

## JUDGES COMMENTS - WAMURAN CTR 20 July 2025

*Our very warm thanks to all judges for sharing their time and expertise with the riders. They have also provided us with a brief overview of how the riders and horses fared at their particular judge point, and suggested improvements that riders can strive for.*

### 1. Presentation/Mount – Erica & Cheryl

Lovely group of pleasant participants. Please check your girths as many way too loose. Try not to let your split reins drop to the ground, this is a safety issue. More practice on offside mounting. Some horses could do with a bit more condition. Overall, a well-presented capable group of riders.

### 2. Step Over Straddle – Joanne & Chris

Most common issue was the horse not picking up their hooves high enough and tapping the log on the way through. Overall, any nervous horses were well controlled by the riders. A great bunch of riders today. Most riders did stop at the judge ahead sign, however there were a couple who did not. Perhaps they were new.

### 3. Trot Exercise – Karla & Kate

Both horses and riders did well and completed judge point. Some riders are reluctant to give horses a loose rein. The halt at the end cone proved a little tough for some of the fresh horses today.

### 4. Water Mud Crossing – Terry & Roslyn

All horses performed very well. All horses and riders negotiated the water and mud with no issues.

### 5. Side Pass – Michele & Norm

Most horses and riders did okay at this judge point. Riders just need to not rush, take time to set up their horse. Then correct the horse if they start to go crooked by slowing the horse's shoulder to give the hind end time to catch up. Also use more leg rather than trying to pull the horse across with reins. Use the lead rein to block the shoulder rather than using it to pull the horse across.

### 6. L Backup – Roz & Rebecca

This was tricky for most riders & horses. Gold Star if you did this perfectly. Practise this one at home!! Riders need to think a bit ahead and look how to place your horse when backing around the corner. No pun intended! Go slowly, breathe, gentle aids using outside leg to help horse turn hindquarters. Everyone had a go and was good to see and hear lots of encouragement. Some good teamwork so well done to you all and keep practising and riding.

### 7. Swap the Ball – Kirsten & Scott

This judge point was easy to see. I looked for a calm approach and a good halt. Horses and riders both performed beautifully.

### 8. Gate – Judi & Anne

Well done riders! The main issues riders had were not positioning themselves thoughtfully – especially not being close enough when removing and replacing the chain so that they had to lean over too far and not having accustomed their horse to moving objects – i.e. the chain. Practice needed!

### 9. Change of Pace – Kathy & Jacki

All riders did well on a difficult judge point. They performed calmly, most riders made good transitions. Nearly all had difficulty with the stop. Riders were kind and patient to their horses.

### 10. Log Trail – Delma & Lesley

This judge point was quite straight forward and everybody was able to complete the challenge. My main feedback to most riders was eyes forward rather than looking down.