

Northside Riding Club Gain Commonwealth Sport Achievement Award

At a presentation ceremony, held at Abbotsleigh School, Northside Riding Club was awarded the Commonwealth Sport Achievement Award for 'An Outstanding Contribution by a Club'.

President Soo Broster along with Vice Presidents Jose Diacono and Diane Wixon accepted the award on behalf of Northside Riding Club's Committee—both past and present.

Indeed, Dr Brendon Nelson, Federal Minister for Bradfield made special mention of Northside Riding Club's work, its long association with Kuring-gai and work in the community.

Later that evening Soo Broster said in her speech at the NRC Awards Night, 'it was indeed an honour to accept the award in recognition of the countless volunteer hours donated to the club by the committee and members throughout the 25 year history.'



Pictured above: Jose Diacono, Soo Broster, Dr Brendon Nelson and Diane Wixon

Thank you for
Becoming a
'Friends of
Northside' member

Welcome to the inaugural "Friends of Northside" newsletter.

As a friend of Northside, you'll receive updates throughout the year on what's happened and future events in and around the Princess Anne Arena.

If you have any particular interests or issues concerning the club, please feel free to call myself, Diane Wixon (Vice President) on (02) 9415 2528.

**NRC
2006 WINNER
Commonwealth
Sport
Achievement Award**

North side's Community Spirit

During 2006, Northside Riding Club has supported Operation Eyesight, Riding for the Disabled, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve's Reconstruction and the Guy Wallace Foundation.

Our aim for 2007 is to continue to support charities— riding and the community in general. If you have any suggestions please contact us.



And the 2006 member of the year award goes to.....

Selina Madeleine

Selina Madeleine was voted Northside member of the year for 2006. This very special award is given for a combination of successful performance and contribution to the club and equestrian sport.

She competed at events with her horse Samsara Morpheus ("Morph"). Selina and Morph were on track for the top three day event in Australia – the Adelaide International Horse Trials - when tragically Morph died in a paddock accident just a few months ago.

It was then that Selina found out just how many friends she had as we rallied round to help her to try and overcome this huge loss. Thanks to one very kind person, she now has a beautiful new young mare and we look forward to seeing them out and about.

Selina is a role model for so many of us – young and old, experienced and novice. She teaches regularly at Northside and our cross country clinics at external horse trials venues. She gives us wonderful and timely advice when we are out at competitions and also teaches at Pony Club because she wants to put something back into the movement that taught her "stickability" when she first started riding and competing. Northside benefits from this as many of us are parents of these young riders, they support our competitions and join our ranks as soon as they turn 14.





Our Environment—The Princess Anne Arena



The Club has always accepted prime responsibility for the upkeep of the grounds and strictly abides by the council wet weather policy. The committee work closely with the showground's ranger, Mr Brian Walker.

Northside has ceased to use the full cross country course for competitions due to concerns raised by the council and the committee members of the time during the previous submission in 2001. Instead we use parts of the course as a training ground and have constantly monitored our wear and tear on the surfaces.

No flora is ever removed by Northside. Working closely with the council's Rangers, a partnership that works particularly well, NRC and the Rangers keep a close watch on the grounds, maintaining them to a high standard.

Work during 2006 has included:

- Re-surfacing of existing access pathways (behind clubhouse and down and out of the water jump) was undertaken 2005/06 at Kuring gai's request with use of local crushed sandstone for environmental reasons to improve eroded areas, stability, aesthetics and safety (so horses don't injure themselves or trip on exposed rocks and holes etc)
- The water jump construction in late 2005 was designed and collaborated with Council to ensure correct material choice was made and that there would be no negative effect to adjoining local flora or fauna.
- In 2006 after the renovation of the water jump NRC volunteers re-planted endemic seedlings (species approved by Kur Ring Gai) directly surrounding the water jump which was then significantly supplemented by Council who came and planted at the bank adjoining the water jump.

Recently in 2006 Council recommended that during competition time we cordon off horse access to the Princess Anne area via the flag pole lawn and also via the path from the tie up yards. This has then been undertaken for every competition to make sure no damage is done to existing vegetation and especially the 'Duffys Forest Endangered Ecological Community'.



From the Horse's Mouth



When it comes to **participation**, *Equestrian (Horse Riding)* is at position no. 25 (10% = an upward trend!), in front of Touch Football, Martial Arts (8%), Ice Skating, Snow Skiing and Boarding (7%), Beach Volleyball, Indoor Cricket (6%), Track and Field, Australian Rules, Weightlifting, Badminton, Lawn Bowls, Hockey and Softball (5%).

(Source: Sweeney Sports Report 2003/2004. EFA website: http://www.efanational.com/site/equestrian/national/downloads/content/attachments/news/national_newsletter/)

Forthcoming Events

January 2007

- 26 Australia Day Dressage
- 28 St Ives Twilight Horse Show

February 2007

- 1 Thunderbirds are Go
- 4 Eventing—Combined Training
- 11 Showjumping Competition
- 24 Eventing Clinic @ Macarthur
- 25 Warringah Dressage Comp.

March 2007

- 1 Thunderbirds
- 3 Horsemanship Clinic
- 4 Gymkhana
- 11 Showjumping
- 18 Dressage—Members Comp

April 2007

- 5 Thunderbirds
- 8 Showjumping Comp.

21 & 22 April Copabella Showjumping Titles

Northside Hosts the Copabella Showjumping Classic a



spectacular spectator event—bring a picnic, bring your friends. Marquee service available—tickets available shortly—enquiries Jane Robinson Tel: 9949 3353

Northside Riding Club Committee
Wishes all Members and Friends of Northside
Members
A Very Merry Christmas, Safe Festive
Season
& much success for 2007!