‘Eventing is the ultimate test requiring total trust, supreme athleticism, fitness and courage on part of both horse and rider.’

Eventing, or horse trials, consists of three phases at each competition – dressage, showjumping and cross-country. The winner of each class is the competitor accruing the least penalties overall. Riders and horses of all ages participate.

The competition starts with dressage, an exhibition of harmony between horse and rider as the combination demonstrates a range of movements at walk, trot and canter in a 60 metre by 20 metre arena.

The showjumping phase is a test of the horse’s carefulness and obedience. The heights of the jumps vary with each class and penalties are accrued for knocking rails down, disobediences and exceeding the time limit for the course.

The cross-country phase is a test of endurance and fearlessness as riders negotiate a range of obstacles out in the field: ditches, water jumps, palisades, apexes, and lots of timber jumps – all solid and inviting to the bold horse and rider. Penalties accrue for refusals, falls and for exceeding the time allowed for the course.

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The Sport of Eventing

Charles Sturt Wagga Horse Trials & Hunt Club

Contact details

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(see link under our clubs)

Photographs: taken at Wagga Horse Trials, 2008, and reproduced by permission of Main Event Photography
The club holds annual horse trials with grades from newcomers to CNC 3*, at the Charles Sturt University Farm, Gap Road, Wagga Wagga. The cross-country course is located on undulating farmland country with a significant section through a cypress pine forest. The going for the majority of the course has been treated with wood fibre to provide a good surface in most weather conditions. The pre-novice up to CNC*** courses aim to be inviting and encouraging with sufficient technical difficulty to present a challenge to horse and rider. The newcomers to preliminary courses offer a variety of questions for less experienced horses and riders with the aim of developing their confidence towards further competition.

Wagga Horse Trials is a real community event. The showjumping phase is run with the assistance of the Riverina Showjumping Club and community groups provide cross-country judges and catering. Local business is also represented through sponsorship and trade stalls. The club is grateful to its sponsors; the event could not run without their support. If you would like to sponsor Wagga Horse Trials, please contact our sponsorship team, details are on the website.

What the club offers...
Clinics: The club organizes or directs to other local groups clinic opportunities in all three disciplines of dressage, showjumping and cross-country. A range of coaches can be accessed through these clinics, from local professionals to Olympians.

Training: Throughout the year, the club organizes training opportunities for its members including:
- Access to the cross-country course
- Dressage protocol events
- Showjumping practice
- Unofficial competitions

News and website: Members receive a regular newsletter, email updates and can access the club website. A full calendar of events is available on the website.

Your involvement...
The club relies on volunteers and members to run the Wagga Horse Trials each year and to provide opportunities for training and competition.

To assist the club in its endeavours, members are encouraged to actively participate in club functions and activities including clinics, training days, working bees (which are usually followed by a training ride) and in helping to source sponsorship.

You are asked to attend the club meeting each month if possible. It will enable you to have a say on club activities.

Membership...
New members: Please access the link through the website for a copy of the membership form, or contact the club secretary. It is important that you keep your contact details up to date, including your email address if you have one.

Juniors: Note that juniors (under 18) must join as part of a family membership; and that there is a special rate for current CSU students.

Current members: Fees are due at the start of each calendar year. Please download the membership form or call the secretary and keep your membership up to date.

2010 fees: Individual $25.00, Family $50.00, CSU student $10.00.

Cross-country protocol...
It is very important that members observe this protocol when out on the cross-country course.

- Horse welfare is paramount. Do not mistreat your horse.
- Ensure no one rides alone (ride with a friend or in a group).
- Report damaged, unsafe fences.
- Please don’t use inappropriate language.
- Leave the gates as you find them.
- No vehicles on the cross-country course.
- No dogs (this is essential, for the safety of horse and rider, CSU farm stock and your dog – fox baits are laid on the farm).
- If others are schooling over a fence, don’t push in, wait your turn or ask if you can go.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Be happy, helpful and polite.