

February 2026

Newsletter



Welcome to all new, current and future members.

To keep you up to date with club news, rules, upcoming events and other useful information, we're excited to introduce our new club newsletter. We hope you enjoy it and find it helpful.

2026 MEMBERSHIP

Individual ~ SENIOR → \$80
Individual ~ JUNIOR → \$60
Family → \$90
Social → \$40
Come & Try → \$15

JOIN US

Enquiries
dressagetablelands@gmail.com

Membership Open

IMPORTANT!

RENEWALS
Use **LINK** provided in your EMAIL INBOX

NEW MEMBERS
Find us in the CLUBS section
www.nominate.com.au

ATDDEA Membership

Membership for 2026 is now open!

For new members find us in Clubs section (ATDDEA) via www.nominate.com

For Renewals please check your inbox from memberships@nominate.com.au

Individual Senior	\$80
Individual Junior (U 18yrs)	\$60
Family (One Adult + 1 Child U 18yrs)	\$90
Plus \$30 for each additional family member	
Social (non-riding)	\$40
Come & Try	\$15



2026 Calendar of Events

Plan ahead for the year —

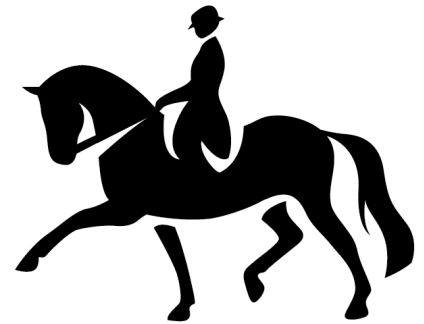
ATDDEA is offering monthly events from March to September. Please note the change to our

April competition. Head to the Events page on our website for **ATDDEA's Calendar of Events.**

www.tablelandsdressage.com.au

ATDDEA's Events

ATDDEA is a welcoming club where riders develop their skills, support each other and share great events along the way.



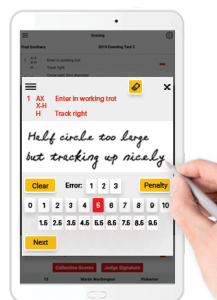
Nominate digital Training

This year, ATDDEA is excited to be transitioning to Nominate digital scoring. To help members get comfortable with the new system, the club hosted a training weekend on the **21-22 February** at the Mareeba Motor Inn.



Big thank you to Kerri-Lee Ryder (DQOSC representative) who ran the weekend workshop and to all the members who attended.

The club has now purchased 3 tablets and dongles and is set to go for the 2026 dressage season.



A big thank you to Bendigo Bank for their generous 20th Birthday Celebration Super Grant which has helped make this training possible. We truly appreciate your support!

Mareeba

Community Bank® Branch



Bendigo Bank

First event for the year

ATDDEA's first event for the year is a Training Day on the **15 March** at the **Malanda Indoor Arena**.

Entries Close 6th March.

Riders will have the opportunity to ride a test under the guidance of local EA-accredited judges, with helpful feedback aimed at improving your performance.

For more Information

Go to www.tablelandsdressage.com.au

Changes to our April Event

Unfortunately, the ATDDEA Committee has had to change the venue and format for our **11th & 12th April** event due to an oversight by Kerribee Park double booking our original date.

The event will now be held at the **Malanda Indoor Arena**.

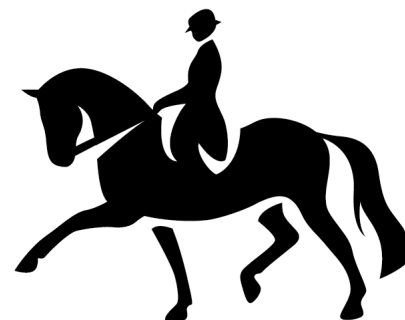
- Saturday: Official & Closed Restricted Competition
- Sunday: Protocol Training Day

We're pleased to welcome visiting **A Level Judge - Emma Flegman**,

We apologise for this change and thank you for your understanding — it will be great couple of days of dressage!

CLUB NEWS

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Club update

Entry fees

Competition Entry Fees for 2026 will remain the same as 2025 (see below) with the exception that the EA/Non ATDDEA club member fee of \$40 per class will only apply to EA riders within a 300km distance of Mareeba.

Entry Fees per class

\$15 - Official & CR Club Members
\$10 - Juniors (16 yrs & Under)
\$40 - EA/Non Club Members



Prize Money at future events

Due to the costs associated with running events a change to prize money will apply to all competitions including championships in 2026.

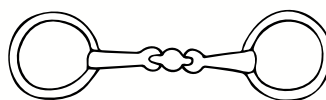
Official: 1st \$25, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$15
Closed Restricted: 1st \$20, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10
Junior: 1st \$10, 2nd \$8, 3rd \$5

Stewards Corner

Before the season starts, please check the rules to make sure you have the right clothing, saddlery and equipment.

www.equestrian.org.au/Dressage-rules

An info session will be held at our March Training Day - 15th March to bring members up to speed with the rules and changes from Jan 2026.



Below are some rule changes:

Spurs:-

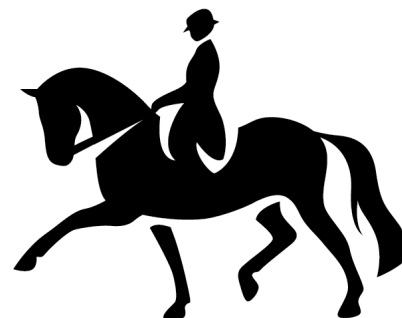
Daisy rowels, tines, notched, serrated edges are not permitted. If disc rowels are used, they must be blunt & smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate.

Glued-on shoes are permitted but the hoof, coronary band and bulbs must be visible and shoes be made of clear material.



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Expressions of Interest: Become an Accredited Steward

The ATDDEA Management Committee is inviting Expressions of Interest from existing and future ATDDEA members who would like to become an accredited **Equestrian Australia Steward**.

If you've ever considered becoming a dressage steward, we would love to hear from you.

Please let us know by **Friday, 27th February** if you're interested.

Contact the **Secretary at:**
dressagetablelands@gmail.com



Beat the Heat



Caring for your horse in the Tropics

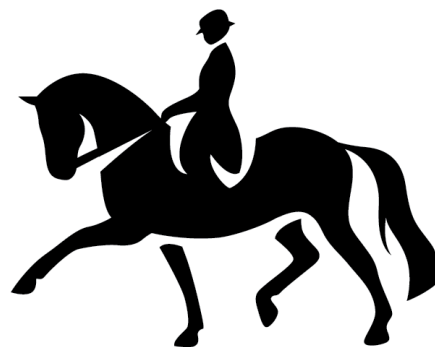
Horses possess an effective cooling mechanism, which relies to a large extent on the evaporation of sweat from the skin. As sweat and water molecules evaporate from the skin, these molecules absorb and remove body heat, causing the horse to cool.

Occasionally, when there is an imbalance between the amount of body heat generated and the heat able to be lost to the environment, a small proportion of horses show signs of heat stress or metabolic heat syndrome.

Heat stress after exercise is most likely to be seen on days when both ambient temperature and relative humidity are high and wind speed is low. These conditions favour a build-up of body heat and reduce the shedding of body heat to the environment.

CLUB NEWS

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Beat the Heat cont ...

Other risk factors include:

Travelling long distances prior to competition

- Withholding drinking water prior to riding
- Horses with an excitable temperament
- Horses not acclimatised to local weather conditions
- Horses resuming from a spell, or early in their training program with limited fitness
- Horses that sweat excessively, or do not sweat adequately (dry-coated/puffs/anhidrosis)

Know the Signs of Heat Stress – Call a Vet if Severe

- Excessive sweating or no sweating
- Rapid breathing (panting) with flared nostrils
- High heart rate
- Lethargy or weakness
- Staggering
- Agitated and distressed appearance
- Impulsive kicking with hind legs or striking out with front limbs
- Dark or tacky gums
- Body temperature above $\sim 39^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Collapse
- Prolonged episodes of heat stress can lead to permanent tissue and organ damage.



What You Can Do to Help Prevent Heat Stress

Horses can drink 30–60+ litres per day in hot weather.

- Ensure constant access to water
- Check troughs at least twice daily — heat, algae, and debris build up fast
- Place water in the shade, if possible, to keep it cooler and more appealing
- Clean troughs regularly to prevent slime and bacteria

Salt & Electrolytes

- Horses sweat heavily in tropical heat and lose salts.

Offer:

- Electrolytes in feed or water (follow product directions)
- Always provide plain water alongside electrolyte water

Shade & Shelter

- Essential in the tropics:
- Trees with a dense canopy
- Open shade structures

Adjust Work Times

- Ride or work horses early morning or late afternoon/evening
- Avoid midday heat and high humidity
- Reduce intensity and duration of work
- Increase warm-up and cool-down periods

Cooling Methods

- Hose horses after work — don't just mist; soak thoroughly. Repeat if needed.
- Focus on large blood vessel areas when hosing:
- Neck
- Chest
- Between hind legs

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Beat the Heat Cont ...

Cooling Methods Cont ...

- Scrape excess water off so evaporation can continue cooling
- The use of 'chiller bins' has proven to be an effective method to apply large volumes of cooled water to a hot horse and rapidly reduce body temperature
- Walk the horse in a breezy, shaded area between bouts of hosing
- Use ice water-soaked towels applied to the horse's body and change frequently as towels warm
- Use fans or air conditioning if available
- Seek veterinary treatment and advice.

A special thank you to Sundance Veterinary Service for the Beat the Heat information and for the continued support and sponsorship of ATDDEA.



Feed

Horses often eat less in the heat — this is normal.

Provide:

- Good quality forage
- Smaller, more frequent feeds
- Avoid heavy grain meals before work in hot weather

Insects & Skin

Heat and humidity lead to increased flies and skin issues.

Use fly protection — fly veils, and keep rugs lightweight and breathable

Check for:

- Rain scald
- Fungal infections
- Sweet itch

IMPORTANT LINKS & INFO

ATDDEA is affiliated with Equestrian Queensland and all events are run under Equestrian Australia (EA) rules and dressage tests.

www.equestrian.org.au/Dressage-rules





ATDDEA – 2026 EVENT CALENDAR

15 March - ATDDEA Training Club Day - Malanda Indoor

11/12 April - Official & CR Competition & Training Day - Malanda Indoor

16/17 May - Official & CR Competition - Kerribee Park

13/14 June Official & CR Competition - Kerribee Park

25/26 July Official & CR Competition - Kerribee Park

15/16 August Official & CR Competition -Kerribee Park

12/13 Sept Championships - Official & CR Competition - Kerribee Park

Updated 15/02/26

