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It Pays to Be An HDC Member!

Hawkesbury Dressage has a great program of events and activities planned for 2016.

Membership of HDC lets you enjoy discounted Competition entry fees, Members-only training days, discounted Clinic fees and automatic entry into the Horse/Pony of The Year competitions

The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December and membership categories are:

Junior Membership (under 21 years): \$35

Senior Membership: \$45

Family Membership: \$70

You can join or renew membership through Global Entries Online

See the HDC website (<http://hawkesburydressage.com.au/membership>) for full details on how to join or renew membership.

A Message From the President

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2016 and also to our 25th year of operation! Yes, Hawkesbury Dressage Club is now 25 years old and going stronger than ever! Further in this newsletter our founder and Patron is featured in an interview with newsletter editor, Denis James. Jan outlines how HDC started and gives us some insight into the Horseworld days back in the 90's.

We started our year off with a training day back in February (the first of 4 for the year that will be held at SIEC) and our first competition a couple of weeks ago. As always, lots of people to thank for these days going as smoothly as they do and a few hiccups that keep us on our toes and looking to improve but a good start and lots of enthusiasm for the coming year.

We have another SIEC training day coming up in May and also our next competition is our annual 2 day Championships. Please keep your ears open for our cries for help, this is a big one!

HDC continues to evolve with bigger participation levels in the sport and the advent of new ideas for training days and competitions. One of which is a completely new concept for us; the inaugural HDC Silver Jubilee Futurity classes which will be run at our end of July competition. Details further in this newsletter but a basic outline is that it's for horses new to these levels for 2016 and there is big prize money for the winners, something we're not really used to in Dressage! It's taken a lot of hard work and dedication from committee and volunteers to be able to be in the situation to offer this. That in itself is cause for celebration. So spread the word and let's see if we can get plenty of support for this class so it can become an annual event.

Don't forget, our meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Richmond Golf Club. Members are always welcome to come along to see what goes on, meet the team and maybe bring new ideas along?

Happy Riding (especially now the weather's cooled down a bit!) and see you soon!

Sally-Ann Barbera

HDC President

HDC Calendar 2016 – Upcoming Events

We would love to see you at these upcoming Competition and Training events in 2016, with the opportunity to win **great cash prizes!!!**

2016 Competitions

28-29 May: The HDC Annual Championships. This event will include **Jackpot Classes with total prize money of over \$1,000.**

28 May

Preparatory C (cu)
Preliminary 1.2 (oc,cu,**Ch**)
Novice 2.1 (oc,cu)
Elementary 3.2 (oc,**Ch**)
Advanced 5.2 (oc,**Ch**)
Prix St Georges
Intermediate A
Intermediate B

Preparatory D (cu)
Preliminary 1.3 (oc,cu,**Ch**)
Novice 2.2 (oc,cu)
Elementary 3.3 (oc,**Ch**)
Advanced 5.3 (oc,**Ch**)
Intermediate I
Intermediate II
Grand Prix

29 May

Preliminary 1.1 (oc,cu)
Novice 2.2 (oc,**Ch**)
Medium 4.2 (oc,**Ch**)
Prix St Georges
Intermediate A
Intermediate B

Preliminary 1.2 (oc,cu)
Novice 2.3 (oc,**Ch**)
Medium 4.3 (oc,**Ch**)
Intermediate I
Intermediate II
Grand Prix

Closing date for this Competition: 8 May, 2016

31 July: A special event which will feature our 25th Birthday Futurity Classes. There will be **prizes of over \$5,000** on offer*. Why not combine this with the Australian Warmblood Horse Association Gala Day, also held at SIEC, on 30 July.

* Conditions apply

Closing date for this Competition: 10 July, 2016

12 November (Note this change of date!): An Open competition which also features the Horseland Young Horse Championship for 4, 5 and 6 Year Olds.

Closing date for this Competition: 16 October 2016

2016 Training days

Get your horse used to the SIEC arenas at our Members Only Training days. Arena familiarisation, coaching from NCAS accredited coaches, protocol tests and trail rides are just some of the activities that may be on offer at these events

Our next Training Days are currently scheduled for:

- Saturday, 14 May
- Saturday, 16 July
- Saturday, 15 October

Entries for all Training Day activities can be made through Global Entries Online

HDC competition entry fees in 2016.

Member Entry Fee: \$38

Non-Member Entry Fee: \$48

Administration Fee: \$10

All HDC competitions and training days are held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park ... a world class venue.

You can enter **all HDC activities** (competitions, training days and clinics) via Global Entries Online. You can register for these at:

www.globalentriesonline.com.au/equestrian_dressage/sign_up

Silver Jubilee Futurity Classes!

Since 2016 is HDC's 25th birthday, what better way to celebrate it than to offer riders the opportunity to win some great cash prizes! There will be three Futurity Classes staged at our 31 July event, so start honing your skills now and join in the competition!

There will be a Futurity class at each of the levels:

- **Novice** (Novice 2.2)
- **Medium** (Medium 4.2)
- **Prix St Georges**

In each of these classes the cash prizes will be:

1st Place: \$1,000

2nd Place: \$500

3rd Place: \$250

Conditions will apply to the running of these classes:

- Horses entered in the class must not have previously competed at the relevant level (Novice, Medium or Prix St Georges) in either official or unofficial classes prior to 2016
- Due to the entry conditions being applied to the Futurity classes, they must be classified as Restricted, Invitational. As such, horses and ponies will participate in the same class and scores will not be official.
- For a Futurity class to be run, there will have to be a minimum of 10 horses/ponies entered in the class by the event closing date. Refunds may be made up to the closing date but no refunds will be made after the closing date.
- Entry fees for a Futurity Class will be:
Members: \$60
Non-Members: \$80

HDC Founder, Patron and Life Member – Jan Geary



Jan Geary - HDC Founder

Tell us about the founding of Hawkesbury Dressage Club:

HDC was formally launched on Australia Day, 26 January 1991. On that date a Public Meeting was held to establish the Club and to elect its founding Committee. I was elected President and Secretary and the other members of that inaugural committee were John Geary, Julie Petersen Smith, Kevin Smith, Trish Sexton, Marilyn Price and Karen Barker. Pip and Murray Tonkin were involved right from the start and their contribution to our events in terms of gear stewarding and just about everything else is something for which I am forever grateful. Karen Barker is another who has assisted at our events since those early days. John Geary was the scorer, and prior to being President of DNSW for 5 years, had been scoring for their competitions. By the end of 1995 my business was mushrooming and 25 competitions seemed like a good time to depart for other goals and Para Equestrian beckoned.

A prime reason for launching the Club was to provide an opportunity for riders from Preliminary to Advanced to compete in an indoor arena, at Horsecworld, since, at that time, no-one riding National level tests had an opportunity to ride in such an arena. This had been an option open only to FEI riders. Also, at that time, there were only a few dressage clubs servicing the needs of riders in the Sydney region, so there were opportunities to create additional clubs to provide more venues and competitions. Joy Charlton, for example, had also successfully started the Sutherland Association.

Our inaugural HDC Competition was held in January 1991 at Horsecworld with six tests being offered and totally subscribed. During my period as President, I organised all 25 dressage competitions for HDC at Horsecworld.

How did you become involved in dressage? My early years were in Yorkshire where my Grandfather was President of the local Show and I used to sit and watch all the small girls dressed up and riding smart ponies. We moved to Sussex where I learnt to ride and attended the Pony Club near Arundel. I arrived in Australia in my early 20's (by accident!) and teamed up with Maggie Tabberer as I had been in the fashion business in London. I met John through Maggie Tabberer Associates (Public Relations) and we eventually bought a property in the Macdonald Valley near Wiseman's Ferry.

I had found out that Doug Green was commencing dressage training at Centennial Park and so started my dressage career. I bought a really wonderful horse called Paquito, already Advanced level, from Doug Green and started competing at DNSW, then at Richmond Polo Grounds. Because of the mammoth flood in the late 80's where we were marooned for 2 weeks, all fences gone, no roads, cattle being swept

down the river, we decided to move to Wilberforce, high up to make sure no floods again. Other coaches I worked with were Julie Peterson-Smith (Julie then joined in the setting up of HDC) and Miguel Tavora.

I competed with DNSW from 1978 to 1992 on 4 horses from Novice to Prix St Georges, and including the 1983 and 1987 National Championships at Centennial Park Showgrounds in Sydney, and won the Pas de Deux.

Many may remember the Quadrille that four of us got together (Joy Charlton, Linda Peek, Bev Chugg and me) and we gave exhibitions at the Easter Show, Hawkesbury Show and many others.

When did you start your dressage judging career? The Equestrian Federation commenced a new Judges Committee Program in 1983 so I became a Novice judge and began progressing through the levels. I became an A level judge in 1990 and since then have been very actively involved in judging at club, State, National and international events.

Of particular interest is your involvement in para equestrian dressage: In the lead up to the Sydney Olympics I was asked if I would like to train as a Para Equestrian Judge, possibly to judge at the Paralympics. After being trialled in England at Hartpury I was then invited to judge at the Paralympics – the most amazing experience and we lived in the athletes' village, just fantastic. I then proceeded through the Para Equestrian judging ranks to 5* in 2006

I went on to judge at the Athens and Beijing (Hong Kong) Paralympics, and also World Championships in Belgium, Britain and Kentucky. After Kentucky I was the proud recipient of the NSW Sports Federation Outstanding Official Award in 2010.

You are expected to contribute to the sport and support other countries with their qualifying competitions and I judge 3* competitions in Belgium, Hong Kong, Japan and New Zealand in addition to Australia. A great plus was to judge at the European Championships in Norway, as usually all the judges come from Europe – it was super to see Norway and it was one of the most enjoyable competitions I have been to.

It was a special privilege for me to be appointed as Course Director by the United States Equestrian Federation in California in June 2013. This was a course to accredit 3* and 4* Para Equestrian Judges.



Outstanding Official Award, Dressage



USEF Course Director for FEI Para Equestrian Judges' Training – California 2013. Alison King from Hong Kong is at back, right (and we all know her). Also, Kylie Bullock from Australia came to be accredited 3. The other judges were from the USA and one from Mexico.*

We all know about your involvement in judging but what other equestrian activities have you engaged in? One such activity has been horse breeding. At one stage I was breeding 5 foals a year and, overall, I bred around 30 foals. In 1984 I had orphan twins, warmbloods, and they were born on the Horses' Birthday at midnight on 1st August. They were on the cover of *The Land* and also a story on Channel 9's Current Affair. I used to sleep with them in the stable in a sleeping bag with one on either side and with a baby's bottle to feed them. This went on for some time. The experience was really something and of course I was their mother. One filly and one colt and they wore tiny baby blankets one in pink and the other in blue. I sold horses to Roger Fitzhardinge, Susie Hoovenaars, Joy Charlton and many others during the 1980s. Apart from dressage I also show jumped for a short while at the end of the 1980s and trained with George Sanna.

I have also been very active in the governance and administration of the sport of dressage. My career in DNSW has been firstly as Metro Delegate and then as a co-opted member during the 90's for media coverage when Kerry Brydon and then Marcus Le Poer Trench were President. Since 2000 I have served as Secretary for 2 years and then appointed to the ADC followed by the ADJC; then a term as a Selector and member of the Executive of DNSW. From 2008-2016 as Chair of the Judges Committee I have been pretty busy.

Is there anyone in particular who has inspired you? One person who comes immediately to mind is Jonquil Solt, the founder of the Paralympic sport with IPEC and

then FEI. I had a lot of guidance and assistance from Jonquil in achieving my international Para Equestrian judging aspirations.

Maggie Tabberer, my business partner for nearly 20 years, is unique and I feel fortunate to have worked with her for so long – then Kerry Packer lured her to the *Women's Weekly* as Fashion Editor. We are still in touch and she now lives in Bellevue Hill.

If you had a piece of advice for dressage riders, what would it be? Once you understand the theory and aims of the sport, all the movements will suddenly be a lot easier. If you don't know why you are doing something and what you are aiming to achieve, it is just not possible to do it, let alone do it well.

Tell us a little about yourself outside of the equestrian scene: I initially trained as a teacher in Hertfordshire, England before heading to London and the fashion industry where I had a wonderful time in swinging London at Hanover Square in Marketing with fashion yarn manufacturer Courtaulds. The office was just across the road from Carnaby Street and was magic. I lived in Knightsbridge and my flat was next door to Harrods Department store.

I arrived in Australia as a “Ten Pound Pom” in Perth, having travelled on the P&O Canberra for 3 weeks through the Suez Canal. I quickly found Sydney was more my style and after 6 months travelled on the P&O liner Orcades, experiencing the roughest crossing ever on record across the Bight. As I do not suffer from sea sickness, I was the only passenger still vertical!

Maggie and I got together through an old friend of hers who said “with your background you should be in business with Maggie Tabberer”. After nearly 20 years of staging every major Fashion Show in Sydney and in all States, Mr. Packer asked her to be Fashion Editor of *Woman's Weekly* – I decided to continue the business as Publicity Partners P/L and my clients were Speedo, The Body Shop (I had been at school with the founder Anita Roddick in England), The Strand Arcade, Yardley Cosmetics and Toiletries, Ray-Ban Sunglasses, Redken Hair Products, Macquarie Shopping Centre and lots more.

Another obsession (besides dressage) I have, is Opera, and especially the world's best tenor, the German singer Jonas Kaufman. I sat in the front row when he came to Sydney 2 years ago.....WOW.

Here we are in 2016 and this year two trips to Japan to judge and one to Far North Queensland to judge should be fun. The Japan event is at Kakegawa near Mount Fuji and it is a spectacular venue with hotels and restaurants and many sports involved as well as equestrian. This year the Prime Minister's wife is attending, which will be interesting! Last year it was the Princess!



Jan on Geary Street, San Francisco.

HDC Training Day on 6 February

The Hawkesbury Dressage 2016 Event Program got off to a flying start with a very successful Training Day at SIEC on 6 February. Although the day commenced with some patchy flurries of drizzle, the sun eventually came out and the day became sunny and warm.

A range of activities were on offer to HDC Members at the event, including arena familiarisation, protocol tests, coaching and trail rides. As a service to its Members, the Club covered the cost of providing four arenas for riders to use, thus enabling those attending the event to do so at a reasonable cost to themselves. The Club also provided morning tea and lunch and made sure that there were plenty of hot and cold drinks available for riders to enjoy throughout the day.



Lucia and Isabella Rogan who, along with mum Dodi, were among several new members who came along

A very pleasing aspect of the event was the number of new Club Members who came along, some with their friends and family. The whole atmosphere was very welcoming and quite a number of the new Members in particular commented on the friendliness of everyone involved in the day. Over 40 riders participated in the various activities provided.

Quite a number of riders took advantage of the arena familiarisation opportunity. Whilst this is something that can be helpful to riders at any stage of their development, it is of

particular advantage to those who have young horses or horses that are simply green because they have not had a great deal of competition experience. Arena familiarisation provides a relaxed environment where horses and riders can practice or just “get the feel” of working in actual competition arenas. They can gain some experience of what it will be like on a competition day, with cars, floats, people, other horses, distractions...even ‘spooky’ things, like hedges, cross-country jumps and any number of other unfamiliar objects.

Nine members were also able to book protocol tests with high level judge, Vicki Newham. In protocol tests, riders can ride a test of their choice and this is judged as it would be in actual competition.

However, it is the detailed, face-to-face feedback from the judge that is so valuable. Riders get very



A protocol test with Vicki

clear and informed feedback about what they are doing well, and what a rider might concentrate on in order to improve their performance and test scores. And with such a knowledgeable judge as Vicki it is no wonder that riders found her comments to be so helpful and constructive.



Rachael providing some great instruction

Our NCAS coach for the event was Rachael Downs who coached her heart out all morning through both drizzle and sun. Rachel brought her great wealth of coaching experience and knowledge to really assist those riders who were able to snap up the ten available coaching slots with her.

While most riders confined themselves to the dressage arenas, ten Members also took advantage of the sunny afternoon to take a

relaxed trail ride on the network of bridle paths within the SIEC complex.

A horse ride is always good for stimulating the appetite. Members enjoyed the home-made scones, brownies and other goodies at morning tea while a healthy lunch of home-made salads and freshly made “a la carte” bread rolls helped allay the hunger pangs.



HDC President, Sally-Ann Barbera, enjoying her trail ride

All in all it was a really enjoyable day, so don't forget....the next Training Day will be held at SIEC on Saturday, 14 May. See you there!

Meet Committee Member and Advanced HOTY Winner Holly Lewis



How did you become involved with dressage? I have been riding horses most of my life. I had my first riding lesson when I was 6 years old and started riding regularly at my local Pony Club at 12. I started competing at the age of 14 but my main interest at that time was eventing and I evented for several years to 1* level in Mornington in Victoria.

I always really enjoyed the dressage component of eventing and a key moment in my riding occurred in 2009. I went to a

dressage festival with a friend and that was it! I decided that I wanted my key focus to be dressage.

Tell us about your horse, Heatherton Park Romeo: I bought Romeo, as a 4YO from Jim and Emmie Schmul at Heatherton Park. Romeo is by Routinier (Rubenstein line) and was from imported semen out of a thoroughbred mare. I know you shouldn't necessarily buy the first horse you see but in Romeo's case, it was total love at first sight! He was only just broken in but when I rode him he ticked every box for me. I also appreciated Katie Boyes-Nash's assistance. Katie is a very good friend of mine from Victoria and she found him for me. I only had Romeo for 3 weeks before I packed him and the cat up and moved to Sydney.

Once in Sydney, I have campaigned Romeo through the levels at club, State, National and CDI events. We were the Hawkesbury Advanced HOTY winners in 2015. I am currently competing Prix St Georges and we are on the starters list for the Prix St Georges (CDN) at this year's Sydney CDI.

I have never really sought to ride multiple horses in dressage. My feelings are that if you want to have a serious go at reaching a high level in any discipline, you are better off having one really good horse and pouring all your time, money and emotion into doing it to the best of your ability, rather than having two or more horses and only doing it half as well!



What is your next goal with Romeo? We are currently training Intermediate I and are hoping to be competing at that level before too long.

What do you concentrate most on in your training? I guess the same as all riders strive for....the achievement of “throughness” in the horse’s way of going.

Is there anyone who has helped you with your riding? I have only had a couple of trainers over the years but they have been really helpful. For the past 2½ years I have been training with Daniella Dierks.

What other equestrian activities have you engaged in other than dressage? It seems that my life is very horse oriented! My principal activity is doing track work. I normally get up at 2:50am and head for the racetrack, with the first horse being ridden around 3:30am. I would then normally go on to ride around 11 or 12 horses throughout the morning. I rode for Freedmans in Victoria for almost 6 years before moving to Sydney. Once in Sydney I did 2½ years with Darley (now Godolphin), then a year with Anthony Cummings at Randwick, then back to Hawkesbury to ride for Scott Singleton and Tony McEvoy for the past 2½ years. My philosophy in life is to do a job you love...and I love riding track work!

At the moment I am also exercising a few show jumpers for Helen Chugg at the Diamond B Farm in Glossodia, as well as working 2 days a week at the Newmarket Saddlery in North Richmond. I am currently based and live at Willow Park, owned by Matt and Christine Bates, in Wilberforce.

You are also a Committee Member of HDC. How long have you been involved with the Club? I have been regularly going to HDC events for around 3 years. I loved the venue and the shows so decided to become a member after only the first 2 events. After receiving encouragement from HDC Committee member, Zanna Northam, I joined the Committee this year. I really look forward to providing input, to help wherever needed and, in general, make a contribution to the Club and to the sport.

Being on the Committee has already given me a real insight into all the things that need to be done behind the scenes in relation to the general running of the Club and in the organisation of Club events. You only need to follow all the Committee email trails to get a real understanding of who is doing what and the amount of work involved!



Holly (left) receiving her Advanced HOTA Award

Is there anyone who has inspired you in your equestrian pursuits? I think that rather than seeking inspiration from one person it is better to surround yourself with elite, professional and, above all, motivated people. The Dierks are a big motivator for me.

If you had a piece of advice for dressage riders, what would it be? Never stop telling yourself to ride better and try even harder!

HDC Competition: 6 March



As usual, the float parking area was a hive of activity

Hawkesbury Dressage held its first competition of the year on 6 March. On a warm, sunny day, 21 classes were on offer to riders, ranging from Preparatory to Grand Prix. There was a total of 192 actual rides on the day, 170 of which were horses and 22 were ponies.

HDC congratulates all those who won or placed in each of the classes. But we also congratulate everyone who came along and rode. All of us are aware of the time, resources and commitment that each rider puts into training,

caring for their horse, presenting their horse for competition and, most of all, just getting out there and competing!

The efficient and cohesive running of our competition reflects the commitment and effort of everyone concerned – the Committee members who, in all their various roles, play their part in putting an event together; our Event Secretary, Libby Campbell; our draw and scoring team, Karen and Graham Lever; our gear steward, Ben Clear (and others such as Holly Lewis, who stepped in to allow Ben to have some well-deserved breaks); our buggy driver, Glen Cutler; our official photographer, Kim Talbert; our first-aiders; the Falconers who set up our arenas; and all the



Lucy Dodd on MI Renaissance Hit at the gear check

pencillers, test paper collectors and anyone else who contributed in any way to the day. And of course, our thanks also go to all the riders and judges who have supported HDC by coming along to its events.

For those riders and owners who are participating in the HDC Horse of the Year competition, note that we are now maintaining a record book to keep track of the time that you (or your delegate) spend volunteering at our events. This will ensure that there is complete transparency and no confusion at the end of the year when the HOTY results are being finalised. So make sure that when you check in with the Event Secretary at each event, a record of your time is registered.



Official photographer, Kim Talbert of Catch Light Photoimaging

Meet Committee Member and Novice HOTY Winner, Mary Simonian



Mary and Tara Noriego

Tell us a little about your riding history?

I started riding as a 7 year old in England. My sister, Penny Callum, had a pony which we both rode. You may recall an old photo, reprinted in the January 2016 HDC Newsletter, of Penny as a youngster standing next to a pony. Well, I was the young girl sitting up front on her first pony!

In 1974 I came to Australia. Penny had already moved here some time earlier. However at that time, I only lived here for around 3 years before heading off to

Freiburg in Germany for 6 years. I did a little bit of riding there but not much. I took advantage of my beautiful Black Forest surroundings to do a lot more skiing than riding.

After spending a further two years in the US, I returned to Australia in 1985 and have been here ever since. It was through friends in Ballina that I got back into riding again. They had a horse that just needed a bit of work and care, so I ended up buying him. At first, he was kept at Centennial Park and later I kept him at Penny's place in northwest Sydney and rode him once a week, as I lived at Randwick. But again, my riding pursuit was put on hold when children came along and I sold my horse. It was not until 16 years later that I resumed riding and I bought my current horse, Tara Noriego, a handsome Andalusian gelding

What attracted you to dressage? Especially having resumed riding after many years out of the sport, I felt that dressage really suited as it offered a measure of safety whilst still being very challenging. I am currently riding Novice but we are aiming for Elementary this year.

However, I do think it is important to keep a horse interested in other things too, so I also love to go trail riding with an ATHRA club and to do working equitation which, as an Andalusian, Noriego is so good at.

How long have you been involved with Hawkesbury Dressage Club? I have been a member of HDC for around 6 or 7 years. I really valued the opportunity to engage in various members-only activities such as training days and HOTY competitions. The training days in particular are great at giving both riders and horses more confidence in a safe, relaxed environment. Penny had been on the HDC committee since 2000, which encouraged me to also join the Committee, so I did 4 years ago. I felt that being on the Committee would enable me to contribute back to the HDC while, at the same time, enable me to get to know a lot more people who were equally committed to their equestrian pursuits.



What does your current role on the Committee entail? I am the SIEC Liaison Officer for HDC. SIEC is a wonderful venue at which to hold our events, but there is definitely a lot of time and work behind the scenes that is needed for our events to be held smoothly and in compliance with SIEC processes and policies.

Here are just some of the steps that need to be carried out for every competition and event: (i) complete and submit a booking form; (ii) request the HDC Treasurer to pay a deposit; (ii) submit the required risk assessment forms; (iii) obtain a cost estimate from SIEC and convey that to the Treasurer. Then, after the event, I must provide an estimate of the number of competitors (for day-stay charges), stable and cabin use and so forth so that SIEC can finalise its invoice, which I then remit to the Treasurer. I am also the person who conveys any SIEC-related feedback from our events back to the relevant SIEC managers.



Mary and Noriego at our 6 February Training Day

I also organise the provision of the SIEC facilities we use, such as urns, tables, chairs and two-way radios. In the past, I also handled the liaising with SIEC in relation to such matters as Hendra, to work out what provisions were required to minimise any risks and to handle any contingencies should they ever arise. I even have to liaise with SIEC to ensure that we have measures in place to manage any emergencies during the bushfire season. So as you can see, this is a very busy role.

Is there anyone in particular who has inspired you in your equestrian pursuits? Carl Hester, certainly. Seeing him in person or on video, he is a real model. Also, early on, my coaching with Lucas Hurps and, more lately, with Miguel Tavora has helped me on my way. Having said that, though, I also like to read and learn about new approaches to riding from a range of sources. I also see a lot of value in doing ground work with a horse, so really appreciate the work that has been done with natural horsemanship.

If you had a piece of advice for dressage riders, what would it be? Have patience! Progress and success can't happen overnight. But above all, show kindness to your horse and really work on having a good relationship with him or her!

Tell us a few non-horsey things about yourself: My long working career has been in medical research. I worked in the field of immunology research during the six years that I was at the Max Planck Institute in Freiburg and I spent two years working in the US (Dallas and Denver) in immunology and diabetes research. I was able to develop good skills in the use of electron microscopy (EM) in medical research. I have carried out a large amount of analysis using EM, as well as assisting or schooling medical research graduates in the use of histology techniques at the Institute of Dental Research based at Westmead Hospital

Outside of work and horses, I love my gardening, especially the cultivation of roses, shrubs and perennials.

2016 HDC Committee

Executive		
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Publicity Co-ordinator	Sally-Ann Barbera	
Newsletter Co-ordinator	Denis James	
HOTY Co-ordinator	Justin Worthy	
Clinic Co-ordinator	Zanna Northam	
Website Co-ordinator	Lauren James	
Catering	TBA	
Committee Member	Holly Lewis	
Committee Member	Jeanan Yasseen	
Committee Member	Annette Cohen	
Social Secretary	Greg Hibberd	
Social Secretary	Joanne Peet	
Other Contacts		
Event Secretary	Libby Campbell	entrieshdc@yahoo.com.au
Club Phone	Hawkesbury Dressage	0405 604 568

Committee Meetings

Committee meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm at The Richmond Golf Club, Bourke Street, Richmond (right beside the railway station).

If you would like to come along, we would love to see you there!

Hawkesbury Dressage Club Thanks Its Generous 2015/2016 Sponsors and Supporters

		
	  	 
		
		