

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

2013 was a year of consolidation for Equestrian NSW. A new Constitution was drafted, a new membership structure was introduced, the troublesome 'equnect' ICT project was shut down, our high performance athletes dominated major competitions and our finances remained strong.

MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICES

Category	2010	2011	2012	2013
Competitor	3,774	3,650	3,324	3,361
Competitor Junior	1,882	1,774	1,828	1,809
Associate/Participant	1,273	1,334	1,393	1,468
Other	558	572	546	560
Total	7,487	7,330	7,091	7,198

Note – Financial Years

Membership numbers remained steady across all categories compared with the previous year.

Feedback from members about our office staff was really encouraging, with membership renewals, horse registrations and general enquiries handled promptly and courteously.

During the year, the 'equnect' ICT project caused considerable frustration for members as well as the management team and Board. In hindsight, the decision to revert to the membership system provided by Lloyd Raleigh was a good one.

Equestrian Australia has expensed a significant proportion of the equnect project costs. Some system components may still be used in a long term IT solution.

As we move towards a new equestrian management system project, the Equestrian Australia management team has introduced better up-front engagement with users during the scoping phase and has committed to more disciplined and transparent project management. The new system is planned to be up and running in 2014.

BOARD & GOVERNANCE

As at 30 June 2013, the Equestrian NSW Board comprised: Judy Fasher (Chair), Michael Benson (Deputy Chair), Ray Balcomb, Linda Beneke, Michael Benson, David Lawrence, Derek Major, Kelly Paton and Alex Townsend.

Wendy Cohen was the Chief Executive Officer. Wendy resigned in October to take up her new role as Chief Executive Officer with the Animal Welfare League.

Throughout the year, the Equestrian NSW Board and Wendy Cohen, assisted by law firm Landers and Rodgers, undertook a review of the old Constitution and drafted a new Constitution, which was subsequently approved and introduced in July 2013.

This new Constitution provides a practical and disciplined governance framework to run Equestrian NSW.

Also, under the new Constitution, our name was changed from Equestrian Federation of Australia (NSW) Inc to Equestrian NSW Inc.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Please refer to the attached Financial Statements.

Income in 2012/13 was \$1,662,721, expenses were \$1,554,122, delivering a surplus of \$108,599. This compares with a \$196,147 deficit for the previous year. The apparent turnaround reflects changes that were made to the timing of when annual membership fees were brought to account. For example, renewals received in June 2011 were brought to account in the 2011 financial year, whereas renewals received in June 2012 were more correctly accounted for in the 2013 financial year.

Apart from membership fees, external funding of \$106,584 was received from:

- NSW Government Department of Sport and Recreation (\$48,500 for sports development).
- NSW Institute of Sport (\$25,000 for the Sydney International Three Day Event and the Jumping Summer Classic).
- Equestrian Australia (\$19,084 for the Eventing High performance Programme and \$7,000 for Interschools).
- Coprice (\$5,000 for the Awards Night, Year Book and Interschools).
- Zoetis (\$2,000 for Interschools Show Horse).

On the expenditure side, the following table shows the funding provided by Equestrian NSW to the various disciplines.

Discipline	Amount
Eventing	\$98,630
Dressage	\$82,797
Jumping	\$66,428
Show Horse	\$6,460
Vaulting	\$16,800
Driving	\$6,440
Total	\$277,555

This excludes funding received from Equestrian Australia for the Eventing NSW High Performance programme.

Material changes in expenses included:

- Wages and salaries increased by 3.2% to \$380,564.
- Communication increased by 53% to \$104,795, because the 2011 year book (\$50,000) was paid for in the previous year.
- National expenses increased by 22% to \$466,782, including \$220,082 for insurance which covers Equestrian NSW, Clubs and Members. Once again, the significant variation is due to timing issues with membership fees.

\$28,178 was spent on external consultants, comprising:

- Lander & Rogers (Legal - \$5,848 retainer)
- Lander & Rogers (Legal - \$18,560 on the new Constitution)
- Horton Rhodes (Legal - \$3,770 on Constitution matters)

The cash holding at the end of the financial year was a healthy \$845,880. The Board considered this to be about the right level of security, to cope with potential events like equine influenza. Any surpluses in future years will be poured back into support for members and events.

The Equestrian NSW 2012/13 financial statements were audited by James Mathers & Co, with no qualifications or notes reported.

Gow Gates continued to provide excellent service as our insurer, as well as being a major sponsor of Equestrian Australia and the Wallaby Hill Horse Trials.

HIGH PERFORMANCE

On the international stage, European-based NSW riders Edwina Tops-Alexander (Jumping) and Chris Burton (Eventing) excelled at major competitions and Tom McDermott (Jumping) won the FEI Global Rising Star Award. In London, Andrew Hoy (Eventing) was the first athlete to represent Australia at seven Olympic Games.

Whilst our performances at the London Olympics did not meet expectations, many lessons were learnt, which will be put into practice as we gallop towards the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France.

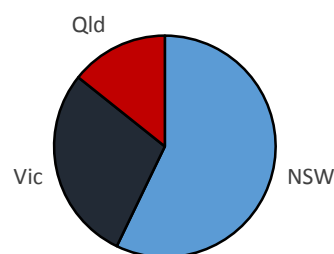
The High Performance programs for NSW athletes competing in the Olympic disciplines are funded jointly by the Australian Sports Commission, Equestrian Australia and Equestrian NSW. As we move to a more professional approach in our sport, this funding is now seen as an investment in specific activities to achieve competition success. Whereas previously, funding may have been spent on day-to-day costs such as hay and diesel, under the new regime, most expenditure is targeted towards group and individual coaching and participation in major competitions, all within detailed Individual Combination (horse and rider) Plans.

From a NSW perspective, this new regime contributed to many fine individual performances. Craig Barrett won the HSBC FEI Classics Australian International Three Day Event, Paul Athanasoff won the Australian Senior Showjumping Championship and Mathew Dowsley won the Grand Prix Special at the Dressage National Championships.

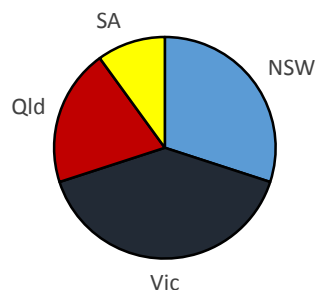
Arguably of more importance, in overall terms, NSW athletes dominated our national championships. The following charts show the proportion that each state contributed to the top ten placings at our national events.

Effectively, NSW had nearly twice as many top ten finishers than any other state.

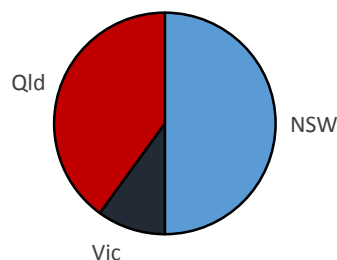
EVENTING



DRESSAGE



JUMPING



As a non-Olympic sport and with limited funding, similar results were achieved in Vaulting. Five of the top ten placings at the Individual National Vaulting Championship came from NSW, with Krystle Lander winning the female class.

Carriage Driving achieved credible performances at their National Championship as did our Show Horse competitors at the Nationals held at Werribee.

2012 ANNUAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

On 12 February 2013, Equestrian NSW presented its Annual Awards for Excellence. The worthy winners are detailed below.

SADDLEHORSE

Young Athlete of the Year: Annabel Mulready
Athlete of the Year: Angela Rodham
Show Hunter of the Year: Hunterview Radiance
Horse of the Year: Calvin Park Dark Knight
Owner of the Year: Leah Walsh

VAULTING

Young Athlete of the Year: Lani Maher
Encouragement Award: Sue Wark & Eliza Wark-Chapman
Horse of the Year: Louis - Sydney Vaulting Group
Female Athlete of the Year: Krystle Lander
Male Athlete of the Year: Lee Briggs

CARRIAGE DRIVING

Athlete of the Year: Ty Nichols
Owner of the Year: Ty and Jennifer Nichols
Horse of the Year: Ellesmere Dynasty
Encouragement Award: Mark Peel

JUMPING

Best Ag Show: Tamworth Agricultural Show
Young Athlete of the Year: Sarah Louise McMillan
Athlete of the Year: Tom McDermott
Horse of the Year: CP Ulixes
Owner of the Year: Kerrie Winning

INTERSCHOOLS

Junior Champion: Georgia Cottle
Intermediate
Interschool Challenge: Grace Kaveney
Senior Champion: Hannah Simmons
Vaulting Champion: Jarrod Boyle
Interschool Challenge: Grace Kaveney
Combined Training Champion: Matilda Seppelt
Jumping Champion: Pia Boileau
Eventing Champion: Jaymee Tinney
Dressage Champion: Hannah Simmons

DRESSAGE

Young Athlete of the Year: Grace Kay
Athlete of the Year: Matthew Dowsley
Horse of the Year: Luxor 118
Owner of the Year: Clyde Wunderwald (posthumously)

OUR WAY FORWARD

The major challenges facing Equestrian NSW in 2014 include:

- Keeping costs down and continuously improving membership services.
- Defining and agreeing protocols with Equestrian Australia for mandatory Hendra vaccination of horses at high risk events.
- Working with Equestrian Australia and the other state branches towards new ICT systems for:
 - management of memberships, horse registrations and competition results; and
 - the web site
- Growing and supporting our membership base.
- Increasing participation through the Interschools programme.
- Better engagement with our communities and sponsors to reduce our reliance on government funding.

CONCLUSION

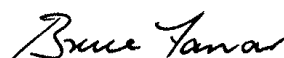
We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to our many hundreds of volunteers who stage events throughout NSW on almost every weekend.

Our discipline, club and event committees lift the standard of competitions year after year.

From my perspective, being very new in the role, I have appreciated the passion for equestrianism and wise counsel of Judy Fasher and the Board. I inherited from Wendy Cohen a professional and customer focused team and a stable and secure financial position.

Most important of all, I thank you the members.

I'm here because I want to be here. I'm here to help.



BRUCE FARRAR
BE, MBA, GAICD