



Pony Club Australia – International Success

Lockdowns and restrictions have not stopped Pony Clubs in Australia and around the world from continuing international competition.

The Pony Club International Alliance held a virtual Dressage competition earlier this month, in which Australia had 18 riders competing with some excellent results.

The standout was Darcey Eyb, 16, from Cudal Pony Club NSW. Riding her horse Sir Versace, she placed first in the USDF* Level 1 test and first in the Prix Caprilli test (which combines dressage and jumping), making her a dual International Champion (Photo of Darcey below).

The young Australians competed against riders from the UK, Hong Kong, USA, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, by sending in a video of a set USDF dressage test. The tests were all judged by the same group of international judges.

“There were strict conditions about filming the dressage test,” CEO Dr Catherine Ainsworth said. “It was great for all riders to be able to ride their own horses. In the past when we have sent teams overseas, horses have been supplied by the host country using a ballot process.” Pony Club Australia teams have previously competed overseas in Mounted Games, Tetrathlon, Quiz and Showjumping.

In other results for Australia:

- Morgan Cockerell, Leighdale Pony Club, Victoria, on Monteith Brunton – FIFTH in Class 1
- Arabella Eagles, Samford Golden Valley Pony Club, Queensland, on Chance – SECOND in Class 2a
- Paris Fiedler, Horsham Pony Club, Victoria, on Talingka Park Matthias – SECOND in Class 2b
- Kirra-Lee Ayala, Rosewood Pony Club, Queensland, on Moosimus Maximus – SECOND in Class 3
- Petra Schuecker, Monmouth PC Tas, on ESB Golden Officer - THIRD in Class 3
- The mixed team of Darcey Eyb, Tiffany Peters and Arabella Eagles, along with Canadian rider Trinity Sachau, won the Class 2a team competition.

The other representatives for Australia were:

- Class 1 - Kassi Jones, Fernpark PC, Tas; Jack Clancy, Cootamundra PC, NSW; Robin Henry, Quirindi PC, NSW; Morgan Cockerell, Leighdale PC, Vic
- Class 2 - Paris Fiedler, Horsham PC, Vic; Caitlin Pritchard, King River PC, WA; Sara Leitch, Hastings PC, Vic; Olivia Farrell, Burpengary PC, Qld.
- Class 3 - Jayde Kirkham, Macedon PC, Vic; Sharne Haskins, Londonderry PC, NSW; Sarah Laukhart, Upper Beaconsfield PC, Vic.

Cont'd Page 2

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- 2 -

- Class 3 international mixed team - Kirra-Lee Ayala, Rosewood PC, Qld (the only Aussie in the team)
- Prix Caprilli - Kassi Jones, Fernpark PC, Tas; Darcey Eyb, Cudal PC, NSW; Sophia Myszka, Doongala PC, Vic; Anastasia Haling, Kootingal PC, NSW.

The 18 riders who represented Australia in the inaugural International Pony Club Virtual Dressage competition are profiled in the Pony Club Australia July newsletter, out now.

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/06-July-2021-newsletter.pdf>



LEFT: Darcey Eyb, 16, from Cudal Pony Club has won a virtual international Pony Club Dressage competition, against riders from seven other countries.

*USDF – United States Dressage Federation

More information:

Dr Catherine Ainsworth
CEO, Pony Club Australia
M: 0438 174 222

E: ceo@ponyclubaustralia.com.au

Bronwyn Wheatley
Marketing and Development Officer, Pony Club Australia
M: 0423 823 190

E: marketing@ponyclubaustralia.com.au

www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au

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