

April 2019

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Southern Districts Dressage Club  
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# SDDC Newsletter

## President's Whinny

Hello SDDC members,

The time for your Freestyles is approaching and I hope you are enjoying the extra freedom and enthusiasm your horse shows when you are concentrating on the music. Susie Hoovenars, one of our international judges has just run a rider clinic as well as a judges seminar in Perth. She had 2 clear messages

1 WA has lovely horses and the training is on the right track BUT

2 Do not make the mistake of rushing your horse too fast up the levels. Be patient and establish the basics solidly so your horse knows the job and is relaxed and confident in executing it. Training a higher level at home, go out and ask for less on competition day till you are confident that the higher work at home will translate to the competition arena.

This has just been brought home to me on a wonderful horseback adventure up Mt Fainter (up above the tree line at 1600 ft plus.) We were on very well trained stockhorses who knew the job well and were comfortable in their surroundings and showed willingness and joy in their work. We galloped up the south face and climbed and descended very steep inclines for 4 days. All done on a loose rein with very light body aids and

some neck reining. So now to bring that lightness and joy back to the dressage training... I conclude that less is more and the horse must carry itself. So sit still in your position and allow the horse to show his movement and joy to the music.

Good Luck,

Virginia

## Committee Changes

SDDC held its Annual General Meeting in March. Two members of Committee did not stand for 2019: Nicole Holdaway (who left Committee during the year) and Peter Madigan. Peter remains a significant force behind horse sports in the region and will remain as one of SDDC's representatives on the Albany Equestrian Centre (where he is President) and will be joined by Kim Bunney as SDDC's second rep.

The club was very lucky to have a number of new (and returning) Committee Members for 2019:

Anne-Marie Bergsma  
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[vmtaylor1865@gmail.com](mailto:vmtaylor1865@gmail.com)

Welcome (back) to the  
Committee and thank you for  
committing your energy and  
ideas for the development of our  
club and sport. ☺

Thank you also to the returning  
members:

Virginia Longley (President)  
0419 966362  
[virginia@bigpond.com](mailto:virginia@bigpond.com)

Lisa Riley (Vice President)  
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Jan Madigan (Treasurer)  
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## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

### CELEBRATIONS OF HORSES AND MUSIC 11 MAY 2019

**Note: Close of entries  
has been pushed back  
to 1 May !**

So do consider riding a test or  
two, or three! Riding to music is  
particularly good fun and there  
are several people around who  
are happy to help you with your  
floor plan and/or music (either for  
a fee for a posh one, or for free  
as a helping hand for those  
starting out). If you want some  
help just put a note on our  
Facebook page and we can  
steer you in the right direction. If  
you want to help riders new to  
freestyles let us know too...

The entry form can be found on  
the SDDC website:  
<http://www.sddc.org.au/site/CoM-2019-EntryForm/CoM-2019-EntryForm.htm>

**STOP PRESS!**  
The Southern Districts Dressage  
Club and Albany Horseman's  
Club have come together to offer  
a High Point Prize for the  
weekend of 11 & 12 May. If you  
fancy a go at hacking the day  
after the dressage but are not a  
member of AHA, you can still  
compete at the 'Glow Experience  
Mother's Day Show Horse  
Event', paying only \$5 on top of  
you entries to cover AHA  
membership for the day. ☺

Similarly, all AHA members who  
are not SDDC members can ride  
in the SDDC Club tests on 11  
May paying a \$5 membership for  
the day.

The High Point Prizes will be  
across two categories: Riders  
aged 17 and under on the day  
and riders 18 and over on the  
day. First prize in each category  
is \$100 with a second prize in  
each category of \$50

So let's support the two clubs  
and have a go! All you have to  
do is notify SDDC and AHA  
when you enter. For further  
information go to our respective  
FaceBook pages, PM or call  
Louise on 0448464232 or Tracy  
Sands from AHA on 0438  
090337 The Show Horse  
program will be sent out with this  
newsletter

## DRESSAGE JUDGE'S CLINIC

A Dressage Judge's Clinic will be  
held on Sunday 12 May at the  
AEC with one of WA's top  
judges, Kim Thomas. The first  
session will cover a theory  
session for judges. After lunch  
practical demonstrations will  
occur for the judges to get their  
eye in. Virginia Longley is  
organising the day and is  
seeking 'guinea pig' rider/horse  
combinations to ride in this  
afternoon session. If you are  
riding at novice level or above  
and want to take up this valuable  
opportunity to ride some  
movements and get immediate  
feedback at the clinic, then  
please email Virginia.

All SDDC members and AHA members are welcome to watch the practical session to hear from Kim about what judges are looking for in the horse's paces, frame and dressage movements.

## Sonja Johnson riding for Australia

Our congratulations go to Sonja and the magnificent Misty Isle Valentino who have been selected to represent Australia at the forthcoming Oceania Championships. We wish you a safe and successful trip Sonja!

## Club members competing away from the region

A number of our members continue to compete out of the region in competitions involving dressage – be it straight dressage or eventing.



Pictured here is Committee Member Elissa Forbes with her mare Southern Star's Phoenix, having just won the Medium 4B in Perth at the mare's only second attempt at this level.

Kath Hardy and Lisa Riley also competed in Perth recently gaining placings and a PB.

Lots of local young riders have just finished a great run at the Saddles

Plus Interschools Championships – well done to all, especially our members 😊 Member results from this competition will come out soon on our FB page, but a sneak update tells us that Olivia Miller took out both the Preliminary and Novice Championships – well done Livvy!

I know there are more of you out there doing good things – send me a photo or call and let me know how you went and we can celebrate your PB or placings too.

## CARL HESTER MBE IS COMING TO WA!

**Carl is simply one of the best trainers there is, as well as an accomplished competitor himself having medalled at many international events such as WEG, European Championships and the Olympics. He is a really entertaining presenter, so the evening in Perth with him will not disappoint!**

See Dressage WA website for more details:

<https://www.dressagewa.org/>

## SAVE THE SEC!

Members may already know that the future of the State Equestrian Centre (SEC) is currently under threat. The facility is a rare jewel for all equestrians to use and benefit from. A funding proposal is being put together...to read the full proposal go to:

<https://www.wa.equestrian.org.au/sec-facility-funding-proposal>

If you wish to show your support you can 'Like' and share the 'Save the SEC' post on Facebook and use the hashtag #SaveTheSEC when

sharing your equestrian posts and photos on social media. Here is the Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/StateEquestrianCentre/photos/rpp.155049611201695/2809521785754451/?type=3&theater>

## Bits and Bobs

### SDDC DVD Library

Remember our club has a range of educational DVDs to help you develop further knowledge of working with your horse.

All you need to do to access the DVDs is to pay an extra \$10 on top of your annual membership and then contact Jan Madigan the club's librarian. A list of the DVDs available to loan has been published in previous newsletters and can be obtained from Jan.

Just a note...

If you have any photos or newsworthy items please email these to me at [info@louisehillman.com](mailto:info@louisehillman.com) so we can share them with members in the newsletter.

And as Jan always said in previous editions... 'If there are errors in this newsletter, they are not intentional. Just let me know and I will fix them in the next edition'.

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS WHEREVER POSSIBLE

**So that's a wrap for April. Happy riding and see you at the May competitions!**



