

**Hello Dressage Tas Members and supporters!**

As we wind down from another busy competition season, it is great to take the time to reflect on the achievements of our committees and members as we look forward to the future of our sport!

***From the chair***

2017/2018 was a huge year for dressage in Tasmania.

Our state championships were run again at the TEC and our thanks go to the organising committee headed by Jenny Hodder for their hard work and the excellent standard of event produced by what is, in essence, a team of volunteers, many of whom are also involved in the day to day running of our organisation.

Dressage Tasmania was able to secure the British rider Michael Eilberg for 3 days and for those of us who attended the masterclass he was amazing. And it is quite easy to see after listening to him teach why Britain is enjoying such success.

Our thanks go to Judy Peel and Bernadette and Peter Gibson who facilitated this event.

Financially it was a massive undertaking by dressage Tasmania, and to our collective credit we were able to cover costs.

We were well represented at nationals and credit goes to all the riders for their own personal performances and the manner in which they conducted themselves as individuals and as a team. Thank you to our chef Sharni Radford who did such a great job assisting the riders.

We have had a great year in terms of officials’ education, with Suzanne Betts keeping us well informed with seminars and workshops.

We have had volunteers at all the major state events, some have been judge-candidates helping out by writing or judging in return for shadow or sit in work.

At the Dressage Festival in Victoria in December between judges and writers it had a very Tasmanian flavour.

Our challenges for 2018 are mainly infrastructure upgrading existing facilities and adding needed facilities or equipment.

All that costs money, and we are fortunate that our successive SDA committees have been good financial stewards.

Which has enabled us to undertake projects such as a watering system for the North/NW and arena upgrades in the south.

We cannot however undertake a large spend without giving thought to how we replace those funds so that in the future further works can be undertaken.

Members may see some increases in levies or membership, so that those funds we are about to use can be replaced over time.

I would also like to acknowledge on behalf of the riders all those volunteers without whom we would struggle to run our competitions, they are the gear checkers, writers, draw creators, scorers, caterers, day coordinators, toilet cleaners, judge pick-er-uppers, all those people who magically appear to help make our competitions happen.

Regards

Suzan Mcdermott

State Dressage Authority (SDA) Chair

**2018/19 Calendar of Events;**

Has been updated and uploaded onto the web page, we will do our best to let you know of any changes as they happen – keep an eye on the web and Facebook pages for upcoming events!

Also try the new “watch” function on the Nominate page – and never miss an event closing date again!

<http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/sites/default/files/DTas_Dates%20May%202018%20-%20June%202019.pdf>

**Scoreboard Application:**

Yes! - there is an app for that! Go to your favourite app store to download the scoreboard app – access live scoring for local events, make your entries – confirm scratchings and more!

**Merchandise:**

There is still a good selection of Dressage Tas beautiful Smitten merino headbands ($26), Vests ($55) and Jackets ($65), Caps ($15), and a few limited-edition 2018 Championships shirts ($40) are still available (currently at the Thirlstane grounds).

Shirts ($35) are down to “order as we go” numbers please contact: Belindasnooks@hotmail.com to order.

**State Squad:**

A review of the Squad is being undertaken with the aim of finding the best fit for Dressage Tas, our Members and Squad Riders. A survey is being created, we encourage all members to have their say on the format of the squad going forward.

SDA would like to Thank Kerrie Swan-Bates and Bert Gibson for their work as squad coordinators and acknowledge our current Squad coach Peter Fischer for his contribution to our current squad riders and their development in the sport.

Have your say on the future of the squad at;

[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZYCN5XQ**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZYCN5XQ)

**Young Rider Squad:**

The SDA would like to extend its gratitude to Zara Gudnason for taking on this vital role for the future of our sport – our Young Riders!

The Dressage Tasmania Young Rider squad is back for 2018! The squad has kicked off with a super training day at TEC with lessons from Lydia Jackson in the morning and test riding with Jill Schwartz in the afternoon. Thanks, must go to all the riders and parents who travelled from all over the state to attend. Thanks to Bek Ayers for organising fantastic welcome packs for the squad courtesy of Urban Horsewear, Horze Australasia and Peter Williams Riding Apparel these businesses very generously donated some goodies for our riders who were ecstatic to receive their welcome packs!

This year squad riders will have the opportunity to attend monthly training days, rider development and weekend clinics. Keep your eyes peeled for more YR activities in the coming months.

For more Info please visit;

<http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/content/dressage-tas-young-rider-squad>

**Interschools Dressage:**

Please note this season’s IS State Championship will be held on the 7th of April 2019 at the TEC, we hope that with the school year having returned and teachers able to support students that the change of timing will assist riders aiming for the Interschool Nationals in Victoria in 2019.

The Interschool division is offered at ALL Dressage Tas competitions – just tick the box when you are making your entry on Nominate.

**2018 National Dressage Championships:**

[**http://dressagenationals.com.au/**](http://dressagenationals.com.au/)

Will again be held at the beautiful Boneo Park Equestrian Center on the Mornington Peninsula 17th to 21st of October.

Sharni Radford has agreed to act as Chef d’Equipe, Riders planning to travel to the Nationals should complete the EOI form and return to Sharni to assist with planning for this year’s trip to the Nationals.

<http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/sites/default/files/EOI%20Nationals%20Riders%202018.pdf>

***Intention to Travel to Interstate Competitions (Horses and Rider combinations):***

Riders and owners please note – there is now a **30-day limit** after the return from travel for applications for financial assistance from SDA.

<http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/sites/default/files/Intention%20to%20Travel_May2018.pdf>

**Facilities and Equipment:**

SDA are pleased to support the Zone OCs in the purchasing of equipment to ease the burden on volunteers who service our members at the coal face.

At our recent planning meeting the SDA considered a request for funding from the North and North-West zones for an automated watering system to service the existing 3 sand arenas at the Thirlstane grounds, with the capacity to service a fourth arena in the future.

SDA pledged to commit $4,000 of members funds to the watering system, subject to Nth and NW contributing $2,000 each to cover the rest of the purchase. In addition, North and North-West OCs will implement a $5/rider Ground fee, to fund ongoing maintenance and future development at the Thirlstane ground, from 1 July 2018.

TEC – Arena 1 has never had a base and is developing sink holes posing safety risks to horses and riders and volunteers who are trying to patch them up manually. Arena 2 requires remodeling of excessive camber on the base. TEC has provided fill which is on site to be utilised to raise the base of Arena 1.

*Facilities Development account* – to be future funded by an increase in Dressage Tas Membership fees (Except Officials) by $10 for seniors and $5 for juniors from 2019/2020 membership year– $15,000 to be seeded from current SDA funds.

SDA are investigating the preparation of applications for grant funding, with a view to assist SZ to fund the new base on Arena 1 and repair to Arena 2.

**Officials Training and Education:**

From the Judges Education Panel (Suzanne Betts, Chair, Members: Kerrie Swan-Bates, Bert Gibson, Judy Peel and Sue Lamont)

* + We welcome 11 New G level judges to our ranks; Christine Downie, Kristy Coad, Diane French, Mim Coleman, Uta Gonsior, Phyllis Pike, Katherine Drake, Marissa Hall, Justine McDermott, Tracey Johnston, Lyn Bourne, Catherine Mackie and Brigitta Lowe – Congratulations to you all we wish you a successful and rewarding judging experience, and thank you for your commitment to our sport.
	+ Upgrading Judges: Congratulations to Samantha Napier on passing her F Level examination, and to Belinda Snooks on passing her D level examination.
	+ Bert Gibson will conduct a F/E level seminar at WEC 23rd June
	+ We have a C/D Seminar planned in the South date and venue TBC.
	+ December Rule Change Workshop will be held in both the North and South of the State.
	+ After the success of the inaugural “Super G” seminar a follow-up Super G is booked on the 2/3rd Feb 2019 Seminar with Sue Cunningham at the TEC for prospective judges.
	+ A successful “Judging from B/E” workshop was held with Kerrie Swan-Bates on Wednesday 23rd of May at the RYCT, lots of valuable discussion and “audience participation” ensured this was another very worthwhile workshop. It was also pleasing to see some riders and their supporters in attendance.
	+ A reminder that while “Judge Education” activities are obviously aimed primarily at judges – there is a lot for riders and coaches to gain from attending these workshops and seminars – all are most welcome!

***Below is a collection of links*** – documents you should be aware of! Sam Napier is our web page coordinator and has done a lot of work in this space recently, please check in at

[***http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage***](http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage)

***to keep up to date with all things Dressage Tas related!***

***Dressage Tasmania Horse and Pony of the Year Nominations;***

Are now open - ***Nominations will be extended*** to **30th June** so please complete the form and email to the secretary ***ASAP***.

<http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/sites/default/files/HOTY_2018.pdf>

***Large Animal Rescue with Anton Phillips:***

<http://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/events/large-animal-rescue-training>

for more details.

***EA General Regulations Update 24 April 2018:***

<http://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Equestrian_Australia_General_Regulations_24042018.pdf>

**Stallion guidelines:**

<http://www.equestrian.org.au/news/new-rules-and-identification-ea-registered-stallions>

***Dressage Tasmania State Championships 2 – 3 March 2019***

Will be held at the Tasmanian Equestrian Center Lauderdale.

Expressions of Interest are being sought for the following positions;

* Event Director: Responsible for overseeing the running of the event, delegating and creating a Championships committee to bring the Championships to life!
	+ Needs to keep an overview of all preparations, which includes Judges' arrangements, swabbing, scoring, catering, ground prep, sponsorship, preparation of schedule and programme, all technical aspects of the event in conjunction with the Technical Delegate.
	+ Order plant (site office, etc.)
	+ Coordinate help with ground prep, BBQ, bar.
	+ Coordinate scorers.
	+ Delegate as much as possible, e.g. Media contact, ordering of rosettes, presentations.
	+ Note: This is just an example of how it has been done in recent times - the EA rule book has pages of excellent notes on how to run a Championship event.
* Event Secretary;
	+ Requires an adequate internet connection, and some organisational skills only! 2018 documentation ready for update for 2019! Complete handover and support assured! 😊
* Event Treasurer; Responsible for budgeting, making payments and overseeing the financial aspect of the running of the Champs (just need to be able to make payments via internet banking and able to keep track of emails!)
	+ Liase with the event director and prepare budget documents
	+ Liase with sponsorship coordinator regarding invoicing sponsors
	+ Organise payment/reimbursements of judges and other expenses
* Sponsorship Coordinator Role Includes;
	+ adaptation of 2018 sponsorship package
	+ approaching and retaining 2018 sponsors
	+ seeking and acquiring new sponsors for 2019
	+ arranging timely delivery of sponsors products for the event and allocation of prizes to classes
	+ social media ready photos and “thank-you” from the OC
	+ Involvement in hosting sponsors and presentations to ensure sponsors products are well placed, to ensure future support.

Please contact Suzan McDermott asforesthill@bigpond.com to express your interest in any of these roles.