
Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

Keeping the ESA community connected, informed and inspired.

FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members,

We are proud to present the very first edition of the Equestrian SA Member Newsletter — a commitment we made to you and one we are delighted to deliver. This quarterly newsletter will be your window into all things ESA: Board decisions, discipline highlights, event news and opportunities to get involved.

It has been a remarkably active period for your Board. From hosting senior Equestrian Australia leadership, to navigating the National Integrity Framework, advocating for Talunga Park and working through our annual budget, the dedication of your volunteers continues to be extraordinary.

We hope you enjoy this first edition. Your feedback is warmly welcomed — this newsletter is for you, and we want it to reflect what matters most to our community.

Warm regards,

The ESA Board

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

National Integrity Framework

Equestrian Australia signed up to the National Integrity Framework (NIF) in 2020. In late March, as part of ongoing NIF obligations, the Office of Recreation & Sport coordinated a full-day briefing attended by Board members Wendy Hunt and Linda Clark. Presenters included representatives from the Department of Human Services, Sports Integrity Australia and the National Sports Tribunal.

EA Future Directions

EA Chair Nick Ballard and CEO Ben Houston attended a Board meeting to discuss Equestrian Australia's strategic future directions and their implications for state associations such as ESA.

ESA also completed a self-assessment for the Office of Recreation & Sport, benchmarking our governance standards against the State average. An improvement plan will be tabled at the 2026 AGM.

EA Integrity Officer Dan Tranter and CEO Ben Houston then attended an ESA Board meeting to address member questions. A sub-committee of Stuart Platt, Linda Clark and Neralie Bailey is now finalising our ESA Integrity Policy and Integrity check process.

DISCIPLINE NEWS

Our disciplines have been delivering a fantastic program of events across the state. Here's what's been happening:

Highlights & Upcoming Events

- Interschool — Congratulations to Seymour College, winners of the State Championships Aggregate!
- Jumping SA — Successfully completed their State Championships.
- Show Horse — Horse of the Year coming up in September — mark your calendars!
- Eventing — Awards Night and Social event planned for July.
- Dressage — Annual Dressage Celebration event planned for July.
- Vaulting — Just wrapped up a highly praised clinic.
- Para Equestrian — State Championships held earlier in the year.

Congratulations to all competitors, officials and volunteers who made these events possible. The depth and breadth of activity across our disciplines is something to be truly proud of.

MEMBER MATTERS

Managing Costs, Maximising Value

Your Board is committed to keeping membership fees as low as possible while continuing to invest in the sport. Budget preparation is underway for 2026–27 and we are awaiting finalisation of Equestrian Australia's fees and levies package. Grants are being actively pursued and other revenue opportunities explored.

SA Branch Member Experience Grant

The Board has resolved to award \$10,000 to the Eventing discipline through the SA Branch Member Experience Grant, specifically for safety measures. The safety and welfare of our members and horses is paramount, and this investment reflects the Board's commitment to ensuring eventing in South Australia meets the highest possible standards of both rider safety and horse welfare.

Discipline Account Payments

Streamlining discipline account payments remains a priority. The Board is evaluating a digital app solution to simplify the process for all involved. We will provide an update in our next edition.

Talunga Park

In April, the ESA Board lodged a formal submission to the Barossa Council on the future of Talunga Park. We continue to advocate strongly for equestrian access and the preservation of this valued facility.

2026 AGM — SAVE THE DATE

The 2026 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 8 October 2026. A venue is being finalised and will be communicated shortly. Key dates to note:

Milestone	Date
Nominations open	10 August 2026
Nominations close	31 August 2026
Voting opens	18 September 2026
Voting closes	2 October 2026
AGM	8 October 2026

Following the AGM, the Board will host an informal open forum — a chance to ask questions, share ideas and connect directly with your Board. All members are strongly encouraged to attend.

BOARD NOMINATIONS — GET INVOLVED!

Three Board positions will be declared vacant at the 2026 AGM: the previously unfilled seats of Alice Morley and David Johnson, and the position held by Board Director Neralie Bailey. Discipline representatives will also stand for re-election.

Could you be our next Board Director?

Serving on the ESA Board is a rewarding way to shape the future of equestrian sport in South Australia. Nominations open 10 August 2026. If you're passionate about the sport and want to make a real difference, we encourage you to put your hand up.

We also thank Mim Bolzon, who resigned from the Board in May after 18 months of service. We are pleased to announce that Jeff Evans has rejoined the Board, replacing Mim for the remainder of her term through to October 2027. We warmly welcome Jeff back and look forward to his continued contribution during this time.



Connecting our community — one stride at a time.

Next edition: September 2026 • Questions or contributions: contact your ESA Board