

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ANNUAL EQUESTRIAN SPONSORSHIP

Anne Honner Dressage Foundation to raise money in support of promising Australian dressage riders

SYDNEY 2 May, 2008 – THE Australian equestrian community received a boost today with the announcement of an exciting new Annual Sponsorship Award for up and coming Australian dressage riders.

The Award is being donated by a new foundation that has been set up in the memory of Anne Honner, an accomplished Australian dressage rider and national judge, who passed away two years ago.

The Anne Honner Dressage Foundation (AHDF) Award is open to Australian riders who are competing on Australian-bred horses that are trained by the rider to medium dressage level. Entries to the ADHF inaugural sponsorship award open this month with the winner to be announced in November 2008.

ADHF is a non-profit association established by Anne's friends and family. The Foundation's mission is to promote good basic dressage training in Australian bred horses, and to assist in their and their rider's further education.

A national committee has been set up to run the Foundation, and includes some of the Australian equestrian community's longest-standing members and supporters, including Dr Jennifer Scott (Chair), The Hon. Kevin Rozolli AM, saddler Les Benson, editor of The Northern News Jo Arblaster, Ron Miller, Stacy O'Toole and Anne's eldest daughter, Philippa Honner.

Dr Jennifer Scott said the Foundation aimed to raise money to help foster riders to the next stage of their competitive career. The committee hopes to build the scope of the annual award over time, with the support of the equestrian community as well as established sporting and community bodies.

“Anne was a tour de force in the dressage community and many riders - young and old, and across a range of disciplines - benefited from her energy and insights into the art of dressage,” Dr Scott said.

“We know Anne’s focus was all about getting the fundamentals of dressage right, and she was always available to challenge and support riders who were committed to their sport and worked hard to progress their competitive careers. This award is all about finding the ‘gems’ in Australian dressage – and giving a helping hand to talented riders who will benefit from a ‘leg up’ and hopefully go on to represent Australia, just like Anne did.”

The ADHF is also calling for members as well as individual and corporate sponsors to join the Foundation to help assist in fund raising for the Annual Award.

“The equestrian community consists of individuals and companies from all walks of life and we are encouraging people and organisations to dig deep to support the future of Australian dressage,” Dr Scott said.

About Anne Honner

Anne Honner became part of the Australian dressage community in the 1970s and was a key contributor to the development of the sport in Australia. Anne trained a number of Australian-bred horses and represented Australia at Goodwood in the UK, Arnhem in Holland, and was the reserve combination with Sydney Symphony for the World Equestrian Games in Stockholm in 1990. Anne was a accredited judge at Grand Prix level and shared her knowledge and expertise unstintingly. She taught at all levels of the sport – from pony clubbers to those seeking to achieve the highest level of competition. Most of all, she encouraged fortitude, determination and excellence.

About the Anne Honner Dressage Foundation

The About the Anne Honner Dressage Foundation is a non-profit organisation established to promote good basic dressage training in Australian bred horses, and to assist in their and their rider’s further education. The Foundation will donate a Sponsorship Award each year to an Australian rider competing on Australian-bred horse trained by the rider to medium dressage level. More information on AHDF can be found at www.annehonner.com



ANNE HONNER
DRESSAGE FOUNDATION

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