



EQUESTRIAN
NEW SOUTH WALES

Annual Report

Giving every horse lover in our community a
leg-up to safely take the reins

2023-2024



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Chair's Report

With some regret, I will be standing down from the Board of ENSW at the AGM this year. I have been a Board member and President for the last 4 years.

I am confident I am leaving at a time when we have a very strong group of individuals remaining on the board, and a very talented individual replacing me.

We have unprecedented interest in people volunteering to be on our various committees. I take this as a sign of confidence from our members that we are fulfilling our role and providing good service to members.

As a state branch, we now have very few complaints from members. I believe this is due to the excellent service being provided by our CEO Vireena Peacock and her dedicated team in the office.

We have an excellent working relationship with the Board and staff of Equestrian Australia. This is, in my opinion, essential for the growth and development of equestrian sports in Australia.

We have very productive relationships with our discipline committees, and have provided significant support to major events, and educational activities.

We have re-established an excellent relationship with the NSW Office of Sport, and I am confident that will lead to improvement in our essential infrastructure over time.

We have large amounts of work to do, but we spent a valuable day just last week developing a comprehensive strategy to take us forward. I am confident that the interests of each of you-members-is at the forefront of the decision-making of the Board and staff who are in place to take us forward.

Thank you to everyone I have had the pleasure of interacting with over the last 4 years, and good luck with all of your equestrian endeavours.

Brad Frankum

Chair – Equestrian NSW



Strategic Plan

Equestrian NSW Strategic Plan – 2022-2024

The ENSW Board met in April 2023 to review and update the ENSW Strategy. A summary of the strategic plan is provided in the graphic below. The ENSW Board is in the process of developing a new strategic plan incorporating challenges presented by the current environment.



Strategic Targets

Strategic Descriptor	Target	Actual	
Member Retention	80%	83%	●
Member Growth	3%	7%	●
Officials Number Growth	5%	3%	●
Safe 365 Safety System Performance	60%	71%	●
Financial Break Even or Better	\$100,000	\$282,368	●
NSW Office of Sport Governance Assessment	-	3.38/4	●
NSW Office of Sport Financial Management Assessment	-	Excelling	●

Strategic Initiatives

Membership Growth & Engagement

New Committees Aligned with Member Demographics: Introducing Interschool/Youth, Para Equestrian, and Amateur Equestrian committees to better represent our diverse member community.

Enhanced Content & Communication: Partnering with creative agencies to elevate educational content and member communication.

Pathways Project Launch: Dedicated to supporting members of all ages and skill levels, helping them reach their equestrian aspirations.

Volunteer Membership Program: A \$0 membership initiative honouring our volunteers, providing recognition and exclusive benefits.

Volunteer Week Celebration: NSW volunteers had a chance to win exciting prizes during Volunteer Week!

Education & Development

Welcoming Jodie Miles as Education Manager: Her leadership will drive impactful programs and resources for all members.



Horse Welfare Modules: Two new online courses—Horse Welfare at Competitions and The Other 23 Hours—are now available for all members, prioritising the well-being of our equine partners.

Ongoing Staff Development: Investing in our team with skill-enhancement sessions and hands-on learning including Gallup Strengths sessions for the team and individuals led by Jodie Miles leading to a more united and cohesive team with a greater understanding of each other's strengths.

Education Event at State Interschool Competition:

An evening dedicated to enriching knowledge and fostering connections within the community.

Governance, Integrity, & Ethics

Meeting Governance Standards: Full compliance with NSW Office of Sport's Governance requirements, leading to a funding boost from \$88,181 in 2023-24 to \$130,000 annually for 2024-26.

Executive Development: CEO, Director, and FARM committee members are advancing skills with the AICD course on governance for non-profits.



Safety Grants for Clubs: 22 clubs received ENSW Safety Grants to enhance the safety of their environments.

Strengthening Member Protection: Two staff members completed the Australian Sports Commission's Member Protection course, reinforcing our commitment to ethical conduct.

Excellence

State and National Competition Support: Providing essential funding across all disciplines to support the cost of competition for all competitors.

State Championships & Training Clinics: Hosting the State Interschool Championships in April 2024 and a State Team Clinic in July 2024.

Improved Communication Channels: Engaging members through timely emails and active social media presence.

Member Insights: The May Member Survey with 700 respondents gave us valuable insights into our members' evolving needs, guiding future initiatives.



CEO's Report

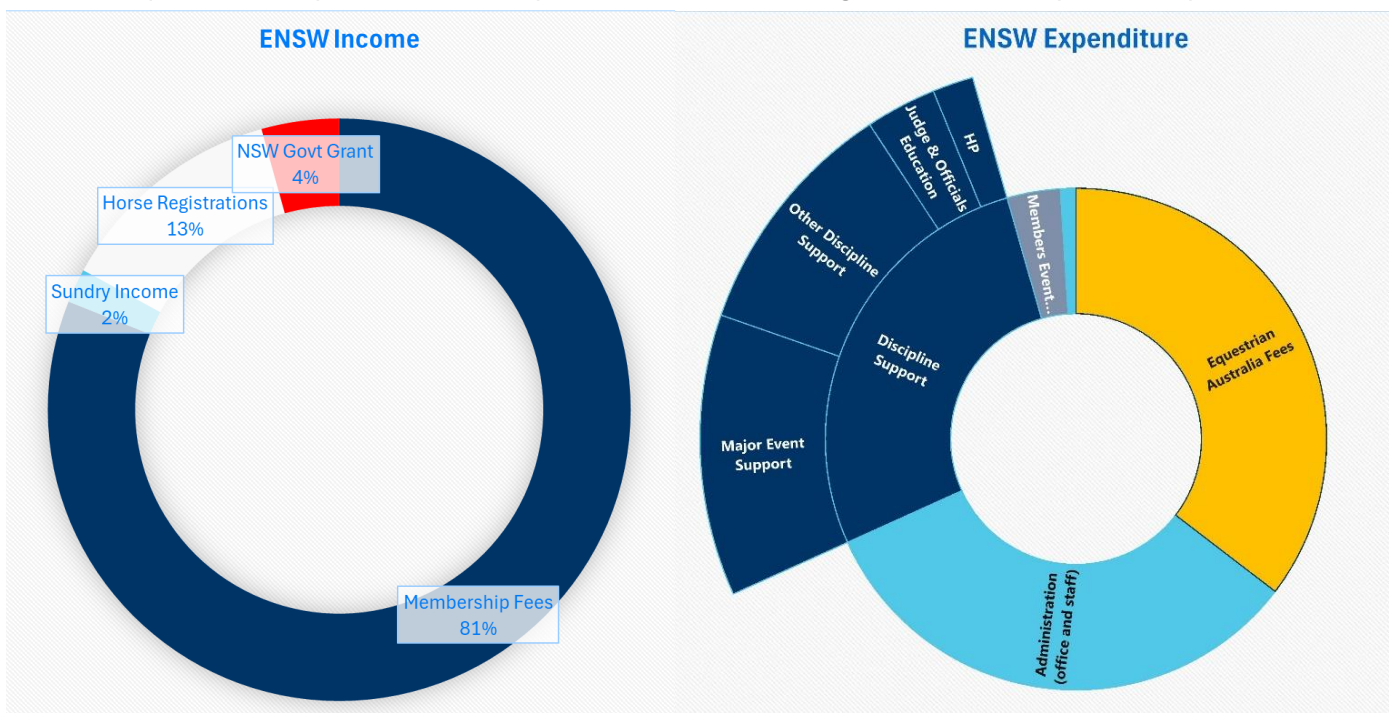
This past year has been one of remarkable achievements for Equestrian NSW. For the first time in years, we were blessed with a full calendar of competitions, unhampered by floods, fires, or pandemics—a much-needed breath of fresh air for our equestrian community.

NSW proudly hosted not only State and Club events across disciplines but also welcomed National Competitions in Jumping, AOR Dressage, Show Horse, and Vaulting. These events were an overwhelming success, thanks to the tireless work of our volunteer committees, who devoted countless hours to making each competition a memorable experience. Their dedication is the backbone of our success, and our gratitude to them is immense.

Our commitment to inclusive governance prompted a close look at our membership demographics. This reflection led to the creation of three new committees: the Amateur Equestrian, Para Equestrian, and Interschool Committees. With enthusiastic and passionate volunteers at the helm, each committee is now fully engaged in setting strategic goals for the future. Reports from these new committees can be found within this document, showcasing their direction and priorities.

In June, we hosted our first combined committee forum, bringing together representatives from all committees and discipline organisations. The forum fostered a unique space for sharing insights, discussing challenges, and building common goals. The feedback was resoundingly positive, with a clear call to make this gathering an annual tradition.

Australia has faced rising costs across all sectors, and equestrian sports have been no exception, with increases in venue rentals, travel expenses, and the myriad costs of running safe, high-quality events. To ease the burden, Equestrian NSW offered an 'Early Bird' renewal rate at last year's prices during June and kept membership fee increases for 2024-25 to the minimum required by increases from Equestrian Australia. We are proud that NSW retains the lowest membership fees in the country, thanks to a Board and staff team that carefully manage expenditure to maximise direct benefits to members. Our goal remains steadfast: break even and keep membership costs as low as possible whilst delivering excellence in equestrian sport.



The charts above outline our main sources of income and expenditure. For a comprehensive breakdown, the audited financial statements provide additional details.

Discipline and Committee Support

Olympic Disciplines

Discipline	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Dressage	\$ 122,575	\$ 102,900	\$ 126,800	\$ 136,252	\$ 167,308
Eventing	\$ 118,024	\$ 108,777	\$ 152,240	\$ 124,226	\$ 149,190
Jumping	\$ 138,294	\$ 100,000	\$ 122,300	\$ 120,357	\$ 139,879
Driving	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,200		\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Total	\$388,893	\$314,877	\$401,340	\$388,835	\$464,377

Increases in discipline support for National Competitions and utilisation of OOS Grant to support additional dressage judge and steward training.

ENSW Discipline Committees

Committee	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Coaching		\$ 12,835	\$ 5,347	\$ 17,477	\$ 19,273
Interschool	-\$ 53,103	\$ 26,710	\$ 41,197	-\$ 132,196	-\$ 16,814
Show Horse	\$ 39,111	-\$ 93,428	\$ 18,873	-\$ 22,718	-\$ 62,358
Vaulting	\$ 16,313	-\$ 194	-\$ 6,637	-\$ 15,177	\$ 18,328

Net Support shown in red/ Surplus shown in black

Interschool surplus from state championships used to subsidise State Team Clinic in July 2024

Show Horse surplus from National Championships – banked for Show Horse use

It's an exciting time for our community, with Equestrian NSW membership hitting an all-time high, surpassing 9,000 members—representing 36% of Equestrian Australia's total membership.

Beyond managing ENSW, I took on national oversight of Health and Safety after Easter, during which the National Health and Safety group updated concussion protocols to align with new Australian Sports Commission guidelines, reviewed the FEI Horse Welfare report, and began a trial of minimum medical requirements for Jumping competitions.

I am deeply grateful to the Equestrian NSW Board for their support and wisdom as I've grown into the CEO role. Their commitment to putting the interests of Equestrian NSW members first creates an inspiring environment to lead and grow our organisation.

Finally, an enormous thank you to my dedicated team at the ENSW office. Their passion for our sport, our members, and the well-being of our horses is unmatched. I am proud to work alongside such a remarkable group.

Vireena Peacock

CEO Equestrian NSW



Governance

Structure and governance

Equestrian NSW is a State Sporting Organisation governed by a Board of Directors in line with its constitution. All directors are volunteers, freely giving their time to promote equestrian sport in NSW. In the last financial year the Board has comprised six elected directors and one director filling a casual vacancy. The NSW Office of Sport have advised that in the near future ongoing funding for State Sporting Organisations will be dependent on progress towards gender targets on Boards. The target that has been advised is 40% female, 40% male and 20% of any gender. To achieve these targets Equestrian NSW needs to increase the number of males on our Board and may need to do via Board appointed directors as allowed under the constitution.



The ENSW Board 2023-24
 L-R Amy Eggleton, Lisa Winn, Brad Frankum, Gillian Burns, Sue Cunningham, Nicky Rockwell & Ally McLean

The Equestrian NSW Board

In 2023 the Board bid farewell to two Board Members. Amber Fuller resigned from the Board in order to pursue a competitive jumping career in Europe and Coco Miles resigned to take on a paid role in the Equestrian Australia High Performance Team. Amber and Coco have been missed but are both enjoying their new careers within the sport.

Lisa Winn and Sue Cunningham were re-elected to the Board and Alison Mclean and Nicola Rockwell were elected to fill the Board vacancies.

Brad Frankum, Gillian Burns and Amy Eggleton continued on the Board for a further year. Their current terms have expired this year with Gillian and Amy being re-elected to and Brad advising that he would not stand for another term. Rod McQueen has been elected as a new member of the Board and will commence his tenure following the AGM.

Equestrian NSW is indebted to Brad Frankum for his leadership over the past four years and we know that he will remain a well-respected leader in our sport.

Board Meeting Attendance

Board Member	Attendance	Eligible to Attend
Alison McLean	10	10
Amber Fuller	4	4
Amy Eggleton	9	12
Brad Frankum	12	12
Coco Miles	4	4
Gillian Burns	10	12
Lisa Winn	10	12
Nicola Rockwell	6	7
Suzanne Cunningham	10	12

ENSW Staff

Vireena Peacock – CEO (0.8 FTE)

Linda Skinner – Member Services Team Leader (0.8 FTE)

Jodie Miles – Education Manager (0.6 FTE)

Susie Burns – Horse Registrar (0.6 FTE)

Ebony Ramm & Mia Mondon – Member Service Officers (0.8 FTEs)

Board Sub- Committees



Equestrian NSW has several sub-committees comprised of passionate volunteers who share a common goal to progress equestrian sport in NSW. A list of these committees and their objectives are below:

Finance & Risk Management Committee (FARM)

Chaired by Annyka Overton, The FARM Committee of Equestrian NSW supports the Board by overseeing financial reporting, risk management, insurance, and compliance. It ensures the accuracy of financial statements, monitors internal controls, manages auditor engagement, ensures legal and regulatory compliance, and oversees horse welfare, medication control, and biosecurity policies.

Members: Annyka Overton (Chair), Amy Eggleton, Alison Mclean, Melissa Gillies, Jillian Haggerty, Vireena Peacock

Marketing & Communications Committee

Chaired by Lisa Winn, the purpose of the Marketing and Communications Committee for Equestrian NSW is to enhance the visibility and engagement of equestrian sports across New South Wales by developing and executing strategic communication plans. The committee is committed to promoting the organisation's activities, events, and key initiatives through diverse media platforms, and building the Equestrian NSW brand. By delivering clear, consistent, and impactful messaging, the committee aims to attract new participants, strengthen member engagement, and elevate the profile of equestrian sports in the broader community.

Members: Lisa Winn (Chair), Nicky Rockwell, Gillian Burns, Verity Muscat, Linda Skinner, Jodie Miles, Vireena Peacock

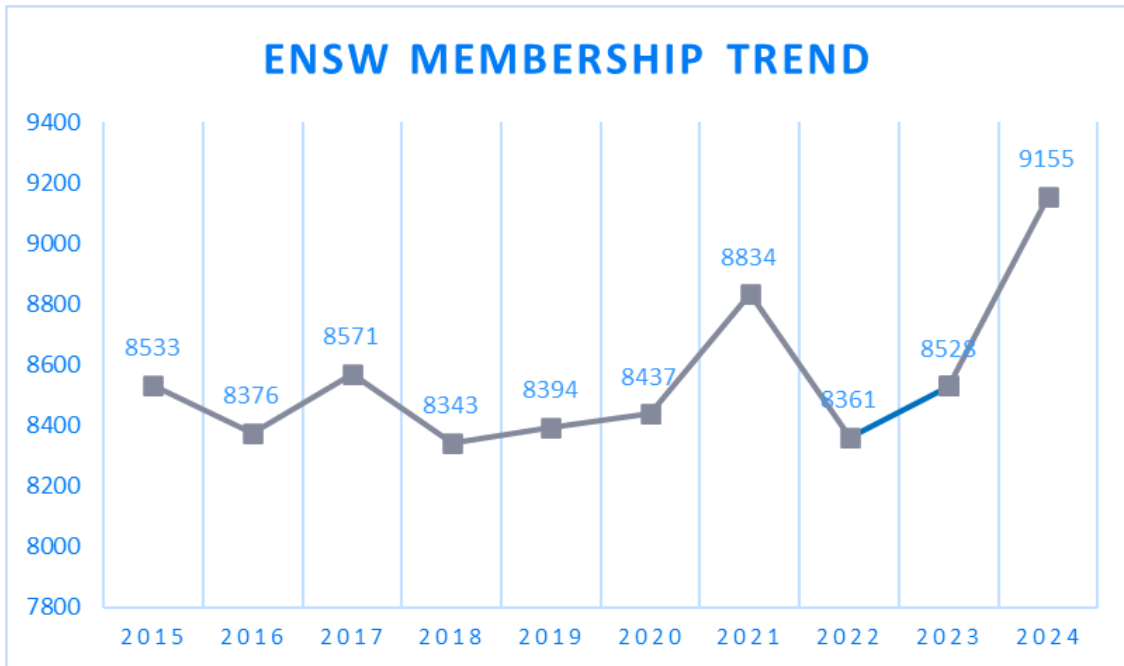
Education Committee

Chaired by Sue Cunningham, the purpose of this committee is to provide guidance to the ENSW Education Manager and consider whole of sport education opportunities. This year the focus has been on delivering online Horse Welfare modules. If you would like to preview the first module it can be found here: [All courses | ENSW Education](#)

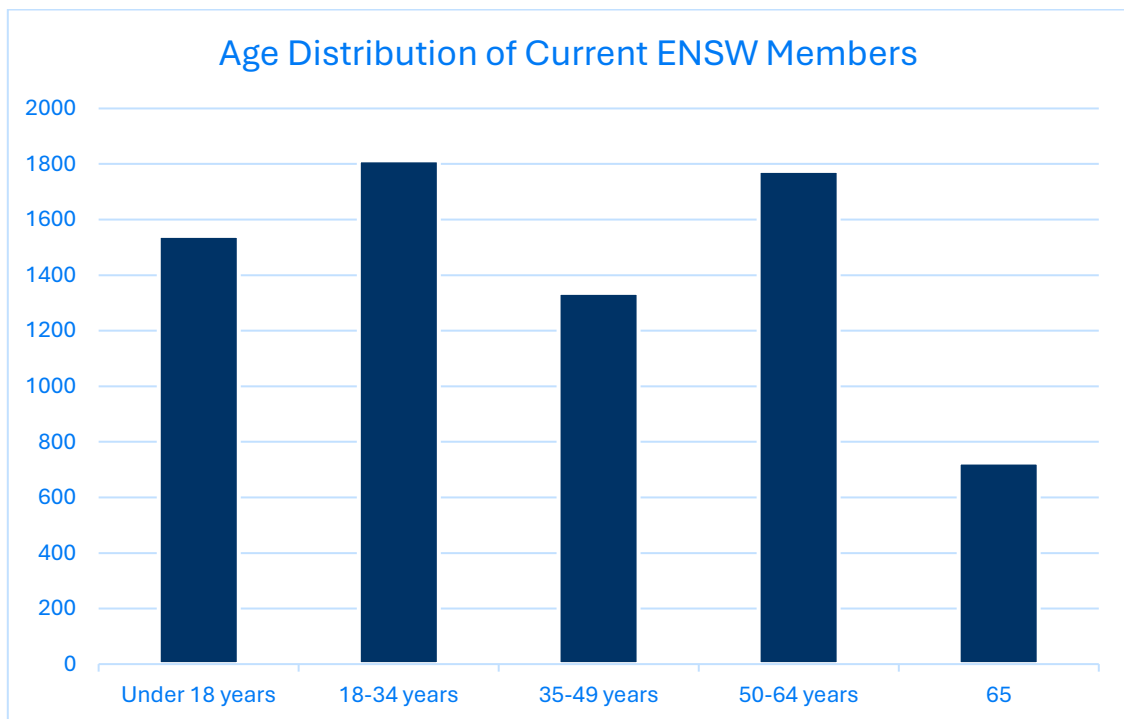
Members: Sue Cunningham (Chair), Jodie Miles, Jan Golding, Cathy Drury-Kline, Rachael Downs, Kristen Closson, Norm Hindmarsh.

Membership

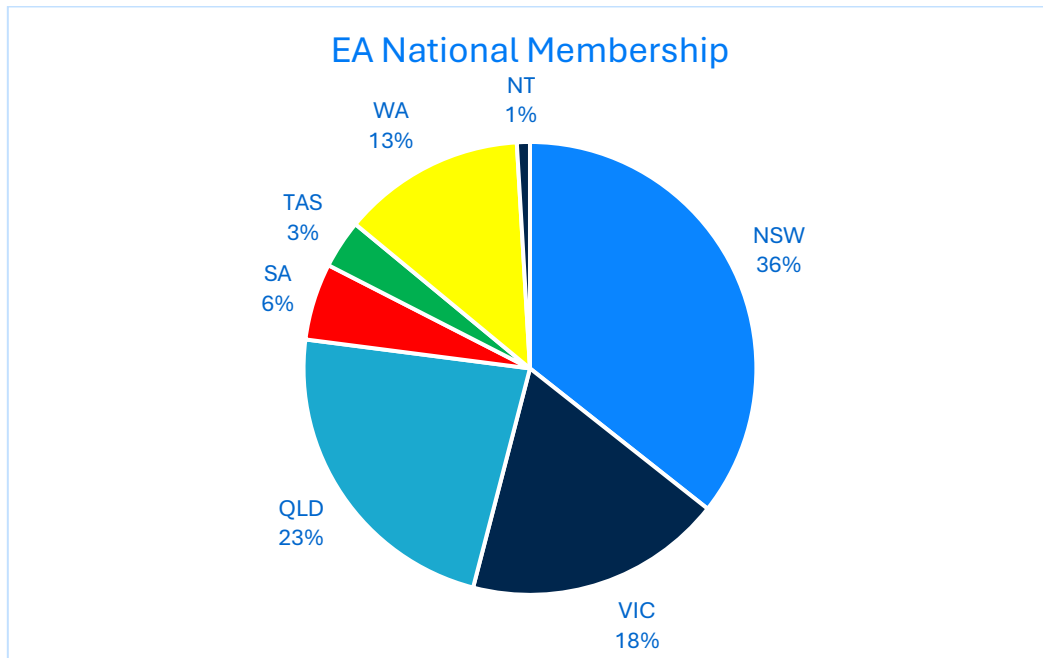
ENSW membership is at its highest level ever, having recovered from the COVID related slump



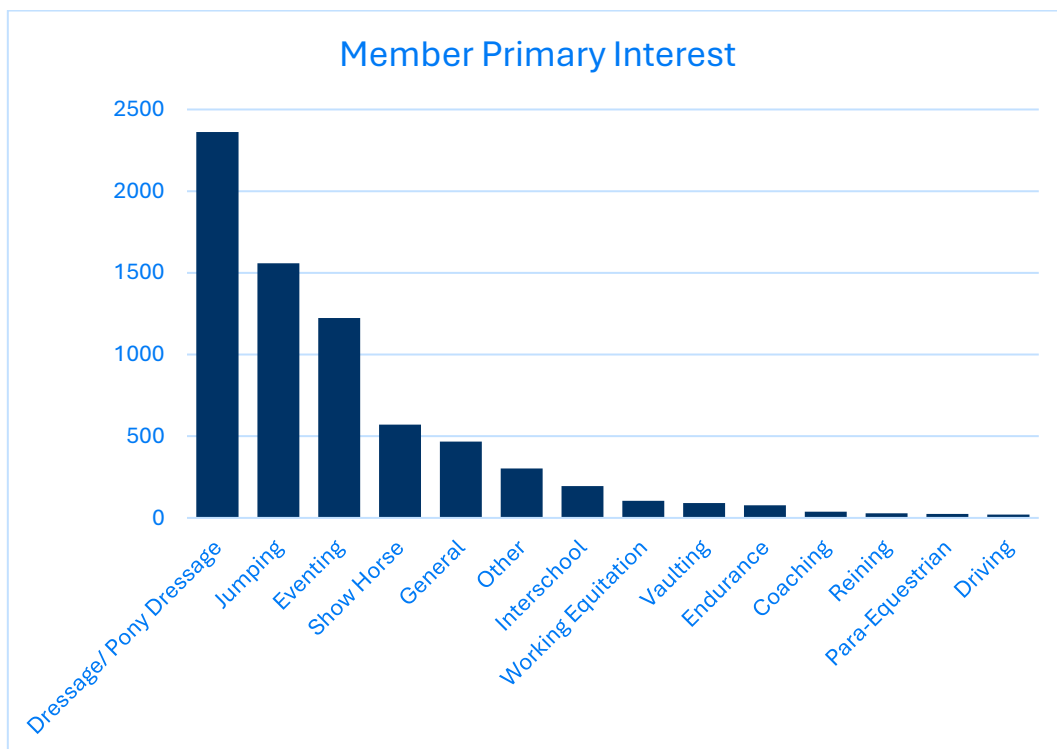
Our age distribution is different to most sports with many members joining/ re-joining after 50 and junior members representing around ¼ of all members.



NSW is 36% of total national membership



Dressage, jumping and eventing have the strongest interest, however, most members have more than one interest.



Members Activities

In 2023-24, Equestrian NSW members enjoyed a number of exclusive activities:

Member Days at SIEC

Members had the unique chance to gather at the stunning Sydney International Equestrian Centre in July and October 2023 and again in July 2024. Whether for training, trail riding, or simply relaxing with their horses and friends, these days were a celebration of our shared passion. And the excitement doesn't stop there – ENSW is actively partnering with regional clubs to bring these unforgettable Member Days to even more locations across NSW!

Chris Bartle Masterclass Experience

As part of the Sydney 3-Day Event, members could learn from one of the best: British eventing coach Chris Bartle. This clinic offered a rare, hands-on learning opportunity that riders won't soon forget.



Photo Contest and Prize Pack

Members shared memorable moments with their horses, competing for prize packs by simply submitting their favourite photos. These snapshots showcased the joy and bond shared with their equine partners.



ENSW Awards Night at William Inglis Hotel

Members joined an inspiring evening celebrating the finest in equestrian sports. The elegant William Inglis Hotel set the stage for honouring NSW's top riders and contributors in a night filled with camaraderie, glamour, and sporting excellence.

ENSW Awards Night – 2024 Winners

Life Members - 2024

John Vallance

Sui Watts

Andrew Driffield

Jenny & Doug Denby OAM

Carolyn Lieutenant

Vicki Burgess

Service to Sport Award Winners

Sue West

Gail Benson

Les Friend

Vicky Lymbery

Nell Marshman



Discipline Award Winners

Andrew Driffield

Angelina Thompson

Anneliese Wansey

Annyka Overton

Arabella Read

Brett Rogan

Bronagh Miskelly

Cecil Staples

Charlie Richardson &
Rosthwaite Johnny English

Colleen Brook

Cooley Gangster

David McKinnon

Eliza Wark-Chapman

Forlan

Georgina Bills

Ginger Kennett

Go Tosca

Hallie Cowdroy

Heidi Ford

Hunter Doughty

Jeff Cartwright

Jennifer Smith

Kathy Shelley

Kay Barney

Kymlin Park Troy

Lousie Ryan

Marnie Clapham

Prue Barrett

Robyn Bruderer

Romany Sanna

Sally-Ann Barbera

Sarah Dodd

Shane Rose

Sophia Redenbach

Sue Williams

Sui Watts

Taelar Williams

Tia Rose McKenzie

Tom McDermott

TS Dante

Verdict by Direction

Sport Awards for ENSW Members

Equestrian NSW Members were recognised externally as leaders in sport on a number of occasions during the past year.

Australian Sports Medal Recipients

Sui Watts, Andrew Driffield, Jenny Carrol & Rachael Frechette were presented with the Australian Sports Medal by the NSW Governor Margaret Beazley at Government House in September this year as part of the Virtus Team in Paris in 2023.

The Australian Sports Medal was instituted to commemorate Australian sporting achievement in the year 2000. It is awarded to commemorate Australian sporting participation in multi-sports events.



Sport NSW Community Sports Awards

The **NSW Community Sports Awards**, recognise outstanding achievements and contributions to community sport in NSW and were held in June this year at Paramatta Stadium.



Colleen Brook - Distinguished Long Service Award.

Colleen has been involved in equestrian for over six decades taking on a role as a junior instructor in the 1960s and became one of Australia's first accredited equestrian coaches in

the mid-1980s. Colleen has travelled throughout Australia coaching riders and coaches and still trains coaches today. Colleen has overseen the development of thousands of riders and coaches in NSW, Australia and internationally. Whilst still competing in showjumping herself Colleen endeavours to pass on her skills and experience to riders from beginner to Olympic level.

Kay Barney - finalist Community Official of the Year

Kay is the Vice President of Dressage NSW, the Chair of the NSW Judges and Judge Education Committee, a senior level (B) dressage judge and dressage coach. Kay has made an amazing contribution to the sport of dressage, judging throughout NSW for large and small clubs. Kay leads a small team of volunteers and has revolutionised the way in which dressage judges are educated by transforming judge education to an online platform. This has made the process of learning to be a dressage judge much more accessible and affordable for regional judges.

The Equestrian NSW Equibility Project - finalist Innovation of the Year

Equestrian NSW established their equability program to provide a pathway for athletes with disability to participate in the sport from community to international level. Through the establishment of the NSW Para Equestrian and Equibility Committee, ENSW has established a pathway to support and inspire athletes to achieve excellence in the sport. This culminated in Australia winning gold at the Virtus Global Games in Paris 2023. ENSW continues to build and drive a culture of inclusion through its programs and communities.

2023 Rebel, Sport NSW Champions of Sport Awards

These awards were held in November 2023 at the ICC in Sydney. The 2023 Virtus Global Games Equestrian Team of Andrew Driffield, Suit Watts and Sarah Duggan were finalists in the Team of the Year with a Disability Category.



Discipline Reports

ENSW Para Equestrian Committee



This new committee for ENSW was established in December 2023 to promote inclusivity and represent the needs of athletes with a disability across all disciplines.

We have developed a Business Plan with strategies and projects to guide activities that will support athletes, officials, discipline committees and clubs and other stakeholders to make it easier for people with a disability to participate in equestrian sport. Many of which are under way working towards inclusivity of Para Equestrian across multiple disciplines.

The primary purpose of the committee is to support athletes with a disability to participate in their chosen equestrian discipline in accordance with ENSW's values and strategic plan. The committee is anticipated to act as an advisory body and complement rather than detract from the activities of the other equestrian discipline committees and organisations within NSW. The aim is to fully integrate para sport within each of the existing discipline committees.

Thanks to ENSW funding these projects are already underway:

- Conducting a Para Dressage stewards training course in June 2024, 6 stewards from around the state completed their practical training. Once the written online exam is available through the EA portal, we will have 7 accredited Para Dressage Stewards in NSW, achieving a 700% increase in accredited stewards available across the state for Para Dressage.
- Providing the opportunity for 2 judges to complete Para Dressage judge accreditation, resulting in a 33% increase for Para Dressage judges available across NSW.
- Collecting data on access and facilities at competition venues.
- Identifying available resources to para riders and their support teams.
- Investigating ways to create a platform to make information more accessible for athletes, coaches, officials and clubs.
- Working alongside EA High Performance Para Dressage to have a CPEDI in NSW for 2025.

We are looking forward to working with other discipline committees to increase inclusive equestrian sport.

Felicity Weal

Chair ENSW PEC Committee



Amateur Equestrian Committee

The Amateur Equestrian Committee (AEC) of Equestrian New South Wales (ENSW) is a newly formed Committee which has been operating over the past 10 months since our first meeting in December 2023. We have a diverse group of enthusiastic volunteers with many years of equestrian experience. As members of the AEC we are tasked with: assisting the ENSW team and the ENSW Board identify specific needs of Amateur Adult Members (AAM); recommend plans to accommodate these needs; and explore future improvements/ideas for AEC Members.



AEC members have generously contributed, based on their expertise, commitment, and passion for equestrian activities and we are fortunate to have representatives from different regions, disciplines, and backgrounds within adult amateur horse riding. As a committee, we realised fairly early on in our discussions that we needed to understand more about Amateur members of ENSW and what would make a difference for their equestrian journeys. Our significant achievement to date has been the development, rollout and results analysis of the ENSW members survey. The survey results have now been communicated to members, the ENSW Joint Committees' meeting and the Board. We heard loud and clear that Amateur's would like more events to be made available in the regions and more fun try it out opportunities to enjoy with their equestrian partner(s). This survey data has had input into the development of the Equestrian NSW Strategic Plan. More broadly the survey identified the needs of Amateurs, and we hope you have seen from the ENSW communications to members, a number of initiatives such as regional members days, recognition of the importance of opportunities and support for volunteers and officials are planned/underway.

ENSW is also working to develop a pathways model that offers development and support for every equestrian, regardless of their age or stage from grass roots to high performance and the AEC is contributing to the resources to be made available to all members. The AEC is looking forward to 2025 and the opportunity to continue to advocate for and support Amateur members.

Jillian Haggerty

Chair, Amateur Equestrian Committee





Interschool & Youth Pathways Committee

The Equestrian NSW Interschool Committee, which commenced operations in December 2023, is quickly becoming an instrumental body in shaping the state's interschool equestrian direction. Its initial focus has been on the annual State Championships, where the committee played a critical role in supporting young riders' development and success. They have also contributed to the organisation of the State Team Clinic and provided strategic input to enhance the competition experience for riders.



At the 2024 State Championships, the committee prioritised educational support by organising an education evening aimed at rider well-being and performance. A highlight was Alisha Reber's workshop on managing competition nerves, which offered participants practical techniques for handling stress and improving focus in high-pressure environments. These sessions were well received, and the committee sees them as a vital component of supporting young riders' mental resilience alongside their physical training.

Looking forward, the Interschool Committee is expanding its focus to establish a pathway program tailored for young equestrians. This program aims to provide a structured development framework to support riders' growth both on and off the horse. Through this initiative, the committee hopes to offer valuable guidance and resources, addressing areas such as horsemanship, personal development, and competition pathways within equestrian sport. This holistic approach underscores the committee's commitment to nurturing well-rounded athletes equipped for the future of the sport.

The committee is particularly proud of the performance of the NSW Team at the recent Interschool Championships in Tamworth where NSW won Champion Junior and Senior Show Horse Team, Champion Senior Dressage Team, Champion Eventing Team and Champion Senior Jumping Tea. An enormous thank you to Linda Skinner and Carolyn James as Team Managers and Rod McQueen for Team Jumping Coach.

Committee: Alisha Reber (Chair), Imogen Thew, Jennifer Farthing, Karen Mackenzie-Smith, Verity Muscat, Linda Skinner, Jodie Miles





Show Horse NSW

Over the past 12 months, the Equestrian NSW (ENSW) Show Horse Committee, composed of dedicated volunteers Peta Daffurn, Jo Tyson, Danielle Dupre, Melinda Waterhouse, and Katherine Dykstra, with support from Linda Skinner in the ENSW office, has achieved significant milestones in the NSW show horse scene. Their collective efforts have brought success in major events and reinforced the show horse community in NSW.

In November, the Committee successfully hosted the Show Horse Nationals at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC) for the second consecutive year. This prestigious event attracted competitors and their horses from across Australia, showcasing top talent and providing a high-standard competitive platform.

In addition to Nationals, the Committee organized several other prominent competitions, including:

- **Horse of the Year (HOTY)** – held at SIEC, drawing high participation and enthusiasm from competitors,
- **Junior Show Horse Championships** – also at SIEC, offering young riders the chance to compete at a high level, and
- **Owner Rider Championships** – hosted at the Hawkesbury Showground, celebrating the commitment of owner-riders in the show horse discipline.

Looking ahead, the Committee is deep into preparations for the upcoming Show Horse Nationals in November 2024, and plans for a full calendar of events in 2025 are already underway. The ongoing dedication of the ENSW Show Horse Committee ensures continued opportunities and high standards for the NSW show horse community.

Committee: Peta Daffurn, Jo Tyson, Danielle Dupre, Melinda Waterhouse, and Katherine Dykstra, Linda Skinner





Vaulting NSW

Vaulting NSW has had a busy 2024. The VNSW committee ran the vaulting program for the ENSW State Interschools in April, a successful NSW State Vaulting Championships in June, a State Clinic in July and several lunging clinics along the way.



The VNSW State Vaulting Championships were at Sydney International Equestrian Centre from 8-9th June. The event was well attended and without incident, amid the local flooding causing challenges for the organising committee. We were honoured with a visit from Vireena Peacock who was able to meet some of the vaulters and watch the competition. We received excellent feedback from the vaulters, coaches and judges who attended.

VNSW held a three-day State Clinic in July with an international presenter and coach – Mirjam Degiorgi from Switzerland, along with three of our EA National coaches. The high-level component was a small and focused group of 13 vaulters including several from Qld. The all-levels clinic encompassed our mid to grass roots vaulters, who all had a weekend of fun whilst taking away many skills to further develop their vaulting.

VNSW held a three-day State Clinic in July with an international presenter and coach – Mirjam Degiorgi from Switzerland, along with three of our EA National coaches. The high-level component was a small and focused group of 13 vaulters including several from Qld. The all-levels clinic encompassed our mid to grass roots vaulters, who all had a weekend of fun whilst taking away many skills to further develop their vaulting.

The 2024 Australian Vaulting Championships were recently held in Queensland the new Teviot Park facility, where 5 groups represented NSW. Our Equestrian Australia Vaulting Committee 2024 National Awards were presented at the awards dinner. All three top level vaulter awards were named from NSW as well as two of the three horse awards, a proud event for Vaulting NSW.

Our members engaged in the ENSW Members Day at SIEC in February, giving them an opportunity to train in the world class facility under competition standards.

VNSW lunging clinics were held at the beautiful Ballodair Equestrian Centre with the highest-level Coach Educators in our sport – Tristyn Lowe and Sarah Venamore. These ladies gave great insight with development and training tips to help further develop our most treasured resources – our horses.

VNSW is focused on the development and education of vaulters, coaches, lungers and horses. We look forward to a busy 2025.

The VNSW Committee is extremely lucky to have a dedicated group who have all been committed, productive and diligent with all events throughout the year. I commend them for their commitment and their work.

Kerrie Stapleton

Chair - VNSW Committee





Coaching Committee

This year, the CNSW committee continued its productive efforts in supporting and developing our coaching community. Our work this year included:

2024 COTY Awards

- Services to Coaching – Sally-Ann Barbera
- Outstanding Achievement - Prudence Barrett
- Lifetime Achievement – Colleen Brook
- Community Coach – Annyka Overton

Coach Education Webinars

- Developing Youth Through Refined Coaching – Annyka Overton
(Focused on nurturing resilience and skill-building among young athletes)
- Coaching Children with Attributes – Ellie Miller
(Helping coaches put a positive slant on young students with learning difficulties)
- Coach Care – Linley Cornish
(Highlighted the importance of well-being for sustainable coaching)

Coach Educator & SSTA Workshop - held over 3 sessions in May. Members of the committee assisted with presentations to update all current CE's & SSTA's as well as accredit some new ones. As a result, we now have one new CE and 6 new SSTA's to add to the ranks of Educators for Coaches.

Annual Coach Development Day took place in June at the Hawkesbury Dressage Festival at SIEC. A full day of presentations from guest and committee presenters, a free updating workshop plus our featured sport this year was Driving. We were treated to an amazing display and lecture on the sport from top competitors and Driving coach Jessica Meredith.

Meeting with EACC - In August I convened a meeting with State Coaching Committee Chairs to initiate a collaborative dialogue with EA and the newly formed EACC with a focus on enhancing inter-committee communication.

The resulting meeting took place in September via Zoom. There we were introduced to their Chair Chris Bennecke and new Pathways Manager Michelle James. Michelle has come up with a communication plan and I hope that the EACC will adopt this with the same enthusiasm that we State Chairs did. I wrote a separate report on this meeting for my committee which I would be happy to share with Board if required.

Coach of the Month – This year our two spots went to:

- Jennifer Wood (L2 Jumping Coach from Cudal) for exceptional contribution to Jumping coaching.
- Jessica Meredith (L1 Driving Coach from Armidale) noted for her inspiring work in Driving.

Social Media

Our Facebook page continues to keep coaches updated with news of events and seminars that could be of interest in their professional development, plus news updates from EA and ENSW.

We would like to thank ENSW for their support and sponsorship in running these valuable events for our coaches.

Our year ends with the usual election and re-elections. We welcome a new member Camilla Mowbray who nominated this year, plus welcome back Ben Netterfield, Sharmayne Spencer and Sarah Venamore reappointed for a further 2-year term each.

I am immensely proud of the committee's accomplishments since it's reinstatement in 2018, despite challenges like the Equestrian Australia restructuring and limited communication from the National Committee.

This year concludes my term of 3 x 2 years on the CNSW committee. It has been an honour to witness the unwavering dedication of our team, including CEO Vireena Peacock, ENSW and our invaluable minutes secretary Helene Brassier.

As I step back for the minimum 12 months, I extend my best wishes and heartfelt thanks to them all for their support and help both to me personally and the committee as a whole. They are a truly honourable team of coaches. I look forward to supporting our scheme from the sidelines.

I wish them all the very best for the future and will continue to support our coaching scheme from the outside. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with this committee and staff.

Sally-Ann Barbera - Chair

Chair: Coaching NSW

Members: Ben Netterfield, Caroline Hooper, Kristen Closson, Rachael Downs, Sarah Venamore, Sharmayne Spencer



Dressage NSW

Dressage New South Wales thanks Equestrian New South Wales for financial support to assist Dressage New South Wales deliver the sport on behalf of Equestrian New South Wales.

The 2023-24 financial year was a mixed bag with a large number of cancelled events mainly due to weather and judge availability. Overall, however it has been a successful year, with a strong focus on judge and steward education.

Events

The event calendar is full to the brim for dressage in NSW with over 200 events scheduled throughout NSW in 2024, including closed and competitive events. Over the years we have seen a reduction in the traditional Christmas competition break to now just a couple of weeks' break before competitions start in earnest in the new year. Additionally, there were a number of club training/protocol events. On any given weekend there are between 3 and 7 scheduled events across the state.

AOR has grown from strength to strength since its inception and Equibility, a relatively new initiative as a branch of Para-equestrian, is increasing in popularity with many clubs now feeling confident to offer Equibility classes to meet the growing demand for this new competition pathway.



Major events were a highlight of the dressage calendar:

The Australian Youth Dressage Championships was held in July 2023 at SIEC. Unfortunately, entries were severely impacted as cancelled events in the qualifying period meant riders were unable to achieve qualifying performances. Notwithstanding, the event led by Bruce McVey was successful with terrific performances by talented young riders.

2023 NSW State Championships saw 214 riders on 291 horses enter 481 tests. This event is an enormous undertaking, incorporating 3 separate state championship divisions - AOR, Para and Open divisions ably overseen by Event Director Karen Lever.

Toni Venhaus ensured the 2024 Sydney CDI was another resounding success. The event was livestreamed by Horse and Country, and spectators on the Saturday event enjoyed the stallion showcase. The 2024 CDI saw lower entry numbers than the record high achieved in 2023, however the number of spectators was higher than 2023. After consulting Equestrian Australia a CPEDI was not incorporated into the event. Instead, the Para Olympic selection event was held in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Dressage Festival in July 2024. Toni Venhaus' stewardship of the event was superb as always. Jo Gunn admirably coordinated the volunteers. Plans are well underway for the 2025 Sydney CDI.

Across the board, major events have seen a decrease in entries. Analysis of the reasons is underway, but likely to be a combination of increased entry costs, high qualifying scores and cancelled events making it difficult for riders to achieve qualifying scores. Much discussion amongst riders is happening around these increased costs on social media and how this is leading to riders cherry picking which events they can attend. The cost of hosting major events has increased, and interestingly this appears to be a growing trend internationally with a number of high-profile events being cancelled for financial viability reasons.

In response to feedback from riders to hold major events in the regions, the 2025 NSW State Championships will be held in Tamworth, and the 2025 Australian Youth Dressage Championships will be held in Wagga Wagga. Availability of suitable venues for major events is always a challenge.

The NSW State Interschool Championships scheduled to run at SIEC back-to-back with Australian Youth Dressage Championships could prove problematic for the youth championships, given the strain on judging resources, costs to attend the events and travel challenges for not only families but most importantly the horse welfare aspects of travelling and competing in such quick succession.

Judge Education

Judge education during the financial year saw DNSW hold 2 workshops: 1 virtual (79 attendees), 1 at SIEC (44 attendees), 4 seminars: 3 at SIEC, 1 at AELEC, resulting in 4 upgraded and 4 newly accredited judges. At the recent 2024 Australian Championships a number of exams, shadows, sit ins and other activities to support upgrading judges were offered. Dressage Judge education must remain a focus as accredited judges are being used not only by dressage, but eventing, interschools and more recently working equitation.

The DNSW judge education platform, Engage, has continued to grow and has recently welcomed Victorian judges who are excited to access and benefit from the educational resources.

Steward Education

With the introduction of the rule requiring an accredited EA Steward to officiate at all Open Competitive competitions, steward education has been another focus. In the 2024 financial year three steward courses have been held with 31 newly accredited EA Stewards: Hunter Valley (12 attendees: 6 new accreditations and 3 refresher), Young (14 attendees: 7 new accreditations and 1 refresher) and SIEC (19 attendees: 18 newly accredited.)

General Education

In addition to dedicated judge and steward education the 2024 Sydney CDI Workshop was run as a 'through the levels' masterclass starting from Novice and progressing through to Grand Prix presented by Sandy Hotz, FEI Level 3/4* Judge from USA.

Thanks to Equestrian NSW's sponsorship of \$3,500 EA accredited coaches and judges were able to attend free of charge.

High Performance

Dressage NSW has 8 combinations on its High Performance Team and all 8 combinations have an Individual Performance Plan. High Performance coordinator Zanna Northam organized 12 x 2 day High Performance clinics and 6 zoom meetings.

Regional

In the latter half of 2023 funds were disbursed to a number of clubs to support their activities, in particular the South East NSW "4 Clubs Challenge", a wonderful initiative for the region.

Dressage NSW provides medals to clubs (on request) for their championship events. In 2024 funding was used to support regional judge education.

Dressage NSW also assisted clubs running judge education seminars by facilitation the theory and submitting attendance reports to EA in most cases eg Tamworth, Jinderra, Hunter Valley.

A number of Dressage NSW committee members also volunteer their time as officials or scribes at regional club competitions and attend educational initiatives hosted by clubs.

Challenges

An ever-present challenge is the availability of judges, and the very full calendar impacting the availability of judges, stewards and venues. The ability to run financially viable competitions has been impacted by the current financial landscape.

Clubs are facing rising costs including costs associated with rule compliance and venue hire. Events are increasingly needing to pass these costs on to the riders, often resulting in reduced entries which further impacts the viability of the event.

Volunteers are a decreasing resource, which has been felt not only across all equestrian disciplines, but across other sports and community organisations in general. The DNSW

committee believes that our volunteers are one of our most valuable resources. We are hearing reports of long standing and valued volunteers not being able to keep up with the use of the current technology and have had to retire from volunteering. Many of our new regular volunteers are coming through from our younger sport participant ranks.

Club competitions underpin the sport and Dressage NSW is actively looking at ways to support our clubs. A number of clubs are reconsidering their competition day models and increasingly pivoting to the previously popular model of clubs offering both competitive (formerly Official) and closed restricted/unrestricted (formerly Unofficial) competitions at each event. This model tends to cater for a broader section of the riding community and places less of a drain on resources such as judge and steward availability, volunteers and the financial implications for both riders and clubs.

The Dressage NSW Committee is committed to the continuing success of dressage in NSW and thanks Equestrian NSW for their support.

Mandy Jones

President

Dressage NSW





JUMPING
NEW SOUTH WALES Jumping NSW

Jumping NSW is the discipline committee that represents the sport of Jumping in NSW. With income it receives from Equestrian NSW and membership fees, the committee support club activities, officials training and development, subsidise safety initiatives and other activities as necessary, as well as subsidising FEI World Cup events and running the State Championships.

The membership of Jumping NSW is 527 which includes jumping officials.

According to Equestrian NSW (ENSW) information as of September 2024, there are 2783 current ENSW members that list jumping as an interest. For the last financial year there were 3131. It is the 2nd largest discipline in NSW. 1441 current members list jumping as their primary interest. There were 624 jumping licenses purchased last year. 365 have been purchased so far in 2024.



Jumping NSW Events

Jumping NSW has four events scheduled for 2024. Three of these have already taken place: the Autumn Classic, Winter Classic and State Championships. Summer Classic World Cup CSI-W* is scheduled for December. All of these events took place at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC).

Participation numbers for the two two-day events (Autumn Classic and Winter Classic) showed small increases from 2023 to 2024, with the Winter Classic showing the largest gain of 124 riders. Both events had positive feedback. These events took place in the Indoor and Arena 2 at SIEC.

This year the Winter Classic incorporated the Australian leg of the FEI Jumping Children's Classics 2024. Many thanks to Jane Frankum and John Vallance who facilitated the event. The event was very successful and provided an introduction to FEI events for our child riders. This opportunity exposed them to the wider world of jumping. Two riders were successful in being selected to ride overseas at the FEI Jumping Children's Classics 2024 on borrowed horses in Mexico. Congratulations to Zara Adnans and Harley McNaughton. We wish them all the very best.

The State Championships ran from 24 - 27 October on the hacking arena at SIEC. The event ran over three rings, offering a range of heights for riders. Participation rates for this event were double that of 2023, reflecting the additional classes and the opportunities for participation these additional classes presented.



Jumping NSW were very grateful to the sponsors, officials, support crew and competitors who made the event one to remember. The JNSW Show Committee of Cathy Brown, Jane Frankum, Jane Kibble, Annette Maunder and Kerrie Winning worked tirelessly on this event for months and deserve much of the thanks for its success.

Congratulations to:

NSW Senior Jumping Champion Maverick Miles on Verdasco

NSW Young Rider Jumping Champion Clemency Hughes on YPH Capulet

NSW Amateur Jumping Champion Sophie Hatch on Raise an Angel

NSW Junior Jumping Champion Reese Keenan on PPP Vive Le Mop

NSW Childrens Jumping Champion Jasmine Cook on Sherbert Wizz Fizz

NSW Speed Champion Andrew Inglis on Indiana Goodtimes

Mini Prix Champion James Paterson-Robinson on Yirrkala Edward

6, 7 & 8 Year Old Champion Sam Whale on LP

In addition to the events specifically run by Jumping NSW, the following FEI events were supported financially:

Waratah World Cup CSI-W*

Tamworth World Cup CSI-W*

Jumping@Willinga World Cup CSI-W*



Club Support

Support from Jumping NSW was provided in order to assist committees to meet the financial burden of the significant number of FEI officials needed to run these events. The organising committees were very appreciative of the assistance. World Cups are generally the only FEI jumping events run in NSW and are important to ensure our FEI officials can retain their accreditation. They are often our only link to international competitions and allow our high performance riders a solid stepping stone to overseas events through MERs etc.

In addition to the assistance provided to the three FEI events, Jumping NSW has contributed to affiliated clubs with a range of financial assistance for specific purposes:

- Jumper Judge Dashboard, the live scoring and results platform used by many clubs and committees across Australia has been supported by Jumping NSW, allowing officials using the program for official competitions to run this live scoring program. Eight clubs received funding assistance to assist them with running this program.
- Jumping NSW has provided assistance to clubs for a number of years for medical support. This year the amount was \$10,000 shared amongst 10 clubs. With the introduction of the Equestrian Australia Minimum Medical Requirements trial Jumping NSW has seen our decision to support clubs and committees in this vital area validated.
- Club support assisted affiliated clubs with the provision of goods and services that make for smoother running of their club. This support, shared among thirteen affiliated clubs, provided a range of opportunities to upgrade equipment, from appropriate safety cups, new and better jump rails, improved jumping surfaces to gear trailers. Over \$25,000 was expended for club support.
- Swabbing is an important part of safe and fair sport and can be an expensive cost for organisers. To that end, JNSW assisted events with swabbing costs.

Official Support

Without officials, there would be no sport. They are important to ensure equestrian sport is fair, safe and played on a level playing field. Jumping NSW has committed to training and supporting our officials by helping clubs put on clinics and offering mentoring opportunities at a number of our events.

This year Jumping NSW has facilitated Course Designers clinics, Judges clinics and Stewards clinics in a range of areas, covering a large part of NSW, from Young in the south to Tamworth in the north and many areas in between.

In addition, trainee judges, stewards and course designers have been encouraged to contact Jumping NSW and assist at our Autumn and Winter Classic events. This has allowed officials-in-training the opportunity to shadow officials, practise their own skills and be mentored by the experienced officials in attendance. This opportunity has been accepted by a number of judges, stewards and course designers and has given them experience in what can be a challenging and fast paced competition environment.

Jumping NSW has sought ways to help clubs in the challenging task of running training days, competitions and official training and has looked for ways to better support the organisations that support jumping in NSW.

Changes to our sport

A number of important changes and trials were implemented by Equestrian Australia at a national level this year that affect jumping riders in particular.

Base registration is the first. All jumping horses that compete in competitions under 1.05m need to be base registered. This costs \$40, plus the costs of microchipping. Horses that are not base registered cannot participate in any competition held by an affiliated organisation. There are now 1556 base-registered horses in NSW. There were 489 base registrations in the last financial year.

Next, the 08 Safety Reporting form has been modified after extensive consultation with State CEOs and Jumping Committees. Equestrian Australia (EA) has modified the existing Form 08 to include a sixth reporting option to allow show organisers or administrators to enter the total number of entries (each height class a horse competes in is regarded as a separate entry).

This will allow tracking of:

- The rate of incidents vs the number of entries over time, to give a truer picture of the risk rather than just the raw numbers of incidents
- the effects on safety performance of any changes or safety initiatives the EA discipline committee may introduce.

Another EA Safety initiative is the trial of Minimum Medical Requirements (MMR) for jumping events which will run from 1 September to 31 December. During this period, EA are asking all clubs and organising committees to report the level of medical coverage they provide at their competitions compared to a trial set of MMRs. The goal is to gather clear and specific data regarding the cost, availability, and practicality of achieving a certain standard of medical response at our events.

The trial introduces a target set of MMRs to serve as a benchmark. These are not yet final or mandated standards but are designed to provide something to aim for and gather valuable data. While some competitions may already meet or even exceed these MMRs, others may face challenges due to availability, cost, or other reasons. This trial will help EA understand these challenges and collect data to inform future decisions.

Further information on these changes can be found on the EA website.

Challenges to the sport

Like many sports, Equestrian relies heavily on the work of volunteers. Jumping is no exception. Every event relies on an army of people helping in a myriad of ways, from planning the events, organising officials, office work, assisting competitors, building courses, picking up rails and everything in between. Volunteer committees are the backbone of our sport. Volunteers, however, are becoming harder and harder to find and organising committees are finding it challenging to run events. Volunteerism appears to be a rapidly diminishing attribute.

This was evident in 2024 when no affiliated clubs were willing to take on the job of running the Jumping NSW Indoor and Country Championships. In the past, these events have been shared around the state, giving riders an opportunity to compete at a show supported by Jumping NSW.

Expressions of interest to run these events in 2025 will be circulated for both events later in 2024.

As the sport becomes more professional, competitors are expecting a higher level of event. This can place significant stress on the organisers as they attempt to meet expectations. For volunteers, this can be a challenging experience.

Training, support and mentoring of officials is another challenge faced by Jumping. It is no secret that the official pool is one that is ageing. Young people need to be encouraged to become officials and help drive our sport forward. The challenge is to find ways to engage them in the process of becoming an official and learning more about how the sport of jumping is run.

All venues have their challenges, from lack of infrastructure, to lack of sufficient stabling, to size and number of arenas and most importantly surfaces that may not be conducive to the best jumping. This is a challenge not just for jumping but for the entire equestrian community.

2025 and beyond

Jumping NSW will continue to support equestrian sport in NSW, with a focus on developing a larger official base. Training and mentoring opportunities will continue to be developed and implemented at a range of Jumping NSW events to allow developing officials an opportunity to work with skilled and experienced mentors.

Communication with the Jumping NSW membership is important as a way of ensuring all members know what is happening across the state. Jumping NSW will work at providing clear easy to read information about the benefits of membership. Bi-monthly updates have been emailed out in the 2025 financial year to all financial members, letting them know of rule changes, updates to policies and regulations, opportunities for professional development for officials and information about events across the state.

Jumping NSW also uses social media to engage with members, with an active community on Facebook and Instagram.

The committee will continue to meet regularly on a monthly cycle to ensure it is providing the best service it can to the jumping community of NSW. Feedback is important and the committee will look at feedback after events to ensure we are providing a service that is both wanted and needed.

Jumping NSW will continue to liaise with the Equestrian Australia Jumping Committee (EAJC) around matters of importance such as safety, rules, regulations and policies. Interaction with Equestrian NSW (ENSW) is something that is necessary and valued. The committee will continue to reach out to ENSW and ensure a two way dialogue where there is an open and hospitable exchange of views.

Jumping NSW recognises the valuable support, both financial and administrative, provided by ENSW and thanks CEO Vireena Peacock and all the staff working in the White House for their help.

Finally, the committee of Jumping NSW is a volunteer group that willingly gives its time for the betterment of jumping in this state and country. The committee meets monthly and spends

significant amounts of their own time assisting in many ways. As the president, I would personally like to thank the executive: Cathy Brown, Jane Frankum and Annette Maunder, who are hardworking and committed to improving the sport in NSW. The committee of Andrew Inglis, John Vallance, James Mooney, Vicki Roycroft, Sarah Dreverman, Louise Light, Cate Edwards, Sue Ruff and George Sanna are active and involved committee members who support the sport of jumping in NSW and are always ready at a meeting to share views, ideas and solutions and I thank them for the generous gift of their time. Thanks also to the honorary secretary Katrina Dukats.

Jane Kibble

President



Social Media 2023-2024



UPCOMING EVENTS

Support your sport

July 27-28	Jumping NSW Winter Classic SIEC
August 15-18	Waratah Jumping World Cup SIEC
August 22-24	MNWSJC World Cup AELEC
Aug - Sept 30 - 1	Dressage NSW State Championships SIEC
Sept 14-15	National Capital Horse Trials CANBERRA

Later

- 19 - 24 Sept - National Interschool Championships - AELEC
- 19-22 Sept - JNSW Spring Show
- 28-29 Sept - Eventing Equestriad - Camden
- 12-13 Oct - WP Eventing - Willinga Park
- 17-20 Oct - National Dressage Championships - SIEC



MEMBERS OPEN DAY

Save the Date SAT 13TH JULY

Your Day. Your Choice!

ACTIVITIES

- Trail Rides
- Indoor Arena Use
- Dressage Protocols
- Working Equitation
- Measuring

ENTRIES WILL BE VIA NOMINATE

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE (SIEC) Horsely Park

Membership

Renew before July 1st and go in the draw to win ...

a merchandise pack valued at \$250