

## Sydney Royal Success

Five Bega Showjumping Club members have excelled at the recent Sydney Royal Easter Show. Sarah Dreverman and Alisa Williams contested two events in the Amateur rider category. Lane Clarke competed in the Junior Showjumping section and Clint Beresford and Craig Matthews in the Young Rider section, each comprising of four events.

The account for Bega was opened in the first Amateur class when Alisa Williams and her family-owned and bred grey mare "Anigrey" were just beaten into second place. The following day both Sarah Dreverman and Williams contested the second event in which only five competitors jumped clear in the first round. Those five competitors then jumped off against the clock with Dreverman setting an absolutely cracking pace as first rider out. Nobody could catch Dreverman and her handsome paint gelding "Emmaville Mosaic" who won the class by a very creditable three seconds. Williams finished in third place and was edged out of second position by a fraction of a second by ex-Bega Pony Club member Nathan Carswell who is now a well-respected farrier and rider in the Sydney area. Dreverman's success continued at the Sydney Royal only days later when she was a member of the NAB Bega Young Farmers Team who won the final of the Young Farmers Challenge (BDN 2/4/13).

Easter Saturday marked the start of the Junior and Young Rider Showjumping competitions. Junior riders are those aged 12-18 years and Young Riders are 16-21 years of age. Fifteen-year-old Lane Clarke of Mogilla and his family-owned and bred mare "GH Tigerlilly" were competing together at their very first Royal Show. Although very nervous, young Clarke excelled, jumping a clear first round in the first event. He was very unlucky to knock the final hurdle in the jump-off round against the clock. This fault relegated him to fourth place and a very promising start to the show. Next out was Clint Beresford and Craig Matthews in the Young Rider class. Twenty year-old Beresford is just recently home from a successful trip to Bangkok where he represented Australia in a team showjumping competition. Beresford and his very flash young horse "Emmaville Jitterbug" impressed with a foot perfect clear round in the first. Matthews, who at 21 years of age is in his final year of Young Rider competition and has already tasted success at the Sydney Royal over the past few years. This year Matthews was competing on the in-experienced young palomino mare "Fifa La Viva" owned by Stuart and Kirsty McPaul. Although the mare had never competed at this level before, Matthews experience guided her around the tough course to finish with only a couple of rails down. Beresford contested the jump-off against the clock and rode a really neat round to finish in second place in the first event.

Easter Sunday saw the second day of competition for the local lads. Clarke was out first and jumped yet again another outstanding clean round. With fewer nerves than the day before, Clarke came out firing into the jump-off round against the clock. Unfortunately the combination turned a little tight onto the second fence and knocked it down but left the rest of the course standing to finish in third place. In the next event Beresford had supporters on the edge of their seat when he was clear all the way until the last jump when he just tipped it and it fell leaving him unable to contest the second round. Matthews rode a much more confident round on the second day just lowering two fences in the treble combination.

Neither boy won a ribbon in the second event. That night, Clarke and Beresford were invited to contest the Six Bar jumping event which was part of the main entertainment. Clarke made it to the final round with only one other competitor. Although Clarke cleared the final hurdle which stood at 1.65m, he unfortunately knocked the much lower third fence. The other competitor cleared the all fences and was declared the winner with Clarke placing second. Beresford finished the six-bar in equal third place.

Day three of competition was speed class day with all competitors contesting one round only against the clock with a penalty of four seconds added to your time for each rail knocked. The Young rider event was first this time and Matthews was first out on course lowering two rails and adding eight seconds to his final score. Beresford's horse was a little unsettled in this event and knocked an uncharacteristic two rails also. Both riders finished out of the placings again. Clarke however was out to better his fourth and third placing from the first two competitions. That is exactly what he did, posting the fastest round of the competition but knocking one rail. With the four seconds added to his time he still finished in second place. The talk around the stables was beginning – could he go better again in the final competition and win?

The final day of competition was Grand Prix day where the largest, most technical courses were set for the riders. Riders with eight faults or less in the first round were invited to contest the second round with scores from both rounds added together. Clarke contested the Junior Grand Prix first and was one of only four riders to post a clear round in the first. The excitement was building when Clarke posted a very fast and clear round in the jump off. He was one of only two riders to jump a double clear round and to add to this he was a massive five seconds faster than his closest rival meaning that he had done it – Clarke had won his very first Royal Show event! To add to this it was announced that Clarke was the only competitor in the Junior Showjumping to place in every event and he was awarded the Most Successful Junior Boy Showjumping Rider of the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Riding on a high after witnessing Clarke's performance, Beresford and Matthews were out next in the Young Rider Grand Prix. A very challenging course was set ranging between 1.35m and 1.45m in height. Only five competitors posted clear rounds in the first and two of them were the Bega contestants. The Bega supporters could not believe it when both Beresford and Matthews rode beautiful clean rounds. Eight riders were invited back to contest the second round and only one of those managed to finish on zero penalties and was awarded first prize. Beresford posted the fastest round but just knocked the plank at the Australian Flag obstacle to finish in second place. Matthews and his mount were tiring and finished the second round with three rails on the ground and in a very creditable sixth place. At the presentation, supporters were delighted when Beresford was awarded the Most Successful Rider in Young Rider Competitions at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Bega Showjumping Club is so proud to be able to boast the two best showjumping riders under 21 years of age at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and would like to congratulate all members on their outstanding performances.