

MOVING FORWARD

FEBRUARY 2026 / MARCH 2026

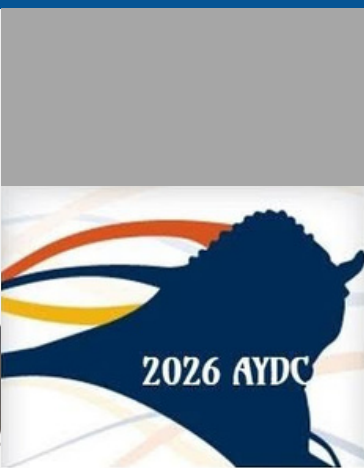
ISSUE 160



*Isabelle Finn &
Panson Bon Von Venus*



*Zara Lally &
Trussana B*



CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
COMBINATIONS
AT THE

2026
AUSTRALIAN
YOUTH
DRESSAGE
CHAMPIONSHIPS



DRESSAGE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



*Cate Rudland &
Bornfeld River Oem*



*Eliza Spier &
Hillswood Beatrice*



EQUESTRIAN
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2025

ESA AWARDS NIGHT



SATURDAY **14TH** FEBRUARY



6.30 for a 7pm start

Robert Charles Room
Auchendarroch House
17 Adelaide Road, Mt Barker



[CLICK HERE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

COVER IMAGE

Isabelle Finn &
Danson Don Von Venus
Cate Rudland &
Dornfeld River Gem
Zara Lally & Trussana B
Photos from James

Abernathy

Eliza Spiers &
Hillswood Beatrice
Photo - Kerrie Spiers

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constituent Clubs,
or the Editor of
Moving Forward.

EDITOR

RYAN FLETCHER

Please email
contributions to;

**dressage@equestrian
sa.com.au**

Any queries please
feel free to call
0417 810 530

EQUESTRIAN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BRANCH

Office hours:

10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Mon, Wed & Thurs.

Telephone:

(08) 8391 0488

Address:

Unit 10, 2 Cameron Road Mt
Barker SA 5251

Email:

staff@equestriansa.com.au

Website:

www.sa.equestrian.org.au



**NEXT ISSUE
CLOSING DATE**

**MARCH
25TH**

EMMA WOOLMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



**DRESSAGE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

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**DRESSAGE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

VISIT OUR CLUBS

BY CLICKING ON THE CLUB LOGO YOU WILL GET TAKEN TO THEIR WEBSITES



your 2026 dressage SA **COMMITTEE**



Chair - Cheryl Hatswell

Vice Chair - Ryan Fletcher

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - Lorraine Wohling

Awards - Catherine Skinner

Clubs Representative - Jude Sonnefeld

Riders Rep - Natasha Cockburn

Youth Development - Natasha Cockburn

Steward Coordinator - Jude Sonnefeld

Bred to Race - Brigitte Drinkwater

Social Media - Ryan Fletcher

Moving Forward Editor - Kathryn Mitchell

Squads - (Working group) Ryan Fletcher,
Lorraine Wohling & Kathryn Mitchell



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dressage@equestriansa.com.au
www.sa.equestrian.org.au/dressage-sa



DRESSAGE SA CHAIR'S REPORT



Happy New Year to everyone - 2026 is "THE YEAR OF THE HORSE"

ESA Awards Evening – Saturday 14th February – buy your tickets now!

Congratulations to our TOP 3 riders in each category – FEI Big/Medium Tour – FEI Small Tour – EA – AOR – Foundation AOR – PONY – YOUTH - "2025 ESA Dressage Horse of the Year"

We look forward to finding out who the winners will be!

Nominations for the 2026 Horse of the Year are now open

<https://form.jotform.com/250206126266045>

Victorian Dressage Festival December 2025

SA had a fabulous contingency of riders contest the Victorian State Dressage Championships, and I am very proud to say that we had a Championship win and many placings from our talented riders! Congratulations on everyone's efforts!

2026 Dressage Spectacular

Get your entries in for the SA Young Horse Finals, Freestyle EA & FEI, Pony & Children's FEI as well as Virtus & Para Competition being held at Danson Dressage, Birdwood on 28th February with our State Judges and Interstate Judge Maria Schwennesen. This event is once again proudly sponsored by International Horse Breeders & APK Helmets. Entries are open on Event Secretary

<https://eventsecretary.com.au/equestrian/21549>

Squad Selection

Thanks to the Squad Selectors, Liz Duncan & Jen Gilligan, casting their eyes & confirming the scores achieved by the Squad riders. Photos of the squad combinations were announced & posted on Facebook and website, including our new Youth Development & Emerging Riders Squads

The National Youth Dressage Championships 2026

Held this year in January in Victoria, we had 2 Youth Pony Riders and 2 under 25-year-old riders contest this prestigious event with results as follows

Read the report from Chef équipe Michele Lally in this edition

*Cheryl
Hatswell*

DRESSAGE SA CHAIR



2026

PRESENTS THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

DRESSAGE
Spectacular



[CLICK HERE
FOR SCHEDULE](#)



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**28
FEBRUARY
2026**

**INTERSTATE JUDGE
MARIA SCHWENNESEN**

**DANSON
DRESSAGE**

Entries via Event Secretary

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(Secret x Vivaldi)



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(Escamillo x Furstenball)



Conkanno PS
(Conthargos x Chacco-Blue)

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& MIRAMAR SERENE**

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at the 2024 Victorian
Dressage Festival!

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PERSON THIS
WEEKEND**



Angie Rickard Photography



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TEAM SA SHINES!



CHAMPION 1ST + 2ND & 12th + 4th Ruth Schneeberger & Heathmont Romance (4.2 - 4.3) (5.2 - 5.3)
 6th + 3rd + 3rd Ruth Schneeberger & Miramar Serene (Intermediate 11 & CDN GP & CDN GP Freestyle)
 7th + 5th + 4th Karen Horsell & Guizo da Ferrara (Intermediate 11 & CDN GP & CDN GP Freestyle)
 5th + 4th Fiona Guthrie Smith & Verondina Artomous (GP CDI3* & GP CDI3* Freestyle)
 4th + 5th Fiona Guthrie Smith & Bluefields Denior (FEI World Cup GP & FEI World Cup GP Freestyle)
 10th + 7th Fiona Guthrie-Smith & Dornfeld Don Dorito (PSG & Int 1)
 2nd + 9th Fiona Guthrie Smith & Donfeld Seekrit (4yo round 1 & 2)

6th + 4th + 2nd Catherine Skinner & Dobria de Jeu (Inter A - Inter B - Freestyle)
 7th + 5th + 5th Anne Smith & Shadows Tollinski (Inter A - Inter B - Freestyle)
 19th Lucy Peters & Sahara Storm (PSG)
 8th + 6th & 5th + 18th Cheryl Hatswell & PS Furstenshow (2.2 - 2.3) (3.2 - 3.3)
 2nd + 5th & 9th + 10th Keeley Menadue & FL Rocksette - Pony (3.2 - 3.3) (4.2 - 4.3)
 8th + 31st & =12th + =10th Keeley Menadue & PS Can Dance (1.2 - 1.3) (2.2 - 2.3)
 14th + 8th & 14th + 12th Kellie McCafferty & Fairbanks Usher (4.2 - 4.3) (5.2 - 5.3)
 16th + 27th & 20th + 21st Natasha Cockburn & Dolcetto (3.2 - 3.3) (4.2 - 4.3)
 25th + 20th & =12th + 30th Natasha Cockburn & Wlikara Funomenal (1.2 - 1.3) (2.2 - 2.3)
 12th + 19th & 24th + 23rd Megan Evans & Rock Me (3.2 - 3.3) (4.2 - 4.3)
 18th + 20th Anita Moss & Brechinridge Freedom (3.2 - 3.3)
 22nd + 19th & 26th + 22nd DeeAnne Hunt & Benabella Power N Spunk (2.2 - 2.3) (3.2 - 3.3)
 27th - 24th & 30th - 30th Isabelle Finn & Danson Der Von Venus (3.2 - 3.3) (4.2 - 4.3)
 13th & 17th & 24th + 24th Kate Dennis & Crestfields Decadence (1.2 - 1.3) (2.2 - 2.3)
 15th & 28th - Jenna Kovacic & Regal Fortuitous (1.2 - 1.3)
 4th & 7th & 13th + 11th Lisa Fehrmann & Eagleview Perfect Storm - Pony (1.2 - 1.3) (2.2 - 2.3)
 Reserve CHAMPION 1st - 2nd & 13th - 3rd Lyla Woolston & Lorient Skyes the Limit - Pony (2.2 - 2.3) (1.2 - 1.3)



2026 VICTORIAN DRESSAGE FESTIVAL

2026 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A small but dedicated group of South Australian youth riders and their families travelled to Werribee Equestrian Centre at the end of January to contest the 2026 Australian Youth Dressage Championships.

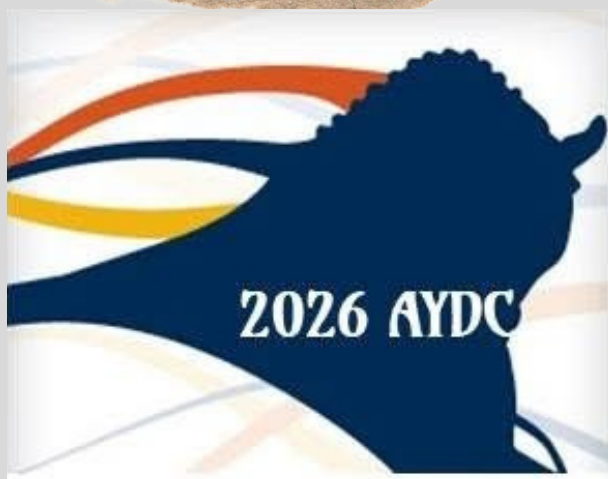
True to Werribee form, competitors experienced four seasons in one day, with temperatures ranging from a chilly 9 degrees to a sweltering 45 degrees over the four days. While conditions were challenging, they were a stark contrast to last year's sleet, rain and mud. This year's program also included interschool classes, allowing several riders to reconnect with old friends from the interschool circuit and form new friendships with riders from NSW and Victoria. A Youth Riders Meeting was also held, giving Victorian youth riders the opportunity to provide feedback to Equestrian Australia Victoria, offering an interesting insight for SA riders, into the future of the sport.

The youngest rider in the team, 12-year-old Zara Lally, had a very full competition schedule with her pony Trussana B. Zara placed 4th in all three FEI Children's tests to finish 4th overall in the Children's Championship. She also placed 3rd in the Elementary Pony Championship, with a 5th and 4th in the Elementary tests, and went on to claim Reserve Champion Pony Novice after finishing 6th and 1st in her Novice tests.

Sixteen-year-old Eliza Spiers competed at her first Australian Youth Championships with her home-bred pony Hillswood Beatrice. In the Novice Championship, Eliza placed 6th and equal 7th in her tests before finishing an impressive 3rd in the Novice Freestyle on the final day. Isabelle Finn, riding Danson Der Von Venus and attending her third National Youth Championships, produced consistent performances to place 9th in both Medium tests against strong competition. Cate Rudland brought her young horse Dornfeld River Gem over the border for only their second competition together, finishing 8th in both Preliminary tests in a very competitive class.

South Australia fielded both a composite pony team and an Open Club team, with final scores still pending at the time of print. Throughout the week, the riders were a wonderful support to one another, sharing meals, encouraging each other, and enjoying the camaraderie that comes with youth championships. Between tests, ice boots, misting fans and plenty of frozen slushies helped keep horses comfortable in the heat.

It was a rewarding four days of competition, inspiration and friendship, and the team hopes their experience encourages more South Australian youth riders to join the Championships in 2027. The event offers a supportive environment, high-quality competition and a fantastic opportunity to learn from and connect with talented young riders from across Australia.



Michele Lally - Chef d'équipe

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM SA



2026

ADVANCED



Kellie McCafferty
Fairbanks Usher

ADVANCED



Sarah Wyatt
HPS Ganymede Star

ADVANCED



Cheryl Hatswell
Christos

ADVANCED



Ryan Fletcher
Dreamtime MI

ADVANCED



Ruth Schneeberger
Heathmont Romance

ADVANCED



Julia Weir
Jazdan Daydream

MEDIUM



Samantha Dossett
Jazdan Royal Rockstar

ADVANCED



Kia Naylor
NEP Bugatti

ELEMENTARY



Cheryl Hatswell
PS Furstenshow

ELEMENTARY



Kylie Watson
Ibn Ky Tiny Dancer

ELEMENTARY



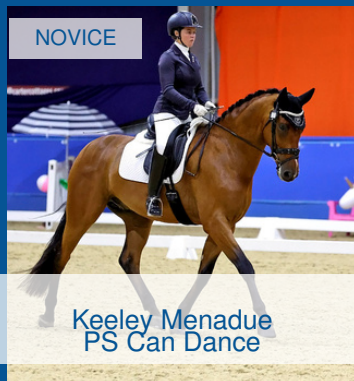
Vita Suter
McCarther To be Frank

MEDIUM



Keeley Menadue
FL Rocksette

NOVICE



Keeley Menadue
PS Can Dance

ADVANCED



Andrea Whitford
GL Song & Dance

2026



Ruth Schneeberger
Miramar Serene



Karen Horsell
Guizo da Ferrara



Fiona Guthrie-Smith
Bluefields Denoir



Fiona Guthrie-Smith
Levade This



Fiona Guthrie-Smith
Verondina Artomous



Catherine Skinner
Dobria de Jeu



Fiona Guthrie-Smith
Dornfeld Don Dorito



Lorraine Wohling
HV Duke



Melissa Boekel
Regal Wolkendance



HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUAD

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SQUAD



DRESSAGE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



Airlie Wheadon
Willowcroft Warrior

YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



Ellie Digney
Tuxedo Cat

YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



Zara Lally
Trussana B

YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



Shanae Richards
Sanlirra Luxurious

YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



Micaela Butler
Regent D Andre

YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



Eliza Spiers
Hillswood Beatrice

EMERGING



Isabelle Finn
Danson Don von Venus

EMERGING



Cate Rudland
Don Duchovny

EMERGING



Maddison Collins
Kyalla Autumn Night

EMERGING



Sarah Price
Adelle Musician

EMERGING RIDERS SQUAD

20 26

SA DRESSAGE JUDGE UPDATE, DSA-JSC.

WELCOME TO SA DRESSAGE JUDGE UPDATE
FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2026



THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES:

After more than 10 years as a member of the Dressage Judges Subcommittee, Verity Hayman has decided to step down from the JSC. Initially a G level judge, but moving from judging to stewarding, Verity has shown a great capacity to give back to our sport. Thank you for your many contributions and best wishes for the future.

If you are a judge reading this and thinking that you may be able to contribute to the JSC and our education program we would love to hear from you! dressagejudge@equestriansa.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS:

As mentioned in the previous edition of Moving Forward, the JSC will hold an A-B-C Judges seminar on Sunday 1st March with FEI Level 4 judge Maria Schwennesen (Qld) as our educator. The venue for the practical training is Danson Dressage, 59 McLean Road, Birdwood. The night for a ZOOM theory session is still under consideration. For our A/B/C judges, attendance at both sessions will count as a “Seminar”. The event will be open to judges of all levels and not just restricted to A/B/C, and will count as a “Workshop” for judges at other levels. A great opportunity to see our top horses and riders as they give us insight into the training and execution of movements in Advanced (C) level tests and above.

On Saturday 28th February, the DSA committee are holding the 2026 Dressage Spectacular with Young Horse Finals, Freestyle and Para events at Danson Dressage. Maria is a judge at the event and it promises to be a fabulous day for watching talented horses compete.

Further dates and seminars for 2026 are as follows:

Saturday 9th May Young Horse Theory & Practical, Mt George Equestrian Centre.

Sunday 10th May E / D Practical at Mt George. ZOOM Theory TBA.

We are very pleased to have Kerrie Swan-Bates as our Judge Educator for 9-10th May.

Saturday 4th July F / G Theory & Practical, Mt George Equestrian Centre.

THE JUDGES' VIEW

We continue a theme started in the December 25 issue of Moving Forward, to help Riders gain more understanding of the “why” behind a score and how it helps as a key to effective training and long-term progression. This edition of Moving Forward has a detailed description of requirements for the Walk, and how marks are assigned (taken from the EA Dressage Rule Book and the FEI Judges Manual). Valuable reading for riders, coaches and judges. Thank you to Brigitte Drinkwater for preparing this review.

From the JSC
Liz Duncan (Chair), Brigitte Drinkwater, Fiona Heysen & Tracy Tillman

IMPORTANCE OF DRESSAGE JUDGES' COMMENTS.

An important part of the role of the dressage judge is to give comments that align with the marks given for each test movement. In the short time available with each horse and for each movement, the judge has to reach a mark and then very concisely explain reasons for both low and high marks. When time permits the comments may expand to explain how more marks could be gained. The accompanying article and two resources taken from the EA Dressage website provide practical alternatives and phrasing guidance to make every remark both meaningful and actionable. See “The Importance of Dressage Judges’ Comments” and “Phrasing comments on Dressage test sheets” in following pages.

2026 DRESSAGE RULES

The 2026 version of the Dressage Rulebook can be found on the EA website for Dressage or follow this link (if the link doesn’t work, copy and paste into your browser):

www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/EA%20Dressage%20Rule%20Book%20January%202026_0.pdf

Similarly, a summary of the Dressage Rule changes can be found on the EA website:

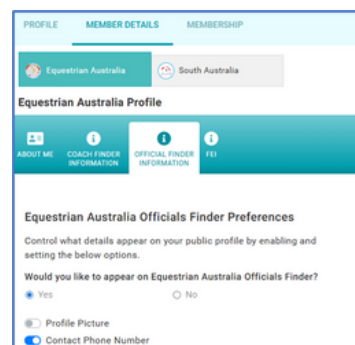
www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Summary%20EA%20DRESSAGE%20RULES%2001.01.2026.pdf

Please make yourself familiar with changes to the rules. A few of the main changes are:

- 1.3.j: It is strictly forbidden to use any type of substance/product inside or around the Horse’s mouth and/or tongue that may (i) imitate, induce or cause foaming; and/or (ii) coat or otherwise cover, or partially cover the bit. The prohibition excludes the use of products permitted in the FEI Tack App and the provision of permitted natural treats given in moderation. Contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination
- 5.5: Spurs - if disc rowels are used, they must be blunt & smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate. Daisy rowels, tines, notched, serrated edges are not permitted. Some difference in rules for Ponies-please check.
- 5.8: Jackets - for all EA levels and non-CDI FEI levels, wearing a coat is optional if the rider feels overheated
- Section 12 – changes to the compulsory conditions to maintain accreditation, with more event options for G judges.

ON-LINE “OFFICIAL’S FINDER”

The new JUST.GO platform for EA Officials is now live and judges are reminded that they need to “opt-in” to having their name and contact details available. Click on the EA website “Members Info” button and then the Quick Link to “EA Member’s Portal”. You will need to log-in and then update your information on the “Official Finder” tab. Select the button to agree to appear in the on-line Finder and add which contact information you prefer – email, phone or both. Address can be suburb and postcode to allow location searches by clubs. As a tip, then do an Official search on your own name to check details show as you wish.



The screenshot shows the 'Equestrian Australia Profile' page with tabs for PROFILE, MEMBER DETAILS, and MEMBERSHIP. The 'OFFICIAL FINDER INFORMATION' tab is active. It includes a section for 'Equestrian Australia Officials Finder Preferences' with instructions to control what details appear on the public profile. There are four toggle switches: 'Would you like to appear on Equestrian Australia Officials Finder?' (set to Yes), 'Profile Picture' (set to On), and 'Contact Phone Number' (set to On). The 'FEI' tab is also visible.

From the JSC

Liz Duncan (Chair), Brigitte Drinkwater, Verity Hayman, Fiona Heysen & Tracy Tillman

IMPORTANCE OF DRESSAGE JUDGES' COMMENTS.

Dressage judges' comments are far more than a formality, they are a vital communication tool that bridges performance and progress. Thoughtfully phrased feedback helps riders understand what was seen in the moment, reinforcing strengths and pinpointing areas for improvement in a way that scores alone cannot convey. At their best, comments are specific, educational, and encouraging: they move beyond generic words like "nice" and instead use clear, descriptive language that reflects the quality of the movement, the accuracy of the aids, and the harmony between horse and rider.

The FEI Dressage Rules and Judging Manual emphasise that judges' remarks are intended for the information of the athlete and should explain the reason for the mark, particularly when scores are lower, while also recognising that comments on higher marks support clear communication and reinforce quality.

For judges, crafting effective comments with well-chosen words builds rider confidence, supports progression and trust in the judging process, while also helping judges maintain clarity, consistency and professionalism across all levels of the sport. The accompanying resources provide practical alternatives and phrasing guidance to make every remark both meaningful and actionable.

Reference List: *FEI Dressage Judging Manual Effective from 1 January 2025 FEI Dressage Rules 26th edition, 1 January 2023, Including updates effective 1 January 2026* EA Education pages – Useful Documents for all Judges and Riders *Comments – Alternatives to 'Nice' Phrasing Comments on Dressage Sheets* st



Dressage Comments

Below are a few alternative words you could use instead of **Nice** in your Dressage Comments, with examples of how they may replace 'nice'.

- Accurate (acc turns, acc loops, acc figures)
- Assured (assured throughout the test)
- Attentive (attntive in FRW)
- Balanced (eg bal'd trans, bal'd canter etc)
- Bold (bold extnsn, bold entry)
- Calm (calm FRW, calm entry)
- Clear (clr trans, clr change)
- Confident (confdt entry)
- Crisp (crisp depart from halt, crisp to walk)
- Diplomatic (diplmtic aids, diplomatic riding)
- Direct (direct trans)
- Elastic (elastic paces, elastic contact in the trot)
- Elegant (eleg't entry & halt)
- Flowing (flowing trot work, flowing test)
- Fluent (fluent 1/2 circle & return, fluent on centreline)
- Free (free in shldrs in ext'd walk, free cntr on circle)
- Honest (honest horse, honest attitude)
- In the right direction, going in the right way etc
- Loose (loose paces, loose trot, loose thru back (as opposed to tight thru back))
- Obedient (obed't trans, obed't circle)
- Precise (precise trans, precise halt)
- Prompt (prompt to halt, prompt to cntr at C)
- Relaxed (relxd back, relxd FRW)
- Rhythmical (rhy'l lengthening, rhy'l cntr depart)
- Secure (secure rhythm, secure in walk)
- Smooth (smth halt, smth trans)
- Soft (soft to walk, soft on diag)
- Stable (stble in all his walk & trot work)
- Straight (strt entry, strt on long side)
- Supple (supple loops shown, supple thru ribs on turns at E & B)
- Swinging (swinging back, swinging well in cntr)
- Sympathetic (sympathetic contact, symph trans)
- Uphill (uphill trans, uphill entry)
- Well-ridden (trans's, loops, trot work, stretch circle)
- Well-executed
- Well shown
- Well-presented
- Well-prepared
- Well-trained
- Willing (willing attitude, willing temperament)



Phrasing Comments on Dressage Sheets

Negative	Neutral	Positive
Unlevel Lost rhythm Skipped	Some irreg	More reg More rhythm More even steps
On the forehand Earthbound Downhill Unbalanced Croup high	Coming a little croup high	More uphill More bal'd More under More eng'd
Crooked Quarters swinging Not straight	Quarters slightly left	More straight More parallel
Tight Tense Stiff	Not always loose Not quite through	More soft More supple More elastic
Abrupt Why so sudden?	Lacking tact	More fluent More smooth
Hollow Above bit Against the hand	Losing roundness	More round More over back More thru neck
Wrong bend	Lacking lateral submis'n	More bend
Crest high Not clear	At times crest high Could be clearer Rather progressive Hesitant	Keep poll highest More clear More crisp More prompt
Resistant Dragging steps in rein back	Some tension Reluctant Inactive	More harmony More quality steps
Leaning	Appears a little heavy	More self carriage
No clear difference	Rather progressive	Modest Cautious More risk taking More bold More brave
Walked to halt	Could be clearer	More sure More prompt
Wagging head	Lacking acceptance of bridle at times	More steady head
Rough trans	Prepare for trans	More discrete aids More harmony
Dropping the bit Lacking imp	At times behind the bit Needs to be more forward	More on vertical More energy Keep the swing More active More gr'd gaining
Not square 4 beat canter Laboured Flat	Almost squ Losing the jump Needing to show lift	Squ in front Keep the canter clean More jump More suspension More time in the air
Ambling Not 4 beat	Tending to be lateral	Keep the purity of the walk
Lengthening barely shown	Could show more	More push & carry More freedom in sh'lder More lift Just indicated



<https://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Comments%20-%20Alternatives%20to%20%27Nice%27.pdf>

https://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Phrasing%20Comments%20on%20Dressage%20Sheets_0.pdf

JUDGING THE BASIC PACES OF THE HORSE – THE WALK

Let's start this month with the walk. While it may seem simple, the walk is fundamental to dressage, tested rigorously and often scored with a double coefficient (x 2!!). Riders must master rhythm, relaxation, and clarity in walk variations to score well, while judges need a sharp eye to reward these qualities fairly. Below, we break down the FEI's walk definitions and how the scale of marks, along with the indicators from Stephen Clarke helps translate performance into scores.

The Walk

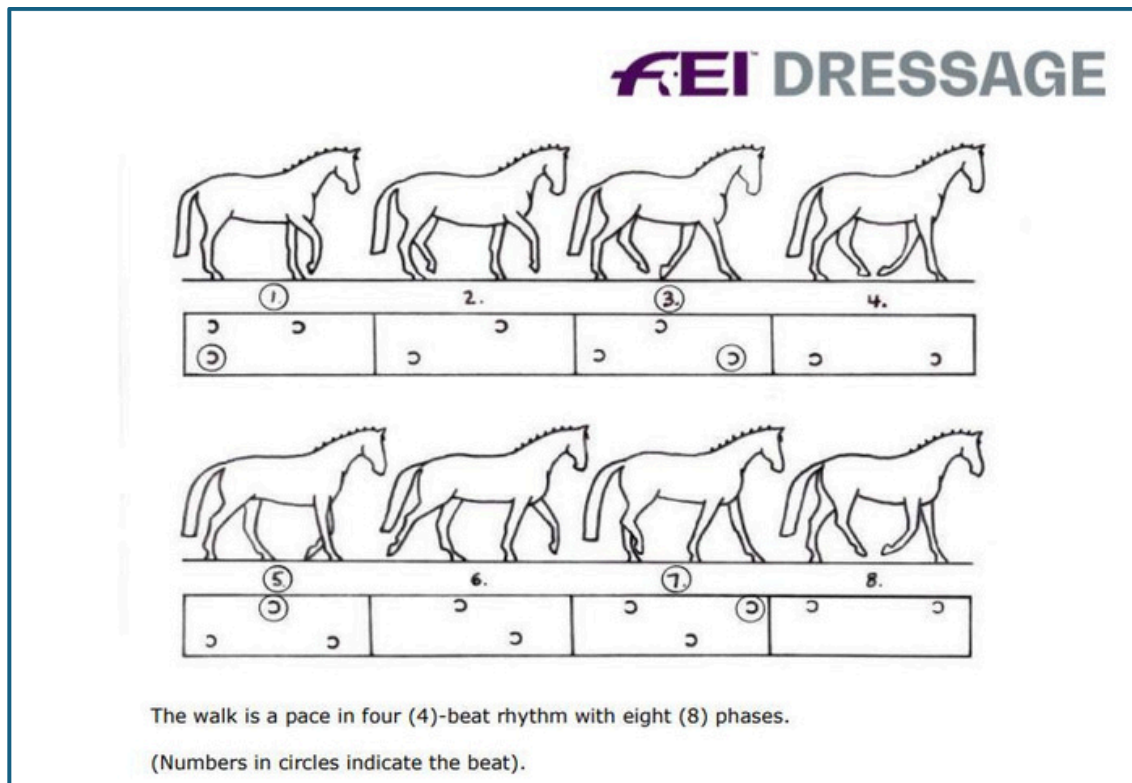
A 'step' in walk constitutes one step by a foreleg. The walk is a marching pace in a regular and well-marked four (4) time beat with eight (8) different phases. (*see diagram below*) This regularity combined with full relaxation must be maintained throughout all walk movements. There is no moment of suspension. When the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side are moved forwards and set down at the same time (or almost at the same time), this will lead to a serious deterioration of the pace.

The walk tends to become an almost lateral movement, so-called "pacing" or "ambling." (*also identified as lateral or becoming lateral*). The following walk tempi are recognised: Collected walk, Medium walk, Extended walk, and Free walk. There should always be a clear difference in the attitude and over tracking in these variations.

- **Collected Walk:** The horse remains "on the bit," moves resolutely forward with its neck raised and arched, showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position, and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are active and engaged with good hock action. The pace should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps are shorter, higher, and more active than in medium walk, because all joints bend more markedly. Ideally, the hind feet do not track over the footprints of the forefeet.
- **Medium Walk:** A clear, regular walk of moderate lengthening. The horse, remaining "on the bit," walks energetically but relaxed with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the hoof prints of the forefeet. The athlete maintains a light, soft, and steady contact with the mouth, allowing the natural movement of the horse's head and neck.
- **Extended Walk:** The horse, showing utmost freedom of shoulders, covers as much ground as possible without haste and without losing the regularity of the steps. The hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the hoof prints of the forefeet. The athlete allows the horse to stretch out head and neck (forwards and downwards) without losing contact with the mouth and control of the poll. The nose must be clearly in front of the vertical.
- **Free Walk:** The free walk is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out head and neck. The degree of ground cover and length of steps, with the hind feet stepping clearly in front of the footprints of the front feet, are essential to the quality of the free walk.
- **Stretching on the Long Rein:** In order to execute the exercise 'stretching on a long rein' correctly, the rider must allow the horse to gradually take the reins smoothly as the horse stretches his neck forward and downward. The horse's mouth should reach approximately the horizontal line corresponding to the point of the shoulder, while a light, elastic, and consistent contact with the rider's hands is maintained. The horse covers as much ground as possible without haste and without losing the regularity of

JUDGING THE BASIC PACES OF THE HORSE – THE WALK

his steps, with the hind feet stepping clearly in front of the footprints of the forefeet. During the retake of the reins, the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the jaw, mouth, or poll.



Judging the Walk Using the Scale of Marks

Judges evaluate the quality of the walk by considering rhythm, regularity, relaxation, and the distinct qualities of the walk variations, as outlined by the FEI. Using the scale of marks 0 to 10 alongside indicators documented by Stephen Clarke (see *MF issue 159*), judges are provided a clear framework to translate these observations into numerical scores:

- **10 (Excellent):**
The walk is free, regular, rhythmic, and clearly defined with exceptional activity and ground cover. The horse shows complete relaxation, self-carriage, and obedience, with a swinging back and ideal head and neck carriage. Distinctions between walk tempi are unmistakably clear, with consistent and expressive over-tracking. The movement is exemplary in every respect and could not be improved. Its very special to give a 10 and reserved for something truly outstanding.
- **9 (Very Good):**
The walk shows very clear rhythm and regularity with a high degree of relaxation and activity. Contact is elastic and correct, and the horse clearly differentiates between walk tempi. Any minor imperfections (for example, slight loss of over-tracking or momentary tension) do not detract from the overall quality. A movement of exceptional impression. (goose bump material)
- **8 (Good):**
The walk is regular, clear, and correct, with good relaxation and activity. Differences between walk tempi are visible, though not always fully expressed. Minor tension, reduced ground cover, or small inconsistencies may occur but do not significantly impair the quality. For example, the free walk may be very good, but transitions or accuracy reduce the overall mark.

JUDGING THE BASIC PACES OF THE HORSE – THE WALK

- **7 (Fairly Good):**

The walk is generally regular and correct but lacks expression, energy, or elasticity. Some tension, stiffness, or loss of clarity in rhythm may be evident. Differentiation between walk tempi is limited, and the movement lacks refinement or consistency throughout.

- **6 (Satisfactory):**

The walk meets the minimum requirements but shows clear weaknesses. There may be tension, unevenness, or reduced over-tracking and self-carriage is not consistently maintained. The walk may show tendencies toward lateralisation (pacing or ambling). This mark may also apply to a good-quality walk with a clear error or inaccuracy, such as a well-balanced walk pirouette that is too large.

- **5 (Sufficient):**

The walk movement may have been achieved but without quality, showing irregularity, loss of rhythm, and clear tension or resistance. The steps lack clarity and consistency become lateral, and does not meet the expected criteria for the required walk variation (collected, medium, extended, or free)

- **4–1 (Insufficient to Very Bad):**

Marks below 5 reflect major faults. These may include pronounced irregularity, clear pacing, breaking into another gait, severe tension or resistance, or a significant loss of rhythm and relaxation. The walk no longer fulfils the basic requirements of the gait and the quality of the gait is lost throughout the movement.

- **0 (Not Executed):**

It is very rare to give 0 usually there is some fragment of the movement shown. 0 would only be if the movement is not shown at all. For example, the horse jogs or trots throughout the entire walk movement, showing no recognisable walk steps in any walk variation.

The walk is more than a four-beat gait; it reflects the horse's level of training, suppleness, relaxation, and responsiveness to the rider's aids. From a judge's perspective, the walk provides clear insight into correctness, purity of rhythm, and the effectiveness of the training scale, while for riders it offers a valuable opportunity to demonstrate harmony, accuracy, and correct development. Understanding what judges evaluate, and how the scale of marks translates the quality of the walk into scores, enables riders to train with greater clarity and purpose.

Mastery of the walk, especially with its double coefficient, can make a big difference in competition results.

Prepared by: Brigitte Drinkwater, 28/01/2026.

Reference List:

FEI Dressage Judging Manual Effective from 1st January 2025

FEI Dressage Rules 26th edition, 1 January 2023, Incl updates effective 1 January 2026

FEI Dressage Handbook Guidelines for Judging

EA National Dressage Rules, Effective 1st January 2026

~~EA Education pages – Useful Documents for all Judges and Riders~~

Using the Scale of Marks by Stephen Clarke (UK 5 Judge, FEI Dressage Judge General)*

FEI Guideline – Evaluation of Walk – 2011 to 2014 all levels



EQUESTRIAN
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Ever thought about becoming a dressage judge, but want to know more?

- ☐ Discover the world of dressage judging, where precision converges with passion.
- ☐ Expand your abilities and make a positive impact on the equestrian community.
- ☐ Contribute to shaping the future while enriching your skills and expertise.

Reach out to us at dressagejudge@equestriansa.com.au for answers to your questions and guidance on how to begin. Alternatively, you can fill out an expression of interest form (details below). We offer support from experienced Judge Educators and Mentors throughout the entire process.

Summary - How to become a Dressage Judge

Equestrian Australia has developed a National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS) that sets the requirements for becoming a judge.

To become a new judge, applicants must:

- be at least 17 years of age
- be a member of the EA (at least Supporter category)
- complete the G – Level Expression of Interest Form, on page 4 of **[How to Become a Dressage Judge \(G-E\)- Jan 2024.pdf](#)**
- have some experience as a rider, coach, writer/penciller
- attend an EA approved G, F or G/F level seminar
- have completed the relevant sit-ins, and shadow-judged the required number of tests (more detail is in the workbook)
- have successfully completed the current G Level [Open Rule Book Test](#), and
- complete the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Community Officiating Principles Online Course **[Essential Skills | Australian Sports Commission](#)**

Useful Links & Resources

[Workbook - How to Become a G-E Level Dressage Judge](#)

[ESA Officials Calendar \(seminars & workshops\)](#)

[EA Dressage Rules and Tests](#)

[EA Dressage Officials](#)

[EA Useful Documents](#)

There is also a (fast track) Accelerated Judges Scheme for FEI riders who have achieved a pre-determined level of performance. Eligible riders may apply for dispensation for some of the requirements. Refer the EA Dressage judge pathway for the requirements.

THE WORD 'PARA' STANDS FOR PARALLEL,
MEANING ALONGSIDE OPEN SPORT.

Para Rules Equestrian Australia Summary of Rule Changes

IMPLEMENTATION 1 JANUARY 2026

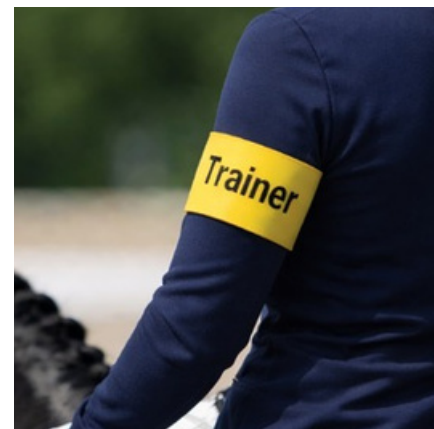
3.7.2 Jackets and coats: To align with new FEI Para Dressage rules (FEI Article 8427.9 – Dress)



A **white coloured** Arm Band, (provided by the athlete) must be worn at all times by athletes with a classified **visual impairment**, while mounted outside of at the competition (Field of Play).



A **light blue coloured** Arm Band, (provided by the athlete) must be worn at all times by athletes with a classified **hearing impairment**, while mounted outside of competition (Field of Play).
Note: recommended for 2026 with implementation for 1st January 2027



A **yellow armband stating 'Trainer'** will be worn whenever trainers are mounted on grade I, II and III para dressage horses.
Note: yellow armband recommended for 2026 with implementation for 1st January 2027

3.14.1 Bridles: Where ladder reins are permitted, there can be a maximum of three soft rungs loops per rein. Where looped reins are permitted, there can be a maximum of four loops per rein. Each loop strap measuring no more than 30cm in length, measured inside of the loops.

4.3.4 Horses and ponies must be at least 6 years old to compete in EA Para Dressage and for Grand Prix tests, the horses must be the minimum age as per the FEI rules.

9.1.3 Virtus athletes are allowed callers and commanders as they are considered to be standard aids for Virtus athletes.

9.3 Classification: Virtus classification is managed by Sport Inclusion Australia and must be obtained prior to the closing date of an event.

For all of the rule changes, please click here

 **LINK**

SA PARA EQUESTRIAN DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

PEDC

THE WORD 'PARA' STANDS FOR PARALLEL, MEANING ALONGSIDE
OPEN SPORT.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST PARA STEWARDS



Thanks to Sarah White for attending our 2025 clinic and for dedicating herself to our sport. Our riders look forward to seeing you out at events.

Wonderful timing! As from 1st Jan 2026, it is compulsory to have a Para Steward for all Para Dressage Events.

If your club needs assistance in incorporating this requirement into your event, please reach out to the ESA Para Equestrian Committee for support.

Thankyou to AHDC for hosting our first competition of 2026.

Unfortunately, we only had one Para entry. It would be great to see more people out and about supporting clubs that go the extra mile for us and host Para /Virtus classes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 1ST - VIRTUS VIDEO COMPETITION

Global - **Entries Open:** Feb 1st

FEB 14TH - ESA AWARDS NIGHT

Auchendarroch House, Mt Barker - 6:30 for 7pm Start [Buy Here](#)

FEB 26TH TO 1ST MAR - PARA CPEDI QUALIFIER

Willinga Park, NSW - **Entries Close:** Feb 1st [Schedule](#)

FEB 28TH - DSA DRESSAGE SPECTACULAR

Danson Dressage, Birdwood - **Entries Close:** Feb 16th [Enter Here](#)

APR 25TH - DRESSAGE CLUB OF SA

Strathalbyn Polo Grounds - **Entries Close:** TBA [Event Details](#)

Reminder: Email the tests you are doing and your classification card to the event coordinator

**PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR ON THE ESA WEBSITE
REGULARLY AS IT DOES GET UPDATED FROM TIME TO TIME.**

[LINK](#)

PARA.EQUESTRIAN@EQUESTRIANSA.COM.AU



Adelaide Hills Dressage Club

PRESIDENT / JUDGE COORDINATOR:

Wendy Brown 0412 831 720 twwmbrown@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Sheila Lewis 0427 398 394 narilladan1@gmail.com

SPONSORSHIP:

Sheila Lewis 0427 398 394 narilladan1@gmail.com
Kerry Glass 0412 058 196 mightyfarmequinesupplies@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Lesley Price 0419 861 435 priceles9@yahoo.com.au

SECRETARY:

Sally Wells 0429 190 653 pretzel308@gmail.com
PO Box 1406, Nairne SA 5252

DRAW SECRETARY:

Cathy Kluske 0400 289 481 ahdclub@gmail.com

PENCILLER COORDINATOR:

Julie Kershaw 0408 823 596

COMMITTEEMEMBERS

Jo Cullen	0427 712 523
Camille Houston	0403 802 738
Mel Johnson	0428 187 566
Jane Brown	0407 889 377
Geraldine Fenner	0499 802 571

PATRONESS

Mrs Erica Taylor

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Bernie Biggs	Mrs Wendy Brown
Mrs Penny Heighes	Mrs Nancy Gower (dec)
Mr Peter Fawcett (dec)	Mrs Judy Brooks
Ms Jane Richards	Mr Noel Vears (dec)
Ms Ann Kitto (dec)	

www.ahdc.net.au
Or find us on Facebook

Entries via Nominate: www.nominate.com.au
Late entries now attract a \$20 fee per horse

Draw questions to Cathy (Draw Secretary): 0400 289 481
Questions on how to enter on Nominate:
Sally (Secretary): 0429 190 653 or pretzel308@gmail.com

President's Report

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Welcome to 2026 and the start of Competition.

Our AGM was held on 9 December 2025 with some changes to Committee members: in 2026 we welcome Geraldine Fenner back to our team.

Julie Kershaw (our Penciller Co-ordinator) attended and expressed her concerns about the difficulty in procuring Pencillers for our competitions. Members have not been honouring their commitment as a requirement of Membership and last year out of 115 Members only 15 fulfilled this requirement.

Therefore it was decided to increase the membership's Helper Levy from \$50 to \$100. The Levy which will be refunded when at least 5 hours of work as a Penciller or Runner or help in canteen etc on a competition day has been completed.

Members may nominate up to three possible helper days in the event that the first day does not suit all parties.

Maria Jones posted a very encouraging video clip on our Facebook page, explaining how much can be learnt from pencilling and hearing what the judges are looking for first hand.

At this stage we are still waiting to hear if the sand arena grant application has been successful. We have however had notification that a decision will be made soon and we hope to report some good news in the next edition of Moving Forward.

As reported in the last edition, the Grounds Management Committee now has \$31,000 in the toilet block fundraiser account. When an appropriate Grant becomes available Lorraine Wohling has again offered to put in an application but in the meantime we will continue to save with the Levy money.

We have some great competitions coming up with February's Combined Training, April's Protocol day (our instructors are Linda Oleary, Jody Cavuoto and Ruth Schneeberger) and then the Club Championships in May. Enjoy your lovely horses. Regards

Regards

Wendy Brown

AHDC President

ADELAIDE HILLS DRESSAGE CLUB STOP PRESS!!

A NEW ERA FOR DRESSAGE AT THE
STRATHALBYN POLO & RECREATION GROUNDS

AHDC IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE WE HAVE
RECEIVED

GRANT FUNDING

WHICH ALONG WITH OUR OWN FUNDRAISING WILL
HELP US TO CONSTRUCT 3 ALL-WEATHER
BOUNCE RUBBER DRESSAGE ARENAS

*Thank you to
our supporters*



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing



bounce
rubber arena surface



2026 Diary Dates

Entries close at midnight on the Wednesday 11 days before a competition.

Late entries are usually possible until midnight on the Friday 9 days before a competition but will attract a \$20 late fee per horse.

8 February - Closed Unrestricted Dressage, Combined Training, Interscholar, Practice Arenas Entries Closed	9 August - Competitive, Participant, Closed Unrestricted, Practice Arenas Tests: TBA
8 March - Competitive, Participant, Closed Unrestricted, Interscholar, Practice Arenas Tests: Prep 1—3, Prelim to Advanced 2s and 3s	13 September - Closed Unrestricted, Practice Arenas Tests: TBA
Saturday 11 April - Protocol Day, Closed Unrestricted, Practice Arenas Tests: Prep 1—3, Prelim to Advanced 1s and 2s Plus Instruction sessions with Ruth Schneeberg, Linda O'Leary or Jody Cavuoto Sunday 12 April - Competitive, Participant, Closed Unrestricted, Practice Arenas Tests: Prep 1—3, Prelim to Advanced 1s and 2s	11 October - Competitive, Participant, Closed Unrestricted, FEI, Young Horse. Practice Arenas TBC. Tests: TBA
3 May - Closed Restricted Club Champs (AHDC Club Members only) + Closed Unrestricted classes (non-AHDC members), Practice Arenas Membership Conditions will apply - see the Calendar page of our website for Conditions Tests: Tests: Prep 1—3, Prelim to Advanced 2s and 3s	8 November - Closed Unrestricted, Practice Arenas Tests: TBA
8 June - Competitive, Participant, Closed Unrestricted, FEI, Practice Arenas Tests: TBA	13 December - Competitive, Participant, Closed Unrestricted, Practice Arenas Tests: TBA
11 July - Closed Unrestricted, Practice Arenas Tests: TBA	

Our membership year starts on 20 December each year (the dates have been altered a little to allow members to join and enter our January comp, as the closing date for our January competitions is too close to 1 January each year). Half price membership is available from 20 June each year.

See the Membership page of our website for more information and the joining process via Nominate: www.ahdc.net.au/membership.html

2025 Horseland Mt Barker Spring Festival Classic Sponsors

Our Elite Sponsor: HORSELAND MOUNT BARKER

Cool & Complete Pellets

Daish Irrigation & Fodder - Strathalbyn

Dynavite

Equine Wellness Club

Fleurieu Handyman & Gardening Services

Jane Brown

Laucke Mills

Meadows Veterinary Centre

Mighty Farm Equine

Mobile Inspiration

Molly Ellis: Art, Illustration & Design

NC Equine

PYT Equine Photography

Sunburst Equestrian

TD Performance Horses

Your
25-26
DCSA
committee

President

Anne Raymond



Vice President

Ryan Fletcher



Secretary &
Treasurer

Ruth Thompson

Committee Members





DRESSAGE CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everyone!

The Club year starts on January 1st, 2026, and we welcome all levels and all categories of riders, into a supportive and professional environment.

Join South Australia's oldest dressage club and enjoy the future of the sport as members of the progressive and successful Dressage Club of SA.

***Winners of the 2025 SA Dressage Club of the Year as voted by our membership ***

Besides being welcomed to join in with a passionate group of dressage riders at all levels from CR to FEI, Dressage Club of SA Club membership offers you:

- Reduced entry fees
- An email notification for early entry into non HOTY shows
- First option to booking yards for our shows
- The first opportunities in Clinics hosted by DCSA
- Free automatic inclusion in our Leaderboard Competition

*******NO INCREASE in fees from our 2025 season! *******

**RENEWALS
CLICK HERE**

**NEW MEMBERS
CLICK HERE**

**just create an account with Event Secretary if you don't already have one

DCSA MEMBERSHIP 2026

Membership \$75

Junior Member under 21 \$40

NO VOLUNTEER LEVY FOR 2026

TEST COSTS

Member entry not inc levies \$45

Non-member entry not inc levies \$65

*Happy New Year
Anne Raymond - President*

2026 DCSA MERCH



MILANO PULLOVER

Contemporary modern styled pullover with a longer length and flattering V-neck shape that layers perfectly over collared shirts. The merino wool blend yarn is pill resistant and machine washable.

FABRIC

50% Pre-Shrunk Wool, 50% Acrylic • 12 Gauge
• Machine washable on wool setting

FEATURES

Mens contemporary V-neck style features ribbed side panel detail • Womens style features longer hip length with matching ribbed sleeve and hem detail, slim-line

CLICK HERE TO ORDER



\$60

FULL ZIP HOODIE



\$70

RUGBY



\$45

POLO

- > Urban Fit
- > 65% Polyester for durability, and 35% Cotton for comfort 280gsm
- > Front Kangaroo pocket
- > Hood with drawcord (No draw cord on kids sizes)
- > 2x2 rib sleeve cuffs and bottom hem with elastane
- > Full zip
- > Set-in sleeves

- Details**
- > Classic fit
 - > 65% Polyester for durability, and 35% Cotton for comfort
 - > 210gsm pique knit fabric
 - > Knitted collar with reinforced herringbone tape on inside neck seam
 - > JB's 3-button placket
 - > Straight hem with side splits
 - > Easy care, reduced pilling fabric
 - > Complies with standard AS 4399:2020 for UPF protection
 - > Black/Aqua only available in 2XS-5XL
 - > Red/White and Black/Orange only available in S-5XL

- > 65% Polyester for durability, and 35% Cotton for comfort.
- > Classic Fit
- > Cut for a classic fit with ribbed sleeve cuffs and an internal contrast woven back neck dome
- > JB's concealed 3-button placket
- > 350gsm Rugby knit fabric
- > Straight hem with side splits

AVAILABLE IN

- ADULTS
- KIDS

AVAILABLE IN

- ADULTS
- KIDS

AVAILABLE IN

- MENS
- LADIES
- KIDS

2026 CALENDAR

DRESSAGE CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

STRATHALBYN POLO &
RECREATION GROUNDS



2026

Member Arena Hire
Days

Member Protocol
Days

TBC

26
APRIL
2026

2025 Annual Leaderboard
Presentation Ceremony

JACKPOT

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW

FEI + Children's FEI

PARA

COMPETITIVE

CLOSED RESTRICTED

INTERSTATE
JUDGES

12
SEPTEMBER
2026

FEI + Children's FEI
COMPETITIVE
CLOSED RESTRICTED

10
OCTOBER
2026

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW

FEI + Children's FEI
YOUNG HORSE
COMPETITIVE
CLOSED RESTRICTED

INTERSTATE
JUDGES

Mid South East Dressage Club



President:

Ann Dodd
president@msedc.org.au
0400 737 087

Vice-President:

KateDennis
0458607090

Secretary:

TrudiLutt
0412786695
secretary@msedc.org.au

Treasurer:

Linda Archer 0427 208 180
treasurer@msedc.org.au

Committee:

June Whitehead
Nicole Lewis
Bev Copping
Steph Clayfields
Donna Eichler

Life Members:

SueThornley
Margie Stuart
Amanda Lock
Kristy Boord
Dianne Green (dc)

Presidents Report

Here we are already to nearing the end of January in 2026.... With extreme heat over the Australia Day weekend the committee decided it was best for all to cancel our training/protocol day planned for the Sunday. So we press on towards our next event for the year being the Lucindale Show held on 28th Feb / 1st March. This is an official event with great judges already booked... the 1st March also being the first round of our Autumn Series. Let's hope for great weather too... under 30 degrees would be perfect 😊

Plans are well underway for our MC Equine Country Classic, this year being on the 28th 29th March at the lovely Hynam Polocrosse Grounds just out of Naracoorte. This facility has yards available and we are planning a dinner on Saturday night for those staying. Entries are now open on nominate.. Hopefully we get to see quite a few entries with big classes!

Happy riding
Ann Dodd



Mid South East Dressage Club



2026 MC Equine SA Country Dressage Classic

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
ENTRY FEE FOR ALL EA&FEI CLASSES
MEMBERS OF THE MID SOUTH EAST DRESSAGE CLUB : \$50 (PER CLASS)
NON-MEMBERS \$70 (PER CLASS)
EA Dressage Judges' Levy \$4.40 per horse

SATURDAY HOTY Qualifiers	SUNDAY Round 2 MSEDCA Autumn Series
PREAPARATORY 1 – Closed Restricted PREPARTORY 2 – Closed Restricted	PREAPARATORY 2 – Closed Restricted PREPARTORY 3 – Closed Restricted
PRELIMINARY 1.1 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted PRELIMINARY 1.2 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted	PRELIMINARY 1.2 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted PRELIMINARY 1.3 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted
NOVICE 2.1 - Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted NOVICE 2.2 - Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted	NOVICE 2.2 - Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted NOVICE 2.3 - Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted
ELEMENTARY 3.1 - Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted ELEMENTARY 3.2 - Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted	ELEMENTARY 3.2 - Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted ELEMENTARY 3.3 - Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted
MEDIUM 4.1 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted MEDIUM 4.2 – Open, Pony. AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted	MEDIUM 4.2 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted MEDIUM 4.3 – Open, Pony. AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted
ADVANCED 5.1 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted ADVANCED 5.2 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted	ADVANCED 5.2 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted ADVANCED 5.3 – Open, Pony, AOR, Youth Rider, Closed Restricted
FEI Classes Intermediate 1 Intermediate B GRAND PRIX	FEI Classes PRIX ST GEORGES Intermediate A Intermediate 2
	FREESTYLE – INTER1 FREESTYLE – INTERMEDIATE A/B FREESTYLE – GRANDPRIX

Southern Vales Dressage Club

185 Bowering Hill Road Aldinga
www.svdc.info

**Exciting few
months coming up
at SVDC**

bounce
rubber arena surface

- Ruth Schneeberger and Lizzy Ritchie Clinic on 7th of Febuary (Ground open day)
- 15th Febuary 2026 competition-
Competitive/part/CR/ **FEI/YH**
 - Comp/Cr - Prep 1, Prep 2: 1.1, 1.3
2.1, 2.3: 3.1, 3.3: 4.1, 4.3: 5.1, 5.3
FEI/YH
Part - Prep 1, Prep 2: 1.1, 1.3
2.1, 2.3



Southern Vales Dressage Club



185 Bowering Hill Road Aldinga
www.svdc.info

- Grounds open day
Saturday 7th of March

- HOTY EVENT
Competitive/Part/Cur/FEI/
PARA/AOR

- Comp/Cr - Prep 1, Prep 2: 1.2, 1.3
2.2, 2.3: 3.2, 3.3: 4.2, 4.3: 5.2, 5.3
Part - Prep 1, Prep 2: 1.2, 1.3
2.2, 2.3
FEI

To enter for any SVDC competitions,
please visit the Nominate website
below. If you're unsure on how to
enter, don't hesitate to contact
Nominate on (07) 3118 9555 or
nominate@nominate.com.au
<https://www.nominate.com.au>

NOMINATE

EA Member - \$40 per test
SVDC Member - \$30 per test
\$7.50 Arena Levy, \$7.50 Admin Levy



MT CRAWFORD DRESSAGE CLUB

President:
Julie Hobson

Vice President:
VACANT

Secretary:
Andrea Heffy

Treasurer:
Gayle Manning
Committee:

Margaret Sexton
Chris Kelly
Molly Ellis
Billie Wallace-Yarrow
Tracy Smith
Janette James
Training Day Committee
Kass Dalitz
Nikki Trewin
Faith Martin

UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB 8th Arena Hire and
Training Day**

**FEB 14th Competitive
and CR Comp**

**MARCH 7th HOTY, FEI,
Young Horse EA and CR**

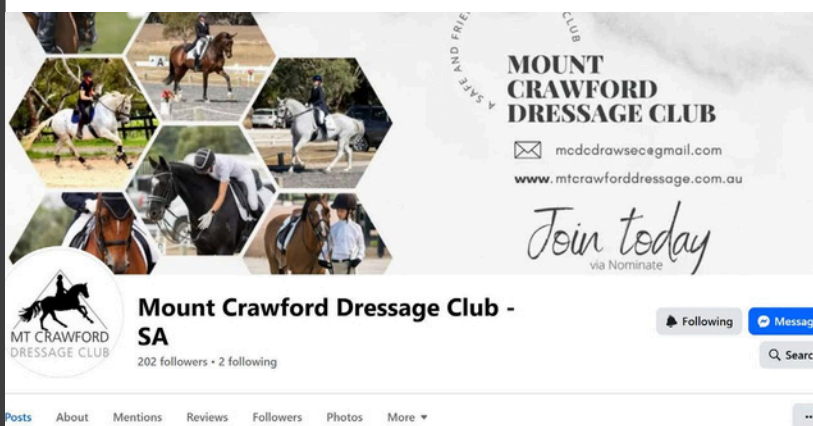
**MARCH 21st Arena Hire
and Training Day**

Happy new year everyone and we hope you and your horses are managing to stay cool during the heatwave. December was a successful month at Mount Crawford, with a training and arena hire day that attracted the most entries, and winding up the year with the club championships.

Nicki Stuart introduced members to Equitation Science with some theory and a demonstration followed by an in-hand then ridden sessions. Due to the number of participants, the ridden session was divided into 2 groups. Judging by the feedback received the day was enjoyed by all. Despite low entry numbers the club championships was a great day with perfect weather and thanks to the generosity of sponsors we were able to present prizes to all competitors. Most riders stayed for the presentation at the end and were able to enjoy some socialising and complimentary fruit plat- ters. The social aspect is something sadly missing with today's electronic scoring and it was very rewarding to see them enjoying each other's company and supporting fellow equestrians. The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed.

Heading into 2026 we have a new Training day subcommittee who will be organising instructors for the coming months. Depending on instructor availability these will continue to run in conjunction with arena hire days which has been a successful format.

The subcommittee can be contacted via email on mcdctrainingdays@gmail.com It was decided that due to lack of man (or woman) power we would look for a Groundsman rather than purchase equipment to do the work ourselves and whoever has attended MCDCL lately will no doubt have noticed the grounds looking amazing. We found a real gem in David Obst.



**BE SURE TO
FOLLOW
OUR NEW
FACEBOOK
PAGE FOR
UPDATES!**



2025 MCDC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS



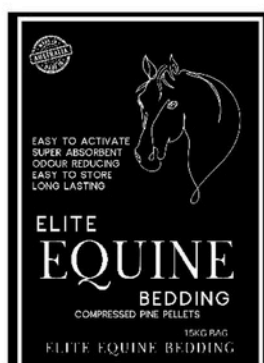
A BIG THANKYOU TO OUR 2025 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORS...



We have to bid farewell to a couple of familiar faces as Emma Woolman is no longer doing Equestrian photography but Cassandra Whetstone will continue to attend MCDC competitions.

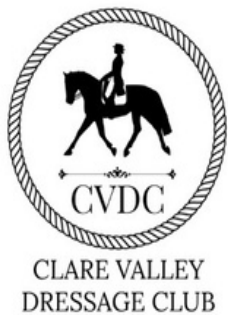
Also Kylie Watson has resigned from the committee due to other commitments, however we are sure to see her in a different capacity when she returns as a rider.

We take this opportunity to thank both ladies for their support of the club.



Next month is our first official competition of the year, when we will also present the Annual Performance and Peppermint awards. We hope to see you there.





CLARE VALLEY DRESSAGE CLUB



Committee for 2025 -2026

President Rebecca Cox

Vice President Annette Willson

Secretary Jane Wetherall

Treasurer Pippa Mitton

Committee Members

Matilda Cormack

Kirily Isherwood

Josie Mathews

Amy Ryan

Karen Seneca

Club Calendar 2025-26

8th February Closed Restricted 8th

March Closed Restricted 12th April

Competitive Participant ,CR 10th

May Closed Restricted 14th June

HOTY Competitive Participant,

CR, PARA, AOR

12th July Closed Restricted

9th August Closed Restricted

13th September Closed Restricted

and Bred To Race



February / March 2026

Welcome back to 2026!

As we step into a new year, we'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all our members and friends of the Clare Valley Dressage Club. Thank you for a truly fabulous 2025 — it was a year filled with great competition, wonderful camaraderie, dedicated volunteers, and the continued support of our sponsors. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed their time, energy, and enthusiasm. We're looking forward to another exciting year ahead in 2026 and can't wait to share it with you all, both in and out of the arena.

Our Christmas Club Championships and CUR Competition Day was a truly fabulous way to finish the year. With tests ranging from Prep through to Elementary, and an impressive 33 tests completed, it was a full and enjoyable day of competition. We were blessed with wonderful weather, adding to the relaxed and festive atmosphere. A sincere thank you to our Judge, Graeme Rodda, and our penciller, Wendie Payton, for their professionalism and support throughout the day. A very special thank you goes to our fabulous sponsors — an incredible 15 in total — who generously donated products and vouchers for all classes our rider bags and Championship winners. We also loved having Kerry Glass from Mighty Farm Equine join us on the day, providing some much-enjoyed retail therapy and donating terrific prizes for our raffle. It was a fantastic celebration of our club, our riders, and the wonderful community that supports us.

Our first competition of the year was another great success, with 34 tests completed under the watchful eye of our Judge, Rachel Vincent, and expertly pencilled by Wendie Payton. It was lovely to welcome new members to the club and fantastic to see a growing number of youth riders out in the arena. A big thank you to Karen for providing a wonderful lunch menu — the chicken sushi and toasties were very much enjoyed by all. The day reflected the positive and welcoming spirit of our club as we head into another exciting season of competition.

In the next few weeks, we will be holding our High Point announcement and celebration so please watch our FB pages for more information.

Thank you once again to everyone who makes our club such a supportive and enjoyable community — we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Kind Regards
Jane Wetherall Secretary.





CLARE VALLEY
DRESSAGE CLUB

Club Championship Results 2025

Preliminary Club Champion

Amy Ryan riding OATESDALE PARK HEARTS DESIRE

Preliminary Reserve Champion

Kiera Hoyle riding EXTRA MILE



Novice Club Champion

Phoebe Seneca Riding PS CONSTANTINE

Novice Reserve Champion

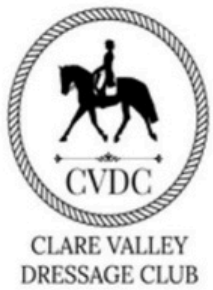
Julia I'Anson riding WYNARA BRONZE LADY



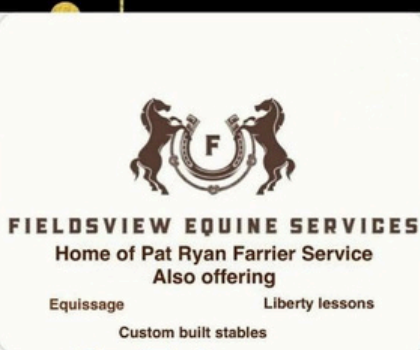
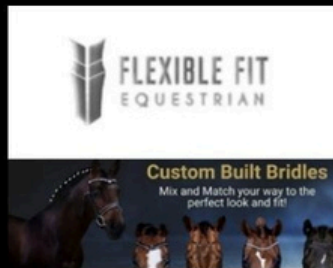
Elementary Club Champion

Grace Friedrich riding DS SPICY SALUTE





Thank you to our Fabulous Sponsors





CLARE VALLEY
DRESSAGE CLUB

Clare Valley Dressage Club Calendar 2026

January

Sunday 11th Closed Restricted

February

Sunday 8th Closed Restricted

March

Sunday 8th Closed Restricted

April

**Sunday 12th Competitive/
Participant/ Closed Restricted/
Interschool**

May

Sunday 10th Closed Restricted

June HOTY

**Sunday 14th Competitive/
Participant/ Para/ Closed
Restricted**

July

Sunday 12th Closed Restricted

August

**Sunday 9th Closed Restricted
and AGM**

September

**Sunday 13th Closed Restricted
and Bred to Race**

October

Sunday 11th Clinic TBA

November

Sunday 8th Closed Restricted

December

**Sunday 13th Club Champs/
Closed Restricted/ Para**

Show jumping competitions and clinics will be held throughout the year. We will advertise these on our FB page.



SADA

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION**

2026 Membership

ABOUT US

SADA is a welcoming, encouraging, and professional dressage club catering to all rider and horse needs relating to the much-loved sport of dressage! Our competitions are usually held on the 1st Sunday of each month and we run regular clinics giving you multiple opportunities to sharpen your skills while mixing with like-minded dressage enthusiasts.

Look out for our calendar for more info.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

SENIOR MEMBERSHIP	\$100
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP	\$50
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$180
NON-RIDING MEMBERSHIP	\$30
CLINIC MEMBERSHIP	\$50

*Join the SADA community via
NOMINATE CLUBS!*

✉ sadressage@gmail.com

S. A. D. A.



2026 COMMITTEE

*Introducing the SADA committee for
2026 and a few new faces to the team...*



PRESIDENT
Brenda Scarfe



VICE PRESIDENT
Yvonne Dolman



TREASURER
Jayke Kerr



SECRETARY
Mandy Gevers



Anita Trenwith



Anne Smith



Courtney O'Leary



Jan Boyd



Jenisha Carter



Melissa Heerebout



Tracey Woodlands



2026

Calendar



South Australian
Dressage Association

February

1st CR Competition

March

1st CR Competition

April

4th CR Competition

May

2nd & 3rd CR | COMPETITIVE | FEI |
PARA | BRED TO RACE | HOTY
JACKPOT Competition

June

7TH CR Competition

July

5th CR Competition

August

1st & 2nd CR | COMPETITIVE | PART |
FEI | YH | FREESTYLE Competition

September

6th CR Competition

October

4th CR Competition

December

6th CLUB Championship
TBA CLUB AGM

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION**



VOLUNTEER LEVY

NEW! NEW! NEW!

Update:

- **NO VOLUNTEER LEVY** in membership fees **ANYMORE!**
- NOW only pay \$5 Volunteer Levy in competition entry fees.



Volunteer for half a day = **1 FREE TEST**
Volunteer for a full day = **2 FREE TESTS**

*Includes snacks + drink for half day volunteers
&
lunch + drink for full day volunteers*

2026 CALENDAR

	Results from this event count towards SA Squad selection and HOTY
	HOTY Jackpot points - Results from this event count towards SA Squad selection and HOTY
	Results from this event count towards Para HOTY
	Competitions that are running FEI tests
	Competitions that are running Thorough Care SA Dressage Series
	Young Horse

*HOTY events (Exc Para HOTY) must include: Competitive - FEI Open, AOR, Pony & Youth - 2 tests @ each level

JANUARY	CLUB / COMPETITION						COMPETITION TYPE	VENUE
3								
4	South Australian Dressage Association						CR	Lyrical Acres - Lewiston
10	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Arena hire and training day	MCDC Grounds
11	Adelaide Hills Dressage Club						Competitive/Part/CR/YH/Para	Strathalbyn Polo Grounds
11	Clare Valley Dressage Club						CR	Clare Showgrounds
17	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						CR	MCDC Grounds
18	South Eastern Dressage Association						CR	TBC
18	Southern Vales Dressage Club						FEI/Competitive/Participation /CR/YH	SVDC Grounds
**	Boneo Summer Classic						Competitive / FEI / YH	Interstate Competition
24	Mid South East Dressage Club						CR - Twilight competition	Naracoorte Showgrounds
22 to 25	Australian Youth Dressage Championships						Competitive / FEI	Werribee
FEBRUARY	CLUB / COMPETITION						COMPETITION TYPE	VENUE
	ESA Awards Night						Awards	TBC
1	South Australian Dressage Association						CR	Lyrical Acres - Lewiston
8	Adelaide Hills Dressage Club						Combined Training / Interschool	Strathalbyn Polo Grounds
8	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Arena hire and training day	MCDC Grounds
8	Clare Valley Dressage Club						CR	Clare Showgrounds
14	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Competitive / CR	MCDC Grounds
15	Southern Vales Dressage Club						CR/FEI/Competitive/YH/Participant	SVDC Grounds - Aldinga
22	South Eastern Dressage Association						CR - Round 1 Autumn Series	TBC
28 Feb & 1 March	Mid South East Dressage Club						Lucindale Show / MSED Series Round 1	Lucindale
26 Feb to 1 March	Dressage by the Sea-Willunga Park NSW						CDI - 4* / CPEDI	Interstate Competition
28	Dressage SA - Dressage Spectacular						YH Finals, Para, EA and FEI Freestyles	Gromwell - Verdun
MARCH	CLUB / COMPETITION						COMPETITION TYPE	VENUE
	Tasmanian State Champs						Competitive / FEI	Interstate Competition
28 Feb & 1 March	Mid South East Dressage Club						Lucindale Show/MSED Series Round 1	Lucindale
1	Judges Seminar A,B,C						Judges update	Danson Dressage
1	South Australian Dressage Association						CR	Lyrical Acres - Lewiston
	Boneo Autumn Dressage Championships							Interstate Competition
7	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Competitive / FEI / CR / YH	MCDC Grounds
8	Adelaide Hills Dressage Club						Comp/CR/Participant/ Shadow Judging sit in	Strathalbyn Polo Grounds
8	Clare Valley Dressage Club						CR	Clare Showgrounds
7&8	Mid South East Dressage Club						Training Weekend	Hynam Polox grounds
15	Southern Vales Dressage Club						Competitive / CR / FEI / Para / CR / AOR	SVDC Grounds - Aldinga
15	Southern Flinders Dressage Club						Come and try / training day	Murray Town
19-21	Dressage & Jumping with the Stars						Australia YR Championships, CDI-W	Interstate Competition
22	South Eastern Dressage Association						CR - Round 2 Autumn Series	TBC
21	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Arena hire and training day	MCDC Grounds
22	Southern Flinders Dressage Club						CR / Combined training	Murray Town
28 & 29	Mid South East Dressage Club						Country Classic Round 2 Autumn Series	Naracoorte Showgrounds
APRIL	CLUB / COMPETITION						COMPETITION TYPE	VENUE
4	South Australian Dressage Association						CR	Lyrical Acres - Lewiston
5	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Arena hire and training day	MCDC Grounds
11	Southern Flinders Dressage Club						Competitive / Participant / CR	Murray Town
	Boneo						Open Dressage Spectacular	Interstate Competition
11	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						CR	MCDC Grounds
11	Adelaide Hills Dressage Club						Protocol Day	Strathalbyn Polo Grounds
12	Adelaide Hills Dressage Club						Competitive/ Participant /CR	Strathalbyn Polo Grounds
12	Clare Valley Dressage Club						Competitive / Participant / CR	Clare Showgrounds
12	South Eastern Dressage Association						CR - Round 3 Autumn Series	TBC
16-19	Adelaide Equestrian Festival						3DE	Rymil Park
19	Southern Vales Dressage Club						Competitive / Part / CR / FEI	SVDC Grounds - Aldinga
25	Dressage Club of South Australia						Competitive / FEI / CR / Para	Strathalbyn Polo Grounds
26	Mid South East Dressage Club						CR Round 3 Autumn Series	Naracoorte Showgrounds
MAY	CLUB / COMPETITION						COMPETITION TYPE	VENUE
	Sydney CDI						CDI - 3*	Interstate Competition
3	Eyre Peninsula Dressage Club						Prep, Official Prelim/Novice TBC	Kimba Pony Club
3	Adelaide Hills Dressage Club						CR Club Champs	Strathalbyn Polo Grounds
2&3	South Australian Dressage Association						CR/Bred to Race/Para/Competitive/FEI	Lyrical Acres - Lewiston
9	Judges Seminar Young Horse						Judges update	Mt George Equestrian Centre
10	Judges Seminar D,E						Judges update	Mt George Equestrian Centre
7 to 10	Boneo						Comp / FEI / CPEDI	Boneo Park - Victoria
9	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Arena hire and training day	MCDC Grounds
10	Clare Valley Dressage Club						CR	Clare Showgrounds
16	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Competitive / CR	MCDC Grounds
17	Southern Flinders Dressage Club						Clinic	Murray Town
17	Southern Vales Dressage Club						Competitive/Part/CR/FEI (small tour)	SVDC Grounds - Aldinga
24	Mid South East Dressage Club						Competitive - Round 4 Autumn Series	Naracoorte Showgrounds
30								
31								
JUNE	CLUB / COMPETITION						COMPETITION TYPE	VENUE
7	South Australian Dressage Association						CR	Lyrical Acres - Lewiston
8	Adelaide Hills Dressage Club						Comp/Participation/FEI/CR /Interschool	Strathalbyn Polo Grounds
	Boneo Winter Dressage Championships						Competitive / FEI	Interstate Competition
13	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Competitive / CR	MCDC Grounds
13	Southern Flinders Dressage Club						Competitive/Participant/Para / CR	Murray Town
14	Clare Valley Dressage Club						Competitive / Participant / CR / Para	Clare Showgrounds
14 to 17	Hawkesbury Dressage Festival						Comp / FEI / CPEDI	SIEC - NSW
21	Southern Vales Dressage Club						CR	SVDC Grounds - Aldinga
21	Mid South East Dressage Club						CR	TBC
21 & 22 TBC	Youth Development Weekend (Scholarship)							TBC
28	Mt Crawford Dressage Club						Arena hire and training day	MCDC Grounds