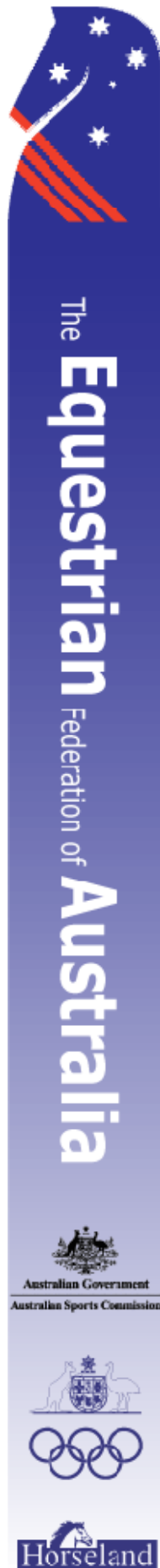


# 2007/2008 Annual Report

Excluding Financial Statements

Provisional – to be augmented in December



# The Equestrian Federation of Australia in 2007-08

## National Board

Mr. Geoff Sinclair (Chairman)  
Mr. Kerry Brydon  
Mr. Peter Hickson  
Mrs. Alexi Kentish  
Mrs. Mary Seefried

## National Committees and Officers

Dressage – Chair:	Ms. Lesley Sullivan
Eventing – Chair:	Mr. James Dunn OAM
Jumping: - Chair:	Ms. Vicki Roycroft
Show Horse – Chair:	Ms. Joanne Bastian
Vaulting – Chair:	Mr. Greg Blunden
Carriage Driving – Chair:	Ms. Judy Meredith
National Coaching Accreditation – Chair:	Mr. Kerry Smith
National Disciplinary Procedures Officer:	Mr. Bryan Gardiner
National Medication Control Officer:	Dr. Warwick Vale
FEI Contact Veterinarian:	Dr. Julian Willmore
EFA Steward General – Eventing et. al.:	Mrs. Di Schrapel
EFA Steward General – Jumping:	Mrs. Katrina Dukats
EFA Steward General – Endurance:	Mrs. Glenda Armitage

## 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 & Sport Consultant – Dressage, Show Horse, etc.	Ms. Siobhan Laphorne
Sports Consultant – High Performance & Eventing:	Ms. Michelle Battams
Sports Consultant - High Performance & Jumping:	Ms. Mandy King
Sports Consultant - Education:	Ms. Diana Sutherland
Sports Consultant - Insurance & General Administration:	Ms. Leanne Kingsbury
Sports Consultant – Publicity & Promotions	Ms. Nicky Turner

## Our National Sponsors

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

We particularly acknowledge our National sponsors and supporters:



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**



**Australian Olympic Committee**

### Australian Equestrian Team Sponsors



### Medication Control Program Sponsors



## Some Federation Facts and Figures for 2007-08\*

<b>Membership:</b>		<b>17,680</b>		Per 100,000 of each State's Population
by Branch:	Queensland	2,331	(13.1%)	60
	New South Wales	6,627	(37.2%)	97
	Victoria	4,819	(27.0%)	88
	Tasmania	676	(3.8%)	142
	South Australia	1,292	(7.2%)	99
	Western Australia	1,865	(11.3%)	107
	Northern Territory	70	(0.4%)	35
by Category:				Female                  Male
	Senior	8,901	(50.3%)	84.5%                  15.0%
	Junior	5,421	(30.7%)	90.5%                  9.5%
	Associate & Other	3,358	(19.0%)	85.8%                  14.2%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>87.0%</b> <b>13.0%</b>

### Horses

**No. of Horses registered** with the EFA during this financial year: **2,817**

The National Database has records for over 70,000 horses

**No. of current Performance Cards** (horses may compete in more than one Discipline): **8,776 for 6,878 horses**. Of these, 5418 have cards for one sport only; the remainder has cards for two or more sports. After some "reallocation", competitive horse distribution is approximately as follows:

Dressage inc. Pony	33.6%	Queensland	1,946	(28.3%)
Eventing	23.9%	New South Wales	2,197	(31.9%)
Jumping	27.1%	Victoria	1,335	(19.4%)
Show Horse	10.8%	Tasmania	119	(1.7%)
Other	4.6%	South Australia	632	(2.0%)
		Western Australia	1,141	(16.6%)

### Other

**EFA-Insured Clubs / Other Member Organisations:**                  **353 / 29**

**EFA NCAS Accredited Coaches:**    **843**

Qld: 133; NSW (inc. ACT): 324; Vic.: 147; Tas.: 30; SA: 55; WA: 102; NT: 1

### Entry end Event Statistics

**Entries made into FEI events held overseas in 2007-08: 438** (05-06: 213; 06-07: 314)

69 in Dressage, 162 in Jumping, 172 in Eventing, 14 in Driving, 10 in Endurance. 10 in Para-Equestrian and 1 in Vaulting.

**FEI Events held in Australia in 2007-08: 46** of which 4 were in Dressage, 3 in Jumping, 14 in Eventing and 5 in Endurance.

**Number of AUS FEI Riders/Horses registered with the FEI: 815 riders/ 1,150 horses.**

The National website, [www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au), has growing traffic. Branches have sub-webs that integrate and share resources. Steady additions to the site's functionality have increased the number of "page views" per month which has more than doubled since the transfer of the "old" web in July 2006. Since National news items are displayed on all sub-webs but visits there attributed to the sub-web, the success of the new site has been much greater.

The 2007-08 Financial Statements are available separately at [www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au)

*\* Please note that figures fluctuate throughout the year. This is a “snapshot” only*

# President's Report

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It has been wonderful to be able to serve the Equestrian Federation of Australia as the first of your appointed independent board members for the past five years and as President the past two years.

## The Board

Cooperation and intelligent debate have been key features of the work of National Board and have provided the EFA with independent strategic direction for the good of the sport as a whole. We know that some decisions will change things that have been done a certain way for many years but in making the EFA more progressive this is important for our well being in a sporting environment that is more competitive than ever. I thank the other Directors for their strong guidance and support during my years as President. Alexi Kentish from Mt Gambier also stands down after five years and on behalf of all members I thank her for her commitment to improving the standing of women in the EFA and chairing the ICDF Committee. I am also very proud in these days when volunteerism is often lacking, that ten very good candidates stood for the two Board positions being vacated in 2008, giving the Branches an opportunity to select the best.

## Governance and Constitution

There are many situations during the year when the EFA Board and CEO have to make moral judgments as to the actions of members and committees. The independence of your Board helps to ensure that these decisions are for the good of the whole EFA and are not made with vested interests in mind. I hope you agree we have been strong in some of these actions even if they have upset certain sectors. Dealing with drugs in sport, conflicts of interest, degrading the EFA and its members' names and clear selection policies are all part of daily life at the EFA!

Over the past 18 months, whilst looking at a name change for the EFA and at NT members becoming part of a State instead of an ineffective branch and shareholder, the CEO and Board identified a need to update our constitution, which was introduced in 1996 and which has had very little review by National or the Branches since. Although I believe that this process could have been clearer in the early stages, the lack of willingness by some shareholders to work together with their elected National Board was extremely frustrating. The result is that a poor constitution still exists. We had an opportunity to improve it.

There is no 'power struggle' between Branches and 'National'. Clearly the National EFA is the body that represents the FEI in Australia and deals with ASC, AOC, AHIC and the Federal Government. The Branches elect the National Board to do this and have the ability to dismiss the Board if they want. I only hope that the next constitutional review committee and the Branches take the improvements recommended by their Board and CEO more positively.

## National Forum and EFA Management Meetings

Key stakeholders from the Branches and the sports continue to get together each 18 months as they did in February this year, to review our strategic direction and provide feedback on their needs. The Branch Executives also have met twice during the year. These two vital processes continue to provide united direction and closer links between the Branches, the Sports and the National Office. These communication sessions ensure we continue to work in a mutually agreed and developed direction.

## Sport Committees, Selectors, High Performance Panels

The dedication and importance to the sport of these people is exceptional. The Sport Committees are responsible for guiding their sport in Australia and I am going to single out the National Jumping Committee and Australian Dressage Committee as two committees that have implemented changes and good strategic plans that will strengthen their sport in the coming years. I encourage NSCs to lead their sport by planning to solve strategic problems at a national level. The dressage and vaulting committee both became skills based during the year and we look forward to seeing them successfully grow their sports.

## National Office

Working closely with our CEO Franz Venhaus has been interesting and challenging at times! Since his appointment as CEO Franz has guided National EFA with integrity and great vision that has resulted in huge improvements financially and improved relationship with government, services to Branches and members, high performance results and effectiveness and accountability of sports committees and his team. His personal work ethic, along with the team at National Office including Brett Mace leading the High Performance section and Nathan Holman leading 'Education' with NCAS and NOAS, have provided enormous professional development for our equestrian sport. I congratulate and thank them all for their often unrecognized successful contribution.

The Board is responsible to ensure the right management is appointed just as the shareholders do in each Branch. Franz turned 60 this year and although he has no plans for retirement soon the Board has begun the process of looking for understudies that could work alongside Franz with the ambition to take on the CEO role. The EFA is complicated and experience with the sports is important in this role, as Franz has proved.

## **Olympic Games & High Performance**

Thirteen of the fourteen Team members at Beijing were new Olympians and we produced our best result as an equestrian team ever. Team Silver in Eventing and a Team 7<sup>th</sup> in Jumping and Dressage after a horrible year when competition stopped in Australia for eight months due to EI, is proof that the HP system has matured in recent years. Talented riders and horses have been given strong support by the EFA coaching, veterinary and management staff to achieve this result. The dozens of people that give their time as volunteers from Selectors to Chefs, Physiotherapists and Grooms all contribute to this result that make Australia one of the top ten Equestrian Nations in the world, one of the few nations that qualified a team in each discipline. We have a clear pathway to become even stronger. Thank you to all of those that contribute. To be part of a successful Australian Team is a unique and proud experience that we all carry for life and I for one have enjoyed it tremendously.

## **Equine Influenza & Australian Government**

One positive outcome of the Equine Influenza outbreak was the respect and strong support and inclusion that the government at state and federal level gave to the EFA. Our good structure and ability to identify where help was needed and our practical solutions for horse sports were well recognized. The cost to our industry both financially and in human suffering was far greater than most people realized. However, we are still vulnerable to dangerous disease outbreak. We, the equestrian community, all benefit and enjoy the horse industry and we must plan ahead to know how to react and how to pay for this reaction if it happens again. The EFA has proposed direct representation on Animal Health Australia along with racing, trotting and the AHIC, who we do not think is in a position to represent our sporting interests adequately so we can develop this plan. It will undoubtedly require some financial contribution from horse owners to help protect our industry in future.

Our relationship with the Federal Government and the current Minister for Sport Kate Ellis, Minister of Agriculture Tony Burke and the Australian Sports Commission is very open and strong. We thank them for not only taking our views on board so strongly but also for the \$1.5 million extra funding they gave the EFA to help our teams succeed at the Olympics after EI forced the cancellation of much of our Olympic preparation plans.

I want to express my admiration and gratitude to the hundreds of people in the Australian horse world that worked tirelessly to resolve the EI problem in Australia and made many tough decisions during a very emotional period. This is the first time ever in the world this disease has been successfully eliminated. We learnt a lot and this will stand us in good stead in the years to come.

## **Memoranda of Understanding**

The EFA wants to be inclusive of all equestrian sports in Australia. We have signed an Affiliation Agreement with Reining Australia so that they will be able to send a team for the first time ever to the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in 2010. We have reopened negotiations with Pony Club Australia and Australian Carriage Driving Society to work more closely with them and allow them to fully utilize the professional structure of rules, coaching and competition that the EFA has so that Equestrian Sport is more united.

We continue to work with the company Definitive Events (DE) to put together a 'Grand Final' of Dressage and Jumping and maybe even Eventing with the new Express Eventing concept being trialled in UK this month. Equitana Asia-Pacific, which is run by DE, has sold over 5,000 tickets to clinics and activities next week and this proves that the horse industry wants well-run events.

## **Financial Health**

Although EI had a big impact on most businesses and the National EFA received no Government support for its office as we wanted this to go to the individual states, we are financially in good health with a small 'business' surplus of \$10,000 for the year (excluding High Performance and ICDF) and our balance sheet showing net assets of \$1.2 million. It is not the job of the EFA to make profit and during this year we have invested back in the sport heavily with an additional \$100,000 in ICDF funding being made available to events to get going again after EI. There is much talk of the world financial crisis and that combined with the continuing effect on horse sports of the EI crisis and the on-going drought may lead to decline in membership. We need to be alert to these factors and plan the EFA business to handle any downturn. I believe that well-run horse organizations have a good opportunity now to involve new people and retain existing ones in our sport. Petrol prices and interest rates have come down and Australians' passion for the horse will grow if we run our sport well and compete favourably with other sports that want the same customers ... it is in our joint hands to provide this.

## **Web/Name/Logo**

We will release a new name and logo for the EFA today. Our web, national e-mail news and Horse Deals monthly insert continue to drive the message of a successful and leading EFA to the horse world. These new initiatives will help modernize our message and make it consistent across all branches. The strength of organizations like McDonalds, Flight Centre and the AFL with one system and one brand provides a vision of what one day Equestrian Australia could mean to the Australian community, not just the horse world.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President and thank you for the opportunity to do so. The EFA is in a stronger position today than any time in its history and I wish your new Board every success with continuing to develop our strong future.

**Geoff Sinclair**

President

## CEOs Report

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This report is supposed to cover the year ended 30 June 2008 but I can't help saying how please I am about the Australian Team's performance at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, our best-ever overall performance for three complete teams at Olympic Games.

### Financials

The Federation made a small surplus in spite of, and occasionally because of, setbacks in a number of areas due to the outbreak of Equine Influenza. The outlook for the coming year is not as bright. We will also need to reinvest in the sport for its long-term benefit.

### Insurance

We have been able to provide excellent insurance packages through our brokers Aon and have negotiated reduced premiums for the coming year.

### Equine Influenza

As everyone knows EI brought our sport and associated industry sectors to a virtual standstill for over six months. With our administrative setup, the EFA and its Branch Offices were able to assist the Federal and State Governments in their efforts to combat the disease and to deliver support programs to many in need of financial assistance. This has brought a greater recognition of our organisation and as a result we are now represented on a number of advisory groups.

### Regional Olympic Dressage Team Qualifier

A lot of effort and money had gone into the planning for this event that was supposed to take place in October 2007 at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. This would have been the first time since the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games that a team of horses from the Northern Hemisphere would have come to Australia to compete in an Equestrian event. As we all know, the outbreak of Equine Influenza forced the cancellation of the event.

In cooperation with the FEI, alternatives were evaluated and it was agreed to hold the qualifier in venues in three countries, with the Ground Jury (instead of horses and riders) travelling. Australia and Japan qualified for team entries at the Olympic Games.

### Government Assistance for Olympic Preparations

The Federal Government through the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) provided an additional \$1.5 million to help us make up in Olympic preparations what was lost due to EI. We were able to provide much-needed and much-appreciated support to riders both in Australia and overseas and help them compete in the 'right' events.

The great success of the whole team in Hong Kong was the best "thankyou" we could have provided. We would like to express our appreciation again to Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke and Federal Sports Minister Kate Ellis. Without their support, the grant would not have become available.

### The National Office

The office has now been in its own premises for more than 18 months and most of the internal fit-out is complete. The new

meeting room is proving to be an excellent venue for Board meetings and other gatherings.

### National Office Staff

There have been some staff changes at the National Office. National Education Manager Brad Patterson has left us to pursue a career in the commercial world and Nathan Holman has taken up his place. Niki Chapman wanted to spend more time with horses and in her own business but helps out occasionally during busy times. Michelle Battams is now doing her job and more on a full-time basis. Last but not least, Nicky Turner has joined us as our Publicity & Promotions Officer

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

There was no Assembly held during this financial year but work with and for the FEI has continued unabatedly. The introduction of new Statutes and 'Internal Regulations' has meant a great change in the way the FEI conducts its business.

There is also a new information technology (IT) system going on stream later this year that will bring access to 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.

We are, however, still concerned about an apparent lack of appreciation by rule makers of the difficulties certain FEI requirements make for the conduct and development of our sport in Australia and most probably in other nations far away from the centre of the sport in Europe. We have, therefore, given notice that we will present these concerns during workshops held at the FEI General Assembly in November.

### EFA National Forum and National Awards

This year's EFA National Forum, the second to be held, took place in Sydney. The Welcome Function on the deck of HMAS Vampire in Darling Harbour the night before included the EFA National Sport Achievement Awards, where AOC Executive Member and former EFA President Russ Withers was the main presenter.

The Forum itself reconfirmed a desire for a 'holistic' organisation with more consistency of services across the country, greater youth development, 'iconic' events, stronger public and media presence, government representation and many other improvements. These thought will be taken into account in the Strategic Plan for 2009-2013 that is being developed.

### The Outlook

The impact of the Equine Influenza outbreak, the continuing drought and the world economic crisis make it rather difficult to be certain about anything, except for a need to continue to focus on the 'right' things and work towards our realising our dream. I believe the sport can weather any storm, as it did to a great extent with EI. Let's all work together and make it happen!

**Franz Venhaus**

CEO



# High Performance Department

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## National Squads

All National Squads (Eventing, Jumping, Dressage & Youth Development) are selected in December and announced on 26 January each year. The selection policies are listed on the EFA website. All rider and Owners were required to sign agreements to be confirmed on the Squads.

In January 2008, those riders listed on each of the National Elite Squads automatically became members of the Olympic Shadow Team.

## Olympic Games

### *Olympic Test Event*

The HP Program sent 2 riders and horses and 6 Officials to the Olympic Games Test Event (conducted as a CCI2\*) in HGK during August 2007. The riders were AUS-based Shane Rose (Statford Novalis) and Megan Jones (Kirby Park Fedwell). GBR-based riders Andrew Hoy and Clayton Fredericks attended.

### *Dressage Team Qualification*

Due to EI, the proposed Regional Olympic Team Qualifier to be hosted by AUS and originally scheduled for SIEC in October was finally held in February at SIEC. This forced the competition to be conducted in a unique modified format that involved the participating NFs (AUS, JPN & NZL) competing in 3 different countries. Two team places were available at the Olympic Games and AUS was the first to qualify with strong performances in Europe and AUS, followed by Japan whose place was confirmed following the final round in NZL.

### *Team Qualification (first time all teams qualified)*

These Olympic Games were the first time that Australia had actually qualified teams in all disciplines. In Sydney, Australia had all three teams compete, but this was due to being host country. Eventing and Jumping qualified through results achieved at WEG, while Dressage qualified through the Regional Qualifier.

### *Additional \$1.5m Olympic Funding*

The EFA made a submission to the Australian Government for financial assistance to ensure our Australia-based riders were not disadvantaged in their preparation for the Olympics as a result of EI. The sum of \$1.5m was provided by the Government through the Department of Agriculture and administered by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) to. This and made a substantial impact on our preparation.

### *Selection of Team*

Competition for places in the Olympic team was very close and hard fought. Dressage and Jumping conducted Nomination Events (two each) in Europe, but due to the nature of the sport, Eventing was carried out over a longer period in a wider range of events. There were two appeals in Eventing during the selection of the team with one being heard and the other withdrawn prior to the hearing.

The Olympic Team was nominated by the EFA to the AOC at the end of June 2008. The nominated team was:-

## Eventing

Clayton Fredericks – *Benalong Time*

Lucinda Fredericks – *Headley Britannia*

Megan Jones – *Kirby Park Irish Jester*

Sonja Johnson – *Ringwould Jaguar*

Shane Rose – *All Luck*

## Jumping

Edwina Alexander – *Isovalas Itot du Chateau*

Laurie Lever – *Ashleigh Drossel Dan*

Peter McMahon – *Kolora Stud Genoa*

Matt Williams – *Leconte*

Chris Chugg – *Vivant (travelling reserve)*

## Dressage

Kristy Oatley – *Quando Quando*

Hayley Beresford – *Relampago do Retiro*

Heath Ryan – *Greenoaks Dundee*

Rozzie Ryan – *Donna Carrera (travelling reserve)*

## Dressage High Performance Program

### *Ralf Isselhorst*

Following the second Olympic Nomination Event in Linz, it was agreed by the Dressage HP Panel and Ralf Isselhorst that it was in the best interest of the Dressage Program to not continue with Ralf as the National Coach. All riders in contention for Olympic selection that had been utilising Ralf as a coach, were contacted to ensure that they would have coaching support in Hong Kong.

### *Nomination Events*

Under our newly-introduced Olympic Nomination Policy, combinations seeking nomination for the Olympic Team were required to compete in two Nomination Events in Europe. We were fortunate enough to secure sufficient places at the Wiesbaden CDI and Linz CDI as the Nomination events. These two shows were of a high standard and highly regarded by riders.

The reason for the two nomination events was twofold. The first was to ensure that Europe and Australia-based riders competed under similar conditions and judges. The second was to ensure that those seeking selection were competing at the highest level prior to the Olympic competition. By virtue of her results achieved at a high level in Europe, Kristy Oatley was pre-nominated to the Olympic Team prior to the Nomination events as was permitted under the criteria. The Dressage HPP felt that the new format worked very well, though with all Programs, certain adjustments could and will be made to improve the process for the 2010 WEG & London Olympics.

### ***Major International Results***

Oct 07 - Bremen CDI4* Freestyle		
Kristy Oatley (Quando Quando)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Mar 08 - Braunschweig CDI4* Freestyle		
Kristy Oatley (Quando Quando)	1 <sup>st</sup>	
May 08 - Wiesbaden CDI4* Grand Prix		
Kristy Oatley (Quando Quando)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
May 08 - Wiesbaden CDI4* Freestyle		
Kristy Oatley (Quando Quando)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
May 08 - Lingen CDI5* Grand Prix		
Kristy Oatley (Quando Quando)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	

### **Jumping High Performance Program**

#### ***Gilbert Böckmann Clinics***

Gilbert Böckmann continued in his role as National Coach conducting clinics in Australia as well as providing coaching support to riders in Europe. Gilbert has been well received by riders, owner and officials and we look forward to continuing a successful relationship with Gilbert. Gilbert is further in his role by Rod Brown, who like Gilbert, has been well received by the riders.

#### ***Nomination Events***

The Jumping Nomination criteria followed a very similar process to the successful criteria used for WEG in 2006. This required all riders seeking Nomination to compete in the two designated Nomination events during June. The two selected events were Pforzheim and Aachen in Germany.

The Jumping HPP believes that conducting the Nomination and selection process in Europe is the most effective way of selecting and preparing the team for major competitions such as WEG and Olympic Games and to achieve the results we are seeking.

### ***Major International Results***

Oct 07 - Brussels CSI5*		
Edwina Alexander (Isovlas Socrates)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Oct 07 - La Coruna CSI5*		
Matt Williams (Leconte)	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Jan 08 - Zurich CSI5*		
Edwina Alexander (Isovlas Socrates)	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Mar 08 - Arezzo CSI4*		
Edwina Alexander (Itot du Chateau)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
May 08 - Wiesbaden CSI4*		
Edwina Alexander (Itot du Chateau)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	
May 08 - Antwerpen CSI4*		
Edwina Alexander (Isovlas Socrates)	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Jun 08 - Cannes CSI5*		
Edwina Alexander (Itot du Chateau)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	

### **Eventing High Performance Program**

#### ***Australia-based Program***

Despite EI, most Australia-based riders decided to remain in the country to prepare and seek selection for the Olympic Games. Three riders decided to go to the GBR to further their chances of selection by competing at 4\* level, as the only 4\* event in Australia at Adelaide was cancelled due to EI. These riders received significant support courtesy of the Federal Government's additional \$1.5m funding.

Major Olympic selection events were held in Sydney (April) and Melbourne (June). All riders nominated in the Olympic Team competed at both events.

Wayne Roycroft and Harry Boldt conducted a number of clinics in preparation for these Events in addition to home-based clinics for Olympic Shadow Team members.

#### ***GBR-based Program***

Clinics for GBR-based clinics were conducted by Wayne Roycroft, Harry Boldt and Gilbert Böckmann throughout the year.

Support at all 4\* events was provided via either the National Coach or Assistant Coach David Green and Veterinarian Graham Potts. All National selectors attended Badminton to view Australian riders competing.

### ***Major International Results***

Sep 07 - Kreuth CCI3*		
Andrew Hoy (Yeoman's Point)	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Apr 08 - Belton CIC3*		
Paul Tapner (Inonothing)	1 <sup>st</sup>	
May 08 - Chatsworth CIC3*-W		
Clayton Fredericks (Benalong Time)	1 <sup>st</sup>	
May 08 - Saumur CCI3*		
Sam Griffiths (Happy Time)	1 <sup>st</sup>	
Jun 08 - Bromont CCI3*		
Boyd Martin (Galielo)	1 <sup>st</sup>	

### **Australian Sports Commission (ASC)**

Representatives of the High Performance Panels made a presentation to the ASC in March titled "2009 – 13 National Pathways". This presentation outlined to the ASC the proposed Equestrian HP Program. All sports seeking ASC support were required to make this presentation and advice of the status of funding and support would be advised after the Olympic Games.

The EFA High Performance Program once again received outstanding support for the ASC for which we are grateful. Not only was additional funding received through the Federal Government for the Olympic Campaign due to EI, but the Beijing Athletes Program (BAP) and Australian Government Sports Training Grant (AGSTG), which is paid direct to the athletes in the form of a grant, provided further support

### **Australian Olympic Committee (AOC)**

The High Performance Program acknowledges the significant support of the AOC in not only their support of the Equestrian team in preparing and competing at the Olympic Games, but through their other funding support programs. These include the Adidas Medal Incentive Funding, which rewards results achieved by athletes and coaches at benchmark events throughout the 4-year period. There is also International competition funding which assists NF's to compete internationally.

### **Para-Equestrian Program**

A number of meetings have taken place in preparation for 01 January 2009 change of management of the Para-Equestrian Program from RDA to the EFA. We anticipate a smooth transition for the HP Program to the EFA.

### **Other HP Activities**

#### ***High Performance Handbook***

This handbook was produced to provide a detailed outline of the High Performance Program and is listed on the EFA website for general reference. This handbook will undergo a major review after each Olympic Program and will then be updated as required.

#### ***Youth Development Program***

We have commenced the process of implementing the Youth Development Program from the original Young Rider Program. Implementation will take some time; however, the Youth Development Program will incorporate FEI Children's & Young Rider Competition in addition to a 21 – 25-year-old program. The latter is not an FEI or EFA competition program, but a 'Rider Development' Program aimed at keeping and assisting talented youth riders in the 'system' while in transition from Young Rider into Senior competition.

**Brett Mace**

High Performance Manager

# Education Department

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## COACHING

### Coaching Statistics

The total number of candidates enrolled in one of the Introductory or Level 1 Certificate (Horse Management & Riding) or Accreditation (Coaching) Courses for the period was 478. The EFA had 1043 registered coaches (practicing and non-practicing) in 07, an increase on the 06 figure of 981.

### *Achievements and Developments*

#### **EFA NCAS Level Two General Coach Workbook**

After 12 months of review, the Level 2 General Coach workbook was finalised and released in May 2008. The Level 2 now falls under the EFA NCAS competency format with standards that provide candidates with a pathway to become specialists sport coaches.

#### **EFA NCAS Introductory Vaulting Coach Workbook**

After 6 months of consultation with the Vaulting Committee the EFA National Office published the Introductory Vaulting Coach Workbook and released this in February 2008. This workbook now establishes the pathway for Vaulting Coaches into the NCAS scheme and includes the Associate Lunging Certificate.

## OFFICIATING

### **Dressage and Show Horse re-accreditation**

The EFA National Office coordinated the re-accreditation of all NOAS Dressage and Show Horse Officials in April 2008 (662 Dressage Judges and 504 Show Horse Judges). Currently 555 Dressage Judges have re-accredited (83%) and 326 Show Horse Judges have re-accredited (65%). This was the first time that Show Horse Officials were re-accredited through the National Office.

### **FEI Approved International Eventing Course**

The EFA hosted an FEI Eventing Course for Technical Delegates, Course Designers and Judges at Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre. The Clinic was held from 6 – 9 June 2008. FEI Course Director was Anthony McPherson (BEL) was assisted by Mary Seefried (AUS – Dressage) and Brian Schrapel (AUS – TD) for FEI International and FEI Candidate promotions. A total of 31 participants (Australian and International) attended the course.

## EFA Officiating Resources

### Dressage:

The EFA National office continued to supply free course workbooks to all EFA Dressage judges approved to upgrade their qualification by their EFA State Dressage Committee. In total there were 68 workbooks distributed to Judges from July 07 to June 08. Since 2006, the EFA have supplied 265 workbooks free to judges applying to be upgraded.

### Jumping:

Work continued on the EFA Jumping Officials (TD's, CD's and Judges) workbooks. There will be a delay in developing this further due to the FEI CD's syllabus that is currently being discussed.

### Eventing:

The EFA National Office in conjunction with the National Eventing Committee continued to work on the EFA Eventing TD's, Judges and Course Designers workbook. The workbook will be implemented in the first half of 2009 and used to train National Level TDs, Judges and Officials.

### *New Training courses (Coaching and Officiating)*

#### **EFA Measurers Course**

In April 08, the EFA National Office ran a Measurers Course to train and accredit 14 Chief and Assistant Chief Measurers. The Course was designed to launch the revised EFA Measuring Rules and updated Measurers Accreditation. This course brought together the nominated "Chief Measurer" and "Assistant Chief Measurer(s)" from each state to bring into line the processes and standards applied in measuring across all states.

#### **EFA Carriage Driving Course**

The EFA National Office in conjunction with the EFA Carriage Driving committee has created and released 6 Carriage Driving Resources, Introductory Personal Skills and Coach, Level 1 Personal Skills and Coach. Two presenter's courses were run (Armidale 07, Werribee 08) to train and accredit Level 2 Carriage Driving Coaches to deliver the course. In total there were 18 Coaches who attended.

**Horse Health Stewards Course**

In conjunction with Veterinary Advisor Warwick Vale the EFA National Office developed and ran a Horse Health Steward (HHS) Course in each State. A total of 67 EFA members attended the courses and received accreditation as a HHS. Presenters were State based FEI Veterinarians. The course was designed to educate and train event organisers on Biosecurity measures and how to practically implement these for their events as a result of EI.

*Coaches and Officials Communication***EFA *ethos* Magazine**

The EFA combined both the Coach and Official magazines into one and produced the *ethos* magazine in October 2007. Four editions of the *ethos* magazine have been produced and been distributed to over 2000 registered coaches and officials. The magazine is generating strong interest and by including both Coaching and Officiating it ensures information is widely available.

**Online Email Newsletter**

Each alternative month the *Ethos* Online newsletter is emailed 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 the EFA NCAS / NOAS calendar of dates and coming events.

**Nathan Holman**

National Education Manager



## AUSTRALIAN DRESSAGE COMMITTEE

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The 2007/2008 Financial Year has been another history-making year for Dressage as you can see below.

First of all congratulations to the 2007 EFA Annual Sport Achievement Award winners for outstanding service to the sport of Dressage:

- Deborah MacNicol – Special Services Award
- Nadine Merewether – Special Services Award
- Cathie Drury-Klein – Event Volunteer of the Year
- Dressage and Jumping with the Stars – Event of the Year

**Judges** - Congratulations to Dr Ricky MacMillan (QLD) on successfully completing all the requirements to upgrade her judging status to FEI Candidate. Ricky will now be working toward upgrading to I – International. Good luck with your judging Ricky.

Our other FEI accredited judges have been busy throughout the year not only judging locally in Australia but in many different parts of the world as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our judges and all volunteers for their commitment and devotion of time to our sport. Without judges there would be no competitions. A big thank you to all the affiliated clubs and volunteers that also help run our sport.

**Equine Influenza** - Australia was gripped by its very first outbreak of Equine Influenza (EI) in August 2007. As a result events were cancelled across much of Australia for 6 months.

The following major Dressage events were cancelled as a result of EI:

- Australian Dressage Championships (including the Olympic Qualifier) – October 2007
- Equitana inc. a CDI-W – November 2007
- State Championship NSW & Qld – September & October 2007, respectively
- CDI-W status – Australian Young Rider Championships - March
- CDI-W & CDI-Y status – Dressage with the Stars – April 2008

### Major Events

**Tri-Nation – South Africa – October 2007** – This was an event on borrowed horses between South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. Renee Pedretti from Victoria and Nicholas Fyfe from New South Wales were selected to represent Australia and did a sterling job of winning the dressage section. South Africa was 2<sup>nd</sup> and New Zealand 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**FEI World Cup Dressage Challenge – November 2007** - A first for Australia when Susie Hoevenaars (FEI I) was appointed Head of the Ground Jury for Group 9 for the FEI World Dressage Challenge.

**YR World Cup – December 2007 – Frankfurt** – Alycia Targa and Neversfelde Kudu were our first representatives at this prestigious event for Young Riders. They placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the B pool Freestyle, 9<sup>th</sup> over all and best placed non-European horse/rider. They placed 13th out of 14 in the Final.

### Regional Olympic Qualifier – February 2008 - SIEC

The Qualifier was scheduled to be held in conjunction with the 2007 National Dressage Championships but due to the EI outbreak the whole event was cancelled. The qualifier was finally held in Cannes, France, Sydney & Palmerston North, New Zealand, and the judges travelled to each location to judge horses from Japan, Australia & New Zealand.

The judges for the regional qualifier were Mariette Withages (BEL), Dieter Schüle (GER), Minako Furuoka (JPN), Mary Seefried (AUS), and Jan Bird (NZL).

The team that represented Australia in this event consisted of:

- Brett Parbery riding *Victory Salute* owned by Carolyn Lieutenant
- Heath Ryan riding *Greenoaks Dundee* owned by Clyde Wunderwald
- Rozzie Ryan riding *Donna Carrera* owned by Susan Duddy
- Maree Tomkinson riding *Lanzaro* owned by Maree Tomkinson

The Japanese team was judged in Cannes along with Maree Tomkinson. In Sydney the rest of the Australian team was judged together with one NZL team member, and in New Zealand the rest of the New Zealand team was judged.

As a result of this event Australia and Japan were the successful countries to qualify teams for the 2008 Olympic Games.

**FEI Dressage World Cup – March 2008** – This was held at s'Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands and our own Mary Seefried (FEI O) was a member of the Ground Jury for this prestigious event. Our Australian representative was Rozzie Ryan riding *Donna Carrera* (owned by Susan Duddy). Whilst Rozzie placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the Grand Prix, her performance in the Freestyle was a personal best and scored 69.6% and 11<sup>th</sup> place – well done, Rozzie.

## DWTS – April 2008

This year Dressage with the Stars was moved from its usual calendar slot of December to April and once again this was a huge success despite EI. Unfortunately due to the uncertainty of EI the organisers decided not to hold a CDI-W or CDI-Y in conjunction with this event.

## Sydney CDI 3\* - May 2008

One again this was an outstanding event, very professionally run and as usual top international judges made up the Ground Jury – Gotthilf Riexinger (GER), Peter Holler (GER), Alison King (HKG), Axil Steiner (USA) and Victoire Mandl (AUT) along with our own FEI accredited judges. Whilst the 'big guns' were overseas training and competing for Olympic selection it was an opportunity for the new comers to higher FEI levels to shine and shine they did.

*Regardez Moi* and Heath Ryan took out the Grand Prix and the Grand Prix Freestyle in fine form.

Kate Taylor-Wheat's young 6-year-old *World Star* is stunning and was the Champion of Champions from the Young Horse competitions. Everyone will be watching this horses' progress through the ranks with interest – a star in the making for sure.

Riders from Canada, Japan, New Zealand and of course Australia competed in the ever exciting Prix St Georges Derby on loan horses. The team event was taken out by Canada followed by Japan, New Zealand and Australia. Our Australian representatives in this event were Christine Crawford and Alycia Targa. Without the generosity of loan horse owners it would not be possible to conduct such an event and we thank them. The loan horses were also made available to the overseas riders so that they could also compete in the Small Tour.

## Olympic Selection Trials

Horse and riders seeking selection for the Olympic Games were required to travel to Europe and compete in two nominated events. EFA High Performance Funding was made available to assist some of these riders to travelling overseas.

- Hayley Beresford *Relampago do Retiro* (currently resides in Europe)
- Mary Hanna *Rambo, Port Said 10*
- Kristy Oatley *Quando-Quando* & *Don Bolero* (currently resides in Europe)
- Brett Parbery *Victory Salute*
- Heath Ryan *Greenoaks Dundee*
- Rozzie Ryan *Donna Carrera*
- Maree Tomkinson *Lanzaro*
- Chantal Wigan *Ferrero* (currently resides in Europe)

Based on previous performances returning high percentages the selectors pre-selected Kristy Oatley and *Quando-Quando* and this combination was, therefore, not required to compete at the selection events.

The selection events were at Wiesbaden (GER) in mid-May followed by Lingen (GER) at the end of May. The selectors named the following to represent Australia in Hong Kong:

Hayley Beresford *Relampago do Retiro* owned by Hayley Beresford & Eduardo Fischer

- Kristy Oatley *Quando-Quando* owned by Rosalind & Robert Oatley
- Heath Ryan *Greenoaks Dundee* owned by Clyde Wunderwald

The travelling reserve was Rozzie Ryan and *Donna Carrera* owned by Susan Duddy.

Except for Sydney 2000 where Australia as the host nations automatically qualified for team entry, this is the first Australian Team to represent Australia at the Olympic Games.

**FEI Young Rider World Cup** – The Final for the FEI Dressage for Young Riders will be held in Frankfurt (GER) on 18 to 21 December 2008. Australia is included in the Asia/Africa/Pacific League for this event. Two riders from this League can be selected but they must come from different NFs.

Qualifying CDIY events were held in Victoria in March at the National YR Championships, Sydney CDI3\* in May and the Queensland YR Championships in June. Jayden Brown and *Widelow* (QLD) has been the outstanding performer having attained qualifying scores at each CDIY. Brianna Burgess and Daylight (NSW) is currently competing in CDIY events overseas and is another one putting in good performances.

## ADC Meetings

The ADC met face to face on two occasions during the current reporting period - July 2007 and May 2008. In between the ADC met by teleconference in October 2007 to finalise the rule book and again in January 2008.

The Chair of the ADC, Lesley Sullivan, and Cathie Drury-Klein met with the EFA Board in February 2008 and presented the ADC Strategic Plan for approval by the Board.

Two members, who were initially appointed for a 1-year term, went through the election process, which saw both Kim Thomas and Caroline Coleby re-appointed this time for the full 2 year term. Three members will be going through the re-election process at the end of the year.

## **Achievements**

The new committee only came into being in April 2007 and since that time has many achievements to its credit:

- 2004 Rule Book re-written and new Rule Book effective from 1/1/08
- Successful planning session held in July 2007
- The Strategic Plan was developed and approved by the EFA Board
- Position Descriptions for members, Riders Representative and the Youth Coordinator were developed and approved
- Pony Dressage has been integrated into the main stream
- Judges Re-Accreditation Open Rule Book Test available on line
- National Dressage Riders Questionnaire has been distributed and results will be compiled and distributed
- National Judge Educators Conference being held in November 2008
- FEI/National Dressage Stewards Course being held in December 2008
- National Dressage Scoring System is in the final stages of development and will be made available to affiliated clubs at no charge

- NDJC charter developed
- EFA Freestyle tests reviewed and amended test introduced 1/1/08
- National Young Horse seminars & exams held around the country and a Young Horse Judges list established
- FEI Judges Seminar is in the throes of being organised for 2009
- A Dressage Forum is also being organised for November 2009

**Riders' Forum** – The first Riders' Forum since the 2006 Nationals was held in conjunction with the Sydney CDI\*\*\* and in Brett Parbery's absence was chaired by Cathie Drury-Klein. The meeting was restricted to riders only and was attended by 43 riders. The next forum will be in conjunction with the National Championships in October 2008.

## **Lesley Sullivan**

Chair ADC





## NATIONAL EVENTING COMMITTEE

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The EFA High Performance Programme has been instrumental in having our Elite riders compete over International-standard cross-country courses under the watchful eye of Overseas Ground Jury personal. The HP Program helps to bring such Officials to our three major Three-Day Events in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Because of the Equine Influenza outbreak in late August 2007 and the resulting shutdown of the Equine Industry throughout Australia, Adelaide CCI\*\*\*\* had to be cancelled, and Sydney CCI\*\*\* was rescheduled from September 2007 to April 2008. Having Sydney in April and then Melbourne CCI\*\*\* in June was most critical in our preparation for the Olympics in Hong Kong in August.

Camperdown CCI in December was the first major event to be up and going after the EI shutdown in August. It was held under strict Quarantine requirements and only horses from Victoria and SA were able to compete there.

Riders in WA were able to compete in their state with minimal Quarantine requirements during the shutdown.

In NSW and Qld Riders could not compete or travel during the shutdown, but by the end of March competition was back on schedule.

During the time of the EI Shut down, the FEI was being proactive in the matter of safety in our sport. We have been asked by the FEI to appoint a National Eventing Safety Officer, who will be responsible for obtaining information on incident at all National and International events. The Officer will appoint a Safety Officer at each of these events and they in turn will send reports from the events for collation. These will then be sent to the FEI and be used by the NEC to make sure our Sport is kept safe for horses and riders to compete in.

This year during the Melbourne CCI, we conducted an FEI Clinic for Eventing Judges, Course Designers and Technical Delegates. The FEI Director was Tony McPherson with Mary Seefried and Brian Schrapel as his assistants. It was a most productive course, with six National Officials being recommended to be promoted to Candidate FEI Officials. We need to keep producing more International Officials, and to this end we are now applying to conduct FEI Official Clinics in Australia every year. Our Officials Pathway is also about to be released.

I would like to thank Franz, Michelle and other members of the National Office for their help to Eventing, and my fellow Committee Members for the many hours of Voluntary involvement.

**J L Dunn OAM**  
Chairman



## NATIONAL SHOW HORSE COMMITTEE

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The National Show Horse Committee met twice in 2007/08. The September 07 meeting was held in Perth and coincided with WA Horse of the Year. As the E1 outbreak had occurred only a few weeks prior, WA was very lucky to be able to run the event at all and it would be the last Show Horse event to be witnessed by most delegates for a lengthy period.

### **NJAS**

The National Judging Accreditation Scheme was discussed at both the September and April meetings. The reaccreditation of judges is progressing effectively with most judges submitting their returns to the National Office in a timely manner. As it is now a requirement in all states that judges attend a seminar on a bi annual 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.

### **Measuring**

The new National Measurers Accreditation Scheme was launched in April. Measurers from all states attended a meeting in Sydney along with National Education Manager Nathan Holman and then Sports Consultant Siobhan Laphorne. The new competency-based assessment process was finalised and the Chief Measurers are now responsible for rolling out the scheme in their respective states. As Pony Dressage now requires competing horses to hold a current height certificate, heights will be recorded in both hands and centimetres. The important additions to the Measuring Rules that should be noted are:

- The handler must be 16 years or over for safety reasons and so the handler is able to understand the process, receive instruction and deal with the outcome of the measurement in a more informed manner
- Correct footwear is required
- A skin twitch or any other unnecessary touching of the horse during the measurement is not permitted

### **Australian Show Horse Championships**

At the April meeting, there were arguments for and against the retention of judges who were selected to judge at the 2007 Championships. After much discussion, it was resolved to retain the judges for the 2008 event.

2008 will be the first year that the Hack class will be split into two heights; over 15h up to and including 16h and 16h and over. The National Committee would like to thank the Victorian Show Horse committee (which runs the event) for agreeing to the addition of this class in what is already a mammoth undertaking to organise. Congratulations to the States for holding successful qualifiers and we are looking forward to the EFA National Show Horse and Rider Championships to be held at Werribee 5-6 December.

### **Showman of the Year**

Unfortunately, some states were forced to cancel their qualifying events due to lack of entries. It is proposed that New Zealand will hold an international event in March 2009. The Australian team selection process will be determined by the National Show Horse Committee at the December meeting.

### **Leading Rein Height**

As riders can move on and off the leading rein it was proposed at the April meeting that the height of the pony be raised to 12.2 hands. Although supported unanimously at this meeting, many delegates have since reported that this decision has been unpopular and therefore this issue will be revisited at the December meeting.

### **Leading Rein Age of Rider**

As we phase in the increase in the age of our leading rein riders for safety reasons, the age will be rider 5 and under 8 years effective 1 January 2009.

### **Safety Helmets**

There was much discussion at the April meeting as to whether safety helmets should be introduced for all ages, not just riders under 18 years. The delegates were to enquire at state levels as whether this should be introduced. The general consensus is that it should be introduced. This will also be raised at the December meeting.

**Joanne Bastian**  
Chairman



## NATIONAL JUMPING COMMITTEE

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The previous twelve months have seen a unique situation within the Horse Industry with EI having its devastating effects on all of us. It was wonderful that the EFA was able to obtain Federal and State Government funding so that we in the industry could survive.

The amazing factor has been how well the Jumping sector has recovered and moved on. We have record numbers in just about all states at all levels of competition, particularly in the lower levels, which augurs well that we are looking after that side of the industry. However, I personally feel that there could be more done in this area, and we are currently working on further revision of the National Grading system to make it more user friendly and streamlined for the administration.

At the Elite level we had our best Olympic Games for some time, with our Team obtaining our goal of a top 8 finish. Also 3 riders qualified in the top 25, which was also a first ever for Australia. This was greatly assisted by our two overseas-based riders, Edwina Alexander and Matt Williams, but our local riders were well in touch. This was a huge improvement on the Athens result, and great credit must be given to the High Performance Panel, which conceived the program after the last Olympic Games, and now have a good working relationship with the Selectors, something that has not always been the case in the past. Also, great credit must be given to our National Coach Gilbert Böckmann, whose quiet dedication and tireless work ethic have been a huge factor, as well as having him as the European contact for the selection shows and his place as a European base. Stephen Lamb as Chef is also maturing extremely well into his highly responsible role, and we are extremely fortunate to have such a motivated person.

At this point I would also like to express the Committee's gratitude for the wonderful assistance that comes from the National Office, with huge thanks to Franz' normal super efficiency, and also to Brett Mace, who has done an amazing job with High Performance. Also to Mandy King who has made my job a lot easier. We need to do more work with Nathan Holman, as we have a huge problem obtaining and maintaining enthusiasm and commitment with the greater number of officials that our sport now needs, and there seems to be a hold up getting these people (if we can find them) into the system. One more project for 2009.

At the last NJC Meeting I offered my resignation as Chair due to my administrative sanction halfway through the year. While I am thoroughly enjoying my role as Chair and feel that we as a Committee are achieving a lot, I didn't wish for the EFA's name to be at all compromised, so chose to offer my resignation, which was accepted with the invitation to reapply, which I will consider on advice from those within the Federation.

I am available for any further information if required, otherwise Peter Cooke is the extremely able Acting Chair, but he also has quite a bit on his plate with his other current roles as World Cup Committee Chair and Selector.

**Vicki Roycroft**



## NATIONAL VAULTING COMMITTEE

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Although the Equine Influenza endemic was not declared in every state of Australia, measures were introduced by government departments that crippled all equestrian activities across the state except WA. This meant that all vaulting activities virtually came to a standstill until the end of 2007.

The two international vaulters that had made the finals of the championships at WEG Aachen 2006 were invited to participate in the newly created championship class introduced in 2007 when Aachen resumed to its normal annual format. Samantha Blunden accepted her invitation and attended the competition finishing in a creditable ninth position.

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 the EFA commencing early 2008. The new system includes an extra committee member over the old representative system. Apart from that extra person only one other person is different to the old committee, maintaining stability.

As this system is newly introduced, at its first meeting the committee held a ballot to determine the tenure of its members. Two positions became single-year tenures. At the moment the committee is working through the issues involved in introducing the new EFA-accredited lungers' certificates.

The sport itself is back at training and competing with several events already been held so far this year in each of the participating states. Each of the states is conducting clinics throughout the year with the view of accrediting and upgrading officials for our sport. Congratulations to Angela Broughton from South Australia for being upgraded to a Level 3 Vaulting judge, one of only an elite group of six active Level 3 judges.

### **Greg Blunden**

Chairman



## NATIONAL CARRIAGE DRIVING COMMITTEE

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### Clubs

With the outbreak of EI, clubs seemed to resort to innovative horseless activities. They are only just getting back into activities of training, schools, and dressage competitions.

Victoria now has an EFA State Driving Council with six clubs that have joined.

### Coaching and Officiating

The Victoria coach's prior knowledge workshop was postponed from Nov 2007 to March 2008 and a number of Southern NSW, Victorian and WA people took part in the workshop to become accredited

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

An Official's course for Judges Technical Delegates and Course Designers is now being put together.

### High Performance

Boyd Exell driving Four-in-hand has been plagued by injuries and operations after another accident but was able to win Windsor weeks after a hip operation. He has had wins and places in the World Cup Indoor, as well as being placed prominently in Europe. With the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Great Britain last year, the British Nationals, which Boyd had entered, were transferred to another weekend when he had European commitments. Again he has qualified for the British HDT Championship, as well as the World Horse Four-in-hand.

Jessica Meredith driving Pony Pairs came 16<sup>th</sup> at the World Pony Carriage Driving Championships in Denmark after coming 4<sup>th</sup> in the Dressage. Jessica has had a win and numerous places in GBR, including 3<sup>rd</sup> at the British HDT Championships. She has also qualified for the British HDT Championships.

### Goals for 08/09

Development of ACDS and EFA working together again

Finalise and implement Strategic Plan

Finalise and implement Veterinary rules for unofficial events

Finalise and implement Officials course

Development of Young Drivers Program

Promote the workbooks to the youth, beginners and present drivers

### Judy Meredith

Chairman