

## Australian Interschool Championships, **Perth, 2nd-6th October, 2013**



Tas team (from left ):Cassie Richardson, Jess Price, Caitlyn Radford, Abi McIntosh, Olivia Brennan, Ellen McIntosh

Six Tasmanian riders competed at the Interschool Championships in Perth recently—all on either borrowed or pool horses. Our four showjumpers were :Olivia Brennan who was very fortunate to have the ride on Sonja Johnson's Olympic eventer Ringwoudl Jaguar; while Ellen McIntosh had Sharon Jarvis' Parkiarrup Edward and Abi had Kalusho Maverick—horses also organised by Sonja. Jess Price had a great ride on Pool horse, OK Kookaburra. Caitlyn Radford and Cassie Richardson had dressage pool horses Brooklee Trendsetter and Monterray. Caitlyn also competed in the Showhorse competition on Trendsetter. Most of the girls arrived early to get used to their mounts. First day of the event included the trot up which was successful for all and both riders and horses looked a picture! The afternoon was spent in a welcome, education session for riders and a separate one for parents. In the evening a very tasty BBQ was held.



**Day 2:** Thurs was a busy day for our showjumpers especially, competing in 3 events each, while the dressage girls had one event each. It was very hot as well which impacted on the girls and horses energy levels, however we still ended up with several placings.

Olivia won the 110 2phase and got 2nd in 1m AM5 :Ellen got 3rd in the same class, Jess got 4th in the 110 AM5; Abi got 6th in 90cm 2 phase.

Caitlyn and Cassie did a lovely dressage test each with both of the tests getting over 60 percent in some tough competition!!

In the evening we had a wonderful welcome dinner which was a buffet of great food and a chance to catch up with other states.

**Day 3—** Friday saw 2 more jumping events each and another dressage test. Again our showjumpers were in the ribbons—Jess got a 4th in the 110 ORS and 2nd in the 1m, while Ellen and Abi got 4th and 6th in the 1m and Olivia got 3rd in the 110 . Caitlyn and Cassie did another great dressage test too.

Then in the evening, they held a 6 bar competition (was actually only a 5 bar as they didn't have enough room for 6). Jess was the only Tasmanian competitor and rode beautifully to win the event!! You always knew when she entered the arena as we were very vocal!! It was a great way to cap off the day!



*Left : A very happy team at the close of Day 2.*

*Right: Jess on OK Kookaburra having just won the 6 bar!!*

*Below left: Caitlyn on Brooklee Trendsetter*

*Below right: Cassie about to school Monterray*



**Day 4 :** Cassie had her Freestyle dressage today and I think was the only one on a pool horse which meant she didn't have a lot of time to prepare her music , however, although her horse was not liking the indoor, she managed to stay calm and focused.

Caitlyn had a good day in the showhorse classes—managing to get into the final for the showhorse pony. She also rode really well in the rider class but unfortunately missed out on the final for that class.

The showjumpers only had one class which was to be held in the evening in the indoor arena in front of a large crowd with Olivia Brennan winning on Ringwoudl Jaguar and Jess Price coming 5th on OK kookaburra , with Abi and Ellen McIntosh riding very fast jump off rounds but with an unlucky rail on Kalusho Maverick and Parkiarrup Edward. A great achievement on borrowed horses!



**Last day:** Unfortunately, Caitlyn's pony had had enough and was quite naughty and was threatening to offload her, so it was a wise decision to withdraw from the final and Showman classes.

The presentation was held in the afternoon—and was rather lengthy, going for over 2 and a half hours. However, our team all came home with overall sashes.

Caitlyn and Cassie came 6th overall in the dressage teams

Jess Price's mount OK Kookaburra took out the Thoroughbred Achievement award

In the 1m overall, Olivia came 1st, Abigail 4th, Ellen 5th and Jess 6th—all four of our showjumpers in the sashes!!

In the 1.10m overall, Olivia came 2nd and Jess came 5th

The scoring has since been corrected for a couple of the overall scores and in the end the Tas Showjumping team came 2nd overall - What a great achievement!



*Left: Olivia and Jag*

*Right: Abi and Maverick*

*Ellen and Edward*



All in all it was a great experience for everyone. Thankyou to the team for being a great support to each other and with our bright tops and loud barracking Tas certainly was noticed!! It was a pleasure getting to know you all a bit better.

Thankyou to the parents who helped out with Tassie's assigned jobs— it certainly made my job easier.

Finally a big thankyou to the owners of our loaned horses who often went beyond the call and helped out in various ways. Without them our riders would not have been able to compete.

Next year we are hopeful to have a large team who may be able to take their own horses as the Championships will be either in NSW or Vic

Leonie Blackwell

(Team Manager)