



DRESSAGE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



May/June 2019

- 1 Introduction
- 2 EOI: State Dressage Championships Opportunity
June - August Competitions
- 3 Feature Event – Midwest Dressage Association Dressage Event
- 4 Mary Seefried on Dressage in WA and Australia
- 5 Rider Profile – Suzin Wells
- 6 Upcoming Event – DWA Development Series with Maria Schwennesen



A young Kendall Park Oddessey – read more about him and our Feature Rider Suzin Wells in this edition.

Dressage WA Newsletter

Welcome to the May/June edition of the DWA Newsletter. We feature notes from the recent FEI 5* Judge Mary Seefried Seminar as well as our regular segments including the Rider Profile and our Feature Event.

As we draw nearer to August and September we'll see more information released surrounding the pinnacle of 2019 WA dressage events – the Rubbergem WA State Dressage Championships - so watch this space!

Lastly, we are always looking for interesting topics to include on our monthly newsletter. If you have any ideas, articles or information you think the WA dressage community would find valuable please send it through to via the [DWA website](#).



Dates for the Diary

June

- ❖ 22 June: Perth Equine Hospital HP Championship Series 2
- ❖ 29 June: Bunbury Horse and Pony Club Winter Dressage EA & PC
- ❖ 30 June: Pinjarra Horse and Pony Club Championship Dressage Day

July

- ❖ 6/7 July: Orange Grove Official Dressage Gala
- ❖ 7 July: Dardanup HPC Dressage

August

- ❖ 22 August: DWA Development Series – Educational ft. FEI 5* Judge Maria Schwennesen

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

EOI: WA State Dressage Championships Opportunity!

DWA is seeking a Sponsorship Coordinator to volunteer at the WA State Dressage Championships.

This role will involve welcoming our valued sponsors and ensuring their comfort throughout the day.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone with strong business relationship development and/or customer service skills.

If this is something you are interested in or if you have any questions, please contact DWA [here](#).



WE WANT YOU

Quotes of the Month

"Leg yielding is a loosening exercise for the horse – they pull up the leg, fold the joints, push the leg to one side. It is far easier for the horse to leg yield from the centre line to the wall. He wants to go to the wall for help, but never let a young horse go all the way to the wall. The wall is like a magnet, stop him short of the wall."

Kyra Kyrklund

"When your horse has reached its potential, leave it. It's such a nice feeling when you and your horses are still friends."

Dr. Reiner Klimke



FEATURE EVENT - Midwest Dressage Association 21st Anniversary Dressage Series Competition

Midwest Dressage Association held the first event of its 21st Anniversary Dressage Series for the year on 25-26th May 2019 at Woorree Park in Geraldton. The club is celebrating its 21st year since its inauguration in 1998. The two founding club members Elizabeth Boyle and Judy Nardi were present on the day which was very special for all our riders.

Midwest Dressage was successful in hosting an excellent A level South Australian Judge, Wendy Hunt, who has visited Geraldton previously for other events and was most excited to visit our city again. Riders were treated to some invaluable ring craft knowledge and Wendy took the time with individual riders advising and guiding them when required. She also welcomed discussion each day at the end of the competition to discuss with Riders their scores and offered great training advice.



In Vogue ridden by Sue Mitchell
Photo courtesy of Jodie Bradley



Fausto ridden by Marieke Jansen
Photo courtesy of Jodie Bradley

There were some 44 tests ridden over the 2 day competition as riders got to compete in 2 levels over the 2 day competition gaining valuable aggregate points toward the overall level champions to be awarded at the finale competition to be held in November.

This season, we have many new horse- rider combinations competing at their first major competitions in 2019. These include Laura Kennedy (My Boy) and Brooke Atkinson (Jayleigh Espresso) competing in Prep at this competition. Brooke managed to achieve the Highest Percentage Pony Score with 65% on this pony. In the Preliminary level new combinations include, Elizabeth Thomas (Valentines Gift), Sue Mitchell (In Vogue), Marieke Jansen (Fausto), Lily Piesse (Autumn French Rose), Amelia Elliott (Indiana Summer Gold), Leilani Witt (Bonsais Thumper) and Donna Kristiansen (Centauri



CN). Marieke Jansen rode an impressive preliminary score in 1A of 74.4% to win the Highest Percentage Horse score of the competition. Other seasoned riders included Martha Schenk (Karingal Sasha), Lucia Lowe (Blu Magneto) and Brooke Atkinson (Brynderlee Neptune) all competing at Elementary level. Louise Fletcher (Blackall Park Columbia) rode some elegant tests competing in Medium.

Sadly missed at this event however, was our talented rider Eliza Hebiton (Revelwood Olivia) who was extremely ill in hospital flown down to Metro area via Royal Flying Doctor service only 2 days prior the competition. We all wish her a speedy recovery and hope she may take part in our finale competition in November where she will compete in Advanced level.



Blu Magneto ridden by Lucia Lowe
Photo courtesy of Jodie Bradley

During the Saturday lunchtime break, lifetime member Elizabeth Boyle and Judge Wendy Hunt inspected and judged riders to choose the Best Presented Junior and Senior Rider and horse combination. The junior combination chosen was Lily Piesse (Autumn French Rose) while the Senior rider combination was awarded to Donna Kristiansen (Centauri CN), pictured below. Across the whole competition, riders presented both their horses and themselves to a high standard all worthy of recognition.





At the conclusion of each day's program the champion levels were awarded, these were:

- Prep Horse Champion** - My Boy ridden by Laura Kennedy
- Prep Pony Champion** - Jayleigh Espresso ridden by Brooke Atkinson
- Preliminary Horse Champion** - Fausto ridden by Marieke Jansen
- Preliminary Pony Champion** - Centauri CN ridden by Donna Kristiansen
- Novice Horse Champion** - Karingal Sasha ridden by Martha Schenk
- Novice Pony Champion** - Centauri CN ridden by Donna Kristiansen
- Elementary Horse Champion** - Blu Magneto ridden by Lucia Lowe
- Medium Horse Champion** - Blackall Park Columbia ridden by Louise Fletcher

Our lovely judge Wendy emailed our club once returned home to S.A. with some lovely compliments that we would like to share:

"On the 25 and 26th May 2019 I had the pleasure of judging dressage at GERALDTON. Classes ranged from Prep A,B,C Preliminary 1A, 1B, Novice 2A, 2B, Elementary 3A, 3B and Medium, 4A and 4B. The competition was organised by the Midwest Dressage Association and was run very professionally and in strict accordance to the rules.

I was pleasantly surprised at the standard with some lovely combinations showing promise. A highlight of the weekend was the willingness of competitors to discuss their papers and results at the end of the competition each day. Their openness and thirst for knowledge was refreshing.

As the event finished midafternoon on Saturday, many took the opportunity to discuss the Training Scale and various issues. On Sunday again, there was time to discuss papers and results after the presentation.

The Geraldton competitors are to be congratulated for their willingness to improve and for these reasons I found the whole experience to be an enjoyable one. I wish the Midwest club all the very best for your future and thank them very much for the invitation to judge and the wonderful hospitality shown to me.

I would encourage Dressage WA and EWA to continue to support such enthusiastic regional clubs such as the Midwest Dressage Association as I believe this support to be very worthy"




Our dressage subcommittee have begun preparations and plans for the Series 2 finale event to be held on Nov 2-3. The program will include Freestyle Dressage tests and Best Presented Horse / Rider combinations and Highest Percentage awards along with the overall Champions for the Year from points attained from the first competition. We hope to offer prize money and vouchers to attract some distant competitors to come compete at this final event for our season. An updated competitor flyer and entry forms will be advertised during September on the DWA website

Make sure you get your tickets for the Carl Hester Masterclass this October!

Dressage Western Australia invites you to an intimate "Through the Levels" masterclass with the ultimate Master of Dressage

Carl Hester MBE



Daydream Equine Art

3.00pm Gates open
4.30pm Masterclass starts
6.45-7.45pm Dinner break
9.15pm Autograph signing
10.00pm close

For one night only...


Don't miss this unique opportunity

Monday 14 October 2019

State Equestrian Centre, 303 Cathedral Avenue
Brigadoon WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Tickets on sale from TryBooking in April 2019

Balcony VIP event, including 4 course dinner: \$255 pp
General admission: EWA members \$120 , non-EWA members \$135



DRESSAGE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Mary Seefried 5* FEI Judge on Dressage in WA and Australia

The following are notes taken at the recent seminar with 5* FEI Judge Mary Seefried on Dressage in WA and Australia.

On the progression of judging and competing at large events...

At dressage events, it's about making the atmosphere larger. It's about the progression from regional events, to States to National CDI's. It's the high-level atmosphere that we need to work on.

It's like a stairway to heaven, or hell! You can't start here (halfway) and work your way up to that (the top). You must stage your progress. Aim for smaller goals and step by step you will progress higher and higher. Have aspiration, but you must go through the stages. Each time you compete, you go through the stages. Reflect on your day to day, what you improved on and what you can do better.

"It's like a stairway to heaven, or hell! You can't start here (halfway) and work your way up to that (the top). You must stage your progress."

There are nerves at the large events, as well as for the judges. You have to dig deep to what you actually know. Our learning along the way is what stands us in good stead. In Australia, we should be proud of our education system. The model is based on the FEI and helps step by step progression of judges and riders. Importantly, it encourages riders to join the judge's system. It's a big project It's a difficult task to judge and ride. It's about succession planning. We need judges to come up from the bottom. It's almost a generational change and people are getting older, so we must develop the numbers coming up underneath. I'd encourage any rider to put their hands up to judge and attend seminar such as the super G's.

On WA Dressage in comparison to the Eastern States...

We would like Dressage to grow more. We need to think creatively. In the east the Amateur Owner Rider classes have taken off and have increased the competitive base. What's driven this is leader boards from Preliminary right through to FEI and it is popularly contested. It is a desire for the Amateur Owner Rider Championships to be circulated to all Australian states, however other states have yet to join, or don't want to join. They are well attended and well supported. This is improving the standard of local competition in those states.

At the Amateur Owner Rider Championships in the Eastern States, the standard was there, the volunteers were there, and it was a most memorable event. Some people who didn't know how to act in warm up were noticed by stewards who helped them learn through the process. Otherwise it ran like a CDI event with swabbing etc.

Should WA riders go East?

It's a big step coming from WA to come to Nationals and other Eastern States events. We understand there are huge costs attached. Similarly, national level riders think "where do we fit in, in the international field?" It's hard for us to recreate the atmosphere and pressure that is associated with international top-level sport. We need our international quality combinations competing in big atmosphere competitions to enable confidence at that level.

What are some key areas of improvement in test riding?



Key areas of improvement are often correct and effective contact. This is not just a problem with WA. Train well from the start, rhythm, suppleness and contact all made from the beginning.

You can't have any moment that the horse isn't on the bit. This is across the board even at Sydney CDI. Riders need to understand the horse needs to use its neck to find its own balance (not blocking at the poll) so we need to manage it consistently. Riders can also always use corners better. Always think the corners are your friends. Don't think you need to get through the corner as fast as possible, take the time to breathe, time to think, time to set up through the test, set up for the next movement.

Riders should remember to sit in the middle of saddle. Ensure that the horse is confident to find you. When you're in the middle of the saddle the horse doesn't have to scramble to find balance because you're sitting over the body. Develop strength through the core and allow the horse forward through your core.

Always thinking "through", allowing the rein so you can allow the horse forward. It's a little jigsaw puzzle and if one piece is missing it's hard. It always helps to have someone on the ground to help with straightness, but most people don't have that.

"Train well from the start, rhythm, suppleness and contact all made from the beginning."

On WA horses...

You have beautiful horse material in WA. Good breeders here. It's amazing that's here. It's a very good foundation and you don't have to go overseas.

A word from Elaine Greene:

As judges and as a part of the Judges Taskforce, we work hard to bring together the rider, the judge and the coach. We would like coaches to be involved in the training. We would like to see coaches in the judge's seminars. It would be good if we could come to that connection. The triangle of rider, coach and judge all meets up.

Everyone could come so it's about having open communication. One could think about Live stream or two-way interaction, so everyone can attend, and distance doesn't matter. You can do keyboard attendance such as skype or WebEx. Regionals areas can apply for funding through DWA to run things regionally. The communities need to be proactive in this. Regional areas are finding it hard to keep the competitions going. Is it a volunteer problem or a rider problem? The sport must grow.

DWA Dressage Judges Taskforce News

EA Approved Mentor Course presented by Wendy Barker proves to be a success.

Congratulations to the following Dressage Judges who have been approved by the EA Dressage Judges Committee as Mentors for Trainee and Upgrading Judges:

- Zoe Harrison
- Nadine Herbert
- Gail Simms
- Liz Watkins

The new additions have increased WA Mentor numbers to 17. The full list can be found on the EA website, officials search Dressage Mentors.

The role of the Mentor is to guide Mentee Judges through the education system. They play an important part in assisting Judges to upgrade by way of supervising shadow judging and sitting in.

If you would like to know more about becoming a Dressage Judge, please contact DJTF Didy Massey (didymassey@iinet.net.au) or one of our Mentors.



Rider Profile

Meet Suzin Wells and Kendall Park Oddessey

1) Tell us about your horse?

Kendall Park Oddessey is a Friesian sport horse and he is 10 years old. I bought him when he was a three-year-old and he was just green broke. He's a very sensitive horse and I've had to build that relationship with him. Being part thoroughbred and part Friesian gives him that elasticity that he needs, and I just love him.

2) What has been the key to training your horse?

Key to my training is having a great coach, Kristy Zabaznow, and building an unbreakable relationship with my horse. A lot of bush work and lots and lots and lots of transitions. I read a lot about dressage, I watch a lot of dressage and dressage training on YouTube and I just try and use my downtime learning about horses.



3) What are your riding goals?

This is a good question because goals are both short-term and long-term with horses. My next goal is to get to the State Championships and actually remember my tests. I'm also learning how to re-balance as I've had an injury to my foot and my foot amputated with bones that don't heal.

4) How did you start out riding and dressage?

Dressage became a way of life for me as it keeps my life steady. It helps me release any stresses because when I'm with my horse I'm free. Starting dressage for me was about six years ago when I got my current horse and that's when I rode my first dressage test. I've ridden track work when I was younger and attended Darling Pony Club.





5) Who is your greatest influence?

I really like Ingrid klimke and Sally Swift. My greatest influence is me believing in myself and having good mentors like Kristy Zabaznow and her mum, they are awesome people. And of course my partner Clint Hyne, he's always there for me he helps me, he calms me down and keeps me straight.

6) How can dressage in WA be improved?

I would like to see events like the Regional Rumble really fire up and have more competitors. I'd like to see a lot of grass roots events to grow the sport. I think they're doing a really great job at the moment, there's some awesome people in the dressage world. I think they should be appreciated more so that more people would come and help them.



Upcoming Event – DWA Development Series with Maria Schwennesen

5* FEI Judge
Maria Schwennesen
 22 – 25 August
 SEC
Featuring:
 Young Horse and FEI Workshops Thurs & Fri
 Saturday Training Event/Official FEI & Para
DEMONSTRATIONS
 Effective Test Riding Seminar
 Plus Riders' Lunch with Maria!
 Entries: Nominate DWA Development Series

Thursday:

- Young Horse

Friday:

- Medium – FEI

Includes Official Test, Protocol Sessions, Video Workshopping, Theory, Discussion and Lunch.

Saturday:

- Training Tests - Preliminary to Advanced & Young Horse
- Official Competitions – Official FEI Competitions PSG – Grand Prix (Limit 1 FEI Test) and Official Para Equestrian Competitions

Maria Schwennesen

Maria has judged extensively overseas during 2017 including Europe, America, Asia and New Zealand. This judging has included major CDI events which earn riders' qualifying percentages and ranking points for World Equestrian Games and Olympic Games.

In July 2017 Maria was appointed FEI 5* Judge, one of only thirty FEI 5* judges in the world!



Thank you to all of our contributors for April 2019. If you have any ideas or anything you'd like to read in the DWA Newsletter, please get in touch with us by going to the link below:

<https://www.dressagewa.org/contact-us.html>

Dressage Western Australia Committee Members

Chair – Suzanne Simons
Vice Chair – Val Mayger
Treasurer – Natalie Sakich

Finance/Treasury – Natalie Sakich/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 – Leanne Pitcher

Pony Representative – Leanne Pitcher

Participant Representative – Melissa Sullivan

Official Liaison – Val Mayger

Judges, Stewards, liaising with other disciplines, national issues.

High Performance – Tracy Spackman

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 – Natalie

Sakich/Steph Munro

General Committee Member – Linley Crackel

This Dressage Western Australia Newsletter was compiled by Jamie Bawden and Tracey Strommer

