

## Dressage WA Newsletter

March 2017

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The planning for the State Dressage Championships is well underway and it seems like it's going to be better than last year. Don't forget that the State Championships, and many other events, are organized by volunteers so please take the time to support the events and thank the organisers.

In this edition we meet Sue Mitchell. 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

I have just returned from judging in Albany and have to congratulate the organisers and riders on a well-run event with a friendly atmosphere. As usual everyone was well looked after and everything ran to time. Some good scores were posted and it was a lot cooler than being in Perth!

The competition season is well underway and our WA Dressage Squad riders participated in the High Performance workshop last weekend which has some great presenters.

Plans for the 2017 WA State Dressage Championships are progressing well with some innovations that we believe riders and spectators will appreciate.

Please remember the Hot Weather Policy for both yourself and your horse as we move into more seasonal February weather.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on centre line this year.

Quote for the month:

**"One step at a time" should be your motto "make haste slowly". Perfect one exercise before introducing the next and give the horse time to understand.**

*Sally O'Connor. 1990. Common Sense Dressage. An Illustrated Guide. Pub Library of Congress USA*

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

## Meet dressage rider Sue Mitchell



*Sue and AfriCat are working hard at home in Geraldton and will definitely be bringing their best work out to competitions despite the vast distance between home and many dressage competitions.*

*Tell us about your horses.* My young horse AfriCat ( Rowley is his stable name and maybe not so young now at 6 years old), is by Furst Romancier out of a Rotspan mare and was bred at Huntview Stud up at Scone in NSW. My friend Dianne Walton and I bought him straight from the breaker as a 3 year old, off a video that another friend Lucy Lowe sent me. We were not really looking to buy anything at the time but when we saw his movement we quickly did an about face and decided that maybe we did need another horse after all! So then became many phone calls back and forth until I got another friend Lizzie Wilson - Fellows that I used to ride with when I lived in Raymond Terrace just out of Newcastle, to go and have a look for me. She called me back and said " Sue if you never do another thing in your life you MUST buy this horse.....he is a serious mover!" So we did!





It hasn't all been plain sailing though as even though he is extremely cuddly and loves attention, he was very sensitive and very spooky, so any unintended movement on his back would totally freak him out.....consequently I have hit the deck.....only once though luckily. We were just getting him going when he nearly chopped his front foot off and had to have 4 months to recover. We only had him back in work a few weeks when our vet (even though he was completely sound) thought he was not healing well and so he went off for surgery and had 3 bone chips removed which then meant he had another 4 months of! Apart from an unsightly scar he is completely sound as no joints were involved. I also had some soundness issues and had to have a hip replacement which put me out of action for about 6 months. I guess these things happen when you get to be 65 years old and have ridden all your life! So really last year was the first time I have been able to get him out to any shows, and so consequently I am looking forward to a good year this year.

The main key in my training with him has been to hurry slowly! As he has such a massive canter it has been a huge problem trying to contain him in a 20 x 60 m arena. I have mainly been working on lots of trot, canter, trot transitions then canter, walk, canter and that has got him learning to carry himself a lot better and we can now at least canter a 20 metre circle.

*What are your riding goals?* My main goal is try and ride for as long as I can as at the moment I am lucky enough to be sitting on 2 of the most talented horses I have ever ridden, and I feel I am definitely riding the best I have ever ridden.....so am not willing to give it up just yet.

*How did you start out in riding and dressage?* My very first ride was when I was about 8 months old and my grandfather put me up on the front of his horse and took me on a mill run. We were gone for most of the day. My poor Mum was pretty worried by the time we got back. When we moved down from Millstream station in the Pilbara to Northampton, my sister Alison Rowland ( who has now gone on to be one of Australia's



leading showjump riders), did the Pony Club thing until our father Doug Gordon started up Geraldton Combined Training Club as it was known then. It has now been renamed as Geraldton Combined Equestrian Club. We were mainly into showjumping at that time and travelled to many shows competing, both here in WA and over in the eastern states.

I have always loved schooling horses and trying to get them to be better movers, so when the opportunity came with my friend Dianne, we purchased the wonderful mare Calcarra Estee Lauder from Julie Isbister and had a wonderful time taking Esse through to Medium and a couple of Advanced tests before she broke down.

*Who has been your greatest influence?* The biggest influence in my early years would have to have been our amazing father, who instilled in us the importance of good position on a horse. He was adamant that to ride well you needed to be in good balance and not hinder the horse. Then along came Nadine Merrewether. Poor Nid, I think sometimes she would be tearing her hair out! But her patience and her strict attention to detail on rider position and line and speed with the horse has been invaluable and I wouldn't be anywhere without her input. I also have great respect for Reiner Kramer, who we are lucky enough to get to come to Geraldton from Victoria several times a year and I credit him with the enviable task of trying to make me a softer rider. Hopefully he is getting somewhere with me. Also David Shoobridge has been fantastic help for the competition side of riding and I try to get to three or four clinics with him.

*How can dressage in WA be improved?* I would love to see dressage in WA and especially Geraldton be improved by trying to emulate Brett Parbury and his quest for us all as riders to work together more. He had a wonderful article in the Horse Magazine a while ago, where a group of people get together once a month or so, sometimes with horses and sometimes without and discuss all things horse related. For instance, a discussion on each person's way of training flying changes. It is not about judging anybody's way of doing what they do, but of bringing new outlooks to the table. I would love to be able to get something like that happening up here in Geraldton. I think if a whole lot of small groups started this and really were committed to helping each other to be better riders this be a wonderful thing for dressage as a whole and for WA. Especially as we are so isolated on the side of the country







## The Horse that Made Me Sally Leigh Woods and Elfenglanz (Imp 1982) (Dec) Trakehner Stallion



Imported from Germany at Prix St George level Elfenglanz continued training to Grand Prix with 22 year old Sally Leigh Woods. His first public performance was Grand Prix test at the Swan Brewery with Wanda Nelson commentating. In 1983, they represented WA at the Dunhill Australian Dressage Championship where they won the Bollinger Champagne Trophy – Intermediate II Champion and placed in the Grand Prix. She was preparing for the final qualifier for the Seoul Olympics when her time riding him came to an end.



### ENTRIES NOW OPEN

DWA Mid-week Dressage returns in 2017 with a new and exciting format with a focus on the basic training of the horse to improve scores...

- Practise your test on Thursday, receive feedback from the judge to help perfect it, then ride it in competition on Friday.
- Nominate any test of your choice & choose a helper duty at a time to suit you!

**Thursday 16th March** Training Tests and Judge Protocol sessions at SEC.

8 min Training Tests (no feedback) OR book 16 mins for Judge Protocol (with judge feedback and ride some movements again).

**Fridays 17th March** Event at SEC - Competitor, Participant and Eventing tests on offer. Prep to FEI plus Young Horse & Freestyles. Nominate your chosen test (any EA or FEI test).

Enter here: <http://nominate.com.au/>

**\*\*Special lunch-time feature on Friday - Riders' Seminar kindly presented by Elaine Greene\*\***

We look forward to everyone pitching in and getting to know one another!

Mid-week Dressage is only made possible with your help. Helper duties are a condition of entry and may be carried out on either day. If riding both Thursday and Friday you will be required to help for 2 hours. If only riding on one day you will be required to help for 1 hour.



## Western Australian State Dressage Squads



EQUESTRIAN  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### La Noir Equestrian Western Australia DRESSAGE STATE SQUAD 2017

Rider Name	Horse Name
Colin Chantler	Bonita
Kjersti Grov	Kinnordy Rheingold
Wendy Cumming	Joshua Brook Jamison
Nadine Herbert	Fleurette
Louise Holland	Revelwood Donatello
Melanie Nixon	Matavia Fisher King
Stephanie Spencer	Redskin R
Teagan Sutton	Amberville Rosenstein
Liz Tollarzo	Everton Park Jet Blauw D
Judith Weber	Bello Gallico
<b>INTERSTATE:</b>	
Deon Stokes	Royal Oak II & Don Dancier
<b>HOLDING LIST:</b>	
Tracy Spackman	AEA Benetton

### La Noir Equestrian Western Australia DRESSAGE RECOGNITION SQUAD 2017

Rider Name	Horse Name
Terrina Fairbrother	Abisha
Emma Hayward	Riverndell Solitaire
Louise Hillman	Lord Louie
Sharon Jarvis	Ceasy
Tahlia Piper	Blackall Park 007
Kristy Zabaznow	Heatherton Park Ma Cherie
Tyana Lawless	Bluefields Furstin Reveal
Stephanie Spencer	Skywalker (IMP), Dolce (IMP), K Dale Mr Darcy



**La Noir Equestrian Western Australia  
DRESSAGE YOUTH SQUAD 2017**

Rider Name	Horse Name
Jessica Bartlett	Penley Geometric (PONY) & Phantom Database
Gabriella D'Ercole	Coldstream Don Juan
India Levene	Jaybee Alaria
Chloe Moon	Donnington
Tyla Schou	Dyrring Park Stanmore
Taylah Welsh	San Rubin II

**La Noir Equestrian Western Australia  
DRESSAGE STATE PARA EQUESTRIAN SQUAD 2017**

Rider Name	Horse Name
Chelsea de Jonge	Boy
Sharon Jarvis	Ceasy
Kate Eiszele	Wedgewood Cherish
Fleur Litster	Penroban Augustus
Claire McNaughton	Aravis

**La Noir Equestrian Western Australia  
DRESSAGE PARA EQUESTRIAN RECOGNITION SQUAD 2017**

Rider Name	Horse Name
Chelsea de Jonge	Aspen Royal Way
Rosa-Lee Principe	PWP Rise of Memphis
Rebekah Millard	Ashmark Deliverance
Michelle Pinker	Dutch Waltz
Mary-Anne Wallace	Madame Llash



**EQUESTRIAN  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



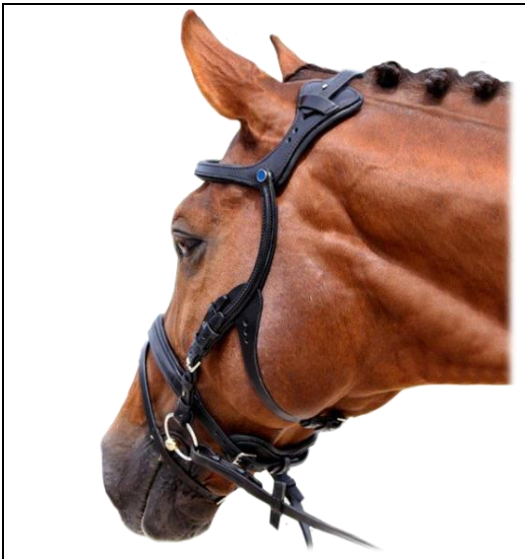


## Steward's Corner

By Janet Reid

### Snaffle Bridles

Effective 1 January 2017, snaffle bridles may be worn at all levels from Preparatory through to Grand Prix for EA FEI level dressage tests. With reference to bridles described and/or illustrated in Section 2 of the current EA National Dressage Rules (and also to the EA Equipment Annexure), the following are some of the snaffle bridles that are "permitted" to be used at dressage events:



*Stubben Freedom Bridle – "Permitted"*



*Fairfax Drop with Chin & Jaw Strap – "Permitted"*



*Micklem Bridle – "Permitted"*



*St Zaum Bridle – "Permitted"*



*PS of Sweden High Jump Bridle – "Permitted"  
(must have a throat lash attached)*



*PS of Sweden Jump Off Bridle – "Permitted"  
(must have a throat lash attached)*



*Cavesson Noseband – "Permitted"*



*Cavesson with Flash Strap – "Permitted"*





## EWA 2017 Summer Series Wrap-Up

By Rhiannon Bealey

Photos by Jordyn Colleran Photography



Held in January each year at the State Equestrian Centre, the EWA Summer Series offers both horse and rider a chance to gradually transition into competition before the season starts in mid-February. Run across two consecutive weekends, the Series comprises of training tests one weekend, followed by a competition the next weekend.

The premise behind the Series is to allow riders an opportunity to practice a test in front of an accredited judge and gain feedback at the Training Day, and then implement this feedback at the Competition Day the following weekend.

Event organiser, Rhiannon Bealey, says the Series is always well received and 2017 was no exception.

"We have people that attend the Summer Series every year without fail, with combinations coming from as far as Kalgoorlie to take part in both weekends. I think people enjoy it because it is a relaxed and encouraging introduction to the competition environment, allowing both horse and rider to start their year on a positive note," said Rhiannon.

114 tests were completed at the Training Day on 22nd January and 163 tests at the Competition on the 29th January. Both events were run across five arenas (three Grass Arenas, the International Arena and the Indoor Arena) and began early in the morning for a 1:30pm finish to avoid the summer heat.

"It's always a gamble running an event in January as it can be a sunny and hot one day, and humid with thunderstorms the next. We monitor the weather closely in the lead up to the events to ensure that conditions will be safe for both horse and rider, however we were lucky this year as the weather was in the high 20's for both dressage events – we even got some rain at the Competition," said Rhiannon.

Despite the rain, the horses and riders delivered good results.

"Our judges were very impressed with the quality of horses on display so early in the season," said Rhiannon. "We are glad that it was so successful and we are already looking forward to next year's Summer Series and hope to reintroduce a points system where combinations can earn prizes based on their results across both weekends," said Rhiannon.







Top L-R - Kaitlin Hull and KDH Fifth Avenue, Sally Mayall on Hirtensonne X, Middle L-R - Lauren Rowe on Chrisma Royal Emblem, Karen Thompson and Agios Petros, Bottom L-R - Alvia Coppin and Bordershow Buccaneer, Frances Woods and San Charmher





## 2017 WA STATE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



### EWA State Dressage Championships 2017

6th & 7th of May

State Equestrian Centre

Keep up to date for event information on Social Media  
[www.facebook.com/WAStateDressageChampionships/](http://www.facebook.com/WAStateDressageChampionships/)  
[www.instagram.com/dressagewesternaustralia](http://www.instagram.com/dressagewesternaustralia)  
[twitter.com/Dressage\\_WA](http://twitter.com/Dressage_WA)



Classes from Preliminary to Grand Prix  
Participant - Competitor - Para - FEI  
Freestyles showcase evening  
*with* Great prizes and awards from our generous sponsors  
Shopping, activities and a range of catering in the Trade Hub

Proudly presented by DWA





## Southern Solstice Dressage Championship - Albany

By Sharon Masters  
Photos by Barbara Cook

### Southern Districts Dressage Club



Every year Southern Districts Dressage Club (SDDC) offers one of the biggest dressage competitions outside the metropolitan area. Competitors come from Perth, Margaret River and other regional areas as far as Esperance and Eucla for a chance to win some amazing prizes over the weekend of 18-19th February.

For some of our travellers, it is a chance to experience some cooler weather, however it was considered quite warm by Albany residents, being 23 degrees on the Saturday and in the low 30's on the Sunday. Fortunately, the competition was not held the weekend prior as heavy rain prompted the cancellation of many equestrian events in the Great Southern Region. As usual, there was great food available thanks to the Albany Pony Club and delicious coffee and snacks provided by the Koffee Boost van.

Throughout the weekend 110 Competitor tests, 91 Restricted tests and 52 Freestyle tests were ridden. Our freestyle judges were quite impressed with the creativity some riders had demonstrated. Wonderful images of the event were captured by Rustic Pics and SDDC. Two PSG tests were ridden by Louise Hillman on Lord Louie and Kristy Zabaznow on Heatherton Park Ma Cherie. This was a real treat for spectators as they were ridden so beautifully and both these lovely riders made it look effortless.

The committee and riders would like to thank our wonderful judges who spent the whole weekend with us, generously sharing their knowledge and time. Our judging team included Gill Botten, Margaret Thwaites and Zoe Harrison from Perth and our Great Southern judges; Phoebe Johnson, Virginia Longley, Heather Carrington-Jones and Angela Shepherd.

Also, a big "thankyou" to all our helpers and volunteers.

Once again, many generous sponsors made it a weekend to remember! Full results of the weekend can be found on the SDDC website [www.sddc.org.au](http://www.sddc.org.au)

SDDC would like to thank all the sponsors listed below.

**Great Southern Stockfeed, Albany Horsecworld, Friso Stud, Whole Herd Therapies, Texture Denmark, Dog Rock Motel, Imperial Floats – Jesse Creek, Denmark Veterinary Clinic, Denmark Cooperative, Great Southern Equine Veterinary, Horseridingcoach.com, Louise Hillman, Albany Saddlery, Balgownie Equine Clinic, Tony's Hair & Skin Care, Koffee Boost, Off the Track and Equine Massage.**

**Albany**

#### **Championships**

#### **Competitor Classes**

#### **Preliminary Championship**

Jessica West & Mr Higgins  
Albany Horsecworld

#### **Novice Championship**

Louise Hillman & Bridlewood Dulcima  
Denmark Veterinary Clinic







### **Elementary Championship**

Karen Spice & Macarthur Rasta  
*Texture Denmark*

### **Medium Championship**

Amy Ross & Ma Bella Ami  
*Denmark Cooperative*

### **Advanced Championship**

Louise Hillman & Lord Louie  
*Dog Rock Motel*

### **Restricted/Participant Classes**

#### **Preparatory Championship**

Mareeka Coward & Monumental  
*Great Southern Stockfeed*

#### **Preliminary Championship**

Ashton James & Westwood Ltd Edition  
*Whole Herd Therapies*

#### **Novice Championship**

Ashton James & Westwood Ltd Edition  
*Friso Stud*

### **Hi Points Awards**

#### **Hi-Points Locally Bred**

Sarah Williams & Freitzaner  
*Imperial Floats – Jesse Creek*

#### **Hi-Points Young Horse**

Tracy Thomas & Stardust  
*Texture Denmark*

#### **Hi-Points Pony**

Amy Ross & Ma Belle Ami  
*Tony's Hair and Skin Care*

#### **Hi-Points Young Rider**

Jessica West & Mr Higgins  
*Tony's Hair and Skin Care*

#### **Hi-Points Local Rider**

Ashton James & Westwood Ltd Edition  
*Dog Rock Motel*

#### **Hi-Points 'Off the Track' Award**

Tameka Ellard & Shanghai Noon  
*Off The Track*

#### **Hi-Points Eventer**

Bethany Rainbow & Kellerains Royal Time  
*Texture Denmark*



Previous page - Jessica West on Mr Higgins. This page top  
- Louise Hillman on Lord Louie, bottom - Ashton James on  
Westwood Ltd Edition



## Uwe Spenlen FEI 4\* R Workshop 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017

By Elaine Greene, Chair Dressage Judges Taskforce

Photos by Eric Lloyd Photography



Perth Dressage Club and Dressage Judges Taskforce joined forces to present a workshop with Uwe Spenlen at the SEC. The theme was lateral work. With the help of local riders Uwe showed us the importance of lateral work, its benefits and how it should be introduced to a horse's early stages of training. Our first two young horses handled the atmosphere of the indoor arena and the enthusiastic band of spectators with

ease. Both showed us quality within the leg yield and a clear definition of pace. Next were two super ponies ridden by talented young riders demonstrating shoulder in, travers and the start of half pass. We moved onto the next duo of young horses who worked through sideways suppling exercises to achieve more throughness. Riders finished their demonstration by showing how to ride the trot stretch on a circle, allowing lengthening of the whole frame and swing through the back. The gremlins were in the arena for our next pair of horses although only one could see them! Uwe spent time keeping the gremlins away and the horse busy. This helped him to deal with the situation. As he settled the quality of the work started to show through. Our other combination was more relaxed and had just started half pass. Uwe worked on an exercise to give the horse confidence, establish the correct positioning whilst keeping the quality of the pace. Our final two horses made an expressive, "look at me" entry into the arena and showed confidence in the FEI levels lateral work. They made the work look easy and were happy to repeat movements for the appreciative crowd. Support from the spectators was super, generous with their applause and enthusiastic questions.

On behalf of PDC and DJTF "thank you" to our riders Bella Robson, Bethwyn Keilly, Lauren Rowe, Allie Helsemans, Dinah Fleming, Tyla Schou, Sue Morgan, Marj Radford, Sally Mayall and Steph Spencer. Your horses/ponies looked stunning; your enthusiasm made the night a success.

Thank you to Uwe Spenlen for his dedication to Dressage and for always believing in our WA riders. Uwe has not only educated us in judging and training but reminded us that welfare of the horse is paramount. We must always look for correct training with no short cuts. Uwe has travelled the world extensively, judged at major shows such as Aachen and worked with some of the world's best riders. For more than 20 years he has supported our judges in Australia and encouraged them to achieve FEI status. Our WA judges have been fortunate to benefit from his expertise. To judge with him has been a pleasure, feedback from an international judge is priceless and keeps WA judges in tune with the rest of the world. His friendly approach and special way of making his point such as; "Judges are not bean counters" makes him the perfect teacher. Uwe has made a difference. He has given us knowledge to improve our skills and an understanding of the big picture.

On behalf of DJTF and all judges in WA we thank Uwe for sharing his wealth of knowledge with us.



*Uwe Spenlen working with Sue Morgan and her horse Declan*