

Spring greetings everyone!

Welcome to another Dressage Tasmania newsletter. Look out! Grass is growing, equines are feeling the effects of additional nourishment and sugars – Spring has arrived!

If you would like to communicate with the Dressage Tasmania Committee, please email:

dressagetasmania@outlook.com.

Decision-making is achieved through meetings which usually occur monthly. Your Zone committee is your first contact point (refer contact details below).

Please consider supporting your Zone and offering to assist our amazing volunteers. We're all in this together!

Zone contacts

North

Chair – Sue Lamont Vice Chair – Judy Atkinson

Secretary – Jess Midson Treasurer – Jayne Blyth

General committee: Judy Harding, Teresa Darcy, Maryann Smink, Sandra Butorac, Kate Brennan, Annie McCaughey, Molly Evans, Lisa Buckby, Megan Whalley, Philippa Cassidy, Alana Fazackerley

Email address: dressagenorth@gmail.com

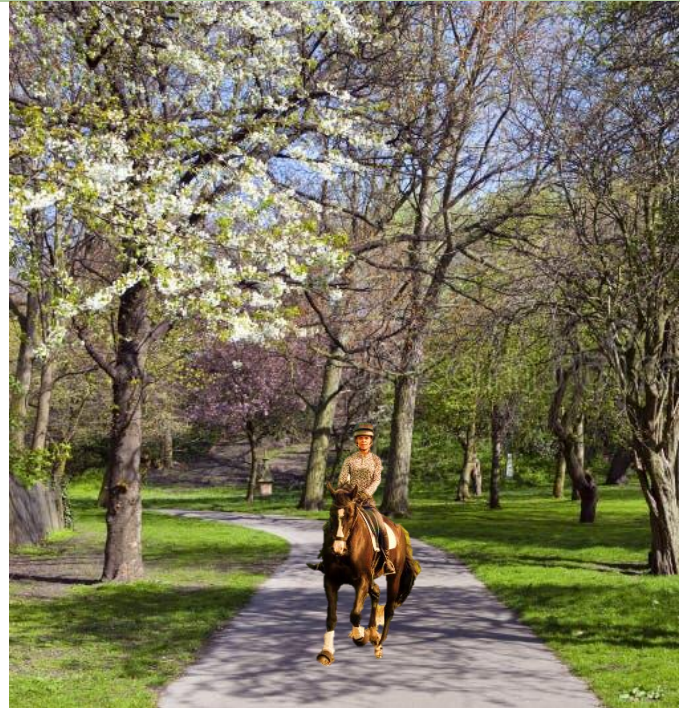
North West

Chair – Linda Smink Vice Chair – Penelope Moore

Secretary – Penny Higgins Treasurer – Jodie Towns

General committee: Rose and Paul Kemp, Kenya Broad, Alison Hall and Jessica Tilton.

Email address: nwdressagezone@gmail.com



South – AGM to be confirmed in September

Chair – Suanne Lawrence

Vice Chair – Gill von Bertouch

Treasurer – Katherine Drake

Minutes Secretary – Jill Suban

General Committee: Sue McDermott, Sophie McDermott, Tammy Cunningham, Jenny Wilson, Chloe Amos, Jill Schwartz, Heather Stewart.

Email address: dressagetassouth@gmail.com

Congratulations and thank you to those who have stepped up to form new committees!

2024-25 Dressage Tasmania – State Dressage Authority

President

Judy Atkinson

Treasurer

Alison Hall

Vice President

Sue Lamont

Committee

Penelope Moore, Heather Stewart

Secretary

Alana Fazackerley

Tania Hay

Seasonal quote:

Dressage is the art of teaching the horse to carry you.
Riding is the art of learning to be a good load to carry.

Richard Weis



The next step . . .

This is an exciting time of the year when you have a chance to take a step up and be involved at the coalface. We like to ride at events, but we also need volunteers to run them – otherwise they cannot happen.

We need your input into ideas and suggestions for events – both ridden and unriden. This is your opportunity to have a say in how we do dressage in Tassie.

We are fortunate to have three excellent Zone committees with people open and welcoming to others.

Go on . . . take the next step and contact your Zone with an offer of help . . . your skills are sorely needed!

Dressage Tasmania Horse of the Year Awards

Congratulations to all who trained and competed in the 2023-24 dressage season. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed through volunteering precious time to support our sport and make it happen. There are many roles in running the sport in Tassie – big and small – one that would suit everyone.

Congratulations to our 2023-24 Dressage Tasmania Volunteer Recognition Award recipients:

North West Zone: Alison Hall – Northern

Zone: Jess Midson – Southern Zone: Jill Swartz

Awards were presented at the Equestrian Tasmania Ball at the Country Club Casino in Launceston on 22 June 2024.

Big shout out to all who competed in the 2023-24 season, no mean feat to train, prepare and ride at competitions.

Congratulations to those who achieved awards.

Horse of the Year

Preliminary:

Linda Smink and Clearview Springsteen

Runner Up: Celia Conder-Lang and Playin in Gold

Novice:

Celia Condor-Land and Feldale Ana

Runner Up: Jody Rybarczyk and Oscar De La Renta

Elementary:

Kenya Broad and Wolter Van Gelder

Runner Up: Lucy Johnston and Clearview Royal Zeva

Medium:

Stephanie Temple and Clearview Verdict

Runner Up: Alison Hall and Episodes

FEI Horse of the Year:

Breanna Turner and Carerra

Runner-up: Judy Peel and Regensturm



Alison Hall (NW) and Jess Midson (North) accepting their 2024-25 Volunteer Recognition Awards from Dressage Tasmania Secretary Alana Fazackerley. (Absent: Jill Swartz (South)). Photo courtesy of Lindsey McCloud.

Pony of the Year

Preliminary:

Hannah Burn and Mirinda Lancelot

Runner Up: Safira Crook and Carollin Dragonfly

Novice:

Leanne Moore and Larilla Mastermind

Runner Up: Jody

Medium:

Suanne Lawrence and Garraboo Scoobie Doo

Young Rider of the Year:

Lucy Johnston and Clearview Royal Zeva

Runner Up: Silver Ellis and Dashooskah

Off the Track Thoroughbred Horse of the Year:

Penny Higgins and Cool Chap

Runner Up: Alana Fazackerley and Merlyn

Stewards

You would be aware that from 1 January 2024 it has been mandatory for an accredited EA Steward to be present at all Dressage Tasmania competitions.

Congratulations to those newly accredited. We now have a number of accredited Level 1 and 2 Stewards in Tassie. You can search for one [here](#).

EA membership is mandatory to be included on the EA Officials' List.

Have you thought about being a Writer?

Writing, or pencilling (or stylusing or tableting!!) is essential for competitions and we have some amazing writers who consistently give up their time – but new writers are always needed. It's amazing how much you can learn by listening to a judge comment and score – and it's not hard.

Live scoring through Nominate makes the task easy, using tablets already set up before the competition. It's a case of click and go. There are always backup hard copy test sheets in case of any hiccups.

If you want to know more, or have a go, ask to sit in on a test to see how it's done or take 10 minutes at lunch time to go through the process with an experienced writer.

Email your Zone to express an interest.

So, you want to be a dressage judge:

<https://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/content/judges-information>

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/officials/dressage>

Equestrian Australia Committees

Access who's who in the zoo [here](#)!

Glossary of FEI Competition Acronyms

Confused about the difference between a CSI and a CHIO? Here is a quick-reference guide to various discipline abbreviations. [Link to glossary](#)

Dressage Tasmania membership clarification

Annual membership is to 30 June each year. Twelve and six-monthly memberships are available. If intending to join for a 12-month period, please keep in mind that this will only be from 1 July each year. Various membership categories are available: Senior, Junior, Young Rider, Family, Social, Official etc. To join and for information on cost, access the Dressage Tasmania web site [here](#)



✓ ELIGIBILITY ✓

- ★ Official horse and rider (combination) are required to receive two scores of 60% or more, at the level they enter for the 2025 State Championships, between the qualifying period of 30 January 2024 and 29 January 2025. Please note qualifiers are not required for Para Equestrian, or Young Horse classes.
- ★ FEI horse and rider (combination) are required to receive two scores of 55% or more for the tour level they are competing in at the State Championships.
- ★ Participant horse and rider (combination) are required to compete at two DTas events between the qualifying period of 30 January 2024 and 29 January 2025.

If you would like to be part of the organising committee, or have any queries, please email

dressagetas.championships@gmail.com

Northern Zone 2023-24 Season Awards

Congratulations to Northern Zone 2023-24 Season Award recipients which were presented at the Zone's Annual General Meeting on Saturday 13 July 2024:

Gold medals:

Preliminary

Molly Evans and Remi Diamond Star

Silver medals:

Preliminary

Judy Harding and F1 Rockstar

Olivia Jarvela and Will I am B

Novice

Kate Brennan and Lethal Chance

Philippa Cassidy and Machiavelli

Teresa Darcy and HPS Wynlord

FEI

Judy Peel and Regensturm

Bronze medals:

Preparatory

Sharon Cure and Mithril Allegra

Jenna Targett and Follydown Mistify

Preliminary

Jayne Blyth - Miss Arifa

Eve Hall and Parkside Prince

Bonnie Hall and Luvahussy

Susan Lamont and Beckworth Magic Fortune

Jenny Shepherd and New World

Contagious

Maryann Smink and Firestone Lodge Memphis

Novice

Eve Hall and Parkside Prince

Judy Harding and F1 Rockstar

Celina Johnston and Norden Grace

Annie McCaughey and Affogato

Maryann Smink and Firestone Lodge Memphis

Suzanne Walton and Barambogie Scarlet Ohara

Elementary

Kate Brennan and Lethal Chance

Lucy Johnston and Clearview Royal Zeva

Medium

Lydia Davis and LBA China Hit

Advanced

Judy Peel and Eichendorff



Jayne Blyth, Sue Lamont, Jenny Shepherd, Maryann Smink and Sharon Cure



Susan Walton, Judy Harding, Maryann Smink and Kate Brennan



Molly Evans

Dressage Tasmania Spring Calendar (Information as at newsletter distribution date.)

Please consider contacting your Zone by email to help at an event. Roles range from organising an event to putting letters out and any help would be greatly appreciated.

SEPTEMBER			
Date	Venue	Event	Contact
8	TEC	Southern Zone Competition	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
14-15	WEC	Northern Zone Winter Series Competition	dressagenorth@gmail.com
21	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
28	CVEC	Southern Zone Competition (mainland judge)	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
OCTOBER			
6	TEC	Southern Zone Official Series – Round 1 (mainland judge)	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
13	Thirlstane	North Competition	dressagenorth@gmail.com
19	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
26	Thirlstane	NW Zone Competition	nwdressagezone@gmail.com
27	Thirlstane	NW Zone Training Day	nwdressagezone@gmail.com
NOVEMBER			
3	TEC	Southern Zone Official Series – Round 2 (mainland judge)	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
16	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagetassouth@gmail.com
17	Thirlstane	Northern Zone Competition	dressagenorth@gmail.com
24	Thirlstane	NW Zone Training Day	nwdressagezone@gmail.com
30	Thirlstane	NW Zone Competition (TBC)	nwdressagezone@gmail.com



Dressage Tasmania events calendar

To access events through Nominate, flag in Nominate to receive email notifications of upcoming events. An email will be sent to you when an event opens. Access the Dressage Tasmania online calendar [here](#).



View the Boneo Park calendar [here](#).



View the Werribee Park calendar [here](#).



EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA

DRESSAGE

View the Dressage National Calendar of Events [here](#)

Australian Dressage Championships

17 – 20 October 2024 Sydney International Equestrian.

Competitions from Novice level to Grand Prix including Freestyle to Music, Para and Pony Championship will be offered.

Link [here](#)



AUSTRALIAN DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2024 Equissage National AOR Dressage Championships

Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 September 2024
Boneo Park, Boneo Road, Boneo, Victoria



PRESS RELEASE



EQUESTRIAN
VICTORIA



Jayden Brown to present Masterclass and Q&A session
Friday 20 September and Saturday 21 September 2024
Enquiries: Kathryn O'Halloran: virtuالتackshop@icloud.com

2023-24 Dressage Tasmania Young Rider of the Year – My Journey . . . by Lucy Johnston

I am Lucy Johnston, a 16-year-old rider from Longford in Tasmania. I have been riding since I was two years old and started at Midlands Pony Club when I was six years old. I have been extremely lucky to ride some beautiful horses for the past 10 years and keep them on our family farm in paddocks close to my back door.

My love of dressage started when I was educating my riding pony Eddie (Beckworth Commanding Endeavour). Eddie and I were both young when we started together, and he initially didn't have the same love for jumping that I had. I did some showing with my friends and started competing for my pony club and school in the dressage arena. This led me to go to my first Interschools at Werribee in 2018. This trip was a huge eye opener for me and made me want to work harder. I was fortunate to make the 2019 Tasmanian Interschools and Pony Club Nationals team competing in Sydney.

This was a trip of a lifetime, spending two weeks at SIEC with my adored pony and friends. I came home with rosettes and a desire to advance my dressage. Unfortunately, Eddie wasn't growing with me, so it was time to find my next mount. I stole the reins of my brother's special show jumping mare Belladonna, as he decided polocrosse was his passion. Bella was my ultimate allrounder and has allowed me to compete in just about every discipline, but she and I were not a lover of dressage together. I worked out a flat program that helped Bella's jumping and allowed me to stay competitive in Combined Training and Eventing.

I missed the challenge of dressage competitions when I started on Bella. At that time, I was tremendously fortunate to be given the ride on Fairfield Staccato who, after a couple of years, I unfortunately also outgrew. I was lucky Stacci was replaced with the opportunity to ride Clearview Royal Zeva. I am extremely grateful for these two beautiful horses; they have given me the opportunity to learn and continue to develop my dressage skills. They have both given me challenges, but also many rewards. I adore both these horses and I owe so



Clearview Royal Zeva – 2024 Champs



Fairfield Staccato – 2021 Champs

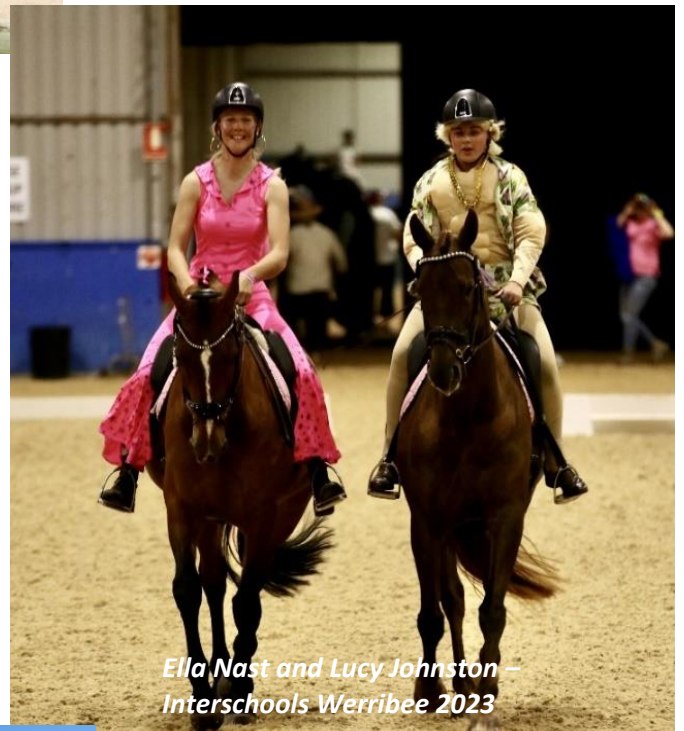
Interschools in Werribee dressed as Barbie and Ken in the Freestyle Pas de Deux. We continued the fun theme to our showjumping horses doing a Barbie and Ken fancy dress rescue relay a month later.

I am grateful that I have had a range of coaches, all of whom I have been able to take something away from to put into my training. I wish I had more time to attend coaching, but I still like to do a bit of everything on my horses, so I must trust myself and make sure I reach out when something isn't going to plan. Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported me so far with my riding.

I highly recommend riders of all ages and stages to attend Dressage Tas training days and competitions. Everyone is extremely supportive and helpful. Go along and work on your own goals and row your own boat.

much to them and their owners for the opportunities they have given me. Neither are easy rides and make me work for my results, but both are kind, safe horses that I love riding and having fun on.

Stacci and Zeva have both allowed me to advance with my dressage and change things up to compete as a team. I thoroughly enjoy riding as a pair or team, so competing for my pony club in the Quad ride and Musical ride has provided me with a lot of enjoyment. In 2023 Ella Nast and I were fortunate to compete as a pair for Pony Club Australia, winning the International Virtual Freestyle Pas de Deux. This led to us also competing at



Ella Nast and Lucy Johnston – Interschools Werribee 2023



Asham Indigo and Clearview Royal Zeva – 2024 Champs

Everyone has different goals and ambitions. Mine is to try and improve from what I did last time I competed.

I still have a long way to go to get it right, my next challenge is to try and master Medium and keep working on the accuracy of my Elementary tests. I am hoping to bring on a couple of young horses this season.

I would like to thank Dressage Tasmania for the opportunities you provide Young Riders. I look forward to representing Tasmania again this year in Dressage at Interschools in Tamworth.

My Equine Life . . . by Judy Peel

I was never not going to be involved with horses, call it fate, whatever. The daughter of an English vet and his horse mad wife, I had my first saddle and pony (Cocky, the skewbald) at 3 months of age . . . that was my pram. Aged 12, I had lived in three countries: UK, Canada and Australia. Western, English including side saddle and Pony Club were to form my younger equine riding self.

I qualified and worked as a radiographer but remained passionate about riding. During this time, I trained Hickory, my 'Tasmanian Warmblood' to Grand Prix...not easy, particularly from Tassie in the 80s. It meant regular trips to the mainland for competition. When I was selected for the national A Squad that meant even more trips, but the benefit was training with Dr Wolfgang Holzel, the then National Coach. Dropped in at the deep end I learnt a lot quickly . . . travelling and caring for HP horses, training and competing at the highest level, humility, tenacity and the politics of sport!

With Hickory I was selected for the World Dressage Championships in Canada in 1986. He and I also represented Australia in the Samsung Cup, finishing 6th in the Asia/Pacific region.

I have competed in the Samsung Cup/PStG challenge with three horses, Hickory, Birribbi Spout and Sunbury Lodge Playwright, all of whom I trained from the point of breaking in. All competed Grand Prix later during their careers. All of them have won state and national titles.



Having had lessons from some very distinguished trainers: Mary Wanless, Anky van Gruijven, Michael Klimke, Emile Faurie, Helen Langehanenberg, Michael Eilberg and not least Wolfgang Holzel, Uwe Spellen and Edgar Lichtwark, I still keep notebooks full of their words of wisdom. Early in my dressage career Tina Wommelsdorf was very influential.

Combining training horses with other aspects of dressage I have gained coaching and judging qualifications (EA-A level judge and L3 dressage coach). I believe strongly in education from all angles of the sport to contribute to its future growth.

Like any journey my coaching is dynamic and over the years it has evolved. Whilst I firmly advocate the German Training Scale I have "embellished" it with my own discoveries. Early in my competition career I realised that the rider's "way of going" was the key to the horse's "way of going" and it is my goal to always be looking for a better position, balance and suppleness in us as the privileged passengers we are. Experimenting with my position and not remaining static is what I think is my riding life now . . . if those little changes make things better keep doing them, if not, don't!

I have come to believe that by being able to connect the horse's legs to the ground in a balanced, supple way, thoroughness and harmony are achieved. That is what dancing with a partner is about after all.

When I lived in Victoria, I started Salsa dancing . . . I know a frightening thought! Proprioception was vital . . . that old saying “two left feet” is so true and being able to move in all directions in a smooth way was challenging. That was me in the learning stage with no partner! This is how the young horse must feel, unaware of where their legs are, weak in certain muscles and in fear of falling over in certain movements. Then intensify this by adding the weight of a rider.

So . . . for me now, coaching is:

- Create a stress-free learning environment.
- Analyse the horse and rider. This is individual to every horse and every rider. Teach the rider “feel” to enable them to find where the blockages and bracing in the horse or themselves are. Devise exercises that address these issues. Ultimately it is the coaches’ and riders’ responsibility to start the change in a way the horse understands.
- Allow time to process a change which starts in an easy way, and then progress. This may be a short break during the training session or overnight contemplation . . . give it the time it takes.
- Maintain the tiny improvements to eventually make a consistently better performance. Correct the little mistakes appropriately before they become major issues . . . a trot/walk transition that is not through will be easier to correct than a passage/piaffe transition that is not through.
- Make things easy for the horse and its rider to understand . . . such as a weight shift for the flying change which can be introduced in the walk early in training.
- Teaching riding is difficult because we are talking about feelings and all of us describe them differently. The description will not be wrong, often it is about perception, and we may need to take on board feedback listening to the words of the rider.
- Straightness is the most difficult . . . none of us are totally ambidextrous. It has so much effect on a horse and rider.

BE PATIENT AND NEVER SAY NEVER!



What is a Strategic Plan?

View the current Dressage Tasmania Plan link [here](#).

Dressage Tasmania will review its Strategic Plan in October 2024, but what does that mean? Sport Australia defines planning as a tool to outline focus areas for the next few years and beyond.

Our Strategic Plan includes a Vision, Mission Statement and a set of Values which run through everything we do as a sporting organisation.

The Plan includes an Action Plan which outlines specific strategies and actions with timelines and how we know we’ve reached success (called Key Performance Indicators), with a focus on everything being reasonable and achievable (otherwise what’s the point!?)

You can view the Australian Sports Commission’s strategic plan [here](#).

Once reviewed, the Plan will be accessible on the Dressage Tasmania web site. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions on how to improve the sport for everyone in Tasmania, please email us.

Tips from the experts . . .

Simone Pearce

Everyone, horses and riders included, have highs and lows some days. My first question is why is it bad? If I think there is a chance the horse is uncomfortable, then I have them looked at and let them stretch and take it easy for a few days before starting again. If the horse is learning something new and I have bad ride due to some sort of training misunderstanding, I always try to stay realistic and calm and remember, 'Rome wasn't built in a day'.

As an example Simone cites teaching horses the flying changes.

If they are struggling with the concept, I don't stress. I just take it one day at a time and try to focus on understanding and repetition. I always try to be very compassionate to my horses and take responsibility for their progress. I know they can only learn as well as I teach them. I think that's really important to self-reflect and look at how you can improve yourself to improve your horse.

Christoph Hess

The horse always tries to run away, that is part of his nature. When the rider uses just the bit to stop the horse, that is the rider's first wrong move. We must always give the horse an open door. When we hold on to the horse all the time with our hands, we take the horse out of its mental and physical balance, and that is the beginning of disharmony between horse and rider.

Give the horse the feeling of freedom when you sit on it, always the feeling that it can move forward. Most riders all over the world use their hands to try and control their horse, the neck starts to shorten and then it all starts to go wrong.

The better the rider's balance in the saddle, the better the communication. There are two things the rider must be – balanced, and supple. The rider has to find balance in the saddle, not being held in position by a saddle in which you cannot move.

Isabel Werth

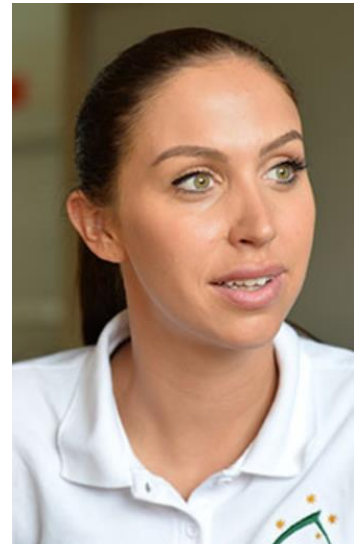
He needs to breathe; he needs to calm down. There's a thin line between enough and too much. He has to relax, and you need to feel the second it's too much, and he wants to escape. You're not allowed to hold because then he explodes. It's really important that he go out at the right second. And it needs to be independent of your reins because he's pulling and running more when you go to your hands.

Use the inside leg, but don't interrupt him with the reins. When you shorten the reins, the horse starts to collect from the front; you want him to do it from the hind end.

Laura Graves

In developing tension through a correct connection from the hind leg to the mouth, you help your horse gain strength and self-carriage. It's not supposed to be easy – that's why this is a sport. Why we, and our horses, are athletes. In true dressage sport, it is our job to keep our horses trying, even if it's difficult for them to stay between our leg and hand.

People who only ride to prevent mistakes are not truly training. 'Forward' is an over-used and misunderstood word. Fast isn't forward. It's about the reaction time to your leg. A horse that is quick to the leg creates an elastic bridge to the hand and to contact. In comparison, calling a horse 'too heavy' reveals a horse that isn't using its hind end, which is different from being 'strong'. Strong on a short rein isn't a problem for me.



Podcast – Jayden Brown: A Higher Standard

Podcasts are the thing!

Although Paris was Jayden's first Olympics, the Australian dressage rider is no stranger to dressage. He competed in the Young Rider's World Cup Final in 2008 on Widelo, World Young Horse Championships in 2013 on San Andreas and the World Games in 2022 on Sky Diamond. Having spent the last two years in the UK training under Carl Hester, Jayden's Olympic dream was realised as he became a member of the Australian team for Paris. In this interview, he talks about his journey with Quincy B, why he chose UK as a base, Carl's influence, namely holding yourself to a higher standard, avoiding drama and doing the hard work.

Jayden goes into depth on what to aim for at big championships:

- making your training system clear for the horse and moulding the training system to different horse and human personality types
- riding the ups and downs of the top sport
- the skill of getting the score you know you can get under any circumstance, and
- what things you have to avoid in Carl's arena?

If you want to listen to a ripper with Jayden Brown from The Horse Podcast, access it [here](#).

7 things riders who have owned their horse for over a decade can relate to

Horse&Hound Link [here](#)

How Do I Ride a Clean Walk-Canter Depart on My Dressage Horse?

Dressage Today – USEF "S" dressage judge Debbie Rodriguez offers tips on schooling a clean walk-canter depart – Link [here](#)

Focus

Dressage Today – Try this tip: "Instead of picturing yourself riding the perfect test, imagine staying focused in spite of any possible distractions. I once had a horse who sneezed when he got nervous at shows. If I visualized myself keeping my cool no matter what he did, his sneezing wouldn't rattle me. Do the same with any habits your horse has. For example, if his haunches tend to drift sideways on the centreline, visualize yourself closing your right or left leg as necessary to keep him straight."

Advanced-level eventer Laura VanderVliet

What it takes – according to Jenny Gherke

Equestrian Life – Jenny Gehrke is well known in the Australian dressage scene. Having successfully trained several horses to FEI level and Grand Prix, with multiple championships at state and national level, she has a wealth of knowledge.

Read the article [here](#).

Brett Parbery - Podcast

Most of us only watch the top riders on their best days, when they're presenting a near-perfect picture. The trouble with that is that we cannot and should not expect that in training.

That finished picture was created through mistakes, working on looseness, and following a systematic training structure underpinned with horsemanship skills, and all of that can look quite boring and not very attractive, certainly not what we see in the competition arena. Yet THAT'S what created the picture, and the perfection comes out right in the minutes they're doing the test. It doesn't even look perfect 10 minutes before the test!

To be trying to achieve perfection at all is flawed, and especially when it comes at the cost of focusing on what's actually important, the incremental daily progress of training.

In this week's podcast we explore the Parberyism: "It doesn't have to be perfect today". Listen [here](#) on the website or find The Parbery Podcast on your favourite podcast app. Enjoy!



2023 RULE HIGHLIGHT

National Dressage Rules as of 1 January 2024

SECTION 3 DRESSAGE EVENTS

3.2 Competitions

In regards to holding Official competitions:

- a) only the current Official EA tests may be used
- b) only current accredited judges are eligible to officiate at Competitive and Participation competitions
- c) there is to be a maximum of 35 horses per competition

3.7 Entering the arena (See Annex D Arena Familiarisation)

Riders and event organisers must be aware of the following:

- a) when presenting to the judge before a test, riders do not have to stop and report to the judge but must make sure the judge has clearly seen their Horse Identification Number
- b) for competitions where it is not practical or safe to ride around the outside of the arena prior to entering, the rider is permitted to enter the arena as soon as the previous rider has exited and before the bell is sounded. After the bell has sounded the new rider starts the test from within the arena
- c) under special circumstances and conditions, the OC may also permit riders to ride within an outdoor arena
- d) for outdoor competitions, if the area surrounding the competition arena is unsuitable for riding on, then the Chief Judge, in consultation with the OC, will make a decision as to whether it is permitted to allow the competitors to enter the arena and complete one lap each way prior to commencing their test. Such a decision must be announced at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the competition. Once the bell has been rung the competitor is required to come down the centre line at A (via the shortest route) and judging commences once the rider is on the centre line
- e) after the bell has sounded, the competitor must enter the arena at A as soon as possible
- f) failure to enter the arena within 45 seconds of the bell being sounding will entail a technical fault of 0.5% per judge. Should a rider continue and not enter within a further 45 seconds they will be eliminated
- g) entering the arena at A before the bell signal has been given may entail a technical fault of 0.5% from each judge
- h) judging commences with the rider's entry at A
- i) judging is not influenced by any actions of the competitor prior to their entrance at A
- j) at the first halt and final halt competitors must take the reins in one hand to salute. Failure to salute will entail a technical fault of 0.5% from each judge
- k) a whip may be held in either hand at the salute
- l) judging ceases when the horse moves forward from the final salute
- m) after the final salute the competitor should leave the arena in walk on a long rein at A
- n) the competitor must be mounted on leaving the arena at A
- o) if the entry at A is open for the first horse of a competition then it must remain open for the rest of the competition

ANNEX D Arena familiarisation and altered circumstances at EA events

These are guidelines for competition organisers and judges (refer also to rule 3.7). The safety of horse and rider is paramount at all times.

Arena familiarisation

- where possible, allow competitors a designated time to ride around and in the competition arenas on the day of the competition, if this has not been possible on the previous day
- if conditions are suitable, time may also be allocated during the day, but this will depend on the organisers and venue requirements

- OCs should specify the arena familiarisation arrangements in the competition draw and also specify at what pace horses are permitted to travel. For example, Arenas will be available from 7.30 am to 8.15 am on the day of the competition for familiarisation. Please make sure that you ride only at (pace to be noted here by OC if there is a restriction)
- Any arena familiarisation and warm-up areas must be supervised by an accredited steward
- OCs should ensure designated first aid official/medical service providers are present once the event has officially started; this includes arena familiarisation periods.

Altered circumstances

- if the wind becomes strong enough to blow down the arena surrounds, it is preferable to leave it on the ground, so that horses are not accidentally frightened when the arena blows down again. Obviously the conditions may be different for some riders in the competition but common sense should prevail
- if arenas or arena surrounds are covered in water either at the start of the day, or at some point later in the day, please arrange for riders to commence their tests from inside the arena. This gives the horses the opportunity to become familiar with the varying conditions in the arena
- some arenas have insufficient surrounding space and unsuitable footing for horses to work safely and comfortably around the outside before entering the test. In these circumstances please make sure that riders commence their tests from inside the arena

Protocol for entering the arena in exceptional circumstances

If the area surrounding the competition arena is unsuitable for riding on, the Chief Judge, in consultation with the OC, will make a decision as to whether competitors will be permitted to commence their test from inside the arena. Such a decision must be announced at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the competition or, in the case of a sudden downpour, as soon as possible. Please note that this is Judge/OC/TD only decision.

If such approval is given the competitor is to enter the arena and when the bell has been rung (e.g. car horn sounded) the competitor is required to come down the centre line at A (via the shortest route) and judging commences once the rider is on the centre line.

The next horse in the competition can enter the arena as soon as the previous horse has left the arena.

3.8 Dismounting/Fall during test

In regards to dismounting or falling during a test:

- a) riders must be mounted on entering and leaving the arena on penalty of elimination. Refer to 3.8e for an exception for a fall after the final salute
- b) if a rider dismounts after entering the arena without a reason acceptable to the judge, no marks will be given to the movement. A dropped whip, hat, spectacles, etc, may be handed to a rider. However, in the case of a dropped whip it is preferable this is done at the end of the test when the rider has left the arena
- c) any fall of the horse and/or rider between the entry at A and the end of the test at the final salute, will entail elimination from that test, and the rider may not remount to leave the arena
- d) if a rider dismounts after the final halt and salute without a reason acceptable to the judge this will entail elimination
- e) if there is a fall of horse and/or rider after the final halt and salute this will not entail elimination and the rider may not remount to leave the arena
- f) before the horse and rider may continue at the event, the Chief Judge or representative of the OC
 - must send the rider to the designated first aid official for assessment of injury. Refer to rule 3.23 and the EA Concussion Policy
 - may send the horse to be assessed for injury by a vet or horse welfare officer

3.9 Test time

With the exception of Freestyles, dressage tests are not timed. The times printed on the test sheets are to be used only as a guide.

3.10 Resistance/Disobedience

In regards to a horse showing resistance or disobedience the following will apply:

- a) any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test for a period exceeding 20 seconds shall be penalised by elimination. This also applies to any resistance before entering the dressage arena and within the arena surrounds. However, resistance that may endanger rider, horse, judges or the public will be eliminated for safety reasons earlier than 20 seconds. There is no appeal against this decision

- b) a horse leaving the arena with all four feet during a test between the beginning and the end of the test will be eliminated (except in 4-year-old Young Horse competitions at State qualifying events where there is minus 0.5% per judge, see [rule 9.1](#))
- c) should a horse leave the arena with all four feet after the final halt and salute this will not entail elimination

3.11 Unauthorised assistance

Any intentional outside intervention is considered assistance to a rider or horse and is penalised by elimination.

This includes but is not limited to:

- a) assistance by voice, signs, etc
- b) where background music is provided by organisers riders are not permitted to request specific music, or music at specific times
- c) any assistance to get the horse into the dressage arena or the area directly around the arena including being led by another horse around the arena
- d) mounted riders may have their horse attached to a lead line when at walk when proceeding to or from the warm up area or competition area but not in or around the competition arena. This will be considered outside assistance and will entail elimination
- e) not applicable for riders with exemption cards. Refer to [rule 5.18](#)

EA Equipment Annex – Dressage Rules

The new Equestrian Australia Equipment Annex - Version 22 - 04.04.2023 has been effective since **23 April 2023**. Access through the EA Dressage Rules Webpage: <https://www.equestrian.org.au/Dressage-rules>

The summary of changes to the National Dressage Rules effective 1 January 2023 is now available at this link: [Summary - Dressage Rule Changes 1 January 2023 23112022.pdf \(equestrian.org.au\)](#)

Friendly reminders

- Judges who do not hold a current Working with Vulnerable People registration/card, will not be included on the Equestrian Australia Judges' List.
- Riders may now ride only two tests per day at any level.
- Numbers at a height of 3.5-4cm need to be visible on BOTH SIDES of a saddle pad or bridle when competing and BOTH SIDES of a halter at any other time at Dressage Tasmania events.
- As of 1 January 2024 EA dressage competitions must have an accredited EA Steward on duty. A Steward or Steward-appointed person is necessary to check gear at competitions. Checking of gear is undertaken AFTER a test.

Please check the current Dressage Rules and Equipment Annex before attending Dressage Tasmania events to ensure your equipment is correct, to prevent any surprises!

Values



Dedication	Committed to supporting dressage in Tasmania.
Respect	Everyone is valued and treated accordingly.
Excellence	Striving to provide the best possible experience.
Solidarity	We are all in this together.
Safety	Horse and rider welfare is the priority.
Access	An environment where everyone is welcome.
Growth	Nurturing membership development.
Encouragement	Dressage as a positive experience.

Your feedback matters!

Members are encouraged to have input into the way we do dressage in Tasmania. Ideas and ways of improvement are welcome.

Email dressagetasmania@outlook.com or your Zone contact.

Likewise, if you think of anything you'd like included in future newsletters, let us know.

Web links

[Dressage Tasmania \(equestrian.org.au\)](http://equestrian.org.au)

[Horse Registration | Equestrian Tasmania](#)

[Your Membership | Equestrian Tasmania](#)

[Insurance | Equestrian Australia](#)

[Medication Control | Equestrian Tasmania](#)

[Discipline rules & regulations | Equestrian Australia](#)

Dressage Tasmania web site:

<https://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/>

Dressage Tasmania E-mail:

dressagetasmania@outlook.com



<https://www.facebook.com/dressagetasmania>