

Hi, as your new Canterbury Dressage Riders representative, “ Hello” I am Soo Wells and I will do my best to find answers and solutions to questions or problems that you may have as a member, or potential member of ESNZ Canterbury Area Dressage group, in connection with participating in dressage competition in the Canterbury Area. For National dressage issues your South Island Riders Representative is Ali Harper from Southland. You can contact me: 03 3128295, or email: [soo@equinoxfish.co.nz](mailto:soo@equinoxfish.co.nz) or by Facebook Messenger: Sue Wells

I have gained some concession for riders use of NEC Mc Leans Island. I know it is not quite as much as some of you wanted. You need to understand that things are changing at the NEC, I am also the Dressage NZ representative on that Committee, dressage is only one voice all ESNZ disciplines are represented. The main competition areas are to be kept for competition and some major clinics only. It is intended to upgrade all facilities as funding can be found and to develop the Centre into a high quality competition and training venue. There are also large training areas with all weather surfaces, cross country jumps, show jumps and hacking tracks, these areas are normally available for use every day. It is only when very large Events are being held on the grounds that they are closed.

#### Information for Riders re NEC Mc Leans Island :

1. You will have noticed if you have been to the NEC recently that a lot is happening, the new covered yard block is almost complete, some changes in fencing, an efficient and better irrigation system is started. It will end with all arenas being able to be watered from water points by the arena and better coverage of grass areas. A better power supply is to be brought into the NEC, there are new toilets and shower block nearer the stables still to be commissioned, septic systems not yet complete. We now employ a full time ground manager and you will see the area getting a major tidy up. All this costs an enormous amount, on top of this we are aware that the arenas still need more sand, along with many other needs to be met as funding allows.
2. I have a plea to you all from the NEC Committee: PLEASE if an area is closed off, or a notice is up saying please don't...., then PLEASE DON'T go there. There is much happening in ground development currently and recently an area was taped off as there were open trenches for the new irrigation main. At a dressage winter series day people were seen just walking under the tape and cutting through the area. Now I know we have all done this in the past and so what..... BUT in today's Health and Safety conscious world where there are no accidents, it is always someone's fault we at NEC have had to join this world. We now have incident books, notices etc etc and can get in serious difficulty if there are accidents and things have not been done correctly. Just by you walking through that closed area an “incident” report has to be filled in even though you did not actually get hurt!!
3. For all riders who are members or are paying a day fee to use the grounds UNLESS there is notice closing the area, you may now ride horses on the grass area known as Siberia, which is the working in area behind the sand arena that normally has arenas 3, 4, and 5, this will allow you to familiarise young horses etc with the cyclists, dogs and everything else we see in the recreation area next door. You can of course also ride round the hacking track that goes past this area. You may NOT ride in the sand arenas, there are other all weather arenas behind the old stable block and shelter hedge that can be used. The surface on one that is not good is to be fixed if not done already. The competition arenas 1,2 and 3,4,5 areas will be open for casual use one day a month, this day will be advertised on the NEC website and/or facebook page.