

## **Macedon Ranges Dressage Club President's Report 2022/23**

At the end of another membership year it is time to reflect on what we have done as a club, as riders and volunteers to support the club, each other and contribute to our sport.

Our members have been active with good attendance at our rallies and in competitions as a full event calendar returned. Many members took advantage of our horse friendly rallies to introduce their young horses and ponies to a wider world. Others, further along the training path competed at our EA and HRCVA competitions for their first time.

Several members combined to win the Novice Team event at the Dressage Festival. We also had enthusiastic teams at both the HRCVA TTT Dressage Championships and the Victorian Dressage Club Annual Teams Challenge where our team finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Club once again took out the best-decorated table, meticulously designed with original memorabilia and themed food by Rhonda Thomson and Penny Rees.

This year the Patron's prize was presented at our EA Club Championships in April to Emma Long and Long Park Lucky for the highest % score in any test on the day. And the President's Prize at our HRCVA Jackpot was similarly awarded to Gina Farrugia riding Cloverfern Sampson. This was the inaugural award giving as our HRCVA comps had been cancelled due to COVID, flood and heat in the last few years.

Exceptional achievements noted were Karen Blyth riding Emma's lovely pony to become 6 yo Pony Champion at Dressage and Jumping with the Stars. Rhonda Thomson was awarded the AOR Victorian Medium Champion of the year with her Harney Park China Girl.

There are also many members accepted for the Nationals next week and we wish you all the very best.

Many members officiated or volunteered at events throughout the year, making an important contribution to our sport.

Significantly, Lee Howells was presented with the EV Life Time Service to Sport Award for her outstanding and extraordinary dedication to Dressage. In addition to her judging she serves on our Committee as well as the National Dressage Officials Committee and also chairs the Victorian Dressage Officials Education Committee. She has been the driver of education through online learning and made an enormous positive impact on the standard of judging.

This year we welcomed two new Committee members in Jen Peck and Rhonda Thomson. Jen took over the role of Rally Coordinator while Rhonda capably coordinated our HRCAV Jackpot competition. This was the first time in several years we held this competition. We were so relieved by the perfect conditions after flood caused us to abandon early in the year after hot weather had done so in November.

Thanks to Fiona the voice of our presentations, first aider and fabulous support on both days. To Tash, Lee Towell, Annie, Carrin and Jen who baked delicious cakes and slices and prepared lunch for our officials and volunteers. A huge thank you to the many members and friends for taking on roles to enable these events to take place smoothly. Once again an enormous thank you to Bryony for coordinating the volunteer rosters for both days so efficiently.

Jen arranged a long list of excellent coaches for our rallies which were well attended throughout the year.

Thanks too for those who have provided lunch for coaches and riders, which encourages socialising, and builds friendships at each rally.

Our long term partnerships with local businesses are critical to our club. We are extremely grateful to Gisborne Veterinary Clinic, who have supported us for the last 26 years. To Perry's Stockfeeds who assist us through their Loyalty Program, Juravon Equestrian Centre continues to give us discounted rates for our monthly rallies and made a cash donation at our HRCAV competition. And Leader Equine who once again donated generous product as prizes for our competitions.

Equine Images Victoria also provided vouchers for both competitions. And this year we had new support at our HRCAV event

with vouchers and prizes from Pet, Horse & Farm, Fix a Float, Macedon Ranges Equine Therapy and Serata Equine Photography.

Thank you also to Rhonda for the free use of Harney Park as the venue for our Protocol Day in November and to Lee Howells and Rachael O'Dowd are providing the judging with no charge. This will enable the club to raise much needed funds to help carry us forward in the year ahead.

I encourage you to acknowledge this generosity and return support to all of these businesses when you are able.

Thank you to our entire club Committee members for participating in our monthly meetings and making such a fabulous contribution throughout the year.

To Sue Van Eyle for maintaining our annual Leaderboard and organising the much-prized embroidered dress rug award that will be presented at our Christmas rally.

And to our Minute Secretary, Evelyn, who is meticulous and prompt in the club's important record keeping.

And to those who undertake the day-to-day tasks of managing the club and ensuring we function effectively. I especially acknowledge and thank Annie Gray and Lee Towell for their enormous contributions as Treasurer and Secretary. Also Fiona Cooper being Vice President and Website Coordinator throughout the year. The Executive enjoy a good relationship supporting each other wherever possible.

On behalf of the committee thank you all. We have all enjoyed the confidence that comes with you in these roles.

As I am taking a break from the Committee and not seeking a nomination as President, I thank you for your support and I wish the new incumbent and Committee all the very best for the year ahead.

Joan O'Reilly  
President  
5/10/23