

2023 Annual Report



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About the ACT Dressage Association

The ACT Dressage Association (ACTDA) is a volunteer-run not-for-profit organisation that provides opportunities for dressage enthusiasts in the ACT and surrounding region. We organise regular competitions throughout the year, all of which take place at Equestrian Park in Curtin, Canberra. Our association is dedicated to supporting and promoting riders of all levels, from amateurs to professionals and young riders.

We strive to create a fun and encouraging atmosphere at our events, and we take pride in seeing riders of all levels enjoying themselves. Our goal is to provide competitive opportunities while fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among our members.

Contact us; admin@actda.com.au



The 2023 committee



PRESIDENT
STEVEN BOYD



VICE PRESIDENT
LUCETTA THOMAS



SECRETARY
RACHEAL BODMAN
*RESIGNED - NOVEMBER 2023



TREASURER
MAYLIN DUKE



ASSISTANT SECRETARY/SOCIAL MEDIA
AMANDA CLARK



JUDGE COORDINATOR
NINA BOYD



GENERAL COMMITTEE
SARAH THOMPSON
RESIGNED - JANUARY 2024



GENERAL COMMITTEE
JESS ELLIS

2023 Statistics, Measures of success



136 MEMBERS



1055 TESTS RIDDEN



**1,589 @ACT DRESSAGE
ASSOCIATION
FOLLOWERS *CURRENT**



**\$22,466 IN-KIND AND
CASH SPONSORSHIP
FOR THE CANBERRA
CLASSIC**



**568 @ACTDA_OFFICIAL
FOLLOWERS *CURRENT**

In 2023, our club experienced significant growth, larger entries to competitions and success.

We attracted a total of 136 members, with 414 riders participating in 1055 tests and bringing 468 horses to our four competitions.

Additionally, we saw a substantial increase in our social media following, gaining over 200 new followers in the 2023 calendar year.

Furthermore, we expanded our competition offerings to cater to a wider range of riders, incorporating specific tests for grass roots riders, young riders, young horses, and para-equestrians.

These additions aimed to provide expanded opportunities for riders of diverse backgrounds and abilities. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to provide valuable experiences for our members and participants in the future.



President's Report

I first would like to start with thanking the ACTDA committee for all the incredible amount of work that goes in behind the scenes in preparation to run our competitions and a huge thanks for the committee members that help run our competition days.

We have been running two-day competitions for a while now and they do take quite a bit of extra effort to run but the benefit to our members makes it really worthwhile. It's nice to have a more relaxed low-key day on Saturday and wind up to the larger and busy Sunday.

I am also very proud of the ACTDA committee attitude of always trying to run better comps for our members and recently we started running Para and Equibility classes.

The other role ACTDA has is working with the Equestrian Park Management Group members with developing and improving Equestrian Park.

Heading up to the Canberra Classic we completed the two new lunging arenas and revamped the drainage pit for the washbay so it drains better.

Also during the year we submitted to the Department of Sports and Recreation designs for a 50 stable complex to be built where we put up the temporary stables in the Cotter Plots. Also three new buildings that all will contain accessible and disable toilets and showers, meeting / comp management room plus canteen.

The locations are - one will be built between the two large pads replacing the toilet block another where the current canteen and toilet stands in front of the main grass arena and the last one in the cotter plots where the demountable shower complex stands. Currently we are working with the members of Equestrian Park Management Group on the priorities of which project to submit for the next round of grants. Lastly I would like to thank all our members for supporting our events and for volunteering their time to help us run our events, we couldn't do it without you.

cheers

Steven Boyd



Secretary's Report



What a year it has been for the club! Thanks to the dedication of our small committee of volunteers, we achieved great success. We welcomed 136 members and hosted 4 official competitions, featuring 404 riders, 1055 tests, and 468 horses.

At the beginning of the 2023 year, we honoured our President, Steven Boyd, for receiving the NSW Volunteer of the Year award in recognition of his 20+ years of dedicated support to our club. Steven, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the countless hours you have devoted to our cause. The progress of our grounds stands as a testament to your invaluable contributions. Thank you, Steven!

Our mission is to secure a top line-up of judges which we truly delivered upon and we were lucky to have an outstanding line-up, including top-tier talent from Victoria, Tasmania and QLD.

Early in the year we secured Karen Lever as our event coordinator, this significantly lightening the committees workload. During the October competition and Canberra Classic we also fortunately secured Sarah Pell's contribution as Event Manager, both parties proved invaluable.

Our partnership with NCEC remains strong and this year led to the acquisition of 13 new dressage pencilling pads, with costs split evenly.

Preparation for the Canberra Classic is always hectic, but with the help of 104 outside volunteers, we managed to pull off a hugely successful event. The effort put into recognizing and promoting our sponsors, along with year-round event coordination, paid off, bringing in a significant amount of support.

Our 28 sponsors, including returning supporters such as Barastoc, Gooromon Park, Horseland Canberra, Bare Equestrian, and Diamond Deluxe Horsewear, contributed a total of \$22,466 in cash and in-kind donations for the 2023 Canberra Classic.



Secretary's Report

Throughout the 2023 year, the club secured sponsorship from Liz Visher & Doni for riders aged 12 and under. At each event, the highest percentage winner received a garland, with a garland presented each day at the Canberra Classic, along with a rug for the overall winner.

Early in the year, the committee endorsed a recommendation to revamp the annual awards and point score system to incorporate rider medals, aiming to foster greater inclusivity among members. We are currently evaluating the success of this change. This year, 24 members will receive medals, and 13 horses have been honoured as "Horse of the Year."

Additionally, the club has upheld the tradition of awarding perpetual trophies to 8 riders, and with generous sponsorship has introduced a new perpetual trophy for the young rider rising star, sponsored by Gooromon Park. Our goal moving forward is to host an annual awards night to strengthen camaraderie and community amongst ACT Dressage riders.

The last two years, Racheal Bodman held the position of secretary, leaving us after this year's Canberra Classic. We extend our gratitude for her hard work in this demanding role. I have recently taken over the position as an interim measure. before we invite other members to stand for this position.

cheers

Amanda Clark



Treasurer's Report

The ACT Dressage Association annually sends the Club's financials to our bookkeeper in order to submit our books to the Auditor. He then prepares our Financial Statement which once approved and signed by the Committee, the Annual Return is submitted to the ACT Government.

During the second half of 2022, the ACTDA experienced increased expenditure in four key areas, which affected our position for the financial year 2022-2023, with a loss of \$36,190 half of that attributed to the 2022 Canberra Classic. All competitions in this period ran at a loss due to high costs and low entries.

1. Judges costs:

- Accommodation expenses for judges increased substantially due to the Canberra Classic coinciding with a major music festival, "Spilt Milk," which affected our ability to secure lower rates for our accommodation requirements.
- As a result, in early 2023, the committee reviewed all competition dates to avoid future conflicts with major events.

2. Prizes, Awards, and Ribbons:

- Increased costs for the 2022 Canberra Classic - sponsorship did not cover enough of the expenses for rugs and ribbons, the 2021 event did not proceed due to COVID.
- In 2023, the committee decided to seek in-kind sponsorship to cover all prize rug costs and opted for a reduced-sized ribbon to significantly decrease outgoing costs.

3. Venue and Competition Hire:

- The EPMG committee passed on increased costs for venue hire in 2022.
- In 2023 the committee had no alternative but to raise entry fees and administration fees to mitigate increased venue hire.

4. First Aid & Steward Expenses:

- As a regulation of Equestrian Australia coming into effect from 1st January, 2024 the ACTDA decided to engage an Equestrian Australia qualified steward and first aid officer for all competitions in 2023.
- Fortunately, the club is now well placed to adhere to all new regulations.



Treasurer's Report

In response to the increased expenses, the committee is now mindful of the need to prepare for each competition with costs in mind. It is important to mention that the Club is also aware of the need to set aside funds specifically for “future developments” and acquisitions that may be needed to run our competitions.

It's vital that the ACTDA Association continues to monitor and manage the club's expenses effectively to ensure the continued success of our events. More importantly, it is crucial to adapt to changes in regulations and pursue cost-saving measures, such as seeking in-kind sponsorships and adjusting ribbon sizes, as we have done in 2023.

For your information, the Balance Sheet and Income Statement from our Financials for the year 2022-2023 are included in this report. It is worth mentioning that this financial year we are making a profit so far of approximately \$16,000 with two more competitions February and April.

As a club member you are entitled to review the annual documentation prepared by our Auditor. Please feel free to request these from admin@actda.com.au

cheers

Maylin Duke



Treasurer's Report

ACT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
 ABN: 91 126 404 454
 INCOME STATEMENT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME		
- Other Corporations	205	3
Entry Fees	49,542	47,603
Membership	4,425	6,245
Net profit (loss) on rental operations	180	-
Sponsorship	21,069	4,500
	75,421	58,351
EXPENSES		
- Audit & review of financial reports	1,568	1,557
Accountancy Fees	-	333
Administration including competitions	2,597	6,667
Bank Charges	33	-
Commission Paid	2,650	2,936
Depreciation - Motor Vehicles	531	664
Depreciation - Office Furniture & Equipment	2,263	-
Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	1,282	1,566
Filing Fees	90	-
First Aid	3,175	-
Insurance	2,063	1,633
Judges & Competition Expenditure	37,478	14,994
Motor Vehicle Expenses	72	-
Postage	-	144
Printing & Stationery	157	-
Prizes, awards & ribbons	33,158	1,253
Refunds	876	924
Repairs & Maintenance	525	181
Subscriptions	284	100
Venue & Comp Hire Expenses	20,485	11,170
Website costs	2,326	29
	111,612	44,151
NET PROFIT (LOSS)		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	(36,191)	14,199
	95,642	81,443
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		
	59,451	95,642



Treasurer's Report

ACT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
ABN: 91 126 404 454
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	33,106	62,736
Trade and other receivables	4	-	15,984
Inventories	5	2,125	2,125
Other current assets	7	2,269	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		37,500	80,845
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	21,951	16,068
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		21,951	16,068
TOTAL ASSETS		59,451	96,913
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	-	1,271
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	1,271
TOTAL LIABILITIES		-	1,271
NET ASSETS		59,451	95,642
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained earnings		59,451	95,642
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		59,451	95,642



Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting 2023

(held 2 February 2024)

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2023 REPORT

***Current balance Cheque Account (30/1/24)	\$ 24,582.59
***Current balance Savings Account (30/1/24)	\$ 27,429.39
***Total amount held in bank	\$ 52,011.98

End of Financial Year (31/05/2023) position

(4 year comparison)

	2023 FY	2022 FY	2021 FY	2020 FY
Income received	\$ 75,421	\$58,351	\$94,568	\$48,785
Expenses	\$111,612	\$44,151	\$73,804	\$56,739
Profit	\$ 36,191	\$14,199	\$20,764	\$ 7,954

For the period 2022 – 2023 the main sources of income

Memberships =	\$ 4,425	down compared to previous year	\$ 6,245
Entry fees	\$ 49,542	up from previous year	\$47,603 and
Sponsorships	\$ 21,069	significantly up from previous year	\$ 4,500

For the period 2022 – 2023 the main expenses

Judges & Comp Expenditure	\$37,478	up from previous year	\$ 14,994
Prizes, awards and ribbons	\$33,158	significantly up from previous year	\$ 1,253
Commission (Nominate)	\$ 2,650	down from previous year	\$ 2,936
Competition admin costs	\$ 2,597	down from previous year	\$ 6,667
Rent and Venue Hire	\$20,485	up from previous year	\$ 11,170

Summary as of 31 May 2023

	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash at bank	\$ 33,106	\$ 62,736
Trade and other Receivables	\$ -	\$ 15,984
Inventories	\$ 2,125	\$ 2,125
Plant and Equipment	\$ 21,951	\$ 16,068
Current Liabilities	\$ -	\$ 1,271
Net Assets	\$59,451	\$ 95,642
Total Members' Funds	\$59,451	\$ 95,642



Treasurer's Report

Canberra Classic Comparison

	2023 (2023-2024 FY)	2022 (2022-2023 FY)
Entry Fees received	\$ 39,245	\$ 36,641
Less Nominate Commission	\$ 2,065	\$ 2,005
Cash Sponsorships received	\$ 14,100	\$ 13,330
Total Received	\$ 51,280	\$ 49,791
Expenses		
Judges' flights	\$ 4,356	\$ 5,539
Judges' Accommodation	\$ 5,362	\$ 11,790
Judges' Honorary fees	\$ 3,995	\$ 3,847
Catering	\$ 1,647	\$ 3,735
Hire	\$ 2,392	\$ 14,197
Competition (other expenses)	\$ 6,976	\$ 6,669
Prizes	\$ 8,485	\$ 18,656
Refunds	\$ ---	\$ 182
Total spent	\$ 36,157	\$ 66,621
<u>PROFIT/LOSS</u>	\$15,123	\$16,830



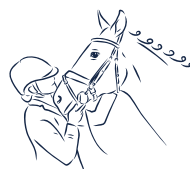
11/12 March Competition



95 RIDERS



182 TESTS RIDDEN



102 HORSES

Many hands make light work we had a stand out number of volunteers help kick off the first competition of the year, it was a lovely way to start the ACT 2023 calendar year.

This was the first event in 2023 that para and Equibility classes were offered, these were well supported by the para-equestrian community, this solidified our resolution to continue to host these events and to incorporate these events into our larger Championships.

Each year the club endeavours to secure the appropriate qualified judges to be able to host Young horse classes, this comes at an extra expense but we deem it essential to support our local riders wishing to qualify for the State or Australian young horse championships.

We hold our event on the same weekend as the Canberra Day weekend, and the Canberra balloon festival. It was a lovely weekend, onsite catering was secured to support our riders and we had Govern images onsite to capture the happy faces throughout the weekend.



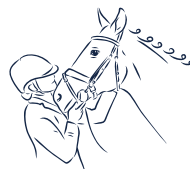
11/12 June Competition



107 RIDERS



217 TESTS RIDDEN



123 HORSES

Time to celebrate.

The June competition provided an opportunity to celebrate our 2022 point score award winners. Horseland Canberra trophy rugs and Bare Equestrian rider jackets were presented to all our awards winners.

The ACTDA community is like no other and some people that went above and beyond needed a special mention for their help at this event; Adam Mitchell, Kyle Perkins, Kayla Smith, Holly Bradley, Sally Walker and Catherine Grosse.

Keeping our judges warm, and happy Nina Boyd delivered warm delicious soup, Canberra isn't the most inviting place in Winter for our QLD judges, keeping our judges happy means they come back. It's our mission to secure the countries best judges for our ACT dressage riders and to keep them coming back.

Again we were fortunate to secure kaiju_coffee Canberra who delivered onsite catering for all our riders.



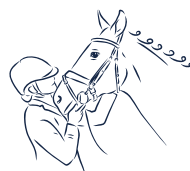
30 Sept/1 Oct Competition



91 RIDERS



228 TESTS RIDDEN



104 HORSES

Our October event, which served as the largest general competition of the year with 228 tests ridden. This event provided valuable insights for the committee as a test run before the Canberra Classic.

Notably, the October event marked the debut of a dedicated event manager, Sarah Pell, who later played a key role in the success of the Canberra Classic, receiving commendable feedback from all judges.

Throughout out 2023, we had an Equestrian Australia qualified Steward and First Aid present for all our events. We express our gratitude to Ian James for his invaluable support and understanding of our club's requirements. Additionally, we acknowledge the contribution of Highlands First Aid, whose presence at our largest event of the year ensured a smooth and incident-free experience for all participants.

Emphasizing our commitment to best practices, we are proud to report that our events continue to operate incident-free, reflecting our dedication to maintaining a safe and efficient environment for all involved.



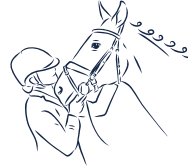
Canberra Classic Championships



111 RIDERS



428 TESTS RIDDEN



139 HORSES



31 CHAMPIONS AWARDED



14 JUDGES & 2 OFFICIAL STEWARDS DAILY



104 VOLUTEERS



28 KEY SPONSORS



6 TRADE STANDS



PROFIT - APPROX \$15,7123.00

This year saw an increase in Young Horse competitors, entries in Novice, Medium and Advanced levels. The club ran four para-equestrian tests (riders were able to select their tests). We will continue to offer these tests and were delighted to work with Jenny Carroll of the Equibility Project, who attended our event for these tests on Friday.

As a first in 2023 we offered Rider Limited classes from preparatory to novice level, these classes had a low take-up. However our closed unrestricted classes, held on the weekend rather than the Friday, had a much larger take-up.

We received in-valuable support from 28 key sponsors. To a value of \$22,466 in goods and cash, including 6 businesses attended to give our trade village a great vibe.

The grounds were prepared by Steve Boyd with assistance from Peter Rocca and Adam Mitchell. The new Equestrian Park arena watering system was utilised, and the lunging pads were finalised and ready to use by our competitors.

Champions were awarded at the Open, Amateur, Young Rider and the Pony division. The Pony division was combined in the medium and advanced level with the weighting increased as the level increases. In addition a lead rein class was run - with a free of charge entry to encourage our littlest dressage riders. The highest Of The Track Thoroughbred was once again awarded and supported by The Q Racing and Thoroughbred Park

The ACTDA Committee received wonderful positive feedback from judges and competitors.



Future Plans

The First draft of the Equestrian Park strategic plan has been sent to all committee members. The Committee has been asked to provide input of the priorities for improvements for the club members as it relates to the future strategic 5-10 year maintenance and development of Equestrian Park infrastructure for dressage purposes.

Driveway maintenance, stables as a drawcard to get higher level interstate riders and as a hot weather safety facility for horses and riders; equestrian centre building with disability access, showers, toilets, conference and meeting facilities, and kitchen; power near the dressage area and for camping sites; additional washbays co-located with stables/covered yards closer to the cotter plots as a hot weather safety facility for cooling horses.

Professionally prepared plans and maps for use by the EPMG in seeking grant funding from the ACT Government:

- Zoom out and zoom in (2) maps of EP indicating where the Equestrian Centre (clubhouse) and stables would be located
- Floor plan for the Equestrian Centre building
- Floor plan for stables.

Contact admin@actda.com.au if you would like to review the documentation.

