
Welcome to our September Newsletter!*Keeping the ESA community connected, informed and inspired.*

FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members,

Welcome to our September Newsletter from the ESA Board for 2026.

June/July were very busy months due to multiple meetings with the States and the EA Fees and Levies Committee which determine the EA fees component of membership fees.

This became very late this year resulting in memberships not coming out for ESA until 1st July. Ben Houston, the EA CEO, is committed to ensuring the process is more timely next year.

Hiccups continued with the JustGo platform and members' feedback is that it is not user friendly. This year members had to log in, pay their membership, log out then log back in to do any discipline licences.

MEMBERSHIP & FEES

Last minute decisions regarding fees made it difficult for the ESA Board to prepare a budget. Budgets from all disciplines have been discussed with disciplines and FARMC Chair Jayden Coates and FARMC members before going to the ESA Board. The Board resolved to minimise the increase in fees to members. The retention of members and volunteers is important to ESA.

This minor increase was on top of a very limited increase on last year's membership. In an attempt to cushion the effect of large EA fee increases the previous board had chosen not pass on the full level of national fee increase. This is now impacting on our bottom line and therefore use of reserves may be necessary.

This year a component of licences is also being taken out of the licence fee by EA hence the increase. At present the ESA Discipline Committees receive 75% (including GST) of licences to run their discipline. The disciplines that do not have licences will not be affected.

Whilst the ESA membership in comparison to previous years has remained steady for this time of the year, the income is significantly less. ESA is also subsidising the Volunteer membership to the extent where ESA receives less than \$12 out of the total \$185. The remainder goes directly to EA.

REMINDER — Discipline Licences

For those disciplines which are required to have licences to compete we remind everyone that there is a strict liability fine for those that compete but have no licence. Please make yourself aware of the rules and regulations for your discipline.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE

In July and August much time was taken up with the interview process for a new ESA EO. We were fortunate with the high calibre of applicants. Thanks must go to Board Director Bridget Dunn for leading this process. On September 7th we welcomed our new Executive Officer, Reece Turner. Reece's background has been advised on the ESA Facebook and website. As from that date the Board directors assigned to disciplines will no longer take on that role as being a conduit between Board and disciplines as this will be part of Reece's role.

BOARD & DISCIPLINE COMMUNICATION

The ESA Board will now become more strategic rather than operational; however Board directors will still be happy to hear from the membership as this is important for concerns, communication etc. Discipline Chairs meetings will continue as this is an opportunity for Disciplines to gather and share ideas.

Board Update

At the September board meeting we reluctantly accepted the resignation of Linda Clark. We thank Linda for her contribution during her time on the Board.

2026 AGM - SAVE THE DATE

The ESA AGM will be held on October 8th at the ESA office at 7pm. The AGM proceedings will be available virtually as a Teams meeting. Those members who have advised they choose to attend virtually will receive a Teams link. After the AGM an open forum will be held so that members have opportunity to speak on issues not part of the AGM.

AGM	Details
Date	8 October 2026
Time	7pm
Format	ESA office + Microsoft Teams

*If you are attending Digitally through Microsoft teams please email agm@equestriansa.com.au to receive the link.

THANK YOU TO OUR EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY

THANK YOU

Thank you to all past and present Committee and Board members who have contributed to our sport since the last AGM. Your service to the sport is much appreciated. Without volunteers in all areas our sport would not exist so THANK YOU to you all.



Connecting our community — one stride at a time.

Next Edition: December 2026 - Questions or contributions: contact your ESA Board