



With the cancellation of competitions also came cancellations of judges' workshops and seminars. The new rules workshop in January was cancelled due to bushfires. One E/F seminar was held at Clarendon in March. A positive that has come out of the COVID situation is that judges have explored virtual training methods, a couple of virtual workshops were held with great success and popularity. One stewards' course was held in February, despite the flooding rain and Cathie Drury-Klein has also kept in contact with stewards Australia wide via Zoom meetings.

Again, due to fire and COVID, there has been next to no squad activity. The young riders were able to conduct a couple of training days.

Alycia Targa has taken over the NSW riders representative's role. Thank you, Alycia for stepping up and thank you Lizzie for all your hard work too.

Thus far this year, all our committee meetings were held via zoom which is great for those having to travel but certainly a different experience. I would like to thank everyone on the committee for having contributed to steering us through this very tough year. Thank you also to the officials and volunteers who have come back for our huge end of year competition.

As said before, this year has been a challenge, however, we are also very lucky in Australia that we will have a reasonably normal Christmas compared to much of the rest of the world. On this note I wish all our members a very happy Christmas and New Year.

*Petra Keranen  
President  
Dressage NSW*

## **6. Honorary Secretary's Report**

My 2019 report to the members used the word "tumultuous" to describe 2019. 2020 has been a year beyond anyone's wildest imaginings!

The devastating bushfires early in the year wreaked havoc and destruction on so many lives and livelihoods. Floods and extreme temperatures then continued to disrupt our lives. Covid-19 followed putting the country into lock down and shutting down all equestrian sports. The Tokyo Olympics were postponed, delaying or even shattering dreams and hard work years in the making. Nationally, equestrian sports are now slowly returning to a "new normal" with Covid restrictions in place. Internationally the equestrian sports continue to suffer cancellations as waves of covid 19 continue to sweep through countries. Equestrian Australia went into voluntary administration with the potential to jeopardise our sport, although it now continues to operate with an interim board.

Despite this turmoil DNSW continued to administer dressage throughout NSW, albeit in a limited capacity during 2020. Our responsibilities include:

- representing dressage in NSW with the EADC (Equestrian Australia Dressage Council)
- working with and supporting ENSW
- liaising with the EADC with regards to formulation of the rules of the sport: 2021 new rules are currently reaching their final stage prior to publication early next year.
- supporting our dressage squads – both High Performance and Young Rider, as well as supporting the Young Rider Development Programme: nothing happening on this front since early 2020.
- maintaining and approving the NSW dressage event calendar – this continues despite the shutdown from which we are slowly emerging
- conducting seminars and workshops for judges by way of the Judges Sub-Committee: there has been no face-to-face seminars/workshops for most of 2020 however DNSW has run several "virtual" workshops which have proven extremely popular

- facilitating and supporting judge's exams by way of the Judges Sub-Committee – very little happened during most of 2020
- providing annual awards and performance medals for our members – sadly the 2020 annual awards and performance medals including the Pirouettes Party was cancelled due to sport shut down.

During 2020 the DNSW Committee had been hard working and stable under the strong leadership of President Petra Keranen. Your committee has undertaken major grounds improvements at Clarendon including an upgrade of the surface of the competition arenas, the replacement of the surrounds on the competition arenas and the construction of judges' boxes for all 3 arenas. We are using live scoring at the Clarendon events with great success and Centreline is now 'E-Centreline' (an electronic magazine).

Our regular training days and competitions at Clarendon have been cancelled since March and we finally ran our first event in November. Even this event was plagued by temperatures in the mid-40s over the Saturday and Sunday which had to be cancelled.

The Sydney CDI, State Championships and National Championships were all cancelled in 2020.

Eleven committee meetings were held since the 2019 AGM. A summary of attendance is attached. Managing the dressage calendar is always a test of co-operation between clubs and a test of patience (mine!) and more so since many clubs that were unable to hold their approved events during the shutdown period are striving to run extra events during what remains of 2020, as well as 2021. Clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to secure high level judges for competitions, especially in the regions, 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 these judges to work their way up the ladder. DNSW generally limits the number of official events a club can run to 4 per year to minimise the demand on our judges.

Clubs may need to become more innovative in their approach to the traditional dressage event. Shoalhaven Dressage and South Coast Equestrian Clubs are running a shared official weekend in early December and will endeavour to share the same judges for both events, as well as to share competitors.

274 official competition days were scheduled for 2020 although it is impossible to determine how many were actually conducted.

The traditional Regional Dressage Festival was sadly interrupted by Covid-19, however an amazing group of small clubs on the far south coast of NSW has still managed to run the "NSW Far South Coast 4 Clubs Challenge" with financial support from DNSW.

DNSW Membership numbers have decreased slightly this year to a total of 550. A handout of the member statistics is attached for your reference.

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 challenges unlike anything we have had to deal with in recent memory.

*Mary Houghton*  
*Honorary Secretary*  
*Dressage NSW*

## **7. Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Dressage NSW's income has been substantially less due mainly due to the cancellation of events such as the 2020 Sydney CDI and the 2020 Clarendon Winter Festival. Membership subscription has been lower as Dressage NSW extended membership until the end of 2020 due to COVID-19.

I would like to thank our admin secretary, Mary Houghton, who discounted her fee by 50% during the height of the pandemic. A lot of other expenses were also lower due to no events being held. The Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association has also credited us our ground fees while no events could be held. Depreciation is up due to the depreciation of our new improvements to the Clarendon competition grounds. Officials expenses are also higher than last year because we had already prepaid

the flights for international and national judges to judge at the 2020 Sydney CDI. We certainly are insured but due to the Equestrian Australia voluntary administration process, insurance was only invoiced in the new financial year.

The move to digitalise Centreline has also saved money.

Overall, Dressage NSW has posted a profit of \$46,530.

Dressage NSW's major events, 2019 Australian Youth Championships and 2019 Australian Dressage Championships have been profitable, which is fantastic. Tamworth Dressage Club held the 2019 State Championships.

Clarendon events have also been profitable, however, the cancellation of events have kept these lower than last year.

We again received significant funding and support from Equestrian NSW this year, which we are very grateful for. This funding allows us to provide support for officials' education, major events and High Performance Squad activities.

Equestrian NSW funding also allows us to financially assist clubs which are part of the Regional Dressage Festival series as well as funding clubs' special projects.

Conservative financial management and budgeting has allowed Dressage NSW to remain in a strong financial position in a very challenging year.

*Petra Keranen*  
*Hon. Treasurer*  
*Dressage NSW*

**Motion:** That the Honorary Treasurer's Report be accepted

**Moved:** Kathy Shelley                      **Seconded:** Julie Jones

**Motion Carried**

**Motion:**

a) That the committee resolves that financial report presents fairly the financial position of Dressage NSW Incorporated as of 30 June 2020 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:** Julie Jones

**Seconded:** Earle Olaisen

**Motion Carried**

## **8. Proposed Changes to the Constitution**

None

## **9. Appointment of Auditor**

**Motion:** That DNSW appoint "Keeping Count Taxation Services" as auditor for the 2020/2021 financial year.

**Moved:** Pamela Bice

**Seconded:** Michelle Becchio

**Motion Carried.**

**10. Committee Elections**

In accordance with the DNSW constitution four (4) committee positions become vacant each year (1 was a mid-term resignation being Marjolyn Thomas).

Three (3) nominations were received being from Sue Cunningham, Julie Jones and Kathy Shelley.

Kay Barney was nominated from the floor of the AGM by Sue Cunningham, seconded by Jo Gunn. Kay Barney accepted the nomination.

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

**11. General Business**

No general business

**12. Close of Meeting**

The President declared the meeting closed at 7.26pm