



Fiora Au

Nominated by : Betty Brown

Summary Statement

The sport of dressage is changing. Driven by both external forces and our deepening understanding of what it means to train and care for horses, we now know more, and can do better.

I want to help our community lead those changes—thoughtfully, inclusively, and with conviction. With firsthand experience as a rider and volunteer, and a strong track record in governance and leadership, I bring a balance of empathy and execution to the role of Board Chair.

What I Will Bring to the Role

- A rider's perspective grounded in experience as an amateur competitor and active volunteer
- Proven governance experience through current and past board roles
- Leadership experience across start-ups, corporates, and non-profits, with a focus on strategy, transformation, and execution
- Strong relationships within the dressage community including riders, area groups, and officials
- Collaborative leadership style that seeks pragmatic, creative solutions
- Humility, and a commitment to transparency, clarity, and action that serves the sport and community. I know that I and the board won't always be right, but working together with you, we will get it right!

Dressage Experience & Contribution

- Current Dressage NZ North Island Rider Representative (2nd term)
- Former President, Auckland Manukau Dressage Group (2022-2024)
- Aspiring amateur competitor (2024 Nationals Bronze Medium Reserve Champion, probably not mind blowing to a lot of you, I know, but still a very happy moment!)
- Contributor to Judges Technical Manual updates and ongoing support
- Assisted with Dressage NZ Rule Book update

Governance & Strategic Leadership

- **Board Member, Hau Tutū** (non-profit to attract Māori and Pasifika rangitahi into technology): leading strategy shift and expansion via partnerships and sponsorships
- **Strategic Advisor, Techwondoe** (software development services): mentoring the founder and guiding strategic and commercial growth, even through pandemic years
- **Board Member, Kenza** (fintech): helped steer CEO transition and successful organisational exit via acquisition

- **Head of Data & Analytics, LIC** (dairy / agritech): leading transformational data strategy and execution
- **Chief Product Officer, Groov** (mental wellbeing / healthtech): working with the co-founders to build the startup from the ground up, and producing the mobile app that was selected to be part of the NZ government's COVID-19 psychosocial response
- **Line of Business Owner, Orion Health** (big data / healthtech): responsible for the multi-regional commercial and product strategies across a portfolio of products, with P&L responsibilities. Orion Health is a global healthcare technology with operations across 15 countries, and annual revenue of NZ\$170-190M (during my tenure)

Skills Snapshot

- **Governance & Strategy:** Proven ability to guide organisations through strategic planning, transformation, and execution. Adept at decision-making and facilitating groups to address complex issues.
- **Commercial Acumen:** Strong financial oversight and budgeting skills, with the ability to identify and capture commercial opportunities.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Skilled in bringing together governing bodies, professionals, volunteers, investors, and sponsors to drive change and achieve results.
- **Problem-Solving:** Creative and critical thinker, capable of connecting the dots to develop actionable solutions.
- **Design-led thinking:** A seasoned Product leader adept at applying design thinking, always keeping the needs of the end-user in mind.
- **Active participant in the New Zealand dressage community** with a deep understanding of the sport's many facets - riders, volunteers, OCs, officials.

Training

- **Institute of Directors Governance & Financial Essentials**
- **Masters of Engineering (Hon)**, Software Engineering

Personal life

My partner and I currently split our time between Miranda and Tauwhare (Waikato), but will be permanently based in Tauwhare later this year. I have four horses (hopefully five in November when my mare has her foal x), and compete and train two of them. I'm an avid reader, and also spend time on various digital projects as I started my career as a software developer (web design, other software development, digital art).

My Commitment

As Board Chair, I will work to ensure our governance serves both the vision and the day-to-day realities of our sport. I want to foster an environment where ideas are welcomed, people feel heard, and where we lean into hard conversations and co-create the changes we want to see. I believe in iterating to get it right, rather than letting perfect get in the way of progress. I will bring energy, experience, and open-minded leadership to help us get there— together.