



Dressage WA Newsletter 2021

January 2021

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Welcome to the DWA newsletter! We have said goodbye to 2020 and welcome to 2021. 2020 was challenging to say the least, but as the year progressed and the uncertainty increased, the volunteers showed resilience and produced several events with the highlight being The Hygain WA State Dressage Championships. We should be very grateful to these volunteers who organised such events when there was so much global, national and personal instability. There have been some positives through 2020, particularly in the digital and tech space - connecting people separated by distance, including our regional members and officials. But the challenges include limited travel in our sport which will impact our access to interstate and international educators and officials, and competitions which will remain in 2021. 2021 will be a year where we refocus the sport as the impact from this pandemic continues to resonate around the world. Our focus will be to help rejuvenate dressage across multiple areas. Part of this commitment is the DWA newsletter which aims to keep you informed with events, rider profiles, Stewards Corner and latest news. Thank you for supporting us during 2020.



EWA Bush Fire Relief Fund



All of the EWA community is saddened by the loss of property in the Wooroloo bush fire, many members and others in the equestrian community have lost their homes or sustained property damage. EWA is working with others to offer support following the fires, we have established a Bush Fire relief fund through the Australian Sports Foundation to raise funds for those affected.

The [EWA Bush Fire relief fund](#) provides the opportunity for both cash and new product donations and for donors to receive tax deductible receipts. The funds are able to be distributed to support the owners of horses with the replacement of any equipment or property repairs that are horse related.

Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund

Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire Appeal 2021 | 3 February 2021

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund has now been activated, the City is urging the community to donate to help those in the Wooroloo and Hills bushfires. While we can't replace what people have lost, we can help ease the financial burden.

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) is Western Australia's official State emergency fund.

Financial assistance from the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund supplements insurance cover, and people requesting relief funding should first claim from their insurance company and establish how much of the loss or damage incurred will be covered.

Make a donation

Donations to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire 2021 Appeal can be made in the following ways:

Via EFT: BSB: 306-188 Account 0340258

Phone the City of Perth on 9461 3886 – if calling after business hours, please follow the message prompts;

By mail to LMDRF Wooroloo and Hills Bushfires 2021 Appeal, c/- City of Perth, GPO Box C120 Perth 6839.

In person at any BankWest branch.

[Donate online now](#)

There are also multiple go fund me pages but be careful! Check out [GoFundMe: #1 Fundraising Platform for Crowdfunding](#)



Dates for the Diary

- ❖ 14th Feb; Brookleigh Sunrise Series 1 [Brookleigh]
- ❖ 20th Feb; Bedivere Group WADYRA Dressage Competition [SEC]
- ❖ 21st Feb; Busselton H&PC [Busso PC grounds]
- ❖ 27th Feb; Zamia ARC [Gidgyannup]
- ❖ 7th Mar; Transition [Palomino Dr grounds]
- ❖ 7th Mar; Margaret River H&PC [Glouster Park]
- ❖ 14 Mar; Brookleigh Sunrise Series 2 [Brookleigh]
- ❖ 21st Mar; Busselton H&PC [Queen Elisabeth Dr]
- ❖ 25-28th Mar; DJTF Mary Seefried Clinics [SEC]
- ❖ 28th Mar; Orange Grove [Karyna Park]
- ❖ 4th Apr; Busselton H&PC
- ❖ 10-11th Swan River [Brookleigh]

*Note: not all upcoming events are listed. Please regularly check the EA Events page and other local sources for up to date info.

DJTF WA PRESENTS

NEW

DRESSAGE RULES WORKSHOP

with Gill Botten

EA Judge Educator, A Level Judge.

Friday 19 Feb 2021, Ocean Room SEC.

Join us for a review of the changes to the EA Dressage Rules. There will be time for questions and discussion on judging issues.

We encourage anyone who is interested to come along, whether a judge, steward, coach, rider or other interested party.

This course will count towards EA Judge or EA Coach reaccréditation.

Cost: \$20 judges. \$30 non judges. Pay via Nominate.

Registration: 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start. It will finish at approximately 9.30pm.

Country judges: Zoom available for country EA Dressage Judges and trainee judges. Please register your interest by Feb 12 so we can send a link to join.

Metro contact Elaine Greene elaine_greene@westnet.com.au or
Country contact Didy Massey didymassey@inet.net.au to book your place.



Dressage WA Awards

Come and celebrate 2020 the year that was, with DWA Awards lunch.



DRESSAGE WA AWARDS LUNCH

Celebrating 2020

12-3pm, 28 February 2021
Mandoon Estate

To Book follow the link; [Dressage WA Awards Lunch 2020 | TryBooking Australia](#)

Grassroots Event 2021

DWA are very excited to announce that we have secured our 2021 'Grassroots' event sponsor.

'AFGRI Equipment - South Guildford, WA'

'AFGRI Grassroots' Competition is on Sunday 3rd October, 2021. More details coming soon.

Please email Karen Davies for our sponsorship proposal if you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this event, more options available. 🐾

participantdwa@gmail.com



JOHN DEERE



<https://www.afgri.com.au>

<https://m.facebook.com/AFGRIEquipmentAustralia/>



Dressage Rider Profile; Meet Amber Kittson and Zeyaldee (Zeus)

Tell us about your horse?

My dressage partner Zevaldee and I have been together for 3 years. After my previous horse suffered another serious injury, it was with a heavy heart I went searching. If love at first sight existed, it was in that moment when I laid eyes on him. Zevaldee (Zeus as he is known at home) is a 10 year old buckskin Arabian Warmblood by Warrawee Décor. He is a funny, sensitive and quirky horse. If I ask for too much or incorrectly, he will let me know loud and clear!

It hasn't always been the smoothest journey and it took considerable time to understand each other. He is a unique horse, unlike any I have ever ridden. He has tested my confidence and determination with his behaviour. For the first time in my riding life I've had to be incredibly aware of just my legs and hands as I ride the earlier days. I believe he has made me a better, more in tune rider and as we work through the understanding of each other is getting better every day! I absolutely love and enjoy every moment that I get to spend with him, every centrelines we ride down. Most days I have to remind myself to get off as I would love to be on his back forever. I can't seem to wipe the smile off my face each and every day I am with him.



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What has been the key to training your horse?

For me the key to training is having a great dressage coach! Regular lessons with a coach I admire and look up to is so important. No matter what level I am currently riding at, there is always something new to learn and strive towards. I'm not naturally talented or gifted at riding in anyway and everything I know is from hard work and hours in the saddle. Having an amazing coach keeps me inspired, focused and working towards my dressage goals. When possible, I like to see my coach weekly as it gives me direction for my training. I've learnt over the years that no matter how hard something may seem, or how difficult a new movement may feel, riding regularly improves both our fitness, strength and understanding.

The other part of training that I personally believe is so important is diversity. I have found over the years that my horses are the happiest and most willing to give me everything in the dressage arena, when I cross train them in all disciplines. We go bush riding with friends to Gwangara Lake or meet at Brigadoon to ride along the river. In summer, trips to naval base horse beach are such a treat. Even though it scares the hell out of me I also do jumping every fortnight as Zeus has shown me how important it is for him mentally. I am a dressage diva at heart. But I know it's a variety that's important so I push myself beyond my comfort zone and take him out to do the fun things as well. I believe it is



so important to keep my horses mind active by experiencing a range of environments and activities.

What are your riding goals?

My riding goals are to correctly and patiently work through the dressage levels. I think everyone can aspire to be a Grand Prix rider but it's all about what I learn on the journey to get there. I would love to compete at Advanced or Prix St George but wherever we get to together will be part of our story.

My goal is that my Zeus can softly accept each new level of work, in a way that doesn't push him beyond his mental and physical ability. Every day I try to think how can I make what I'm asking clearer and easier for him so he offers me his best work in a willing way. I don't mind whether it takes me 6 months to get to Advanced or 5 years as long as the two of us can willingly go through the journey together.



How did you start out riding and dressage?

My very first horse was a 12-year-old standardbred that I adored and thought was the most beautiful horse in the world. I learnt so much from him and dabbled in all disciplines, eventing, showing and eventually Dressage. He was not naturally built for any kind of dressage movements but I fell in love with the way the relationship between myself and my horse can grow. Watching him grow in strength and suppleness as we both learnt the basics together. His body shape started to change, and muscles developed in areas that I didn't even know existed for him. We managed to get out competing at some elementary level competitions. It was during this time I fell in love with the whole dressage journey.

My next horse was an unbroken warmblood chestnut mare... I had no idea what I was in for! She has been my biggest training horse and she gave me more than I ever thought possible. After countless ligament injuries and time off we still managed to develop the strength and suppleness to get to flying changes and compete at Medium. Every time I thought she was ready for retirement she would come back in to work softer and more willing to give me more. I made many mistakes over the years but my love for dressage has blossomed with her. She is now doing her next job of growing my future dressage partner. I look forward to meeting her baby later this year, thank you to Bluefields Dankeschoen. What a journey that will be!

Who is your greatest influence?

A huge influence for me has been the different coaches I have trained with over the years. For the last 10 years I have ridden regularly with Roz Tippet who is a phenomenal and determined coach. She has always wanted me to ride to my best, succeed and understand Dressage. I have always felt that she is very in the moment with me. It's great to feel supported no matter what level I am at and to have someone in my corner rooting for me to get out there and give it a go. She has always told me to be out there for myself, and not to worry about anyone! I'm not riding to be the best, just my own best.



How can dressage in WA be improved?

I think Dressage W.A. has improved so much over the past 20 years. We've had the opportunity to watch some amazing ambassadors of the industry right here in W.A. I think the more that we can learn as coaches, judges and riders the better the whole industry can be. I know during current times it is difficult to get the international riders and judges that we would hope to have here, but there are still so many phenomenal dressage influences in W.A. The more clinics and demonstrations that we can hold with them the better we will all be. I believe some more education can be put on the correct biomechanics in the way our horses should move. The more we are educated about this, the easier it will be for our willing equines



I do think at times there can be more acknowledgment given to grassroots riders of dressage. I feel the lower level grades, with all the amateur riders out there is what keeps all of our competitions and clinics going. They are the bread-and-butter to Dressage in W.A., because without them these events for our amazing FEI riders that we all look up to won't be financed or supported to run. We are all in this together.



Dressage Judge Profile, Meet Denise Baker.

Tell us a little about the history of your riding?

My very first introduction to riding was as a young kid on our usual family Easter holiday at Bridlington in England. Donkey riding on the beach. And that's all I wanted to do on holiday from then on.....!!

I began riding ponies at around the age of 7 – riding weekly at our local riding school where I was to spend many weekends.

Later the love of jumping and XC led me into the world of Horse Trials (Eventing). Living in Nottingham, England I had the privilege of jumping around many of the wonderful courses in England.



Hunter Trials and Team Chasing were also high on my list and I even occasionally stood in for race riders on the gallops for the racing stables at Middleham in the Yorkshire Dales.

On arrival in WA in 1996 I bought my first OTT and fully intended to Event. Although he showed excellent jumping ability, and jumped around his first course like a seasoned eventer, his feet were not up to this.

He was a very nice moving horse, so my Dressage journey began there.....

Why did you become a judge?

I decided to train as a judge to widen my knowledge of Dressage and learn more of what is required in a test at any level - and how not to throw away marks.

I was a BHS General Coach in England, and became a Specialist Dressage Coach in WA – moving into judging is a great asset to my coaching as I can pass on valuable information to my clients.

I have learned so much more from watching and judging many many tests.

What do you look for when judging?

When judging I am looking for an overall picture, where the horse is a happy dance partner and looks easy to ride.



The rider is leading the dance in a way that looks effortless and enjoyable. The pair will be a joy to watch and the combination having focus and trust with each other. When this is evident accuracy of the test and quality of movements will more often be good.

What is your greatest dislike when judging?

My dislikes are not rider related. I don't like hot cars on hot days, or windscreen wipers going none stop on rainy days, making the view blurred.

Any funny or unusual moments while judging?

I remember judging at the SEC outdoors when an elderly couple came and sat on my bonnet so they could get a good view....!

Another memorable test was not funny or unusual, but always stuck in my mind....

I was judging the Inter Schools (or maybe PC champs)



quite a few years ago. An immaculately turned out grey pony, around 13 hands, with an immaculate young girl rider rode up the International Arena centre line, looking every bit confident and correct. I was already impressed.

The test flowed along, beautifully ridden, and scoring many 8's. Not a foot wrong.

2nd canter at A-K corner, transition lovely, nicely around the short side to pop a neat and tidy jump out of the arena instead of turning the corner. I was "oh no, no!" - what a shame....

They both froze, standing outside the arena, for what seemed a long while, big croc tears, and then more tears flowed. I was trying not to cry too..!!

Well, a big hug, and a little chat, and they were back in finishing the test with more big scores.

She was my winner that day....!!

What is one thing you would say to encourage more judges?

Judging is a great way to go for anyone wishing to gain more knowledge of what is required in a dressage test at any level.

You can develop a "better eye", become more involved by becoming a judge, and you can gain valuable knowledge from top Australian and International World Class judges by attending judge training days. It's a great opportunity and will take you out and about at our many riding clubs here in WA.

Albany Summer Solstice Event Results

Follow the link, [2021-SS-Results & Championships-1.pdf \(sddc.org.au\)](https://sddc.org.au/2021-SS-Results%20&Championships-1.pdf)



If you have a article of interest, results or and idea you would like to add to the newsletter email jamie @ jamzles@hotmail.com or DWA <https://www.dressagewa.org/contact-us.html>

Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

Chair – Suzanne Simons
Vice Chair – Val Mayger
Treasurer – Suzie Williams

Finance/Treasury –Katelyn Williams/Suzanne Simons

DWA budget management, DDF accounts, purchase orders and payments

Issue of Information – Steph Munro
Website and Facebook

Correspondence – Suzanne Simons/Committee

Minutes, Agendas, incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Business/Strategic Planning - Committee

Events – Working Parties

Club Liaison – Janet Reid

Horse Welfare – Janet Reid

Pony Representative – TBA

Participant Representative – Karen Davies

Official Liaison – Val Mayger/Suzanne Simons
Judges, Stewards, liaising with other disciplines, national issues.

High Performance – TBA

EA/EWA – Val Mayger

liaising with EWA Board and CEO, ADC etc.

Riders Representative – Jamie Bawden

Includes downgrading applications, Rider's forum etc.

Performance Trophies/Awards –Val Mayger

Para Equestrian – Val Mayger

Young and Junior Rider Rep – Steph Munro

General Committee Member – Katrina Lodge
Kelly de Jonge

This Dressage Western Australia Newsletter was compiled by Jamie Bawden and Karen Davies.

