

## Introducing the Queensland Chefs d'Equipe



Congratulations to all riders selected for the 2015 IQ State team. I am looking forward to working with Madonna and Colin Bell, discipline managers, team and discipline captains and parents to assist our riders at this year's competition.

I am very passionate about young riders and the interschool program. My daughter joined interschool in 2003 and we have both been members of EA since. During this time I have volunteered as a discipline convenor, on the SEQ committee, IQ committee including chair for three years and part of the National Interschool Committee. I am currently a Director of Equestrian Queensland.

This will be my sixth national championships, fifth in an official capacity and first without a rider or pony! The draft draws have just been circulated and I feel that I know more than half the team already! I am looking forward to introducing myself to the other riders and their families and creating an organised and supportive environment for all of our team members.

These championships give our riders the opportunity to represent their state, experience a higher level of competition and meet lots of new friends. I look forward to the journey with you.

Sue Austin  
Chef d'Equipe



When asked to be Chef d'Equipe for the IQ team at the 2015 Australian Interschool Equestrian Championships my heart said a definite, "Yes!"

I know from experience that the job can be physically and mentally demanding and very time consuming however it is always rewarding to be associated with a dedicated group of young athletes. The IQ teams have always been that, as well as being fun. This year I will see new faces but also familiar ones from the teams we took to SIEC in 2010, Werribee in 2011 and Toowoomba in 2012. I was part of the Queensland team management at each of these events including overall team manager in 2012. Our family also went to Interschool Nationals in 2009.

With 2 daughters riding and serious about competing, my family has been involved in Interschool since 1994 including a number of years on the Darling Downs executive committee and more recently as dressage convenor on the IQ committee. I was Technical Delegate for dressage and combined training at the 2015 Darling Downs regional championships and scored the teams and overall trophies at IQ Eventing and CT Championships.

This year, Sue and I will have my husband Colin Bell assisting us. Colin has both experience with Interschool events as well as being Chef d'Equipe for a number of senior state teams (and even once for an Aussie team in South Africa) and Technical Delegate for events within Queensland. Colin and I live on a farm at Pilton, south of Toowoomba.

To have qualified for this team, I know already that you are committed and talented riders. We will have one of the largest teams at the championships however I hope it is also the friendliest, the most supportive, rider to rider, and of course that we are always demonstrating the values of true sportsmanship. Those are the things I love about Queensland teams. Welcome along for the ride.

Madonna Bell  
Chef d'Equipe