

Dressage WA Newsletter

November 2018

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Welcome to our November Newsletter! It's hard to believe that Christmas is now only six weeks away. I'm sure we're not the only ones left wondering where 2018 has gone.

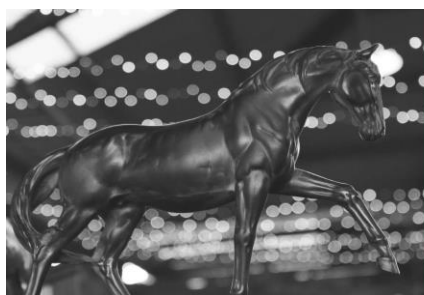
But do not despair, there is a lot of dressage action still to come before we pop the bubbly and start our 2019 diaries. The Inaugural Grass Roots Championships and Penny Hill Park Rising Star are just around the corner on Saturday 24 November.

The Dressage Judges Task Force has some brilliant training opportunities coming up too on 1 & 2 December, not just for those at level judges taking part, but for any upcoming judges, riders, trainers and spectators who would like to widen their learning and understand the judging process better.

On Saturday 1 December, DJTF are also hosting an FEI Focus Competition PSG to GP and protocol tests (all levels, 20 minute sessions) with Mary Seefried, a 5* international judge. For more information contact Hannie Byrne hanniebyrne@gmail.com



Chelsea De Jonge and "Boy"



DRESSAGE WA 2018 AWARDS NIGHT

30 November 2018
International on the Water Hotel

Celebrate the achievements of this year's 2018 Dressage WA Leaderboard Winners and 2018 WA State Dressage Championship Award winners in style at the 2018 DWA Awards Night.

Hosted at the beautiful International on the Water Hotel in Ascot, enjoy a night under the stars with friends as we reflect on the year that was 2018.

The evening is a free event!

Note: Award and Leaderboard winners will be notified closer to the date.

Head to the event page on Facebook for more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/260759021243791/>



Inaugural Pony Dressage Showcase

Contributed by Wanda Fleckhammer | 11 November 2018

The Inaugural Pony Dressage Showcase came about as an idea from a group of like-minded pony enthusiasts namely Dinah Fleming, Sharron Coppin, Wendy Ryan, Anne Sedgewick and myself. Dressage WA were approached with the concept and without hesitation provided their support for the event. Committee members Leanne Pitcher and Natalie Sakich worked tirelessly with our group, ensuring aspects of the event were organised in accordance with EA and DWA requirements and on the day provided invaluable assistance.

Dressage WA kindly secured highly accredited Victorian judge Christine Sievers (A Level, Young Horse Judge and Judge Mentor) for the day. Christine was definitely kept busy, as she also judged the Dressage WA Young Horse and Pony Competition during the lunchtime break. Christine said she was very impressed with the quality of our ponies and riders and would love to come back again soon!

The Western Australian judges who were delighted to be involved in the showcase and worked tirelessly throughout the day were (in no particular order) Gill Botten, Nadine Herbert, Shirley Hicks, Yvonne Ong, Alex Devnish & Margaret Thwaites. A big warm thank you to all the judges and volunteers for supporting the showcase. Thanks also to Don Smailes who assisted with all aspects of stewarding and general guidance. Others who volunteered their time and also worked tirelessly were Janet Reid, Sally and Olivia Buktenica.

The general feedback from competitors on the day was that the event was very well run; judging was very constructive, positive and respectful and finally the ambience amongst competitors was very friendly. We could highlight individual results, but at the end of the day the aim of the inaugural Pony Showcase was to encourage everyone to achieve their own personal best and be amongst likeminded pony enthusiasts.

Sharron Coppin's commitment to ensuring that all junior competitors were acknowledged and encouraged with awards, ribbons and prizes was highly successful, as there were many gleaming faces of happiness walking away with their prizes. Adult riders were also acknowledged with wonderful prizes and ribbons.

Finally, a massive thank you to all our generous sponsors.....JGC Accounting and Financial Services, Horseland Midland, Fibregenix, VH Saddlery, Lladielle Welsh Ponies, Herne Hill Stockfeeds, Pimp My Pony, King Town Welsh Cobs, Welsh Pony and Cob Society, WADYRA, Brigadoon Produce, Transitions Inc and Equine Advantage. Without your support, this event would not have been such a success.



Shania Benbow and 'Mira Count Ya Blessings' won Champion Preliminary Pony



Paige King and 'Kings Town Im'a Prince', photo by Jessie Lloyd (ELP)



DJTF WA



ABC Level Seminar

with Mary Seefried
FEI 5* Judge

Sunday 2 December SEC

Cost: Free to at level judges. \$30 judges. \$40 non judges.

Coaches, riders, supporters welcome

Bring Grand Prix, Inter B, Inter I and 5.3 test sheets for shadow judging.

Please bring your own cold lunch and note that no heating facilities will be provided.

Registration: 8.30 and Start time: 9am

Contact Didy Massey didymassey@iinet.net.au to book your place.

Featured Riders: Ron and Dinah Fleming

Ron and Dinah Fleming are popular members of our dressage community. They are hugely supportive of competitions and events, and are always friendly faces out and about. We are excited to have them as our featured riders for November.

Tell us about your team at the moment?

The Knightwood team consists of *Samford*, *AEA Just Dance*, *Knightwood Crusader*, *Everton Churchill*, *Everton Nougat Gold* and *Hollingrove Feliciano*.

Ron rides *Samford* (by *Gymnastik Star*) who is co-owned with Wendy Ryan and Dinah. *Samford* is a 16.2hh Hanoverian gelding. Purchased from Jan Smith from Victoria, he is competing at Advanced level. His other horse *AEA Just Dance* (16.3hh) was purchased from Julie Dammers a little over 12 months ago. He is competing at Medium level. *Samford* is a delight to ride but tricky to lead as he can rear and leap forward without warning. The Monty Roberts Dually halter keeps this behaviour to a minimum. He also likes to bite when changing his rugs! *AEA Just Dance* (JD) came with a reputation of being difficult when out. If you see Ron doing some unconventional riding in the warm up, it is to gain JD's attention!

Dinah competes on 16hh *Everton Churchill* (*Winston*), a 6 year old gelding by the Holsteiner stallion *Capone*. His stable name is *Winston* and he is co-owned by Wendy Ryan and Ron. He was purchased as a two year old from the Everton Warmblood Stud in Victoria. *Winston* is competing at Novice/Elementary level.

Like his namesake, *Winston* is often seen sucking on a single hay straw and holds it in his mouth like a cigar. This habit has been with him since arriving as a two year old and always brings a smile to our faces. In training, if *Winston* doesn't understand a new movement he has a tendency to rear in protest and say to Dinah "please explain again...I didn't get that". Dinah rarely reprimands *Winston*, as she understands how he learns, so all that is required is a repeat of the new movement usually in walk until it computes and then reintroduce in trot or canter. *Winston* is like most men...you have to 'let it become his idea'!

Hollingrove Feliciano (*Froggy*) is a 15.3hh 6 year old gelding by *Fisherman's Friend* out of a *Sandro Hit* mare and co-owned with Wendy and Ron. *Froggy* is training at Elementary level at home, showing much talent for lateral work and flying changes. With more maturity, he will make a serious competition debut in 2019.

Dinah also rides two dressage ponies, 9 year old *Knightwood Crusader* (*Cruiser*), a part-bred Arabian competing Medium/Advanced, and 5 year old *Everton Nougat Gold* (*Goldie*) by GRP *Hilkens Nougat Cream* out of a small warmblood mare owned by Anne Sedgwick.

Cruiser shows much talent but tension continues to be his nemesis. This is something that is always being worked on to find the right key to his relaxation. Dinah continues with his training, and although he is often objectionable he is quite capable of performing all the advanced test movements.



From top: Ron with Wendy Ryan, Dinah with *Knightwood Crusader*, Dinah with *Everton Nougat Gold*



From top: Dinah on Hollingrove Feliciano, Everton Churchill (Eric Lloyd Photography) and Samford playing with a straw.

Goldie was broken in as a four year old and so has a bit of catching up. He gets very attached to his rider and always wants to please, but often his enthusiasm gets a bit over exuberant. With patience, this energy will be redirected positively into his work.

How did you both start out with horses and what made you take up dressage specifically?

Dinah and Ron's backgrounds are entrenched in horses. Ron's father hunted in Scotland and Dinah's mother bred Welsh ponies and her father raced thoroughbreds.

Ron was Manager of one of WA's leading thoroughbred studs, he was a successful racehorse trainer, a past event rider and horse breaker. As a child Dinah was surrounded by ponies and with her sisters would train, show and sell them. She competed in show jumping and later specialised in eventing for many years.

When it was time for Ron and Dinah to hang up their 'jump saddles' and move into dressage, they re-trained their off the track eventers, one reaching medium level. But the years of racing and jumping prevented these horses continuing through the levels.

Dinah then purchased a lovely Capone gelding that came with known behaviour issues which she gave to Ron to fix! They knew this horse had been through the hands of many professional riders and trainers with no success. With Ron's patience and knowledge of horse training he slowly turned this horse around from an unhappy, backward thinking and quietly aggressive horse to one that would happily be ridden forward without force and would follow Ron around wherever he went.

This one horse gave Ron and Dinah the most wonderful feel that they decided to take up dressage more seriously. They set off to Victoria to purchase two 2 year olds for Dinah, and later Samford for Ron, to become their future dressage horses.

What are some of the keys to your training?

Ron and Dinah's training philosophy is 'training takes time'. They recognise that some horses progress more quickly than others. Training is not a race to see who can be the first to the next level. They know if the foundations of a building are not solid the building will show cracks and eventually collapse. This is the same view they have with horse training. They believe to get the best out of their horses they need to understand and enjoy their work. If their horses show any signs of negativity, they will analyse the cause and then reapproach the training differently.

Over decades of horse training, Ron and Dinah have learnt that 'horses don't protest because they want to give riders a hard time' but more because they either don't understand; are not supple or physically strong enough to perform an exercise; or their mental maturity is not advanced sufficiently to cope with a new level of training. In other cases, a horse may be in pain from an injury or past bad experience.

When training issues arise they always go back to an easy task to regain the horse's confidence and then gradually fill in the training gaps so next



time the horse is asked the same movement it can respond with full understanding and capability.

Dinah and Ron realise their horses need some relief from schooling, so often mid-way through a training session they will give the rein away and offer total freedom of the head and neck to loosen and relax tired muscles. Another strategy to keep their horses happy is to get off their backs and canter around the arena in a forward seat. Their horses also do pole work, small jumps and are ridden at pace around their 800m sand track.

What are the highlights of your riding careers so far?

Ron has enjoyed watching many of his 'breakers' go on to be highly successful dressage and race horses. Before these horses were returned to their owners he would ride a preliminary dressage test to show the owner the horse's ability to perform 20m circles, transitions and respond to the walk, trot and canter aids on both reins. This way the horse was well prepared for a dressage career at an early age.

Ron has ridden at FEI Three Day Event level and was leaderboard champion on his great event horse *Flight to Persia*, an OTT thoroughbred whom he trained and won many city races prior to retirement.

"They do have on their 'bucket list' the idea of competing at the Australian Dressage Championships, possibly in 2019."

Similarly, Dinah has been placed at FEI Three Day Event level and represented Australia and Western Australia at various times in the sport of Eventing.

Ron's dressage high point was competing *Samford* in a Prix St George competition, which he did a few months ago. He is now working at consolidation and improvement in readiness for more PSG rides in the future.

What are your short and long term goals?

Ron and Dinah are not big on specific goal setting as often it can delay progress or be disappointing if goals are not reached. They do set their horses/ponies for specific events and levels depending on how each horse is progressing in their training.

They do have on their 'bucket list' the idea of competing at the Australian Dressage Championships, possibly in 2019. They have a horse truck being built for this purpose and hopefully will soon be ready to test out at some of the regional dressage events.

Who/What has been your biggest influence?

Dinah and Ron are under instruction with Nadine Merewether and Ron Patterson, who each support their own training philosophy. Both instructors have gained national titles and are experienced coaches and 'A' level dressage judges with a keen eye for perfection. Nadine is in high demand when she visits the Swan Valley and thanks to Liz Wakely- Dawes who organises these clinics both Ron and Dinah are benefiting from her wisdom.



Left: Ron at the Summer Series with *AEA Just Dance*, and right with *Samford* at a Ron Patterson clinic.





Dates for the Diary

- ❖ 18 November: Perth Dressage Club
- ❖ 24 November: IRT Insurance 'Grass Roots' Dressage Championships
- ❖ 24 November: Penny Hill Park Rising Star
- ❖ 30 November: DWA Awards Night
- ❖ 1 December: Super G Seminar
- ❖ 2 December: ABC seminar with Mary Seefried
- ❖ 2 December: Transitions [Pre to PSG, Participant and Pony Dressage]
- ❖ 14 December: Serpentine H & PC Week day dressage [Competitor, Participant, Pony Club] – included in 2019 Leaderboard

For more information see the DWA Website and Nominate



How do you Feel Dressage in WA could be improved?

Camaraderie – Camaraderie – Camaraderie!

Dressage in Western Australia will be in a better place if people can put aside their personal differences, jealousy and any unkindness to their horse, fellow riders, stewards, volunteers, spectators and judges. Always follow the Australian Dressage Rules and accept change or if you feel a rule or a decision is unfair, get elected.

For Event Organisers, we feel you need to honour at all times your advertised schedule, regardless of whether there is one or 25 horses/ponies entered in a class and award them equally. They should also recognise that the rider of a single entry in a non-FEI level test has put in the same effort in their training to get to your event as the single entry in the FEI or para level test.

The current Dressage WA committee is working tirelessly for the riders and horses' interest. It's a hard working committee made up of dressage riders past and present. Today's committee shows no favouritism or bias to any level of rider...please support our WA Dressage Committee in any capacity to make the sport grow and flourish.

Dinah and Ron's take home message is 'the winner on the day may be you next time, so be gracious in defeat and congratulate your fellow competitor'.



Equestrian in the Park

Saturday 1 December
Taylor Reserve, Victoria Park

Western Australia's biggest Equestrian event is back for 2018, and shaping up to be one of the social outings of the year! A high-adrenaline eventing grand prix, spectators have the opportunity to get close to the action, while enjoying a luxurious setting and a great day with friends.

Sir Mark Todd, the Olympic and World Champion eventing rider will be competing, along with Australian Olympic rider Sam Griffiths, giving you the opportunity to see top riders navigating the exciting course.

Tickets start at \$20 for adults in the Family Zone, \$75 for the Riders Lounge, \$175 (inc food and drink) for the Equestrian Lounge and to \$325 (inc food and drink) for the all-inclusive luxurious Platinum Lounge.

There are still a handful of private marquees available, which are great value for entertaining clients or a group of friends. For more information go to:

<http://www.equestrianinthepark.com.au/>



DJTF WA

Super G Seminar

with **Polly Anne Huntington**
EA A level Judge, JE

Saturday December 1, 2018. SEC

Complete prerequisites for G in one weekend.

This seminar will cover the first two levels of judging and will feature horses showing Preliminary & Novice work.

Polly will cover how to become an EA Dressage judge. What is the role of the Dressage Judge?

The Training Scale and how it relates to the progression within each test level.

The collective marks and comments, special section on judging the Junior and Youth riders.

What is the progression from Preliminary to Novice level. What does the judge look for in test riding?

ORBT: Open Rule Book Test for those who require it.

Shadow Judging: This seminar offers shadow judging with a mentor.

Cost: Reaccreditation seminar for G level. Introductory Seminar for potential judges, riders coaches \$30 and trainees \$20.

EA Judges, riders coaches all welcome. Suitable for Pony Club riders and judges, ARCA , Eventing Judges.

Please bring own lunch (no food heating facilities) local shops open. Morning afternoon tea provided.

Registration: 8.30 and Start time: 9am

Coaches, riders, supporters welcome.

Please pre-register with Didy Massey: didymassey@iinet.net.au



Australian National Dressage Championships & Interschool Championships

Contributed by Chelsea De Jonge

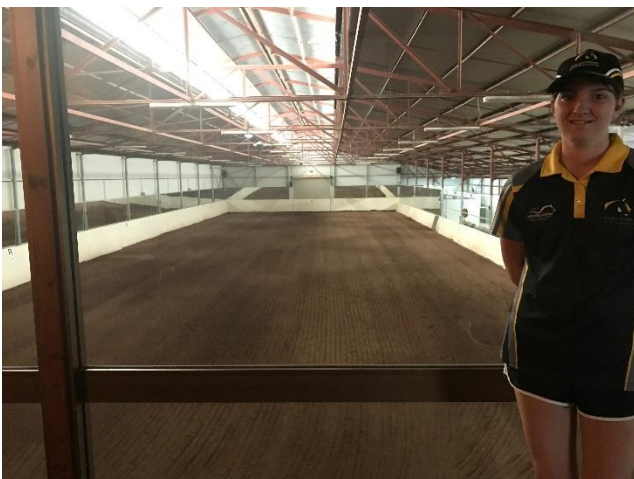
Young Rider Chelsea De Jonge represented Western Australia at the recent National Dressage Championships at Boneo Park, and the National Interschool Championships.

What an amazing adventure I have just had over in Melbourne. Not to mention how lucky I am to have such amazing support from my family, friends, sponsors and owners. Mum and I had 4 weeks away which went really quickly, so I enjoyed every minute.

We hit the road at 4am Saturday 21 September, driving over the Nullarbor with our precious cargo 'Boy'. It took us four days with regular stops and designated overnight stays with horse facilities to give the horses a nice rest ready for the next day. My favourite stop was in Port Augusta, where we took the horses off and swam them in the river. I was very fortunate that Boy travelled very well and arrived in Melbourne raring to go!

Boy and I qualified at WA Interschools for Secondary Elementary and Medium, which I was really eager to compete in at a National level. He held his own against all the big horses, placing 6th in my Medium freestyle with our Mary Poppins theme and 7th overall in both his Elementary and Medium championship. I had so much fun with the WA team and absolutely loved catching up with other riders I have befriended over my last 4 years at Interschool nationals, and meeting face to face some Instagram friends.

After Interschools had wrapped up we spent 10 days staying at Sunbury Equestrian Lodge, which is situated in Kyneton an hour from the city. Gitte Donvig runs this centre and I was lucky enough to have some lessons with her in preparations for Nationals. I greatly admire her as a rider and I found her lessons very helpful. I spent a lot of time watching her train clients and her own horses from Novice through to Grand Prix level. It was also very interesting watching how a professional stables run. Gosh! Gitte and her three full time grooms work so very hard keeping 13 horses in full time training and care.





Our last week we spent competing at the fabulous Boneo Equestrian Park down on the Mornington Peninsula, what a totally amazing place this is. Martin Collins Australian Dressage Championship was simply amazing. Little Boy was in super form and he danced his pants off, and I could not be more proud of him and his efforts. Boy produced five amazing tests not only Para Grade 5 classes but also Open Medium Pony, placing 5th and 9th amongst a very high standard of ponies. I was so pleased to be awarded Champion National Grade 5 Para Combination. I was also super happy with Boy and our last rides together which was extremely emotional for me....it didn't help that mum would cry at every ride!

At 22 years of age, Boy has given me so much confidence and we have had so many good times and achieved many goals. We also got to spend time with Boy's owners Sharni and Caitlin Radford, to whom we are so grateful for the opportunity they have given me by leaving him with our family for the past 2 years for me to grow and learn on. He will be so very missed by a lot of people in WA, mostly myself. I love him very much and it was very difficult to say goodbye, but he is now back on the farm in Tasmania with his family teaching little kids. Thank you DWA for asking me to share my amazing journey to Nationals.





DWA PERFORMANCE MEDAL WINNERS 2018

GOLD

Shannon Brookes	Blenheim Park Regazaire	Preliminary
Victoria Hamilton	Danzio VH	Preliminary
Victoria Hamilton	Scandric VH	Preliminary
Astrid Grov	BML Silhouette	Preliminary
Beth King	Revelwood Royalty	Novice
Victoria Hamilton	Danzio VH	Novice
Eliza Hebiton	Revelwood Olivia	Novice
Victoria Hamilton	Scandric VH	Novice
Astrid Grov	BML Silhouette	Novice
Lauren Rowe	Charisma Royal Emblem	Novice
Tyla Schou	Dennis Deniro	Elementary
Sharon Pasco	Whot Not	Medium
Roz Tippet	Byalee Breathless	Medium
Narelle Lange	Wandiera Rhapsody	Medium
Victoria Hamilton	Danzio VH	Medium
Victoria Hamilton	Danzio VH	Advanced
Judy Weber	Bello Gallico	FEI Small Tour
Wendy Cumming	Joshua Brook Jamison	FEI Small Tour
Kjersti Grov	Kinnordy Rheingold	FEI Small Tour
Rebecca Tsouris	Santus	FEI Large Tour
Melanie Nixon	Matavia Fisher King	FEI Large Tour

SILVER

Shannon Brookes	Blenheim Park Regazaire	Preliminary
Lucia Lowe	Blu Magneto	Preliminary
Sharon Pasco	Whot Not	Medium
Taylah Welsh	San Rubin 11	FEI Small Tour

BRONZE

Kerry Dyjak	Primrose Park Red Fox	Novice
Kerry Dyjak	Primrose Park Red Fox	Elementary
Sharon Pasco	Whot Not	Medium





Thank you to all of our contributors for August. 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/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

Para Equestrian – Val Mayger

Young and Junior Rider Rep – Natalie Sakich/Steph Munro

General Committee Member – Linley Crackel

The Dressage Western Australia Newsletter is compiled and edited by Ally Doumany

