



What a feast for the senses ... three days of colour, entertainment, education, top class competition and a stunning collection of the best young horses which seem set to play an important role in the future of Australian Dressage and Showjumping as we seek to take our place as a dominant force internationally. Melbourne turned on her glorious specialty - clear sunny Autumn days, mid 20 degrees and just perfect for a horse show.

Dressage guest riding judge and visiting star was German triple Olympic Gold Medallist Monica Theodorescu. Monica gave a very interesting talk and demonstration on Thursday evening, titled ... Building Confidence. Unfortunately Monica was not well and by the end of her exhausting day on Friday, she had lost her voice and needed to stay in bed to recover. Fortunately, Danish Olympic rider Lone Jorgensen was in Victoria giving a clinic and was in the audience. Lone graciously took Saturday's Saddleworld Dressage Masterclass for Monica and we enjoyed her friendly, down to earth approach and perfect English.

Dressage (& Jumping) with the Stars has a long history for breaking new ground with innovation and entertainment and 2009 saw the inaugural awards for Dressage Ponies. The ponies were lovely and the eventual winner was the delightful buckskin Kaluda Gold ridden and trained by Carolyn Henley.

The 4yo Young Dressage Horse winner was Dr Kerry Mack's Brentano 11 stallion, Mayfield Be Brave who was well ridden by Brya Law. The 5yo Young Dressage Horse winner was Belcam Cadel ridden by Bianca Barnes. The 6yo Young Dressage Horse winner was Mary & Rob Hanna's Shiraz Black ridden by Gitte Donvig. Shiraz Black was named the 2009 **Champion of Champions** for the 2nd Year in succession.

The Esther Bellis Trophy is for the highest placed horse when combining their placings in the Young Dressage Horse event and also the Young Jumping Horse competition. It is acknowledged by all that it is a very special horse that can undergo the training to be on top in both disciplines. This was awarded to Bellaire Cannavaro,



The Young Jumping horse judges were Arno Neessen (right) who has competed in 12 Nations Cup Teams for the Netherlands. He was joined by well respected Australian trainer, Brian Cheffers, who has been based in Belgium for many years, along with Australian International course designer, Leeson Sirett who kept the jumps interesting and safe, yet challenging enough to give the good horses a chance to shine. Arno Neessen also presented the Kentaur Jumping Masterclass.

The Four Year Old winner was James Harvey's Irish Sport Horse Patangas Oberon. Russell Johnstone won the Five Year Old Championship for 2009 on his chestnut gelding, Carlo. Six Year Old winner was Tim Clarke and Cherie Edmunds' Contango II mare, Coltango. The 7yo Young Jumping Horse winner and overall Champion was *Valhalla 3* owned by Des Russell.



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