

Venue Managers Report – May 2011

Rain, rain and more rain. We have had the wettest summer that I can remember at WPNEC; this has caused not only the staff and users a great deal of issues, ranging from flooding stables to broken pipes. It has shut down of the venue with events being cancelled. Happy to say most user's soldiered on, but some had no choice but to cancel. There is always a good side to everything as the venue looks wonderful, the green grass and the fresh look with no dust over summer.

Lease update as I know it!!

The rumour file keeps coming. I have been asked several times about the possibility that the venue lease will not be renewed. All our contacts with Parks Victoria and the local Council have been positive we have a meeting on May the 30th to start the meaningful discussions on gaining the lease beyond 2013. After the meeting with Rocky Barca Regional Manager and Government officials to discuss the lease, we hope to have a better understanding of what is required by us to move forward.



At the recent Hamag Australian Dressage Young Rider and Junior Championship and Para Championship we extended invitations to several ministers and local government officials, I'm happy to say Donna Petrovich MP and Andrew Elsbury MLC were in attendance. Bernie Finn MP was to attend, but due to illness apologised.

Andrew Elsbury attended the art show and was very happy to walk around the venue; he was very interested with the issue at hand and commented that he had visited the venue before. Andrew would like to be updated on the progress of our lease.

Donna Petrovich attended the dinner on Thursday night and commented that she also had association with the venue due to her daughter riding history in eventing.

With both visitors the development needed at WPNEC was discussed at length, it is very important that we as the equestrian community remember that facilities for our sport are vitally important for our sport to continue, with not only WPNEC to be considered but the development of equestrian facilities around the state. So with this in mind I would ask that you all consider invites to your local MP's and council and to speak about all things equestrian in a positive way. Speak on the time, dedication and investment of money that you and your families put into our sport. We know that our local football and netball groups are profiled in the local papers, so let's all get to work and send pictures and articles into the local newspapers and media outlets and talk about your equestrian interests and results. It is so important that we talk about all things Equestrian; let's see if we can get people engaged outside our own community. Remember you don't just compete; you live a life full of fun and enjoyment. So share your experience with your lifelong friend's and let others know about them! Talk them up.

Remember it is up to all of us to want the venue and if necessary that there will be a call to arms in the Equestrian community to make sure we receive the facilities that are required for our sport.

So watch this space!!