



ANNUAL REPORT

**July 1st 2023
to
June 30th 2024**

Management Committee Members 2023 – 2024



Teresa Russo (QLD)
Office Holder - Chairperson
Newsletters & Communications
portfolio.



Lyn Robertson (QLD)
Office Holder - Vice Chairperson.



Paula Byrne (QLD)
Office Holder – Secretary.
Website & Equibase portfolio.
WDAA (USA) Liaison Officer.



Julie Sain (QLD)
Office Holder - Treasurer.
Events Coordinator, Awards
Convenor portfolio.



Beth Noble (WA)
Committee Member.
Assistant to Awards Convenor.



Rachael O'Dowd (VIC)
Committee Member.
National Judge Convenor
portfolio.



Lisa Halling (SA)
Committee Member from 23
February 2024. Filled the
vacancy left by Sue Franks.



Sue Franks (QLD)
Committee Member from
November 2022. Judge convenor
portfolio from February 2023.
Resigned 01/02/2024.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

This annual report reviews the period from July 1st 2023 to June 30th 2024.

At the start of that period, the duly elected Management Committee comprised of Teresa Russo, Lyn Robertson, Julie Sain, Paula Byrne, Beth Noble, Rachael O'Dowd and Sue Franks. Sue later resigned and Lisa Halling was elected to fill the vacancy in February 2024.

The 2023 AGM was held on 16 November via a Google online platform. The term of office for each Management Committee member is two (2) years. Three (3) members namely Teresa Russo, Julie Sain & Paula Byrne completed their term, and their positions were declared vacant. The positions were advertised however the only nominations received were from the vacating members. Paula advised that she only wanted to stay until mid-March with a preference that she would step down and the Secretary position be filled by a new person. The 3 nominees were duly appointed to the committee.

It was a very busy and demanding year for the committee whose focus is always on meeting the short term and long term objectives of the Association. Several large projects were undertaken which were extremely challenging and time consuming. The intention of these projects was to guarantee uniformity in the rules and standards across Australia as a whole; and to represent the interests of the WDA-AUS members within Australia and Internationally.

OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

- ◆ **2024 WDA-AUS WESTERN DRESSAGE NATIONAL SHOW.** Following on from the previous reporting period, a Sub-Committee was formed to assist the Management Committee. Planning and preparations began early for the 16-18 August, 2024 biennial event. A lot was achieved by these volunteers who also held positions on other committees, that required their time.

A standalone social media page dedicated just to the National Show was created as a single source for all things National Show related, including Sponsor posts and acknowledgements. This allowed the WDA-AUS National social media page to remain active as the western dressage information and education source.

- ◆ **NEW TESTS.** These were published at the end of the 2022-23 year and commenced use as at 01/07/2023. Even though they had been reviewed and tested, some alterations were necessary after their inception. Feedback on the tests have mostly been positive and riders have enjoyed the variations. Level Four tests were written, this was a first for western dressage in Australia. After validation, they were published in March 2024 and available for use.

To compliment the new tests, arrangements were made to have a Test Diagram Booklet made available for purchase through Equi Directory. This has been popular amongst members and interested persons alike.

- ◆ **NEWSLETTER, COMMUNICATION & INDUSTRY MAGAZINE PROMOTION.** There was significant growth in these areas.
 - ◆ **Western Horse Annual.** WDA-AUS gained excellent exposure through a well written article submitted to this leading Western Performance industry magazine. The photographic coverage showed western dressage at its best.
 - ◆ **The Western Dressage Collective.** Newsletter Edition 20 (Oct -Dec 2023) saw the launch of the new digital Flipbook style of the WDA-AUS newsletter with a brand-new look and an official name "The Western Dressage Collective". Edition 22 (Apr-Jun) was the very first Western Dressage Newsletter to go to print after it was released digitally in early July. The print version was purposefully made available in time for the National show and was given out in competitor bags and to sponsors. This was very well received.

- ◆ **RULE CHANGES.** With the introduction of new tests and the new level four tests, adjustments were required to be made to the rules, specifically simple changes of lead through the walk and through the jog and flying lead changes. These changes aimed to provide a smoother more systematic & progressive approach for the transition to higher level movements. Amendments were made to the Tie Break Rule to provide event organisers with a clear structure for managing ties. Competitors would also benefit from having knowledge of how ties are to be handled.
- ◆ **AMATEUR PERMITS.** Work continued on developing the nominate software necessary to process amateur permits, including an eligibility declaration. This was cause for some frustration and was time consuming but it was eventually released as operational. A video tutorial was created and released by WDA-AUS to assist members. Members applied for their permits and once the approval process was completed, the members were able to compete in the Amateur division offered by some of the affiliates prior to it becoming a compulsory division for all Western Dressage competition events as at 1 July 2024. This was a valuable experience for affiliates leading up to the new requirement.
- ◆ **INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE – WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.** In the spirit of promoting the discipline of Western Dressage, the Western Dressage Association of Australia (WDA-AUS) and the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) entered into an International Alliance Memorandum of Understanding. An integral inclusion of this agreement is an International Judge Certification Program, developed by WDAA. This will provide much needed education to our judges and improve consistency in scoring nationally. Other benefits are the sharing of marketing and educational materials, exchange of news items and photographs, highlighting the activities and achievements of members. The AQHA (USA) is a Breed Alliance Partner of WDAA and similarly the AQHA (Aust) recognises WDA-AUS as the Approved Performance Body for western dressage in Australia. These professional relationships work in unison to advance the sport and the association as a whole.

Members were encouraged to take part in the 2024 Online International Show being held in May 2024. Three members competed in this world event and their results were excellent. Class numbers ranged between 12 and 31 entries. Each of our members placed in the Top 5, including two first places. They were great ambassadors for Australia and showed that our standard of competition is on an equal par.

- ◆ **JUDGES** – A total of five judge applications from various states were approved. A judge’s seminar in Victoria was planned bookings called for, however was not able to proceed. The judge convenor portfolio was reassigned as a result of changes within the Management Committee and a judge discussion and education group was created in February 2024. The International Judge Certification Program will take precedence over a judge seminar and all WDA-AUS judges will be required to complete the certification program once it is launched.
- ◆ **LOGO.** After some discussion and deliberation, the National Management Committee agreed that the existing WDA-AUS logo did not clearly reflect our sport or our Acronym – WDA-AUS – and was easily confused with the State logos and some WDA-AUS affiliates using a similar design. Whilst it served us well for the first 10 years of the association it was determined that it was timely to adopt a fresh, new modern look to propel the National association forward into the future. Launching it in time for the National Show and to coincide with the 10-year anniversary celebrations was a challenge due to the enormous workload for the National Management Committee in 2024, but it was successfully achieved and the new logo looks fresh and relevant and has received positive feedback from the membership.

- ◆ **LIFETIME HORSE RECOGNITION & AWARDS PROGRAM.** Our members achievements with their horses for this period has been outstanding. The following LHRAP certificates and awards were issued to individual horses registered with the WDA-AUS.

- ◆ 17 x Certificates of Merit
- ◆ 10 x Certificates of Achievement
- ◆ 1 x Certificate of Excellence
- ◆ 4 x Bronze Century Awards
- ◆ 5 x WDA-AUS Performance Bronze Medals

The aforementioned objectives aim towards achieving our goal of guaranteeing the authenticity and relevance of Western Dressage in the changing and competitive environment of the western disciplines. The Management Committee continues to focus on developing a progressive future of achievements for competitors and their horses.

AFFILIATES – STATE AND REGIONAL

Annual memberships opened a month early again this period. While this adds to the administrative demands of the Management Committee, it has been found to be worthwhile as it lessens the pressure on members and committees involved in competitions being held in the early part of the new membership/competition year.

Affiliate committees put a lot of time into hosting competition shows and training clinics. Many made the most of the WDA-AUS Incentive Program which offers financial assistance for an annual championship or state show. Several events included come & try classes for new or interested persons just starting out in Western Dressage. The feedback received was positive and suggested that our affiliates do a good job in providing a welcoming and supportive environment. New memberships were evidence of this.

It was pleasing to see that some affiliates took the initiative to include amateur division classes in their programs, before this became compulsory as at July 1, 2024. This gave them a great opportunity to gain experience running a show with these extra classes, calculating the relevant placings and awards and reporting the results. It also benefitted the members who had applied for and received their amateur permits early as it gave them another division of competition which also included the relevant awards for placings.

GOVERNANCE

Discussions were held with the AQHA Show & Performance Administrator regarding the awarding of AQHA points for western dressage class results. It was identified that the current system required improvement to ensure that points were only awarded for WDA-AUS Approved competition classes. Action was taken to streamline the process which resulted in all AQHA show results being submitted only by the WDA-AUS Events Coordinator. The AQHA will not accept any results that do not come directly from the Events Coordinator.

It's important to be cognisant of the fact that the WDA-AUS Management Committee is charged with making decisions relating to the sustainability, growth, development and regulation of this sport in Australia.

This reporting period included a number of very time-consuming membership and compliance issues that required examination, assessment, necessary actions determined & taken, followed by ongoing monitoring.

The Management Committee's decisions and actions were taken to ensure fairness for all members and affiliates, without favour or malice towards any individual members, groups, affiliates or locations. All decisions and actions were determined collectively and democratically by the committee as a whole.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The objective of providing the membership (and the greater public) with an Official WDA-AUS Newsletter is to report on and promote the sport of Western Dressage in Australia and to showcase the wonderful achievements occurring within our sport by our valued members and affiliates around the country.

As our association and sport have grown there are now many more Western Dressage events, occasions and interesting information that is included in the quarterly newsletter. During the reporting period (2023-2024) there have been 4 WDA-AUS official newsletters released. Edition 19 (Jul – Sep 2023) was the last newsletter to be delivered in PDF format. The size of this publication has outgrown the platform that was used to circulate it to members and publish on the website. WDA-AUS sought to move towards a more professional interactive digital platform to remain competitive in the equestrian sports environment and maintain engagement with our members and with the general equestrian public with our content. From Edition 20 (Oct – Dec 2023) the newsletter received a revamp and a 'glow up' to the now more modern digital Flipbook style and given a fresh new name "The Western Dressage Collective". Most issues are now 24 pages plus – it is jam packed with western dressage related content from all parts of Australia. Member contributions are always welcome and encouraged and whilst some affiliates readily provide information and photos from their events, most do not.

Content for the newsletter is researched extensively and sourced by the Communications and Marketing officer – a time-consuming task. This, along with the sheer growth of the sport and the subsequent professional marketing direction projected for the newsletter, the creation of this publication was moved to an outsourced paid position. This was discussed and voted on by the National Management Committee early in January 2024 and TR Equine Services was engaged to fulfill this position. Marketing opportunities are being investigated to help offset the cost of production.

Member bulletins continue to be generated monthly or as needed. This strategy was established to share relevant information coming from the Management Committee meetings, outlining to the WDA-AUS members areas what the committee is working on for the betterment of the sport.

Facebook posts on the official WDA-AUS page have been generated at times to share information, notices and announcements and to share Western Dressage relevant content to keep members and enthusiasts engaged with our sport and our association. This has been a shared role between the Communications & Marketing officer and the Website Co-ordinator. Early in 2024 a separate WDA-AUS National Show Facebook page was created to share National show related information, sponsor appreciation posts and sponsor promotion.

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2024

Revenue for year to June 2024 was \$ 29,420, a small increase of \$290 compared to the previous year's revenue. Nett Loss was \$12,756 at year end compared to a nett profit of \$ 5,231 as at June 2023. Nett Loss is attributed to the expenses associated with the National Show being held in August 2024

Profit and Loss for the year ended 30 June 2024

June 2024	Jun-24				Jun-23		Variance on prior year	
	YTD Actual		YTD Budget		YTD			
Senior Members (\$100pa)	157	15,710	200	19,000	201	19,855	(44)	(4,145)
Youth Members (\$95pa)	3	285						
Life Members (\$1000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Associate Members (\$50pa)	4	200	-	-	3	150	1	50
Amateur Members (\$30)	28	840	-	-			28	840
Affiliate Members - State (\$350pa <50, \$500 50-100, \$750 >100)	3	1,200	4	1,200	3	1,050	-	150
Affiliate Members - Club (\$180pa)	5	920	6	1,080	5	900	-	20
Horse Registration (\$25 per horse per lifetime)	61	1,525	65	1,625	289	1,600	(228)	(75)
Event only	144	2,207	80	1,200	248	2,033	(104)	174
Show Approvals (State Show)	2	200	2	200			2	200
Show Approvals (Championship Show)	6	450	3	300			6	450
Show Approvals (Standard Show)	24	1,200	37	1,750	31	1,825	(7)	(625)
National Show Sponsorship		3,600		3,000		-	-	3,600
National Show Raffle		495				980		(485)
Merchandise		588		275		452		- 136
		29,420		29,630		28,845		290
Net Profit YTD		(12,756)		3,156		5,231		(17,987)

COSTS

	Actual
Insurance	16,417
Nominate Fees	116
Audios	24
Rulebooks	325
Sponsorships	3,500
Magazine promo	495
Newsletter	3,000
Judge's Seminar	1,488
Webex/Website	504
National Awards	1,336
Software	107
National Show Expenses	10,942
Refunds	290
Postage	211
	<u>\$ 38,755</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

June 2024			
Asset			
	Bank	12,579.61	
	Nominate	6,633.94	19,213.55
Liability			
	Event Insurance	-	
	WDA-QLD	(1,566.25)	
	WDA-WA	(436.25)	
	WDA-VIC	(330.00)	
			(2,332.50)
Long Term Liability			
	WDA-QLD (Life Memberships)		
	WDA-WA (Life Membership)		
	WDA-VIC (Life Membership)		0.00
Net Assets			16,881.05
Equity			
	Retained Earning		29,637.53
	Current Year Earnings		(12,756.48)
			16,881.05

State Association payments

The following amounts are reimbursed to State Associations each year after 30 th June.					
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	TOTAL
WDA-QLD	1766.25	1871.25	1646.25	1566.25	6850.00
WDA-WA	266.25	223.75	287.50	436.25	1213.75
WDA-VIC	245.00	457.50	457.50	330.00	1490.00
	2277.50	2552.50	2391.25	2332.50	9553.75

NATIONAL HIGH POINT AWARDS 2023 - 2024

The 2023-2024 End of Year National High Point Awards were announced at the Western Dressage Association of Australia National Awards Dinner held in conjunction with the National Show on Saturday the 17th of August, 2024. This was a wonderful night where good friends and new friends came together to celebrate over a delicious meal. It was the first time that a National Awards Dinner was held and the WDA-AUS Management Committee are proud to have set this tradition in place for all future National Shows.

The majority of the Award Recipients were in attendance, and it was lovely to be able to present their awards to them in person, in front of their peers who were able to personally congratulate them on their achievements.

2023-2024 National Level Champions & Reserve Champions

YOUTH	RIDER	HORSE
Champion	Montana Hamilton	TAPT DANCIN DUNDEE
Reserve Champion	Megan Chatfield	COCO NIOKA KING

BASIC LEVEL	HORSE	RIDER
Champion	EEC ITS ALL GOOD	Beth Noble
Reserve Champion	TAPT DANCIN DUNDEE	Montana Hamilton

LEVEL ONE	HORSE	RIDER
Champion	EEC ITS ALL GOOD	Beth Noble
Reserve Champion	KOORALA POKER FACE	Heather Marr

LEVEL TWO	HORSE	RIDER
Champion	TRIANDIBO INSHEPLAYIN	Vicki Parker
Reserve Champion	TOO MUCH HOOCH	Louise Harris

LEVEL THREE	HORSE	RIDER
Champion	TOO MUCH HOOTCH	Louise Harris
Reserve Champion	SMART NU RELEASE	Sue Franks

STATE HIGH POINT AWARDS 2023 - 2024

Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia each have a WDA-AUS affiliated state body. The Western Dressage Association of Queensland, the Western Dressage Association of Victoria and the Western Dressage Association of Western Australia present the end of year State High Point Awards relevant to their respective states. South Australia does not have a state body, therefore the South Australian affiliate, the Southern Star Western Performance Club presents the awards on behalf of WDA-AUS. Congratulations to all of the following members, you should be proud of what you have achieved during the 2023-2024 competition year.

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – VICTORIA		
BASIC LEVEL		
HORSE	OWNER	PLACING
SILVERTHORN CAROUSEL	Gina Zammit	1st
DELIGHTFUL MR H	Colette Apted	2nd
SIR ISAAC NEWTON	Gina Zammit	2nd

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – VICTORIA		
LEVEL ONE		
HORSE	OWNER	PLACING
SILVERTHORN CAROUSEL	Gina Zammit	1st

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
BASIC LEVEL		
HORSE	OWNER	PLACING
EEC ITS ALL GOOD	Beth Noble	1st
NPH LIL HOLLYWOOD	Amy Morris	2nd
GENEVIEVE	Barbara Sloan	3rd
TRAFALGAR PARK PABLO	Natalie Mitchell	4th
JAMES BOND	Jessica Stephens	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
LEVEL ONE		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
EEC ITS ALL GOOD	Beth Noble	1st
DELATITE MIGHTY BLU DENIM	Mia-Jane Perry	2nd
GENEVIEVE	Barbara Sloan	3rd

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
LEVEL TWO		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
TRIANDIBO INSHEPLAYIN	Vicki Parker	1st

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA BASIC LEVEL		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
BGW HARRY HOT WHEELS	Alli Mott	1st
WILLWIN CP RAZAMATAZ	Tracy Smith	2nd
SKY DANCER	Lyz Risby	3rd

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA LEVEL ONE		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
SKY DANCER	Lyz Risby	1st

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA LEVEL TWO		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
MERRIBANK FLICKA	Lisa Halling	1st
KYALLA AUTUMN NIGHT	Maddison Collins	2nd

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND YOUTH		
RIDER	HORSE	PLACING
Montana Hamilton	TAPT DANCIN DUNDEE	1st
Megan Chatfield	COCO NIOKA KING	2nd
Hayley Smith	MT ECHOS REGAL FLASH	3rd
Hanna Corica	DESERT SUPER FANCY GIRL	4th
Chloe Lough	BENNY BLACK	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND BASIC LEVEL		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
TAPT DANCIN DUNDEE	Montana Hamilton	1st
DUKES CASHIN CHEX	Julie-Anne Howell	2nd
KOORALA POKER FACE	Heather Marr	3rd
SWITCHED ON GYPSY CHIC	Susan Bisset	4th
EPS MY JEANS ARE INTENSE	Jane Cross	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND LEVEL ONE		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
KOORALA POKER FACE	Heather Marr	1st
TAPT DANCIN DUNDEE	Montana Hamilton	2nd
ROSEWOOD REBELS LAW	Samantha Kostowski	3rd
RKN GEE WHIZ	Debbie Scells	4th
THE LAZY COLONEL	Julie Sain	5th
ROANIES ROC STAR	Teresa Russo	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND LEVEL TWO		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
TOO MUCH HOOTCH	Louise Harris	1st
SMART NU RELEASE	Sue Franks	2nd
ROANIES ROC STAR	Teresa Russo	3rd
RKN GEE WHIZ	Debbie Scells	4th
SHINEY NU ADDITION	Gita Thomas	5th

STATE HIGH POINT PLACINGS – QUEENSLAND LEVEL THREE		
HORSE	RIDER	PLACING
TOO MUCH HOOTCH	Louise Harris	1st
SMART NU RELEASE	Sue Franks	2nd
RU SIMPLEE AWESOME	Samantha Norton	3rd

The National Management Committee are very appreciative of the following people –

- ♥ ***All Of Our Members & Their Families***
- ♥ ***Judges***
- ♥ ***Supporters***
- ♥ ***Volunteers &***
- ♥ ***Sponsors***

We offer our sincere thanks to all of you all who have continued to have trust and confidence in the development of Western Dressage in Australia.