

Maryborough Pony Club riders qualify for State Showjumping and Dressage Championships

Riders from the Midland Zone competed recently to qualify to represent the Midland Zone at the coming Victorian Pony Club Showjumping and Dressage Championship. Five Maryborough Pony Club riders qualified and will compete at the State Event in March at Elmore.

Katherine Clegg riding Cariboo Creek will represent her club and zone in the A Grade Showjumping along with Castlemaine rider Brooke Skinner. Katherine rode at this level for the first time at the Qualifying event held at Charlton. This will be Katherine's fifth State Showjumping Championships. Last year Katherine and Cariboo Creek competed in C Grade with her team bring placed 3rd in the State. Previously Katherine rode Jack in C and B grade for a 3rd and 4th place at State level.

In the B grade Showjumping event Jenna Wright and Janeils Deutchs Mark qualified and will join Samantha Palmer, Steffi Hurse and Abbey Hurst as team members at the State Championships. At the qualifying event Jenna rode well and was placed 2nd in the One Round event.

Maryborough riders Chris Davies and Carly Wright together with Tim Stevens and Hamish Harrington both from Ararat will ride together in the C Grade Showjumping Team for Midland Zone. Chris rode Fight for Gold at the Qualifiers winning the Two Round Event. At the age of 13 Chris is the youngest rider to qualify from the Zone this year. This will be Chris's first State Showjumping Championship. Carly Wright and Zac performed consistently finishing 3rd in the One Round event and 4th in the Two Phases event. Carly and Zac are a very all round combination competing in Dressage at last year's State Championship. Elizabeth Dridan and Sir Winston rode in the C Grade event. Elizabeth rode well with Sir Winston pulling a couple of rails for the day. Elizabeth and Sir Winston competed at last year's State Championship in Grade 1 Dressage. Elizabeth previously has competed at State Championships in Dressage on a number of occasions. Elizabeth has also represented Victoria at National level in Dressage.

Ebony Forster and Split Enz enjoyed a comeback after a seven month break due to injury. This combination won both the Grade 3 dressage test to finish first overall. This will be Ebony and Split Enz second State Championships for Dressage, competing last year at this level. Ebony is the youngest Dressage rider to represent the Midland Zone this year. Ebony will be joined by Bealiba riders Guinevere Jones and Kylie Scilini to compete in the Zone Grade 3 team. Maryborough rider Rosie Mason and Mindi rode well to be named second emergency for this team. Rosie was placed third and fifth in each dressage test. Other Maryborough riders riding in this grade were Bronte Healey on Desertline and Ali Dridan aboard Incontro. Bronte and Desertline were placed 2nd in the first test to finish 6th overall. Ali and Incontro were happy with sixth placing in the final test and finished 9th in a strong field of 17 riders.

Rebecca Bushby and Sinfree rode in the Grade 2 Dressage event. Rebecca finished 4th in the final test to be named second reserve of the Grade 2 dressage team. Rebecca has had success at previous State Dressage Championship riding as a member of the 6th placed team at State level in 2003.

Young Maryborough Pony Club rider Ali Davies and her mount Commanche Rebel rode in the D grade showjumping. Ali and Commanche Rebel were the winners of the One Round event and placed 6th in the Two Round event. D grade is not a State qualifying grade although Ali at the age of 12 can look forward to success in coming years.