

Trans-Tasman Dressage Derby – Werribee April 2007

The Trans-Tasman Friendly Derby was held at the National Young Rider and Pony Dressage Championships at Werribee Park in April. The two-round event requires riders to complete an elementary test on two different horses they have not ridden before.

The Australia team of Alycia Targa (NSW) and Sheree McConachy (Vic), who are both members of the National Young Rider Squad, competed against New Zealand riders Ashleigh Williams (North Island) and Hanna Appleton (South Island). Horses were loaned by Victorian riders and this year the standard of horses was very even. All horses were more than capable of performing elementary movements. This made it a close competition where the results were determined by the riders' skill in getting the best possible test from their horses after only 20 minute familiarisation.

The Australian team won by a small margin with a score of 61.768% from New Zealand on 60.833%.

Thank you to the owners of Lion Park Lodge Jennifer, Tinuveil Tornado, Sunbury Lodge Ausden and Boston Avenue who loaned their horses for the event.

Thanks also to Samantha Bartlett (Part On) and Renee Pedretti (Sunbury Lodge Thomas) for loaning their horses to the New Zealand riders for other classes during the event.