



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA

Annual Report

for the Year ended 30 June 2009

Note: The complete Financial Report is available separately.



Equestrian Australia Limited

Annual Report

for the Year ended 30 June 2009

Contents

Equestrian Australia Limited in 2008-09	5
President's Report	7
CEO's Report	12
High Performance Report	15
Education Department Report	18
Dressage Report	21
Eventing Report	23
Jumping Report	24
Carriage Driving Report	25
Vaulting Report	26
FEI World Cup Jumping - Australian League	27
Show Horse Report	29
Some Federation Facts and Figures	30

Note: The complete Financial Report is available separately.

Our National Sponsors and Partners

A big “Thank you” to all of our sponsors at National, Branch, Club and event level.

We particularly acknowledge our National Sponsors and Partners:



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission



**AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE**



Australian Equestrian Team Sponsors



Medication Control Program Sponsors



Equestrian Australia Limited in 2008-09

ABN 19 077 455 755

(Note: At the 2008 AGM, the Federation changed its name from 'Equestrian Federation of Australia Ltd.' to 'Equestrian Australia Limited')

National Board

Mr. Geoff Sinclair

- Chairman to 2008 AGM (then retired)

Mrs. Mary Seefried

- Chairman from 2008 AGM

Mr. Graeme Bowker (from 2008 AGM)

Mr. Kerry Brydon

Mr. Peter Hickson

Mrs. Alexi Kentish (retired at 2008 AGM)

Mrs. Natalie Nichols (from 2008 AGM)

National Committee Chairs and National Officers

Dressage: Ms. Lesley Sullivan

Eventing: Mr. James Dunn OAM

Jumping: Ms. Vicki Roycroft

Show Horse: Ms. Joanne Bastian

Vaulting: Mr. Greg Blunden

Driving: Mrs. Judy Meredith

National Coaching Accreditation

Committee: Mr. Kerry Smith

National Medication Control Officer:

Dr. Warwick Vale

FEI Contact Veterinarian:

Dr. Derek Major

Management & Administration

Chief Executive Officer:

Mr. Franz Venhaus

High Performance Manager:

Mr. Brett Mace

National Education Manager:

Mr. Nathan Holman

Accountant: Ms. Marina Northcote

Policy & Projects Officer (to September 2008):

Ms. Siobhan Lapthorne

Sport Consultant – Dressage, Para-Equestrian,

Show Horse (from Sep 2008):

Mrs. Tracey Lesslie

Sports Consultant – High Performance:

Ms. Michelle Battams

Sports Consultant - High Performance:

Ms. Mandy King

Sports Consultant, Education (to March 2009):

Ms. Diana Sutherland

Sports Consultant, Education (from April 2009):

Ms. Rebecca Willis

Sports Consultant, Insurance & General

Admin.: Ms. Leanne Kingsbury

Sports Consultant – Publicity & Promotions:

Ms. Nicky Turner



The winners of the 2008 National Sport Achievement Awards were:

Administrator of the Year

Gillian Rolton

Athlete of the Year

Clayton Fredericks

Club of the Year

Toowoomba & Districts
Show Jumping Club

Coach of the Year

Wayne Roycroft

Event of the Year

2008 EFA National
Interschool Championships

Horse of the Year

Ben Along Time

Official of the Year

Maria Schwennesen

Volunteer of the Year

Rod Winchester

***Our Congratulations
to all winners!***



Message from the Australian Sports Commission

The power of a successful sports system like Australia's lies within the many cooperative partnerships and relationships between its system partners.

As our sports system has diversified and increased in complexity over the years, so too has the nature of these relationships. Now, as ever, a critical ingredient for our system's continued success and sustainability is to ensure that we all remain on the same page—that our links between each other, our leading programs, our roles and relationships are clearly defined and understood by all.

Sport operates in a dynamic, demanding and rapidly changing environment. The sources of change include advancing technologies, new structures and systems, products and services, people concerns and rising international competition and benchmarks.

The Australian Government has flagged the need to address this change by reforming our sports system and has outlined its approach in the paper *Australian Sport: Emerging Challenges, New Directions*.

The Government has also appointed an independent expert panel headed by lawyer David Crawford to investigate ways to ensure both high performance and community level sport is prepared for those challenges.

The Australian Sports Commission has already taken steps to review and evaluate our strategic position and intent in active consultation with national sporting organisations and other stakeholders. These system improvements will provide a foundation for any changes emerging from the Government process.

Already we have identified a number of priorities. These include: the need to better align our high performance sport efforts with our partners; to work more collaboratively with state departments of sport and recreation in strategic approaches to growing participation in sport; to re-communicate the value of sport to the Australian community; and to retain and develop our best coaches.

Our efforts to act on these priorities are inherently intertwined with our partners. These partnerships represent a powerful tool in our ability to adapt to a changing environment, to share responsibilities, effectively communicate and continue to expand and strengthen sport.

Our work together will ensure that the Australian sports system is progressive, robust and sustainable for decades to come.



Matt Miller
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Sports Commission

President's Report

The year in reflection

In some ways a post-Olympic year is a new beginning – the next four-year cycle begins. The first months of the year were spent in appointing the High Performance management teams for each sport, developing selection policies and new and better programs based on the rider survey responses from Hong Kong and new visions for success in the future.

One of the most important achievements this year has been the finalisation of our agreement with the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) to take over the high performance aspects of Para-Equestrian. Thank you to the APC for their financial and professional support and special thanks to Brett Mace, EA High Performance Manager, for creating a successful national program in a few short months culminating in the first Para-Equestrian National Championships at SIEC in September 2009.

At the World Equestrian Games, now less than 12 months away in Kentucky, USA, Equestrian Australia is expecting to send its largest team ever, with the sport of Reining joining the sports of Eventing, Jumping, Dressage, Vaulting, Carriage Driving, Endurance and Para-Equestrian.

In January this year, Equestrian was invited by the Australian Olympic Committee to be one of the sports in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival. Teams from New Zealand, Singapore, Great Britain, Japan, Malaysia and the USA competed on borrowed horses in Jumping and Dressage. Thanks to the National Office staff and especially Franz Venhaus and his wife Toni for making this event such a success. Importantly, the event could not have been conducted without the generosity of those owners who lent their horses – thank you.

Domestically, despite the financial recession, FEI international and national competitions have had sustained entries and provided important goals and benchmarks for our own home-based elite riders. The performance standard is continuously improving and the competition becomes fiercer as our athletes become more and more professional in their approach to their varying sports, whether aspiring to an Olympic team or a State Championship. Whilst we know that many of our individual elite athletes take off for Europe or the USA to benefit from the critical

mass of events and commercial opportunities available to sustain their own competition schedules, we must strive to maintain and grow the number of high quality international events conducted in Australia. It is important for us and also important to maintain our role as a leader in equestrian sport in the Asia Pacific region.

One concern, however, is the future of the 4-star 'Australian International 3-Day Event' in Adelaide. This is an important event in the hearts and minds of all of the Eventing fraternity. A 4-star event is absolutely essential for the continued health of the sport in the region and the development of our competitive international combinations. The National Board hopes that the Adelaide organising committee can consolidate the support it gained this year into a financial model that will sustain the event in the calendar into the future. Equestrian Australia has been providing strong financial support to the event but this cannot continue indefinitely.

This year the Board has started a project into whether it is feasible to put in a bid to conduct the 2018 or 2022 World Equestrian Games in Australia. The Board is also continuing to negotiate on a license agreement with Definitive Events and the possible conduct of Equitana in NSW, as well as in Victoria in alternative years. Plans for an April Equestrian month in NSW supported by the NSW State Government and the NSW RAS are well advanced.

The Board also investigated strategies for making more commercial opportunity from online TV coverage of our major equestrian events. Especially it is investigating how to use the new FEI Internet TV site to our own advantage and also to the possibility of providing more coverage on our own Equestrian Australia website. The sports and event organizing committees need to make sure competition series and consistent calendar schedules are developed for all of our sports to encourage a new internet audience.

Financial Position

Equestrian Australia continues to be in a solid financial state, and the world financial crisis seems to have had only a minimal impact on our sport. However, there could be some multiplier effects still to roll through the equestrian industry.

EA is quite significantly dependent on federal government funding for its High Performance program. At the Board's strategic planning meetings this year it was reiterated that EA needs to develop new income streams, perhaps

even optimize commercial opportunities such as web media and proportionally reduce its dependence on government funding.

The Crawford Report into federal government sports funding is long awaited and due in November. The forward news coming from government is that sport expenditure will be reduced including a suggestion that government funding to many Olympic sports be phased out over the next seven years, concentrating on the certain gold medal sports. Equestrian continues to be one of those. But the difficulty is the lack of certainty of what to expect and the consequence that has on forward budgeting for 2010-11, especially in a World Equestrian Games year.

To Levy or not to Levy

The EA Board has confirmed on a number of occasions that it supports the signing of Emergency Animal Diseases Response Agreement (EADRA) and the establishment of a levy, provided a satisfactory 'as equitable as possible' levy mechanism can be established. Equestrian Australia continued in this post-EI year to liaise with both the Australian Horse Industry Council and Animal Health Australia on the proposed levy situation.

EA is seeking to become an individual member of Animal Health Australia in order that the interests of the many sports we control are properly heard and represented. The outcome should be known in November.

It became clear during the EI postmortem and discussion about the proposed levy that there was not enough factual and accurate data about the size of the non-racing equestrian industry and its economic multipliers. A major survey of the industry needs to be commissioned to not only quantify horse numbers and socio-economic dimensions but also to underline its essentially different nature from that of primary producers.

Membership Services

The membership services provided by the National Office and also the State Branches continue to expand. Web and email communication has proved such a boon to keep our members informed and also to consult with our members as the sports committees have so ably done so.

Our education programs conducted by the National Office or under national standards at state level as well as the increasing numbers of trainee coaches attests to the work of our National Office Education team, Nathan Holman and Rebecca Willis. The strategic direction is

that many of the educational services should be delivered on line in order to improve access to our members in regional areas.

I have to say a special word here about the magazine Ethos produced in a very professional manner by the National Office. It contains a range of technical and educational articles for all of our coaches and officials and is sent out free of charge several times a year. It is also available on line.

The Constitution

Finally, in September this year, the "new" constitution was passed after more than 18 months of negotiation and consultation with the stakeholders, the State Branches. The need for change was driven by the fact that the status of the National company needed to change under the Corporations Act from a company limited by guarantee and shares to a company limited by guarantee only. The Australian Sports Commission's governance principle 1.2 sets out that "national sporting organisations should be incorporated as a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001". The process became protracted as personnel at Branch level changed, but finally in a positive meeting between the National Board and the Branch Chairs held in June 2009, the final version was achieved. It becomes effective on 1 February 2010. I hope that the constitution provides for a continued balance between the independent National Board and the role of the Branch members.

With this new constitution, the Northern Territory will cease to be a voting member and the administration of that state's EA equestrian activities is now provided by Equestrian Queensland.

Strategic Planning

The Board has spent considerable time this year in developing the strategic direction for Equestrian Australia 2009-2013. In June, the Board met with the State Branch Chairs and agreed on the Key Result Areas and some priority actions. There is still work to be done at a further joint meeting with the new Board in December 2009.

To get to the next level as a sporting organisation it is imperative that the National Board and the State Branches work cooperatively in tandem to achieve the jointly prioritized strategic action list.

IT Review

At the June Board meeting a decision was made to review the current website platform

and other communication functionality as well as the national database with a subcommittee including Branch representatives. A master plan is currently being developed and should be completed before the end of 2009.

Anti-Doping

No one in the equestrian world would have been able to ignore the significance of the many positive tests at the 2008 Hong Kong Olympics (and other prominent international cases) and the critical impact this has had on how the sport is viewed by the IOC, existing and potential sponsors, not to say the sports world as a whole.

The Board takes the matter of ensuring a drug free sport in Australia very seriously and already has instigated through the Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control Rules and the associated Horse Medication Control/Swabbing Policy, a program of drug testing at State and National level.

Dr Warwick Vale is to be thanked for his outstanding work in creating the necessary domestic policy and procedures and actively encouraging all State Branches to carry out and support the testing programs.

The FEI has recently released a final draft of the new FEI equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations following the Stevens Commission report and broad consultation with National Federations and FEI Stakeholders. The potential trickle down impact on our own policies is yet to be finalized and is one of the most critical issues for the next Board to consider.

The Board

The Governance Review of 2003 recommended that Equestrian Australia retain its federation model but with an independent Board elected by the shareholders. Yes, it is skills-based and yes, it is also an independent board. It is the latter criterion, which is the most significant – the National Board is the only forum, at which the combined view of the Board and its Branches can be developed into national policies. The independence of the Board members from their member states is crucial in order to avoid conflicts of interest or partiality and for decisions to be made with the national benefit uppermost in mind.

Thank you to the Board this year for its robust discussion and commitment. A special thanks to Kerry Brydon and Peter Hickson, who will step down this year after many years of service to Equestrian Australia. Kerry and I were the remaining two directors elected to the first independent board and are to retire this year.

Thank you

Thank you to the “army” of volunteers that service the sport in many capacities around Australia. Without you we simply would not have a sport! Thank you also to the organising committees (many of them club based) that provide the basis for our domestic competition programs.

Thank you to all of the staff at the National Office who have supported me firstly as a Director and as President this year.

Especially thank you to Franz Venhaus – he is one of a kind. This year has been a difficult one for him with his severe illness and operation but Franz in his inimitable way managed to continue to keep in touch with the office even from his hospital bed. He has given over seven years of dedicated service as a CEO to Equestrian Australia and has put the organization on a sound financial and administrative footing with a comprehensive suite of national policies in place. Franz has developed respected relationships with federal agencies such as the Australian Sports Commission and also internationally with the FEI. This is very important for our on going viability as a sport within Australia and also within the region.

As Franz has made the decision to step down from his position in mid-2010, one of the most important decisions the next Board will make is to appoint a replacement.

This is my last year of serving Equestrian Australia for over more than 30 years. I will continue my involvement very much on the sport official side as an Olympic Level dressage judge and I will remain for a few years as Chair of the National Dressage Judges Committee.

I have enjoyed being part of the development of the sport in Australia and my time working with like-minded colleagues. The structure of the sport and the policies, which have been created at national level, have made Equestrian Australia a benchmark sporting organisation, respected nationally and internationally. I personally have met many wonderful people, experienced many exhilarating competition moments and as they say the fun has been in the journey. Good luck to the new Board.

Mary Seefried

President, Equestrian Australia

2009

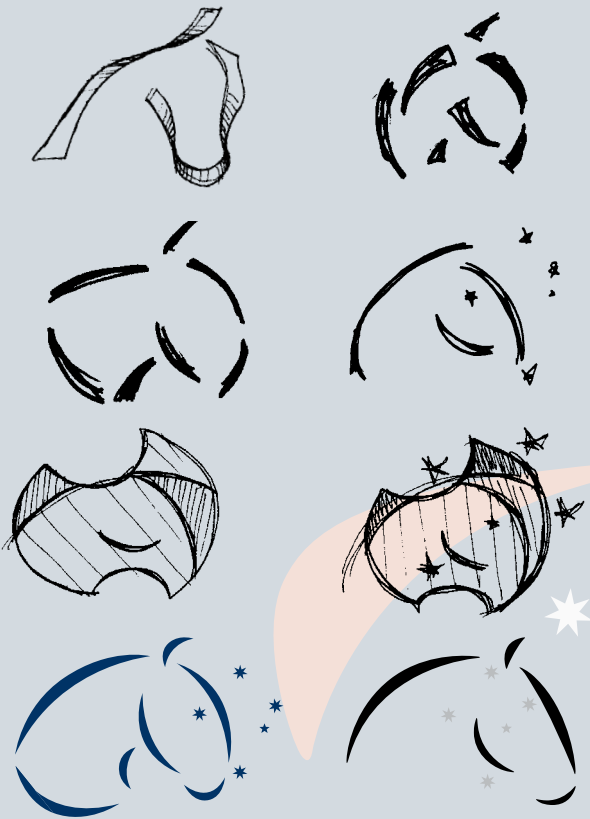


Photo: Ken Braddick - dressage-news.com





EA Brand Development



CEO's Report

One of the highlights of the year ended 30 June 2008 was, of course, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and our best-ever overall performance for three complete teams at Olympic Games. We are grateful to all those who contributed to this success: riders (or 'athletes' as we call them now), the horses and their generous owners, and the teams behind them, who helped in the planning, preparation and execution of the Olympic campaign. We are particularly thankful to the Australian Government and the Australian Sports Commission for providing additional funds to help us make up the setbacks experienced during the Equine Influenza outbreak.

Although EA was at that time not responsible as yet for the High Performance management of Para-Equestrian sport in Australia, I would also like to proudly acknowledge the success of our Paralympic riders at the Paralympic Games, which used the same venue in Hong Kong.

New Brand

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting, the Federation adopted the name 'Equestrian Australia' and introduced a new range of logos coordinated for Branches and Disciplines.

I believe we can be very proud of this new 'brand'. The Equestrian Australia brand mark is a sleek, modern and fresh approach to the silhouette of a horse head and map of Australia. Ochre (our sun-burnt country), gold (the sun) and navy (the sea) have been used as a modern interpretation of Australian colours.

Using stylised, boomerang-like shapes, this logo has qualities that project the organisation as:

- Precise
- Streamlined
- Effective
- Striving for excellence.

Financials

The Federation had a minor deficit due to additional event support following the end of Equine Influenza crisis. There are some financial charts at the back of this Annual Report but the complete Financial Report is available for download from our web www.equestrian.org.au. The outlook for the coming year is for a larger deficit partly because we will need to invest in updated technology.

Insurance

We have been able to provide excellent insurance packages through our brokers Aon

and have negotiated reduced premiums, which will continue for the coming year.

National Office Staff

There have been some staff changes at the National Office. Tracey Lesslie has taken over from Siobhan Laphorne looking after Dressage, Show Horse and various other areas, and Rebecca Willis is assisting in the Education, Coaching and Officiating area in the job previously held by Diana Sutherland.

I would like to thank all staff and the many "volunteer" Committee members, officials and other volunteers for their support in the administration of the sport.

FEI and the FEI General Assembly

The Assembly was held in Buenos Aires and was hailed as a success. I am also pleased to say my presentation on 'Eurocentricity' of FEI thinking during the Development workshop make quite an impact. Let's hope it will bring the desired changes.

The recent 2009 FEI General Assembly was, however, marred by controversy over last-minute changes proposed by the FEI to its Governance Structure and its 'Clean Sport' policy and associated Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations. The former was defeated in a vote by National Federations. The adoption of the so-called 'Progressive List' of medications, which allowed limited use of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in competition was later reversed and will be presented again to the 2010 General Assembly.

The FEI's new information technology (IT) system has provided an 'extranet' for the 'FEI Family' of National Federations, committees and sport-technical officials. A lot of work can and will be done on-line.

Further developments including on-line entries for FEI events are well underway, although some of the planned improvements experienced considerable delays.

EA National Forum and National Awards

There was no National Forum this year. It is now planned for early to mid-2010.

National Awards were presented at venues and on occasions that suited the recipients, and our new designs were appreciated. Congratulations to all award recipients!

2009-2013 Strategic Plan

In June, we submitted an overview of our Strategic Plan to the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) to fulfil part of our obligations for funding. Presently, we do not

have the 'usual' four-year funding guarantee because the Minister for Sport is awaiting the recommendations of the Independent Sports Panel ('Crawford Inquiry') for the future of Australian sport. We have not experienced this level of uncertainty for over a decade now. I hope that our success at the recent Olympic Games and our excellent track record, also in the general management and governance of the sport and the organisation, will stand us in good stead as far as continued funding is concerned.

National Industry Representation

I am pleased to advise that Equestrian Australia has been admitted as a separate member of Animal Health Australia (AHA). I have been working towards achieving this since the outbreak of Equine Influenza in late 2007, when it became apparent that equestrian sport needed to have independent input into policy and decision-making at the highest level. Although EFA/EA has regularly been invited to 'sit at the table' in various forums, including the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and the AQIS Horse Industry Consultative Committee, its position in the 'industry' had not been formally recognised until now.

Membership of AHA and participation in various forums also brings with it a number of responsibilities, something we always need to be aware of. A constructive contribution to the debate on how to structure an equitable levy system that enables the signing of the Emergency Animal Diseases Response Agreement (EADRA) is just one example. We need to make sure that if there is another emergency disease outbreak, the governments will be there to support us.

The Outlook

Climate change and the continuing drought in many areas of Australia, the world economic crisis and the uncertainty surrounding government funding of sport make forecasting the future a little difficult. There is, however, some certainty about my future: I will be retiring from this job in the middle of 2010, after handing over to my successor in the second quarter of the year.

Franz Venhaus CEO

PS: I suggest that in future, the 'Annual Report' will cover the calendar year, not the financial year. The national competition year is much more related to the calendar year. In fact many sections of this report contain events and statistics from the post-June 2009 period.



High Performance Report

1. Olympic Games

As was reported in the 2007-08 Annual Report, Australia qualified all three Olympic discipline teams for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Dressage & Jumping conducted their pre-Olympic campaign in Europe, while Eventing had a 'split' campaign in both England & Australia.

Results were as follows:

Eventing

Team Silver Medal - Total score: 171.2.

Individual Results:

- Megan Jones and *Kirby Park Irish Jester* – 4th with 59.00
- Clayton Fredericks and *Ben Along Time* – 7th with 61.40
- Sonja Johnson and *Ringwoud Jaguar* – 10th with 66.80
- Lucinda Fredericks and *Headley Britannia* – 26th with 59.60
- Shane Rose and *All Luck* – 27th with 70.50

Note: Had all 5 scores counted, AUS would have convincingly won the gold medal.

Jumping

Team:

7th - Total score 41 penalties (Note: The original position was 9th but the German and Norwegian Teams were re-classified following doping convictions of two riders.)

Individual:

- Edwina Alexander and *Isovlas Itot du Chateau* - =10th
- Matt Williams and *Leconte 6* – 21st
- Laurie Lever and *Ashleigh Drossel Dan* – 23rd
- Peter McMahon and *Kolora Stud Genoa* – 47th

There were a total of 77 competitors in the individual competition.

Dressage

Team

7th - Total score 64.625

Individual:

- Hayley Beresford and *Relampago Do Retiro* – 18th with total score 66.320
- Kristy Oatley and *Quando-Quando* – 19th with total score of 66.080

- Heath Ryan and *Greenoaks Dundee* – 35th with a total score of 62.542

The results achieved by all teams achieved the benchmarks as agreed by the ASC & EA.

2. Paralympic Games

The Australian Paralympic Team did very well, with Georgia Bruce gaining two Individual Bronze medals riding Carolyn Lieutenant's *Victory Salute*. The Team finished sixth overall. As reported later, the Australian Paralympic Committee had asked EA to take on the High Performance management for Para-Equestrian, and this program commenced 01 January 2009.

3. Australian Sports Commission -(ASC)

In March 2008, the HPP was asked to make a presentation to the ASC to outline the proposed HP Program for the period 2009-13. A decision on funding for this period was to be made following the Olympic Games, which would allow a quick and effective transition into the next Olympic cycle.

The Federal Government then commissioned Mr. David Crawford to conduct a review into the structure and funding of sport in Australia, which then put on hold further plans for the period 2009-13. The ASC advised sports that due to this review, sports would be funded as per the 2007-08 levels.

Following an Olympic Games, all HPP disciplines spend the subsequent period starting to implement the new program and building towards the next Olympic Games. The HP Program is pretty much in a 'holding pattern' until the Crawford enquiry is handed down and the ASC looks to implement what may possibly be a revised program.

All of the above did not impact directly on the HP Program for the 2008-09 year as the operational plan for that year had been approved by the ASC. It just meant that planning and restructuring for the following years will be delayed by 12 months.

On behalf of the HP Program and supporters we thank the Federal Government and the ASC for their ongoing support in the Program achieving the success that it has. We also value the work of our ASC Consultant Debra Waser who has been a strong advocate for the sport of Equestrian within the ASC and thank her for her efforts in securing additional for the program throughout the last 3 years.

We are now pleased to welcome Wanda Sipa as our new ASC Sports Consultant and have already established an excellent working relationship with her.

4. HPP Appointments

Following each Olympic Games, appointments for key positions are made for the following four years as per EA Guidelines. These appointments

are listed below under each discipline and are effective until 31 December 2012.

The only exception is Para-Equestrian, where appointments are only until December 2010. This decision was made because the program was new to EA and it was felt that a review of positions would be best after the first major event, which is 2010 WEG.

Following the 2012 Olympic Games, the Para-Equestrian appointments will then be for four years in line with Olympic appointments.

5. Jumping High Performance Program

a. Major International Results

- Chris Chugg and *Vivant* – 3rd GP CSI3* Spangenburg
- Matt Williams and *Leconte 6* – 7th GP CSI4* La Coruna
- Edwina Alexander and *Isovlas Itot du Chateau* – 3rd GP CSI5* Lyon
- Edwina Alexander and *Isovlas Itot du Chateau* – 3rd CSI5* Brussels
- Caitlin Bolger, Jessica Brown, Olivia Hamood and Tom McDermott – Silver Medal AYOF Team Jumping
- Harley Brown and *Cassiato* – 2nd GP CSI-W Thermal
- Lane Clarke and *Kiss the Sky* – 4th GP CSI-W Thermal
- Peter McMahon and *Kolora Stud Genoa* – 1st COC Qualifier NZL HOTY
- Wendy Schaeffer and *Koyuna Sun Set* – equal 2nd COC Qualifier NZL HOTY
- Julia Hargreaves and *Copabella Haymen* – equal 2nd COC Qualifier NZL HOTY
- Edwina Alexander and *Isovlas Itot du Chateau* – 3rd GP CSI5* Valencia
- James Paterson-Robinson and *Select* – 4th GP CSI3* Lons Le Saunier

b. HP Appointments

National Coach	Gilbert Böckmann (Germany)
Chef d'Equipe	Stephen Lamb (NSW)
Veterinarian	Andrew Hunt (SA)
Chair of Selectors	Peter Cooke (WA)
Selectors	Graeme Watts (Qld) Rod Brown (NSW)

6. Eventing High Performance Program

a. Major International Results

- Clayton Fredericks and *Ben Along Time* – 1st World Cup Final CIC3*-W Deauville
- Megan Jones and *Kirby Park Irish Jester* – 1st CIC3*-W Kihikihi

- Lucinda Fredericks and *Headley Britannia* – 1st CCI4* Rolex Kentucky
- Sam Griffiths and Happy Times – 3rd CCI4* Badminton

b. HP Appointments

National Coach	Wayne Roycroft (NSW)
Chef d'Equipe	Rob Hanna (Vic)
Veterinarian	Denis Goulding (SA)
Chair of Selectors	Seumas Marwood (Vic)
Selectors	Barry Roycroft (Vic) Gill Rolton (SA) Jim Dunn (SA)

7. Dressage High Performance Program

a. Major International Results

- Gabriella Robson, Robbie Soster and Victoria Welch – AYOF Team Silver Medal
- Victoria Welch – AYOF Individual Gold Medal
- Hayley Beresford and Relampago Do Retiro – 5th GP Kur CDI4* Dortmund

b. HP appointments

National Coach	Vacant
Chef d'Equipe	Deborah MacNicol (Vic)
Veterinarian	Janine Dwyer (Qld)
Chair of Selectors	Joanne Fowler (WA)
Selectors	Maria Schwennesen(Q) Virginia Creed (Vic)

8. Australian Olympic Committee (AOC)

Following the Olympic Games, the AOC commissioned a High Performance Plan to submit to Government and the Crawford Review that would seriously revamp the Australian High Performance Program. This plan amounted to funding Olympic sports to a figure of around \$100 million per year, with the Equestrian component approximately \$7 million p.a.

The Equestrian plan focussed on extensive European campaigns each year for Dressage and Jumping, additional support for AUS-based Eventers to access International competition and also a significant boost to develop competition domestically across all disciplines.

Unfortunately we were advised at the AOC AGM that while the Government will consider this report along with the recommendations from the Crawford Review, they would not be considering it for 2009-10.

Also at the AOC AGM, Russ Withers was re-elected the Executive Board for another four-year term and we congratulate Russ on his election and look forward to his continued promotion of Equestrian sport within the AOC.

9. Para-Equestrian Program

On 01 January 2009, EA took on the role in managing the Para-Equestrian program from the Riding for the Disabled of Australia. The intention from the outset was that Para-Equestrian would become the fourth discipline within the HP Program with the same structure and operation of the other Olympic disciplines.

As with most new programs there were some early difficulties but these were quickly overcome and the program continues to evolve with a High Performance Panel in place guiding the program towards the debut of Para-Equestrian at the WEG in Kentucky in 2010.

Para-Equestrian HP appointments until 31 December 2010 are:

National Coach	Julia Battams (Vic)
Chef d'Equipe	Sally Francis (Vic)
Veterinarian	Janine Dwyer (Qld)
Sport Representative	Sharyn Gregory (NSW)
Chair of Selectors	Pauline Perry (Tas)
Selectors	Deborah MacNicol (Vic) Sue Bright (Qld)

10. World Equestrian Games – Kentucky

A delegation consisting of the HPM, the Dressage & Jumping Chefs d'Equipe and the Eventing National Coach visited Kentucky in April in conjunction with the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event. This trip was made possible by additional ASC for that purpose. We are grateful to the ASC for this additional support.

Most of our major competitor National Federations such as Germany & Great Britain had large delegations in Kentucky at this time to meet with the WEG OC. There were a number of briefings where the key concerns such as the overly inflated accommodation costs for teams and horse movement into the US were discussed.

Chris Burke from IRT was also present at the meetings. The AUS delegation inspected the current Quarantine facilities and also alternative premises offered at no charge to AUS. Unfortunately we will not be able to accept the latter as the cost of approving it as a quarantine property would be greater than the cost of using the approved facility.

There are various issues in relation to the vaccination of AUS-based horses talks are continuing between AQIS, IRT & EA.

EA is currently planning to have all disciplines field teams at WEG in 2010.

Brett Mace

High Performance Manager



AUSTRALIAN
EQUESTRIAN
TEAM

National Team Sponsors



Education Department Report

COACHING

Coaching Statistics

The total number of candidates enrolled in one of the EA Certificate (Horse Management & Riding) or Accreditation (Coaching) Courses for the period July 08 to June 09 was 1876. These are added to the 9,400 existing candidates who have already purchased and commenced one of the training workbooks.

EA had 1,142 registered coaches (practicing and non-practicing) in 2009, an increase on previous years (2007 & 2008).



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA
NCAS COACH

The past 12 months has seen a 30% increase in the number of Trainee coaches registering with EA as well as a 25% increase in the Introductory coaches who have completed the course requirements and are now registered and accredited coaches.

OFFICIATING

Eventing and Jumping Officials re-accreditation

In 2008, the National Office undertook the management of all accreditation of new officials in each sport and the re-accreditation of all existing accredited officials for Dressage and Show Horse.

EA undertook the re-accrediting Jumping and Eventing Officials in 2009 and will continue with additional disciplines over the following years. The Education Department worked with each State Representative on the NEC and NJC and obtained a list of all State-based Officials who the State has accredited as an Official and communicated with each of these on their re-accreditation.

The total number of Officials (Judges, Technical Delegates, Courses Designers, Stewards, HSS etc) that are registered and re-accredited by the National Office has grown to over 1400.

Each of these Officials has a 2-year re-accreditation period for their level of accreditation.

Courses

(Education, Coaching and Officiating)

EA Coach Educator / Skills Specific Trainers and Assessors Update courses

Throughout May & June 2009, the EA Education Department, with the assistance of branch NCAS Coordinators, ran National CE/SSTA Update

course in WA, SA, Qld, Vic and NSW. In total over 100 CEs and SSTAs attended one of the courses and had their CE or SSTA qualification renewed for another two years.

The purpose behind running these courses from a National level was twofold:

1. To ensure the content and information presented to CEs and SSTAs was the same irrespective of State location
2. As the CE/SSTA qualification is a National program and qualification there is a strong need to ensure not only compliance with policies and procedures but to also ensure the evidence collection and assessment process is being conducted according to the National standards established and not by the individual CEs and SSTAs.

EA Dressage Judge Educators/Mentors Seminar

The EA National Office, in conjunction with the NDJC, coordinated and ran a National Dressage Judge Educators & Mentors Seminar in Nov 2008.

The National Seminar was made possible through an Australian Sports Commission Women in Sport Leadership grant.

The Seminar objectives were to:

1. For all Judge Educators / Mentors to meet for the first time as national body
2. To identify the pertinent issues and possible solutions in which to improve Dressage Judge education and training in Australia
3. Review and receive feedback from Judge Educators and Mentors about the application of the NOAS EA Dressage Judge Accreditation program
4. To identify ways in which to improve the NOAS Accreditation process
5. To review the current candidate resources and identify potential opportunities
6. To identify what resources JEs and Mentors need in their role

In total over 45 Dressage JEs and Mentors attended the seminar and each State was represented.

FEI Group VIII Stewards General Seminar

EA, in conjunction with Jacques Van Deale (FEI Dressage Steward General) hosted a meeting of Group 8 Stewards Generals to discuss the developments, training and accreditation program of FEI Stewards.

Stewards General representing Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia were present for the meeting and also attended the FEI Dressage and Eventing Stewards Course for the following three days.

FEI Dressage and Eventing Stewards Course

The EA National Office, in conjunction with Jacques Van Deale, coordinated and ran a

Dressage (2 days) and Eventing (1 day) FEI Stewards Course in Dec 2008.

In total over 57 participants registered and attended either course run, with presenters Jacques Van Deale (Dressage) and Di Schrapel (Eventing).

FEI Jumping Stewards Course

In January 09, Katrina Dukats coordinated and ran a FEI Jumping Stewards Course for 14 stewards to become FEI accredited. For 2 days the participants were taken through the FEI Jumping Stewarding requirements by Course Director N.Y. Ho (Singapore).

The course was run in conjunction with the Youth Olympics being run at SIEC.

FEI Endurance Officials Course

Through the assistance and coordination of Barbara Timms, 3 FEI Endurance Officials' Courses were run in NSW, WA and Qld throughout June, August and October.

The FEI Course Directors, Barbara Timms (Judges), Brian Sheahan (Veterinarians) and Glenda Armitage (Stewards) traversed the country to present the courses to over 65 participants at one of the three venues.

EA Horse Sampling Stewards (HSS)

Throughout the first half of 2009, Warwick Vale (National MCP Officer) ran HSS courses to accredit new and also update existing Horse Swabbing Stewards.

Courses were run in Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide with over 50 participants attending one of the venues.

The Sydney course was combined with a meeting of Branch Medication Control Officers, with all States represented. The BMCO meeting outlined the procedural and process changes in ensure all States were operating under the National Medication Control Policies.

Christoph Hess Clinic

Through the assistance of Jenine Delts (EWA High Performance Manager) EA coordinated and ran State based clinics in Vic, NSW, Qld and WA with international coach / Dressage Judge - Christoph Hess from Germany.

The clinics were designed for both coaches and officials with Christoph spending a considerable amount of time discussing the benefits of harmony between horse and rider.

SDA representatives in each of the states coordinated the venues, demo riders and the clinics themselves. In total over 450 coaches, officials, riders and spectators attended one of the four clinics that Christoph conducted.

As a lead up to the one day clinic, Christoph also conducted 25 individual lessons with riders in each of the states.

Coaches and Officials Communication

EA ethos Magazine

The EA National Office produced another 4 editions of the combined coaches and officials magazine 'Ethos' in the past year.

Publication of the magazine has grown to over 2500 with the addition of Jumping and Eventing Officials now registered on the EA web site.

The magazine is continuing to update and inform coaches and officials on EA and FEI news, event results and changes within the specific disciplines.

The magazine is generates strong interest with articles and feedback being supplied by members after each edition.

Online 'ethos' e-newsletter email

Alternating each month the 'Ethos' e-newsletter is e-mailed to all registered coaches (practicing, non-practicing and candidates) and registered officials. The communication is designed to offer any updates on the NCAS or NOAS scheme as well as any changes to the sport rules. Included is information of upcoming courses, seminars, news and an overview of EA NCAS / NOAS calendar of dates and coming events.

EA Members Survey

In September 2008, the EA National Office released an on-line survey for Coach Candidates, Current Coaches, and EA Members.

1. Members Survey for EA members
2. Coaches Survey for EA accredited and registered coaches
3. Coach Candidates Survey for current and previous candidates who are or who have been undertaking the EA NCAS Coach training to become accredited coaches.

In total over 2,350 EA members completed one of the 3 surveys.

EA Education Staff

Early 2009 saw the departure of Diana Sutherland from the Education Department and Equestrian Australia. Diana had elected to take time off to travel overseas and EA thanks Diana for her contribution for the past 3 ½ years.

Rebecca Willis, formally the NCAS Coordinator for Equestrian Victoria, moved to Sydney to fill the position as EA Sports Consultant – Education, Coaching and Officiating joining me in the EA Education Department.

Nathan Holman

National Education Manager

Sport Logos

(in alphabetical order.)



DRESSAGE AUSTRALIA



DRIVING AUSTRALIA



ENDURANCE AUSTRALIA



EVENTING AUSTRALIA



JUMPING AUSTRALIA



PARA-EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA



REINING AUSTRALIA



SHOW HORSE AUSTRALIA



VAULTING AUSTRALIA

State & Territory Logos

(in alphabetical order)



EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



EQUESTRIAN NEW SOUTH WALES



EQUESTRIAN NORTHERN TERRITORY



EQUESTRIAN QUEENSLAND



EQUESTRIAN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



EQUESTRIAN TASMANIA



EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA



EQUESTRIAN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dressage Report

The 2008/2009 Financial Year has been another history-making year for Dressage as you can see below.

The Australian Dressage Committee (ADC) is a skills-based committee. During the year the 2-year term of 3 members expired and applications were sought from the EA membership to fill these positions. Seven applications were received and the State Dressage Committees (SDAs) re-elected Lesley Sullivan, Susie Hovenaars and Cathie Drury-Klein to the ADC to April 2011. At the April 2009 meeting Lesley Sullivan was re-elected as Chair of the ADC.

During the reporting period the ADC met on 3 occasions – September 2008, January and April 2009. At the September 2008 meeting the Chairs of the SDAs were invited to attend. The purpose was to review how the ADC was operating as a skills-based committee rather than a state-representative committee.

I am pleased to report that the SDAs were all in agreement that the ADC as a skills based committee was working well. It was agreed that the ADC would meet with the Chairs of the SDAs annually at the September meeting.

The Australian Dressage Judges Committee (ADJC) was renamed from National Dressage Judges Committee. It was agreed that the general membership should have an opportunity to apply to become a member of this committee. As a result of advertising 7 applications were received. Effective from 1/1/09 the following were elected – Mary Seefried (Chair) and Jan Geary for 3 years, Virginia Creed and Sue Bright for 2 years, and Joanne Fowler for 1 year.

Regretfully Siobhan Laphorne resigned in July to further her career and take up employment with the New Zealand Federation. Tracey Lesslie commenced in September 2008 as the Sports Consultant for Dressage. Tracey has settled well into the role and is a hard working employee for the sport of Dressage.

National Positions

As is the usual practice after an Olympic Games, all National positions were advertised towards the end of 2008 with the following results:

- Selectors Joanne Fowler (Chair)
 Virginia Creed
 Maria Schwennesen
- Chef d'Equipe Deborah MacNicol
- Team Vet Janine Dwyer
- Youth Development Coordinator
 Jan Smith

Riders Representative

Congratulations to Liz Owens, who was elected by the riders at the Riders Forum held in conjunction with the 2008 Australian Dressage Championships to be their representative for the next 2 years.

FEI Judges

Congratulations to Maria Schwennesen, who was successful in competing all the prerequisites and upgrading exams in Portugal in December 2008 to upgrade to FEI4* status.

It is fantastic that many of our FEI Judges are being recognised and being invited to judge overseas. Just some of the judging appointments include:

- Mary Seefried (FEI5*) – member of the Ground Jury of the 2009 World Cup Dressage Final in Las Vegas
- Susie Hovenaars (FEI4*) – Head of the Ground Jury for Group IX for the 2008 FEI World Dressage Challenge (this is a first for an AUS judge), member of the Ground Jury for the 2008 FEI Young Rider World Cup
- Maria Schwennesen (FEI4*) – New Zealand, America, Germany, Malaysia and Japan
- Virginia Creed (FEI4*) – New Zealand
- Ricky MacMillan (FEI3*) – Germany and America
- Irene Bakels-Noreen (FEI3*) – Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore

A&B Judges' Exams

These exams are now coordinated by the ADJC and conducted only at the Australian Championships in Sydney in October and at the Dressage Festival at Werribee in December each year. In 2008 the following passed their A level exam – Helen Anstee (Qld), Jane Bruce (NSW), Jane Ventura (Vic).

The following passed their B exam – Jacqui Huppert (Qld), Tracy Rathjen (Qld), Nicole Tough (Qld), Jill Suban (Tas), Gill Botten (WA)

Judges Educators/Mentors Conference

The first conference for Judge Educators and Mentors was held in Melbourne at the same time as Equitana. This event was a huge success with 23 Judge Educators and 22 Mentors attending from every state in Australia with the exception of the NT.

FEI/National Dressage Stewards Course

The first Dressage Stewards Course was held at Werribee in Victoria in December 2009 facilitated by Jacques van Daele from Belgium. This was another huge success with attendees from New Zealand, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia as well as from Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales.

At the end of this course the following were

recommended for FEI Candidate Steward accreditation – Lesley Sullivan and Irene Bakels-Noreen.

Dressage Tests

The ADC has adopted the American Dressage tests under licence from USEF. These tests became effective from 1 July 2009.

Rule Book

Several amendments to the 2008 Dressage Rule Book were implemented from 1 January 2009.

National Scoring System

A National Scoring System, developed by Keith Smith from Queensland, was rolled out to affiliated clubs free of charge in January 2009. This is an MS Excel-based system that is compatible with the Equestrian Australia database and makes the downloading of results into the data base much simpler. A new version with all the new tests added was rolled out in June 2009.

Events

2008 Olympic Games

Congratulations to our wonderful dressage team – Kristy Oatley and Quando-Quando, Hayley Beresford and Relampago do Retiro and Heath Ryan and Greenoaks Dundee - in placing Australia in 7th place (after the USA were disqualified) at the 2008 Olympics held in Hong Kong in August 2008. Rozzie Ryan and Donna Carrera travelled as reserve.

2008 World Young Horse Championships – August 2008

Australia was well represented at this event at Verden in Germany by Maree Tomkinson and Diamantina who placed 10th in the 6-year old final.

YR World Cup Final – December 2008

This event was held in Frankfurt, Germany and our own Susie Hoevenaars was a member of the judging panel. Jayden Brown and Widelo represented Australia at this prestigious event for Young Riders. They placed a creditable 7th and won the B final Freestyle. Well done Jayden. Jayden remained in Germany to further his training.

Pacific League World Cup Final – December 2008

This event was once again held at Werribee in conjunction with the Dressage Festival. Heath Ryan and Regardez Moi won the right to represent Australia in the FEI World Cup final being held in Las Vegas in April 2009.

2009 Australian Youth Olympic Festival

In January 2009 Dressage was once again included in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival.

Riders from Great Britain, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, and Malaysia travelled to Australian to compete on borrowed horses.

The Australian Team was Victoria Welch, Gabriella Robson and Roberta Soster. Judges were Virginia Creed (AUS), Sue Hobson (NZL), Gisela Nilsson-Harding (AUS), Kyli Bullock (AUS). The Individual Gold Medal was won by Victoria Welch for Australia and the Australian team won Silver behind Great Britain (Gold). New Zealand took out the Bronze Medal.

FEI Dressage World Cup – April 2009

This was held in glitzy Las Vegas and our own Mary Seefried (FEI O) was a member of the Ground Jury for this prestigious event. Our Australian representative was Heath Ryan riding the stallion Regardez Moi owned by Margaret Evans.

Dressage with the Stars – March 2009

This important event on the Dressage calendar was held at Werribee and incorporates the Australian Young Horse Championships and this year a CDI2*. Once again Young Horse Specialist Dr Ulf Muller was in attendance and was one of the judges. Dr Muller conducted a Young Horse Workshop after the event which was very well attended and enjoyed.

Two horses have been selected by the Australian Dressage Selectors for the 5 year old category at the World Dressage Young Horse Championships, which will be held 5-9 August, in Verden, Germany and they are Kristy Oatley and her stallion Swagman 2 and Robert Schmerglatt and the mare Fonteyne owned by Linda and Beau Dowsett. Congratulations to both parties and we wish them the best of luck for the event.

Sydney CDI3 - May 2009*

This event would have to be the most prestigious event on the Dressage Calendar and it just gets better and better each year under the leadership of Event Director Toni Venhaus and her dedicated band of volunteers.

This year saw an Australian record set by Brett Parbery and Victory Salute (owned by Carolyn Lieutenant) when they broke the 70% barrier and scored 70.34% in the International Grand Prix. This combination scored 73.5% to also win the GP Freestyle. These are both fantastic results which certainly augers well for dressage in Australia.

Lesley Sullivan
Chair
Australian Dressage
Committee



Eventing Report

The High Performance Program has been instrumental throughout the financial year of 2008-2009 allowing our Elite riders to compete over International standard cross-country courses under the watchful eyes of Overseas Ground Juries, both within Australia and overseas. Our riders were able to arrive at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games with the best possible preparation thanks to the support of the HP program.

This program allowed the Team Coach Wayne Roycroft and Veterinarian Dr Denis Goulding to train and assess Australian horses both within Australia and in Great Britain, where our Elite Long Listed riders were competing and making their final preparation for Selection into the Olympic Team.

The Team was selected from both Australian and GBR-based riders to make up the 5-rider team, which travelled to Hong Kong in late July 2008 for acclimatisation, and then the start of the Eventing competition on the first day of the Games.

Our silver-medal-winning team consisted of the following riders, horses and grooms:

- Clayton Fredericks and Ben Along Time
Groom Lisa Baker
- Megan Jones and Kirby Park Irish Jester
Groom Karen Conk
- Lucinda Fredericks and Headley Britannia
Groom Kate Hort
- Shane Rose and All Luck
Groom Michelle Robson
- Sonja Johnson and Ringwoud Jaguar
Groom Natalie Hibbert

Megan Jones narrowly missed out on an individual medal when KP Irish Jester clipped the last fence in the Show Jumping.

Without the generous support of the HP Program and its funding, provided by the Australian Sports Commission and Australian Olympic Committee, our good record for acquiring medals at Olympic Games would be impossible to achieve. The results and recognition that Australia achieves in Eventing, also allows increased funding to be made available for the development of the other Olympic Disciplines of Dressage and Jumping.

In May 2009, the Australian round of the HSBC World Cup was held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC). The FEI will only allocate each country one qualifier from this year forward, and Sydney was chosen from the applications received. A very successful event was conducted by the Committee, headed by Paul Cargill.

We are considering conducting a series between the Australian HSBC World Cup qualifier and the HSBC World Cup qualifier held at Kihikihi in

NZL, as well as other events in Australia (to be decided upon) so as to encourage more horses to travel between the two countries.

This in turn will make for stronger competition and help promote the sport here and in NZL.

In my report last year I spoke of the Eventing Pathway for Officials that Nathan Holman, in conjunction with the NEC, compiled. This programme is now with the State Branches for use in encouraging more officials to come into our sport, as well as improving education for current officials.

Further assistance in having our FEI Technical Delegates, Course Designers and Judges obtain more experience is the Global Education Program of the FEI. This program provides funding for selected up-and-coming Officials to attend events overseas to allow them to Officiate as assistants to Mentors chosen by the FEI.

There is also FEI Funding for Senior FEI Officials from Australia to go to Developing Countries, and help those countries' Officials improve their knowledge of the sport.

This is my last report and as such I would like to say that it has been my great pleasure being Chairman of the NEC since 1980. It has been many years but I must say that the years following the Barcelona Olympics have been very productive for Eventing, with the Gold medals from Barcelona, and then again at Atlanta and Sydney, as well as the success at Hong Kong with a Silver Team medal as noted above.

All this success is directly related to the massive support to Eventing from the Australian Sports Commission, directed through the High Performance Programme. Eventing has been able to keep the Equestrian name in the limelight with the ASC to justify their patronage, which also applies to the funding we receive from the Australian Olympic Committee to compete in the Olympics.

I would like to thank Franz, Brett and Michelle, and the other members of the National Office for their contribution to Eventing, and my fellow Committee Members for their many hours of voluntary involvement. The sport would not progress without the efforts.

I have been Chairman of the NEC throughout the service of 8 Equestrian Australia Presidents, and 6 CEOs, and hope to serve the sport in some way for many more years.

J L Dunn OAM
Chairman,
National Eventing
Committee



Jumping Report

2009 has generally been another good year for the sport of Jumping in Australia. The participation numbers at most levels are very high, culminating in what I believe to be the largest amount of competitors ever at one show in Australia, with the National Championships conducted in Canberra having four competition rings in action, with two of them having in excess of 100 competitors per class.

While this is wonderful to have this many people interested in participating in our sport, it presents a number of logistical problems that we are endeavouring to work through. One is being able to make entry and exit of competitors in and out of arenas more efficient and fluid, so there is not too much 'dead time' between competitors.

The National Jumping Committee (NJC) is producing practice arena protocols and procedures that should see the flow of competitors improve, so that all get a fair chance to enjoy competing. To this end also I need to ask again that we need more pro-activity in processing Officials into our system, and the above increasing numbers are making it very necessary to have more Judges, Course Designers, as well as Practice Ring marshals, Stewards and Pencillers.

National Championships

We have two big problems that need to be addressed for the future. One is that our 'flagship event' the National Championships, has become a large, expensive exercise that requires quite a lot of manpower, thus there are not too many venues that are capable of holding it, and not too many Organising Committees are keen on running them. At this point in time we have no takers to run the 2010 Championships and beyond. I have put this problem to the States for urgent consideration at our Feb Meeting, but right now there are no obvious solutions. Suggestions are always welcome!

Olympic Qualification System

The second is the political manoeuvring within certain sections of the FEI that saw the extraordinary move of dumping Group G countries (29 Eastern European countries) into our Qualifying group for the Olympic Games, which is going to make it extremely difficult for us to qualify for future Olympics.

I know Franz Venhaus, Paul Cargill and, indeed, Princess Haya worked extremely hard to try and

prevent this happening, but were unsuccessful. The Princess will try, through her IOC position to gain an extra spot for our Qualifying Region, but this will probably only have a slim chance of success. So it is very important that we are able to put a top class team on the arena for WEG 2010 as our best chance to gain a Qualification. To take on those Group G countries on their own turf in 2011 is a hugely unfair concept.

Show Management

We also need computer show management systems together with on-line entries. I am not a computer expert by any means, but with the above stated problems of numbers, we urgently need in place systems similar to what I have seen time and time again in Europe whereby a show with enormous numbers of competitors can be administered by relatively few people.

Grading System

The Grading system is still evolving. It appears most people are not keen to dispense with it altogether as it seems there are too many people with horses that are comfortable and successful in one division, and thus dominate it, and are reluctant to move up! However, the existing Grading system is becoming very difficult to administer fairly.

Thanks

There are many people to thank from my perspective, particularly my colleagues on the National Committee, which while not yet a skills-based Committee, is I believe a very able, knowledgeable group, who make my job a great deal easier.

Also to all in the National Office who do so much for our sport, and I would particularly like to single out Franz, Mandy and Brett. It is with enormous regret that I have learned that Franz is to retire this year, as having been involved with the Federation for some 30 odd years, I feel he has been one of our most able administrators, and his position will be difficult to fill.

Vicki Roycroft

Chair,
National Jumping
Committee



Carriage Driving Report

Clubs

NSW and SA are having training days and events of Horse Driving Trials and Showing and are slowly growing with members.

Coaching and Officiating

Clubs are being encouraged to promote the new workbooks for horsemanship and personal skills in carriage driving to newcomers, youth and current drivers, and the books are starting to sell.

An Officials course for Judges, Technical Delegates and Course Designers is still being put together, and should be ready for 2010. In the meantime Officials have been rolled over to April 2011.

High Performance

GBR-based Boyd Exell driving 4-in-hand has had a very good year in winning the finals of the FEI World Cup at Goteburg, Sweden, as well as at Aachen, Germany. Some of his other good wins have been at Sandringham (GBR), Vecses (HUN), and the 2008 British Championships. He placed 2nd at Royal Windsor.

Boyd has already qualified his Hungarian-owned team for WEG 2010.

Gavin Robson driving 4-in-hand is based in the USA. Gavin has had some good results in 2008 with a 1st at The Laurels and Lexington, 2nd Live Oaks, Toronto Canada, 3rd and Gatton UK 6th, and 2009 Live Oaks 4th. He also has qualified his team for WEG 2010. Gavin also competes

with Horse Pairs and placed 1st earlier this year at Melamora.

Jessica Meredith driving Pony Pairs Advanced, based in UK also had some good placings in 2008, Sandringham and Lowther 1st, Catton 3rd, and the British Championships 4th. 2009 Conty France 2nd, Saumur France , and Sandringham UK 3rd , Catton 1st. Jessica had qualified for the World Combined Pony Championships at Greven, Germany, in August 2009.

US-based Janelle Marshall driving Pony Single has also been doing well at bringing on her new single pony, with the hope of qualifying for the 2011 World Pony Championships.

Youth Program

The NCDC have been putting together a youth program for Clubs to use and has already had very favourable response in SA and NSW.

Goals for 2009/10

- Getting ACDS and EA working together again
- Continue to implement Strategic Plan and keep on or close to targets.
- Finalise and implement Officials course.
- Continue to grow the Young Drivers Program.
- Promote the workbooks to the youth, beginners and present drivers.

Judy Meredith

Chair, National Carriage Driving Committee



Vaulting Report

2008 brought on a number of changes for the sport with the introduction of the new skills-based system of electing the National Vaulting Committee. This process was approved by the previous NVC and introduced by Equestrian Australia (EA) commencing early 2008. The new system included an extra committee member over the old representative system.

Apart from that extra person only one other person was different to the old committee, maintaining stability. At its first meeting the committee held a ballot to determine the tenure of its members.

Two positions became single year tenures, since then those two tenures have expired and as neither incumbent sought re-election two new committee members, Sarah Hocking from South Australia and Sarah Venemore from New South Wales, were elected to the committee. Congratulations to these two new committee members on their appointments.

National Championships

The 2008 National Vaulting Championships were held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC) and were combined with a CVI event. The weekend was a huge success and the organisers are to be commended on the event. It has been noted, however, that on the occasion of a similar scenario where a nationals and a CVI are combined, that equal status be afforded to both levels of competition so as to not detract from the status of the Nationals.

Development Plan

The NVC has embarked on a three-year development plan for the period of July 2009 to June 2011 that fits in to the EA structure, and is continuing to develop this plan.

The recently introduced lunge certification process has had some minor amendments introduced to assist lungers to attain their accreditations and the NVC have followed suit with the EA dressage committee to introduce a fast tracking system for vaulting judges that meet certain international participation criteria.

As the sport of vaulting is a relatively small participation sport, the need for a selection policy to select participants for international competition has not been a high priority. As the sport grows, however, and the number of participants wishing to represent Australia internationally increases, a selection criteria policy that complies with EA policy needs to be developed.

This will be distributed as soon as it comes to hand as there is considerable interest in representation at WEG Kentucky 2010. Currently there are 10 Female individual vaulters and 2 Male individual vaulters vying for a position on the Australian WEG Team and three teams also competing for the one spot that is available.

Two teams of vaulters from Canberra will travel to Europe to compete and gain experience for future international participation in August 2009. The teams comprise of predominantly Canberra vaulters but include some vaulters from SA and NSW. They will compete at two German events and will attend the German championships as spectators to observe national competition at its very best.

Greg Blunden

Chairman

National Vaulting Committee



Photos: Ken Braddock
dressage-news.com

FEI World Cup Jumping - Australian League

The World Cup Committee

Chair	Peter Cooke
Chair NJC	Vicki Roycroft
Convenor Representative	Anne Garner
World Cup Coordinator	Sue Ryan
Rider's Representative	Jenny Sheppard
EA - CEO	Franz Venhaus
Committee Secretary	Mandy King

The World Cup Committee met formally in February and September 2009. There was also considerable effort put in by all Committee members at different times during the year to cover a range of immediate issues. All matters were resolved swiftly and appropriately.

Competition Standard

At the February World Cup meeting, the Riders representative noted the concern amongst riders about the difference in standard of the competitions and the respective World Cup points awarded. For the past few years, the Convenors' representative Anne Garner tried to implement an evaluation process with each event and to date this had been less than successful.

For this season we developed a 'Requirements Check List' to assist the Organisers with planning and improving their events. The list will allow the Committee to monitor each show's facilities, resources and performance. The committee is working towards a system that will more effectively evaluate each of the World Cup events, and allow EA to implement a rating system for shows in subsequent years.

Through Anne Garner's efforts Equestrian Australia and the World Cup Committee conducted an Organisers' Seminar in Melbourne in February 2009. There were some 35 participants, including a full complement of World Cup event organisers, and we did see some innovations to shows during the year. The Seminar was presented by Canadian Craig Collins and the course has been picked up by the FEI as part of the Education program to use with other countries.

In an effort to address the variability of World Cup Qualifying round courses, the Committee wrote to all Course Designers regarding a standard for the year, at all events. In addition to the existing minimum height of 1.40 metres, there was at least one vertical obstacle of at least 1.55 metres, and one other vertical of at least 1.50m, one oxer of 1.45m high and 1.70m wide and one oxer 1.50m high by 1.60m wide. By working to this level, competitors and

organisers were able to anticipate a higher and consistent standard for the year.

One aspect of conducting these World Cup Qualifying events in Australia is that they maintain contact with the FEI with rider rankings, qualifications for Officials and, jumping outdoors, and the opportunity to contribute to a horse and rider Certificate of Capability (COC) for World and Olympic Games. Under the FEI rules, to obtain a COC, the World Cup class conducted outdoors must meet the criteria as described above and include a waterjump.

For shows conducting World Cup Qualifiers outdoors, the EA High Performance Program contributed \$1,500 as this assisted towards our World Equestrian Games program.

World Cup Competition Funding

The cost of conducting events and running the World Cup competition in Australia continues to escalate and so the Rider Levy has been increased to \$50 per horse for each event. The FEI competition franchise fees remained at \$1,600 per event in 2009; however, the 2010 season franchise fee will be increased to \$1,800.

The committee reinstated the overall competition award with prize money awarded as follows: 1st \$5,000, 2nd \$2,000 and 3rd \$1,000.

Having outlined some of the funding activity for the year, it is important to note that there are no surplus funds for the league and after contributing to our representative's participation at the 2010 Final in Geneva, the fund reserve will be all but expended.

It will be an imperative for the Committee to address the funding issues beyond the already mentioned price rises. These alone will not provide sufficient funds. Options include aiming to secure a Series sponsor but also allow maintenance of individual show sponsors closer integration with the High Performance Program or a significant change to the structure of the competition such as far fewer events and a much higher participation fee.

Activities

Following a recommendation from the FEI Jumping Director Capt. John Roche, a Stewards course was run in January and an additional 4 stewards have been recommended to be upgraded to FEI level.

Work continues on the development of software to support the conduct and management of events. There are a few businesses who are investing in the sport and whilst Equestrian Australia has a big picture for its requirements for the sport, it is important that the marketplace is allowed to prevail and provide useful tools for our sport.

One goal the committee has been working on is to improve overall communications for the World Cup events. To this end Equestrian Australia is developing the World Cup web page as the touch point for information, results, points tables, course plans and stories from each event. The goal is to have all results posted on the website within 24 hours and I think we achieved this with all but one event in 2009.

During the year, we have had regular contact with FEI Jumping Director Capt. John Roche and this good working relationship allows Australia to remain reasonably independent of FEI formality in conducting our events.

2009 Competitions

There were 11 competitions (see listing below) held during the year with a total competitor participation of 50 riders. The fluctuation of entries was impacted by the decision to implement a tough standard; however, most riders suggested this was a better position than having a sub-standard competition and not really being able to compare our results with those of other countries.

Event	Date	Course Builder	Chief Judge
Sydney (NSW)	15/04/2009	John Vallance	Graeme Watts
SIEC (NSW)	03/05/2009	David Sheppard	Graham Davey
Toowoomba (Qld)	02/08/2009	Graeme Watts	Graham Davey
Caboolture (Qld)	16/08/2009	Sue Ryan	Robert Major
Gawler (SA)	30/08/2009	Richard Bruggemann	Elisabeth Heber (NOR)
Adelaide Royal (SA)	10/09/2009	Gerrit Beker (NZL)	Elisabeth Heber (NOR)
Melbourne Royal (Vic)	19/09/2009	Graeme Watts	Anne Garner
Shepparton (Vic)	14/11/2009	David Sheppard	Jan Golding
Wodonga (Vic)	21/11/2009	Leeson Sirett	Anne Garner
Sale (Vic)	29/11/2009	Leeson Sirett	Anne Garner
Sydney (NSW)	13/12/2009	Leopoldo Palacios (VEN)	NY Ho (SIN)

The Winner of the 2009 Series was Chris Chugg with an emphatic 6 individual event wins and 98 points. The runners up were Clem Smith (58 points) and Michelle Lang-McMahon (56 points).

One disappointing aspect for the season was the cancellation of 4 events, Brisbane Royal, Glenelg in South Australia and the 2 events in Perth. The first two were cancelled due to the lack of sponsorship and a fallout of the GFC, whereas the WA organisers and community

agreed that there were insufficient competitors who could participate at this level. The aim for WA is to focus on the Young Rider development for a couple of years and re-commence World Cup events at a later date.

2010 Season

We anticipate that Australia will have 14 events for the year.

The Committee will meet in February and determine the 'standard' for the 2010 competition. We will have to bear in mind the majority of senior horses and riders will be away in Europe practically for the whole year and so it may well be an opportunity for a development season by way of adopting a 'softer' rating. This will be coupled with the winner not being eligible to compete at the World Final but a definite benefit for the following Olympic year.

During the year, I would like to see further integration with the High Performance Program and a national sponsor in place.

As with last year, we will write to each Competitor, Organiser and Official to advise the season expectation and standards.

I would like to thank the World Cup Coordinator, Sue Ryan for making sure the events were always up to speed on their protocols and all other members for their contribution and participation. Also the Committee had invaluable support provided by World Cup committee members Franz Venhaus and Mandy King from the Equestrian Australia office.

Peter Cooke

Chairman



Show Horse Report

The National Show Horse Committee has met three times since the last annual report. The December 2008 & 2009 meetings were held in Werribee and coincided with the National Show Horse and Rider Championships. The May 2009 meeting was held in the Equestrian Australia board room at Homebush.

NJAS

The National Judging Accreditation Scheme was discussed at all three meetings. As it is now a requirement in all states that judges attend a seminar on a biannual basis, the Branch Show Horse committees will ensure this opportunity is provided to them. The National Committee has reiterated that judges may attend a Show Horse or Dressage seminar to fulfil this requirement. It has been a growth year for Show Horse Judges with an increase in Provisional Judges and many upgrades to State and National Level. The National Show Committee has undertaken to identify suitable candidates who may want to become Judges.

Preferential Judging System

The preferential Judging system was discussed at both the meetings. The National Show Horse Committee is working on some very clear guidelines for the use of this system at State & National Show Horse titles.

This will include a step-by-step calculation sheet and dot point to accompany. This should help clarify this system for competitors and event organisers alike.

Showman of the Year

Unfortunately, at the December 2008 meeting, the National Show Horse Committee decided to hand over this event to become part of the Interschool competition.

On the bright side, Showman now appears to have found its natural home at Interschools and is being very well supported. As Interschools is a co-operation of nearly all our disciplines, young competitors across the board are becoming involved. So, good news for Showman.

Equestrian Australia National Show Horse and Rider Championships 5-6 December 2008

Equestrian Victoria once again ran Show Horses' gala event for the year, the "Equestrian Australia Show Horse and Rider Championships" in Werribee.

All States were represented with over 100 hundred horses entered from every State plus horses from New Zealand. Event Director Peter Gardiner felt the Championships "were the best ever".

The State Team rivalry created a fantastic atmosphere for the event. Team honours were taken out by Victoria with Six Championships and four runners up.

The National Committee would like to thank the Victorian Show Horse committee for organising such a splendid event. Thanks also to all the volunteers and sponsors that make events like this possible.

Equestrian Australia National Show Horse and Rider Championships 4-5 December 2009

It is a rare treat to be able to report on the National Championships twice in one year. Using the by-line "where History is made" Equestrian Victoria once again ran "Equestrian Australia Show Horse and Rider Championships" and they did not disappoint

As usual, the States were well represented and New Zealand also sent a team. One again the team results were taken out by Victoria with NSW in runner up position.

Congratulations to all the competitors and their supporters and thanks of course to the generous sponsors and volunteers.

National Show Horse Coach Syllabus

The National Education Manager Nathan Holman attended the meeting in May and presented the draft version of the new Level One Coach and Riding syllabus specific to Show Horse.

Tania Hay, Gary Beaton and Debbie Bugden have formed a sub committee to review the syllabus and to continue working with the NEM until the release.

Show Horse Logo

Of course you will have read by now about the re-branding of Equestrian Australia and Show Horse have not been left out.

Show Horse has a brand new logo and a fantastic, energetic colour to go with it – Fire Engine Red!

Tracey Lesslie

Sport Consultant



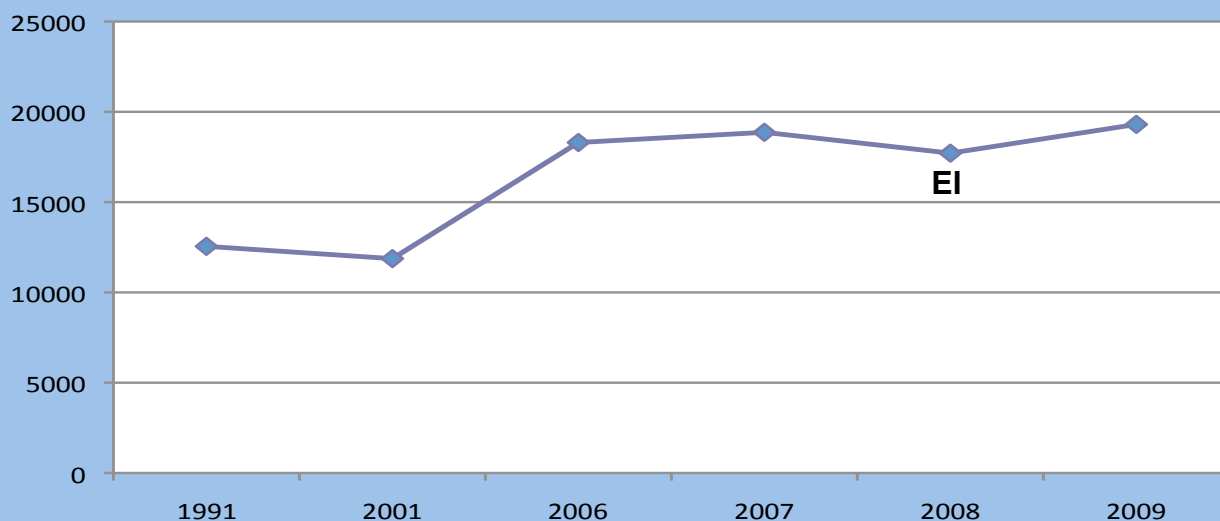
Photo:
Derek O'Leary

SHOW HORSE
AUSTRALIA



Some Federation Facts and Figures

Membership Numbers in Australia



Membership:

19,304

Per 100,000 of each State's Population

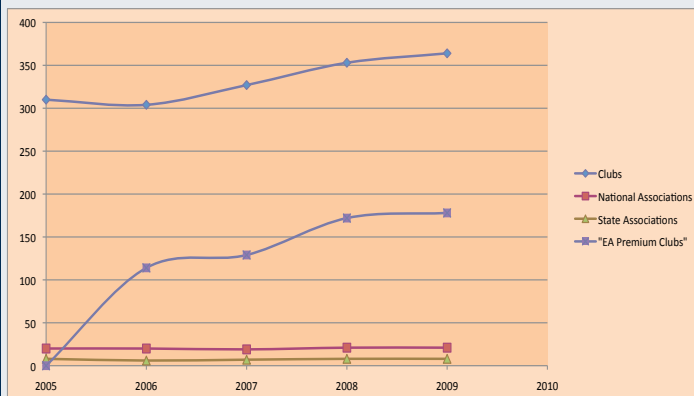
by Branch:				
Queensland	3,113	(15.8%)	71	
New South Wales	7,457	(38.6%)	104	
Victoria	4,783	(24.8%)	71	
Tasmania	693	(3.6%)	139	
South Australia	1,358	(7.0%)	85	
Western Australia	1,900	(9.8%)	88	

by Category:

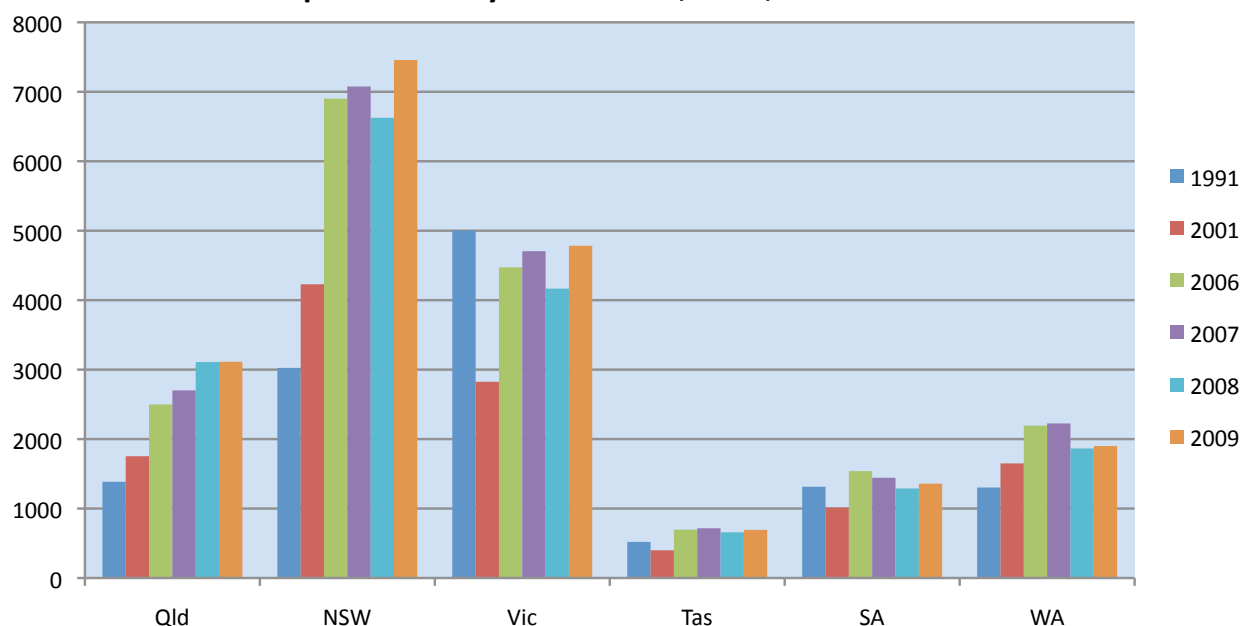
			Female	Male
Senior	9,803	(50.8%)	84.1%	15.9%
Junior	5,346	(27.7%)	90.9%	9.1%
Associate & Other	4,155	(21.5%)	88.8%	11.2%
Total			87.0%	13.0%

EA Clubs and Other Member Organisations

Clubs insured with EA:	350
Total Membership:	26,000
No. of "EA Premium Clubs":	178
National Associations insured:	20
Total Membership:	5,600



Membership Numbers by State - 1991, 2001, 2006-2009



Horses

No. of Horses registered with the Equestrian Australia during this financial year: 2,801

Of these, 31% were mares, 4% Stallions and 65% Geldings.

891 (30.1%) were registered in NSW, 860 (29.0%) in Victoria, 601 (20.3%) in Queensland, 259 (8.7%) in South Australia, 250 (8.4%) in Western Australia and 100 (3.4%) in Tasmania.

The National Database has records for over 70,000 horses

Horse Performance Cards/Competition Licenses

No. of current Performance Cards/Competition Licenses for horses (horses may compete in more than one Discipline): 11,999 for 8,437 horses. Of these, 6,739 have cards/licenses for one sport only; the remainder has cards for two or more sports. For Eventing horses, one expects most to have Dressage and Jumping Performance cards. In fact, only 338 out of 1329 horses with an Eventing horse had just that card. 531 had 1 other card (fairly evenly split between Dressage and Jumping, 436 had 2, 23 had 3 and 1 Interscholar had 4 other cards. Without doing any "reallocation", competitive horse distribution is approximately as follows:

Dressage inc. Pony	47.4%	Queensland	1,644 (13.7%)
Eventing	12.6%	New South Wales	4189 (34.9%)
Jumping	29.5%	Victoria	3,333 (27.8%)
Show Horse	9.8%	Tasmania	462 (3.9%)
Other	0.6%	South Australia	876 (7.3%)
		Western Australia	1495 (12.5%)

Event and Entry Statistics

Entries into FEI Events Overseas

In 2008/09 the EA National Office made 527 entries for Australian members into FEI events held overseas. This compares with 438 in 2007-08, 314 in 2006-07 and 213 in 2006-06.

47 entries were in Dressage, 270 in Jumping, 180 in Eventing, 14 in Driving, 5 in Endurance. 5 in Para-Equestrian, 5 in Vaulting and 1 in Reining.

FEI Events in Australia

There were 60 FEI Events held in Australia in 2008/09, of which 6 were in Dressage, 16 in Jumping, 22 in Eventing, 15 in Endurance and 1 in Vaulting. Because it counts individual levels, the FEI recorded 118 events for Australia in 2008. This compares with 305 for France (many Endurance events), 230 for Germany, 224 for the USA, 123 for Italy, 115 for Austria and 103 for Great Britain, just to list the countries with more than 100 recorded events each.

The number of Australian riders registered with the FEI in 2008 was 864 and the number of horses 1,093.

Events and Event Results in Australia

We have been recording complete Eventing results from Pre-Novice level since 2003.

ALL results for these classes, including whether they are 'qualifying' performances, are uploaded into our National Database and can be viewed on our web.

In 2008 (excluding Adelaide 4*), there were 65 Eventing events with 234 'official classes'. 824 riders participated with 1108 horses

For Dressage, we have been recording qualifying performances only (not all results) from official events in Dressage (up to six places) and Jumping (first three places). We now have the facility to upload complete results, but it will take time before all events provide uploadable results for all official classes.

Details for the number of events and participants in other Disciplines/Sports are difficult to establish at present. Using the results for graded performances recorded on the National Database, we can establish that in Dressage, 1632 riders on 1711 horses achieved 8,051 graded performances. In Jumping, 698 riders on 1227 horses had 3695 graded results.

Graded Performances in Sports Other than Eventing in 2008

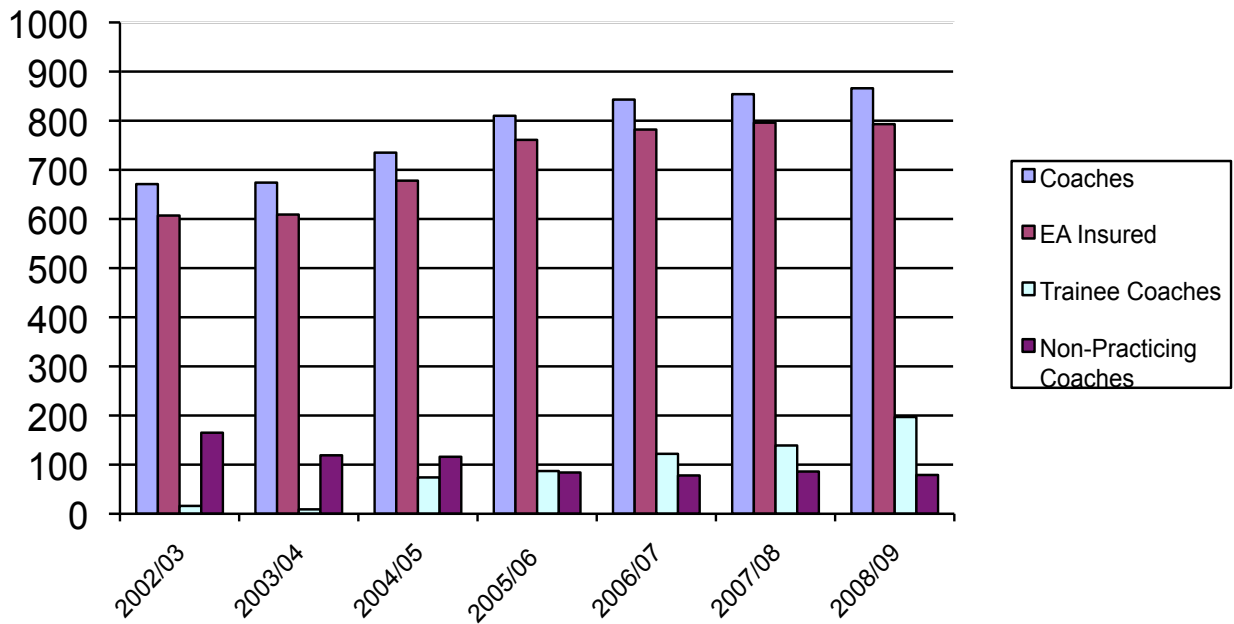
	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Grand Total	What is graded?
Dressage	2,684	1,297	546	393	2,252	879	8,051	up to 6th place
Jumping	937	625	815	89	815	414	3,695	up to 3rd place
Pony Dressage		231	194	24	185	107	741	up to 6th place
Show Horse		42				1,522	1,564	Winner & runner-up
Vaulting	26	1	2				29	
Grand Total	3878	2159	1,363	506	3,252	2922	14,080	

Because we have been recording complete results for official Eventing classes, we have better figures here:

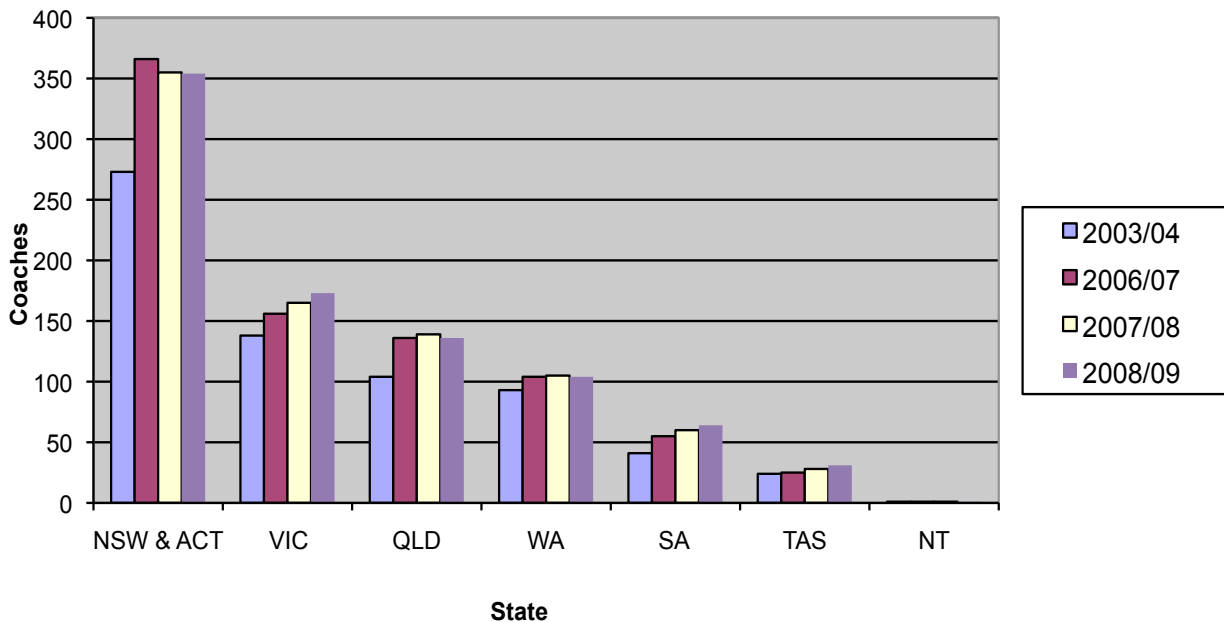
Statistics for 'Official' Eventing Events in 2008

	Events	'Classes'	Entries/class	Riders	Entries
QLD	9	33	14	108	449
NSW	17	60	25	256	1479
VIC	13	50	30	268	1509
TAS	8	15	3	17	44
SA	6	23	16	59	363
WA	12	52	13	113	669
Total	65	233	19	821	4513

Coach Rego & Insurance and Trainee Insurance



Coaches by State



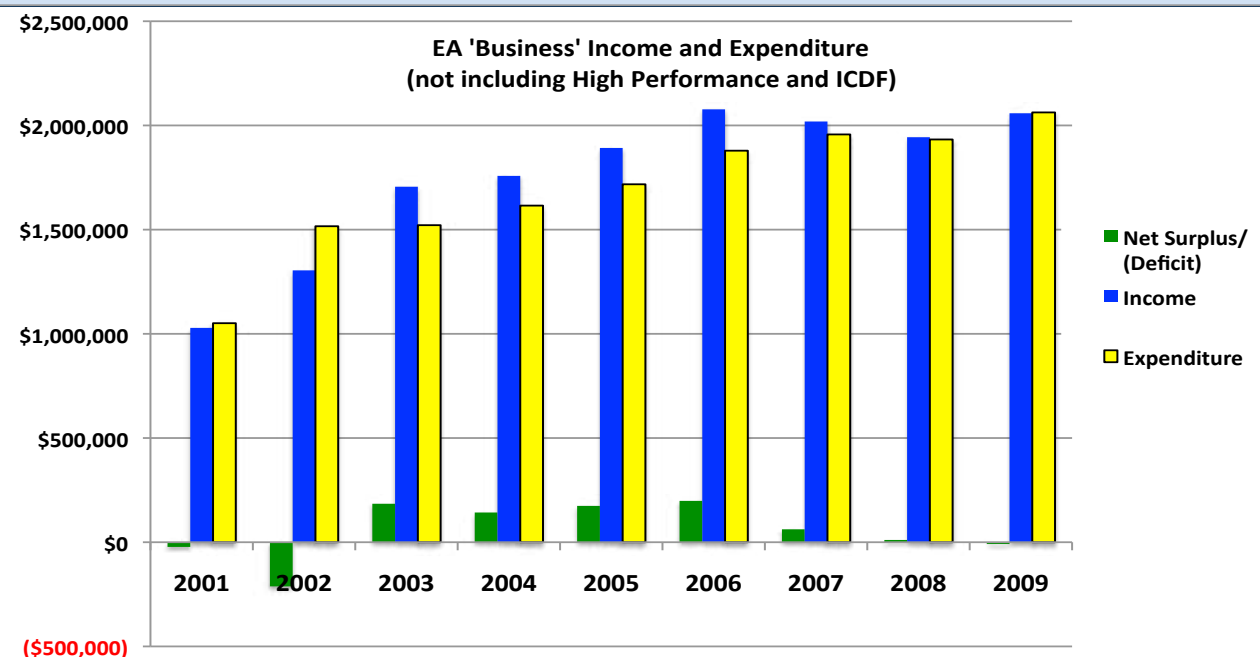
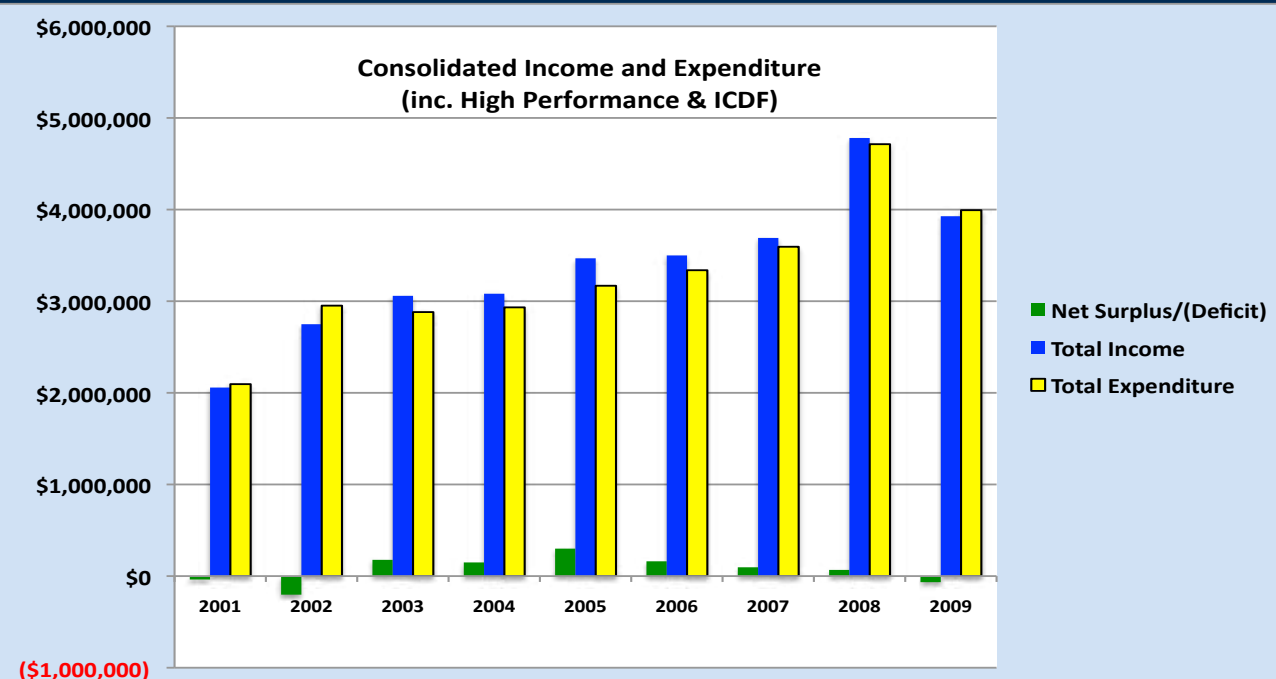
Equestrian Australia Financial Performance

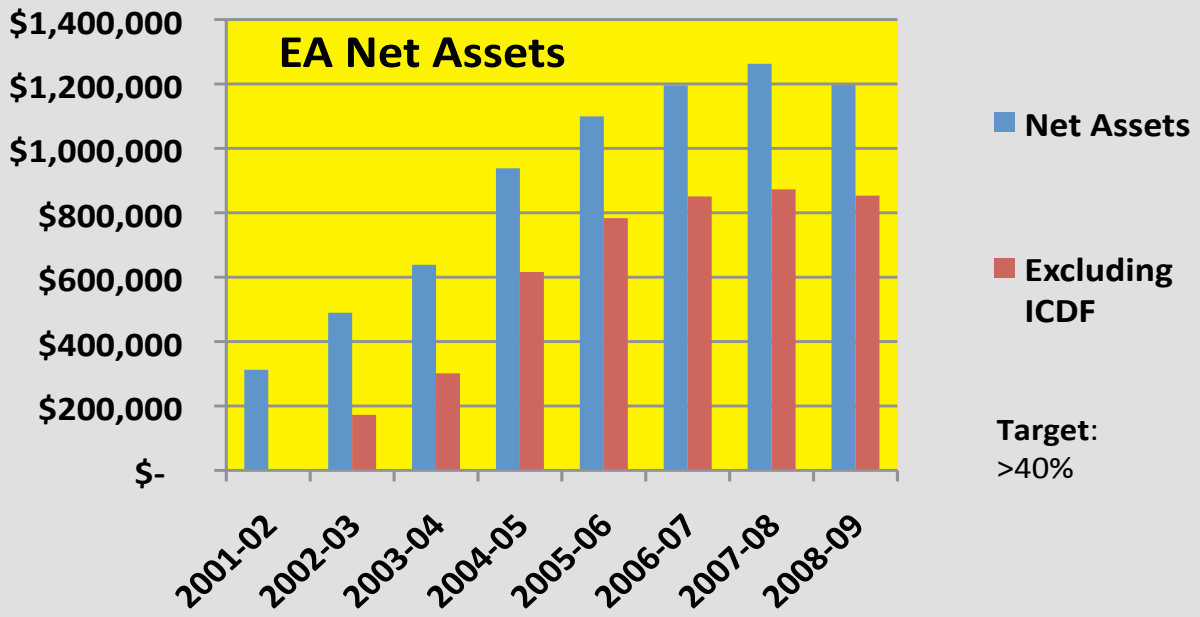
The full Financial Report for the year ending 30 June 2009 is available from the EA web site www.equestrian.org.au.

Below are some graphs giving an overview of developments over the last eight years.

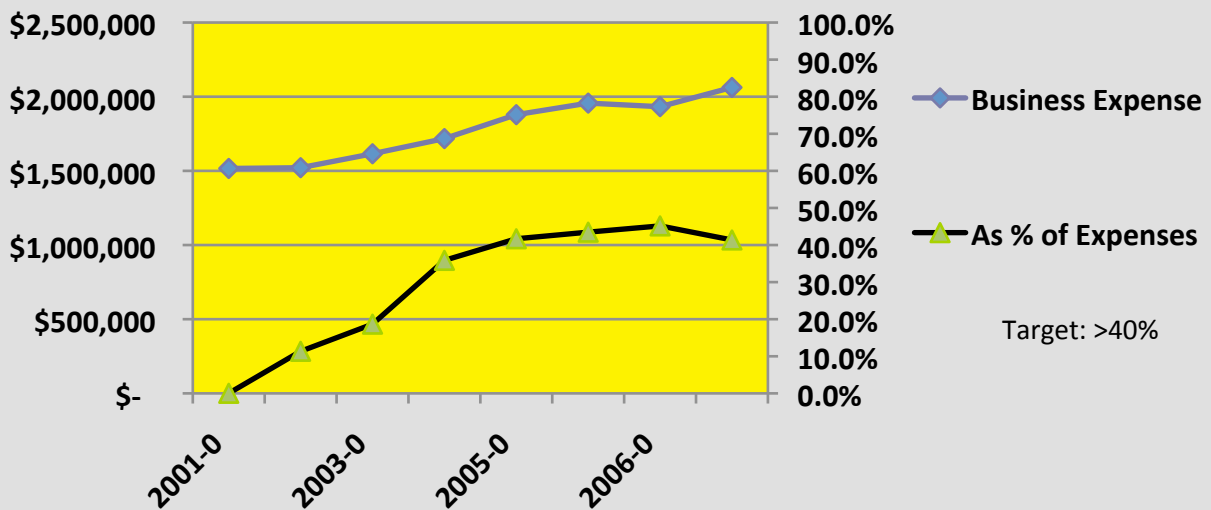
Peaks achieved in 2007/08 are mainly due to the additional \$1.5 million provided by the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission. Our success with having this funding package approved by the Government helped us recover from the impact of the Equine Influenza crisis on our preparations for the 2008 Olympic Games. Our success at the Olympic Games, where Australia had qualified with all three teams was the best overall result ever.

We would like to express our gratitude again for this grant to the Australian Government, the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Committee, and last but not least, Agriculture Minister Tony Burke and Sport Minister Kate Ellis, who were instrumental in having our application approved.





Net Assets (excl. ICDF) as % of Business Expenses



EA Grant History

