



# EQUESTRIAN NSW INCORPORATED

ABN 17 157 619 696

## ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE 2022

## **EQUESTRIAN NSW**

Equestrian NSW was established in 1951 and incorporated in 1990.

We are a state branch of Equestrian Australia, which is the peak body for equestrian sports in Australia. The main functions of Equestrian NSW and Equestrian Australia are to provide a fair and structured framework for equestrian activities and to promote, develop and grow the sport. Safety and horse welfare are at the core of everything that we do. Our aim is to improve facilities and access to competitions and training throughout NSW. We are also here to encourage and promote equestrian sport, increase spectator levels, administer coach and official education and attract sponsorship funding.

Equestrian NSW is a not-for-profit organisation, comprising individual members, affiliated clubs, constituents, coaches and officials. Membership throughout NSW is almost 9,000, with more than 120 affiliated clubs offering Equestrian Australia competitions.

The vision of Equestrian NSW is to provide leadership for equestrian sport in NSW, promoting participation and the pursuit of excellence from the grass roots through to the elite levels of the sport, based on a foundation of fair and safe competition and the welfare of its human and equine athletes.

Equestrian NSW also maintains affiliations with relevant state government and non-government agencies such as the NSW Office of Sport, NSW Department of Education and the NSW Institute of Sport.

Equestrian NSW embraces the following sports:

- Driving (an international sport)
- Dressage (an international and Olympic sport)
- Para Dressage (an international and Olympic sport)
- Eventing (an international and Olympic sport)
- Interschool (a national school sport)
- Show Horse (a national sport)
- Jumping (an international and Olympic sport)
- Vaulting (an international sport)
- Working Equitation (an international sport)

The Equestrian NSW office is situated on the grounds of the Sydney International Equestrian Centre at Horsley Park in Sydney.

## ENSW BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Equestrian sports have again been challenged by difficult circumstances in New South Wales in 2022. The first half of the year was beset by record amounts of rainfall and flooding across the State, which severely disrupted not only equestrian competition, but many people's lives and livelihoods through property damage from heavy rain and flooding. Pleasingly, conditions improved in the second half of the year and that has seen significant numbers of competitions being able to be run again. In fact, the future is currently looking very bright for the commencement of a range of shows across all disciplines in the next few years.

Equestrian NSW has had major changes in its governance in 2022. Our longstanding Chief Executive Officer Bruce Farrar stepped aside in October 2022 and then tendered his resignation in December. I would firstly like to take the opportunity to acknowledge Bruce's long service to the organisation and thank him for his hard work and leadership. We wish him well for his future.

We also saw the term of Board Member Alexandra Townsend come to an end during 2022 and Alex decided not to run for the Board again. This has left a vacancy on the Board, given that there were three Board members whose terms came up for review and only two of those – Coco Miles and Brad Frankum – decided to reapply. The Board is currently undertaking a process of identifying a suitable member to step into the role on the Board.

2022 also saw Amy Eggleton join the Board. Amy brings considerable experience from her time on the Board of Equestrian Queensland, in addition to a background in financial systems and human resources and has made a valuable contribution to the Board as well as to the Finance & Risk Committee already. We have also seen Board Members Amber Fuller, Lisa Winn, and Suzanne Cunningham continue in their roles. Lisa has been a member of the Equestrian Australia Working Party to review the structure of Equestrian Australia and has made very valuable contributions to that process.

In September 2022, the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the granting of the contract for the re-surfacing of the indoor arena at Sydney International Equestrian Centre released its findings. Those findings were significantly adverse for Equestrian NSW. The findings called into question the process by which the tender for the replacement of the arena surface was undertaken. It also criticised the relationship between the Office of Sport NSW and Equestrian NSW. The Board of ENSW takes the findings of the report very seriously. The relationship with the Office of Sport has been compromised, but both ENSW and the Office of Sport have reached out in a bid to repair the situation. Meetings have been scheduled for February of this year between the Director of the Office of Sport, the Chair of Equestrian NSW, and the interim CEO of Equestrian NSW.

Following on from the resignation of Bruce Farrar the ENSW Board has appointed Mrs Vireena Peacock as the Interim Chief Executive Officer. I would like to acknowledge our gratitude to Vireena for stepping into this role. Vireena was working for us as Education Manager prior to moving to the Interim CEO role. Vireena excelled in her role as Education Manager and managed to travel to multiple venues across New South Wales and meet many of our members. Vireena has hit the ground running in her role as Interim CEO. She has a background in the corporate world as well as equestrian administration and brings a highly consultative approach to the role. I wish her well.

The Board of Equestrian Australia has commissioned a working party to look into reforming the structure of Equestrian Australia. That process is ongoing. Inevitably, the changes that the EA Board presents to the membership will have impact on the State Branches, including our own. At this stage it is unclear to what degree those recommendations will advocate for change in the structure and the

function of the State Branches. The Board of Equestrian NSW remains in communication with EA and has been asked for input into the process on a number of occasions. Until EA does finalise its recommendations, we at ENSW cannot make any major decisions regarding any changes in structure or function of our organisation. Nevertheless, we continue to perform our role in working for members and in implementing the strategic plan (the “Leg-Up”) that was determined two years ago. The aim is for a further strategic planning meeting shortly after Easter this year, to update our plan and set strategic directions for the next two years.

Members will note that there have been a number of legal expenses in the financial year 2021-2022. The legal expenses were incurred by representation at the Upper House Inquiry and for the purpose of investigating a long-running and potentially serious complaint made by a member. Both of these events are highly unusual, and the Board would not expect similar types of legal expense to be needed in the immediate future. In recognising the importance of governance to the organisation, and the importance of prompt and thorough complaint handling, the Board did employ a Governance Officer. I would like to thank Renae Dorney for the work she performed for ENSW in that role. Unfortunately, Renae has decided not to continue in the role and the Board will make a decision as to the ongoing need for a Governance Officer forthwith.

Our membership is overall stable. This is quite remarkable given the circumstances of the last few years. Our membership numbers do fluctuate depending on the time of the year and on the events that are coming up. We have not seen any worrying trend in terms of loss of membership and we remain in a healthy financial position. This allows us to support the disciplines in running education and competitions. The next ten years should be a very exciting time in equestrian sports in Australia with the Olympic Games coming to Queensland in 2032. The ENSW Board is very conscious of using this great opportunity to further our sport for all of our members and participants.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members. These are highly capable and skilled people, with enormous integrity and who have faced a number of challenging situations with great common sense and fairness. I would also like to thank our wonderful office staff, who have worked very hard for our members all year, and on top of that managed to run a highly successful Awards Night just recently and also run the National Show Horse Championships in November last year. Congratulations also to all of the award winners from our recent Awards Night.

I look forward to continuing on the Board of Equestrian NSW for the remainder of this current two-year term. I also welcome constructive feedback from the membership about important issues.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor Brad Frankum OAM (ENSW Board Chair)**

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 2021-22 financial year began with most of NSW in full lockdown with stay at home orders in place for many areas of the state. These restrictions started to lift in October 2021 just before heavy rains and floods again stopped activities with widespread flooding in New South Wales affecting regions from the Queensland border through to the Sydney metropolitan area, parts of the South Coast and multiple locations in inland New South Wales.

During the COVID-19 shutdown, the Equestrian NSW team worked reduced hours and every effort was made to cut spending with all staff supported through with the Job Keeper allowance. Members were provided with service from the homes of the team members.

After the floods subsided in 2022 Equestrian Events commenced in earnest across that state. The discipline and committee reports discuss details of the highlights for their areas.

For the second year running the Coaching NSW Committee staged a full day of coaching professional development at SIEC. Sponsored by ENSW attendance was free for all EA accredited coaches. Cross discipline training was the focus with coaches treated to Rozzie Ryan coaching show jumpers in flatwork and Colleen Brook coaching dressage riders through grids and poles. Vaulting was highlighted as a developing sport with Gillian Burns discussing the intricacies of vaulting and rounding off the day with a demonstration from her athletes. Warren Kenaugh was a guest speaker discussing coaching from the athlete's perspective and the work that he does with high performance athletes in many sports. All sessions were professionally videoed and are now available to coaches on the ENSW Learning Management System.

The following day was dedicated to Para-Equestrian and Equibility coaching and competition coordinated by Jenny Carroll. Attendees who came from both the EA coaching community as well as the RDA community and were able to see a demonstration of a float-mounted lift to assist disabled riders to mount at competitions as well as listen to Mary Longden first discuss and then demonstrate techniques in coaching riders with a disability. A fabulous group of riders agreed to be demonstration riders. The day culminated in these riders completing protocol sessions with Sue Cunningham – enabling them to receive individual feedback on their test riding from the very best.

The 2022 Equestrian NSW Strategic Plan was based on community and collaboration and placing safety and horse welfare at the centre of everything we do. Key objectives include improving safety across all disciplines, appointing a Chief Governance Officer and Education Manager and providing a framework to enable the disciplines, coaches, officials and clubs to work together and share resources. To this end Renae Dorney was appointed as Chief Governance Officer in late 2021 Vireena Peacock commenced as Education Manager in January 2022.

The Education Manager was tasked with providing resources to the equestrian community across NSW with an initial focus on risk management and supporting equestrian clubs as clubs are where the majority of equestrian activities occur. In the first half of 2022 an online training package on risk management for club activities was developed and a learning management system (LMS) on the Moodle Platform was launched. It was determined that the best way to launch the material was to head out and visit the clubs across NSW and run information and training sessions for club organising committees. Between April and July 229 people from Bega to Grafton and west to Albury and Dubbo attended some lively sessions giving and receiving ideas and feedback on ways to improve the safety for attendees. The LMS now has 447 registered users and provides a platform to link information for Clubs, Coaches and anyone else who would like to use it. It is complementary to the LMS launched by Equestrian Australia in December and EA have had input into the work of ENSW to ensure that there was no overlap or wasted resources.

From myself, I sincerely thank our member services team and the Equestrian NSW Board, lead capably by Professor Brad Frankum. During the past year Amber Fuller, Coco Miles, Sue Cunningham and Amy Eggleton have joined the board with Ally McLean joining and chairing our Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee.

In late November 2022, we sadly saw the resignation of Bruce Farrar after more than 9 years of passionate and committed service to Equestrian NSW. His legacy in advancing the sport in NSW will stand for a long time to come.

Finally, to you our members, your strength and resilience throughout COVID and the extreme weather events has been appreciated. We are excited for the year to come and wish your every success for the year ahead.

**Vireena Peacock (Interim CEO)**

## GOVERNANCE

In 2020-21, the Equestrian NSW Board consisted of:

Board Member	Board Meetings	
	Eligible	Attended
Brad Frankum	11	11
Helen Batson	5	5
David Cameron	5	4
Coco Miles	11	11
Katie Robertson	11	11
Alexandra Townsend	11	9
Jamie Winning-Kermond	5	3
Amber Fuller	6	6
Sue Cunningham	6	6
Lisa Winn	6	6

**Professor Brad Frankum OAM (Bachelor of Medicine (Hons), Fellow Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Fellow of the Australian Medical Association)** - was elected to the Board at the 2020 AGM and continues as Board President. Brad is a Consultant Clinical Immunologist and Allergist and past Chairman and President of the Australian Medical Association NSW and past Federal Councillor of the Australian Medical Association. Brad served on the NSW Show Jumping Council for five years, was an Elite National Squad Member for Showjumping from 1998 until 2003 and now regularly competes up to 1.40m with one horse and 1.30m on another.

**Helen Batson (Bachelor of Applied Science and Bachelor of Commerce)**. Helen was appointed to the Equestrian NSW Board in 2020. She is a private company director, has worked in finance and property and was the Project Director for the public/private \$1.2bn Rouse Hill Development. Helen is a former President of Dressage NSW, is a keen breeder, rider up the Inter 1 level, level D Judge and generous owner/supporter of elite dressage horses.

**David Cameron (Bachelor of Human Movement and Bachelor of Education)** – joined the Board in 2019. David is an elite showjumping athlete, an Australian Showjumping Champion, served on the Equestrian Australia Board and Jumping Committee, is an accredited Coach and former school teacher. David resigned from the board at the end of 2021.

**Coco Miles (Bachelor of Communication)**. Coco was elected to the Board at the 2020 AGM. She has a strong equestrian background, having competed in Jumping (up to World Cup level), Showing and Eventing. She currently serves on the Equestrian Australia Jumping Committee, is a principal of Windsor Stables and is a developer with the Australian-based designer equestrian label Emcee Apparel.

**Katie Robertson (Bachelor of Commerce, Chartered Accountant, Harvard Advanced Management Program)** - represented Scotland in Junior Eventing, supports a number of high-level eventers, has a strong background in strategy, governance and risk management and is currently the Chief Financial Officer and Head of Business Performance and Reporting of the Financial Services Division at Macquarie Bank. Katie resigned in 2022 as a result of an overseas relocation

**Alexandra Townsend (Bachelor of Arts History (Hons) and Masters in Journalism)** - re-joined the Equestrian NSW Board at the 2020 AGM. She is a former Public Relations Manager for National Geographic, Principal of the Animal Company, importing and distributing equine products and clothes,

is a 4\* Eventer, Level 2 EA Coach, owner/operator of Wallaby Hill Farm, Event Director of Wallaby Hill 3DE and tireless supporter of equestrian sports, both in Australia and on the international stage.

**Jamie Winning-Kermond** – joined the Board in 2019. Jamie is an elite Jumping rider having represented Australia at Nations Cup and competed in Europe at the highest level, is the owner/manager of Yandoo Equestrian, was previously on the Jumping NSW Committee and has helped stage the annual Showcase of Showjumping. Jamie resigned from the Board at the end of 2021.

**Amber Fuller** – joined the board at the end of 2021. Amber is a current Grand Prix rider, a former Australian Show Jumping Champion and co-creator of the Rider Series and Australian Jumping Teams League. Amber holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws.

**Lisa Winn** – joined the board at the end of 2021. Lisa was formerly the Chief Marketing Officer for the Coco Cola Company Australia and NZ, is a keen amateur eventer and is also the Chair the Equestrian NSW Communications and Marketing Committee. Amber holds a Bachelor of Commerce with First Class Honours.

**Sue Cunningham** – joined the board at the end of 2021. Sue is currently the Judge Coordinator of Dressage NSW, is a FEI Para Dressage 5\* Judge and National A level Judge, is a Member of the FEI Para Dressage Technical Committee, judged at the 2018 WEG and 2021 Tokyo Paralympics and is an EA Level 2 Dressage Coach and SSTA.



## MEMBERSHIP & SERVICES

Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change
Competitor - Senior	3593	3276	3253	3366	3247	-3.5%
Competitor - Junior	2001	2065	2053	2255	2109	-6.5%
Participant	1952	1923	2015	2244	2110	-6.0%
Supporter	376	321	349	354	364	2.8%
Supporter - Official	239	250	265	228	228	0.0%
Groups	259	245	244	207	231	11.6%
Total	8420	7835	7935	8447	8058	-4.6%

Overall membership numbers decreased by 4.6% due to COVID and Floods and the resultant lack of competition. Groups increased by 11.6% with a rebound in Agricultural Societies re-affiliating and 9 new clubs as competition recommenced.

The following table shows the breakdown of Equestrian NSW membership fees for 2021-22.

FY2022 Fees	EA Component			ENSW	Total
	Admin	Insurance	Total		
Competitor	\$60.02	\$59.11	\$119.13	\$137.87	\$257.00
Junior	\$21.35	\$21.53	\$42.88	\$88.12	\$131.00
Participant	\$25.41	\$59.11	\$84.52	\$97.48	\$182.00
Supporter - Official	\$25.41	\$59.11	\$84.52	\$41.48	\$126.00
Supporter	\$25.41	\$59.11	\$84.52	\$78.48	\$163.00

The following table shows membership fees for the last five years.

Member Category	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Senior Competitor	\$245	\$254	\$257	\$208	\$257
Junior	\$125	\$129	\$131	\$104 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$131 <sup>(1)</sup>
Participant	\$173	\$180	\$182	\$152	\$182
Supporter - Official	\$120	\$125	\$126	\$110	\$90
Supporter	\$155	\$161	\$163	\$138	\$163
Club	\$220	\$224	\$227	\$227	\$227

(1) Equestrian NSW Junior members were eligible for a \$100 Active Kids voucher from the NSW Government Office of Sport.

In the 2020-21 fees were reduced to assist members with the challenges of COVID. In 2021-22 fees were returned to the pre-pandemic level.

Equestrian NSW receives income for horse competition licenses (performance cards) for all the Disciplines, with the Olympic sports making up the majority, as shown in the table below.

Discipline	Number of Licenses	Cost per License	2021-22 Income
Dressage	2,486	\$36	\$89,500
Eventing	764	\$36	\$27,500
Jumping	1,434	\$41	\$58,800
Show Horse	668	\$22	\$14,700
Total	5,352		\$190,500

Equestrian NSW Members receive the following benefits:

- Competition Pathways - being a member of Equestrian NSW means you can compete at events run by our affiliated clubs and commercial groups, overseen by accredited officials using rules and resources that are internationally recognised by the FEI.
- Insurance – your membership provides you with competitive 24/7 personal accident and public liability insurance when you are doing non income earning equestrian activities.
- Discipline Support – Equestrian NSW funded more than \$423,000 to our Disciplines, to assist with administration, safety, official education, swabbing, major events, high performance and club development.
- Member Services – delivered by the customer focused service team based at Sydney International Equestrian Centre, using the MyEA IT platform.
- Education – Equestrian NSW funds a range of education programs for officials, coaches and our Juniors.
- High Performance – provides funding and support for our elite NSW-based horse and rider combinations towards representing Australia at international competitions.
- Representation – Equestrian NSW represents its members' interests with State Government agencies, to secure grants, develop infrastructure and have input into equestrian related laws and legislation.

## FINANCE

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Revenue	\$2,594,000	\$2,863,000	\$2,627,000	\$2,684,000	\$2,684,642
Expenses	\$2,521,000	\$2,961,000	\$2,499,000	\$2,305,000	\$2,780,471
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$73,000	-\$98,000	\$128,000	\$379,000	-\$95,829

The financial results for 2021-22 -did not meet the expectations set by the Board, which were:

- Budget – Breakeven. Actual \$95,829 deficit, mainly the result of additional expenditure in Professional Expenses (legal fees) up by \$207,000, Marketing and Promotion up by \$29,000 and National Expenses up by \$67,000.
- Maintain a minimum cash holding of \$800,000. Actual \$1,927,000 including \$791,000 for 2022-23 income in advance and \$172,000 held in the Australian Sports Foundation related accounts, resulting in a net position of \$1,136,000.
- Protect equity of \$800,000. Actual \$1,121,000

## Equity

	2021-22
Cash and Equivalents	\$2,436,000
Current Assets	\$2,508,000
Non-current Assets	\$79,987
Total Assets	\$2,588,000
Current Liabilities	\$1,464,000
Non-current Liabilities	\$3,000
Total Liabilities	\$1,467,000
Equity	\$1,121,000

## Ratios

Ratio	How Calculated	Actual	Target
Current Ratio	Current assets / current liabilities	1.7	>1.2
Debt to Equity	Total Liabilities / Equity	1.3	<2.0
Return on Equity	Surplus / Equity	-9%	>20%

## GRANTS

Grant	Amount	2021-22	Carried over to 2022-23
NSW Office of Sport – Development	\$48,500	\$48,500	\$0
NSW Office of Sport – Grass Roots	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0
NSW Office of Sport – Other	\$145,000	\$7,000	\$138,000
Total	\$313,500	\$175,500	\$138,000

## COUNCIL/COMMITTEE Support

Discipline	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Coaching				\$12,835	
Dressage	\$118,228	\$139,455	\$122,575	\$102,900	\$126,800
Driving	\$10,266	\$9,920	\$10,000	\$3,200	
Eventing	\$88,441	\$168,687	\$118,024	\$108,777	\$152,240
Interschools	\$11,554	-\$74,240	-\$53,103	\$26,710	\$41,197
Jumping	\$69,984	\$102,927	\$138,294	\$100,000	\$122,300
Para Dressage				\$26,003	\$79,616
Show Horse	\$33,299	-\$7,687	\$39,111	-\$93,428	\$18,873
Vaulting	\$3,540	-\$7,035	\$16,313	-\$194	-\$6,637
General				\$136,601	\$122,503
Total	\$335,312	\$332,027	\$391,214	\$423,408	\$656,892

Negative figures represent surpluses.

Taking into account the timing of payments, some of which occurred before and after the financial year, the 2020-21 figures shown in the tables below represent a more practical picture.

<b>COACHING &amp; EDUCATION</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Equiskills	\$72
Coaching Work Books	\$1026
Total	\$1,098
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Clinics	\$4,469
Other Expenses	\$878
Total	\$5,349
Net Support	\$4,251

<b>DRESSAGE</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Administration Support	\$18,000
Officials Support	\$33,000
Swabbing	\$5,000
Event Support	\$49,000
High Performance	\$10,000
Other Expenses	\$800
Club Development Grants	\$11,000
Net Support	\$126,800

<b>EVENTING</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Equestrian Australia High Performance Grant	\$21,200
Other Income	\$719
Total	\$21,919
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Administration Support	\$15,000
Officials Support	
High Performance	\$47,200
Safety	\$37,539
Club Development	\$12,000
Event Support	\$55,231
Total	\$174,159
Net Support	\$152,240

INTERSCHOOLS	
<b>Income</b>	
State Championships	\$4,701
Total	\$4,701
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Training Clinics	\$5,898
State Championships	\$27,268
Other Expenses	\$12,732
Total	\$45,898
Net Support	\$41,191

JUMPING	
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Administration Support	\$33,000
Officials Support	\$10,000
Swabbing	\$6,000
Event Support – Summer Classic Sponsorship	\$20,000
Event Support – Other	\$17,300
Other Expenses	\$3,000
Club Development	\$33,000
Net Total	\$122,300

PARA DRESSAGE	
<b>Income</b>	
Para – Grant	\$79,616
Total	\$79,616
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Equibilty Project	\$70,580
Clinics/ Workshops/ Seminars	\$6,392
Other	\$2,644
Total	\$79,616
Net Support	\$0

SHOW HORSE	
<b>Income</b>	
Horse of the Year	\$127,440
Southern Cross Spectacular	\$189,156
Summer Show	\$18,859
National Championships	\$41,477
Total	\$376,932
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Administration Support	\$5,025
Clinics	
Horse of the Year	\$104,390

Southern Cross	\$217,231
Summer Show	\$7,996
Junior Championships	\$2,646
Show Horse Championships	\$237
Other Event Support	
Other Expenses	
Country Championships	\$535
National Championships	\$47,031
Total	\$389,607
Net Support	\$12,675

VAULTING	
<b>Income</b>	
Clinics	\$2,118
Summer Comp	\$13,223
State Championship	\$35,687
Other Event Income	\$300
Total	\$51,328
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Summer Comp	\$13,621
Clinics	\$5,891
State Championships	\$10,525
Major Events	\$636
Other Expenses	\$3,546
Total	\$34,219
Net Support	-\$17,109

<b>NET SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$546,738</b>
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## SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Safety and Welfare Team at Equestrian Australia continue to evolve and improve the safety system surrounding equestrian sport. Incidents are now reported electronically via FORM 08 across Australia which will provide visibility on trends and enable focus on areas that can be improved.

E-scooters are showing as one of the fastest trending causes of incidents at events. A safety alert has been sent to all members advising them that e-scooters, hoverboards and electric skateboards are illegal in NSW and must not be used at events that are held on public property.

## **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Due to the timing of the AGM some of the Reports also include information relating to the full 2022 Calendar year.

### **COACHING**

2022 has been a very busy year for us on the Coaching Committee. Personnel changes since our last report:

We said a sad farewell to Fiona Hughes who resigned early in the year. Fiona was a great help and support on our committee but has her hands full this year.

We have welcomed the following new committee members:

- Sarah Venamore (Level 2 Dressage & Vaulting) from Leeton
- Ben Netterfield (Level 3 Jumping) from Canberra
- Sharmayne Spencer (Level 2 Eventing) from Tamworth

As well as our paid minutes secretary Helene Brassier (Introductory Coach) from Sydney, they join the existing committee of Rachael Downs, Jim Collin, Caroline Hooper and Sally-Ann Barbera.

We have continued to run our popular Zoom series of presentations for coaches with the subjects “Conscious Coaching” presented by Angela Bennet & Ben Netterfield and ‘Safety in Eventing through our Rules & Officials” presented by Matthew Bates and Sharmayne Spencer.

June saw the repeat of our now annual NSW Coaching Seminar, this time held at SIEC as part of the inaugural Hawkesbury Dressage Festival. The spotlight here was on Cross Training and masterclasses were given by Colleen Brook (L3 Jumping) who coached 2 groups of dressage riders on poles and grids for dressage horses, and Rozzie Ryan (L3 Dressage) who coached a series of jumping riders in their flat work. We also had presentations and displays in Vaulting headed by Gillian Burns, IGEQ and it’s role with Simon Kale (L3) and ‘Performing under Pressure – the Mental Skills for Elite Performance. With Warren Kennaugh.

The following day saw the Equibility group present a class on coaching athletes with disabilities with L3 coach Mary Longden.

November saw our last venture of 2022 with an amazing opportunity. We were lucky enough to secure an afternoon exclusively for EA registered coaches with visiting British Dressage team member Gareth Hughes. Gareth taught 4 riders (3 EA coaches and one trainee) at 4 different levels, including one 4\* eventer. Gareth encouraged participation from the group as he asked and answered questions regarding the exercises used.

All of the aforementioned seminars, classes and presentations have been recorded (by another EA Coach Mr Peter Haynes!) and uploaded onto the new LMS with exclusive and ongoing access to these valuable resources for EA coaches.

Our final job of the year was to choose our Coach of the Year award recipients. The following coaches were unanimously agreed upon by our committee as being amazing contributors to our sport and the coaching community over many years. The coaching award recipients were:

Services to Coaching – Simon Kale

Outstanding Achievement- Rozzie Ryan

Lifetime Achievement – Heath Ryan



Community Coach – Megan Bryant

All Coaching NSW ventures have been extremely well attended and received by our coaches. On behalf of our committee and the coaches of NSW I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff and Board of ENSW for their continued invaluable support.

**Sally Barbera– Chair Coaching NSW Committee**

## **DRESSAGE**

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, Dressage NSW held all major events in 2022, including hosting the Amateur Owner Rider Australian Championships for the first time.

Local competitions throughout the state certainly were badly affected by challenging weather. It is disheartening for organising committees who put so much work into an event only to have to cancel, and the resilience of the organising committees across the state is to be congratulated.

Despite cancelled events in all regions, Dressage NSW managed to hold a number of judge workshops, seminars and theory presentations throughout the state, enabling quite a number of judges to upgrade. Jobina Kennedy was recently accredited as an FEI young horse judge, and FEI 3-star judge.

In early 2022 the Dressage NSW Committee conducted strategic planning meetings with the goal to 'understand the present and plan for the future'. Dressage NSW identified the need to renew its whole of sport/whole of state strategy, and focus on its role as the State Dressage Authority, especially to support officials and regional areas.

The Young Rider program is being reinvigorated, with plans to incorporate a similar program for Amateur Owner Riders.

The High Performance Squad has been re-named the High Performance Team, with an emphasis on building a positive culture within the sport. The team clinics have been very well attended and received great feedback from riders.

'Engage', the Learning Management System for officials education is ready to launch, and will streamline education and enhance opportunities for judges across the state. An enormous amount of work has gone into developing the content, which includes videos, clear descriptions of movements and required knowledge, and excellent images. 'Engage' has the added benefit of reducing costs to judges while they gain knowledge and move through the accreditation or upgrade process.

Dressage NSW's Electronic Platforms Working Group has been compiling a Tips and Tricks 'cheat sheet' to assist organising committees maximise their use of electronic platform features, from setting up entries to submitting results, and everything in between.

Dressage NSW is most grateful to Equestrian NSW for their ongoing support.

**Mandy Jones - President Dressage NSW**

## EVENTING

With, we hoped the worst of Covid behind us, 2022 was looking good with over 30 events on the NSW eventing calendar. Riders were keen to get out and compete and while several riders had enjoyed the EvNSW Training Squad clinic at the back end of 2021 others were looking forward to other clinics that were popping up all over the place. Coaches soon realised that although dressage and to an extent showjumping had been possible to practise at home (during covid) the skills of going cross country were a bit rusty, not to mention the horses a bit keen.

Sadly before too many clinics could take place the rain hit and we were all devastated to see the images of cross country course underwater and in the case of Equestriad pretty much the whole club house was underwater. But, like other equestrian sports eventing battled on and a few events did manage to take place in the first part of the year. These events gave the lower-level riders a chance to get out and compete and importantly the higher level riders a chance to get a qualification for the Ariat Sydney 3DE which was due to take place in May.

In March 2022 we heard the heartbreaking news that one of our own Rachel Watts had been tragically killed in a car accident. After being head groom for Shane Rose for many years Rachel had decided to start a new chapter of her life, lecturing at Marcus Oldham College, Geelong where her career in horses had begun and we were all devastated to discover her young life had been cut short. An 'Award for Excellence' was presented, by Shane, to volunteer extraordinaire, Rebecca Andrews, at Sydney 3DE. We all knew Rachel would have approved of the winner.

Eventing NSW ran it's first 'Regional' Clinic in April at Cudgong which was deemed a great success by all who attended. The idea behind the Regional clinics was to get instruction out to all areas of NSW not just the more populated areas. The plan had been to run several more Regional clinics during the year but the weather put paid to that and only one other ran later in the year in Jindabyne. It is hoped that 2023 will see more Regional clinics taking place.

In late June we lost another 'member of our family', Penny Rose. Penny was so many things to so many people. Of course, she was known as Shane's mum but she was an extraordinary woman in her own right and was a strong advocate for young people learning, not just how to ride but how to look after and care for their horses. It is important we don't lose sight of Penny's vision and continue to support our riders in all aspects of their equestrian journey.

During the year Eventing NSW ran HP and Star Squad clinics. These clinics are open to riders who are the higher end of our sport and are financially supported by EA and ENSW. The clinics were well attended but once again a few were not able to take place due to the weather.

As the year progressed and the weather still being temperamental, all eyes became fixed on the WEG in Pratoni. If eventers couldn't event themselves, they were going to watch others event overseas! It was great to see two NSW riders, Hazel Shannon and Shenae Lowings having their first at a major Championships, while other NSW riders Jess Somerfield and Sam Lyle both took horses overseas to gain valuable experience. Although the team didn't come home with a medal a lot of lessons were learnt and we look forward to the next Championship outing for the two first timers.

When we look back we can see that only 16 events ran in 2022 compared to the 32 expected to take place. Sadly, this didn't mean our organising committees sat back and had 'time off'. In fact, several

events were only days out from being able to run before the rain hit, so all the work was done – with no reward. Hopefully 2023 will treat us all better.

On a personal level my first year as President of Eventing NSW Inc has been challenging to say the least. The frustration associated with the inability and cancellation of events and clinics has affected us all. The challenge of eventing is all about being able to compete to further develop and improve our skills and without enough events this becomes very difficult.

As an organisation we are strongly committed to continue promoting and supporting our riders in our Performance Pathway programs mapped out for the continued future success of our sport.

I cannot thank everyone enough for their time and effort dedicated to our sport, which I have now seen in a new light in my position as President of EvNSW. I know and believe our sport will continue to perform at the highest level I will endeavour to lead EvNSW in a way that supports all our riders, whatever their level.

**Tony Harris – President Eventing NSW**

## **INTERSCHOOLS**

Due to Covid 19, all interschool events for 21-22 were cancelled and the team began making plans for The State Interschool Championships in July 22 at SIEC and National Interschool Championships in September 2022.

**Tina Mougios – Operations and Integrity Manager**

## **JUMPING**

The past year has been another busy one for all involved in Showjumping. Our affiliated clubs have been very active in providing many opportunities for our members to participate at all levels across the state. These clubs have been able to facilitate both training days and competition events via the commitment and hard work of a large group of volunteers and we acknowledge and extend our gratitude to all. These volunteers are the backbone of our Jumping community and while it may appear to sometimes go unnoticed or unappreciated, please accept a personal applause and thank you for all your efforts.

The Equestrian NSW awards night was a perfect opportunity to highlight our community's high achievers and we congratulate the 2022 Jumping award recipients.

Athlete of the Year – Tom McDermott

Youth Athlete of the Year – Clemency Hughes

Horse of the Year – Nopal Van Talaert

Owners of the Year – Hamish and Alex Douglas

Volunteer of the Year – Dale Frew

Service to Sport Jumping – Oaks Sporthorses Alice Cameron

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the Jumping NSW committee members. Thank you to our returning members Cathy Brown, Jane Frankum and Sue Ruff for your continued contribution to the committee. Thank you also to Andrew Inglis, George Sanna, James Mooney, Jane Kibble, John

Vallance, Kate Edwards, Kerrie Winning and Vicki Roycroft for continuing to provide your valued input to this team. We are sad to see Bonnie Martin complete her term on our committee and extend wholehearted thanks and appreciation for her work as a Jumping NSW committee member. Once again, the Executive of Jumping NSW Jane Frankum, George Sanna, and Cathy Brown have been incredibly generous with their time and their invaluable contribution to our sport. It is often easy to lose sight of the fact that the work and decisions being made to lead and support this discipline come from a committed group of volunteers. While the contributions we make may not always be accepted by all members, they are certainly made from the position of what is best for our sport within our state.

Reflection on the past year reveals once again a year that has not been without its challenges. While we were able to return to play after COVID and we looked forward to finding our way back to normal competition, the weather and rain events proved to be the next obstacle for organisers to tackle. I pass on my thoughts to all members who have been affected by the floods and commend everyone who has managed to either run training days or competitions under such trying circumstances.

Jumping JNSW continues to appreciate the financial support provided by ENSW and this year the competition funding was greatly appreciated as we returned to competition. This proved to be a great investment for our sport and Jumping NSW was able to offer continued assistance to jumping competitions within the state resulting in Waratah, Sydney Royal, NSW Country and Indoor Championships, NSW State Tiles and Summer Classic all receiving financial support.

The 2022 NSW State Showjumping Titles were hosted by ACT Showjumping Club and the Jumping NSW committee congratulate them on pulling together successful show. The event organisers Manuel Sant and Stacey Smith were faced with the onerous and exhausting task of pulling together our State Titles while facing some extreme weather challenges and having to make last minute critical decisions. We applaud you and your team for bringing it all together and hosting a great event. Congratulations also to our 2022 State Champions, Senior Champion Amber Fuller, Young Rider Champion Tori Cureton and Junior Champion Ella Hayward.

We were also pleased to offer a Regional Competition Support Grant with 6 clubs receiving support, Berry, Dubbo, Mirrabooka, Tweed, Valleys and Rivers and the North and Northwest Showjumping Club. We were also able to offer a significant increase in support for the FEI World Cup Qualifiers held in NSW. The committee resolved that due to the greater number of officials required to host this class combined with the cancellations of these event in the previous year, that it was important to support these competitions.

Other avenues of financial support provided by Jumping NSW to our affiliated clubs included the medical support grant provided to 8 clubs and our JJD Support via payment of the annual software license fee.

At our Winter Classic event held in July 2022 we ran a trial Course Designers mentoring program where we offered two aspiring CDs an opportunity to build outside of their usual capacity and under the guidance of John Vallance. Both candidates were pleased with the platform and the experience they gained, with John also agreeing it was a worthwhile exercise and Jumping NSW hope expand the concept.

This year we hosted our first Jump Club forum that received positive feedback and it was agreed it would be beneficial to host two to three of these online get togethers a year. We plan to program these forums into our calendar. We recognise that this sport is heavily reliant upon our Clubs as they provide the platform from where our sport develops and improvement in our communication flow is vital.

Jumping NSW has identified the following key areas of focus for the next year. A commitment to official's education and re-accreditation, continued JJD licensing support, and to build on our seasonal shows, being Autumn, Winter, and Spring where we are exploring the possibility of including a series across these shows, along with a commitment to Summer Classic. Jumping NSW has also committed to hosting the 2023 NSW State tiles. We will also strive to continue to work on improving the communication pathways with clubs and members and look forward to a successful and productive year ahead.

**Annette Maunder - President Jumping NSW**

## **SHOW HORSE**

As a result of COVID and floods 2021 was a quiet year for Show Horse.

In 2021 Equestrian NSW Show Horse Committee ran the BARE Equestrian Horse of the year in September, the qualifying event for the EA Australasian Show Horse & Rider Championships, which due to COVID was run in March 2022 at Werribee. NSW had a team of 90 horses compete at this event, and won the team trophy.

The committee ran a successful 2022 Summer Show Horse Championship show, which was the last qualifier for the 2022 Southern Cross event.

Southern Cross 2022 was a huge success with over 300 horses and over 200 riders from around Australia competing.

**Linda Skinner – ENSW Sports Administrator**

## **VAULTING**

As with all sporting communities over the past year, vaulting in NSW has had many competition cancellations due to COVID-19 and severe weather events.

In October, due to restrictions, our state clinic was conducted entirely on the Zoom platform. VNSW funded the clinic and offered it free of charge to vaulters of all levels throughout Australia, as well as a free coaching stream. Over 90 vaulters from Qld, WA, Victoria and NSW participated in the event. We had 20 coaches attend, including a coach from Canada!

We organized instructors from Wagga, Victoria, NSW and the USA. Vaulters received 3-4 online sessions both days. Most clubs were able to undertake the training in club groups with their own coaches present, which allowed the camaraderie of an in-person clinic to occur. There was an EA Coaching update, a new coach's session, and a coaching forum designed to allow coaches across Australia to collaborate on training exercises and drills.

In addition to the above events, VNSW was approached by the WEG 2022 selectors and asked to run a World Championship event in early 2022. Although challenging, the CVI 3\* class was filmed as a qualifying event, allowing two of our vaulters to qualify for the World Championships.

I am grateful to the members of the VNSW Committee who have worked extremely hard over the past year to produce several very successful events despite our difficult environment. They have all been committed, productive and diligent with all events throughout the year. I commend them for their commitment and their work.

Thank you,

**Gillian Burns, DVM**

**Chair VNSW Committee**

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022-23**

Strategic focus areas for the Board and team, continues under the Leg Up Plan released in 2021 and includes:

### **Connecting and Participating**

- Regular sports forum among the discipline committees to share ideas and best practise
- Discipline specific club forums to facilitate best practice, share information and provide support
- Collaborate with our disciplines, clubs and schools to deliver grass roots training & competitions
- Regular lines of communication with key stakeholders to advocate for our sport; EA, government and sponsors

### **Communication**

- Promote core values of horse welfare, sportsmanship and ethics through regular and informative communication with members
- Develop a reward and recognition program and brand ambassadors that reflect ENSW values
- Establish a clear delineation for members between the supporting roles of EA and ENSW

### **Education**

- Work with EA to ensure a sustainable supply of well-educated judges, officials, coaches and volunteers for NSW
- Develop competent and knowledgeable equestrian athletes who abide by the rules of the sport by providing a robust education framework
- Provide on-line learning opportunities across the whole equestrian community through the development of e-learning tools

### **Governance Ethics and Integrity**

- A safe and inclusive sport by supporting EA in the implementation of the National Sports Integrity Framework and updates to Member Protection Policies
- Assist Disciplines to develop business plans and budgets under the broader ENSW strategic plan
- Maintain a dynamic risk management plan to ensure financial, strategic and operational risks are monitored and managed

### **Measures of Success**

- 5% Yearly Growth in Membership
- At least 90% Score in the NSW Office of Sport Organisational Health Survey
- 4 x Discipline Specific and 2 x Combined Discipline Sports Forums
- E-Learning Management System for Officials/Coaches
- Deliver an On-line Club Management Manual
- Financial Break-even

The ENSW Board will meet to develop a new Strategic plan in the first half of 2023.