

# Our Proud Olympic History

## Rome 1960

### Eventing

Bill Roycroft

Laurence Morgan

Neale Lavis

Brian Crago



Bill Roycroft riding Our Solo in the 1960s

The legend of the Australian Event riders was cemented in history at the Rome Olympic Games in 1960.

The team was doing well when Bill Roycroft and his horse took a tumble on the cross-country course. Roycroft finished the course but was injured and airlifted to hospital, dashing the hopes of the Australian team. Determined not to let his team down 45-year-old Roycroft discharged himself from hospital. With one arm in a sling he was lifted onto his horse to ride a clear showjumping round, leading the Australian Team to a gold medal. In addition to their Team gold medal (only one medal was awarded to the whole team), Laurie Morgan (*Salad Days*) also won individual gold and Neale Lavis (*Mirabooka*) individual silver. Bill Roycroft (*Our Solo*) finished in 11<sup>th</sup> position. Brian Crago (*Sabre*) was the only team member that had also ridden at the 1956 Olympics. Unfortunately, he did not finish the event in Rome and under then existing rules, did not get a medal.

At the second-ever Olympic Games for an Australian Equestrian Team, our riders had conquered the world and proven to the generations to come that anything is possible.

Roycroft went on to compete in four more Olympics Games: 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976, winning team bronze medals in 1968 and 1976.