

## Dressage WA Newsletter

April 2017

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Did you know that most competitions (including the State Dressage Championships) are run by volunteers? Sometimes it's hard to volunteer your time but have you thought of other ways to help out – providing sponsorship, organizing small aspects of the competition before the actual day? Every little bit helps.

In this edition we meet Julie Marshall. Do you have a great idea for the newsletter? Contact us at [www.dressagewa.org](http://www.dressagewa.org).

### Message from the DWA Chair - Gill Botten

We are rapidly counting down the days until the Valley Equine Vet Centre State Dressage championships on 6th and 7th May so I hope most riders have their entries in by now as they will close at midnight on 9th April and it is not possible to accept any late entries. I would like to compliment Rebecca De Vries on the great artwork and photos she has provided for the advertising for the Championships 2017. I would also like to thank the DWA committee who has been working hard to make this a special event. Saturday night bookings are now available on Trybooking.com and check out the smart T-shirts on sale this year.

Please check the EWA website for the upcoming Masterclass sessions held at the SEC during the week which are proving informative and popular.

I think there will be many dressage riders (and horses) who will appreciate the new large fans that have been installed at the SEC.

Wishing everyone a successful and enjoyable Championships and competition season

Quote for the month:

**"Every horse should be treated with the same consideration, irrespective of its breed, age and gender, or whether it is used for breeding, leisure or competition."**

*"Advanced Techniques of Dressage" An official Instruction Handbook of the German National Equestrian Federation. 2000. Kenilworth UK*

Gill Botten (Chair DWA)



## Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

Chair - Gill Botten  
Vice Chair – Tracy Spackman  
Treasurer -

**Finance/Treasury** – Kathy Van Eykelenborg  
DWA budget management, DDF accounts, purchase orders and payments

**Issue of Information** – Rebecca DeVries

Website and Facebook

**Correspondence** - Gill Botten/Jo Yacopetti  
Minutes, Agendas, incoming and outgoing correspondence.

**Business/Strategic Planning** - TBA

**Events** – Working Parties

**Club Liaison** – Marjory Stanger

**Pony Representative** – Steph Munro

**Participant Representative** – Kate Baxter

**Official Liaison** - Elaine Greene  
Judges, Stewards, liaising with other disciplines, national issues.

**High Performance** - Gill Botten

**EA/EWA** - Gill Botten  
liaising with EWA Board and CEO, ADC etc.

**Riders Representative** - Tracy Spackman

Includes downgrading applications, Rider's forum etc.

**Performance Trophies/Awards** –Val Mayger

**DWA Newsletter** - Suzanne Simons

**Para Equestrian** – Val Mayger

**Young and Junior Rider Rep** – Natalie Sakich/Steph Munro

VALLEY EQUINE VET CENTRE  
**STATE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
2017  
6th & 7th of May  
State Equestrian Centre

Valley Equine Vet Centre  
Royal Flying Doctor Service  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Proudly Supporting

#valleyequinevetcentresdc2017  
www.dressagewa.org



## Meet dressage rider Julie Marshall



*Julie and Joshua Brook Rhythm 'N' Blues show that local WA bred horses are very competitive in the dressage arena. Julie has a long history of training horses and this is evident by the number of competition horses she has produces.*

*Tell us about your horses.* I am currently competing at Medium level on a lovely warmblood mare Joshua Brook Rhythm 'N' Blues who is a 17.2 hand chestnut mare by Northern Kiel out of a Stirling Lucas/Valuta mare - Valuka. Holly has the most amazing temperament. She is very kind, willing, easy and she has absolutely no agenda of her own, always trying so hard to get things right. I can honestly say she has never said no to anything I have ever thrown at her. I am a very lucky person to have the opportunity to ride such a lovely horse.

Holly's owner/breeder Lisa Silvester of Joshua Brook Sport Horses offered me the ride on "Flower" (had to change that name!) when she was just 4 months old stating she thought that it was the best horse she had ever bred - I thought that too until Holly's little brother Misty Isle Valentino hit the eventing scene campaigned by Sonja Johnson and made it into the Olympic squad for Rio. It goes to show our local breeders are producing some amazing horses which can only be good for the future of equestrian sports in WA. I have also just started competing on my own

home bred boy Bells 'N' Whistles, who is by Kristy Jarvis's German riding pony Golden Rock (Imp) out of my thoroughbred mare Song 'N' Dance who also competed to medium before retiring to motherhood. Puff 'N' Stuff is only 4 years old, palomino and 15 hands so quite a contrast riding my "Barbie Pony" to the rather large warmblood, he too is showing a willingness to learn and also has a great temperament. He has been extremely keen to please right from birth, although at times he can turn into a boy who considers me to be his personal playmate.





*What are your riding goals?* My goals at the moment are to continue training Holly to a competent level at FEI, hopefully I can do my horse justice and systematically train her up levels to the best of our combined ability (she has much more potential than I!)

Long term goal is to stay in the saddle for as long as possible since I have more Song 'N' Dance babies in the paddock and I am looking forward to breaking them in and continuing with the training process called Dressage.

*How did you start out in riding and dressage?* I grew up on a Thoroughbred agistment and breeding centre in South Australia and was horse mad from a very early age. I got my first pony for my 3rd birthday with strict instructions to only play with that one and not the stallion or the foals which I apparently did at regular intervals when mum turned her back for an instant! I attended the local pony club where I quickly got hooked on eventing and rode my first ODE at age eleven, then evented for the next 30 years before transitioning to dressage. I mostly rode OTT horses - I'd go to the races most weeks with dad, search the mounting yard for nice types then pray they'd finish last before approaching the trainer and offering it a nice new home!! Gone are the days where you got a really nice horse for \$50.



I was halter breaking, preparing yearlings for sale and breaking in for the track by the time I was 15. Training of the horse has always been my fascination at every level, from handling the newborn to now training my dressage horses.

It is all a progression and I am still learning! Whilst the basics are the same, each and every horse is different and that is where I find the fascination in nutting out the idiosyncrasies of each horse to best develop them to their highest potential. Dressage embodies the ultimate level of training.

*Who has been your greatest influence?* My biggest influence has been Nadine Merewether - who has been coach, mentor and friend for many years. Nadine's attention to detail, not cutting corners approach and huge wealth of knowledge is something I aspire to. She is so generous with her time and teaches everyone to the best of their ability whether they are Miss Josie Average or an elite rider on their way to the top. Truly someone I look up to!

*How can dressage in WA be improved?* I think dressage is in a pretty good spot as a whole. There are some lovely horses being imported both for competition and breeding purposes and this can only be good for the sport long term. Better access to top quality trainers and top quality competitions for the regional riders would be beneficial. It is a costly and timely exercise to travel to Perth to access these on a regular basis. Perhaps there is a multi - millionaire out there somewhere who would like to invest in a world class facility in a regional area so that we too can entice the best in the world to give seminars and lessons without having to travel to the metropolitan area.



## Steward's Corner

By Janet Reid

### *EA Dressage Rule 2.13 and Rule 3.12.1: Lunging in Warm Up and Exercise Areas*

- Wherever possible, a designated area should be set aside for lunging (check with Organisor!).
- Lunging of a horse/pony by someone other than the nominated rider is permitted.
- The lunging of a rider mounted in the saddle is not permitted.
- Only one lunge rein may be used. A lunging whip is permitted when lunging a horse or pony.
- **Non-compliance with lunging in a designated area, or with non-permitted equipment, will entail elimination.**



**The lunging of a rider mounted in the saddle is "not permitted" anywhere at an Event**



**Long Reining is "not permitted" anywhere at an Event**



### **EA Rule 2.6: Whips**

In relation to the carrying and using of whips:

- a) Riders of horses may carry a whip up to 1.20 metres (120cm)
- b) Riders of Ponies may carry a whip up to 1.00 metres (100 cm)
- c) The tassel is included when measuring the length of a whip
- d) For any horse/pony, one whip, as specified above, may be carried and used:
  - In the exercise and warm-up areas
  - In all dressage tests up to and including Advanced level at all events including Championships
  - By a rider anywhere on the ground when riding or leading a horse/pony.
  - By other parties, providing that it is not used in connection with training a horse/pony.
- e) Whips are not to be carried in FEI level competitions at State Championships (e.g. whips in PSG to Grand Prix tests can be carried in the warm-up area, but not in or around the competition arena).



***Others using a whip in connection with the training of a horse/pony is "Not Permitted"***



***Coaches and Spectators are to remain on the "outside" of Warm-Up Areas***



## EA Young Horse Seminar

**Date:** Sunday 16 April

**Time:** 8:30am registration

**Venue:** State Equestrian Centre

**Cost:** EA or FEI Young Dressage Horse Judges \$0, Other Judges \$25, Non-Judges \$30

DJTF is proud to host an EA Young Dressage Horse Seminar with International Young Horse and 4\* Judge, Ricky MacMillan (QLD). Ricky will be covering the requirements and marking system for 4, 5 and 6 year old horses.

Ricky has been a National Judge for over 35 years and has judged in over 20 countries since becoming an FEI judge in 2008. She is active both in Australia and internationally as a judge educator. Ricky is also a dual Olympian and WEG competitor, competing at Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004, and has over 30 wins at International Grand Prix level including 5 Pacific League World Cup Finals and a CDI-W win in Nunspeet, Holland.

Ricky breeds and trains dressage horses on the Gold Coast and while competing at dressage shows now has to fit in with other activities, she is still a member of the QLD State FEI Squad and competes with home bred young horses at local shows,

We encourage everyone interested in the training and preparation of young dressage horses to attend this seminar. Judges, riders and coaches are all important for the development of our Dressage stars of the future.

For more information please contact Elaine [elaine\\_greene@westnet.com.au](mailto:elaine_greene@westnet.com.au) or Hannie [hanniebyrne@gmail.com](mailto:hanniebyrne@gmail.com).

## Gidgegannup Dressage Club Competition

By Kai Schuler

Photos by Horseplay Photography



Gidgegannup Dressage Club held its popular, annual competition on Saturday, the 25th of March 2017 at the Gidgegannup Showgrounds. The event attracted many rider entries from across the state, signing up to ride over 80 tests from Preparatory Level through to Inter A for both Participant and Competitor Equestrian Australia members.

Contrary to the previous year's competition, the weather gods presented competitors with beautiful sunshine and balmy temperatures. The three competition arenas, with perfect footing, were beautifully arranged across the main oval and the grounds and were abuzz with riders, supporters, competitors and spectators alike. Attracting Western Australia's most respected officials, everyone in attendance was treated to high class competition across all levels. The day's top class, the Inter A, was won by Bec Sellick, riding Fuerst Fantasy, with the other FEI level tests being won by Melanie Nixon on Matavia Fisher King (Inter A), and Astrid Grov on



Mirriyindi Lilly (PSG). The Preliminary to Advanced levels were all hotly contested and saw some outstanding horses and riding in all classes, including separate classes specifically offered for Pony competitors. The event was sponsored by some outstanding local businesses, including Penny Hill Park, Leigh White Saddlefitting, Dark Selections, Valley View Realty, Mane Event Equestrian Supplies, Gidge Rural, Lancaster Wines, Custom Car Motor Trimmers, Gidge Convenience, Brookwood Realty, Pimp My Pony, Gidge Grog, Bates Saddles and Sunninghill Equestrian.

Special awards on the day were given for the 6 highest placed OTTB horses, sponsored by Off The Track, with the winner being Kathy van Eykelenborg on BML Roulette and the 6 highest place riders over 55 years of age, sponsored by Hanoverian Riding Wear.

Once again, the Gidgegannup Dressage Club Competition was a fantastic event, supported by a hardworking committee, the club's members, organizers, supporters and sponsors.

For more information on the Gidgegannup Dressage Club please visit [www.gidgegannupdressageclub.com](http://www.gidgegannupdressageclub.com)



Clockwise – Erika Schramm and Cila, Melanie Nixon on Matavia Fisher King, Bec Sellick on Fuerst Fantasy and Jill Donaldson on Rafael



## Para Equestrian 2017

By Val Mayger (WA PE Representative)

Para Equestrian doesn't mean Horse riding for paraplegics. The PARA actually means parallel - e.g. Paralympics means the Parallel Olympics.

*'A Para Equestrian is a rider with a physical or visual impairment that satisfies the minimal impact criteria detailed in the FEI Classification Manual.'*

Para Equestrian has come a long way since its initial inclusion in the Paralympics at Atlanta in 1996. There, and in Sydney in 2000, Para athletes rode borrowed or pool horses. Can you imagine an able bodied Equestrian riding a pool horse that they have only sat on a few times, in an Olympic competition? At the Athens Olympics athletes rode their own horses.

In 2006 it became the eighth discipline of the FEI and has been part of the World Equestrian Games since the Kentucky games. Things have certainly changed! The standard of the horses is amazing and the standard of performance from horses and riders is also amazing. Many Para Equestrians compete, successfully, in FEI open dressage competitions.

### CLASSIFICATION

There are many degrees of disability. The riders are classified into five grades based on their degree of disability and not their ability to ride – Grades I, II, III, IV and V. The riders are classified by Accredited Classifiers, in such a way as to provide a 'level playing field'. The Classifiers assess each rider, both off and on their horse, and they then decide on a Profile. They are reviewed every two or three years to assess whether their condition has changed.

All athletes competing in Para Sports, at a competitive level, have to be classified. Riders classified as a Grade I, II or III compete in a 40 x 20 m arena and the Grade IV's and V's Compete in a 60 x 20 m arena. PE Riders are also permitted to use compensatory aids e.g. toe stoppers, velcro, elastic bands on their stirrups and looped reins etc. They are also permitted to carry two whips and are excused from saluting with one hand off the reins. Some riders may be exempt from sitting trot or conversely, from rising trot, this will depend on the Classifiers and will show on their profile.

At present, all Classifiers are located in the Eastern States. However, thanks to the determination of High Performance Manager, Sara Botten, two classifiers should be in WA on April 23.

### LA NOIR PARA EQUESTRIAN SQUAD CLINIC

In WA, the Para Equestrian year got off to a great start on April 1, with the first of La Noir Para Equestrian Squad Clinics. We are very fortunate that Level III Dressage Coach, Roz Tippett is continuing as our Squad Coach. The riders enjoy working with Roz and she certainly gets the very best out of them and their horses.

We are also very appreciative of the La Noir sponsorship of the Para Equestrian Squads. The Para Equestrian Squad clinics are also a partnership between EWA and RDAWA Dressage – a partnership that is working very well.

This clinic was a Para Equestrian Clinic that was a parallel clinic which included PE Riders and Able bodied riders. We have eleven eligible PE riders in Western Australia, eight of whom are on our two squads – the Recognition Squad and the State Squad - but on this occasion, two had injured themselves and were unable to ride. As a new initiative, we decided to open the clinic to able bodied riders. This proved very successful and is something that we will definitely continue at our next clinic on April 26. We already have five riders ready to participate, if there are any vacancies. This is also an opportunity for all riders to watch and learn from each other.



## COMPETITION

Our big competition for the year is, naturally, the State Championships on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The Para Equestrian Championships are included in this event and offer a variety of tests to fit where the riders are at, at this time. Therefore, we have FEI PE Tests and EA PE Tests. Many of our Dressage clubs in Western Australia are very generous and include PE Tests in their schedules, if riders request them to do so. We are hoping that clubs will include EA Prep Tests in their Training Days, for PE Riders who are just beginning in dressage. Ideally, they would be grouped either at the beginning of the class or at the end. In addition, a Preliminary Test could also be scheduled for PE Riders.

## JUDGES

WA has seven accredited Para Equestrian Judges. Competition organisers are encouraged to engage these judges if PE tests are included in their schedules.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Becoming a classified Para Equestrian does not mean that you can never compete in open dressage again. You can compete in open and PE classes at the same competition. Many riders compete with a physical or visual challenge that is measurable and could be eligible to be classified. Who knows.....? You may become the first Equestrian to represent Australia at the Olympics and the Paralympics.

## Valley Equine Vet Centre State Dressage Championships Merchandise



A select number of teeshirts and polo shirts will be available for purchase at the 2017 State Dressage Championships from Suzanne Simons in the Parklife Small Farm Solutions tent in the Trade Village. First in, best dressed!





# Valley Equine Vet Centre 2017 State Dressage Championships Know Your Sponsors



*'leading the field in  
equine veterinary care'*

## About Us

Valley Equine Vet Centre opened its doors in the Swan Valley in July 2012. Prior to this we were a part of the Bullsbrook Vet Hospital from which we serviced our large animal clients and patients for over 30 years!

The dedicated **vets** and **nurses** at Valley Equine Veterinary Centre have more than 80 years combined experience caring for our equine patients. We are recognised as leaders in the field of horse medicine, veterinary care and sport horse injury management.

We offer our patients advanced ultrasound, x-ray imaging and diagnostic testing, however, it's our exceptional medical care and health management advice that sets Valley Equine Veterinary Centre apart from all the rest. Our committed team of staff continually strive to achieve the best possible outcome for each of our patients & owners.

We provide an exclusive equine veterinary service and look after a wide variety of horses of all sizes, breeds and disciplines including caring for donkeys. We understand the importance of providing a friendly and compassionate service through high quality veterinary care.

Our veterinarians each have differing areas of expertise, including lameness & poor performance, internal medicine, dentistry and reproduction. They are committed to continually enhancing their knowledge through professional development so as to provide the highest standard of care.

At VEVC, we are proud to be able to share our knowledge and frequently give talks to a variety of horse associations and hold regular client information nights. To be kept informed of upcoming events, see our '**Latest News**' section on the welcome page or '**Like Us**' on Facebook.

To find out more about where we are situated and the areas we service have a look at our **contact us** page.

## 'Why Choose Us?'

- *Equine Only*
- *Modern Facilities*
- *State of the Art Equipment*
- *24/7 Service & Care*
- *FEI Accredited*



## Facilities

Our purpose built Equine Centre is located right in the heart of the Swan Valley, Perth and is the main centre from which we provide our services.

We receive patients at the clinic for both routine and emergency visits, as well as providing a hospitalisation service for intensive care cases. The facility provides a custom designed area that allows for a detailed and in-depth evaluation of your horse. We offer the latest diagnostic equipment so as to give our clients and patients a prompt and accurate diagnosis. At VEVC, we feel that having this specialised equipment and facility allows us to provide the highest standard of medical care and effective treatment to our patients.

The centre features 4 hospital stables, a diagnostic imaging room, feed and storage rooms, AI/ET reproduction laboratory and a horse crush all under cover in the one building (used for both reproduction & dentistry). Externally there are also 6 horse yards, a lameness work up area with round yard as well as a stallion collection area with a collecting dummy. There is a separate office and a small client lounge with tea and coffee making facilities available and there is ample space for float and large truck parking.

We hope that coming to the hospital will provide our clients with a more efficient and specialised service, however if you are unable to transport your horse, we still provide our usual property visit service along with a comprehensive 24hr/7days a week emergency and after hours service.

Although our clinic does not have full surgical facilities, we routinely perform field surgery for many different types of soft tissue and orthopaedic conditions. Many of these procedures can also be done at your own property provided there is a nice clean (preferably grassy) open area where the horse can be safely anaesthetised.

To explore our facilities and services we provide, please select from either the drop down menus above, the above highlighted text or the icons below.



## Services

We understand that the health of your horse is of the utmost importance to you. Our highly qualified and experienced vets and nurses are available 24/7, 365 days a year and provide a range of services to get your horse back on track when they are unwell and keep them fit and healthy for the long term.

As well as providing general health and preventative care advice, we offer a wide range of services both at the clinic as well as on your property.



Medicine



Sport Horse Medicine



Emergency Medicine



Pre-purchase & Insurance



Lameness & Podiatry



General Surgery



Advanced Dentistry



Reproduction



## Valley Equine Vet Centre 2017 State Dressage Championships Freestyle Gala

6th May  
State Equestrian Centre

An evening of dressage freestyles, equine entertainment and a **live saddle auction!**  
NEW this year! **Spectator judging** with a prize sponsored by Parklife Small Farm Solutions  
Saddle auction proudly sponsored by Bates Australia with total voucher valued at \$5195  
6 pm: Doors open

6:15pm: **Equine Entertainment** by Louise Crosby  
6:30pm: **Light supper** catered by Spices Catering inclusive of a complimentary glass of wine  
7pm: Dressage Freestyles – **Medium to Grand Prix**  
Places are strictly limited (a waitlist will be in place)  
6 tables available with 10 seats per table  
\$70 per ticket (not inclusive of booking fee)

## WADYRA's (WA Dressage Young Riders Association) WA Junior and Young Riders Festival

WADYRA held their inaugural Junior and Young Rider Festival on Sunday 26th March for Junior and Young Riders under 25 at Swan Valley Equestrian Park. The day started out a little threatening with the weather but turned into a glorious day with all competitors turned out beautifully. The Swan Valley Equestrian Park looked pristine and the grounds managed well with all participants cooperating well with parking and warm ups.

The event saw over 70 tests been ridden and it was great to see so many young riders and the smiles on their faces with their beautifully turned out ponies. All class place getters were presented with beautiful rosettes plus a prize from one of our very generous sponsors.

A very large thanks to our event sponsors Europa Saddlery and Maxisoy Low Gi pellets. Each place getter received a bag of the Maxisoy and Europa also provided lovely prizes for the five classes it sponsored. Our class sponsors, Back on Track, La Noir Saddleworld, Cash Generator's and Pimp my Pony, who also had a stall there, also contributed the prizes for their classes making it a very successful day.

**WADYRA** is an exciting dressage club, designed specifically for riders up to the age of 25. The aim of WADYRA is to encourage riding and dressage as a sport and recreation, to promote good fellowship among riders and to improve and maintain riding skills and horse mastership. At WADYRA all the riders are separated into groups of 2-3 riders for the lessons based on their level of experience. Did you also know, WADYRA offers open training test riding with an EA judge to non-members at rallies? For our rally dates or membership enquires please go to our website <http://www.wadyra.org/> or like us on our facebook page. For full results of the day please click on this link <https://www.nominate.com.au/EquestDn/Results.aspx>

