



EQUESTRIAN NSW INCORPORATED

ABN 17 157 619 696

## ANNUAL REPORT



FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE 2023

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 over 8500, with more than 180 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)
- Paraquestrian (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.

## ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF EQUESTRIAN NSW TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

2023 has seen a return to full competition for all of our equestrian disciplines and thankfully much less disruption due to natural disasters and the pandemic. Across New South Wales we again thank our tireless volunteers and officials for their efforts in running competitions and training, to benefit all our riders. Preparations are in full swing for the contenders in the Olympic disciplines as we head into the Olympic Games in 2024, and we wish all of those who are preparing the best in the lead up.

Equestrian NSW continues to prosper. We are very pleased to have appointed our permanent Chief Executive Officer, Vireena Peacock to the position of CEO. Vireena brings great experience from the corporate sector as well as from her previous role as Education Manager for ENSW. Vireena had been acting in the position for almost a year before her permanent appointment. She continues to shine with her performance in bringing in new initiatives and consolidating the good work that has previously been done. I wish Vireena ongoing success in the role.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our hardworking and loyal office staff, who go above and beyond to help members at all times and run an extremely efficient office as well as a number of different events throughout the year.

I would like to thank the Board Members of Equestrian NSW. We are having significant change in membership now, but those who have been serving on the Board have done so with absolute integrity and commitment. Amber Fuller has finished her term and is now overseas with her horse to compete and we hope with great success. Coco Miles has stepped off the Board to take up the position of High Performance Manager for EA in showjumping and similarly we wish Coco all the best. The terms of Lisa Winn and Suzanne Cunningham have also finished, but I am pleased that both Lisa and Suzanne have elected to re-stand for the Board and I wish them well with that. I would also like to thank the ongoing work of Amy Eggleton and Gillian Burns who remain on the Board. I will also be continuing on the Board, as I have another year left in my term.

Ally Mclean has served as the Chair of our Finance and Risk Management Committee with great distinction, and I thank her for those efforts. I am also pleased to see that Ally is running for a position on the Board.

ENSW continues to maintain a healthy financial position, as evidenced by the financial report being presented to this meeting. We continue to support all our disciplines with both financial and administrative measures. We, at all times, strive to be fair and equitable with distribution of money to the disciplines to support both competition and coaching. We have made big steps this year to improve the reporting and surveillance of safety at events and we continue to work with EA in that regard. We had the tragic circumstance of the death of a showjumping rider earlier this year and I would like to again extend our deep condolences to the family, friends, and connections of Sienna Weir.

A major focus for ENSW both this year and continuing on to next year and beyond will be the proposed reform of the structure of Equestrian Australia. EA has released its first draft of the proposal after extensive and long-term consultation. Equestrian NSW has provided detailed feedback regarding that document and continues in meetings with the federal body. The proposal from Equestrian Australia essentially would result in a marked change to the function of ENSW if it goes ahead. As a

Board we are mindful of the need for reform and the general support for change in the membership. This proposal will require extensive consultation with members as we go forward, and we will certainly share all of that with you when EA is in a position to do so. The process has been explicit about placing members at the centre of any change that is coming. I assure you, the members, that all decision making from ENSW is made with member welfare in mind. The balance, as always, remains the challenge of providing services to both elite riders as well as grass roots members, owners, and coaches.

Big challenges continue to face our sport. The cost of owning and competing with horses continues to rise, and it is important that our sport does not end up being accessible only to the elite and wealthy few. We are lucky to have a sport in which there is a diversity of age and background amongst our riders, and huge participation from rural areas. Whether we are sufficiently encouraging new people and young people into our sport is open for debate, and we need to look at ongoing ways in which we can facilitate that diversity.

We also must continue to lobby for upgrades to our facility at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. That complex really should be the nerve centre of our sport in New South Wales and it has not been maintained to the degree that is needed for it to be a safe and effective premier venue. In particular, the main ring at SIEC is virtually unusable for anything other than basic competition. The outside arenas do not drain sufficiently if we have wet weather. There is insufficient stabling for major events. ENSW will continue to lobby and advocate for the changes that must be made to the venue to make it viable going forward.

As we reach the end of 2023, I would like to wish everybody all the best wishes for the Christmas and New Year period and look forward to seeing you out and about at events again in 2024. As always, we welcome feedback and input from the membership at all times. Whatever your equestrian goals may be for 2024, I hope you achieve them!

Brad Frankum OAM

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

After 3 years of disrupted competition due to COVID and Floods, the 2023 financial year has seen an enthusiastic return to full competition throughout NSW.

There have been some changes to the Board with Alex Townsend resigning from the ENSW board at the end of her term in 2022. Alex is sincerely thanked for her support of equestrian sport in NSW for many years. Filling the vacancy, the Board welcomed Gillian Burns who brings with her extensive experience as an Equine Rehabilitation Veterinarian as well as having chaired the NSW Vaulting Committee for the past 9 years. In addition to Gillian, the ENSW board comprised Lisa Winn, Coco Miles, Amber Fuller, Suzanne Cunningham, Amy Eggleton and is chaired by Brad Frankum. The ENSW Finance and Risk Management Committee is chaired by Ally McLean, the Marketing Committee by Lisa Winn and the Education Committee by Sue Cunningham. The NSW Equestrian community is very fortunate to have such a capable and skilled group of individuals generously volunteering their time for our sport.

The Board farewelled Bruce Farrar as CEO during the year and thank him for 9 years of dedicated service to the NSW Equestrian Community.



In April 2023 the Board met to review the ENSW Strategic Plan. An updated 'Leg-Up' plan has been developed and is included at the end of this report.

The F23 competition year had a shaky start with the 2022 State Interschool Championships at SIEC in July being washed out after the first day of competition at the start of the devastating floods that swept across NSW in June and July – but the weather rapidly improved and the competitions flowed!

NSW hosted the National Interschool Championships in September 2022 with children, their parents and team managers attending from every state in Australia for 5 full days of competition. The NSW team of 96 ranging in age from year 2 to year 12 were awarded Champion Overall Team, Champion Eventing Team and Champion Show Horse Team with 94 individual top 10 placings amongst the team. The team received a further accolade in June this year when they were awarded the title of Champion Community Team at the NSW Sports Awards.



ENSW State Interschool Team ready for the opening ceremony at Werribee

The third Interschool competition of the year was held in April this year when the 2023 State Interschool Championships were held at SIEC. Over four days 324 athletes and 350 horses competed in Combined Training, Dressage, Jumping, Show Horse and Vaulting to vie for a place in the 2023 State Team competing at Werribee this September. NSW Interschool Competitions are run by the ENSW Office team with support from every discipline and it is truly a labour of love by everyone involved.

January saw the return of the ENSW annual awards night with athletes, volunteers, officials and horses all being recognized for their achievements. Held in the beautiful William Inglis function room, this is another event managed by the highly capable ENSW Office team.

In 2023 our new Show Horse Committee took up the reins of leadership. The first to answer the call was Peta Daffurn, rapidly followed by Joanne Tyson, Danielle Beattie and Melinda Waterhouse. During the 2023-year ENSW were proud to run the EA Australasian Show Horse and Rider Championships – the first time that this competition has been run outside of Victoria in more than two decades. Other Show Horse competitions run throughout the year included The Junior Show in July, Horse of The Year in September, The Summer Show in January and the ENSW Show Horse Spectacular in April. The ENSW Show Horse Committee are planning an exciting schedule of competitions for the coming year with new ideas and formats under discussion.



**The Australasian Show Horse & Rider Championships held in NSW for the first time in 27 years**

Paraquestrian and Equibility continue to grow with equestrian sport becoming increasingly inclusive in NSW. Every equestrian in NSW had a huge smile on their face the day that the Australian Team (2/3 from NSW) took out the Team and Individual Gold medals at the Virtus Games in Paris in June. A huge thank you to Heath Ryan for organising the very successful fundraiser that helped the athletes and the small village that was the support team, attend the games. The Virtus Team, including their dedicated support team, have since been recognised in the Sport NSW Sporting Awards. A great night was had by all who attended.

ENSW were proud to support the Southern Highlands Carriage Driving club with its innovative initiative of an Ashes competition via video link with England.

The Education committee has continued to review the needs of the NSW Equestrian Community. Two of the major achievements have been the continued growth of the Learning Management System and the pilot of the Future Leaders program. The Learning Management System was set up to provide a one-stop-shop for Equestrian Clubs, it has rapidly expanded and now has coaching materials as well as Child Protection training and information added by Equestriab Victoria. The Future Leaders program matches young equestrians with mentors to assist them in pursuing their goals as equestrian officials and coaches. The Future Leaders program has partnered with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme with the long-term goal of having



**Queensland competitors at the Zilco Ashes Driving Competition**

a pipeline of officials and coaches for our sport. Amba McGoldrick has been instrumental in taking this idea and making it a reality.

Two stand out events initiated by the Education Committee have been the Social License/ Horse Welfare ZOOM seminar with guest speaker Mike Tomlinson and the Chris Bartle Masterclass held at SIEC in conjunction with the Sydney 3DE in November.

Vaulting NSW, Dressage NSW, Eventing NSW and Jumping NSW have held a full year's program of events for the first time since 2019. It was wonderful to see the events that we all look forward to each year return in full. Congratulations to the organising committees for re-establishing the amazing standard that is NSW Equestrian competition.

Finally, thank you to the thousands of volunteers who donate their time and expertise to make our sport happen. Without you we would simply not have a sport.

**Vireena Peacock CEO**

## GOVERNANCE

In 2022-23, the Equestrian NSW Board consisted of:

Board Member	Board Meetings	
	Eligible	Attended
Brad Frankum	7	7
Coco Miles	7	7
Alexandra Townsend	2	2
Amber Fuller	7	5
Sue Cunningham	7	7
Lisa Winn	7	7
Amy Eggleton	7	6
Gillian Burns	2	2

**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.

**Coco Miles (Bachelor of Communication)**. Coco was elected to the Board at the 2020 AGM and is also on the Equestrian NSW Marketing and Communications Committee. 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.



**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. Alexandra resigned from the Board at the end of 2022.

**Amber Fuller** – joined the board at the end of 2021 and is a member of the Equestrian NSW Finance and Risk Management Committee. 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. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Commerce with First Class Honours. Lisa actively represented Equestrian NSW on the Equestrian Australia Reform Working Group over the last 12 months.

**Sue Cunningham** – joined the board at the end of 2021 and chairs the Equestrian NSW Education Committee. 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. Sue has been selected to judge at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris.

**Amy Eggleton - (Master of Business, Bachelor of Equine Business Management)** Amy joined the Board in 2022 moving from the Chair of the Finance and Risk Management Committee to which she continues to belong. Amy has a strong background in finance, banking, research, education and from 2014-16 served on the Equestrian Queensland Board, including as Treasurer in 2016.

**Gillian Burns – (Bachelor of Science, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Diploma of Equine Management)** Gillian joined the ENSW Board early in 2023 and has also joined the Equestrian NSW Marketing and Communications Committee. Gillian has a strong equestrian background as a competitor in jumping and vaulting, Chair of Vaulting NSW and Pony Club and professionally as an Equine Veterinarian. Gillian's professional work currently focuses on Veterinary rehabilitation in horses and she is currently a PhD candidate in this field. Gillian owns and trains vaulting horses and has a particular interest in the development of the vaulting horse and the education of the vaulting community in horse development.



## MEMBERSHIP & SERVICES

MEMBER TYPE	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	CHANGE
COMPETITOR SENIOR	3234	3350	3228	3212	3470	7%
COMPETITOR JUNIOR	2053	2255	2109	2281	2193	-4%
PARTICIPANT SENIOR	2015	2244	2110	2138	2070	-3%
SUPPORTER - OFFICIAL	265	228	228	210	210	0%
SUPPORTER	348	353	364	336	336	0%
GROUPS	293	252	276	247	249	1%
TOTAL	8179	8654	8289	8394	8655	3%

Overall membership numbers increased by 3% returning to pre-COVID/ Flood levels overall.

The following table shows the breakdown of Equestrian NSW membership fees for 2022-23. A decision was made to hold fees at the 2022 level to assist with the hardship that members were experiencing due to Floods. This meant that ENSW absorbed the increased charges from Equestrian Australia.

FY2022 Fees	EA Component			ENSW	Total
	Admin	Insurance	Total		
Competitor	\$63.77	\$62.74	\$126.51	\$130.49	\$257.00
Junior	\$22.69	\$22.86	\$45.55	\$85.45	\$131.00
Participant	\$27.00	\$62.74	\$89.74	\$92.26	\$182.00
Supporter - Official	\$27.00	\$62.74	\$89.74	\$0.26	\$90.00
Supporter	\$27.00	\$62.74	\$89.74	\$73.26	\$163.00

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

Member Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Senior Competitor	\$254	\$257	\$208	\$257	\$257
Junior	\$129	\$131	\$104 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$131 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$131 <sup>(1)</sup>
Participant	\$180	\$182	\$152	\$182	\$182
Supporter - Official	\$125	\$126	\$110	\$90	\$90

Supporter	\$161	\$163	\$138	\$163	\$163
Club	\$224	\$227	\$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	2022-23 Income
Dressage	2735	\$36	\$98,476
Eventing	808	\$36	\$29,094
Jumping	1536	\$41	\$62,990
Show Horse	669	\$22	\$14,720
Total	5749		\$205,280

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

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Revenue	\$2,863,000	\$2,627,000	\$2,684,000	\$2,684,642	3,422,508
Expenses	\$2,961,000	\$2,499,000	\$2,305,000	\$2,780,471	3,157,074
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$98,000	\$128,000	\$379,000	-\$95,829	\$265,434

The financial results for 2021-22 -met the expectations set by the Board, which were:

Budget – Breakeven. Actual \$265,434 profit, mainly the result of additional income received by discipline councils and committees as they were able to re-commence a normal schedule of financially viable events.

- Maintain a minimum cash holding of \$800,000. Actual \$2,263,000
- Protect equity of \$800,000. Actual \$1,386,353

## EQUITY

	2022-23
Cash and Equivalents	\$2,263,000
Current Assets	\$2,305,940
Non-current Assets	\$65,952
Total Assets	\$2,371,892
Current Liabilities	\$979,735
Non-current Liabilities	\$5,804
Total Liabilities	\$979,735
Equity	\$1,386,353

## RATIOS

Ratio	How Calculated	Actual	Target
Current Ratio	Current assets / current liabilities	2.4	>1.2
Debt to Equity	Total Liabilities / Equity	0.7	<2.0
Return on Equity	Surplus / Equity	19%	>20%

## GRANTS

Grant	Amount	2022-23	Carried over to 2023-24
NSW Office of Sport – Development	\$48,500	\$48,500	\$0
Australian Department of Health – Equibilty Project	\$145,000	\$124,518	\$32,823
Total	\$193,500	\$173,018	\$32,823

## DISCIPLINE & COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Discipline	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Coaching			\$12,835	\$5347	\$17,477
Dressage	\$139,455	\$122,575	\$102,900	\$126,800	\$136,252
Driving	\$9,920	\$10,000	\$3,200		\$8000
Eventing	\$168,687	\$118,024	\$108,777	\$152,240	\$124,226
Interschools	-\$74,240	-\$53,103	\$26,710	\$41,197	-\$132,196*
Jumping	\$102,927	\$138,294	\$100,000	\$122,300	\$120,357
Para Dressage			\$26,003	\$79,616	\$3000
Show Horse	-\$7,687	\$39,111	-\$93,428	\$18,873	-\$22,718
Vaulting	-\$7,035	\$16,313	-\$194	-\$6,637	-\$15,177
General			\$136,601	\$122,503	-\$2304
Total	\$332,027	\$391,214	\$423,408	\$656,892	\$369,113

Negative figures represent surpluses.

\* Surplus in 2023 from earlier running of 2023 State Interschool championships and utilised to fund State team to attend Nationals in October 2023 (F24)

Taking into account the timing of payments, some of which occurred before and after the financial year, the 2022-23 figures shown in the tables below represent a more complete picture.

## COACHING & EDUCATION

### Income

Coaching Seminar & Training Fees	\$3531
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3531</b>

### Expenditure

Clinics	\$10,398
Other Expenses	\$10,610
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,008</b>

**NET SUPPORT** \$17,477



## DRESSAGE

### Expenditure

Administration Support	\$21,302
Officials Support	\$37,950
Swabbing	\$5,000
Event Support	\$54,000
High Performance	\$10,000
Club Development Grants	\$8,000

NET SUPPORT \$136,252

## EVENTING

### Expenditure

Administration Support	\$15,000
Officials Support & Education	\$15,000
High Performance	\$15,317
Safety	\$30,909
Club Development	\$10,000
Event Support	\$38,000

NET SUPPORT \$124,226

## INTERSCHOOLS

### Income

State Championships 2022 & 2023	\$261,575
National Championships (hosted by ENSW)	\$418,677
Clinics	\$14,241
Other income	\$490

**TOTAL \$694,983**

### Expenditure

Clinics	\$18,324
State Championships	\$203,946
National Championships	\$339,327
Other Expenses	\$1,090

**Total \$562,688**

NET SUPPORT -\$132,295

## JUMPING

### Expenditure

Administration Support	\$28,000
Clinics	\$10,000
Swabbing	\$6,000
Event Support – Summer Classic Sponsorship	\$20,000
Event Support – Other	\$30,727
Club Development	\$25,630

NET SUPPORT \$120,357

## PARAQUESTRIAN

### Income

Para – Grant	\$57,776
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**Total \$57,776**

### Expenditure

Admin Support	\$5,400
Clinics/ Workshops/ Seminars	\$15,211
Other	\$106
Equibility Project Expense	\$34,058

**Total \$54,775**

NET SUPPORT \$3000

## SHOW HORSE

### Income

Horse of the Year	\$97,160
Show Horse Spectacular	\$108,068
Summer Show	\$10,549
Junior Championships	\$14,755
National Championships	\$267,251

**Total \$497,784**

### Expenditure

Administration Support	\$11,192
Horse of the Year	\$105,512
Show Horse Spectacular	\$130,805
Summer Show	\$5,066
Junior Championships	\$12,647
National Championships	\$214,732
Other Expenses	\$3034

**Total \$478,838**

NET SUPPORT \$-22,718

## VAULTING

### Income

Clinics	\$14,707
National Championships	\$67,245
State Championship	\$32,426
Other Event Income	\$15,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,527</b>

### Expenditure

Clinics	\$23,015
State Championships	\$25,148
National Championships	\$63,700
Other Expenses	\$2,487
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,350</b>

NET SUPPORT -\$15,177

**NET SUPPORT \$370,137**

## SAFETY AND WELFARE

There has been significant focus on improving awareness of and compliance with Health and Safety Requirements.

Improvements identified in the eventing coronial enquiry continue to be developed by the Equestrian Australia Health and Safety team and rolled out effectively by Eventing NSW. A special thank you to Vicki Burgess who manages the implementation of the new and numerous requirements aimed at ensuring the eventing is as safe as possible for competitors and their horses.

Throughout 2022 and 2023 Equestrian NSW has focused on assisting NSW Equestrian Clubs understand and implement risk assessments and risk management plans. This has been achieved through face-to-face meetings, ZOOM sessions and phone support to clubs as required. It has been good to see that all clubs have an awareness and a plan to manage risk – they often just need a little assistance with developing documentation.

In 2023 Sport NSW made SAFE365, a comprehensive Safety App, available at no charge to Equestrian NSW. ENSW has been working hard with a pilot group of clubs and coaches to understand how the app, with its real-time and mobile reporting features can be used to make health and safety management easier in the field.

Congratulations to all clubs in taking on the challenge of reporting all incidents and falls. It is this information that will enable ENSW to better understand health and safety trends and provide better support.



Committee members from Dubbo region clubs attending a regional clubs forum focusing on risk management

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### COACHING

2023 has been another busy and productive year for CNSW.

November '22 - we ran a clinic with British Dressage team member medal winner, Gareth Hughes. Held at Di Whites arena at Agnes Banks, this was exclusively for EA coaches, judges & officials. Gareth taught lessons to eventers and dressage riders (also exclusively EA accredited coaches) and the whole event was extremely well received and attended.

Regular Zoom presentations, given by Vireena Peacock, members of the CNSW committee and outside industry experts, have continued to be a successful addition to the professional development offered by CNSW and supported by ENSW.

January 2023 - ENSW awards night. 4 awards were given for Coach of the Year:

- Heath Ryan – Lifetime Achievement
- Rozzie Ryan – Outstanding Achievement in part for her role as coach of Sharon Jarvis, successful Para Olympian
- Simon Kale - Services to Coaching



Caroline Hooper riding Beck's Gold at the Gareth Hughes' Coaches Clinic



- Megan Bryant – Services to Community

Very well-deserved awards to some of the best coaches in the country.

June '23- Coaches Development workshop at the annual HDC Festival. Presentations were given by Megan Bryant on Show Horse coaching, our CEO Vireena Peacock presented EA's strategic plan and along with Brad Dean the Safe 365 app, Andrew Barnett discussed the AIS programme and Emily Bowker presented on Financial Advice for Coaches.

Elections are in the pipeline for our committee as 3 members have completed their 2 year terms: Rachael Downs (re-standing), Caroline Hooper (re-standing) and Jim Collin (standing down). Nominations have been called for and elections will be held shortly.

Since the original writing of this report another workshop for coaches was held during the Sydney International 3DE. This time with Christopher Bartle and again a fabulous presentation including dressage and cross-country coaching.

In March this year the National Coaching Committee was disbanded by the Board of EA. This caused some considerable angst across the States coaching committees. ENSW Board and staff were extremely supportive of us at this time. It remains to be seen how coaching will move forward nationally. In the meantime, CNSW committee would like to thank the Board, CEO and staff of ENSW for their help and ongoing support in helping us to continue to deliver quality workshops for our coaches' professional development. We look forward with enthusiasm to another productive year ahead.

Sally-Ann Barbera Chair Coaching NS

## **DRESSAGE**

It takes a village of volunteers to run a sport, and reflecting on the past year has highlighted the enormous work done by a huge number of committed and passionate volunteers.

The dedication of local club organising committees allows opportunities for all riders across the spectrum of the sport, from grass roots to elite. The majority of club events run Amateur Owner Rider, Youth and Open Divisions, and many clubs also offer Para and Equibility competitions. Thank you to each and every club and volunteer for making our sport so inclusive.

The volunteers on the Dressage NSW committee have worked tirelessly to deliver successful major events, judge education, develop high performance, coordinate a series of Club Forums and Jo Gunn, Honorary Secretary has spent countless hours calculating performance medals and leaderboard results.

Over the past year the major events in NSW run by Dressage NSW were Sydney CDI which incorporated CPEDI (para), Australian Amateur Owner Championships, Australian Youth Dressage Championships, NSW State Championships, which included Open, AOR, Pony and Para divisions. Each year Dressage NSW runs 3-4 major events – a huge undertaking on top of the day-to-day management of the sport.

I would like to acknowledge all DNSW Committee members and thank them for their ongoing commitment to our sport. Gail Benson, Sue Birch, Sue Cunningham, Kylie Bullock, Zanna Northam, Kathy Shelley and Dee Vodden contribute as elected committee members, with the executive Jo Gunn, Julie Jones, Kay Barney and Di Hitchcock. All regions of NSW are represented by Area Delegates: Mel Gough, Nadya Marshall, Bruce McVey, Kaye Spence, Marjolyn Thomas, and Christian Trainor. Co-opted members Krystina Burdekin and Toni Venhaus provide valuable input as the Riders Representative and Major Events respectively.

Judge Education is one of Dressage NSW's most important roles. We have now launched 'Engage' a Learning Management System which is proving very successful, as it streamlines education and enhances opportunities for judges across the state. The content includes videos, clear descriptions of movements and required knowledge. It also reduces the costs to judges while they gain knowledge and move through the accreditation or upgrade process. We have been approached by other states seeking to access the system, highlighting its success to date.

The Sydney CDI Workshop was presented by Dr Hans Christian Matthieson, with special guest Dr Mike Tomlinson. A number of informative talks on 'Developing the Dressage Horse' were delivered, with opportunities for QandA. Horse welfare was one of the most important sessions, highlighting the rising need to recognise the social licence aspect of horse sport. This led to a webinar, organised by ENSW, with Mike Tomlinson.

I would like to thank Zanna Northam for leading Dressage High Performance in NSW. Ten months ago, the then HP 'Squad' discussed how they could best work together, and collectively support one another. They agreed the answer was to be a team. Since then, members of the DNSW High Performance Team have met and worked together and achieved their goal to be in the top in all levels at the 2023 Australian Dressage Championships. I am delighted to inform you NSW won both the Team A and Team B competitions!

Participation in Para-Equestrian is growing, especially thanks to the Equibility program, which is a bridge between open and para competitions. The NSW Para riders were very competitive at the 2023 Australian Dressage Championships with the CPEDI2\* Intermediate Team placing 3rd and the CPEDI3\* Grand Prix Team placing 2nd. Thank you to Jenny Carroll for her passion and dedication supporting this division of our sport.

We continue to offer young rider activities, and support our regions. We have a number of new ideas and initiatives in the pipeline for 2024 to further support and develop dressage at all levels throughout the state.

On the whole dressage in NSW is strong and growing. However, as we approach 2024 we face a number of ongoing and new challenges:



**Helen Batson riding at the DNSW State Championships Paraquestrian Grade IV**

From 1 January 2024 all dressage results in Australia will require an accredited steward to officiate at the event. Two steward education courses have been offered in NSW since July, and more are planned. We encourage all clubs to identify people to train as stewards to meet this new rule.

A major challenge for judge education - run by DNSW – is that once accredited, judges are utilised by other disciplines and groups, such as eventing, interschools and pony club. This is not sustainable unless all user groups identify people from within their own ranks to train as judges.

Trying to compile complete and accurate results data is an ongoing challenge presenting major issues for the volunteers who must review qualifying performances for major events, or determine performance medal winners or leaderboard results.

Pony measuring is another ongoing issue due to the low number of measurers, the cost and location of calibrated measuring devices, the location of engineered measuring slabs, availability of measurers and increasing costs for measurers to attend events or measuring day.

The rising cost of living poses challenges that impact all facets of the sport. The cost of running events has increased enormously as venue hire, officials, catering, travel/fuel have all risen, and must be balanced with anecdotal reports of riders having to decide between the cost of training or competing as frequently.

As electronic scoring is becoming more widespread, experienced scribes are required, and many are reimbursed a nominal amount for their travel/tolls and time. Having experienced scribes is a valuable asset for events, but the downside results in many events needing to increase entry fees. Having paid 'volunteers' endangers the volunteer ethos with a 'someone else will do it' attitude. It is important that riders continue to volunteer at local and major events to help minimise your entry fees and most importantly support, give back and pay it forward to our sport.

Dressage NSW is most grateful to Equestrian NSW for their ongoing support, enabling it to deliver and develop the sport throughout the state. We look forward to developing the relationship and growing Dressage into the future.

Mandy Jones, President, Dressage NSW

## EVENTING

After what felt like forever eventing in NSW has slowly returned to some kind of normality in the past 12 months with hundreds of riders keen to get out there competing.

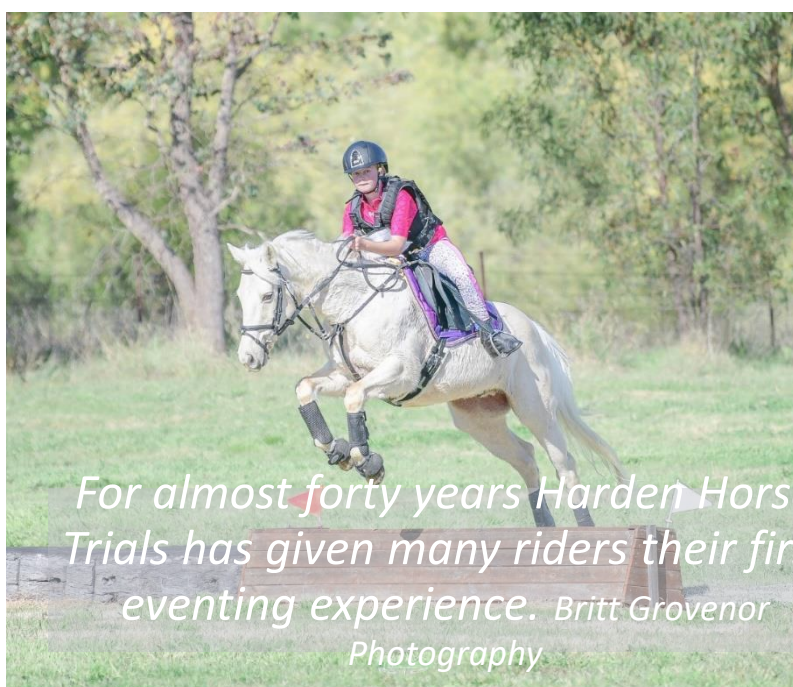
Getting things back up to speed has not been without it's challenges with many clubs still recovering from flood damage, the escalating cost of all sorts of materials and the never ending list of new rules and regulations coming in. Congratulations must go to all our clubs and committees who volunteer their time so our sport can exist.

It must be remembered that each club and event is as important as the next and each have their own unique story. In the last financial year 16 official events have run across the state with over 3600 entries riding close to 5000 horses. These events range from the 'big events' like Sydney, Equestriad and Tamworth, to the smaller events like Demman, Wingham and Nana Glen. Quirindi once again ran their popular International and National Long format event in May giving riders at all levels the



opportunity to understand what a long format event is all about. While forty years on from when Harden Horse Trials was formed the club is going as strong as ever and plans are underway to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> year of running events next year.

During the last year EvNSW, with funding from ENSW and EA HP, has also continued to support our Performance Pathway programme with coordinators, Fiona Hughes and Andrew Barnett responsible for the running of the Star and Star Talent ID squad and Carlene Barton and Prue Barrett responsible for running the Development and Intermediate Clinics. Currently the High Performance clinics are run by EA High Performance. EvNSW recognises the importance of supporting, not just our top riders, but riders across all levels and as part of that we are hoping to run some more regional clinics in the future.





## JUMPING

A large number of riders take part in the Olympic discipline of Jumping right across NSW. It is a feature of many agricultural shows, from The Royal Agricultural Show in Sydney to the four corners of the state. In addition, jumping events have grown in number and size, allowing a significant number of riders to take part in this discipline at a high level around the year.

Of particular importance to Jumping NSW has been the development of our sport, not only for riders and events, but for officials and volunteers who play a significant role in keeping the events equitable, fair and running smoothly at all Emes. To this end Jumping NSW has invested not just financial resources, but also time and personnel into the educational development of officials.

Jumping NSW supported affiliated clubs in hosting 13 clinics for Jumping officials including judges, course designers and stewards during the financial year 2022/2023. A total of 133 people attended these clinics across the state and 45 participants either completed their refresher or were promoted from the starting level of Preliminary to Level 1 or up to Level 2. Congratulations also go to Helen Ashby, Tracey Cameron, Jane Kibble and Megan Scrivener who were successful in attaining their FEI Level 1 Judges accreditation. This result is a direct reflection on their commitment to our sport and dedication to their professional development.



Tom McDermott – Australian Champion

This past year Jumping NSW has been in a position to provide financial support to our affiliated clubs. With the financial support received from Equestrian NSW we have been able to offer several grants to our affiliated clubs. These included safety grants to help clubs update their current gear to meet official standards, medical grants to offset some of the expenses relating to First Aid attendance at events and activities, and assistance in offsetting the costs incurred by events for swabbing. We were also able to offer some financial assistance to users of the JJD scoring/live results software by contributing to the annual renewal subscription.

Jumping NSW has continued with its competition support throughout the last year across a wide variety of events and with the assistance of Equestrian NSW support was offered to our marquee jumping events in NSW including Sydney Royal Easter Show, NSW Indoor Championships, NSW State Titles and Summer Classic. We continue to support the FEI World Cup Qualifiers hosted by Waratah, Tamworth and Summer Classic. The show sub-committee has also successfully hosted our Spring, Autumn and Winter Classics, catering for a wide range of Jumping NSW members in a safe, enjoyable and well-run environment at SIEC.

Congratulations go out to our Jumping NSW members who have continued to fly the NSW flag high in competition at the highest level. Tom McDermott won the 2022 Australian Senior Champion, Izzy Stone was runner up, the Young Rider Champion went to Clemency Hughes and Claire Zylstra took out the Junior Championship. Former Jumping NSW members continue to make their mark on the world stage. We were proud to see Hilary Scott and Jamie Kermond represent us in the Nations Cup in Barcelona Spain, taking out second place in the Challenge Cup.



Clemency Hughes – Australian Young Rider Champion

Huge congratulations also go to Todd Hinde on his appointment as FEI Jumping Director. This is an incredible accolade for our former Jumping NSW committee member and an accomplishment that Todd should be extremely proud of, just as I'm sure you will agree, we all are for him. We wish him the very best of success.

**Annette Maunder**

Jumping NSW President 2022-23

## VAULTING

### Equestrian Vaulting NSW Committee Report for 2023

Vaulters in Australia, and particularly NSW, have had a busy year! As with most other sports, we suffered a reduction in participation due to the COVID restrictions, but we are now seeing a rise in the numbers of new vaulters entering the sport. There is also a cohort of vaulters who were delayed in progressing to higher levels as they would normally have done, and they are starting to move up and have been outstanding in their performances.

Over the past 12 months, VNSW ran two ENSW Interschools Championships, one in July 2022 and the second in April 2023. Our 2023 NSW State Championships were held in June and were well attended and very successful. VNSW also ran the 24<sup>th</sup> Australian Vaulting Championships and CVI2\* in October 2022.

Throughout 2022, VNSW continued with its program of Lunging Clinics for training vaulting horses and lungers. We held these clinics in July and September 2022 and May 2023. We also held a lunging clinic in combination with our State Vaulting Clinic in April 2023. We have seen a lot of new horses come into vaulting in the past year.

We were also pleased to see two vaulting competitions and 2 vaulting clinics with international instructors held by some of our clubs, which takes some of the pressure off the committee.

It is great to be back fully into clinics and competitions. Our lunging clinics continue to improve the welfare of our horses and our coaching clinic in December was a new addition to our annual program. The NSW State Vaulting Championships had a record number of entries, with many new horses and new athletes coming into the sport. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Australian Vaulting National Championships was celebrated by an anniversary dinner on the concourse at Sydney International Equestrian Centre.

In addition to clinics and competitions, VNSW manages rule changes, agenda items from members to the national committee, the EAVC, and oversight of vaulting activities in NSW, as well as providing opportunities to train judges, stewards, and coaches. We manage the State leader board, awards, and presentations. As a working subcommittee of ENSW, the VNSW committee is reliable and dedicated and I commend them on the work that they do on behalf of vaulting in NSW and in Australia.

Thank you,

**Gillian Burns, DVM**

**Chair VNSW Committee**



The VNSW State Championships – Rodney's Photography

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023-24 AND BEYOND

In April 2023 the ENSW Board met to review the strategic plan. The plan is summarised below:



The activities that were identified to achieve the plan are listed below with work in most areas underway.

### OUR MEMBERS

- Communicate the value of Equestrian NSW membership that is insurance, safe/ well run events, inclusive & welcoming & contribution towards the development of the sport
- Develop and implement targeted strategies for specific demographics: adult riders | pony club transition | Working Equitation | Jumping Equitation
- Develop and implement member retention activities recognising tenure, volunteers and their skills through micro-accreditation
- Develop commercial partnerships that will benefit our members.



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## EDUCATION

- Facilitate Cross-Discipline Forums to share resources and identify gaps
- Facilitate NSW club forums to educate, communicate with and support affiliated clubs
- Continue the development of digital learning management systems (LMS):
  - The NSW LMS
  - Support for the DNSW Judge Education LMS continued development
  - Promote use of Sports Australia/ Equestrian Australia LMS
- Ongoing development and promotion of the Future Leaders Program to engage and develop young members in becoming coaches, officials, event organisers, etc.

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## GOVERNANCE, INTEGRITY AND ETHICS

- Appoint and train a new CEO
- Review and update NSW risk management plan
- F24 & F25 Budget development
- Sport Integrity and Member Protection Processes Implementation and Education
- New committees Show Horse | Interschools | Adult Riders | Paraquestrian | Driving
- Implementation of SAFE365 platform to assist clubs in managing event safety processes

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## EXCELLENCE

- Support safety and swabbing plans at major events
- Communicate and support marquee events across all disciplines
- Develop and implement a communication and marketing plan. Identify appropriate resources.
- Conduct a member feedback surveys & develop resultant action plans
- Support discipline high performance plans
- Recognise elite performance achievements

The Equestrian NSW Board thanks the members for their ongoing support and commitment to equestrian sport in NSW.



**Dressage riders enjoying the SIEC cross country course at the inaugural ENSW Members Day - an activity identified through the strategic planning process.**