



EQUESTRIAN  
AUSTRALIA



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

# DRIVING THE SPORT FORWARD TOGETHER



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# FEI™

# KEY STATISTICS



MEMBERS  
**22,855**



OFFICIALS  
**1,131**



COACHES  
**819**



## SOCIAL MEDIA



@equestrianaus **71,796** Followers  
@ausequestrianteam **45,901** Followers



@equestrianaus **24,401** Followers  
@ausequestrianteam **23,175** Followers



**1,420** Subscribers



**5,800** Followers



**2,070** Followers

# CHAIR REPORT

CHRISTIE FREEMAN

Our vision of a thriving and safe sport, uniting the Equestrian Community continues to drive the actions of our board and staff. We remain focused on excellence in governance.

Overhauling old and implementing new policies and procedures across integrity, safety and horse welfare, finance and all areas of our operations has been key to preparing our organisation for the future. While much of this work has been done 'behind the scenes', and members may not yet feel the benefits, these efforts are crucial in laying the groundwork for the future of EA. Combined with the new digital platform, they will significantly enhance the 'off horse' the experience, leading to long-term improvements for all.

Reflecting on the recent Olympics in Paris, our campaign was a massive team effort. We thank and congratulate the riders, coaches, owners, grooms, staff and the many, many others who made it possible. Our performance at Paris highlights both our strengths and the opportunities to evolve our thinking and actions at the elite level. Elite level success comes from having a really strong foundation, regardless of the discipline; we must urgently apply the lessons learned from Paris to ensure we are ready for the next world championships, Los Angeles and Brisbane beyond that. This means giving the disciplines the autonomy, resources and budgets to be able to develop opportunities from grass roots up. Every Olympic showjumper starts somewhere in the small ring, every Grand Prix dressage horse begins with the preliminary movements and every para-equestrian must first have the opportunity to start at the lower levels. Pathways and opportunities from the base level of the pyramid to the elite level assist us all aspire to excellence and achieve our aspirations whatever they may be. This is the inclusive environment we must foster and support to provide opportunities for both the current and next generation. This means that with limited resources we must be smarter in our delivery approach.

As we enter the next phases of enhancing our organisation, we are shifting focus strengthening back-office functions to pursuing an outwards focus for growth and the development of alternative revenue streams. As the National Sporting Organisation, we acknowledge and are grateful for the support we receive from the Australian Sports Commission and government funding authorities. This support allows us to send teams to the Olympics and support the funded Olympic sports (para-equestrian and eventing). However, in the future we want to be more self-sustaining and attract both commercial and philanthropic partners to our sport across all disciplines. Our objective remains to build a united, cohesive, well-functioning entity with the critical mass to engage

with key partners. There is no doubt that our current disaggregated structure has prevented equestrian sport from capitalising on its opportunities. A model whereby we engage with all equestrian stakeholders will also make us far more resilient to challenges in our environment, such as increasingly demanding compliance and social licence to operating standards. With a unified, discipline-based approach where we have strong engagement and a powerful voice, we can shape the environment around these issues rather than be a passive respondent.

On a personal note, as I come to the end of my term as a director and chair of Equestrian Australia, I want to thank the equestrian community for its engagement, passion and willingness to get stuck into the issue of shaping our future sport. I extend thanks to our team of staff, many of whom are from an equestrian background, and who share our passion and commitment to making EA the best it can be for you. I also thank every single volunteer and supporter out there who makes our sport come alive. Here's to making your job easier. Finally, I feel so fortunate to have worked with a board that is committed, intelligent and brings an incredible wealth of experience and expertise to running our sport, all in addition to their day jobs and home commitments.

So, as we come to the Annual General Meeting, and ask for your support for the next phase, I know change is difficult. Letting go of what is comfortable is confronting, but as my dad used to say, "if you're standing still, you're going backwards". There is still consultation to do to refine the model and fill in the gaps, and we will continue to ask for your collective input on this matter. However, maintaining the status quo will no longer meet the needs of our sport and we request the membership's support to endorse our plan to deliver reform to equestrian sport.

## Christie Freeman

Chair of the Board of Directors  
Equestrian Australia Limited





LAND  
ROVER

HORSE  
OF THE YEAR

DEFENDER

# MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

## AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

It was an honour to be in Paris for the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics and see the incredible performances of our Australian athletes and teams which have left long lasting memories in the hearts of all Australians.

It was an honour to be in Paris for the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics and see the incredible performances of our Australian athletes and teams which have left long lasting memories in the hearts of all Australians.

While not every sport the Australian Sports Commission supports was on show in Paris, I know the joy and pride that sport can bring us all, and the opportunities it provides.

As we look towards a home Games in Brisbane in 2032, my vision is for sport to be safe, fair, accessible and inclusive for everyone, with every athlete supported to reach their full potential.

We want to bring out the best in everyone involved in sport because that's how we will become the world's best - by working together and bound by a common purpose.

We encourage and help Australians of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to get involved in sport and we advocate for sport and the positive influence it has on the nation.

Our grant programs support athletes, coaches, officials and organisations, while our Sporting Schools program is helping more children access free and fun sporting activities than ever before. More than 9,200 schools are registered with the program and our goal is to reach 32 million participants by Brisbane 2032.

Our high performance sport system is more united than ever through Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy and our shared commitment to Win Well. It was wonderful to see the Win Well ethos alive in Paris and as we approach the end of Horizon 1, see the country's peak Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games sporting organisations come together to deliver the best outcomes for our athletes, our sports and for all of Australia.

Likewise, work continues to help Australians to Play Well with stakeholders coming together to discuss how to put the nation's first codesigned Sport Participation Strategy into action with workshops held across the country.

We are proud that our Australian Institute of Sport Campus has been the home of sport in Australia for over 42 years and a \$249.7 million investment from the Australian Government to upgrade our high performance facilities will ensure we continue to be world-leading.

I know success will be greatest when every part of the system is able to perform their role at their best, and I look forward to leading the ASC, including in its work towards ensuring there is a lasting legacy for all Australian sports and the community from this green and gold decade - when the eyes of the world will be on Australian athletes, Australian sport and Australian venues.



**Kate Jenkins**

Chair, Australian Sports Commission



# MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

## AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

The Australian Olympic Team's performance in Paris was a success measured in so many different ways. The record 18 gold medals in a record away Games total medal count of 53 (19 silver and 16 bronze).

Our fourth placing in the medal tally and the positive engagement with the community which saw 20 million Australians watch the Games on television through Channel Nine.

The AOC's AllezAUS campaign launched in July 2023 reached more than 450 million social users with more than 50,000 pieces of social content published by the time the Paris Games concluded.

But how do you quantify the collective spirit of the Team members who supported each other in such outstanding fashion under the leadership of Anna Meares in her first Games as Chef de Mission?

Paris is also a reminder that there are no guarantees in Olympic competition and that achievements extend beyond medals - and for all the success there is also disappointment for those who did not achieve their goals. Regardless, they all came home Olympians.

From the AOC perspective, we are very proud of the fact that a high-performance environment was provided no matter what the sport nor the location of the competition across France and even to Tahiti.

No matter where Australians were performing, every athlete deserved the best possible high-performance environment and to feel part of something bigger - as a member of the Australian Olympic Team.

My thanks to all our member sports for the tireless work and investment that went into preparing Australia's athletes who were able to qualify and compete to such a high standard. The AOC is forever grateful for the time invested and the cooperative approach to bring the athlete dreams to fruition.

The Games of Paris 2024 will be forever etched in our memories for the efforts of our athletes and no doubt the spectacular backdrops that Paris provided for the events. Chris Burton's wonderful silver in the individual eventing appropriately set in the lush grandeur of the grounds of Versailles.

Of course, none of this would be possible also without the support of the AOC's commercial partners and Team Appeal supporters who helped provide the \$25 million it cost to send the Team to Paris.

The AOC also project managed the "Pacific to Paris" initiative funded by the Australian Government to support the Olympian and Paralympian athletes prepare and compete at the Games.

Now our focus shifts to preparing a Winter Team for Milano-Cortina 2026, but already planning has begun for Los Angeles 2028 which will present its own unique set of challenges and opportunities.

Our thanks to the Federal Government for its commitment with \$20 million allocated prior to the Games to assist so many athletes qualify at a time where travel and other costs associated with qualification had risen so sharply. And ahead of the Games, the Federal Government also announced the first real increase in sports funding in many years. That support now is critical for a successful home Games when Australia's turn comes again with Brisbane 2032.

The AOC is currently engaged in detailed planning to ensure there is a sustainable legacy for sport from hosting these home Games. You don't achieve a positive impact from the Games without such a plan and the AOC is working actively with Member Sports, all levels of government, Brisbane 2032 and other stakeholder to ensure sport benefits for decades after the Games move on.

Again, through our CEO Roundtables and other forums we want to ensure our member sports have a say in how these legacies can be achieved.

Elsewhere, the AOC continues to deliver on a range of commitments that exist beyond the Games themselves.

We are well advanced in our second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which includes initiatives such as broadening our Indigenous Coaching Scholarship program to deliver real and practical outcomes in Indigenous communities. The AOC has also created an Australian Olympic Indigenous Athlete Fund that will deliver scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island athletes.

Our Olympics Unleashed program into schools continues to go from strength to strength, particularly in an Olympic year. Since 2018, some 435,000 school children nationally have heard directly from Olympians on how to meet life's challenges, using their athletic journeys to teach resilience, decision making and goal setting.

The AOC's Olympic Change-Maker program continues to recognise our school leaders nationally with more than 900 students applying from across Australia this year. Eventually 24 young people from every state and territory were selected for a national forum – each has shown leadership in their local schools or communities.

From the AOC Executive, senior management and staff, thank you for the dedication of your sport to the Australian Olympic Movement.

**Matt Carroll AM**

Chief Executive Officer



# MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

## PARALYMPICS AUSTRALIA

As the glow of the Paris 2024 Paralympics slowly subsides, we at Paralympics Australia look towards a future brimming with opportunity. Our athletes in Paris were outstanding, winning 63 medals, including 18 gold, and securing ninth place on the medal table. Not since 1988 has Australia finished outside the

Though the team of 2024 achieved so highly, there was a clear message beneath the celebrations. The reality is our team size and overall performance has been in decline over recent Paralympic Games and while the performances of our athletes were exceptional, the overall team result in terms of medals, medallists and position on the medal table continues to decline. The standard of Paralympic competition and performance continues to rise and if Australia is to regain our position among the world's top performing nations, we need to improve our systems. That means more access to participation opportunities, greater access to classification, more efficient and evidence-informed talent identification initiatives and stronger performance pathway and high-performance programs. This applies as much to equestrian as any of the sports contested at Paralympic level.

Paralympics Australia continues to support the Para-equestrian program in a range of ways including, but not limited to, access to Paralympics Australia's high performance facility for 'off horse' training and education camps, in addition to supporting a range of emerging pathway athletes with customised saddles and other equestrian-related adapted equipment via the Para-Sport Equipment Fund. The diverse pathways taken by our four Para-equestrian representatives at Paris 2024 as they worked towards competing at the sport's pinnacle event is consistent with Para-athletes' journeys in other sports and classifications.

Di Barnes and Lisa Martin grew up among horses and competed at high levels in various disciplines, though both needed to be convinced to give Para-equestrian a go. The team's Grade II rider, Bridget Murphy, grew up competing against people without a disability. It wasn't until after the Rio 2016 Games that three-time equestrian Paralympian Sharon Jarvis encouraged Murphy to start competing against Para-athletes, a move that changed her life.

Then there was Grade 1 rider, Stella Barton, from suburban Melbourne, who started at Riding For The Disabled Association at age seven.

Barton's elite potential was identified by coaching staff, but it seemed too late, as she had decided she'd had enough of the sport. At the final visit to say goodbye to the people she'd met, Barton was introduced to those connected with Equestrian Australia's high performance program, setting her on a new and exciting path towards national selection.

These four Australian Paralympic Team members, along with their horses and support staff, earned a once-in-a-lifetime experience of competing against the best in the world at perhaps the most spectacular venue to ever host an equestrian event, the Versailles Palace. Though Australia's 12-year medal drought continued, Paralympics Australia is excited by the announcement of increased federal government investment into high performance Paralympic sport and the collaboration between Equestrian Australia and Equine Pathways Australia, who play a critical role in supporting the identification and development of our future equestrian Paralympians.

Progress requires a whole-of-system approach and Paralympics Australia deeply values our relationship with our member national sporting organisation, Equestrian Australia. I'd like to congratulate Darren Gocher, who in three-and-a-half years as CEO provided crucial leadership between the Tokyo and Paris Games. Our gratitude also to EA's High Performance Para-Equestrian Lead Nick Hunter and his entire team for their outstanding effort supporting our representatives in Paris.

We have an exciting road ahead and I'm confident that alongside our system partners we will achieve great things throughout the next Games cycle.

### **Cameron Murray**

Chief Executive Officer (interim)  
Paralympics Australia



# HIGH PERFORMANCE

As we lead up to the Games, it's been inspiring to see so many of our athletes performing well in all disciplines. This is an exciting time for everyone involved in Equestrian. Our goal is not just to excel in Paris but also to learn from this experience and use those lessons to shape our plans for Los Angeles 2028.

As we look back on the past year in the High Performance (HP) division of Equestrian Australia, I want to share some exciting updates and insights.

## HP Staffing Update

We made an important addition to our team with the hiring of Ruth Trevallion, who joined as the Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement (AW&E) Manager in November 2023. Ruth will ensure that our athletes' mental and emotional health is taken care of, which is just as important as their physical training. Over the next 12 months, we plan to expand our programs in this area so our athletes feel fully supported as they chase their dreams.

Todd Hinde, HP Jumping Manager, accepted a position with the FEI as their Director, Jumping and Stefanie Maraun has taken a position at NSW Institute of Sport.

## Oceania

It was fantastic to make our way with a Senior and Young Rider team as well as three Individuals in March 2024 to the Hastings Horse of the Year Show in NZL, following the catastrophic weather event that halted this event in 2023.

The athletes were provided with a great opportunity to qualify for the Olympics locally, and gain vital team and travel experience. Working with our New Zealand neighbours provides both good local competition and ...

## Olympic and Paralympic Campaigns

With the Olympic and Paralympic Games just around the corner, our main focus has been getting our athletes qualified for Paris 2024. The HP program has been working hard to refine our strategies across both our Olympic and Paralympic teams. We've seen some fantastic performances from both new and established combinations in qualifying events this year. It's a thrilling time for Equestrian in Australia, and we're excited to carry this momentum into the Games and beyond!

Chris Webb is managing our preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympic program, enabling Chris to continue with his Paris strategy.

EA changed direction with the appointment of an International based Dressage Chef d'Equipe for 2023-24. We thanked Deb MacNicol for her extensive tenure to Dressage, in particular as EA's long-standing Chef d'Equipe and welcomed Amanda Renouard (FRA) who is briefed with giving our overseas riders campaigning for the Olympics a person on the ground in the same time zone to assist prepare and qualify for Paris24.

## Non-Olympic Campaigns

Our non-Olympic disciplines continue to receive support to our World class athletes, vaulters and drivers under the advice and guidance of National Selectors and Discipline committee's.

Jodie Mckeone became AUS first Paradriving athlete when she and Royal Walker, a 7yo purebred Hackney owned by the Bowman family from the UK competed in the Grade 1 at the FEI 2023 World Championship for Para Driving held in the Netherlands in August 2023. Not surprising for those that know Jodie, this determined and focussed athlete secured the Individual Bronze Medal also! A really outstanding performance and a way forward has been paved for this incredible event. Boyd Exell continues to remain at the top end of the Driving Four-in-Hand narrowly missing out on his 11th FEI World Cup final win this year by just .83 seconds. We will see Boyd's team contest the World Championships for the 7th time in late 2024. Our three non-Olympic disciplines continue to produce World class athletes, vaulters and drivers under the guidance of the National Discipline Committees and Selectors. St Margaret Anglican Girls (QLD) Student, Eadie McWilliam, 15, competed at her first World

Championship, the Endurance World Cup for Young Riders and Juniors in France in Sept 2023 on Larntainey Silver Treasure, owned by Peter and Penny Toft. Eadie and Treasure completed the 120km track and the experience gained at this event will have them well placed for future championships.

Ginger Kennett finished the year ranked 10th in the FEI Vaulting World Cup Standings, and has a busy schedule ahead in 2024-25.

As we lead up to the Games, it's been inspiring to see so many of our athletes performing well in all disciplines. This is an exciting time for everyone involved in Equestrian! Our goal is not just to excel in Paris but also to learn from this experience and use those lessons to shape our plans for Los Angeles 2028.

Equestrian Australia has a proud history of success thanks to the hard work of many individuals, clubs, committees, and volunteers. Thank you to each and every one of you for your dedication and the countless hours you spend supporting our sport. I also want to acknowledge

the ongoing support from Sport Commission and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). Your help is crucial in making our program better and helping our athletes shine.

As we get ready to compete in beautiful France, the excitement is growing! I'm confident that our Australian teams will put forth strong performances, and I encourage everyone to show their support during the Games.

In summary, the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games are a fantastic opportunity for Equestrian Australia. We're committed to supporting our athletes and learning from this journey to improve in the future. Let's come together to celebrate our sport and look forward to the amazing things that await us in Paris and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Will Enzinger**

High Performance Director



# COACHING

## Equestrian Australia Coaching Committee

After careful consideration and feedback from our community, we are embarking on an exciting journey to evolve equestrian coaching in Australia. As part of this initiative, Equestrian Australia has a newly formed coaching Committee (EACC) that is working on tackling the issues at the forefront of the EA coaching scheme.

This transition marks the beginning of a new era, where we will introduce innovative approaches, broaden our perspectives, and ensure that our coaching programs are more impactful than ever. The re-launch brings together a diverse group of skilled individuals who are utilising Coaching experience with the development of ideas, energy, and a shared vision for excellence in coaching.

We are deeply grateful for the contributions of the previous committee members, whose dedication and hard work have laid a strong foundation. As we move forward, we remain committed to building on this legacy, enhancing our offerings, and creating even greater opportunities for growth and development. The following outlines some of the significant tasks that are part of the committee's workplan.

### EA Coaching Guidance

In line with EA's restructuring process, all coaching policies and procedures are under review. Coaching vision, strategy, value proposition, pathways, syllabus and coach accreditation will be assessed and compared to global best practice for the benefit of our members. It will be informed by member feedback

and aim to set the scene for the next 20 years of our equestrian journey.

### Level 3 Performance Coach Course

The EA Level 3 Performance Coach Course is the top tier of the EA Coaching Pathway. 21 candidate coaches are undergoing personal development and mentoring followed by assessments through some of Australia's most recognised coach educators across all Olympic disciplines. The enrolment numbers reflect a strong interest in the course and a recognition of the value it offers to the coaching community.

Total number of EA accredited coaches: **819**

### EA Coaching Committee

Annyka Ada Overton (NSW)  
David Francis (VIC)  
Glenys Cox (QLD) (until May 2024)  
Lone Joergensen (QLD)  
Mark Griffiths (VIC)  
Michelle Strapp (VIC)  
Nellandra Henry (WA)  
Penelope Toft (QLD)  
Robert Stewart (NSW) (until May 2024)  
Susan Andrews (TAS)  
Virginia Creed (VIC) (until May 2024)

Thank you to all members of the EA Coaching Committee and those who supported it over the year.

### Chris Bennecke

EA Board Director and Chair EACC

# OFFICIALS

## Thank You

A massive Thank you to all our Officials for the dedication and hard work you put into ensuring the success of our events. Your commitment truly makes the sport run, we would be lost without you.

## National

The implementation of Working With Children Check or equivalent for all EA Officials, was a major achievement for EA and all our officials, as it highlights the commitment to the safeguarding of children and young people within equestrian sport.

We gained FEI Equivalency with our National pathway for Jumping Stewards. With the change in the FEI pathway this will help our National Stewards gain the first step on the ladder with the FEI and shows that our Officials Pathway is world standard. We will be looking at submitting further equivalences to assist our officials who wish to progress to FEI Level.

A pathway for National Endurance Official wanting to progress to FEI Endurance Officials was finalised to assist those officials wanting to progress to FEI level.

## FEI Jumping Course

The first course was a FEI Jumping Course Designers Level Transfer Course 26th - 28th July 2023. An intense three days of instruction and discussion greeted the 12 candidates who were seeking to upgrade their qualifications as course designers in jumping. The course was directed by John Vallance (AUS) and Gerrit Beker (NZL).

Candidates came from Australia, Canada, China, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and New Zealand to the winter sun of Australia. With a diverse group from many federations the opportunity to establish friendships and share their experience proved to be a productive and engaging three days.

The second course was an FEI Jumping Course Designers In Person Maintenance Course 29th – 30th July

This course requires attendance every three years and a successful completion of an exam is a requirement for the jumping course designers to maintain their status with the FEI.

The course attracted participants from Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, who spent two days under the direction of FEI Level 4 course designer John Vallance to successfully maintain their FEI accreditation.

### FEI Eventing Course

Equestrian Australia hosted a FEI Eventing Course for Judges, Technical Delegates and Course designers from 9th – 12th November 2023, which was held alongside the Sydney International Horse Trials at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC).

Attendees representing USA, NZL and AUS, learnt a great deal from Course Directors Christina Klingspor (SWE), David O'Connor (USA) and Lars Christensson (SWE). The Course Directors gave invaluable insights to those who attended with a fantastic mix of classroom and practical based experience. The course saw all attendees either fulfil refreshing requirements, or making the next steps for upgrades, making for a successful program. Many commenting (including the Course Directors) "it was the best FEI Eventing Officials Course they have ever attended" testament to EA and its staff's attention to detail to provide a world class venue for learning.

### FEI Vaulting Stewards Course

Equestrian Australia hosted an FEI Vaulting Stewards

Course 16 March 2024. The course, conducted by John Eccles (GBR) was refresher for existing FEI Vaulting Stewards. Great Britain's John Eccles international Judge, coach and FEI Steward General for Vaulting worldwide, conducted an FEI stewards Maintenance course John worked to further develop and refresh the skills required of capable FEI vaulting stewards. All the candidates successfully maintained their status.

### Amy McGregor

Pathways Manager - Officials

### Number of Officials by State

NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
338	14	221	94	87	237	140	1131

### Officials Functions

Dressage	853
Driving	31
Endurance	8
Eventing	252
Jumping	442
Measuring	45
Medication Control	67
Para Dressage	82
Show Horse	205
Vaulting	26



# HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

It has been a busy twelve months in Health Safety and Welfare. *In July 2023, following a meeting in Melbourne earlier in the year, the Health Safety and Welfare Committee agreed upon some key priorities for the immediate future.*

The priorities are:

- Completion of the Coronial Recommendations;
- Implement a consistent data collection and reporting system and process specific to each discipline;
- Develop and implement a medical requirements framework;
- Review of Serious Incident Management Plan / Incident Review Plans to cover all disciplines;
- Improved member communications; and
- Developing an EA Horse Welfare Strategy.

I am pleased to report that in consultation with the EA Eventing National Discipline Committee the Coronial Recommendations have now all been addressed and have now moved into ongoing assurance mode. Whilst many of the recommendations involved changes in procedures which may not be obvious to members, the ongoing documented reviews of the Horse Fall Review Group are posted on the EA website and available for all to see.

Our incident reporting system, thanks to the efforts of our service providers and volunteers continues to provide good data on incidents that occur, however rates at which they are occurring in relation to the number of entries cannot currently be calculated for disciplines other than Eventing due to lack of entry data currently being submitted into the EA results database.

A significant amount of effort has been focused over the past few months in working with the discipline committees at State and National level to get data which allow us to measure the rate of occurrence e.g. how many injuries per 1000 starts. As of September, we are in a position where this information is available for all Olympic disciplines and can be tracked going forward. This will hopefully be further aided once the new EA IT platform is implemented. This effort will ultimately provide Discipline Committees with data that can help guide decision making to help reduce injury rates over time.

Work on a medical requirements framework that encompasses all activities continues with a trial to help determine minimum levels of medical coverage for Jumping competitions, which is planned to be concluded by the end of the year.

An Independent Serious Incident Review Panel was established early in 2024 and work is ongoing to develop the supporting processes - fortunately there has been no requirement to engage the panel over the last twelve months.

We are conscious that Horse Welfare is the first strategic priority supporting the Strong Foundations pillar in EAs Nationally Aligned Strategy; Considerable energy involving all Disciplines and States has gone into its' development over the past few months.

Following a workshop (informed by the FEI sports forum in Lausanne) in July the output was discussed with National Discipline Committees and State bodies in a completed consultation process. This process will result in a detailed written plan with key actions covering:

- Education;
- Rules Regulations and Guidelines;
- Communication; and
- Industry Engagement.

Short and medium term actions are identified in the plan along with clear delivery dates. Some of these actions will require close co-operation between the Health Safety and Welfare team and EA's integrity team.

Not all of our activity has been focussed on these projects - considerable energy has been spent on introducing the updated concussion protocols based on updated Australian Institute of Sport Guidelines, and on the day-to-day activity of responding to members' enquiries and incidents that occurred throughout the year.

I would like to thank the members of the Health, Safety and Welfare Committee - change is not easy, and the



group continues to provide an unwavering level of help and support that is key to delivering improvement for the benefit of all.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to finish without saying thank you to Meredith Chapman for her significant contribution during her tenure at EA – our organisation's improved position in Health, Safety and Welfare over the last few years have been primarily due to the hard work that Meredith did in a challenging environment. I would also like to thank Maddison McAndrew for holding the fort

whilst we reorganised the team, and to Vireena Peacock and Roger Kane for leading the continuous improvement challenge that we continue to face in this important area of our sport.

**George Proimos,**

Chair, Health Safety and Welfare Committee.



# DRESSAGE

2023 saw the equestrian world at last returning to “normal “after the turbulent years of Covid restrictions. Throughout most States Dressage competitors hold the highest number of licences within the Olympic disciplines and the trajectory is still trending upward..

The popularity of dressage is increasing across all levels from grass roots to High Performance. Unfortunately there were several events cancelled due to inclement weather conditions during this period but with the climate seeming to change ,the calendar may have to shift to suit the vagaries of the weather in all states be it due to it heat or flooding.

As 2023 was a pre Olympic year we saw many of our High Performance riders working towards their goal of Team selection. Australia is lucky to have riders training both within Australia and overseas and gaining higher scores each year.

The new Dressage EA rulebook was completed and hopefully this has covered some of the grey areas that existed previously. The committee works hard on both implementing and assessing rules and I thank them for their diligence.

As I am sure you are all aware there has been a greatly increased emphasis on Horse Welfare and the general perception of the use of horses in sport. The FEI and EA are constantly addressing this and there have been several meetings and discussions on the various aspects of equipment, rider attitude, abuse of the horse and the way in which we ride, train and look after our dressage horses. It is so important that our image portrayed on social media and at competitions reflects the true respect and care of the large percentage of dressage riders and owners and there are now EA and FEI policies in place to aid this.

My term as Chair and member of EADC expires this year so I would like to take this opportunity to thank both current and past members of the team. It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated team and I wish them well for the future. .

## **Gillian Botten**

Dressage Committee Chair

## **EA Dressage Committee**

Gillian Botten - Chair

Julie Jones

Belind Snooks

Alexis Hellyer – Athletes’ Representative

Lisa Baker

Aengus Wright

Toni Venhaus



Above: Australian Youth Dressage Championships 2023: FEI Childrens Championship (12-14 years) winners Matia Hopwood and *Clare Downs Arian Lledrith*. Photo Credit: Simon Scully Photography.

# DRIVING

The National Driving Committee has been very active in furthering sport development and growth since the release of the new rules and competition formats in July 2022. The first rule book update was released in January 2024.

The Athlete's Representative position and two Committee vacancies were filled in January 2024.

In December 2023 the positions for Non-Olympic Discipline Selectors for Driving were open and the 3 existing selectors, Robert Edwards, Judy Meredith and Margaret O'Brien were reappointed until December 2026.

The National Committee have also been working closely with Roger Kane, EA National Safety Officer, with regards to further safety, concussion initiatives for the sport and Amy McGregor, EA Pathways Manager for Officials, in the development of accreditation training and pathways.

## Clubs

Our biggest hurdle, one still to be overcome, is the absence of Driving committees or representatives at the State level in many states. The National Committee plans to work with the State bodies to foster interest from members to become involved on State Driving Committees. We want to see a thriving Driving sport out there, as part of every state and many multidisciplinary EA-affiliated Clubs, all around Australia.

Driving Queensland held their second State Championships at Toowoomba in Oct 2023 which attracted more entries than the previous year. It has otherwise been a slow year with not many clubs holding competitions, but some have been offering "come and try" and "starting up" days which have been very successful. There has been a growth in memberships from these activities.

Equestrian Queensland also hosted a Boyd Exell Training clinic at Toowoomba QLD in January 2024. All available spaces were taken up by eager participants and a large number of spectators were also in attendance.

Southern Highlands Carriage Club located in Bundanoon hosted and were the winners in the inaugural 'Zilco Ashes' event between Australia and the UK. NSW contributed sponsorship for this innovative new event. The club has recently had a venue upgrade and held a grand opening

celebration in Feb 2024 for their new Multi Discipline arena.

A Tor Van den Berg clinic was also hosted privately and well attended in Holbrook NSW.

## Education

The new Driving Officials training syllabus was approved in Aug 2023 and 5 Course Presenters were appointed in January 2024. Educational resources are being developed which will service the accreditation framework requirements for both new and existing Driving Officials.

In May 2024 there were 21 applicants that participated in the first Fast Track training course with 14 new Level 1 Driving Judges being appointed in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, NSW and Qld.

The process of attracting and training new Driving Officials will continue to be a main focus for the committee into 2024/25.

A new online Navigator/Backstepper Competency Certificate resource has now been developed and this was released for use by members in February 2024.

## Athlete Achievements

Boyd Exell continues to be a very successful athlete Internationally performing well with major achievements across Europe during 2023-2024. Some of these achievements included taking 1st place at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May 2024 this being his fourteenth win at this prestigious event, and after a closely contested season with many wins took 2nd place, just narrowly missing out on taking his 11th win, in the FEI Driving World Cup Final in Bordeaux (FRA).

Boyd's success, horsemanship and performance has definitely had a flow on effect to Australian drivers, generating greater interest and renewed passion for those involved in this discipline here in Australia. Tor Van den Berg is also showing strong competitive performances in Europe to stamp his mark in the Driving discipline.

Boyd and Tor both competed at the World Equestrian Festival CHIO Aachen in June 2024 and the consistent results by both Drivers saw Team Australia in 4th place in the Nations Cup.

Other Australian Driving athletes training or competing overseas are young Drivers Ruby Lawrence and Ned Andrews both based with Boyd, Janelle Marshall is based in the US and Andrew Damsma is based in the Netherlands.

Tor Van den Berg and Andrew Damsma both competed at the FEI Driving World Championships for Pairs at Le Pin au Haras (FRA) Sep 2023 with very creditable performances. Jodie McKeone from Victoria has achieved great results competing in Europe, winning an individual bronze medal at the FEI World Championships for Para Driving in Aug 2023, 2nd place at Exloo in Mar 2024 and 1st place at Kronenberg in April 2024.

#### **Committee Goals for 2024/25**

The National Driving Committee will be focussed on increasing the number of official driving competitions being offered by affiliated clubs. An important aspect of this goal is to increase the number of accredited Driving officials through providing more training clinics and seminars as part of the ongoing education strategy over the next few years.

Thank you to all the loyal and supportive Driving volunteers, officials, committees, sponsors, athletes, grooms and coaches for all the hours, time, effort and commitment you put in. Thank you for your dedication, to our sport and taking the time to learn, grow and share what our great sport is all about.

We want to see a thriving Driving sport out there, as part of every state and many multi-disciplinary EA-affiliated Clubs, all around Australia. We look forward to another productive year and to see our drivers enjoying the sport from grass roots to high performance.

#### **Andrea Webb**

Driving Committee Chair

#### **EA Driving Committee**

Andrea Webb - Chair

Ty Nichols

Jessica Meredith

Corby Cunningham – Athletes' Representative

Mary Seefried

Wendy Bruszewski

Robert Edwards (until Dec 2023)

Suzan McDermott (from Jan 2024)



Above: Aachen CHIO 2023: Team van den Berge. Photo Credit: Libby Law Photography.

# ENDURANCE

It has been a monumental year with a number of FEI rides conducted in Australia over the past 12 months enabling riders and horses to progress from 1\*, 2\* and 3\* events with some being able to qualify to compete at WEC on home soil.

This is a huge leap from where we were only a year ago where it has not been possible to achieve qualification in Australia due to the lack of officials and events.

## **Australasian Regional Endurance Championship**

A key event was the inaugural Australasia Regional Endurance Championships. The event was held in June 2024 and hosted by OZ Endurance at Inglewood in conjunction with EA, EQ, ESNZ, AERA which featured international teams of from the Australasia region including Malaysia, Japan, New Zealand and China in an FEI 1\* 100km endurance teams' event.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Australian riders to experience a major international endurance event and we look forward to welcoming visiting countries to Inglewood to catch the country spirit" said Dick Collyer, Queensland Endurance Riders Association (QERA) President.

"In my capacity as the FEI Vice President and Chair of Regional Group VIII, I eagerly anticipate the inaugural edition of the Australasia Endurance Regional Championship to play a pivotal role in fostering growth and development within our vibrant equestrian community. This event stands as a beacon for opportunity to offer riders in our region an opportunity to compete internationally, while also serving as a catalyst for the growth of the equestrian industry in Australia" said Jack Huang, FEI Vice President and Chair of Regional Group VIII.

An enormous thank you to the organising committees, officials & volunteers that supported and funded events over the season to enable local riders to achieve their personal goals. As a direct result of your tireless efforts a full team Australian team competed at the recent WEC.

## **Our amazing Youth Riders**

Other achievements have seen our juniors compete on the international stage, with Eadie McWilliams inspiration ride on Larntianey Silver Treasure at the FEI World Championships for Young Riders and

Juniors in France in September 2023, successfully finishing in 19th position.

We have incredible talent and depth in our youth riders with many riders over the year doing us all very proud at local and international events in Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, France, Spain and the USA. With this momentum of talented horses & riders we are also aiming for a full team at the next World Youth Championships.

Our depth of local officials is also continuing to grow with continued effort from a number of key people, again we thank you.

Our committee members that have stepped down from the EAnEC this year are Penny Toft, Namoi O'Shaughnessy and Dick Collyer. We thank them for their time and commitment to building a strong FEI community in Australia.

There is now the opportunity to build on this progress and focus on building a high-performance team strategy with the aim of being podium ready as a team in 2025 and 2026.

The Committee continues to look forward for ways to build participation and provide a pathway for those riders and officials aiming to represent Australia at international competitions.

## **Sonya Ryan**

Endurance Committee Chair

## **EA Endurance Committee**

Sonya Ryan - Chair

Naomi O'Shaughnessy - Athletes' Representative (until July 2024)

Penny Toft (until July 2024)

Andrea Laws-King

Christine Stomps

Kristie Wright



Above: World Junior Championships 2023 Eadie McWilliams & *Larntianey Silver Treasure*. Photo Credit: Sarah Sullivan

# EVENTING

Our committee has a wide range of skills as well as coming from every state, which gives us valuable insight to our sport across the continent. We meet 4 times a year, twice in person and twice via teams. We have had team catch ups outside our scheduled meetings as the need arises.

In July 2023 the Eventing Australia Committee held a face to face forum in Sydney with invited Technical Delegates from all states of Australia. A wide range of topics were covered including the National Critical Incident Plan and processes.

Collection of data is integral to assessing how we are going as a Sport and how we can improve. Some work was done around simplifying the reporting system so that information is readily captured.

We came up with a list of common mistakes that riders new to the sport,(and sadly some who are not), often make. We have now provided display boards with these reminders listed for all Equestrian Australia events throughout the country to be displayed at the competition.

We discussed the need for a more encouraging approach to the lower level/inexperienced riders and a decision around rule changes was carried over to this year. We also agreed that sometimes at these levels a conversation is more appropriate than a sanction.

Other areas looked at were the Cross Country guidelines and the Officials Pathways.

Safety is very much a part of our agenda. The extensive collection of data is helpful in guiding our decisions. Interestingly roll tops are one of the most common cause of horse falls but tables at the higher level can also be a concern. This year we have been lucky enough to supply table kit funding to help events build their frangible tables. This money was made possible through the generosity of Terry Snow, a benefactor who came onboard in 2016 with his Making Eventing Safer Fund. Terry has recently passed and will be greatly missed by equestrians of all disciplines.

High Performance plays a vital role in supporting not only our athletes and squads but also facilitating meetings with our cross country course designers. This gives them a chance to exchange/input ideas, as well as keep up with the latest statistics and innovations.

We are lucky to have a wide range of National and FEI events in Australia and the EAEC recognises the enormous effort by volunteer committees to produce these, year after year. We ask the riders who benefit from their efforts to please help in anyway you can. We recognise that social media plays a huge part in promoting our sport to a wider audience but it can also jeopardise its future. Please post and comment responsibly.

## **Janet Houghton**

Eventing Committee Chair

## **EA Eventing Committee**

Janet Houghton - Chair

Matt Gaske

Jade Findlay

Nina Clarke

Jamie Buckby

Jo Crosby

Stuart Tinney - Athletes' Representative

Polly Ann Huntington (until Dec 2023)

Diana Massey (from Jan 2024)





Above: Adelaide Equstrian Festival 2024: Oliver Barrett and *Sandhills Special*. Photo Credit: Jo Jennings - EA.

# JUMPING

Processes and Structure has been the National Jumping Committee's year to date so far in 2024. Trying to ensure our Jumping riders are members of Equestrian Australia so covered by insurance, that our Jumping horses are also registered, that our competitions are being run under our National Jumping Rules and that we have officials, that are not only covered by insurance but also have the support of Equestrian Australia. These issues shouldn't really be that hard to fix but unfortunately this is still a work in progress!

Up until this year Riders have been able to compete in Jumping competitions whilst not being a member of EA and their horses also being unregistered. These horses are therefore unknowns and untraceable as are also unlikely to have been micro-chipped. This has meant that Riders have enjoyed being able to compete at a very low cost, as could pay a simple day membership with their Agricultural Show and their horses requiring no registration or identification. Understandably now in having to actually be a member of the National Federation and your horse being registered comes as a bit of a shock. However when little non-equestrian "Johnny" joins his local soccer team and has to pay yearly subscriptions and the household dog "Max" is registered with the local shire, these monetary outputs are never questioned!

Hopefully when being a member of Equestrian Australia can be accepted by all the states for the good of the horse & the sport, we can move on to actually trying to find ways to grow and improve our sport of Jumping in Australia. Thankfully our National Jumping Committee, made up of Brigid Willis (VIC), George Sanna (NSW), Graeme Watts (QLD), Michael Archer (NSW) and Krissy Harris (NSW) as riders elected representative, is a pretty stubborn and resilient bunch that continues to push through these challenges.

Through putting out expressions of interest and extensive interviews together with High Performance we have filled the new High Performance roles of Chef d'Equipe and Australian Jumping Manager. Stephen Lamb successfully returned to his old position of Chef d'Equipe and Coco Miles leaves her position on the EAJC as was the successful candidate for the Jumping High Performance Manager role.

We had a large number of interest for these 2 positions, and we wish Stephen and Coco the best of luck in their new roles leading our Australian Team to the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Tom McDermott & *Cooley Gangster* very successfully finished top of the World Cup Leaderboard for 2023 season but declined his invitation for the World Cup Final held in Riyadh in April 2024.

This season's World Cup League has again proven invaluable as the outdoor World Cup competitions, earlier this year, were eligible to be used as MER qualifiers to help our Australian based riders qualify for the Paris Olympics. We are grateful for the funding allocated from our HP Jumping Management in support of these MER Events.

We were also very grateful to Edwena Mitchell for organising last year's 2023 Australian Jumping Championships at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. Unfortunately the last day had to be cancelled due to the rain, but barring the weather, a great week of jumping with guest International Course Designer Olaf Petersen Jnr. (GER).

Our Overall 2023 Australian Title holders were as follows:

**Senior Champion** - Stuart Jenkins & *Fairview Alicana*  
**Young Rider Champion** - Clemency Hughes & *YPH Capulet*  
**Junior Champion** - Jack Barker & *Tulara For Quinar*  
**Children's Champion** - Valentina Hercus & *RBH Chaccarla*  
**Speed Champion** - Hayden Parker & *Tulara Spangenburg*

Willinga Park in NSW, again with event organiser Edwena Mitchell, was successful with their Expression of Interest to run this year's 2024 Australian Jumping Championships in November.

As a committee we are discussing a number of new initiatives to improve things for our Jumping community. The sport of jumping remains to be strong and we would like to extend our huge gratitude to all the officials, show organisers, volunteers, owners, breeders and riders who

continue to support our sport here in Australia. The Paris Olympics are just around the corner and we look forward to seeing who our selected team of riders will be and watching them compete for Australia. It might just be an "All Girl Team"!!!

### **Rory Hovell**

Jumping Committee Chair

### **EA Jumping Committee**

Rory Hovell - Chair

Brigid Willis

Krissy Harris - Athletes' Representative

George Sanna

Michael Archer

Graeme Watts (from Jan 2024)

Coco Miles - Athletes' Representative (until Jan 2024)



Above: Chef d'Equipe Stephen Lamb with Tom McDermott 2023 WC Series Winner.  
Photo Credit: Jo Jennings - Australian Jumping

# PARA DRESSAGE

This annual report is being compiled on the eve of the first day of competition at the Paris Paralympics. Over the last two years Para Dressage, and most recently, para driving has been guided and fostered through the effective work of the Para High Performance Panel and out two leads of our sport, Nick Hunter and Michelle Battams.

It had been a privilege to watch how Nick and Michelle have brought resources and strategies together to see Australia so well placed to meet the demands of our rapidly going discipline. As special mention of the highly successful video clip that the HP Panel commissioned to promote the sport and attract owners who could provide promising equine athletes to support of progress of our riders into the Paris Paralympics. Big thanks to the Panel which has now completed its work - chaired by Dani Fraillon with members Lisa Baker, Sally Francis and Kerry Mack.

The work of EA's newest Discipline Committee - EA Para Dressage Committee (EAPDC) has just commenced, and the first meeting of our new committee was in August 2024. Elected Chair Lisa Baker is joined by a wealth of talent and experience - Sue Cunningham, Jane Ventura, Noella Angel and Dianne Barnes.

The EAPDC will be setting an agenda for the development and future of para equestrian sports in Australia and we will be letting members know the priorities for our work over the next three years.

Meanwhile, some urgent work has been progressed even before we do our 3 year planning. This includes an update of the Para rules (implementation, Jan 2025), new Para Judge training curriculum, updating our PD judges' exam, new Para Steward training

curriculum and pathway (thanks to Cathy Drury Klein and Veronica Steward), grant application seeking for funding to encourage and educate Clubs in running para events, creating a seamless pathway for athletes incorporating grassroots, RDA, Virtus, Equibility, EA and FEI levels, and creating a harmonious human and equine welfare policy.

Its going to be a busy 2025!

## **Lisa Baker**

Para Dressage Committee Chair

## **Para Dressage Committee**

Lisa Baker - Chair

Jane Ventura

Jade Woodhead Butler

Noella Angel

Sue Cunningham

Di Barnes - Athletes' Representative  
(until Sep 2024)



Above: National Dressage Championships 2024: Bridget Murphy and *Penmain Promise*. Photo Credit: Jo Jennings - EA.

# SHOW HORSE

2024 continues to be a year full of competition with the states holding multiple events with positive numbers in attendance. ETAS and EVIC held their Horse of the Year events in January and March respectively. The remaining states will hold their state horse of the year events in August and September 2024. Horses and riders placing 1st to 3rd in all National qualifying classes will represent their state at the 2024 EA Nationals.

The 2023 EA Australasian Show Horse & Rider Championships was held at SIEC, 1st-3rd December with the ENSW organising committee hosting the event. The 2024 event will again be hosted by ENSW at SIEC from the 27th-29th November. Thank you to Equestrian NSW for hosting the most prestigious event on the EA Show Horse calendar from 2022-2024.

Organising committees were invited to submit their "Expressions of Interest" to host the 2025, 2026, 2027 EA Australasian Show Horse & Rider Championships. Congratulations to Equestrian Victoria Show Horse, the successful committee appointed to host the Nationals. The event will relocate to Werribee Park in 2025.

The EASHC met in Sydney over 2 days in June 2024. We welcomed a new delegate from EWA to the committee, Kym Brajkovich. Thank you to Kerry Wilson EWA delegate and Tanya Reynolds ENT, outgoing delegates for your contribution to the sport in your terms on the EASHC.

Multiple judge seminars were held by the states in the past 12 months providing officials with information on the Sensory Hair Policy and updates on rule changes. The seminars are a valuable part of educating officials. Rule changes are implemented on the 1st July and 1st January each year and must be submitted by the EASHC 3 months prior to the EA National board for approval.

The current updated pathways are now available on the EA website for those members who would like to become a judge, steward or official. Amy McGregor is the current Equestrian Australia Pathways Officer. All officials are now required to hold a Working with Children Check.

A reminder to all exhibitors that the Sensory Hair rule is in effect at all show horse events.

To the current members of the EASHC, thank you for your time and dedication.

Thank you to the volunteers who support and give up their time to assist at EA Show Horse events throughout Australia. You are all a valuable part of our sport.

The EASHC would like to extend our appreciation to the EA National Office staff who provide ongoing support to the National Show Horse Committee throughout the year.

Thank you to our committee members.

## **Kerry Patchett**

Show Horse Committee Chair

## **EA Show Horse Committee**

Kerry Patchett – Chair

Toni Harper- Purcell

Tania Hay

Lorri Mansell

Kym Brajkovich

Peta Daffurn

Alyson Emery

Chris Lawrie – Athletes' Representative



2023 EA Australasian Show Horse & Rider Championships. Margot Haynes and *Lilys Sovereign*. Photo Credit: Angie Rickard.

# VAULTING

In October 2023, the NSW Vaulting Committee held the 25th Silver Jubilee National Vaulting Championships, with entry numbers so large, the event was required to run over 4 days.

The event was run as a celebration for 25 years of national vaulting championships in Australia and many events were held to commemorate the occasion including, a state of origin activities evening, an anniversary dinner and the creation of a time capsule to be opened at the 50th national vaulting championships.

In April 2024, Sydney Vaulting Group and Wellington Park held a CVI3\* to support vaulters in their endeavour to qualify for championship events in 2024 and 2025.

Throughout the year Ginger Kennett, Skye Barrowcliffe, Matilda Yates, Saskia Linde and Sahara Hohnen-Weil competed at CVI events in Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, France and the Netherlands, with Ginger selected to represent Australia at CHIO Aachen, Germany and the Senior World Vaulting Championships in Bern, Switzerland where she competed on Goldjudge lunged by Jacqueline Schönteich of Germany, placing 15th and 16th respectively. Skye was also endeavouring to compete at these events but was unfortunately unable to continue her qualifying process due to injury.

The EAVC have several important projects in the works including, working towards reducing the workload of our horses, a new outline for the FEI Equivalency for Judging Officials and the Officials and Coaches Pathway reimbursement programme. In addition to this, we are continuing to push towards the completion of the new coaching syllabus for all levels of coaching accreditation. The progress we are looking to make in these sectors will support the growth of our discipline within Equestrian Australia.

This year, the EAVC have finalised the structure of the EAVC national awards enhancing the recognition of achieving athletes, reformatted the National Vaulting Rules to support clarity, established an

EHP Pathway Working Group to support high performance athletes and continued to manage the National Leaderboard to further recognise the success of our athletes and have begun facilitating a National Calendar to assist Organising Committees to avoid clashes of events, supporting the growth of our sport in Australia. In addition to this, the EAVC are looking at ways to help support the growth of Vaulting in Australia through developing grass roots in regional areas while supporting our High-Performance athletes by encouraging the progress of horse and lunging combinations.

We look forward to continuing working with EA and State Committees to help the sport of Vaulting continue to grow in 2024.

Thank you to our Committee Members.

## **Natalie McNeill**

Vaulting Committee Chair

## **EA Vaulting Committee**

Natalie McNeill

Skye Barrowcliffe

Karen Ford

Eliza Wark-Chapman

Matilda Yates (AR)

Lisbeth Betts (until Dec 2023)

Gillian Burns (from Jan 2024)





Above: Ginger Kennett Competing in the CVI 3 star (astrix) at CHIO Aachen, Germany with *GoldJudge* lunged by Jacqueline Schönteich of Germany. Photo Credit: Kaiser Impressions.

# FINANCIALS

For the year ended 30 June 2024, Equestrian Australia reported a loss of \$645,878, primarily due to the timing of Olympic-related expenditure under the High-Performance Program to support our athletes at the peak of their career. The program entered the financial year with an unacquired reserve of \$663,829.

Equestrian Australia was required to pre-pay a significant amount of expenses leading up to the Olympics. Due to the scheduling of the event in July 2024 some reimbursements were received in the following financial year (2025), including over \$500,000 in September and October 2024.

Equestrian Australia received an unqualified audit opinion for the year ended 30 June 2024, confirming that the financial statements were fairly and appropriately presented in accordance with accounting standards. In summary, Equestrian Australia has a clean bill of health with a sound cashflow and balance sheet.

Since the Olympics, Equestrian Australia has conducted a thorough financial review, including revisions to our chart of accounts and the implementation of automated budgeting processes. We are also moving towards greater transparency in our financial reporting and look forward to sharing these improvements with our members.

The next step is to finalise and present the financial modelling for the proposed restructure, which will clarify the financial benefits of transforming the sport for our members.

The Board would like to extend its gratitude to the finance team at Equestrian Australia for their tireless efforts in achieving significant outcomes and helping to build a stronger federation for our members.

Regards

**Lucy Galovicova**

Chartered Accountant

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

## Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

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# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Directors' Report

30 June 2024

The directors present their report on Equestrian Australia Limited for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

### Directors

The following persons were directors of the Company during the whole of the financial year, unless otherwise stated:

Director Name	Appointed/(Resigned)
Christie Jane Freeman	30/11/2022
David Zachary Miles	30/11/2022
Lucia Galovicova	30/11/2022
Elizabeth Jane Ballantyne	24/05/2023
Wolf-Christian Bennecke	24/05/2023
Ellen Stephanie Lyons	09/10/2023
Rhett Oliver	09/10/2023
David Shoobridge	13/05/2024
Maggie Hundertmark	19/05/2024
Timothy Campbell Palmer	24/05/2023 / (19/02/2024)
Elizabeth Owens	22/12/2020 / (09/10/2023)
Mark Thomas Bradley	22/12/2020 / (09/10/2023)

Details of each of the above directors' qualifications, special responsibilities and experience are set out in the Director Information section of this report.

### Company Secretary

The Company Secretary is Holly Fulker.

### Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Company remained unchanged and was that of being the National Sporting Organisation (NSO) for Equestrian sport in Australia, recognised by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), Sport Australia (SA), the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and Paralympics Australia (PA).

### Company Objectives

In accordance with the Equestrian Australia Constitution, a summary of the core objectives are as follows:

- create in conjunction with the Branches a uniform entity through and by which Equestrian sport in Australia can be encouraged, conducted, promoted and administered and to be the governing body of Equestrian sport in Australia;
- represent and act on behalf of, and in the interests of, the Branches and the Participating Members in all matters pertaining to Equestrian sport at a national and international level;
- represent and act on behalf of, and in the interests of, the Branches and the Participating Members in all matters pertaining to Equestrian sport at a national and international level;

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Directors' Report

30 June 2024

- select and manage Equestrian sport teams and individuals to represent Australia in international competitions and events inside and outside Australia;
- encourage, conduct, promote, and administer Equestrian sport throughout Australia, through and by the Branches for the mutual and collective benefit of the Participating Members and Equestrian sport;
- act in good faith and loyalty to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of the Company and Equestrian sport, its standards, quality and reputation for the collective and mutual benefit of the Branches and the Participating Members and Equestrian sport;
- co-operate with, and promote mutual trust and confidence between the Company and the Branches and between the Branches themselves in pursuit of these objects;
- promote the economic and sporting success, strength and stability of the Company and each Branch and to act interdependently with each Branch in pursuit of these objects;
- promote the health and safety of riders, horses, officials and other individuals participating in Equestrian sport in any capacity;
- establish and conduct education and training programs for riders, coaches, judges, officials, support personnel and staff in the implementation and interpretation of Equestrian sport rules and standards and any of the policies, codes of conduct, protocols and principles which are formulated, adopted or implemented under the Object in Rule 2(w);
- formulate, adopt, implement and observe appropriate policies, codes of conduct, protocols and principles, including policies, codes of conduct, protocols and principles in relation to member protection, equal opportunity, equity, anti-doping, sports medicine, integrity, corruption, health, safety, junior and senior programs, infectious horse diseases and such other matters as arise from time to time as issues to be addressed in Equestrian sport;
- represent the interests of the Participating Members and of Equestrian sport generally in any appropriate forum including representations to government on issues facing the Equestrian sport industry;
- encourage and promote performance-enhancing drug free competition;
- give, and where appropriate, seek recognition for athletes, officials and other individuals participating in Equestrian sport in any capacity to obtain awards or public recognition; and
- undertake and or do all things or activities which are necessary, incidental or conducive to the advancement of these objects.

All objectives of Equestrian Australia are outlined in the Constitution.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Directors' Report

30 June 2024

### Director Information

The details of each Director's qualification, special responsibilities and experience at 30 June 2024 are set out below.

#### Christie Freeman – Chair

Christie has a corporate background that includes experience in change management, Six Sigma process improvement, marketing and general management. She holds a Bachelor of Arts as well as Graduate Diplomas in Management and Psychology. She understands our sport from participating as a volunteer, administrator, breeder and competitor and has also recently been the chair of Equestrian Victoria. Currently, she is a Jumping competitor with her homebred mare 'Quevida', though she started out in Eventing.

*Christie was elected to the Board on 30 November 2022 for a term of two years.*

#### Zac Miles

Zac has had extensive experience in governance roles, particularly in membership- based organisations and elected bodies. Zac has been around horses since he was young, having been a competitive showjumper until an accident at the EKKA cut his career short. He continues to be involved in horse care and training, as well as helping to manage equestrian facilities and apparel company EMCEE.

Zac is currently serving as Mayor of Hunters Hill and as the Senior Investment Manager of an Australian Financial Services Licence holding property debt fund (WholeCap). He brings a deep understanding of Equestrian Sports and a focus on good governance- improving both the administration and the growth of Equestrian Sports in Australia.

*Zac was elected to the Board on 30 November 2022 for a term of three years.*

#### Lucia Galovicova

Lucia is a qualified Chartered Accountant with over 10 years of experience in public practice, litigation and forensic accounting.

She is also a LEVEL 1 Equestrian Australia Coach, breeder and High Performance Rider.

With extensive experience in the sport of equestrian Lucia is well positioned to leverage her unique skillset to lead EA through the next stage of reform.

Lucia is also on the Health, Safety and Welfare Committee and Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC).

*Lucia was elected to the Board on 30 November 2022 for a term of two years.*

#### Jane Ballantyne

Jane is a Business Executive and Sports Administrator with over 20 years of leadership, management and private consulting experience with leading brands and organisations, specialising in customer led growth.

## Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

### Directors' Report

30 June 2024

#### Director Information (continued)

Jane has held senior marketing, communications and commercial positions with Racing Victoria, Australian Grand Prix Corporation, the Australian Football League, Nike and News Corporation.

Jane grew up in South-West Victoria, attended Portland Pony Club and competed extensively across show riding and eventing.

*Jane was appointed to the Board on 24 May 2023 for a term of three years.*

*NB: Jane has taken a leave of absence from the Board effective 2 September 2024.*

#### Chris Bennecke

Chris has a corporate background in interim management, governance, risk management, internal audit, and corporate finance. His qualifications include Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certification in Risk Management Assurance.

He currently holds directorships in a manufacturing and retailing company and a not-for-profit organisation.

Chris' main focus is on organisational strategy, assessment of risks and opportunities, robustness of policies, and financial management.

His passion for the equestrian world is based on a 20 year competitive and successful career in Germany, where he grew up (including 5 years in Lower Saxony's squad for show jumping).

As a strong advocate of 'clean and fair sports', Chris promotes the health and safety of every creature in any sport.

*Chris was appointed to the Board on 24 May 2023 for a term of three years and is the current Chair of the Equestrian Australia Coaching Committee.*

#### Stephanie Lyons

Stephanie is responsible for overseeing the investment risk processes at Rest Super.

Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Commerce (German), is a Chartered Accountant and a Graduate of Harvard Business School (General Management Program). For more information on Stephanie's experience visit her LinkedIn profile.

"I am passionate about equestrian sports, having competed very successfully in eventing both in Ireland and Europe until I was 18. Currently as a very active sailor, having completed two Sydney to Hobart Yacht Races, I understand the planning, preparation, pressure, exhilaration and of course the importance of safety when organising or being a competitor in a high-risk sport. I firmly believe in the importance of a strong organisational culture which ultimately drives success. With a clear focus on values, being an experienced professional and a lover of sport, I can help Equestrian Australia with their transitional program to deliver excellent governance and a risk managed safe sport."

*Stephanie was appointed to the Board on 9 October 2023 for a term of three years.*

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Directors' Report

30 June 2024

### Director Information (continued)

#### Rhett Oliver

Rhett brings to the Board a wealth of experience in equestrian sports through 30 years as a showjumping competitor and breeder. Rhett lives in Victoria and continues to compete in showjumping. Rhett's wife is a competitive dressage rider and coach, and his three young boys are also beginning to show interest in the horses.

Outside of the sport Rhett is the National Head of Property and Development at law firm Colin, Biggers & Paisley. With over 20 years' experience advising some of Australia's largest private and corporate property developers on all aspects of their operations, Rhett brings to the Board a sharp commercial lens and business perspective combined with a deep understanding of risk.

*Rhett was elected to the Board on 9 October 2023 for a term of three years.*

#### David Shoobridge

David Shoobridge brings a wealth of equine industry experience and expertise to his recent appointment to the board of Equestrian Australia with a background of over 20 years in the equestrian industry as a rider, coach, parent, volunteer and breeder.

As a High Performance dressage rider and breeder and Level 2 Dressage coach, David has achieved success at both Grand Prix and grass roots. With the international Grand Prix stallion OO Seven, David reached an FEI World Ranking of 85. Now, partnered with his home-bred stallion Vittorio, he won the Novice Champion 2023 Australian Championships followed by Dressage and Jumping with the Stars 5yo Young Dressage Horse Champion.

David is the founder and operator of Salisbury Dressage, a renowned breeding, riding, and training establishment known for its dedication to excellence and high standards.

David's passion for horses and commitment to the development of the equestrian community make him a valuable addition to the board, where his insights, ideas and leadership will undoubtedly help drive positive change and growth within the organisation.

*David was appointed to the Board as the Athlete Appointed Director on 13 May 2024 for a term of three years.*

#### Maggie Hundertmark

Maggie is a Senior Banker with 28 years in senior leadership roles with experience across multiple countries and cultures, such as The Netherlands, Australia, Singapore and The Middle East. She has built a broad range career, having fulfilled senior management roles with multiple large financial institutions across the globe.

She is a specialist in implementing change programs proven by a solid track record of successfully implemented organizational restructures and offshoring programs and a completion of a MSc (Hons) in Management Science, major in Strategy & Change Management. For more information on Maggie's experience visit her LinkedIn profile.

Outside of work, Maggie is an animal lover and a passionate equestrian rider. She is married to Johan and has three children (2 daughters, 1 son).

*Maggie was appointed to the Board on 19 May 2024 for a term of three years.*



# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Directors' Report

30 June 2024

### Director Information (continued)

#### Timothy Campbell Palmer

Timothy Campbell Palmer was appointed to the Board on 24 May 2023 and resigned 19 February 2024.

#### Elizabeth Owens

Elizabeth Owens was appointed to the Board on 22 December 2020 for a term of three years. Her term ended on 9 October 2023.

#### Mark Thomas Bradley

Mark Thomas Bradley was appointed to the Board on 22 December 2020 for a term of three years. His term ended on 9 October 2023.

### Meetings of Directors and Travel Expenses

Board meeting attendances and details of payments made in respect of the Chairman and each of the Directors for travel costs incurred in attending board meetings, general meetings, and in connection with the company's business undertaken at the request of the board is as follows:

	Board Meetings for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024		Travel Costs for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	
	Eligible to Attend	Attended	\$	Purpose
Christie Jane Freeman	7	7	18,752	Annual FEI Assembly, Board Meetings, Budget Meeting, HP Strategy, Participation Funding
David Zachary Miles	7	7	5,606	Board meetings, HP Strategy
Lucia Galovicova	7	7	6,329	Board meetings, Budget Meeting, HP Strategy
Elizabeth Jane Ballantyne	7	7	290	Board meetings
Wolf-Christian Bennecke	7	7	2,657	Board meetings, HP Strategy
Ellen Stephanie Lyons	7	7	5,660	Board meetings, HP Strategy
Rhett Oliver	4	3	1,201	Board meetings
David Shoobridge	2	2	859	Board meetings
Maggie Hundertmark	2	2	501	Board meetings
Timothy Campbell Palmer	4	3	225	Board meetings
Elizabeth Owens	2	2	-	-
Mark Thomas Bradley	2	2	-	-

Directors donate their time to the organisation and do not receive any Directors fees. Since the previous financial report, Directors have not received or become entitled to receive any direct benefit by reason of a contract made by the Company.

### Review of Operations

The net deficit for the year ended 30 June 2024 is \$(645,878) (2023: surplus of \$12,113).

### Financial Management

The financial statements are presented in Australian currency. The Financial Statements were authorised for issue by us on 22 October 2024.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Directors' Report

30 June 2024

### Dividends

The Constitution of the Company prohibits the payment of dividends. No dividends were paid during the year.

### Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

In the opinion of the Directors, there were no significant changes to business of the Company that occurred during the financial year.

### Environmental Regulations

The Company is not affected by any significant environmental regulation in respect of its operations.

### Matters Subsequent to the End of the Financial Year

No matters have impacted the financial statements subsequent to year end.

### Indemnification of Officers and Auditors

Every person who is, or has been, an Officer of the Company, are entitled to receive the benefits of an indemnity contained in the Constitution against liabilities incurred by them in their respective capacities in successfully defending proceedings against them. During or since the end of the financial period, the Company has paid premiums under contracts insuring the Directors and officers of the Company. No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an auditor of Equestrian Australia Limited.

### Proceedings on Behalf of Company

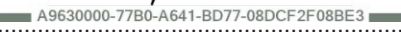
No proceedings have been brought on behalf of the Company with leave of the Court under section 237 of *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

The Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) is included after this report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Board Chairman:  A9630000-77B0-A641-BD77-08DCF2F08BE3

Christie Jane Freeman



Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Ellen Stephanie Lyons

Dated 22 October 2024



## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE DIRECTORS OF EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA LIMITED

As lead auditor, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2024 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit, and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**SW Audit**  
Chartered Accountants

René Muller  
Partner

Sydney, 22 October 2024

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## Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue	2	10,280,915	9,104,042
Other income	2	67,031	68,229
		<b>10,347,946</b>	<b>9,172,271</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Depreciation and amortisation		55,285	75,345
Employment benefits expense		3,595,717	2,523,134
High performance program expenses		4,376,414	4,149,224
Insurance premiums & related expenses		1,888,463	1,522,323
Finance and bank fees		9,515	24,473
Office and IT cost		261,715	161,774
Professional fees		52,511	178,152
Federation Equestre Internationale expenses		356,988	282,944
Other expenses		397,216	242,789
		<b>10,993,824</b>	<b>9,160,158</b>
<b>Net current year surplus</b>		<b>(645,878)</b>	<b>12,113</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>(645,878)</b>	<b>12,113</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	<b>2,042,090</b>	2,229,908
Trade and other receivables	5	<b>382,864</b>	277,492
Other assets	6	<b>276,820</b>	938,467
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,701,774</b>	3,445,867
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	<b>1,758,666</b>	1,801,687
Intangible assets		<b>324</b>	2,125
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,758,990</b>	1,803,812
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>4,460,764</b>	5,249,679
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	<b>1,341,288</b>	1,344,457
Provisions	9	<b>146,901</b>	133,030
Lease liabilities		<b>1,373</b>	15,621
Other liabilities	10	<b>685,184</b>	820,083
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,174,746</b>	2,313,191
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	9	<b>18,972</b>	23,564
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>18,972</b>	23,564
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,193,718</b>	2,336,755
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,267,046</b>	2,912,924
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves	11	<b>1,431,514</b>	1,431,514
Retained earnings	12	<b>835,532</b>	1,481,410
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>2,267,046</b>	2,912,924

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

### Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Reserves	Retained surplus	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2022</b>	1,431,514	1,469,297	2,900,811
Surplus for the year attributable to members of the entity	-	12,113	12,113
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	1,431,514	1,481,410	2,912,924
<b>Balance at 1 July 2023</b>	1,431,514	1,481,410	2,912,924
Surplus for the year attributable to members of the entity	-	(645,878)	(645,878)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	1,431,514	835,532	2,267,046

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Government grants received	5,986,929	4,334,778
Receipts from customers/ members	4,089,046	2,973,924
Receipts from sponsorship & events	308,463	
Payments to suppliers and employees	(10,553,195)	(9,233,201)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(168,757)</u>	<u>(1,924,499)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(35,723)	(11,570)
Interest received	16,662	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>(19,061)</u>	<u>(11,570)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(187,818)	(1,936,069)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	2,229,908	4,165,977
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4 <u>2,042,090</u>	<u>2,229,908</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The financial report covers Equestrian Australia Limited as an individual company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Equestrian Australia Limited is a Company limited by guarantee.

The financial report was approved by the Board of Directors on 22 October 2024.

### **Basis of preparation of the financial report**

#### *(i) Statement of compliance*

The Company is a not-for-profit private sector entity and has elected to prepare the financial statements as Tier 2 general purpose financial statements under AASB 1053 Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards.

These financial statements comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and *the Corporations Act 2001*.

The financial report was approved by the Board of Directors on 22 October 2024.

#### *(ii) Going concern*

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

#### *(iii) Basis of preparation*

The financial statements have been prepared, except for cash flow information, using the underlying principle of accrual accounting. The specific measurement bases for each type of asset, liability, income and expense are described in the accounting policies below.

#### *(iv) Current versus Non-current classification*

Amounts are classified as current where they are expected to be realised or settled within 12 months from reporting date, except where for a liability there is a right at reporting date to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months following reporting date. All other amounts are reported as non-current.

#### *(v) Functional and presentation currency*

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Company's functional currency.

#### *(vi) Use of estimates and judgements*

Certain accounting estimates include assumptions concerning the future, which, by definition, will seldom represent actual results. Estimates and assumptions based on future events have a significant inherent risk, and where future events are not as anticipated there could be a material impact on the carrying amounts of the assets and liabilities discussed below.

Areas that involve significant judgement and estimation include:

- Receivables - economic and other forecasts applied in determining the expected credit losses;
- Land and buildings - external valuations are obtained and relied on for an impairment assessment over land and buildings.



# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### Basis of preparation of the financial report (continued)

(vii) *Changes in significant accounting policies*

There were no significant changes in accounting policies applied in the current reporting period.

(viii) *Comparatives*

The accounting policies have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements. Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to conform with the current period's presentation

(ix) *New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted*

The Entity has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") that are mandatory for the current reporting period. The adoption of the new and amended standards and interpretations did not have a material impact on the financial position and performance of the Entity.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

## 1 Material accounting policies

### (a) Revenue

#### Revenue recognition

The Company has applied AASB 15: *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (AASB 15) and AASB 1058: *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (AASB 1058).

#### *Contributed assets*

The Company receives assets from the government and other parties for nil or nominal consideration in order to further its objectives. These assets are recognised in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (for example, AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138).

On initial recognition of an asset, the Company recognises related amounts (being contributions, lease liability, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer).

The Company recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

#### *Operating grants, donations, bequests and sponsorship*

When the Company received operating grant revenue, donations or bequests or sponsorship amounts, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### (a) Revenue (continued)

##### Revenue recognition (continued)

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Company:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Company:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (for example AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138)
- recognises related amounts (being contributions, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer)
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Company recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

##### *Capital grant*

When the Company receives a capital grant, it recognises a liability for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over any related amounts (being contributions, lease liability, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer) recognised under other Australian Accounting Standards.

The Company recognises income in profit or loss when or as the Company satisfies its obligations under the terms of the grant.

##### *Interest income*

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

##### *Branch Levy and Membership Income*

Branch levies and related contributions revenue is recognised in the period in which the service is provided.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

#### (b) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### (b) Property, plant and equipment (continued)

##### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on a cost basis and is therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of the recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in profit or loss in the financial period in which they are incurred.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost or for nominal costs are recognised at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

##### Property

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

In periods when the freehold land and buildings are not subject to an independent valuation, the directors conduct directors' valuations to ensure the carrying amount for the land and buildings is not materially different to the fair value.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation surplus in equity. Revaluation decreases that offset previous increases of the same class of assets shall be recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus. All other decreases are recognised in profit or loss.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Freehold land and buildings that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost, are initially recognised and measured at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

##### Depreciation and amortisation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Buildings & Building Partitioning	2.5%
Computer & Office Equipment	20% - 40%

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### (b) Property, plant and equipment (continued)

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. The gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to the asset are transferred to retained surplus.

#### (c) Leases

##### The Company as lessee

At inception of a contract, the Company assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Company where the Company is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (i.e. a lease with a remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially, the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Company uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;
- lease payments under extension options if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset, whichever is the shortest. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset, or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Company anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### (c) Leases (continued)

##### The Company as lessee (continued)

###### *Concessionary leases*

For leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the Company to further its objectives (commonly known as peppercorn/concessionary leases), the Company has adopted the temporary relief under AASB 2018-8 and measures the right-of-use assets at cost on initial recognition.

##### The Company as lessor

The Company did not operate as a lessor.

#### (d) Financial instruments

##### Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the Company commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

###### (i) *Loans and Receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

###### (ii) *Financial liabilities*

Non-derivative financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial liability is derecognised.

##### Impairment

A financial asset (or a group of financial assets) is deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events (a "loss event") having occurred, which has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial assets.

Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss immediately. Also, any cumulative decline in fair value previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified into profit or loss at this point.

In the case of financial assets carried at amortised cost, loss events may include: indications that the debtors or a group of debtors are experiencing significant financial difficulty, default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; indications that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation; and changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### (d) Financial instruments (continued)

##### Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual right to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the Company no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the related obligations are discharged or cancelled or have expired. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

##### Recognition of expected credit losses in financial statements

At each reporting date, the Company recognises the movement in the loss allowance as an impairment gain or loss in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

The carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortised cost includes the loss allowance relating to that asset.

Assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognised at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income. The amount in relation to change in credit risk is transferred from other comprehensive income to profit or loss at every reporting period.

For financial assets that are unrecognised (e.g., loan commitments yet to be drawn, financial guarantees), a provision for loss allowance is created in the statement of financial position to recognise the loss allowance.

#### (e) Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Company assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard (e.g., in accordance with the revaluation model in AASB 116). Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other Standard.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the Company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### (f) Employee provisions

##### Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled. The Company's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as part of current accounts payable and other payables in the statement of financial position.

##### Other long-term employee benefits

Provision is made for employees' annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees rendered the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations.

#### (g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

#### (h) Accounts receivable and other debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from customers for services provided in the ordinary course of business.

Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment. Refer to Note 1(e) for further discussion on the determination of impairment losses.

#### (i) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Company is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### (j) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### (j) Goods and services tax (GST) (continued)

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

#### (k) Accounts payable and other payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liabilities outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Company during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

#### (l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

#### (m) Financial risk management

The Company's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, accounts receivable and payable, and leases.

The organisation is exposed to a variety of financial risks comprising:

- a) Government funding risk
- b) Interest rate risk
- c) Credit risk
- d) Liquidity risk

The Board of Directors will have overall responsibility for identifying and managing operational and financial risks.

#### Economic Dependence and Government Risk

The organisation is dependent on federal government funding to operate many of its services. The risk of loss of these funding streams is considered to be material to the organisation. This risk is managed through a range of complementary strategies but cannot be totally mitigated. The major risk management strategies are:

- (i) The Company pursue diversification of the Company's income stream through implementing new projects such as seeking new sponsorship partners in the future.



# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 1 Material accounting policies (continued)

#### (m) Financial risk management (continued)

##### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates. Interest rate risk is minimal as the organization has no borrowings. Subject to consideration of liquidity risk, cash is held in fixed interest rate accounts to maximise returns.

##### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in statement of financial position and notes to financial statements.

The organisation does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single debtor or group of debtors under financial instruments entered by the organisation.

The organisation does not have any material credit risk in respect of cash and cash equivalents as these are held with Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADIs) regulated by APRA.

##### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that a Company will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with liabilities.

The organisation manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows and ensuring that adequate cash and cash equivalents are maintained.

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 2 Revenue and Other Income

#### Revenue from continuing operations

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue from other sources		
- Revenue from grant funding	5,714,011	5,562,124
- Branch admin levies and related contributions	746,049	677,693
- Education and participation	1,458,451	962,390
- Branch Insurance levy	1,429,511	1,277,467
- Club combined insurance income	624,430	577,054
- Sponsorship	308,463	47,314
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>10,280,915</b>	<b>9,104,042</b>
Other Income		
- Interest and other income	67,031	68,229

### 3 Key Management Personnel Disclosures

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the company, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) is considered key management personnel. No remuneration was paid to the Directors.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Key management personnel compensation	\$1,164,472	925,271
Head count	10	8

### 4 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Bank Account - General Account	166,115	104,327
Bank Account - Reserve Account	1,872,538	2,122,144
Credit Card	3,437	3,437
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,042,090</b>	<b>2,229,908</b>

### 5 Trade and Other Receivables

#### CURRENT

Trade Debtors	219,573	226,641
GST receivable	87,205	45,851
Accrued income	76,086	5,000
<b>Total current trade and other receivables</b>	<b>382,864</b>	<b>277,492</b>

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 6 Other Assets

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Prepayments	<b>276,820</b>	938,467

### 7 Property, Plant and Equipment

Building - at fair value	<b>1,800,000</b>	1,800,000
Less accumulated depreciation - Building	<b>(72,500)</b>	(45,000)
	<b>1,727,500</b>	1,755,000
Building partitioning - at cost	<b>114,851</b>	114,851
Less accumulated depreciation - Partition	<b>(112,935)</b>	(112,103)
	<b>1,916</b>	2,748
Computer and office equipment - At cost	<b>175,895</b>	167,270
Less accumulated depreciation - Computer and office equipment	<b>(147,488)</b>	(138,299)
	<b>28,407</b>	28,971
Veterinary equipment - at cost	-	39,033
Less accumulated depreciation - Veterinary equipment	-	(39,033)
	-	-
Right of use asset - at cost	<b>66,862</b>	66,862
Less accumulated depreciation - Right of use asset	<b>(66,019)</b>	(51,894)
	<b>843</b>	14,968
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,758,666</b>	1,801,687

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 7 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

#### (a) Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Buildings \$	Building partitioning \$	Computer and office equipment \$	Right of Use Asset \$	Total \$
<b>Year ended 30 June 2024</b>					
Balance at the beginning of year	1,755,000	2,748	28,971	14,968	1,801,687
Additions	-	-	8,625	-	8,625
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(27,500)	(832)	(9,189)	(14,125)	(51,646)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>1,727,500</b>	<b>1,916</b>	<b>28,407</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>1,758,666</b>

#### (b) Accounting judgement, estimates and assumptions related to Revaluation of Buildings

The Company uses the revaluation model of measurement of buildings. The Company engaged independent expert valuers to determine the fair value of its land and buildings. Fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence of transaction prices for similar properties. Valuations are based on open market prices, adjusted for any difference in the nature, location, or condition of the specific property. These valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available to measure fair value, maximizing the use of relevant observable inputs and minimizing the use of unobservable inputs. The date of the most recent revaluation was carried out on 18 August 2023.

The fair value of buildings as of 30 June 2024 is \$1,800,000 (as at 30 June 2023 - \$1,800,000). Information on fair value measurement on building as of 30 June 2024 using significant unobservable inputs (level 2) is given below.

Type of Asset	Fair Value as of 30 June 2024	Method of Valuation	Significant Observable Inputs	Estimates for Observable Inputs	Sensitivity of Fair Value of Unobservable Inputs
Building	\$1,800,000	The Capitalisation of Net Income and the Direct Comparison (Improvements) approach	Estimated price per square foot Adjustment for asset condition and location	\$6,500 per square meter Average of high and low sales values	Positively correlated sensitivity

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 8 Trade and Other Payables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade creditors	973,994	1,096,394
Accruals	325,904	208,580
PAYG payable	41,390	39,483
	<u>1,341,288</u>	<u>1,344,457</u>

### 9 Provisions

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Employee benefits	146,901	133,030
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Employee benefits	18,972	23,564
<b>(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability</b>	<u>165,873</u>	<u>156,594</u>

### 10 Other Liabilities

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Grant monies carried over	28,377	38,299
Income in advance, Insurance	117,760	95,655
Funding in advance*	494,347	663,829
WCSJ** revenue carried over	44,700	22,300
<b>Total Other Liabilities</b>	<u>685,184</u>	<u>820,083</u>

\* Funding for High Performance, Safety, Integrity and Participation Growth

\*\* WCSJ refers to the World Championship Show Jumping Riders Levy

### 11 Reserves

Balance at 1 July	1,431,514	1,431,514
Changes during financial year	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<u>1,431,514</u>	<u>1,431,514</u>

### 12 Retained Surplus

Balance at 1 July	1,481,410	1,469,297
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(645,878)	12,113
<b>Balance as at 30 June</b>	<u>835,532</u>	<u>1,481,410</u>

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 13 Members' Guarantee

If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$1 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. On 30 June 2024, the total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute of the Company is wound up was \$22,079 (2023: \$19,658).

### 14 Economic Dependency

The organisation is dependent on federal government funding to operate many of its services. The risk of loss of these funding streams is considered to be material to the organisation. This risk is managed through a range of complementary strategies but cannot be totally mitigated. The major risk management strategies are:

- (i) The Company pursue diversification of the Company's income stream through implementing new projects such as seeking new sponsorship partners in the future.

### 15 Financial Risk Management

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Held at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,042,090	2,229,908
Trade and other receivables	382,864	277,492
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>2,424,954</b>	<b>2,507,400</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	2,026,472	2,164,540
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>2,026,472</b>	<b>2,164,540</b>

### 16 Auditors' Remuneration

- Auditor's Remuneration	27,000	20,500
	<b>27,000</b>	<b>20,500</b>

### 17 Subsequent Events

No matters have impacted the financial statements subsequent to year end.

### 18 Related Party Disclosures

See Key Management Personnel note.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel individually or collectively with their close family members.

There was one related party transaction during the year:

Related Party Name	Nature of Relationship	Description	Amount
Colin Biggers & Paisley	Rhett Oliver (director) is a partner in the firm.	CB&P provide legal services on various commercial law matters.	\$32,209

# **Equestrian Australia Limited**

**ABN 19 077 455 755**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

### **19 Statutory Information**

The Company was incorporated on 11 February 1997 under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

Equestrian Australia Limited  
Unit 7, 11-21 Underwood Road  
Homebush, NSW 2140

# Equestrian Australia Limited

ABN 19 077 455 755

## Directors' Declaration

The directors of the Company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 7 to 26, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and:
  - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures; and
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of the performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Board Chairman .....  
Christie Jane Freeman



Director .....  
Ellen Stephanie Lyons

Dated 23/10/2024

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA LIMITED

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Equestrian Australia Limited (the Company) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Equestrian Australia Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended, and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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## Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

SW

**SW Audit**  
Chartered Accountants



René Muller  
Partner

Sydney, 22 October 2024



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