

Equestrian Australia Board Nomination Statement

Suzie Batten

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As Equestrian Australia embarks on a process of structural review and reform, I believe my skills as a communications and finance professional, and in governance and fundraising, combined with my experience as a former non-executive director of various equestrian and other organisations, will enable me to provide a valuable contribution.



Skills and experience

- > 30+ years as a professional communications adviser to senior management and boards of Australian public companies, advising on shareholder and media communications for some of the most hostile takeovers and other complex issues in Australia.
- > Hands-on experience supporting organisations through strategic and structural change. As Chair of the Ski Club of Victoria at Mt Buller for seven years, I led the club through a turnaround from a dilapidated venue with falling membership, litigation, no lease and broken community relationships, to once again become the largest, growing, most vibrant club on the mountain.
- > Detailed knowledge of equestrian sports through my past board roles (Board Director of Equestrian Victoria, Chair of Werribee Park National Equestrian Committee, President/Committee member of Euroa/Barwon Valley Pony Clubs respectively), the active involvement of my three daughters in eventing, show jumping and interschools, and my own involvement as a grass roots participant.
- > Fundraising expertise, having raised over \$600,000 in state and federal government funding for EV and WPNEC including the funding for the new jumping arena surface.

Qualifications

- > Graduate Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors
- > Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants, with six years audit, business valuation and corporate advisory experience before specialising in communications
- > Fellow of Financial Securities Institute of Australia

In standing for the Equestrian Australia board, I believe I could make a valuable contribution as follows

- > Working co-operatively with members, equestrian sporting organisations and government authorities to foster successful reform of the sport. I believe Equestrian Australia's reform process should involve extensive and transparent consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, consideration of a range of structural options, member input to the decision on a final structure, and efficient implementation once the structure has been determined. I believe my skills and experience are ideally suited to support this process.
- > Supporting strong and transparent stakeholder engagement, from the high-end stakeholders - including the FEI, Australian Olympic Committee, Australian Paralympic Committee and the high-performance participants - to all the clubs and grass roots members and volunteers who underpin the sport.
- > Overseeing effective delivery of services and support to the members, recognising the critical importance of a positive culture, rider safety, horse welfare, integrity and risk management.
- > Ensuring ongoing organisational excellence, with a particular focus on governance, financial stability and cost control, and transparency for members.