

The Equestrian Federation of Australia or EFA was firstly formed on a State by State basis and then those States formed the national body, the Equestrian Federation of Australia, in 1951/52. The sole reason for the national body's formation was to facilitate gaining acceptance of an Australian equestrian team at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. The persons driving the push for the EFA were no doubt many, but four stand-out - these were **Samuel Hordern**, who was then President of the NSW EFA, **Jim Barnes**, who was on the committee of the NSW EFA and (Sir) **Alec Creswick** and **Tom Luxton** of the Victorian EFA. All were represented on the governing bodies of their respective Royal Agricultural Societies where the State Branches originally sourced from.

Despite 4 years of furious lobbying by the likes of Samuel Hordern, Jim Barnes, Alec Creswick and Tom Luxton across the globe and across the country in the years leading up to the Games in Stockholm, it was all touch and go whether we would get an equestrian team to the 1956 Olympics notwithstanding that in 1955 we had already sent our first team away to England to "learn" Eventing in anticipation of being Australia's representatives at Stockholm.

Samuel Hordern, who was EA's inaugural Chairman from 1951/52 until his death in 1960, was inducted into EA's Hall of Fame last year. This year we have the privilege of inducting Alec Creswick, Tom Luxton and Jim Barnes as Founding Fathers as well.

Alec Creswick, who was President of the EFA Victoria, played a critical role in getting support for the 1956 team, including providing horses and raising funds and making substantial personal financial contributions.

Tom Luxton held many roles within EFA Victoria and his contribution in working with the various levels of Government to have quarantine laws relaxed in time for the 1956 Olympic Games as well as working closely with the FEI cannot be underestimated. While the quarantine laws were not able to be relaxed, Tom Luxton's lobbying work ensured equestrian remained in the forefront of the AOC's collective mind in the lead-up to the 1956 Olympics.

Jim Barnes, who went on to become President of EFA NSW, worked extensively on the fundraising campaign to help send the team away in 1955 and he continued his involvement with EA and its teams for many years, including as national President.

Together with Samuel Hordern, these three men are honoured as EA's Founding Fathers. We salute our Founding Fathers for their hard work, dedication and foresight in laying the foundations for what has now become Equestrian Australia.