

Report - National Interschool Team , 2010

Twenty Five riders and Twenty six horses from schools all over Tasmania competed at the Interschool Nationals in Sydney on the 22-23 rd September. Most riders and horses were away for 10 days to 2 weeks – some electing to take the opportunity to compete or train whilst on the mainland.

Four Eventers – Anna Clarke, Lauren McCall, Courtney Swain (Preliminary riders), and Olivia Whatley (Pre - Novice) stopped over at the Canberra Horse Trials to compete on the way. This was a fantastic experience to watch some of Australia's best 3 star riders compete and to put their horses over a different and exciting course as a lead up to the Nationals. Although they didn't place, they did well and had a great time in superb weather!

Most of the teams arrived at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC) on the Monday before the event to give their horses time to settle in and spend the Tuesday training in the wonderful facilities. Over 320 riders from both Primary and Secondary schools made up the state teams from all over Australia, (including a small team from the Northern Territory) at the event hosted by Equestrian NSW.

Wednesday was the first day of competition. All four disciplines of Showman, Dressage, Eventing, and Showjumping ran for both days, so there was not a lot of time for spectating!

The first of the Showjumping events was Equitation which included several "tasks" like trotting over a jump, walk to canter transition etc. Some of our riders – particularly in the 90cm class excelled with Tassie's 4 riders in that group – Hannah, Simon, Anna, and Alysha coming 1st, 2nd, 5th and 8th respectively! Other notable equitation places were Sophie Orchard coming 3rd in the 80cm and Danielle 3rd in the 100cm.

The dressage classes were also off to a good start with Kelsey coming 5th in the Primary 1C, and Sophie McDermott 9th in the 2B, and most of our other riders pleased with their tests.

In the Showman classes, all the Tassie horses looked great and were a credit to their riders – but unfortunately only one placing which went to Ashleigh – 4th in the 3 phase Secondary class.

In the eventing, we had the dressage and cross country phases. In all classes our riders were pleased with their dressage tests. In One Star, Mykaela excelled to be coming 4th after dressage and only added some time penalties after xc. In Pre- Novice, Olivia and Hayley did well to maintain their composure after being held up on course for over an hour due to a horrible fall by a QLD rider which resulted in a couple of ambulances, a helicopter and police arriving to tend to her. (She is recovering well according to recent reports). Both girls who had been walking in circles waiting to finish their rounds, arrived at the water jump to loud cheers from the crowd for keeping their cool and riding the offending jump beautifully! In Prelim, Samantha was leading the Tassie charge, and in Intro, Sophie Roles was ahead of our other riders.

In the Combined Training which is the Primary equivalent of Eventing but without a xc phase, Sophie McDermott was winning the 70cm class with a great dressage test!

On the Wednesday evening, we all arrived at the spectacular indoor arena for dinner and entertainment with a Girls, Girls, Girls show of trick riding which made us all feel dizzy! The Tassie team made their presence felt by their cheering and very conspicuous and envied uniforms!! (We certainly stood out wherever we went!)

Next day, we were all a little more tired but another full day of competition was to be had!

The Showman classes continued, and Kelsey did a fantastic job to come 2nd in the 3 phase primary.

The Eventing and Combined Training continued with the jumping phase and Mykaela did a clear round to move into 3rd place in 1 star. Our other 10 riders in Pre-Novice, Prelim and Intro all jumped beautifully, with only one or two rails down between them! In the Combined Training Sophie Mc Dermott maintained her lead and won the class !

In the Dressage, Sophie Mc Dermott came 4th in the 2D Primary, and Kelsey came 4th in the 1D Primary.

Showjumping continued with 2 more classes – the AM7 and Power and Speed in each height. In the 90cm Power and Speed, Hannah came 2nd, and Alysha 5th. In the 100cm class, Courtney came 3rd in the Power and Speed. However all our riders did well and often just had an unlucky pole down!

At the end of a long day we finally had our mounted presentation, with Hayley carrying the flag and Caitlin the banner and a very successful team parading into the arena behind them!

Overall placegetters to 6th received sashes – Mykaela Briggs 3rd in 1 star eventing, Sophie McDermott – 1st in Combined Training and an impressive trophy for best score in both Combined Training grades! Kelsey Allen received two sashes – 2nd for 3 phase showman and 3rd for Primary Dressage. Courtney Swain got a 6th for the 100cm jumping. The most successful team for Tassie was our 90cm showjumpers who took home first, second and third! I believe we were the only team to do that in any of the classes! First went to Hannah Orchard, Second to Alysha Verwey and Third to Simon Rechberger. Samantha Smith received a trophy for the closest run to optimum time on cross country across all grades!!

After the Interschools, The Atkins' family went to Werribee for the Pony Club trials for Hayley to compete, while some of our riders instead competed for up to 3 days at the Australian Youth Showjumping Festival at Camden – mostly in the 90 cm -1.20 classes. Tassie took home 2 rugs, 4 firsts, 1 third and 3 fifths !!! Often the classes had up to 60 riders in them, so this was a great achievement. Mykaela Briggs did some lovely 1.20 rounds and was unlucky not to place! Alysha Verwey won a rug for first in the 1m Novice Young Rider Grand Prix, 1st in the Power and Speed for that same section and was 5th in two other classes. Anna Clark won the Novice Young Rider Accumulator, but unfortunately had to fly home before she got to do her victory lap! Olivia Whatley won a 5th in the 1m Power and Speed. Courtney Swain got a 3rd in the 1.10m Junior A2 and won the Pony Grand Prix, also receiving a lovely rug!

What a wonderful experience for our young riders and juniors to compete at these events. Wherever we went, the Tassie team made an impact for their team spirit and support they gave each other. I was very proud to be the team manager for such a wonderful group of riders and parents . They were all a credit to Tasmania – to just be there was an achievement in itself, whether they placed or not!! I would like to thank Judi Le Fevre for all her organisation and support for the team throughout. Also special thanks to our team leaders who did such a wonderful job at the interschool event - Sue McDermott (Dressage), Sharon Mc Call (Showjumping), Julie McSherry (Showman) and Roger Blackwell (Eventing). Also a big thank you to Erin Hunn for her input to the riders!

On a much sadder note – one of our team members – Katie Becker who qualified for the 90cm jumping with Captain Oats did not get to compete due to being diagnosed with Leukemia before we left. We were devastated and very saddened to be told before we had all returned , that on Tuesday 28th September, Katie passed away due to complications with her treatment. The team wish to pass on our condolences to the Becker family. Farewell Katie – you will be missed by us all!

Leonie Blackwell (Team Manager)

2010 Tasmanian Team

Ebony Ablett- Johnstone - Kamilaroi Sir Camelot (3 Phase Secondary showman & Secondary Novice Dressage)
Kelsey Allen – Phoenix Park Rebel (Primary Prelim Dressage & 3 phase Showman)
Hayley Atkins – Fernayr St Nic (Pre Novice Eventing)
Hayley Atkins – Omar Shalim – Intro Eventing)
Mykaela Briggs – Starstruck Juliet (one star Eventing)
Anna Clark – Camoola Max (90cm Secondary jumping & Prelim Eventing)
Madelene Evans – Aslan Phenomenon (Secondary Elementary Dressage & 3 phase secondary Showman)
Reegan Heathcote – Valley Dreams Trinity (80cm Primary Jumping & 70cm Combined Training)
Alice Hirst – Bandman (Intro Eventing)
Amelia Lawrence – Craigston Reveller – (Primary Prelim Dressage & 3 phase Primary)
Lauren Mc Call – Multiple Magic (100cm Jumping)
Georgia Mc Carthy – Curraghmore Moonshine (Secondary Novice Dressage & Intro Eventing)
Sophie McDermott – SP Diamond Kate (Primary Novice Dressage & 70cm Combined Training)
Ashleigh McSherry – Glenvale Penny Arcade (Secondary Novice Dressage & 3 phase Secondary Showman)
Hannah Orchard – Plush Rose (90cm Secondary jumping & Prelim eventing)
Sophie Orchard – Cheraton Fascination (80cm Primary Jumping)
Caitlin Radford – Bimbadeen Mascot – (Primary Prelim Dressage & 3 phase Primary Showman)
Simon Rechberger – Jackabar Jasper (90cm Secondary jumping)
Sophie Roles – Top Card (90cm Jumping)
Emily Ruffo – Lopez (100cm Jumping)
Samantha Smith – Indianna Jane (Prelim Eventing)
Alexandra Spillane – All About Abby (4 phase primary Showman & 70cm Combined Training)
Courtney Swain - Wellbrook Fire and Ice (100cm jumping &prelim eventing)
Alysha Verwey – Imperial Jackpot (90cm jumping & 4 phase Secondary showman)
Danielle Whatley – Sir Westerner (100cm jump ing &Pre Novice Eventing)
Olivia Whatley – Prince Brodie (Pre Novice Eventing)



NB (from the ET office)

It is currently proposed the 2011 Australian InterSchool Championship will held in Victoria October 3rd – 7th.

Tasmania will be eligible to send up to 92 qualified EA riders riding registered EA horses. To qualifier riders must place in the top 4 at the Equestrian Tasmania InterSchool Championships. (Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Primary Combined Training and Showman). See the above 2010 team list for the types of events available. Dates for the Championships will be posted on the ET web & will be held between March and May 2011.