

Our Proud Olympic History

Montreal 1976

Eventing

Wayne Roycroft

Bill Roycroft

Merv Bennett

Denis Piggot

Jumping

Guy Creighton

Kevin Bacon

Barry Roycroft



Seven horses left Australian shores five weeks before the 1976 Montreal Games. They travelled directly to the Equestrian Olympic Village at Bromont (CAN). Security was extremely tight after the massacre in Munich and it was common for athletes to be frisked and security checked, sometimes as many as five times before breakfast.

The Jumping Team consisted of Guy Creighton on *Mr Dennis*, Kevin Bacon riding *Chichester* and Barry Roycroft riding *Four Corners*. Guy Creighton finished individually in fifth place. The team finished ninth place overall. The Eventing Team was Bill Roycroft and *Version*, Wayne Roycroft and *Laurenson*, Mervyn Bennett and *Regal Reign* and Denis Piggot on *Hillstead*. Bill, Wayne and Denis did good dressage tests, but the atmosphere got to the six-year-old *Regal Reign*, who finished at the bottom of the field. The Cross-country resulted in three clear rounds but unfortunately Bill Roycroft had a fall. Bill remounted and finished the course.

The team stood in third place going into the final day. Four clear showjumping rounds secured the Bronze Medal for Australia. This was the second time that father and son stood together on the podium for Australia. Individually, the highest placed Australian was Wayne who finished in fifth. The entire Australian Olympic Team only brought home five medals from Montreal, one silver and four bronze. Since one of those medals was secured by the Eventing Team, the riders returned to Australia as heroes.