the event and it was sensational to see over one hundred entries. It was so pleasing for the committee to see the show well supported and heavily sponsored with many product, vouchers and money being made available. 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 2017.

Clinics 2015

We welcomed the return of our winter show horse clinics. The committee offered all members complimentary opportunity to further their tuition and train with accredited, experienced coaches. This was essentially our way of saying "thank-you" for your ongoing support as show horse members. 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 Werribee Park Equestrian Centre in July. It was well supported and it was great to see some new faces achieving their EA Judging accreditation as well as some well-known faces updating their accreditation.

We are very pleased with our Victorian judges' list and it's great

to see it expanding again. We are always on the lookout for new candidates and hope that we can continue to grow this list over the next twelve months.

It's been an enormous twelve months for Show Horse Victoria with many achievements. The committee is very proud of what has been achieved and improved. Communication and rules have been our areas of investment for this year; but we're always looking for areas of improvement. 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 more options

over the next twelve months with what can be achieved from working with brokering 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.

Mr Mitchell Fox,
Chair Show Horse Victoria



Showjumping Chair Report 2016

It is with pleasure that I submit my report for showjumping 2015/2016.

The highlight of the year for jumping would have to be the Olympics at Rio. The Australian team had Matt Williams and James Paterson-Robinson, plus the reserve Jamie Kermond, all past Vic state squad members. They didn't have the best team result, after they were reduced to only three riders, however both Matt and Edwina made it into the individual finals.



©Courtesy Equestrian Australia

Great result, and we should be all very proud of their achievement.



The junior/young jumping squad this year was once again well supported, and with the support of the Australian Sports Commission participation funding, a new squad was introduced. It was called the 'Squadettes'. It was for riders under twelve years, and was a huge success with 33 riders ranging from 6 to 12 years old.



Victoria once again hosted the Australian Showjumping Championship at Werribee. This year will go down as one of the toughest events to run. Who would have thought that we would have had record rain leading into the event?

The weather caused the very hard working volunteer committee to totally revamp the schedule on the run. Some of the changes meant that we had to run five rings instead of the four planned.

We needed to preserve the main arena as much as possible, so it was decided to run the Speed Championship indoors on the Saturday night. Our caterers needed to do a complete relocation to the indoor for the evening meal (no problem). With a crowd of around a thousand, the cheering and encouragement turned what may have been a bit of a dull night into one of the best jumping events ever.

I would like to thank the ASJC committee for all the hard work they put in through out the year to organise this huge event. Plus a big thanks to the faithful sponsors, trade stands and of course the competitors, who had to put up with extreme conditions and helped to make the event a great success.

I would like to thank Annie White for all her hard work and dedication to our sport. Annie decided she needed to have a bit of a normal life, and resigned as our coordinator. She has left some big shoes to fill, and doing that role, we welcome Nina Lewis to the team. Nina brings with her lots of energy and is a past jumping squad member.

Finally I would like to thank the jumping committee for all their support though out the year.

Paul Williams

Showjumping Victoria Chair



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