



DRESSAGE  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Dressage WA Newsletter

April 2018

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Western Australian pair Emma Hayward and Penny Hill Park Sophia (owned by Michelle James) celebrating their success at Dressage with the Stars. Story on page 2

Welcome to our April Newsletter! We have a great line up of interviews and competition reports for you, as there has been a lot going on, both here and interstate.

In March, we were lucky to have four WA-bred horses competing at PSI Dressage and Jumping with the Stars. This annual event is the pinnacle of young horse competition in Australia, with high qualification standards, and is judged by some of the best young horse judges from here and around the world. Just qualifying is an honour.

Kelly Genge rode *Windy Hill Bianca* in the 5 year-old pony class, and was reserve champion. Also in the pony classes was Western Australia's *Dynamik Great Expectations*, bred by Kristy-Renae Jarvis of Dynamik Stallions and ridden by Sancha Butler. *Dynamik Great Expectations* won champion 4-year-old pony and then went on to win the Pony Champion of Champions for 2018.

Michelle James from Penny Hill Park took two horses across the Nullarbor - *Penny Hill Park Sahara* and *Penny Hill Park Sophia* - who were ridden by Emma Hayward. *Sahara* competed in the 5 year-old class, and while not feeling herself with the weather and the atmosphere, still won the 5 year-old consolation round.

*Penny Hill Park Sophia* had a standout performance in a tough competition, and won both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds convincingly, to be named the six year-old Young Horse Champion. Congratulations to all competitors and breeders, we are proud of your achievements.

### Quote of the month

*"If one induces the horse to assume that carriage which it would adopt of its own accord when displaying its beauty, then, one directs the horse to appear joyous and magnificent, proud and remarkable for having been ridden."*

Xenophon – Greek Philosopher and Soldier, circa 400BC



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## Penny Hill Park Sophia: an interview with Breeder Michelle James

- \* Height: 16.2hh
- \* Dam: Carrington Park Wenona
- \* Dam Sire: Weltruhm
- \* Sire: Sir Donnerhall

*Michelle, congratulations on your successes in Melbourne. Tell us a little more about Sophia.*

*What made you choose her specific dam/sire combination? Which particular strengths did you feel they complemented each other on?*  
The dam is a fairly substantial mare bred by Kathleen Carrington, she has excellent hind legs and super swing through the body and a great character. *Sir Donnerhall* was perfect to modernise and add elegance. I have always bred *Sir Donnerhall* to mares with great hind legs. He provides wonderful rideability and improves type.

*As a breeder and accomplished rider yourself, which of Sophia's traits stood out to you?*

As a foal it was apparent that she was beautiful and could move! She has always been very composed, which is also a characteristic she gets from her dam. Added to this she has a lot of spark and an excellent work ethic. She loves to please and learns quickly.

*What was some of the feedback from the judges and Frederic at DWTS?*

We had tremendous feedback from all the judges. The judge from the Netherlands, Francis Verbeek, said that she wanted to take her home in her suitcase!

Frederic also commented on her rideability, saying it was remarkable that under a completely different rider such a young mare would be so amenable and so well trained that she reacted with clean changes both ways for him, first time.

Every day *Sophia* got better and better and by the Monday of the judges' seminar she looked extraordinary and had scores over 9 for trot and canter and 8.2 for walk. They loved that the picture was so harmonious.

*Are you planning to use Sophia in your breeding program, and have you got any ideas on bloodlines you might match her with?*

Yes absolutely! She is happy as a working girl and so we will ET or freeze her embryos. I think *Sophia* has so much quality that we can try her with a variety of top quality Stallions. I always breed for high heritability for type, paces and rideability.

*What are your aspirations for Sophia as a ridden horse?*

We will continue to train her towards FEI level and hope that she will continue to represent WA as she progresses. We would love her to shine again on the national stage, but her happiness is integral and we will be guided by her to a great extent. We are so very proud and grateful for everything she and Emma Hayward have achieved to date.



Emma Hayward and Sophia are all smiles on their victory lap (photo credit Amy Sue Alston)

*"As a foal it was apparent that she was beautiful and could move!"*



(L-R) PSI's Francois Kasselmann, Steve James, Owner Michelle James and Rider Emma Hayward with Sophia. Photo Credit Amy Sue Alston

*"The judge from the Netherlands, Francis Verbeek, said that she wanted to take her home in her suitcase!"*





## Meet a Committee Member: Linley Crackel

*Linley recently joined the DWA Committee as a general member. She has a long history of involvement in committees and volunteering at dressage and eventing competitions, so brings with her a wealth of experience in the organisation and governance of events and clubs.*

I am one of those people that came relatively late to horse ownership. Until I was about eight we lived in Floreat and this is where I sat on my first horse, a friend's 33 year-old, semi-retired Standardbred called Whisper. I think I convinced my Mum to let me have a lesson or two down at Central Riding School on Pearson St near Herdsman Lake. This growing love of horses gained momentum when I moved in Grade 4 to a new school and became friends with a bunch of horsey girls, who regularly trotted off to down to Wellard for bush rides and lessons at Timbertop stables.

I rode on and off during primary and high school, cadging rides off any horse I could find. It wasn't until I was 21, when my sister-in-law Deb became pregnant and gave me her thoroughbred Count to ride and look after, that I became an actual horse owner and regular rider. Count and I had a lot of fun, bush bashing around the hills up Orange Grove way, then moving "inner city" to Gwelup and then Perry Lakes. Flatwork lessons back then were a foreign concept and I was blissfully ignorant of all but the basics of how to walk, trot, canter and stay on.



*Above: Linley and Remy, competing for GAEC at an ARCA interclub competition*

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*"The rest is history with Remy, because I bought him and we spent 20 years together doing everything imaginable, including my foray into the world of dressage."*

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*Linley getting a bit of World Cup Dressage Final action in Las Vegas*

In my mid-20's I moved to Canberra for work and free leased a semi-retired showjumper called Governor, who had a reputation for shying and being difficult to catch (never saw any of that). He'd been out in a giant paddock for two years and not ridden, so of course the first thing I did was saddle him up and take him out for a bush ride in the Stromlo Forest. First ride, ten minutes off the truck. Thirty years on I might think twice about doing that, perhaps opting for a lunge first!

It was in Canberra, where I agisted at a large complex with an indoor arena, that I realised people actually had flatwork lessons and competed in dressage. Gov and I mostly occupied our time riding around in the forest but we did brave the indoor and the odd lesson with the resident Dutch dressage instructor, Torben.

I returned to Perth in 1990 and ended up riding a "funny little black hairy thing" who belonged to a friend doing her Year 12 studies. The hairy black thing was the then four-year-old Lyckle B's *Rembrandt*, or Remy, one of the first Friesian/TB crosses around town. So different to the thoroughbreds I had ridden but such a fun horse. The rest is history with Remy, because I bought him and we spent 20 years together doing everything imaginable, including my foray into the world of dressage.



*Clancy, the Shire x, at the beach for the first time*

It was not long after I returned from Canberra that I suddenly got the urge to buy a block of land and move to Brigadoon. My brother and sis-in-law had already made the move there and I thought this looks pretty good, I'm coming too. So in 1993 I moved into my new house on 10 acres just off Cathedral Ave and come the next year joined Gnangara Adult Equestrian Club (GAEC) as a newly minted member.

I have been a member of GAEC for over twenty-four years now and during that time I have been privileged to have lessons with many of WA's top dressage and jumping coaches. While we are not going to the Olympics anytime soon, I've managed to compete in both adult riding and unofficial/associate/participant EWA comps over the years and have completely fallen in love with dressage.

My love of dressage mixes well with my other passion for travel. Over the past six years I have managed to combine holidays with some of the best international dressage competitions and have been lucky enough to see many of the world's top horse and rider combinations in action. I tell you there is no better way to see Las Vegas than from the front seat of an indoor stadium with Charlotte Dujardin and *Valegro* doing a full-on extended trot 3 feet in front of your face. Seeing the quality of the horses and riders overseas just inspires me to ride better and I come home from these trips itching to get on my horse. It doesn't matter that I can't piaffe to save my life, just getting a better trot is satisfying enough.

It was at GAEC that I became involved with committees, event organisation and volunteering. Over the past 20+ years I have been President, rally coordinator, Secretary, general dog's body of GAEC, as well as President of the Adult Riding Clubs' Association of WA and Vice Chair of Eventing Promotions WA (I still love eventing to watch and help out at Brigadoon ODEs now and then as XC controller).

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*"Being on club committees and involved in horse sports generally has brought me so many joys, most of all a wonderful group of close friends that share my passion"*

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Living on the doorstep of the SEC has been the best life decision ever and I am fiercely protective of the Centre and access to it by everyone. Being a near-neighbour, it has been easy for me to volunteer at events there and over the years I have pencilled, gear checked and marshalled at many State Dressage Championships and other comps.

It is for this reason that I decided to join DWA – to support dressage event organisation and grow participation in the sport that I love so much. As part of my paid job in government, I work on developing policy and drafting legislation so I am a bit of a pedant when it comes to rules and like to ensure that there is good governance around funds. I am really keen to see dressage in WA grow, not only in numbers out competing or training, but also in the level of scores being achieved across all unofficial and official grades.

Being on club committees and involved in horse sports generally has brought me so many joys, most of all a wonderful group of close friends that share my passion for horses and dressage. When I'm not at work or sitting on a plane heading off on another holiday, I spend my time having flatwork lessons with my favourite instructor, riding with friends and tonking around Brigadoon or the pines on my relatively newish trusty steed, *Clancy*, the Shire-X. *Clang* and I probably have another year of training before we hit the competition arena in earnest, but we are learning heaps and having fun in the meantime and that's the main thing.





## Event Report: Gidgegannup Dressage Club Autumn Dressage Competition

Photos by Jordyn Collieran

The Gidgegannup Dressage Club held its popular, annual competition on Sunday 25 March at the Gidgegannup Showgrounds. The event attracted many rider entries from across the state, with over 90 tests from Preliminary through to Grand Prix in both Participant and Competitor classes. This year, with the exciting new EWA Adult Riding Membership, Gidgegannup Dressage Club was also able to provide placings and prizes to Adult Riding Club Members who entered the Participant classes.



The Event was extremely well supported by very generous Sponsors for the competition meaning there were a huge amount of prizes up for grabs with all place getters walking away with prizes on the day.

The biggest class of the day, the Competitor Novice 2.1, had some great tests ridden and showed some stiff competition. Victoria Hamilton, on board *Scandric VH*, made an impressive competitive debut with a score of 73.704% for the win. Emily Purvis & *Empresario* followed in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Dinah Fleming & *Everton Churchill* were in 3<sup>rd</sup> and not far behind. Victoria Hamilton and *Scandric VH* also won the Competitor Prelim 1.1 with another big score of 75.682%. An exciting combination to watch for the future.



Other highlights included some great rides in the FEI tests. The Grand Prix Class was won by Rebecca Tsouris & *Santus* scoring in the mid 60's, and Suzanne Simons on *Foxwood Whirlwind* in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with another solid performance.

The Participant Classes had a good turn out with the Prelim 1.1 won with a big score of 70.909% by Stephanie Munro on her new mount *Primrose Court Geneva*. Stephanie is also an Adult Riding member of Orange Grove ARC, so she took out the win for the Adult Rider placings. 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Cheryl Wise riding *Byalee Bunyip* and 3<sup>rd</sup> to GDC member Mette Wendler making her debut on *Quanta Star*. The Participant Novice 2.1 was won by Cheryl Wise and *Byalee Bunyip*, and Cheryl also took the Adult Rider win for Gidgegannup Equestrian Association. 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Karen Bowman onboard *Silver Linings* and 3<sup>rd</sup> to another GDC member Juliet Hammond riding *Missletoe Jack*.



The Pony Participant classes also had a great turn out with Gidgegannup Dressage Club's own Catherine (Penny) Nicholson onboard her lovey new pony *Poppy De Luxe* winning the Pony Participant Prelim 1.1 and Abbey Robson onboard *Narcoola Park Deva* winning the Pony Participant Novice 2.1.

There were many fabulous tests to watch, including new combinations coming out for the start of the year, as well as those who are really striving to enjoy their dressage and should be proud of their growth and development. In all there was some really promising dressage on display for the day. Congratulations to all riders on their results, and a big thankyou to all the judges who provided valuable feedback to our competitors.



Huge thanks to the Gidgegannup Dressage Club committee for their tireless work hosting the event and making sure the club upheld its fantastic competition atmosphere, so everyone could enjoy the day out. We hope that we will see you back next year.

### Proudly Sponsored by:-

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

## Dressage Rider Profile: An Interview with Shannon Brookes

*Shannon is a passionate rider and mum from regional WA, who works hard to overcome health issues to pursue her riding dreams.*

### Tell us about your horses:

I have three beautiful warmbloods, all of whom have come from my coach and great friend Dr Victoria Hamilton. *Asadream VH* is my 15yo gelding by Victoria's champion Grand Prix stallion *Asaachen*. He is 17.3hh, very well built and a dream to own, a big gentle giant who draws lots of attention and has a terrific presence and a massive trot and walk. I have done a lot with him, competing in breed, show hunter and dressage. He's been out hunting with the Brook Hunt Club and we competed in the state and National Horseback Archery Championships as well. He's the cheeky boy at home and if farm gates have been mysteriously opened, troughs have been broken or rugs taken off other horses I always know it was him. *Asadream* really opened the doors to dressage for me, stepping up my opportunities and my standing in the eyes of judges and visiting coaches.

My main competition horse who I've been concentrating on at the moment is *Blenheim Park Regazaire*, a beautiful 17.2hh flashy chestnut 8yo Hanoverian gelding by *Regazzoni* (x *Rubinstein*) out of a *Flemmingh* mare. Victoria purchased him as a yearling and trained him before selling him to me a couple of years ago. I have only recently begun competing him in dressage, show hunter and breed classes. He is a beautiful horse who really stands out in the competition ring, has a fantastic canter and lovely nature. His worst trait however is that he wees in the float every single time we go anywhere, and as I sleep in the float I have to take water to wash it out every time!

My newest addition is an 8yo black 16.2hh mare, *Santona VH* by *Sandro Hit*. She's a niece of *Asadream* and was also bred and trained by Victoria. *San* is a lovely girl, very sweet and loves to mother the young thoroughbred filly I have. She is very well trained and has terrific, correct movement. I don't know why but I generally never



*Shannon and Asadream VH at the AWA Show Hunter (photo credit Eric Lloyd).*





have had mares, but *Santona* is really just a beautiful horse, very kind and has such a floating extended trot that is beautiful to ride. I've only had her for a few months and I'm looking forward to starting work with her.

### ***What are your riding goals?***

My son Kia, and daughters Tiahn and Aliah are all away at boarding schools in Perth (Hale and St Mary's) which is a bit sad for me; but on the other hand provides me with the opportunity to really get out riding and competing a lot more, knowing they're well looked after.

I have recently applied to be classified as a Para Equestrian rider as I have an extensive number of health issues, some of which affect the movement in my spine, pelvis and the strength in my left leg. I am meant to have a spinal fusion in my neck and lower back as well as my left hip and then later my right hip replaced, but as I have already had 29 surgeries (!) and am at high risk of another pulmonary embolism, my surgeons have recommended to not have any more until I've done as much as I can in my riding. It always seems as if I just start riding again and then have to stop for more surgery and recovery.

If classification goes as planned, I intend on competing over east next year and working on being selected for the National Para Equestrian squad. I have decided I am going to make something positive come from all my health issues for a change!



*Shannon and Asadream VH at the WA Archery State Championships 2016 (Photo Credit Mark Bundock Photography)*

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### ***"I am working towards achieving my gold performance medals in Preliminary and Novice with Reg"***

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In the meantime, I am working towards achieving my gold performance medals in Preliminary and Novice with Reg. I'll also continue competing him in show hunter classes - I'd love to qualify him and have Vicky ride him for me at the Nationals. I plan on getting *Santona* out and about and then competing with her, and also find the time to get *Dream* back into competition as well. I find I lose so much time driving back and forth to Perth, wasting 4 hours driving when I could be riding so I really need to work on managing that better.

I am also working with Tashlin Jeffries of Kendall Park Friesians on breeding my dream purebred Friesian from her gorgeous champion 1st Premium Ster mare *Fenne SR* to a Dutch stallion via embryo transfer. I have always wanted a Friesian and have decided I'm running out of time and had better do it now if I plan on being able to ride it before my body gives up, so it's now or never.

### ***How did you start out in riding and dressage?***

I was lucky to grow up in the country where it doesn't cost us a fortune to keep our horses. I have always loved horses and attended Goomalling Horse & Pony Club throughout my childhood. As a youngster I really loved jumping and cross country, galloping around bareback with my friends who all had horses as well. Once I had children of my own and then began having a lot of health issues I found I really lost my nerve. I had purchased my dream appaloosa *Noon Dancer* whom I adored but who



*[Above and Below] With Blenheim Park Regazaire at the Perth Royal Warmblood Classes 2017 (Photo Credit Vickiphotos)*





Shannon and Regzaire at the EWA  
Twilight Dressage Series 2018

was way too strong for me and that really set back my confidence. My farrier Ross Hall and his wife Angela run a quarter horse stud and equine breeding facility in Northam. I've been friends with them for 20 years and they have really been great boost for my morale over the years, encouraging me to keep going and particularly encouraging me to make the choice to purchase a horse that was safe and trustworthy, rather than the "prettiest" horse. I persevered for nearly 10 years with Noon before finally biting the bullet and selling him to someone better suited to him.

I eventually came across a beautiful chestnut thoroughbred, Sovereign Oak, who really turned the tables for me and restored all my lost confidence. He was just a joy to ride and do anything with. He is 23 now and is retired on our farm to enjoy the rest of his days keeping my other horses company. With Oak I decided to learn to ride dressage correctly. I find watching someone ride dressage beautifully just really makes me feel emotional, it literally makes me cry. I figured if I was going to spend money and time driving to Perth for lessons I might as well learn from the best person I could find. I came across Victoria Hamilton's name and got in

touch with her. I was really very nervous as I thought she wouldn't want to teach such a beginner, but from the first lesson I felt she really understood my goals and what I needed and I have been riding with Vicky ever since.

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*"I find watching someone ride dressage beautifully just really makes me feel emotional, it literally makes me cry."*

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Shannon and Sovereign  
Oak, 2012

After a couple of years Victoria offered her horse *Asadream* to me. I can't tell you how excited I was, but when I had my first few trial rides on him I found I just couldn't get it together. He was so big and I was a bit scared of him, and he had enormous movement compared to my thoroughbred. Being so well trained meant he was really in tune to fine aids and seat movement, so with my lack of experience he was veering all over the place, piaffing, leg yielding, a renvers here, a travers there, and I could not get him to canter! Poor Victoria's eyeballs from having to watch me ricochet around the arena on her beloved horse. I was the living proof that you cannot in fact put a monkey on a well-trained horse and it will still perform well. By the fifth try we'd decided if I couldn't manage him I couldn't have him, so I told myself that I would never get an opportunity like that again and that I would ride him well or die trying. Obviously it all worked out.

My next problem was that he was too big for my float, so Vicky delivered him to the farm for me and while I waited for my custom made float to arrive, I got to ride Vicky's stallion *Asaachen* which was a real honour. That was my only chance at riding a stallion and at getting to ride piaffe and passage (although Vicky was making him do it from the ground) – it still makes me smile and feel so lucky just remembering it. I felt

quite a lot of pressure after getting *Asadream* as I knew people had seen Vicky ride and compete on him and do exceptionally well and I was worried they would think he was wasted on a novice like me. However, as we spent time travelling and competing, we really just bonded and I was just grateful to have him.

I joined Gidgegannup Dressage Club with Oak after finding that a childhood friend of mine was a member, which has been really terrific and I have enjoyed meeting a great bunch of riders who love horses and dressage as much as me. In 2016 I also joined Zamia Adult Riding Club and more recently Brookleigh Dressage and Adult Riding Clubs. I've been a long time member here in the country of the Eastern Wheatbelt Riding Club.

[Continued on Page 10...]





## NICOLE TOUGH (QLD) MASTERCLASS

SATURDAY 5 MAY 2018

1pm-2.30pm

STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE, BRIGADOON

INDOOR ARENA

**FREE ENTRY FOR ALL SPECTATORS!**

*Watch Nicole as she works with three horse and rider combinations at different levels of dressage training*

*"I love coaching and making a difference to riders and their horses"*

*Nicole Tough*

HAILING FROM QUEENSLAND, NICOLE IS AN ACCREDITED LEVEL 2 DRESSAGE SPECIALIST COACH, LEVEL A NATIONAL GRAND PRIX AND YOUNG HORSE JUDGE AND JUDGE EDUCATOR. SHE IS ALSO A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR, HAVING WON 7 AUSTRALIAN TITLES AND UP TO 25 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS. SHE HAS BEEN AWARDED EQUESTRIAN QLD COACH OF THE YEAR, SPORT STAR OF THE YEAR AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE DRESSAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND



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[...Continued from page 8]

They run some great dressage events including the Dust & Diamonds summer series of training tests and our official competition Crystals in Kellerberrin. I really enjoy the friendship and comradery of all the clubs I'm a member of and find rallies a wonderful way of getting the horses out and socialized; and I've made some really fantastic friends and had fun.

I'd love to tell people to follow their dreams. As a mum living in the country, suffering from depression and anxiety, and health and weight issues, I felt like I was never going to do anything. After the death of one of my brothers from a heart attack at just 46 and illness myself, I sought medical help for my mental health issues, had surgery and lost 35kgs and decided I was going to ride no matter what. Even more importantly, I was going to show my kids that only you can do something about achieving what you want and to enjoy your life, be kind and be thankful.

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*"[I] decided I was going to ride no matter what. Even more importantly, I was going to show my kids that only you can do something about achieving what you want and to enjoy your life, be kind and be thankful."*

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#### **Who has been your greatest influence?**

Definitely my greatest influence has been Victoria Hamilton. Apart from obviously improving my skills in riding and horsemanship I have also found it very inspiring just watching Vicky working towards her own goals. I don't know how she finds the motivation to get up and ride all those horses day after day, the years it takes breeding them and training them all the way up towards grand prix level. I need constant little goals to keep me going otherwise I can't keep pushing myself. Vicky had to overcome the loss of both her parents from illness during the peak of her career, which really set back her momentum and since then has worked tirelessly to rebuild her team of horses, it shows real grit and self-belief.

Mostly I admire Vicky's commitment to the ethical and fair treatment of her horses above her desire to win, which is something commendable. I also really admire that Vicky is an extremely intelligent and self-sufficient woman who gave up her career as a vet to go after her goals. I can't imagine what I'd say if my kids said they were giving up a great career like that after years of university and everything to ride horses full time! (I did ask Vicky and her parents were completely supportive and 100% behind her).

I would not have any of my horses if it weren't for Victoria entrusting me with them. I know how hard it is for her to let them go. From when she first mentioned me taking on Asadream it took Vicky a full 12 months to finally let him go and she really cried when he left. I have to admit that I am quite proud of myself, knowing how much faith Vicky was showing in me by letting her favourite horse come to me. These horses have really changed the direction of my riding and given me opportunities I would not otherwise have had. Working with Vicky has raised my goals to a much higher level than when I first turned up at her place with my old boy Oak and wanted to learn to ride nicely.

#### **How can dressage in WA be improved?**

Living in the country I have obviously found the hardest thing to be distance. Clubs like the Eastern Wheatbelt Riding Club are doing an excellent job bringing dressage to country riders who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity. Myself and others have also held clinics with dressage coaches like Victoria Hamilton to try and get riders on the right track towards riding well regardless of their sport preference, and to hopefully steer some



*Attending the 2016 Dowerin Field Days with demonstrator Dr Victoria Hamilton*





towards dressage, however the cost of travelling for coaches means the fees have to be quite high and this puts a lot of riders off, especially when coupled with the cost of travelling their horses to the clinic as well. Some funding towards the cost of high level coaches in the country and/or assistance with applying for grants to access funding would be a great help I think.

I find the hardest thing with competing is the helper duties and my favourite thrill is a competition where I can just pay a fee and I don't have to worry about helping. Not having to do a helper duty is one of the best things about show horse competitions. I am always on my own at events, so I find it very stressful worrying about doing my duty and getting myself and my horse organised as well. It also stops me from competing two of my horses at once. I realise that helper fairies aren't just floating around waiting to come out at every competition, so I don't know what the answer is there. Living in Dowerin and working as chief marshal of the Equestrian Exhibit at the Dowerin Field Days, I have seen many people really enjoy watching the dressage demonstrations, particularly the freestyle music sessions. I think it's really important for people to witness good riders performing dressage well to inspire others to want to ride at that level and to present dressage in its best light.

I would love to see more top level coaches over for clinics and masterclasses, such as Stephen Clarke who Dressage WA had over here recently which was terrific. Equestrian Queensland have got Carl Hester coming over soon, how great would it be to have him come to WA!! Events like that really boost the interest in dressage and help local riders strive for a higher standard of riding and gain an honest opinion and feedback from someone we all admire.

Thank you to all of our contributors for April. 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 – Ros O'Halloran

**Finance/Treasury** – Ros O'Halloran/Suzanne Simons

DWA budget management, DDF accounts, purchase orders and payments

**Issue of Information** – Steph Munro

Website and Facebook

**Correspondence** – Suzanne Simons/Sharon Pasco

Minutes, Agendas, incoming and outgoing correspondence.

**Business/Strategic Planning** - Committee

**Events** – Working Parties

**Club Liaison** – Leanne Pitcher

**Pony Representative** – Leanne Pitcher

**Participant Representative** – Tanya Pasznicki

**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** – Sharon Pasco

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

**General Committee Member** – Linley Crackel