

Dressage NSW Inc Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Held at Windsor Bowling Club
Windsor NSW

Tuesday, 3 December 2019

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present

Petra Keranen	Sue Cunningham	Julie Jones	Mary Houghton
Kathy Shelley	Gail Benson	Michelle Becchio	Earle Olaisen
Toni Venhaus	Pamela Bice	Zanna Northam	Jo Gunn
Marjolyn Thomas	Mandy Jones	Karen Allan	

2. Apologies (*Proxies received)

Franz Venhaus*	Lizzie Wilson-Fellows	Merilyn Betty
Graham Shelley*	Bruce Farrar	

3. Confirmation of the Annual General Meeting Minutes, 4 December 2018

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as correct.

Moved: Julie Jones **Seconded:** Marjolyn Thomas

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. President's Report

2019 has been an incredibly busy year for the Dressage NSW committee, which also saw key figures resign. Andree Wheeler and Tracey Lesslie resigned from the committee in June. At the July meeting, I stepped into the President's role in addition to Treasury. Mary Houghton took on the Honorary Secretary role in addition to the Admin Secretary role. I would like to thank Andree and Tracey for their hard work and commitment during their time on the committee and also Tracey when she was the Admin Secretary prior to being on the committee.

The year has flown past and we have done a lot, major and regular competitions, officials' education and squad activities. The committee has really worked very hard.

Thanks to Toni Venhaus and her hardworking volunteers, the 2019 Sydney CDI was again very successful. Total numbers of entries were very similar to the 2018 Sydney CDI, which was the largest yet. An expanded CDI and FEI national competition programme helped boost entries and provided riders with more competitions. The Saturday night VIP dinner was sold out months before the event.

Spectators were again able to use the Spectator Judging App, sponsored by SAP and the uptake was greater than last year and feedback was very positive. The new eDressage scoring system was introduced for the CDI competitions in the indoor arena. Judges as well as pencillers coped very well and results were announced as horses left the arena.

The Australian Youth Dressage Championships were also very successful, numbers were up from last year's NSW State Championships with combinations from South Australia, Victoria and Queensland competing alongside NSW riders. Dressage NSW received a lot of positive feedback regarding the friendly atmosphere and great comradery among the competitors and parents. Mandy Jones and her team of volunteers have again done an outstanding job, thank you.

The Australian Dressage Championships returned to NSW this year and Event Directors Toni Venhaus and Cathie Drury-Klein ensured that it was a huge success, thank you. The competitions were full with the highest entries at Medium and Prix St George level. Besides Elementary, all competitions up to Intermediate I had reserve lists. For the first time, Nominate paperless scoring was used and it was overall a huge success. Thank you also to Lloyd and Amy from Nominate who provided constant support throughout four long days of competitions. Paperless scoring is certainly the way into the future.

Clarendon competitions have also been very busy with the last competition of the year also implementing paper less scoring. Karen Lever resigned as Clarendon Event Secretary in October and we cannot thank Karen enough for all she has done for Dressage NSW.

Wet conditions during the March and April competitions led to discussion around possible drainage and access to the arenas. At the end of the year this has led to the decision to make some major changes to the competition grounds which is very exciting. The Winter Festival on the other hand had perfect weather conditions and was huge with Hawkesbury Riding Club arenas used. The Clarendon Sub Committee certainly has again done an outstanding job throughout the whole year.

Dressage NSW has also provided financial support towards the Regional Dressage Festival series which is appreciated by the Regional Clubs and riders.

Special project support was given to Bowral, Tamworth, Young and Hawkesbury Riding Club. Bowral Dressage Club have constructed a permanent gear check station and purchased five two-way radios. Tamworth will install power to the club grounds, office and arenas. Young's support went towards purchasing two sets of dressage arena letters and Hawkesbury Riding Club's funds assisted with a Seminar on Horse Welfare and Bio Security.

Throughout the year we continued with the recruitment drive in encouraging new judges to start their journey as well as current judges to upgrade by holding free seminars and workshops not only around Sydney but also in the regions.

We conducted the new rules workshop at Clarendon, Albury, Raymond Terrace, Bowral, Tamworth and Grafton with great numbers attending.

At Clarendon we held the A/B level seminar with Lilo and Ricky MacMillan in January. In March we held the E/F seminar and April C/D seminar. We also provided plenty of shadow judging and sit in opportunities throughout the year. The Stephen Clarke Masterclass at the Sydney CDI was also hugely popular.

In July Clarendon held a super-sized G level weekend, with seven successful candidates checking out. Jobina Kennedy also held a super-sized G level seminar in Albury for the first time on her own after upgrading to become a Judge Educator. Nell Marshman and Sue Cunningham also held seminars at Manning Valley and Young. So, it has been a very busy year for our officials who have done a wonderful job, thank you. I would also like to congratulate Sue Cunningham who has been selected to judge at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, what an amazing achievement. I know the whole committee is extremely proud!

At the beginning of the year, Zanna Northam took over managing our Senior Squad with a fresh approach. Zanna introduced yoga and also consulted osteopath Jeff Morrison to work with riders and horses, both activities have been very welcomed by the riders. During the 2 weeks Willinga Park CDIs, riders participated in compulsory yoga sessions and cooked for about 80 people as a fun team activity. Protocol days were held with Ricky MacMillan and Maria Schwenessen which have received fantastic feedback from the squad. Congratulations Zanna for stepping into a difficult role and making some fabulous changes.

Mandy Jones has again excelled at managing the Young Rider Development and Squad Programs throughout the year. Successful clinics were held with on and off the horse activities. The young riders also shared Maria Schwenessen's expertise and held a one-day protocol day in September. Great job, Mandy!

As a committee we had some big changes and trying times throughout the year, but we have pulled through and stepped up to get things done and I think the committee has done a superb job and needs to be congratulated. I would like to thank each and every one on the committee for everything they have done and this also extends to the area delegates and NSW riders rep, thank you Lizzie for taking on the role once more and representing all our riders. Thank you also to all the event organisers and their hardworking teams of volunteers. Volunteers are really the backbone of Dressage NSW.

With the last Clarendon competition done and dusted, I think the committee deserves a break to recover and recharge for another big year in 2020. Being an Olympic year, there will be added excitement with riders trying to qualify and I am certain we will see some very exciting competitions.

Thank you everyone for a fabulous 2019 and have a very happy and relaxing Christmas and New Year.

Petra Keranen
President
Dressage NSW

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

The last twelve months has been a tumultuous period for the DNSW Committee as we continue to manage the sport on behalf of Equestrian NSW.

As the SDA (State Dressage Authority), we manage the day-to-day administration of the sport throughout NSW. Our responsibilities include:

- representing dressage in NSW with the EADC (Equestrian Australia Dressage Council)
- working with ENSW
- liaising with the EADC with regards to formulation of the rules of the sport
- supporting our dressage squads – both High Performance and Young Rider, as well as supporting the Young Rider Development Programme
- maintaining and approving the NSW dressage event calendar
- conducting seminars and workshops for judges by way of the Judges Sub-Committee
- facilitating and supporting judge's exams by way of the Judges Sub-Committee
- providing annual awards and performance medals for our members

DNSW and the Clarendon Sub-Committee conducts regular events and training days at Clarendon, supported the NSW Dressage Championships held at Tamworth in 2019, oversees the conduct of the NSW Young Rider Championships and of the Sydney CDI as well as the 2019 Australian Dressage Championships.

Our Committee has undergone significant changes since the resignation of Helen Batson from the position of President at the close of 2018.

Andree Wheeler was elected to the position of President in December 2018 and resigned due to work demands in mid 2019. Tracey Lesslie resigned from the committee and her position of Honorary Secretary in mid 2019. Long standing committee member and A level judge Jan Geary stood down from the committee in 2019 due to ongoing health issues.

The committee thanks all three for their contributions to DNSW.

Ten committee meetings were held since the last AGM. A summary of attendance is attached to the agenda hand-out.

Managing the dressage calendar is always a challenge. Clubs are increasingly struggling to get high level judges as the numbers of A and B level judges decrease. Our judge numbers at the lower levels are growing thanks to the hard work of Sue Cunningham and the judges sub-committee but it takes time for judges to work their way up the ladder. DNSW limits the number of official events a club can run to 4 per year in an effort to minimise the demand on our judges. In exceptional instances DNSW may grant a club permission to run 5 events. 202 official competition days were scheduled in 2019.

After many years of being the “face” of Clarendon, in October Karen Lever resigned from her contracted position as Clarendon Event Secretary and from her role on the Clarendon Sub-Committee. Clarendon competitions have been well supported throughout 2019 with the November comp being particularly well patronised. There are some major changes afoot at our Clarendon grounds over the Christmas break and our first competition of 2020 should be extremely exciting!!! And of course the new stable block built by the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association will be well utilised by our members over the coming years.

Six regional club events were part of the DNSW Regional Dressage Festival series in 2019. These events were run by ACTDA , Young DA , Manning Valley DC (Taree), REA Wagga Wagga and Alexander Park DC. Support from Equestrian NSW allowed us to contribute financially to each event along with providing other types of promotional support where requested.

In addition a very pro-active group of far south coast clubs was provided funding for the “NSW Far South Coast 4 Clubs Challenge” – well done to those clubs!

DNSW Membership numbers have increased slightly this year. A handout of the member statistics is attached for your reference.

Our Annual Awards and Performance Medals represent a significant achievement for our members.

173 Performance Medals were won this year, compared to 225 in 2018 and 126 in 2017. 10 Gold (11 in 2018), 59 Silver (38 in 2018) and 104 Bronze (178 in 2018).

Social media continues to grow in popularity and 2019 saw a major innovation with the Centreline publication changing from hard copy to a digital format. The first E-Centreline edition was published in mid-November and is freely available on the DNSW web site and our facebook pages.

In accordance with the DNSW constitution four (4) committee positions become vacant each year (1 was a mis-term resignation) and there were an additional two (2) resignations. We have received six (6) nominations from Petra Keranen, Michele Becchio, Earle Olaisen, Jo Gunn, Mary Houghton and Mandy Jones.

There being no other nominations a vote is not required, and the listed candidates will be elected to the Committee for the coming term.

In closing, thank you to all Committee members and Delegates for your assistance and support during the past year which has been a period of change and of progress.

Mary Houghton
Honorary Secretary
Dressage NSW

Motion: That the Honorary Secretary’s Report be accepted
Moved: Sue Cunningham **Seconded:** Kathy Shelley
Motion Carried

7. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Please find the financial statements and audit report for Dressage NSW, financial year 2018/2019 attached.

Dressage NSW has posted a profit of \$30,030, which is lower than last year's profit, which was one of the highest in recent times. Looking more closely at numbers, the major difference was in Administration and Entry fees for competitions. It appears that Clarendon competitions in particular contributed to this decrease. On a closer look however, this is due to the fact that the Clarendon Winter Festival's entry fees were only paid out in July 2019, this is Clarendon's biggest competition. Once this is accounted for, the entry fee income would have still been lower but not significantly.

Again, the major events, 2019 Sydney CDI, 2018 State Championships and 2018 NSW Youth Championships have all been profitable, which is fantastic.

Part of the CDI profit was again rolled over as a start-up fund for the 2020 Sydney CDI and a portion to the 2019 National Championships.

Clarendon events would have also generated a profit, if it was not for the timing of the event entry fees being paid in the next financial year. However, the way it is, the 2018/19 Financial Year carries all the expenses and it appears on paper Clarendon made a loss. If this was timed differently, Clarendon competitions would have made a profit, but would still be down from the previous year.

The profits are attributable to the hard working Event Directors and Organising Committees as well as the many dedicated volunteers.

Revenue has decreased by about 7.3% and Expenses have increase by 6%.

Our current assets have increased by about \$55,000 largely due to increased cash reserves.

We again received significant funding and support from Equestrian NSW this year, which we are very grateful for. Toni Venhaus was also able to secure funding of \$5,000 from the Department of Social Services to purchase fuel vouchers for volunteers.

The continued education of judges and stewards is also supported by the Equestrian NSW funding. We held numerous workshops and seminars across the State which are all free to attend.

Besides supporting major events and officials' education we also financially assist clubs which are part of the Regional Dressage Festival series as well as funding clubs' special projects.

Equestrian NSW funding also allows us to support our High Performance Squad, which has seen several clinics throughout the year as well as new activities such as yoga and the consultation of Osteopath Jeff Morrison.

Dressage NSW is still in a very strong financial position, which enables us to improve our competition grounds and hopefully will attract increased numbers back to Clarendon competitions.

Petra Keranen
Hon. Treasurer
Dressage NSW

Toni Venhaus – the current account structure does not reflect the nature of the operation of the business, especially in relation to income and expenditure break-up and suggested amending this for the coming financials.

Toni Venhaus – noted that 2019 “Funding and Grants” was double the 2018 figure and asked for an explanation. The Treasurer explained this difference was due to the way the transaction has been entered into MYOB the previous year. It was directly allocated to the event, rather the funding account.

Motion: That the Honorary Treasurer’s Report be accepted

Moved: Petra Keranen **Seconded:** Michelle Becchio

Motion Carried

Motion:

a) That the committee resolves that financial report presents fairly the financial position of Dressage NSW Incorporated as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Standards Board

b) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Dressage NSW Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Moved: Sue Cunningham **Seconded:** Julie Jones

Motion Carried.

8. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: that DNSW follow appoint “Keeping Count Taxation Services” as auditor for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Moved: Toni Venhaus **Seconded:** Sue Cunningham

Motion Carried.

9. Committee Elections

In accordance with the DNSW constitution four (4) committee positions become vacant each year (1 was a mid-term resignation being Jan Geary) and there were an additional two (2) resignations being Andree Wheeler and Tracie Lesslie. We have received six (6) nominations being from Petra Keranen, Michele Becchio, Earle Olaisen, Jo Gunn, Mary Houghton and Mandy Jones.

There being no other nominations a vote is not required, and the listed candidates are elected to the Committee for the coming term.

10. General Business

- Toni Venhaus thanked Marjolyn Thomas for her hard work put in to running a very successful State Dressage Championships.
- Sue Cunningham commented that 2019 had been a difficult year and thanked Petra Keranen and Mary Houghton for stepping into the roles of President and Hon Secretary.

11. Close of Meeting

The President declared the meeting closed at 7.28pm

DNSW Committee Meeting Attendance Record

Dec 2017 to November 2018

	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18
Elected Committee												
Helen Lawson	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A
Sue Cunningham	A	C	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	A
Julie Jones	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Petra Keranen	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Jan Geary	A	C	A	A	A	A	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap	Ap
Gail Benson	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Kathy Shelley	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	A
Jocelyn West	A	C	Ap	A	A			Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap
Michelle Becchio	A	C	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap		A	A
Earle Olaisen	A	C	Ap	A	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	Ap
Marjolyn Thomas	A	C	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	Ap	Ap
Andree Wheeler		C	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Co-opted members												
Tracey Lesslie		C	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap	Ap
Toni Venhaus	I	C	I	I	I	I	I	A	A	A	Ap	Ap
Lizzie Wilson-Fellows	Ap	C	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	A	Ap
Pamela Bice	A	C	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap
Delegates												
Michelle Becchio	A	C	Ap	A	A	A	A	A	Ap		A	A
Pamela Bice	A	C	A	A	A	Ap	A	Ap	A	A	A	Ap
Kaye Spence	Ap	C	Ap	Ap	Ap		Ap	Ap		Ap		
Louise Cairns		C					Ap	Ap				
Sue Bryce	Ap	C	Ap									

Code:

A	Attended		Not on Committee at the time
	Not in attendance	I	In Attendance
Ap	Apology	C	Meeting cancelled

DNSW Membership as at end June 2018

Members	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Ordinary	635	650	596	585	565	512	457	449	452	445	440	455	445
Life & Hon	92	90	91	93	93	94	91	91	90	90	90	83	84
Junior	27	28	27	17	31	32	29	32	33	31	38	69	75
All Members	754	768	714	695	689	638	577	572	575	566	568	607	604

