

Waveleigh Super Nova

(aka Simon the Super Star)

13hh Australian Pony – Registered APSB

Simon first started ridden competition as a Show Pony – actually as a Show Hunter, as he is, we believe, the epitome of what a show hunter should be. In this field he has had multiple successes, having won the Show Hunter Championship at the APSB Stud Show, Runner Up Barastoc Show Hunter, Top 5 National Show Hunter of the Year in Sydney and finally Barastoc Working Hunter Champion.

An extremely sensitive pony, there was a bit of a hiccup early in his career, however he formed an excellent relationship with young Lauren Mackellar, a very sensitive talented rider who restored his confidence and set him on the path to success. Lauren was growing at a rate of knots and another talented young rider, Melissa Taafe, then took over the reins culminating in Runner Up Barastoc Show Hunter Pony.

Fran Cleland had long been an admirer of Super Nova and a member of his Fan Club and was looking for a pony for her granddaughter Jessica. It was a natural progression for Simon to move on to other activities as by this stage showing was becoming a bit mundane for him. He had shown an aptitude to all things, including jumping, at an APSB Activity Day some time previously and had won the overall Versatile Pony Section, winning or placing in every section. Both Jessica and Amy, Fran's older granddaughter, hit it off with Simon and the two girls had a fantastic time with him culminating in the Working Hunter win at Barastoc. They were also successful in Show Jumping and Horse Trials winning or placing on many occasions.

However, both girls were growing very fast and the time came for Simon to come home again to Waveleigh.

He had only been home a few weeks when friend, Sally Stelling, contacted me by email. I hadn't seen Sally for many years as our lives had taken different directions and we had lost touch with each other. Of course the first thing that happened was a "catch up" lunch at which Sally, having been a very successful EFA competitor on the bigger horses, expressed an interest in Pony Dressage. Well, of course, I mentioned that I had just the pony in the paddock – and Simon was launched into yet another phase of his career. Whilst many have spent a great deal of time and effort in bringing Simon to where he is today, it has been Sally who has put the final touches to his education.

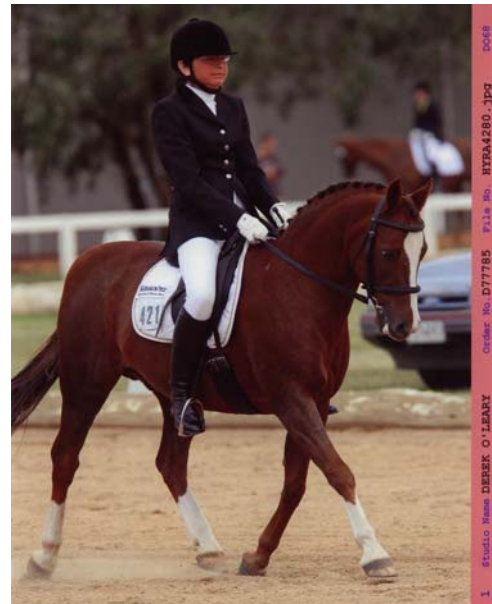
He currently has 73 EFA points from the seven competitions in his first season, six of which were at Elementary level and one Novice level. Five of these have been Open EFA competitions - not Pony or YR. In August 2007 he was invited to be part of the Berwick Dressage Club team at the Victorian Teams competition at Werribee Park where he was the highest scorer of the Berwick team – a thrill indeed for "Team Simon". In August 2007 he came third in his first Open EFA comp. Being timed to go first in the ring, he successfully competed against 23 horses. In February 2008 he won an Open EFA Novice comp at Werribee with a score of 71%, again having to be judged first, and against 27 "big" horses. Also in February 2008 he was placed 2nd in the inaugural Barastoc Performance Pony, again showing his versatility.

Sally had a time in hospital fairly recently and after returning to riding, Simon very carefully carried her until she regained her strength and not once did he take advantage of her, such is his sensitivity for reading a situation. He absolutely tries his hardest – he has developed such an affinity with her that he doesn't take his eyes off her when she is near him.

We sincerely wish that they enjoy many more competitions together – and to Sally, our heartfelt thanks for giving Simon yet another string to his bow. He is one very special pony and truly living up to his name and as someone recently said:

"Performance Pony par excellence – and beautiful with it"

Chris Hartigan



Postscript: Winner of EFA Medium Level at his latest outing against the "big" Dressage folk.