



# Victorian Dressage Festival



WE ARE  
*Equestrian Victoria*  
Celebrating our love of the horse





# WELCOME

Dear Participants, Guests, and Supporters, a warm and heartfelt welcome to the 2023 Stable Ground Victorian Dressage Festival! This year is truly monumental for us as we proudly celebrate the highest number of entries ever received. But that's not all! It's our honor to extend a gracious welcome to the esteemed Vanessa Way. Vanessa will be joining us in place of Steffen Peters, who, due to a medical emergency, won't be able to attend. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Steffen for a swift recovery, and we express our deepest gratitude to Vanessa for graciously stepping in at the eleventh hour.

What makes this event truly exceptional is our unwavering commitment to reinvesting in our beloved sport and riders. Each one of you plays an integral role in making this event a resounding success, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your invaluable contributions.

A special acknowledgment goes out to our incredible sponsors whose generous support has made affordable entries and tickets possible, ensuring that everyone can partake in this thrilling competition and benefit from our masterclasses. A special mention to our naming rights sponsor Stable Ground.

I must also express my deepest gratitude to our extensive team of volunteers, officials and staff. Your dedication and tireless efforts are the backbone of events like these.

This festival is proudly brought to you by Dressage Victoria, a committee of Equestrian Victoria. I am profoundly grateful for the unwavering support of this committee and the remarkable team at Equestrian Victoria. Without their dedication and hard work, this event would simply not be a reality.

As I stand at the helm of Dressage Victoria, I'm filled with a mix of emotions, for these coming weeks mark the conclusion of my tenure as Chair. It has been an enriching six years serving on the Dressage Victoria Committee. The experience has been a journey of profound learning, forging lifelong friendships, and confronting professional challenges to drive positive changes within our sport.

I take immense pride in where we stand today. The strides we've made toward fairness, equality, and integrity in our Victorian Dressage community are a testament to our collective dedication.

To each and every one of you who has supported me along this remarkable journey, I extend my sincerest gratitude. I eagerly anticipate our next meeting in the arena and watching the continued growth and success of our sport.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Lizzy Schirmer, Event Director and Outgoing Chair, Dressage Victoria





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Designed by Samantha Taylor | Photos by Derek O'Leary





# PRIZES AND AWARDS

## CLASS

ROSETTES TO 8TH FOR EACH CLASS

PRIZES TO 3RD FOR EACH CLASS

## CHAMPIONSHIP

TROPHY RUG AND ROSETTE FOR  
CHAMPION AND ROSETTE FOR  
RESERVE CHAMPION AT EACH  
LEVEL

## AMATEUR OWNER RIDER

TROPHY TO CHAMPION AMATEUR  
OWNER RIDER AT EACH LEVEL  
PLUS AOR ROSETTES TO 3RD IN  
EACH TEST



# PRIZES AND AWARDS

## THE GERT DONVIG MEMORIAL TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE HIGHEST  
PLACED VICTORIAN IN THE  
PRIX ST GEORGES  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

## THE CK PERPETUAL TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE HIGHEST  
PLACED VICTORIAN IN THE  
GRAND PRIX CHAMPIONSHIP

## THE STATENE PARK TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE RIDER AGED 25  
YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER WITH  
THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE GAINED  
IN AN OFFICIAL FEI TEST





# THURSDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

*don't miss it*

## BBQ DINNER

DONATED AND COOKED BY THE VICTORIAN DRESSAGE CLUB

## RIDERS FORUM

DISCUSS YOUR THOUGHTS ON DRESSAGE IN VICTORIA

# PERFORMANCE MEDAL PRESENTATION

DRESSAGE VICTORIA PERFORMANCE MEDAL PRESENTATION

**DECEMBER 7, 2023 | 6:00PM INDOOR ARENA**



# CLUB SPONSORS

**WE URGE EVERYONE TO  
CONSIDER JOINING A CLUB,  
NOT JUST FOR THE SPORT, BUT  
ALSO FOR THE CAMARADERIE,  
GROWTH, AND THE CHANCE TO  
BE PART OF A  
KNOWLEDGEABLE AND  
SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY.  
TOGETHER, WE STRENGTHEN  
THE FABRIC OF DRESSAGE AND  
ENSURE ITS CONTINUAL  
GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE.**

**WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR  
HEARTFELT APPRECIATION TO  
THE FOLLOWING CLUB  
SPONSORS**

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DRESSAGE CLUB**

**WESTERN VICTORIAN  
DRESSAGE CLUB**

**VICTORIAN DRESSAGE CLUB**

**THE EQUESTRIAN DIARY**

**ELMORE DRESSAGE CLUB**





# CLUB TEAM CHALLENGE

**The winning team will be the team  
with the highest aggregate  
percentage.**

**In the case of equalities, the Club  
with the best lowest score shall  
lead. If still equal, the better  
percentage in the highest  
test shall lead.**

**THERE ARE TWO CATEGORIES**

**NOVICE TEAM:  
PRELIMINARY 1B  
NOVICE 2B  
ELEMENTARY 3B**

**AND**

**ADVANCED TEAM:  
MEDIUM 4B  
ADVANCED 5B  
PRIX ST GEORGES**

# *Tribute* **DEENA PETERS**



"This event we honour Deena Peters, our cherished event secretary and the heartbeat of our team for the past five years. Deena's absence is deeply felt this year, her spirit guiding us at every turn. Her infectious smile and office banter are dearly missed as we navigate through this event. Though she may be gone, her presence lingers in our hearts, a treasured memory that will never fade. Rest in peace, dear Deena, you are forever with us."

*Lizzy Schirmer*

In the world of Equestrian Victoria, one name gleams as brightly as the sun on a clear summer's day – Deena Peters. Her journey with Equestrian Victoria was woven with dedication, passion, and an unwavering commitment to the sport she loved.

Deena's story in the equestrian arena began with victories etched into the annals of Barastoc Horse of the Year competitions. Her heart danced to the rhythm of dressage, where she found her true calling. As a young rider, she soared to acclaim, securing the title of EV Young Dressage Rider of the Year in 1993. Her ambition knew no bounds as she journeyed alongside her horse, scaling the heights of Grand Prix level competition.

Yet, Deena was not just a champion in the arena; she was a beacon of guidance and inspiration. Armed with Level 1 coaching credentials, she mentored and shaped aspiring riders, nurturing their dreams until they bloomed into reality. Her dedication to her students was as unwavering as her commitment to perfection in the saddle.



# *Tribute* **DEENA PETERS**

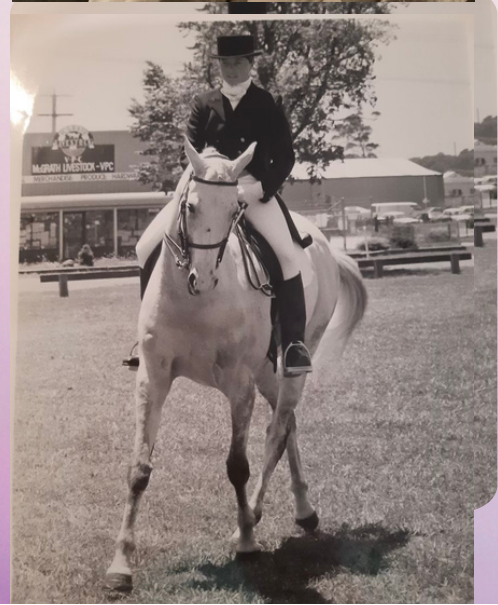
However, fate had another path for Deena. In 2015, she inadvertently found herself within the administrative corridors of Equestrian Victoria, initially as a temporary help for the Melbourne 3 Day Event. Little did anyone know, her temporary presence would evolve into an indispensable role within the EV family. Her infectious positivity, unyielding support, and a heart brimming with patience made her an invaluable asset to the team.

Deena's laughter echoed through the office, bringing joy to her colleagues' hearts. Her friend Sue Smith reminisced about her, recalling her as not just a coworker but a cherished friend. "She made coming to work a pleasure, so funny she always made me laugh, never had a bad word to say about anyone and was the bravest woman I've ever met."

Her love for the sport extended far beyond competitions. Deena was the driving force behind initiatives like the Masters Games supporting the Breast Cancer Network Australia. Her role as the Show Horse coordinator was her passion project, where she infused diligence, humor, and infinite patience into her work. Deena was event secretary for the Dressage Festival and Dressage & Jumping with the Stars over the years and was always there, ready to roll when an event came around.

Equestrian Victoria rightly acknowledged Deena as a vital pillar, a repository of knowledge and passion. Her legacy endures in every facet of the sport she adored.

Deena was a bright star in the equestrian universe, leaving behind a legacy of laughter, dedication, and unwavering support. Rest in peace, dear Deena, your light will forever shine in our hearts.







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MEET THE VANESSA WAY

# MASTERCLASS COMBINATIONS



SATURDAY

## JORDAN SMITH & PHP FRANCESCA

JORDAN SMITH WILL RIDE HER 6YO MARE PHP FRANCESCA BY FOUNDATION WHO IS THE YOUNGEST HORSE IN THE MASTERCLASS. THEY ARE CURRENTLY COMPETING ELEMENTARY AND HAVE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL RUN FROM PRELIMINARY TO ELEMENTARY.



## BROOKE MCLAREN & OPIUM DREAM

BROOKE MCLAREN WILL RIDE HER 11 MARE OPIUM DREAM BY THE AUSTRALIAN STALLION, MAYFIELD PZAZZ. THEY ARE CURRENTLY COMPETING SMALL TOUR AND HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL RIDE IN THE PSG AT THE AUSTRALIAN DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS.



## HEATHER CURRIE & WUNDERBAR BLACK 59

HEATHER CURRIE WILL RIDE HER 11 YEAR OLD STALLION WUNDERBAR BLACK 59 BY DESPERADOS. HEATHER HAS OWNED THIS HORSE SINCE AND FOAL AND HE IS NOW STARTING HIS GRAND PRIX CAREER AND THEY ARE HEADING TO FLORIDA IN FEBRUARY 2023.



SUNDAY

## LIZZIE WILSON-FELLOWS & LET'S CHARMEUX

LIZZIE WILSON-FELLOWS WILL RIDE HER 8YO MARE LET'S CHARMEUX BY CHARMEUR. LET'S CHARMEUX HAS COMPETED NUMEROUS TIMES INTERSTATE DOING YOUNG HORSE CLASSES AND HAS NOW EMBARKED ON HER FEI SMALL TOUR CAREER.



## SARA MCDONALD & ADLANTA MARCELLA

SARA MCDONALD WILL RIDE HER 11YO MARE ADLANTA MARCELLA BY THE AUSTRALIAN STALLION, METALLIC. MARCELLA HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL SMALL TOUR HORSE AND IS NOW MAKING HER WAY TOWARDS INTER II/GRAND PRIX.







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# **OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS**

**We are delighted to welcome the following Equestrian  
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**Unicorn Video Productions  
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**Derek O'Leary  
[dol.com.au](http://dol.com.au)  
[ozequestrian.com](http://ozequestrian.com)**

**Lisa Grund  
<https://lisagrundphotography.mypixieset.com/>**

**Melanie Gould  
[www.equisoulphoto.com.au](http://www.equisoulphoto.com.au)**

**Michelle Terlato  
[www.michelleterlatophotography.com](http://www.michelleterlatophotography.com)**

**Shaun Sharp  
[www.momentsbyshaun.com.au](http://www.momentsbyshaun.com.au)**

**Equine Images Victoria  
<https://www.equineimages.com.au>**

**OneEyedFrog Photography  
[www.oneeyedfrog.com.au](http://www.oneeyedfrog.com.au)**

**Kate Sheffield  
<https://evertonstud.com.au/media>**





Whittlesea Plenty Valley Dressage Club runs three competitions a year at Werribee Park and conducts clinics and protocol training at various times throughout the year. We welcome riders of all standards and encourage active participation in both our instructional days and competitions.



# DREAMING OF DRESSAGE



BetaVet are proud Sponsors of the 2023 Victorian Dressage Festival Preliminary, Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle.



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## PREPARE

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## PROTECT

Assist the body with joint discomfort and stiffness, support the health of connective tissue - ligaments and tendons and tissue repair for optimal musculoskeletal health. Useful for cartilage health and to safeguard joints from the wear and tear of training.



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## SUPERBOOST

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# VICTORIAN DRESSAGE CLUB



## VICTORIA'S OLDEST DRESSAGE CLUB

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The Victorian Dressage Club was founded in 1969 and continues to be a pioneering Club supporting Dressage in Victoria.

Since full resumption of competition after the COVID Lockdown, the Victorian Dressage Club has taken a proactive approach to getting riders back to full participation. The Organizing Committee has promoted it's Club Days with a flexible attitude to rider requests outside the advertised program, offering extra FEI and Para-Dressage Classes. Entries are at their highest level for many years with over 200 tests ridden on most Club Competition Days. The Inter Clubs Teams Competition is back with a very successful Competition being held in September 2022 with the Indoor at Werribee Park being transformed into a Winter Wonderland. Planning is already underway for the 2023 Competition with participating Clubs anxiously looking forward to being notified of the 'Theme of the Day'. Participating Clubs eagerly compete for the prize for the 'Best Decorated Club Table'. The 'Geoff Whitaker Inter Clubs Teams Challenge Trophy' is treasured by the winning Club. This competition going back to 1989.

Dates for Protocol days are being finalized for 2024.

The Victorian Dressage Club appreciates that Clubs have a role to play in the education and development of Judges, and regularly accommodates sit-ins and shadow-judging opportunities for both local in interstate judges, as well as hosting seminars, including extending hospitality and lunches to participants.

The oldest established dressage club in Victoria, VDC is keen to be part of a bright future for dressage in the state.



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