



## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your NSW Equestrian Board aims to provide all members with a vision for equestrian into the future with leadership and inspiration. As a board we recognise that the most important support we can give to all disciplines is to increase the quality of competitions. This year we have invested a record amount of members' money back into the sport. (Details in CEO's Bruce Farrar's Report)

Discipline councils have attended meetings with your board and at these meetings an excellent understanding has been established between our organisers and the board. It is well recognised that the health and vibrance of our sport depends on the excellent work done by the diligent volunteers who support each of our sports. The independence of our councils is fundamental to their success and ENSW strongly supports continued independence of our discipline councils and all organising committees. Recognition of the co-operative interaction of all our stakeholders is fundamental to the financial and organisational success of our NSW Branch.

As promised, our CEO Bruce Farrar has made it his business to attend competitions in all disciplines, competing in some, he has established a very special relationship with our membership. This has led to your board being very well informed about both the success and concerns of you our members. Bruce and Andrea Webb, attended the National Interschool Championships in Victoria this year, representing the branch and assisting all riders in their competitive efforts. The feed-back from both parents and riders has been most encouraging and the Interschool committee would especially like to express their thanks to Bruce and Andrea for their efforts.

The biggest challenge we have faced in 2014 is the management of Hendra Disease. The challenge continues. As a sport we have the double edged problem of protecting our members, their horses and our competition organisers whilst at the same time trying to ensure that we do not limit participation in the sport or disadvantage our members in any way. We must continue to monitor the situation, co-operate with Equestrian Australia, have our finger on the pulse so far as information about vaccination and the disease is concerned. An advisory group of people is presently re-examining the situation and will report to EA in the near future. In the meantime the best advice is that vaccination of our horses is the best way of protecting, both them and us from this dreadful disease. All sports involving horses, including racing, face the challenge. The Australian Veterinary Association has recently advised that vets attending competitions will require indemnity from organising committees against any consequence of a "Hendra incident" at an event. This of course creates further pressure for all horses at

events to be vaccinated. As members, you can be assured that ENSW has been diligent in its involvement in this situation and we will continue to interact with all parties involved to both protect our members and their horses and to also take all reasonable means to protect our sport.

2015 should be an exciting year for Equestrian NSW. We have in place, thanks to both Michael Benson, Treasurer and Bruce Farrar a system of financial support to our various stakeholders which allows for planning and support for our competitions which offers predictability and security for the funds required. We continue to work with SIEC to improve both facilities and arena surface areas. This will be to the benefit of all disciplines. Our cross country course at SIEC continues to develop with the financial support offered through Equestrian Australia's High Performance Program and Mike Etherington-Smith working with our competition organisers.

We aim in 2015 to work together with our discipline councils to achieve competition calendars which involve existing events to be linked into 'series'. We seek through this plan to attract not only more sponsorship but more prize money and a more exciting and involving public profile.

Our support of Equestrian Australia's High Performance Program will continue through the provision, of not only outstanding competition opportunities but also an active squad program to support our riders as they strive for excellence.

Our membership, volunteers, owners and riders are the inspiration for our board activities. On behalf of the Board my most grateful thanks for the support you have given us over the past twelve months. The patience you have shown when there have been difficult problems to resolve is very much appreciated by all board members as we strive to sort out the inevitable problems the sport faces from time to time.

We are confident, that with your continued generosity of spirit, our initiatives in the future will lead to the growth and wellbeing of equestrian sport in NSW.



**JUDY FASHER**  
**CHAIR**  
**EQUESTRIAN NSW**

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

In FY2014, Equestrian NSW worked hard to do get the basics right, including providing customer focused services to our members, achieving solid financial results, building stronger partnerships with our Discipline Councils and Committees and facing the challenge of Hendra Virus and its associated risk management

### MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICES

| Category          | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Competitor        | 3,774 | 3,650 | 3,324 | 3,361 | 3,581 |
| Competitor Junior | 1,882 | 1,774 | 1,828 | 1,809 | 1,751 |
| Participant       | 1,273 | 1,334 | 1,393 | 1,468 | 1,509 |
| Other             | 558   | 572   | 546   | 560   | 820   |
| Total             | 7,487 | 7,330 | 7,091 | 7,198 | 7,661 |

Note – Financial Years

Membership numbers remained steady across all categories compared with the previous year. Membership fees increased in line with CPI and Base Horse Registrations were reduced to nil cost to assist in collecting better information about horses competing in the lower grades.

Membership renewals, horse registrations and general enquiries were handled promptly and courteously by Sue Birch, Susie Burns, Elysha Sargent and Andrea Webb. The Nominate membership system provided a stable platform which was used by the vast majority of members to process their renewals on-line.

ENSW played a significant role in the Equestrian Australia (EA) project to develop a new membership and competition services system. ENSW is represented on the project steering committee and will have significant input, along with key stakeholders from other State Branches, into finalising the detailed user needs specification and acceptance testing.

The new system is planned to be up and running in mid-2015.

As at 30 June 2014, the Equestrian NSW Board comprised: Judy Fasher (President), Linda Beneke, Michael Benson (Finance Committee Chair), David Lawrence, Derek Major, Kelly Paton and Alex Townsend.

Ray Balcomb served on the Board from July to December 2013, but did not seek re-election. Ray's contribution, particularly in advertising and promotion, was appreciated by the Board.

In FY2014, The ENSW Board held ten meetings including the Annual General Meeting in December 2014.

In February 2014, EA announced that it would conduct a governance review, with the objective of identifying obstacles to the

efficient functioning of the varied subsets of equestrianism in Australia. ENSW made a submission to the review, highlighting the successes of the current NSW model and the strong performances of the Discipline Councils and Committees, their event organising committees and the enduring relationships that they have with ENSW.

The outcome of the review is due to be announced in 2015.

### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Please refer to the attached Financial Statements. This year, based on feedback from our 2013 AGM, Finance Manager Nichole Knox, with the endorsement of Finance Committee Chair Michael Benson, has presented our annual accounts in considerably more detail.

Revenue in FY2014 was \$2,004,439 (+20.6% compared with FY2013), expenses were \$1,907,297 (+22.7%), delivering a surplus of \$97,142 (-10.6%).

Apart from membership and horse registration fees, external funding of \$116,259 was received from:

- NSW Office of Communities (\$48,500) for sports development.
- NSW Office of Communities (\$26,175) for the Sydney International Three Day Event.
- Equestrian Australia (\$36,584) for the Eventing High Performance Programme.
- Coprice (\$5,000) for NSW State Interschool.

On the expenditure side, the following table shows the funding, including general support and excluding GST, provided by ENSW to the various disciplines.

| Discipline    | FY14             |
|---------------|------------------|
| Eventing (1)  | \$174,691        |
| Dressage      | \$105,126        |
| Jumping       | \$95,513         |
| Show Horse    | \$10,835         |
| Vaulting      | \$19,669         |
| Driving       | \$6,034          |
| Individuals   | \$5,500          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$416,889</b> |
| <b>Change</b> | <b>+80%</b>      |

(1) Includes \$62,759 (\$36,584 received from EA for the NSW Eventing High Performance Programme and \$26,175 from the NSW Office of Communities for Sydney 3DE). Effective contribution from ENSW was \$111,932.

Material changes in expenses included:

- Wages and salaries increased by 9.3% to \$421,823, reflecting a 5% increase for office staff, effective September 2013 and payout of entitlements to the previous CEO.
- Administration Costs increased by 38% to \$199,934, due to ENSW absorbing the \$49,000 Nominate service charge which was applied from 1 July 2013.

The cash holding at the end of the financial year was a healthy \$1,334,904. Of this amount, \$282,000 was due to payments for FY2015 membership received in June 2014. The Board considers this level of cash holding to be appropriate to cope with potential events like equine influenza, but it is also keen to invest future underlying surpluses back into services and support for members and events. Upgrading of the arena surfaces at Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC) and funding of the Jumping NSW JJD Scoring system are good examples of the types of investment projects that ENSW is keen to support.

The Equestrian NSW FY2014 financial statements were audited by James Mathers & Co, with no qualifications or notes reported.

Gow Gates continued to provide excellent service as our insurance broker, as well as being a sponsor of our Awards night.

Lander & Rogers were retained as our legal advisor, mainly in relation to constitutional issues.

## HIGH PERFORMANCE

NSW athletes excelled at the major national competitions. Chris Burton, now based in England, won the Adelaide International 4\* Three Day Event. Shane Rose won the Sydney International and Melbourne International 3\* Three Day Events. Jamie Kermond, was awarded the National Senior Showjumping Champion with Tom McDermott crowned 2013 Young Rider Champion and Heath Ryan won the Grand Prix competitions at Sydney CDI and Dressage With Altitude.

To become an elite athlete in our equestrian disciplines, it is generally required to have:

- prodigious natural talent;
- a determined work ethic and resilience;
- regular international standard coaching; and
- a personal business model that supports having long term relationships with high quality horses and the time to compete at international competitions.

Recognising that our 2016 Olympians will almost certainly come from the ranks of our established international combinations, ENSW subscribes to the philosophy that spending money on a pool of talent which has the potential to move into the national high performance programme is worthwhile. Focusing on only the

international elite athletes, without a succession plan will result in the long term decay in international performance.

Towards this, in May 2014, ENSW along with Eventing NSW, re-launched the Eventing High Performance Programme at SIEC. With guidance from Prue Barrett and Brett Parbery, Grand Prix riders and coaches Michelle Baker and Denise Rogan were engaged to provide the dressage coaching with David Cameron and Sam Lyle doing the Jumping. Brad Longhurst designed the Jumping tracks.

Very quickly, the squad schools became really popular, with about thirty riders, from EvA105 and above, benefiting from the high quality coaching and opportunity to test themselves against their contemporaries. Riders who performed well at squad school also achieved success in the competition arena.

Juniors were also included in the programme, with all five of the 2014 NSW Interschool 1\* Eventing team attending regularly.

In 2015, the challenge will be to refine the programme to capture and assist combinations with the highest potential. ENSW will also look to work with the other Discipline Councils to ensure that our overall investment in high performance is delivering the right results. Of course, funding will always be an issue, but as a competition driven association, it's ENSW's role to provide a pathway from talent identification through to high performance.

## PARTICIPATION

In the saturated NSW sports market, growing participation in our equestrian disciplines will always be a challenge. ENSW has supported the Ready Set Trot programme but is keen to explore alternative models which engage better with established riding schools and schools which provide an equestrian curriculum.

New England Girls School in Armidale is a good example of what can be done within a structured education framework. NEGS students can learn to ride on school ponies, progress through to competitions and potentially represent their school and state at Interschool Championships.

Eventing and Jumping organising committees have also made a significant contribution to attracting new blood into our sport. Newcomer and Encourager classes in Eventing and 50cm and 60cm classes in Jumping have provided the opportunity for beginner riders to compete at some of our biggest shows.

Vaulting and Carriage Driving have made good progress in growing their participation through clinics and training. The Carriage Driving clinics with world champion Boyd Exel showcase the sport to both potential and established combinations.

ENSW is committed to using the Interschool platform to increase participation. Partnerships with schools and organising committees,



regional coaching and staging of an Interschool competition series have become a major focus for ENSW. Based on the success of our involvement in the 2014 National Interschool Championship at Werribee, managed by Andrea Webb, ENSW has secured the 2015 Championship, which will be staged at SIEC.

## HENDRA VIRUS

Hendra Virus and its associated risk management required a significant commitment from the ENSW Board and management team.

From December 2013, ENSW was on the EA Hendra Working Party, which drafted the Hendra By-Law that was introduced in July 2014. In retrospect, the proposed By-Law was flawed, so that, based on feedback from members and our Discipline Councils, ENSW was instrumental in having it delayed to enable a further technical review to be carried out. Issues relating to adverse reactions, full registration and duration of immunity will now be considered by the Technical Panel set up by EA. ENSW remains committed to the adoption of a By-Law which protects our members, their horses and the community from what is a high level biosecurity risk.

## 2013 ANNUAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

On 12 March 2014, Equestrian NSW presented its Annual Awards for Excellence. A change in venue to Rosehill Gardens Racecourse provided a wonderful backdrop to recognise the worthy award recipients.



### SADDLEHORSE

Young Athlete of the Year: Eliza Douglas  
 Athlete of the Year: Jessica Stalling  
 Horse of the Year: Juliett  
 Owner of the Year: Bridey Gibson  
 Pony of the Year: Melody Park Heavenly Girl

### VAULTING

Young Female Athlete of the Year: Lani Maher  
 Young Male Athlete of the Year: Jarrod Boyle  
 Horse of the Year: Louis  
 Female Athlete of the Year: Krystle Lander  
 Male Athlete of the Year: Lee Briggs

### CARRIAGE DRIVING

Athlete of the Year: Jennifer Nichols  
 Owner of the Year: Ty and Jennifer Nichols  
 Horse of the Year: Ellesmere Dynasty



*Ty Nichols, Jennifer Nichols and Ron Cunnew*

### JUMPING

Best Ag Show: Maitland Show  
 Young Athlete of the Year: Tom McDermott  
 Athlete of the Year: Jamie Kermond  
 Horse of the Year: CP Ulixes  
 Owner of the Year: Van Zyl Tripp P/L

### INTERSCHOOL CHAMPIONS

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

### DRESSAGE

Young Athlete of the Year: Alison Gill  
 Athlete of the Year: Brett Parbery  
 Horse of the Year: Aber Hallo 29  
 Owner of the Year: The Farrell Family



*Alison Gill with Prue Spurrett*

## EVENTING

|                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Junior Pre Novice Rider:   | Ashleigh Wiseman                 |
| Young Athlete of the Year: | Isabella Bowditch-McIntyre       |
| Athlete of the Year:       | Shane Rose                       |
| Horse of the Year:         | CP Qualified                     |
| Owner of the Year:         | Shane Rose and Elizabeth Wischer |

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Saddlehorse:       | Richard Thackery |
| Vaulting:          | Lindsay Collett  |
| Carriage Driving:  | Lyn Cunnew       |
| Jumping :          | Peter Core       |
| Dressage:          | Julie Jones      |
| Eventing:          | Tina Stafford    |
| Overall Volunteer: | Peter Core       |

## GOW GATES SERVICE TO SPORT AWARDS

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Saddlehorse:      | Alan Jones AO       |
| Vaulting:         | Kerri Wilson        |
| Carriage Driving: | Patricia Wicks      |
| Jumping :         | Alice Cameron       |
| Dressage:         | Heath & Rozzie Ryan |
| Eventing:         | Sandra Vicary       |



Will Macarthur-Gow Gates with Alan Jones AO

## COACHING

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Community Coach of the Year:        | David Cameron |
| HP Coach of the Year:               | Lyn Lynch     |
| Life Time Achievement for Coaching: | Heath Ryan    |

## INTERSCHOOL

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Champion Secondary School:   | Frensham         |
| Champion Primary School:     | Calrossy         |
| Champion Junior Rider:       | Olivia Sylvester |
| Champion Intermediate Rider: | Sarah Farroway   |
| Champion Senior Rider:       | Natasha Anjoul   |

## FY2015

The major challenges facing Equestrian NSW in FY2015 include:

- Keeping costs down and continuously improving membership services.
- 1. Developing partnerships with our Discipline Councils and Committees, based on trust and good communication. We will invest in projects and competitions which are valued by our members. For example, ENSW is determined to have the best elite competition arena surfaces in Australia.
- Ramping up Interschool competitions to increase participation and achieve competition success.
- Working with EA and the other State Branches to introduce:
  - a new ICT membership and competition services system;
  - a more practical Hendra By-Law; and
  - better training for officials and coaches.

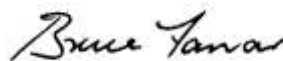
## CONCLUSION

After one year in my role, I've grown to like and respect the people that I deal with on a day-to-day basis. I've attended over 30 events, competing in most and have come to better understand, first hand, the individual needs of our varied disciplines.

Without doubt, our volunteers underwrite everything that we do. They serve on Boards, Councils and Committees, refine our rules and education standards, stage events and are the foundation on which our sport is built.

To Judy Fasher and our Board, thank you for your guidance and support and for giving me the opportunity to work in a job that I enjoy immensely. Our office team do a great job, as do our Discipline Councils and Committees.

I look forward to another year of building on our successes and challenging everything that we do to achieve a better sport for all.



BRUCE FARRAR

## EVENTING NSW

The year started off with the Mirrabooka Junior and Young Rider Summer School carried on with an event taking place nearly every weekend during the year. Events offered from entry level up to qualifying classes for horses and riders at the highest elite level vying for selection for the World Equestrian Games 2014.



*A junior rider enjoys instruction at the Mirrabooka Junior clinic*

It's been a good year for Eventing in NSW. We have had large numbers of riders competing at our events, with most country events building on their entries from previous years and the 'city' events proving as popular as ever.



*Mudgee ran a very successful event this year*

The Volunteer rewards program is growing in success, in 2012 we had 180 registrations, and in 2014 we have 420 registered Volunteers. [www.eventingsnswregistrations.com](http://www.eventingsnswregistrations.com)

We continue to build on the amount of help we receive from many of our elite riders. Their help comes in many ways from running clinics (with funds going towards cross country courses) to being part of a committee running an event. Their input helps to encourage others to come along and join in the 'behind the scenes' work that is required to put together a good event.

The calendar for 2015 is even busier, with only a few spare weekends. Everything is looking like Eventing is gearing up for a great year.

As another AGM is upon us the debate over Hendra continues, and is continuing to be resolved with input from EvNSW and ENSW with the best interest of riders, horses and our sport in mind. I believe that EA are going to make sure that before any policy is enforced it will be the right one with safety and the sport in mind.

The calendar is consistently a challenge to accommodate all our clubs wishes while giving our riders the best lead up competitions

for our major 3DE's. The 2015 calendar is out and the Executive hopes it works for everyone. We will start to organise 2016 calendar in the coming months to allow our clubs to get the dates both we and they need.



*Our own President is always busy doing something*

Our finance department has done such a great job we will again be looking to further assist clubs in this FY. We will again be giving assistance to clubs for XC improvement on a dollar for dollar basis and grants for any club that does footing improvement. We will also look to add to the Special Grants fund or XC funding. I encourage all clubs to take up the offer and continually improve the going for all phases at your events. Remember it is money you can spend and be reimbursed if you have receipts and you don't need to match the money from your own budgets!

To our clubs, thank you to all your committee members for producing all the events you run for our members, and to the volunteers who help you do this. I would like to encourage clubs to strive for bigger and better events at every chance you can to help prepare our horses and riders for those major events. Things like signage from sponsors, music and trade villages around arenas will only help your events and help acclimatise our horses for those major events. Allowing horses to have access to competition areas before competition to encourage better performances which helps our horses and riders and viewing for spectators at your events. At the WEG competitors were allowed to work their horses in the dressage arena and in the Show Jump arena before competition started.



*Quirindi Panorama April 2014*





*The more atmosphere our clubs can provide, the better!*

Helen Hamilton-James is leaving the committee after many years of being and assisting with the treasury. Her skills in this area have been very helpful to both Vicki and Tina over the years. She agreed to stay on the executive long after trying to escape for her family and lack of time with her very demanding job. Her help in allocating Cross Country funds and grants to our clubs are just some of the things she has done for us. We hope you and your family enjoy your time and new role overseas. It's a big move just to get away from us! Thank you.

*Thank you to the Eventing NSW Executive; Vince Roche, Bronwyn Doong, Sharmayne Spencer and Tina Stafford.*

**SHANE ROSE**  
**President**  
**Eventing NSW**

## JUMPING NSW

In FY14, Jumping NSW focused on ways to improve our competitions, with the highest priorities being good course design, equipment and footing. If we get these right, riders will be happy to compete at shows and our sport will grow.

Footing is always a major concern, so that Jumping NSW was closely involved in the project to upgrade the main arena surfaces at Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC). John Vallance, with the guidance of Leopoldo Palacios, proposed the sand and wood chip mix, which was endorsed by Dressage NSW and delivered by SIEC. It's not the ultimate solution, but is a significant improvement. Further work will be done in FY15 to better

understand what sand, water, compaction and drainage combinations will work best in our Australian environment.



The introduction of the Jumping Judge Dashboard (JJD) is a good example of how Jumping NSW is looking to harness the latest technology to improve the way draws and results are made available in real time to competitors and other stakeholders. JJD works in conjunction with Farmtek timing equipment to allow electronic live scoring by judges, which is then downloaded every ten seconds to the Jumping NSW website where it is available for viewing. It enables competitors to see how far down the draw the class is as well as where they are placed in the current class. The system, which has many other useful and practical features, will be rolled out in 2015 following extensive testing and then training for end users.

Officials training remains a high priority for Jumping NSW, particularly course designers. Jumping NSW provided update and training clinics to our officials across NSW to ensure that they're being kept up to date with the current rules and trends in the sport. As most of our officials are volunteers, it's important that we continue to support them as much as possible.





The NSW Amateur Rider series continued to grow and is always keenly contested. The final round of the series is conducted at the hugely successful Jumping NSW Summer Showjumping Classic, staged by Equestrian Sports Promotions. This year, the Sydney Royal ran a CSI2\* class, largely due to the drive and enthusiasm of Kerrie Winning. The Canberra Royal, Snowy Mountains Showjumping Festival and the Tamworth Indoor Showjumping Championships go from strength to strength.

In 2015, Jumping NSW will assist ten regional shows to stage qualifiers for a new championship to be held at SIEC. The emerging Rider Series at SIEC will also provide another series of competitions, in addition to the jam-packed Sydney Showjumping Club schedule.

Jumping NSW has and will continue to represent our members' interests in relation to the Hendra virus. The decision to delay the implementation of the Equestrian Australia Hendra By-Law, to enable a more practical response to be developed, was the correct one.



Jumping NSW has a close connection and strong working relationship with the Board and staff at Equestrian NSW. We appreciate the significant financial contribution that ENSW makes to the sport, including for the major and regional show competitions, SIEC arena upgrades, the new JJD system and officials training. We look forward to this continuing into 2015.

**BRAD LONGHURST**  
President  
Jumping NSW

## DRESSAGE NSW

As always, plenty to occupy DNSW throughout 2014.

Hendra dominated DNSW business throughout the year and the backflip about the Nationals impacted particularly on us at a time when half our Committee and Executive were at WEG and in a different time zone. Although the majority of entries were Hendra Vaccinated, there is still considerable angst regarding the reactions being reported in some horses, and a policy that is still 'up in the

air'. Despite publicly stating our position, we are now facing an EGM on a policy issue over which we have no direct input or control.

Although the introduction of the Amateur Owner Rider status has proved popular at our DNSW Clarendon events, the take up in new membership is low/only consistent with last year's numbers, more of a case of lapsed members rejoining. However, it is positive that the trend to declining membership over recent years has been halted. The AOR has seen slow uptake amongst regional clubs, not unexpectedly as there has to be a demand and the majority of clubs just don't have the groundswell asking for it.



In July we introduced the Clarendon Winter Festival which made a fun event of a usually bleak time of the year and great feedback from all involved. The interest and income generated will see it become a feature on the Clarendon calendar.

- Clarendon Judges Seminars: H, EF, CD and AB all held in first half of the year at Clarendon plus Young Horse and Para-Equestrian
- Judges seminars were also run at Taree – D/C level and E/F level,
- Narrabri – E/F/H levels, Young – H level, Bowral – 2 x seminars.
- Upgrades: 4 Judges to Novice Level/1 Judge to Advanced Level whilst still in 2014 -1 Judge is sitting A Level in Victoria
- 1 Judge is sitting B Level in Queensland
- 2 new Judge Educators appointed.
- 6 H levels accredited this year and the current number of H level judges is 35 which includes 21 new applicants who have applied but still working on pre-requisites.

Our calendar continues to show that demand for competition still puts pressure on the supply of judges. We have 6 delegates reporting on the issues clubs are experiencing. We continue to strongly lobby the ADC re the need for flexibility within the NOAS for regional clubs and judges with long distance issues – albeit we offer travel subsidies for Sydney seminars, many face round trips in

excess of 1000km to attend Sydney seminars/workshops.

In October alone, there were 19 dressage events being held somewhere in the state, and any one weekend can have 6-8 events being conducted, including Eventing, breed societies or Interschool. All up over 270 events held in NSW for 2014.

Regarding participation classes 12 months on – few clubs offering this or they're running with minimal entries – still confusion being reported as well as a level of condescension to club members.

Updating to include Elementary may bring more incentive – this is another issue on which we have lobbied strongly and from the ADC meeting with SDA's this look like coming in across all EA levels.

The highlights of our year are undoubtedly the Sydney CDI3\*, the NSW Dressage Championships, including NSW Para Equestrian Championships, the Saddleworld Australian Dressage Championships and Para Equestrian Championships.

The 2014 NSW Young Rider Championships and Pony Dressage Championships (Open) were successfully conducted on our behalf by the Young Dressage Club and we thank both the club and ENSW for their support; it is vital across the board as competition for the sponsorship dollar sees shrinking margins, despite the continuing viability of our sport.



The success of our major events is due to the dedication and hard work of members of our committee and their support teams and also a loyal base of volunteers and major sponsors. We especially acknowledge our Metropolitan Delegate Sue Baker as Event Director for the NSW Dressage Championships for the second year.

During the current calendar year our expenses on Championships has been approximately \$670,000 with a major component being the cost of hiring SIEC.

It is always worth reminding the Board that the Sydney CDI (April-May), the NSW Young Rider and Pony Championships, the NSW Dressage Championships (September) and the Nationals in

October and the monthly Clarendon calendar of events and protocol days are all held under the umbrella of DNSW on behalf of ENSW.

We are the only state SDA to manage such an event load as well as being sports administrators.

Clarendon is our biggest investments and in 2014 we have continued to ensure suitable conditions for competition and to address rider issues. Mid week Protocol and training days are in high demand and we now hold a number of the monthly events over 3 days. Another of our achievements for 2014 is the continuation of the Regional Dressage Festival.

**PRUE SPURETT**  
**President**  
**Dressage NSW**

## VAULTING NSW

The past year has been very busy both for the NSW Vaulting committee and the vaulting clubs and groups participating in vaulting in New South Wales.

The following is a summary by month of the major events held over the past year.

January – a successful six day National Workshop was conducted in Canberra by Tristyn Lowe, the EA National High Performance Manager for Vaulting. The first day was devoted to the professional development of the different levels of officials followed by four days of intensive training and guidance by leading Australian and International clinicians for vaulters, lungers, coaches and interested spectators. The final day allowed for review and assessment for coaches and lungers requiring accreditation or re-accreditation.

February – two NSW judges, Robyn Bruderer and Jenny Scott joined judges from other states at the annual National Judges Workshop held in Boonah, Queensland. The workshop is conducted over two days and allows the Judges Panel to discuss issues that have arisen during the year and review each judge's performance. The judges train together to ensure different aspects of the judging technical criteria have a common understanding and they practice judge any areas where the judges maybe experiencing difficulty.



March – the Annual Equestrian NSW Awards Night – the outstanding vaulters, coaches and volunteers of the year were rewarded in this prestigious showcase of their triumphs. The discipline of vaulting is appreciative that its membership is recognized in these Awards.

May – the Scone Horse Festival Vaulting Competition – this event has rapidly become the most popular event on the NSW vaulting calendar. It is held as part of the Scone Horse Festival and the vaulters take part in the Horse Parade through the township of Scone. The event is conducted on the property of Robyn and Allen Boyle and with the help of their five boys they manage a vaulting competition for over sixty competitors many of whom camp on the lawns of the property. Apart from being a great social occasion, the relaxed, friendly atmosphere makes this event a top priority for most vaulters, their families and their horses.

June – the NSW Inter-schools competition – this one day event is always hectic but the vaulters enjoy being part of their school teams. A new team from Yanco High School made a start to their vaulting careers at this Event under guidance of Sarah Venamore. This new group managed to field competitors across most of the program which was no small achievement.

July – several NSW vaulters participated in European CVIs during the year with gradually improving results. This experience taught many valuable lessons both now as vaulters and for the future when they become coaches, judges and officials. Two NSW vaulters competed in the Queensland squad at the World Equestrian Games. Having had their best horse fail the vet check, the team participated on the reserve horse only found out at the competition that the horse had a tendency for becoming distressed at large events. They managed to complete their compulsory and freestyle rounds on a very erratic horse which was a great credit to them.

August – The NSW State Vaulting Championship was conducted at the National Equestrian Centre in Canberra. The weather was very cold which gave the vaulters great incentive to dedicate plenty of time and energy to their warm ups before competing. The Scone and Equiste vaulters and horses had a particularly rewarding competition.

September – A NSW Workshop was conducted over four days for the benefit of vaulters, coaches, officials, volunteers, lungers and horses. With a very varied program of activities and trainers from Australia and overseas, participants were kept busy and challenged throughout the workshop.



October – thirty NSW vaulters travelled down to Adelaide to compete at the Vaulting National Championships. Only a few horses braved the long trip so the majority of vaulters competed on interstate horses. Vaulting on unfamiliar horses is great training for when the vaulters head overseas to participate in CVI's as this usually on unfamiliar horses. Kayla Brewer from NSW was crowned National Individual Female Champion.

Apart from this full calendar of activity, vaulting continues to grow its expertise in a variety of ways. For example Lee Briggs, a recently retired individual male champion vaulter is now studying Event Management with a view to one day bring his newly acquired skills into the vaulting world to further develop this aspect of our sport. Training for officials and volunteers will continue to be a focus in the coming year.

The NSW Vaulting committee wishes to express its appreciation to Equestrian NSW for the expert support of the professional staff in the Equestrian NSW office and the generous financial support of vaulters and events.

**JENNY SCOTT**  
Chair  
Vaulting NSW



## NSW INTERSCHOOL

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

The NSW Interschool State Championships had a change of date this year and was run in June. This provided competitors with a chance to have their horses ready and a few more qualifying events under their belt. However with the loss of extra daylight we ensured that competition scheduling was planned to the minute.

The competition gets bigger each year! Over 200 schools were represented with 1,686 entries across all classes. The change to the format this year saw the event run Primary and Secondary class divisions. From an organisers perspective a lot easier to manage and schedule. Show Horse competition again proved popular with strong entries in both Primary and Secondary divisions.

We were indeed fortunate to welcome back CopRice as the sponsor of the Eventing and Combined Training. Agnes Banks Equine Clinic has been a long term supporter and this year sponsored the Jumping.



Behind the scenes every week, the Sydney International Equestrian Centre team maintain and steadily upgrade the arenas and cross country footing, improve the infrastructure and ensure that the whole venue is presented as a world class facility. SIEC sponsored the Dressage competition this year.

For Jumping, John Vallance designed the tracks. John has vast experience as an international course designer and brought his commitment to forward riding and flow to the jumping arena.

Darryl Burgess our first-time cross country course designer, was ably assisted by course builder Brett Ryan. Darryl has a really practical approach to course design, based on his many years working on some of the best tracks in the country. The Sydney 3DE and Sydney Eventing committees kindly agreed for us to use some of their cross country jumps. Norm Hindmarsh and Matthew Bates were our Technical Delegates, ably assisted by Ian Menzies. Andrea Webb, Chief Steward, was fresh back from officiating at Tattersalls in Ireland.

Interschool is a massive effort for the organising committee. Vicki Burgess, Elysha Sargent, Helen Wilkinson, Tina Stafford, Linda Beneke and Andrea Webb are the glue that holds the whole competition together. Beth Turner was a great help with the dressage judges. As always, Judy Fasher's wise counsel was appreciated.

Elise Payne and Teenage Witch were the 2014 Champion Primary Rider and Sarah Faraway and GV Ryans Rave were the Champion Secondary Rider for 2014. Champion Secondary School was Frensham, second year in a row with All Saints Bathurst not far behind. The Junior campus of Frensham Gib Gate won Champion Primary School so it was a win - win for the Winifred West schools based in the Southern Highlands. The schools will receive their award at the NSW Awards for Excellence being held in March in 2015.

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

This year saw the return of the National Championships to Melbourne. NSW had a strong team of 65 competitors who along with their parents headed south. The cold inclement Werribee weather certainly didn't disappoint providing sun, wind and rain across the week.



It was nice to see some competitors returning to represent NSW and for others it was their first time. Distinctive new uniforms, team brow bands and blue war paint added to the team morale building exercise.

Personal bests were achieved as were many ribbons across the disciplines. It was great to see the competitors really get behind and support each other and represent their state with pride.



NSW has been awarded the rights to host the 2015 National Interschool Championships and planning will commence shortly along with the State Championships. A busy year is scheduled for 2015 with some announcements to follow.

**ANDREA WEBB**  
*Interschool  
Equestrian NSW*

## NCAS

### NCAS COMMITTEE

Three positions on the National NCAS committee came up for re-election in October. Nominations were called for from all registered EA coaches. Following the election Simon Kale (NSW) was returned to the committee and elected as the Committee Chairman. Philippa Collier and Tim Calkin were also elected to the skills based panel.

### NCAS CANDIDATE TRAINING

Two NSW candidates enrolled in the Level 3 coaching course:

- Peter Shaw
- Caroline Twomey;
- Sarah Venamore (attending for professional development only)

### COACH EDUCATOR/SSTA COURSE

Two Coach Educator/SSTA courses were held in 2014. 26 participants attended the course conducted in Sydney and 11 attended the course run in the ACT. The workshops were attended by prospective and renewing Coach Educators and Skill Specific Training Assessors.

## COACH UPDATING CLINICS

A large number of Coach updating clinics run by Coach Educators were advertised throughout the year on the NSW branch website. Coaches who were required to attend an updating clinic in 2014 to meet their coach registration renewal requirements were able to choose from either a face to face or online clinic. Every effort was made to ensure sufficient opportunity was made available to all updating coaches.

## ONLINE COACHING RENEWALS

Coaches were again able to renew their accreditation online this year. Hard copies of renewals were available to those coaches who did not have email access. Coach renewals are being offered for a nine month period of insurance and registration to June 2015 to bring the coaches in line with the membership year.

## NCAS CALENDAR

The Coaching Calendar was constantly updated to include the very latest clinic dates and also courses and training days offered by coaches to new and existing candidates during 2014.

## EQUI-SKILLS

Equi-Skills enrolments continue to grow, especially with the support and involvement of a small group of coaches who are involved with junior development. 25 new school students and 4 adult enrolments were received in 2014 with a current total of 648 school students and 99 adults having enrolled since 2006.

## READY SET TROT

Ready Set Trot is all about junior participation and has been developed for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 who don't have a horse of their own. The programme comprises a set syllabus to be offered by approved Delivery Centres with access to school horses using eight x two hour lessons plans of mounted and unmounted group activities.

There are currently six registered and approved Stable Skills Delivery Centres in NSW with another three recently registering and awaiting approval.

**SUE BIRCH**  
*NCAS Coordinator  
Equestrian NSW*

## SHOW HORSE

The Show Horse Committee had several changes during 2014. Joh Bailey stepped away for a few months and has since returned. Anne Scambry has filled the vacancy left by Kylie Douglas and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kylie for her assistance for the three years she was on the Committee, Kylie will be sadly missed.

The 2014 Equestrian NSW Elizabeth Farm Horse of the Year Show", was again held at SIEC, this year, the show was held in February instead of after Easter as has been the custom over the past few years. The 2014 show marked a first for our discipline with the entire two days of the show filmed by Live Stream. This allowed hack enthusiasts across Australia and beyond to tune in and watch the show as it happened. From the feedback received this proved to be very popular.

The 2014 show once again saw a great roll up of lovely horses and accomplished riders, with the Winner and Runner Up in each section qualifying to represent NSW at the National Show Horse and Rider Championships conducted at Werribee, Victoria in December 2014. Plans are underway for the 2015 Equestrian NSW Horse of the Year Show to again be held at SIEC in February.



Our second show for 2014 saw the re-introduction of the Equestrian NSW Show Horse State Cup. This was held in October at Hawkesbury Showgrounds Clarendon. It is intended for this show to be an annual event.

This along with the ENSW Horse of the Year and the EA National Horse & Rider Championships will provide competitors with a point score system accumulated over the three shows. This will decide the ENSW Show Horse nominations for the 2014 Equestrian NSW Awards in categories for Pony, Horse, Junior and Senior Athlete of the Year.



The Show Horse Committee would like to acknowledge the assistance of the CEO and staff in the ENSW office throughout 2014 and we look forward to continued growth and participation for our discipline in 2015.

**ROBIN BLAND**  
*Chair*  
*Show Horse NSW*

## CARRIAGE DRIVING

Carriage Driving has certainly had a year of growth in 2013 - 2014 with Boyd Exell once again raising the bar on the international stage with unbeatable performances in all arenas. Boyd's success, horsemanship and performance has definitely had a flow on effect to our Australian drivers, giving all driving equestrians a renewed passion and determination in taking this fast growing discipline to a new level here in Australia.



The Carriage Driving High Performance Program as part of the EA National High Performance Program during 2013 - 2014 has been exciting and innovating. Only one HPP was conducted during this period in Holbrook NSW attracting the most selected members.

This two day program was held in January at Ross and Miriam Carbery's fabulous property near Holbrook NSW where dedicated and keen drivers travelled from all over to be instructed by Elite Coach Boyd Exell and to be assessed and given feedback by the



Selectors. From across Australia, fourteen selected Future Squad members attended, with an additional four A Squad members two of which were preparing their lead up to qualify for the World Singles Championships in Hungary at the end of September.

This Camp was organised and hosted by the Southern Carriage Driving Club. Max Pearce, Dot Willcoxson (our new assistant HP director) and the Carriage Driving Selectors, Judy Meredith (Chair), Bob Edwards and Margaret O'Brien work tirelessly to keep the program running smoothly. The two day structure of the Camp was an educational and skill intensive for all who attended.



### **Southern Carriage Driving Club**

The Southern Carriage Driving Club continues to thrive in promoting development of Carriage driving within Australia. Boyd Exell assisted the club with the staging of a very successful Winter workshop.

### **Horse Driving Trials Club**

The Horse Driving Trials Club covers a large portion of Northern NSW, having sub groups in Casino, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Armidale, Inverell, Moonbi and Bingara. This Club had many planned activities throughout the year, including a Bob Edwards training clinic at AELEC & an unofficial CDE at Grafton.

**RON CUNNEW**  
*Chair  
Driving NSW*