



EQUESTRIAN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



EQUESTRIAN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Contents

Chairman's Address 1

CEO's Report 3

High Performance 5

NCAS & Education 8

State Equestrian Centre 11

Eventing 13

Jumping 15

Show Horse 18

Dressage 21



Chairman's Address

It's an exciting phase that we are now in for Equestrian Western Australia (EWA). We have seen some outstanding events and performances across all disciplines in 2014, and continue to grow and develop as a successful organisation.

We congratulate our EWA Athlete of the Year Jessica Manson and her horse Legal Star on their first FEI Classics Australian International CCI4* win in Adelaide. Our young riders Gabrielle Pither and Mikayla Martindale showed the depth of our up and coming riders representing Australia in the Oceania Young Rider Teams Event. We also had a number of riders in contention for the World Equestrian Games including Olympic representatives Sonja Johnson and Sharon Jarvis, whose horses both unfortunately succumbed to injury at critical moments. Congratulations to all riders competing at the National and International level. This is a huge achievement, particularly given the financial and geographical challenges we continue to face in Western Australia.

On a local front it's always encouraging to see the strong level of competition and increasing participation here in WA. 2014 saw events like Eventing In The Park grow to new levels, and our state events appear to improve each year. We see some of the best available talent in all disciplines come to WA. This ensures that we are always learning, developing, and moving forward in the right direction. We will continue to support this strategy and will see Stephen Clarke visit Perth this year.

With new personnel, a new vision and a new strategic direction, 2014 has delivered some significant organisational outcomes and laid a strong foundation for the years ahead. We have once again achieved a surplus, consolidating on last year's financial performance. I believe we have found the right balance to manage a State Sporting Association and a state facility, and I am confident we can continue to manage both and remain financially positive.

We have recognised the need to diversify our business, seek new partnerships and consolidate our expenses to ensure our ongoing sustainability. We thank the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) for the significant funding that continues to support our organisational development, as well as new contributions that have funded much needed communication technology upgrades and improved marketing strategies. We are pleased to announce that DSR has confirmed their support for the next three years.

We welcome new partner Polytechnic West who have relocated from their Armadale centre and are now delivering education onsite at the State Equestrian Centre. This is a fantastic opportunity for EWA to link with education, attract new participants to our industry, and generate new income.

We thank our major and support partners who continue to play an important role in supporting the equestrian sport. We also thank Acres for their support as major sponsor over the past three years. EWA are now seeking a new major partner to continue this support into the next phase of our development.

At a National level, this year we have been required to represent Western Australia on a number of issues, including the development and implementation of a Hendra By-Law. In consultation with various stakeholders including members, vets, industry representatives, and government organisations, we remain against the implementation of a nationally based by-law. The national body is continuing the review process with final recommendations to be handed down later in the year. We will continue to work with Equestrian Australia through this process and keep our members and stakeholders informed at each new stage.



Our State Equestrian Centre (SEC) continues to improve and develop. The new C-Quest Warm-Up Arena and upgraded International Arena provide much needed options for members and event organisers. We are committed to providing the best equestrian facility in Australia, and I'd like to thank our SEC Manager Elvira Hilton and the work of the SEC team throughout the year.

We said farewell to Board Member Mark Warren upon the end of his term. Mark's contribution to EWA has been significant. He has been a true ambassador for our sport and his drive and commitment in particular to the SEC has resulted in everlasting improvements to our facility. We thank you Mark for your time, expertise and effort over many years, and wish you all the best for the future.

We head into 2015 with a full complement on our board. We welcome new board members Jessica Blackwell, Lisa Rickards and Pam McLachlan who bring with them strong business, financial and project management experience. The board has strong strategic, financial and equestrian experience and knowledge, and I am confident that our current skill sets will provide strong direction and leadership going forward.

We will continue to address areas of need as per our current plans, with a particular focus on membership in 2015. We recognise the need to add more value for our current members and develop strategies to encourage new members. While only achieving a small increase in membership during 2014, we are confident that our new membership strategies will generate significant increases in the coming years.

2015 will be a true measure of our work over the past 12 months and I look forward to reporting some major milestones in the coming year.

Finally, I'd like to thank all those who continue to give up their time to support our sport. We are extremely lucky to have the number of volunteers that we do. Your hard work, while not always recognised, is very much appreciated and valued.

Colin Chantler

EWA Chairman of the Board



CEO's Report

It's been almost 12 months since I arrived, and to reflect on the positive change we have achieved in a year is very exciting. 2014 was a year of developing new plans, setting a clear direction and changing momentum.

We set a new vision and strategic plan early, identifying the six major priorities for Equestrian Western Australia – Organisational Performance, Communications, Capacity Building, High Performance and Education, Facility Development, and Participation.

To improve our internal productivity we needed significant upgrades to bring our communication technology into the current era. By securing a grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation's ClubTalk program, we were able to implement a new server system, new hardware, and upgraded internet and phone systems.

Our communication improvements also extended to a new website and newsletter. We have received significant positive feedback for these new initiatives. We recognize the need to strengthen relationships with our committees, clubs, affiliates and most of all, our members, and will continue to develop and improve these strategies to provide better service to all.

Our State Equestrian Centre continues to expand and develop, and is arguably the best state equestrian facility in the country. It should be seen as an asset not a burden. While many will argue that such a facility is a drain on our sport, I really believe if we are creative and proactive, this facility can create opportunities rather than challenges.

Building the capacity of our facility is critical to its ongoing financial viability. Partnership development is the key to adding value to our business through increased facility use and revenue generation.

Our most recent partnership with Polytechnic West is a fantastic example of positive collaboration. Polytechnic West will deliver Certificate II in Equine Studies and Certificate III in Track Racing on site at the SEC for at least the next five years. While this type of partnership adds financial value to our organization, it provides much more by linking new participants to our sport and our industry.

One valuable partnership that has added a different type of value to our venue has been our arrangement with The Work Depot. The Work Depot is a federally funded organization designed to provide return-to-work activities for long term unemployed people. Each week we have been lucky enough to have a Work Depot group on site to provide grounds support and maintenance. This has made a significant improvement to our facility and SEC Operations Team, and we thank The Work Depot for their support.

I applaud the work of our SEC operations team, who for a large part of the year were undermanned. It is an extremely large complex to constantly maintain and we will continue to work towards improving our surfaces and facilities.

We welcome Polytechnic West to the State Equestrian Centre and look forward to an extremely positive long term relationship.

Our High Performance program undertook a robust review facilitated by the Department of Sport and Recreation throughout 2014. Led by a representative Advisory Committee, our existing program and infrastructure was critically analysed with over 17 major recommendations handed down by DSR. It was made very clear that the purpose of our High Performance program is to increase WA representation at national events and create a depth of talent that will naturally improve the level of competition here in WA. I understand that it is an individual sport we are competing in, but I truly believe there is strength in numbers and



hope that we can work together to raise the bar and put pressure on our east coast rivals.

Participation is an area that we will continue to focus on in 2015. While we achieved a small increase in membership in 2014, I am confident we can build on these numbers in the coming year. We will continue to evaluate and improve the value for current members and investigate strategies to attract new members.

We have also identified a number of potential growth markets such as Interschool participants, amateur owners, and adult riders, and will continue to develop more opportunities for these groups and others to access equestrian sport.

To all those at the local level who continue to deliver high quality events, clinics and programs, I thank you for your contribution and will continue to strive to provide more support at our grassroots level.

Finally I'd like to especially thank the board for their guidance and support. We have a very diverse group of people with specialist skills who can take our sport to the next level.

I'd also like to thank the team at EWA. You are a fantastic, innovative group of people who always put the interests of EWA first. You have supported me in my role and make coming to work interesting, challenging and most of all, fun.

Angela Doyle

EWA Chief Executive Officer



High Performance

2014 was a most successful year for many of our WA High Performance athletes, coaches and officials. Starting off the year with 35 athlete/horse combinations listed to the Equestrian Australia National Squads across the disciplines of Dressage, Eventing, Jumping and Para Equestrian, our target to exist as a feeder to these squads exceeded our expectations.

WA riders made their abilities known on National and International circuits with a record number of combinations heading east to compete at such competitions. Many excelled in their quests, with our teams and individual riders winning and placing among the country's best.

Member Achievements

The World Equestrian Games were held in Normandy at the end of August. The event highlights the importance of our state programs, and illustrates one of the national goals to be able to support and produce world class riders. WA had three combinations in contention for WEG being;

- Sonja Johnson and Parkiarrup Illicit Liaison.
Sonja was part of Australia's successful three day event team which won silver at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. She was also part of Australia's Three Day Event Team which won bronze at the 2006 Aachen World Equestrian Games. Unfortunately Sonja had to withdraw from the 2014 WEG Team selection following a minor injury to her horse.
- Jane Radny and West Coast Natanya. This endurance combination also made the WEG Short List.
- Para Equestrian Sharon Jarvis.
Unfortunately for Sharon her WEG campaign was brought to an end after an injury sustained to her horse, Let's

Imagine, prevented her from contesting the final selection event.

Other noteworthy 2014 performances achieved by WA members included;

- Australian Show Jumping Team member Alison Rowland and Bickley Brook Bella finished 3rd in the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup event in Linz (AUT) CSIO3*.
- Gabriella Pither and Mikayla Martindale were both selected to represent Australia in the Oceania Young Rider Teams Event held in conjunction with the 2014 Melbourne International Horse Trials. Competing in the CCI2* against a strong New Zealand outfit, Australian riders asserted their dominance, not just over New Zealand, but over the entire 39 strong field. With Gabriella leading throughout, Australia were declared winners.
- WA eventers enjoyed success in the Melbourne International 3 Day Event, achieving individual placings with;
 - The WA Junior 1* Team taking out first place overall with Shenae Lowings winning individual 2nd and Kenya Wilson 4th
 - Gabrielle Pither and Max Almighty winning the CCI2* class and Rebecca Thomas and DVZ Debonaire winning 4th
 - Sonja Johnson winning 2nd place on Parkiarrup Illicit Liaison and 3rd place on Belfast Mojito in the CCI3*
- WA dressage riders Ian Smith, Rebecca Radny and Stephanie Munro enjoyed success at the 2014 Australian Young Rider Dressage Championships in Queensland in July. Bevanlee Astronomer, owned and ridden by Rebecca Radny, was



crowned Champion Medium Pony and Reserve Champion Advanced Pony.

- At the Australian International Three Day Event in Adelaide, Jessica Manson won her first FEI Classics Australian International CCI4* with Legal Star. This combination were then ultimately named EWA Domestic Athlete and Domestic Horse of the Year 2014.
- Richard Rice and Burnbrae Park Talisman were crowned National Small Galloway 14 hands up to 14.2 hands at the EA 2014 Australasian Show Horse and Rider Championships held in Victoria.
- At the Lakes and Craters Three Day Event, Shenae Lowings won the CCI2* on Venture Sky High, defeating fellow WA rider and Olympian Sonja Johnson on Misty Isle Valentino. Shenae was also successful with Ballyhoo winning in the CCI1* Junior class.
- 2014 EWA High Performance Coach of the Year was awarded to Sonja Johnson.
- 2014 EWA Official of the Year was awarded to PollyAnn Huntington.

High Performance Pathways Review

In mid-2014 a comprehensive review of the EWA High Performance Pathways was facilitated by the Department of Sport and Recreation in collaboration with a EWA High Performance Review Panel. Outcomes and recommendations aim to reinvigorate and refocus High Performance within WA, to assist the move of more riders to national squads and to ensure better use of the limited high performance funds and resources.

EWA High Performance Pathways are based upon guidelines set by the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Equestrian Australia National High Performance Programs. The High Performance Pathways aim to foster development of talented combinations through workshops, encouraging each squad rider every opportunity to reach higher levels in their sport of Equestrian.

EWA High Performance should be primarily identifying talent and supporting education to squad riders at a developmental level with ambitions to follow pathways to national selection.

Our mission therefore is to offer a High Performance program that;

- Identifies and develops athletes with the aspiration and potential to succeed in national and international competition.
- Offers clear pathways for athletes to move between these groups.
- Will significantly improve the success of aspiring high performance athletes within WA.
- Maximises the effective use of limited funds available.
- Will support clear pathways promoting Coach and Officials Development from state through to national and international accreditation standards.

It was also proposed that strengthening the High Performance area within EWA will also help to achieve one of EWA's key goals - to increase participation within the sport here in WA.

EWA High Performance receives extremely limited funding to run its program effectively. It is for this reason that funding will primarily be directed into areas other than coaching.

The EWA High Performance Program can, however, offer many other vital ingredients for successful performances. Athletes would strongly benefit from workshops in a variety of other areas including;

- Athlete and equine fitness and conditioning.
- Sports psychology.
- Athlete and equine nutrition.
- Injury assessment and management, and recovery techniques.
- Equine business skills including marketing, working with sponsors and media training.
- Effective time management and juggling work, study, life and sporting commitments.
- Financial advice and management skills.

- Competition de-briefing.
- Goal setting, regular review and analysis.
- Access to horse and athlete management tools to promote self-awareness, self-evaluation and regulation.
- Education on doping and medication control policies.
- Team building.

Jennine Thomasson

NCAS, High Performance and Development Officer



NCAS & Education

The EWA National Coaching Accredited Scheme (NCAS) is made up of a group of coaches, Skills Specific Trainer and Assessors (SSTA) and Coach Educators (CE's) who work hard at training and encouraging coaches to ensure that the high standard of coaching in WA is maintained. WA is very fortunate to have many accredited and professional coaches from all disciplines, who are passionate in their efforts to help and assist riders at all levels.

NCAS Coaches Forum

A total of 70 coaches attended the 2014 EWA NCAS Coaches Forum, which is open to NCAS accredited coaches, trainees and NOAS Officials.

Presenters gave a number of very important updates and interesting demonstrations. Ben Harris covered the updates on Equestrian Australia (EA) Education Program and professional development. Former Olympian and Danish Coach Lone Joergensen gave some very interesting coaching demonstrations of flatwork for jumpers and exercises for the Novice/Elementary level dressage horse. Will MacArthur from Gow Gates, who provides the EA Coaches Insurance cover, explained some of the areas that are covered for coaches including Personal Accident Insurance, Professional Indemnity, and Public and Products Liability Policies.

2-day Face to Face Coaching Workshop

It is necessary for those interested in becoming an accredited coach to attend a 2-day Face to Face Coaching Workshop. NCAS Level 2 Coach Educator and qualified Secondary Teacher Rebecca Thomas presented these workshops in 2014, held in March and October.

13 trainees attended over the two days. Day one of the workshop covered updates on EA and NCAS

information, risk management, accident and injury procedures, insurance and legal issues, negligence, and duty of care. NCAS coaches just needing an update could attend the first day of a Face to Face Workshop. 8 coaches updated on day one of the October workshop.

Day two covered the practical components, such as trainee coaching sessions with a focus on safety, terminology, technical knowledge and group control.

EA CE/SSTA Update

The July three-day EA CE/SSTA Update presented by Simon Kale and Philippa Collier attracted 24 people and covered a variety of theory and practical sessions including learning principles and styles, candidates with special needs, mentoring in action, defining Level 1 and 2 standards, assessing lungeing the horse and rider, and poles/grids. CE/SSTA's are required to attend an update every two years to maintain their accreditation.

NCAS Overview

I am very pleased that the number of Introductory coaches and Level 1 coaches working towards their Level 2 Accreditation is increasing each year.

The National NCAS Committee is responsible for the coaching syllabus, relevant courses and updates. The committee recently held a review of the coaching system and will be discussing and following up on the information received. We are very lucky to have Philippa Collier who gives up her time to attend the four meetings per year (never in WA!) and keeps us up to date with ongoing national coaching developments.



Courses with Horses

The objective of the EWA NCAS Courses with Horses School Education Program, is to outline minimum standards that are relevant to current EA Pathways, providing the 'horsemanship' component of equestrian sport, and is designed to provide a strong foundation for competitive athletes, coaches, officials, non-riding equestrian enthusiasts and those wishing to pursue a career in the horse industry. These programs have been endorsed by the WA School Curriculum and Standards Authority, under the category of Community Organisation, so any school students undertaking these programs or certificates while in Year 10, 11 or 12 can also count this learning towards their Senior Secondary Certificate being the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

Students can enrol into the EWA Courses with Horses Schools Program to receive EA Riding and for Horse Management workbooks. Candidates work with their own coaches at their own pace outside of school hours or within if their school organizes equestrian skills as part of their curriculum.

The popular equestrian electives for the School Curriculum and Standards Authority Physical Education Studies (SCSAPES) for students in year 12 include Eventing, Dressage and Jumping. In 2008 the original curriculum's standards and levels were designed by Felicity Perry, with assistance from Zoe Harrison and Les Bunning, and continued until the end of 2010 as an "unlisted sport". From 2011 only Eventing was permitted to continue in the new format of a practical exam where students demonstrated skills in the three phases.

In Physical Education (PE) Studies, there are school based assessments and a theory exam which all students must complete. EWA has been hugely supportive of these exams, in particular NCAS WA Coordinator and Coach Jennine Thomasson, whose background work helped to convince the representatives from SCSA that the sport of Equestrian should be included in PE studies. Historically WA was the first state to assess PE Studies with this format.

This year marks the final practical exam in the SCSA PES Equestrian elective. Approximately seven other sport electives will also finish this year.

Special mention must be given to Felicity Perry, Zoe Harrison, Les Bunning, Dinah Fleming, Peta Booker and Jennine Thomasson for their assistance in setting up the curriculum standards, skills and drills for the Equestrian Practical Exams.

Education Seminars and Clinics

In 2014, we also attempted to change the misconception that the High Performance, Coaching and Education programs only offer benefits for a small number of Equestrian WA members, or simply those that are already listed on state or national squads. We extended the opportunity for all EWA members to attend general equine education seminars and fill places in High Performance clinics with state coaches and world equestrian leaders alongside our High Performance athletes. Many EWA members made the most of these opportunities and benefitted from the skills and knowledge of these key industry leaders.

Without the EWA High Performance and NCAS/Education programs, opportunities to receive such assistance would not have been as accessible. In 2015 Milnes Feeds will be supporting another Education Series and we hope that we will receive increasing interest from general EWA members who wish to participate in such opportunities. This will continue to amplify the equestrian knowledge in our state and benefit our competition environment as well as individual knowledge. Whether your aim is to enjoy the sport as a weekend hobby or to represent Australia at the next Olympics – these opportunities are designed to benefit you!

In 2014 five Education Seminars/Clinics were held, and were open to the general membership;

- Dr Kirsten Jackson BSc BVM (Hons) MANZCVSc Equine Dentistry, discussed the importance and benefits to a horse's welfare and condition by maintaining a regular equine dentistry program.



- A human performance clinic and lecture was held in April with Sports Scientist Jon Pitts.
- Dr Peter Huntington B.V.Sc., M.A.C.V.Sc. Director of Nutrition at KER, ran an Equine Nutrition Seminar covering nutrition for the performance horses and tying up, feeding for gut health, metabolic disorders (EMS, PPID) and laminitis.
- Dr Andrew McLean PhD (Equine cognition and learning), BSc (Zoology), Dip Ed, lectured on horse behavior and also gave practical sessions on overcoming crowd shyness, groundwork, float loading and how canter transitions could unsettle some horses.
- Dr John Kohnke BVSc RDA was again welcomed back to give his third seminar and spoke on what to check when purchasing a new horse, how to overcome some nervous problems (in the horses!), and the importance of preparing mares for breeding and foaling. Up to 80 people attended these Seminars.

Conclusion

I am very fortunate to Chair such a group of dedicated people, who willingly give up their time without any 'agenda's, to assist with overseeing the coaching programs, and many thanks to our hardworking Education Manager Jennine Thomasson, who makes everything possible.

Diane Bennit

Chairperson

EWA NCAS Advisory Panel



State Equestrian Centre

2014 was another big year at the State Equestrian Centre (SEC), with consistent venue usage and a number of new groups booking the centre for their events. The SEC relies on clubs, groups and individuals to hire the facility and the more its used, the more sustainable the venue is and the more we can invest into improving the centre. Thank you to all of you who hired or visited the SEC this year.

Through the summer months the SEC team worked hard to prepare the facility prior to the start of the competition season. Improvements included a major clean and the repainting of the indoor arena and the stable complex, which has breathed new life into these areas. The old indoor arena lights were replaced with new induction high bays and this has greatly improved the quality of light and reduced power consumption. It has been great to hear the positive comments throughout the year about the presentation of the grounds and I'd like to give a huge thanks to my team and our volunteers who work hard to keep the SEC looking its best.

The summer months also saw the Parkerville bushfire emergency, and the SEC again opened its (stable) doors to people and horses affected. A total of 67 horses were brought to the centre and many stayed for several days until it was safe to return to their properties. With facilities able to cater for 500+ horses at any one time, the SEC is proud to be able to offer our services to the horsey community in times of emergency.

Autumn was a huge month for events with the Autumn Dressage Festival and the WA Interschool Championships hosted at the SEC. We also welcomed the W.A.Y.E.R Eventing CIC to the SEC for the first time. In order to accommodate this event, a new 2* and 3* cross country track was required. The Brigadoon Working Group was formed and worked in conjunction with Eventing WA Promotions. Eventing WA Promotions and the SEC raised funds and oversaw the development of the new courses. Further upgrades to the entire cross country course will continue over the coming

years and we are excited to be able to offer world class facilities to our local riders.

Another significant improvement to the venue in 2014 was the installation of a new warm up area for the C-Quest arena. Shawn Squire generously donated his time to design and install the arena for the SEC and to complete the arena, Ben Duncan from Horserail Australia donated and installed new black Horserail fencing. This arena not only provides a safe warm up area for the C-Quest, but has become hugely popular for private hirers as well. I would like to personally thank both businesses, and all of our sponsors and supporters for their contribution to the SEC.

The International dressage arena also had a major upgrade to the surface. The base was raised and drainage installed to reduce flooding, and a new rubber and sand surface was laid. With the surface upgrade we can now hire the arena with confidence through the winter months and it continues to be used extensively for dressage competitions, eventing dressage and clinics, as well as private bookings. A big thank you to Acres Rural Lifestyle Services for working with us on this project.

The latter part of the year flew by with back-to-back championship events including the EWA Horse of the Year Show, WA State Show Jumping Championships and the WA State Dressage Championships. In between these events the SEC also played host to a number of breed society state shows and both of the PCAWA State Championship events. As the number of events held at the SEC increases so too does the wear and tear on the General Purpose Field. We are fortunate to have the continued support of Lawndocor who donates their time and machinery to mow and maintain the General Purpose Field. I would like to thank Lawndocor for their ongoing contribution to the SEC. We plan on making further improvements to the General Purpose Field in 2015.

2014 ended on a high after successful negotiations with Polytechnic West to move their Equine Courses from Armadale to the SEC from 2015 onwards. This is a significant partnership for the SEC and is in line with our strategic objectives to diversify revenues streams and maximise facility utilisation. We look forward to welcoming Polytechnic West, and other new partners to the facility in 2015.

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the massive contribution that Mark Warren has made to the SEC over a number of years. Mark has worked tirelessly during his tenure on the EWA Board and as a volunteer to improve the SEC, his involvement has been invaluable.

Elvira Hilton

State Equestrian Centre Manager



Eventing

Eventing in Western Australia is very strong. This is thanks to plans put in place 15 years ago by people who had vision and foresight.

Thanks to the rider's levies, the discipline has not only survived the ups and downs of our turbulent financial times, but grows stronger every year. Long may it last. As always the riders are the main contributors, but also the main beneficiaries.

Clubs are able to apply for grants to not only support and upgrade their courses, but also their facilities. Some clubs that run CNCs, for example Capel, Moora and Gidgegannup, are so popular with the riders that they have to close off their entries early just to be able to fit everyone in the car park!

FEI Events

In 2014 there were five FEI events in WA. How fortunate are our riders! With the FEI making qualifications and MERs harder to achieve, there is more pressure and cost to the organising committees of these events.

WAYER was the first one in April, being mainly used for riders aiming for the CCI in Sydney. Thanks to the help of the State Equestrian Centre, the Brigadoon Working Group, and Wolfe Civil the move was successful. The move, land reclaim and building of a brand new 2*3* track at the State Equestrian Centre worked very well.

John Nicholson, a very highly regarded 3*4* course designer, was brought in to produce a course of world class standard. He did just that! Many riders were a little pale on leaving the start box, however had big smiles on their faces upon return through the finish.

Dryandra produced a second CIC up to 2*. The Wooroloo committee worked tirelessly to produce a very reliable CCI. With this event being the only

one in the west, it is always appreciated by the riders.

Kate Ingham bravely led an enthusiastic team of event riders to upgrade and produce an outstanding event at Fairbridge for Southern Hills Eventing. Congratulations to all involved with this group.

Swan River managed again at the Dryandra grounds, but are looking for a younger group to take over.

Notable Rider Achievements

Congratulations to junior riders Dylan Smith, Shanae Lowings and Kenya Wilson for winning the Teams in Melbourne at the 1*. Gabby Pither, Emily Gray and Makayla Martindale were all selected to be on the Australian team for the Oceania Championships, with Gabby winning the individual title. Sonja Johnson was selected for the World Championships team, but sadly had to withdraw. WA also sent fifteen 2* riders and three 4* riders to the flagship event in Adelaide, with Jessica Manson taking out her first CCI4* win.

Well done to all WA riders for their contribution and participation in this great sport, and for showing the rest of Australia that isolation is no problem!

2014 also saw two of WA's officials and Eventing Committee members travel abroad to offer their services at some of the world's biggest events. Kerrie went as a volunteer to the World Equestrian Games in Normandy. We saw her every day at the main gate. I had the honour of being asked by the FEI to judge the 7 year olds at the World Young Horse Championships at Le Lion, France, and the 8 and 9 year olds at Blenheim UK, as well as a 4* in Pau, France.

Conclusion

I will end this by thanking my committee. At the end of seven years, it is time for me to move on and for someone younger and with more energy and ideas to take the leadership role. Everyone on the committee multi tasks as an organiser, official and rider in addition to meeting their committee commitments.

We do have a succession plan for the development of new TDs, FEI officials and course designers. All these people are volunteers and our sport cannot survive without them.

Thank you to all members of the Eventing Committee for all of your help, support and input over the last seven years.

PollyAnn Huntington

Chairperson 2014

EWA Eventing Committee



Jumping

Western Australian jumping continued on a very positive way for 2014 with some solid development supported by the EWA Jumping Committee.

The objectives for the sport in WA are to foster the success of Western Australian horses, riders and officials at a national and international level, to provide a domestic competition program to grow the participation and interest in jumping through vibrant local events and a range of strong development programs, and for the EWA Jumping Committee to deliver effective governance and management to foster a developing jumping sport in WA.

The Committee, through its key activities, offers active contribution and investment of levies and other funds raised to:

- Provide athletes with leadership, development opportunities and high performance pathways in a healthy sporting environment.
- Foster, support and encourage year round competitions catering for all levels.
- Encourage, develop and administer officials and volunteers to support the sport of jumping.
- Administer the finances of the committee, and uphold the rules of the organisation.
- Work cooperatively and collaboratively to deliver effective communications at all levels.

Finance

In 2014, most spending went towards show prizes and the State Championships. An investment was made towards upgrading our

show jumping equipment to put towards competitions and riders. For the 2014 calendar year, a \$2,400 surplus was made. Income mainly came from levies and equipment hire in a

60/40 ratio. Other income was derived from ticket sales in supporting Eventing in the Park, and grants, which are usually unexpected but highly appreciated.

33% of expenses went towards grants for Horse of the Year, Country Championships, and State Championships. 30% went towards equipment refurbishment and repairs to ensure a high quality and standard of competition equipment for our riders. 14% went to supporting Eventing in the Park (which was nearly entirely reimbursed through ticket sales). 10% went to travel and officials. 5% went towards squads, and 8% went towards prizes, admin, trailers and insurance.

Competitions

One of the key strategies in the EWA Jumping Strategic Plan is to foster, support and encourage year-round competitions catering for all levels. In 2014 the committee budgeted in excess of \$15,000 to achieve this aim.

The pinnacle of this support is the EWA Jumping Horse Of The Year (HOTY) Series which the committee envisages to act as a beneficial preparation for both horses and riders who are aiming to compete in World Cups, the Perth Royal Show Part 1 classes and Patron's Cup at the end of the year, by encouraging horses to comfortably move from 1.30m to 1.40m plus over a pre-arranged time frame. The Jumping Committee worked alongside the host jump clubs to hold 8 qualifying rounds between March and November in 2014. The EWA Jumping Horse of the Year was Oaks Redwood.

The EWA Jumping Committee also gives financial support to the Country Novice Championship which is a series competition for horses with 20 or less jumping points. In 2014, six qualifying classes were held at the Bunbury Jumping Classic, Busselton Winter Jumping Festival and the annual July show at the Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club. To be eligible to enter the Country Novice Championship



Final held in August 2014 at the Dryandra Regional Equestrian Association, horse and rider combinations had had to compete in at least one of the six qualifying classes. The winner of the EWA Country Novice Championship for 2014 was Diamond B Catapult ridden by Brigid Kelly.

The Jumping Committee, with the assistance of sponsorship from Saddles Plus, also runs EWA Jumping Young Masters Series. This competition attracts children and youth to compete in an age-specific series. In 2014 there were 10 qualifying events throughout WA from Northampton in the north to Albany in the south, involving both metropolitan and country jump clubs. The series encourages metropolitan riders to support the country events in order to gain points, and at the same time giving country riders the opportunity to ride in these events without travelling to Perth. There are three divisions in the series they being 80cm, 1m and Junior Jumper.

In 2014 the joint winners for the 80cm series were Maddison Skinner (GKO Arpeggio) and Chloe Versteegen (Red Back) and then Isabella Colder (Just Jazz) and Grace Fuchsbichler (Serene Dream) for the 1m and Junior Jumper series respectively.

Saddles Plus came on as a new sponsor for the Young Masters series in 2014, and the Jumping Committee would like to express their thanks to Saddles Plus and the Johnson family for their support in running the series.

In 2014, with sponsorship support from Equineworld, the Jumping Committee again ran a Young Rider and Amateur Rider leader board and the winners were Annabel Cowcher and Hannah Henry respectively.

Youth Development Squad

In 2014, the Jumping Committee conducted the running of the squads. 2014 saw a new concept, with the young rider squads being altered to become a Youth Development Squad, where up and coming younger riders could join more experienced riders in the same squad as a way of learning and developing with them.

The squad members all voted to have a Squad Coach and David Dobson was asked to fill this

task. Two clinics were organised with David and the squad members were offered a third with National Coach Rod Brown. The squad members especially appreciated having a local coach who knew them and their horses, and who was able to assist them at competitions.

The youth development squad was largely self-funded and the squad formed firm bonds whilst fundraising and assisting each other at competitions.

High Performance

The structure of the Jumping Squads has been updated following a comprehensive review of the EWA High Performance Pathways by the Department of Sport and Recreation in collaboration with the EWA High Performance Review Panel (discussed further in the Education Report on page 6).

Jumping has been allocated \$10,000 with the split of \$5,000 to the education and training of future officials and reaccreditation of current officials, and \$5,000 to the Squads.

At this stage, with further announcements in the future, it has been agreed to pay the Open Squad's entry fees for their squad horse to the HOTY and State Championships (or World Cup Qualifier). The entry fees to the State Champs and the Young Rider Elite Jumping Squads' Selection Events (previously the Tekna Series) will be paid for the Young Rider/Development squad combinations.

Officials

The sport remains indebted to our officials who contribute their time, energy and expertise to ensure the sport is conducted fairly and efficiently. WA is fortunate to have some well credentialed International Judges, Course Designers, Stewards and Vets which are integral to the sport. Behind this group are some very dedicated individuals who continue to invest in their skills and learning. Again in 2014 the Jumping Committee conducted a 2 day Judging and Course Design Seminar with Penny Dodd (FEI International), and Fred Freeman (FEI Level 2) which was well attended.



Equipment

The Ellenbrook Men's Shed was contracted to paint all of our 3.6m and 4m rails during 2014. Paint was purchased by the Committee, and all work was done at their "Shed" in Ellenbrook. Even though the group had no idea about show jumping, they soon came to understand, and did a magnificent job.

Unfortunately, such is the nature of show jumping, they did not stay pristine for long, with wear and tear in handling them on and off the trailers, and horses knocking them.

A pressure washer was purchased to help keep the equipment clean, which came in especially useful after jumping events on the C-Quest arena and in the Indoor Arena due to the wet sand and material sticking. Cleaning was essential to ensure that the equipment was clean for the next hirer. The wings were repainted prior to the Royal Show.

The trailers have been serviced, to make them road worthy, i.e. brake cylinders, brake linings greased, and new tyres.

Total cost on the work done on the equipment for 2014 was \$14,895, including the trailer maintenance, insurance and licences, with the total income for equipment hire being \$15,120.

A "tropical" roof is to be fabricated on the Judges Caravan to help keep it cool in summer months.

In January, 2015, the EWA Jumping shed was vacated for the Polytechic group. A new shed for the jumping equipment is to be built near the C-Quest arena, but planning permission and Swan Shire approval is delaying proceedings.

Communications

The Jumping Western Australia Facebook Page was started in mid-2012 and as of April 2015 has 779 Members.

It is the primary communication tool of the Jumping Committee. It is used to update members on information from the Committee, to advertise affiliated competitions, advertise photographs from

affiliated events, and any other forms of communication relevant to official jumping competition in Western Australia, Australia and Overseas.

Posts to the page are strictly monitored to comply with the Equestrian Australia Social Media Policy. The page is very successful and the Jumping Committee receives a great deal of positive feedback in relation to it, particularly its ease of use.

Conclusion

Finally, thank you to the Committee members who contribute their evening on the fourth Monday of the month, and many in between hours to ensure that jumping remains on an even keel and importantly provides the right forum for the sport to prosper.

Peter Cooke

Chairperson 2014

EWA Jumping Committee



Show Horse

The Show Horse Committee had another very successful year in 2014, culminating in the Show Horse of the Year Show in September, the pinnacle of our Show Horse Calendar in WA.

The Show Horse Committee continued to administer Show Horse matters and conducted three well attended shows during the year, as well as a judge's seminar. We had one resignation from the Committee - Rosanna Abbonizio. Rosanna made a valuable contribution to the committee and stepped down in order to pursue other personal interests. Rosanna still continued to offer her support when she was able to do so. The Committee welcomed Fiona Graetz to join the existing committee members of Peta Gallagher, Val Mayger, Lindsay Baxter, Kerry Wilson, Caris Reside, Marlene Kinder and Lisa Orrell. We were also joined later in the year by Oscar Graetz and Carmen Vakis as part of our Horse of the Year Task Force.

Autumn Hack and Hunter Show

Our first show of the season was the Autumn Hack and Hunter Show held in April 2014. The judges were Elizabeth Hunt (SA) and Alison Gears (VIC). There were a pleasing number of entries which kept our judges busy for the day. We received excellent support from our sponsors and the show was financially successful.

Show Horse and Judge's Seminar

In June, we again partnered with the Show Horse Council to conduct a Judge/Show Horse seminar which was well attended. Our facilitator from Victoria was Sue Thompson. The topics Mrs Thompson covered included obligations of judges, stewards and other officials in matters of animal welfare, safety of competitors, duty of care and legal issues, workouts, dress standards, social media and awarding of ribbons.

Newcomers and Winter Gala

The 2014 Newcomers Award for Hacks and Hunters and the Winter Gala was held in June, and was well supported by competitors and sponsors. Our Judges were Joanne Frazer (QLD) and Marion Squire (NSW). The judges were very impressed by the quality of horses and the polite manner in which all competitors conducted themselves during the show.

Horse of the Year Show

The 2014 Horse of the Year Show was again a huge undertaking. The weekend kicked off with a sundowner in the bar area of the State Equestrian Centre on the Thursday night (4th September) which saw everyone in attendance enjoying the evening.

For the first time, four judges were enlisted for the weekend, as opposed to the usual three judges. The judges in attendance were Sally Miller (VIC), Liz Francis (SA), Judith Hill (QLD) and Sue Quarrell (TAS). The judges are selected using a random system overseen by EWA, and they are then contacted by Valerie Mayger who is a committee member with no vested interests in Show Horse competition.

On Friday, the Hunter classes commenced at 2:00pm. This is only the second year that this show has been conducted over three days. Shifting the Hunters to their own day meant that events were less rushed and the Hunters were able to shine.

The weekend saw the usual format of Hacks on the Saturday, and Riders, Rural and Intermediate classes on the Sunday. A slight change in programming and the addition of the fourth judge enabled the program to run to time. The preferential scoring system went more smoothly than in the previous two years which proves that practice makes perfect. This event was only the third time that WA has used the system in its



entirety. Results were available within appropriate time frames, which meant horses and riders weren't kept in suspense waiting for the results.

During competition on the Saturday afternoon, a sponsor's function was held as a way of thanking our loyal and valued sponsors. We had the most amazing array of sponsors and we thank them all for their support. They provided cash and products which allowed us to cover some of the costs of running the show over nearly four days. The 2014 WA Horse of the Year Show for the year cost approximately \$22,000 to run. The contribution of sponsors is valuable as we have endeavored to keep entry fees for events at a reasonable level to encourage participation.

The amount of time and logistics involved in ensuring that shows can be held for the benefit of our equestrian members is considerable. Many people approach the Committee to thank us for our hard work, and that makes it all worthwhile. In turn, the Committee, would like to thank everyone who participated as a competitor, sponsor or volunteer over the year of 2014 to help make it such a success.

National Show Horse Championships

The Equestrian Australia National Show Horse Championships was held in Victoria in December 2014. It was an absolute honour for myself to attend as the Team Manager for the WA Team. The team consisted of 18 horses and ponies as well as our riders, their families, and our supporters. The entire team not only performed very strongly in the competition, but came together with team spirit as never before, proudly flying the flag for WA.

Ramsay's Horse Transport kindly provided us with a marquee, a barbeque, and everything else we required to make our time at Werribee a great experience. Team members made use of the marquee by enjoying barbeque lunches and breakfasts, and used it as place to rest and interact with their fellow team members during the day.

The team's results over the two days of competition were no less than spectacular when you consider how small the WA Show Horse

community is compared to the likes of other states on the east coast. We were awarded three 1st Runner-Up Awards, one 2nd Runner-Up Award, and a National Title which was awarded to Richard Rice and his beautiful Burnbrae Park Talisman. Every member of the team was a worthy competitor, and all of our lovely horses performed beautifully. To top off a wonderful few days, Team WA was awarded the National Championship's Team Award, which recognised the team for demonstrating the best team spirit, sportsmanship and pride.

Conclusion

When I took the position of Chair of the EWA Show Horse Committee in 2012, the committee chose to take the position of abiding by our National Show Horse rules to be fair to all. This meant making tough decisions which did not fit with some people's expectations, but the Show Horse discipline is administered for the benefit of everyone, not just a few. We appreciate that taking a firm approach ruffles a few feathers, but by sticking to the rules and by being open and accountable we have engendered confidence in the Show Horse discipline.

I would like to again thank all of our wonderful sponsors who showed their support throughout 2014. They willingly provided an amazing amount of financial support and prizes which we were pleased to pass on to well-deserving winners of events. The Show Horse Committee aims to provide all of our members and competitors with the best shows so that they can enjoy competition and get rewarded for their efforts. We ask that successful competitors personally thank our sponsors - by letter or email - so that they know that their sponsorship is appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for their contribution to Show Horse. Lindsay in particular has been my greatest support, undertaking all written reports for our shows, preparing our risk management and show manuals, and much more. Val has been our public announcer and Judge Coordinator, Marlene our Minute-Taker, Kerry our Judge's Stewardess and Prize

Coordinator, Fiona our Uniform Coordinator, Caris and Lisa our support crew, and myself, in addition to Chair, also took the position of Sponsorship Coordinator and carried out all general administration of the Show Horse discipline.

I have now resigned from the Show Horse Committee to enable myself to spend more time with my horses and other interests. I thoroughly enjoyed my three years as Chair, and I am still supporting the committee as Sponsorship Coordinator for 2015.

I sincerely wish the new committee all the very best for the 2015 Show Season.

Peta Gallagher

Chairperson 2014

EWA Show Horse Committee



Dressage

2014 was a continuation of the development initiatives of 2013, this focus being on bringing the discipline back to the glory and participation of previous years. Many of the initiatives started in 2013 continued to grow and gain momentum through 2014. The committee hopes that this will continue into the future.

These initiatives included:

- Improving the committee's communication with members and riders to ensure that riders are more aware of what the committee is trying to do to improve the sport in the state.
- Improving the running of dressage competitions by taking control of the running of the major dressage events in WA, and also improving the accessibility of events for riders with the implementation of mid-week events.
- Ideas to secure significant sponsorship for the sport going forward and to bring the prestige back to the state events.

Communications

2014 saw the continuation of the Dressage WA (DWA) website by committee member Kristy Jarvis. Kristy has worked tirelessly to ensure that the website information is up to date and to draw riders attention to the information that they can find on the website. The idea being that the DWA website will become the 'go to' point for information on dressage in WA.

The committee has also been working on the interim newsletters which are designed to keep the riders informed as to what the committee are working on and how the funds are being administered. The newsletter is only in its initial planning stages and we hope it will gain momentum into 2015.

High Performance

A new initiative was launched in 2014 to further improve the high performance scheme in WA. To read more about the high performance review go to page 3. One of the main initiatives for dressage was to move the State Championships to earlier in the year to enable riders to gain qualifying scores if they wished to travel east.

The 2014 WA dressage squads consisted of 11 State Squad members, 13 Young Rider Squad members, and 8 Development Squad members. Two of these members were based interstate but still represented WA. At the end of 2014, Deon Stokes (also a member of the National Squad) also became based in NSW but remains a WA representative.

Deon Stokes, Jackie Lancaster, Madison Tristram (YR) and Krysten Lituri all rode for WA at the National Dressage Championships in Sydney in October. Whilst all riders rode solid tests, Deon shined with top placings in the Prix St George and Inter I, along with wins in the National Futures class and the Medium Tour. Louise Hillman also travelled to New South Wales and Victoria during the year to compete with consistent results.

Para Equestrian

2014 was a successful year with continued competition in State Championships and local clubs. We are hoping that Zoe Farrant will become an accredited classifier and will continue to work with our riders. We also have a number of information evenings planned for 2015 and we are hoping that the momentum gained this year will continue into 2015.

Dressage Judges Taskforce

The Dressage Judges Taskforce, supported by the Dressage Development Fund (DDF) and the DWA Committee, were able to continue their Judge Education Program by providing a variety of



seminars and workshops through the year. Presenters included Mary Seefried FEI 5*, Wendy Hunt, Wendy Barker, Harry Boldt and PollyAnn Huntington. The DDF contributes towards the costs of upgrading exams and shadow judging.

In readiness for the new Para Equestrian (PE) Judges Rule to be introduced in 2015, and to reaccredit local PE judges, Wendy Barker FEI PE 4* conducted a PE Judges Seminar and Exams. This was well supported by our local judges. Several judges attained their PE judge status, giving our WA PE riders good support for their future.

Throughout the year judges were invited to officiate with international and eastern states judges, both at metropolitan and regional events.

There has been an increase in numbers of people from regional areas starting their judges training and attaining their H level accreditation. Three NOAS judges upgraded in 2014 - two to E level and one to A level.

DWA Funds

Dressage Development Fund (DDF) grants were paid to Sharon Jarvis and Sally Trevenen to assist with their travel expenses to compete at various eastern states events.

DDF grants were also paid to Southern Districts Dressage Club for a new arena sound system, and to Henty Riding Club to put towards the costs of inviting an eastern states judge to attend their event.

The expenditure for the 2014 State Dressage Championships was \$43'800. Fortunately a substantial amount of sponsorship from small and corporate business enabled this event to break even.

For the first time, Dressage WA, with the assistance of Jackie Lancaster, held four mid-week dressage events. These proved to be extremely popular and were financially cost neutral which allowed for their continuation in 2015.

Competitions

After making the decision in 2013 to take control of the major dressage events in WA for the

foreseeable future, 2014 has been a year of success and consolidation for the Dressage WA committee with respect to the development of rider-friendly events and increasing the level of sponsorship and interest in dressage competition. Heidi Emery took charge of the events and sponsorship portfolio in 2013, and is continuing to develop ideas for events and sponsorship going forward with strong support from all members of the Dressage WA committee.

Autumn Dressage Festival and Guinot Freestyle Challenge

The first major competition of 2014 was the Autumn Dressage Festival and Guinot Freestyle Challenge on the 12th and 13th of April. The event was held in conjunction with the State Equestrian Centre and its manager, Elvira Hilton. The event incorporated the Horseland Young Dressage Horse and Pony Competition and Masterclass, hosted by David Schoobridge from New South Wales.

The event attracted approximately 480 entries which included strong entries in the Horseland Young Dressage and Pony Competition, and saw approximately 600 spectators (including 150 in a sold out VIP area) turn out to watch the Young Dressage Horse Final and the David Schoobridge Masterclass on the Sunday program.

We believe the event was an outstanding success, both for the organisers and the competitors, and has greatly assisted in raising the profile of dressage in Western Australia with both riders and the general public. Dressage WA thanks SEC Manager, Elvira Hilton, for her support with the Festival in both 2013 and this year. We very much hope that this support will continue in the future.

State Dressage Championships

On the back of the success of the Autumn Dressage Festival, we secured important sponsorship for the 2014 WA State Dressage Championships from John Hughes and Jeep. As well as easing the financial burden, Dressage WA believes the securing of sponsorship from such a respected, relevant and prestigious source will raise the Dressage WA brand profile for the future and offer strong assurances of return on investment to other potential sponsors. Dressage WA is very excited by the future



possibilities as a consequence of this support from the John Hughes Group, and in particular from Gary Fitch.

Despite being scheduled after the Royal Show, during the school holidays, and at the same time as the National Interschools, the WA State Dressage Championships held over the weekend of the 4th and 5th of October was again a success for Dressage WA.

The grounds at the State Equestrian Centre looked fabulous, and the addition of John Hughes Jeep to the trade village was successful. The John Hughes representatives were able to sell a vehicle to a non-horsey local resident who had seen the advertising of the event on Facebook and had decided to attend!

Despite the scheduling, numbers were again strong with approximately 450 entries including a developing base in the Pony Dressage classes. The eastern states judges (of which there were 3) were impressed by the standard of horses and riders across the board and felt the majority were on par with our eastern states counterparts.

Master Series Final

The final event of 2014 was held on the 16th of November, where Dressage WA presented the inaugural Master Series Final (for Ponies and Horses) incorporating the Penny Hill Park Rising Star Award Final.

The horse and rider combinations in attendance had taken part in qualifying events throughout the year, and were then invited to be part of the Final. The event attracted strong interest and many riders were disappointed not to have made the final cut.

We believe that competition will be fierce at the nominated qualifying events in 2015, which will also serve to encourage riders to attend various club events, in turn increasing support for the clubs who are kind enough to provide dressage competitions throughout the year.

For the event itself, we were particularly thrilled to secure the services of one of Australia's leading international judges, Susie Hoevenaars, who was fresh from presiding over the dressage at the World Equestrian Games in Normandy.

The event was very well supported by the riders and nearly all invited combinations attended to compete. The atmosphere was fantastic and some great dressage was ridden, receiving many compliments from Susie and our other respected eastern states judges. In 2015, we plan to slightly expand the competition whilst still keeping to the intense one day program.

Mid-Week Dressage Competitions

2014 also saw the introduction of mid-week dressage competitions that were organised by WA FEI rider, Jackie Lancaster, on behalf of the Dressage WA committee. Six competitions were held over the course of the year and all were well attended. The competitions were held at the State Equestrian Centre in the indoor arena. Between 60 to 85 combinations entered for each event.

The events were all self-sustaining, and the feedback from riders was extremely positive. These events will continue in 2015. Dressage WA sincerely thanks Jackie Lancaster for her efforts on behalf of Dressage WA.

Conclusion

The Dressage WA committee are very positive moving forward into 2015 with a new motto "Dressage comes alive in One Five". With our developing rider and sponsorship base, we believe the future is bright for the Dressage in Western Australia.

Sara Price

Chairperson 2014
EWA Dressage Committee



EQUESTRIAN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

