

“The going was fantastic and the courses were good to ride. We had a great time and we’ll be back”

So seemed to be the consensus for the Gunnedah Show Society’s annual showjumping competition, run over the 8th – 10th May. Classes were large, and the ground staff worked very hard to get the large numbers through before daylight was lost.

The first day saw two rings running with Warren Priestly designing in Ring 1 and Greg Bartlett designing in Ring 2. Both designers set fair but challenging courses which required accurate riding.

Tamworth local Jade McCusker won the J.G. & R.K. Davidson Transport 1.05m AM5 with Ryan Towns from Moree placing second, Anna Kibble from Tamworth placing third, Dale Frew from Dubbo placing fourth and James Mooney from Kulnura placing fifth.

The National Bank 1.10m AM5 was won by local lad Justin Wilkinson, with Nicola Geddes from Armidale placing second, and fourth. Bonnie Martin from the Central Coast placed third and Gordon Filmer was fifth.

The Gordon Barry and Co 1.20m A2 was hotly contested. Brooke Campbell picked up the ribbon for first, with George Johnson placing second and fifth. Nicola Geddes again had a great round, placing third and fourth.

The Etcetera Skin Therapy & Beauty Junior A2 was won by Wilberforce local Elizabeth Koob and Moree lad Drew Towns placed second. Jade McCusker was seen in the winner’s circle again in third place, with Jake Hunter from the Hunter Valley placing fourth. Jack Maunder from Tamworth placed fifth.

The Stripes Asset & Stripes Engineering Services 1.30m class provided great viewing for the spectators gathered around the ring. George Johnson carried the day on Wondaree Sprite, followed closely by David Robertson on Sharpe Seal. Peter Carcary rode Poet’s Corner to third place and Grant Hughes followed on Blackall Park Atlantis in fourth. James Mooney jumped into fifth place on Invadon.

A swathe of young riders placed highly in the Korff & Co 1.20m A2 on Sunday: Jake Hunter was first, Georgie Harvey from Sydney placed second and Jack Maunder was third. Julia Hargreaves placed fourth and Brooke Campbell placed fifth.

Veteran competitor Colleen Brook from Wilberforce took out the Mags Boutique D Grade on Montango, with Dale Frew coming second on Lester. James Mooney appeared in the winners circle in third place on Flying Teddy, followed by Jade McCusker on Cheeky Babe in fourth place. Millie Clarke made the trip up from Bega and took out fifth place on Connolly’s High Time.

James Mooney finally took the blue in the NFS Agribusiness Pty Ltd C & D Grade Grand Prix on Invadon. Jono Berry from Sydney took out second on Little Cavalier and George Johnson placed third on Ozbred. The girls were not out of the running though, with Marissa Moore placing fourth on Prego and Krissie Harris from the Central Coast picking up fifth.

The Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club & R.W.Hyem Memorial A & B Grade Grand Prix was virtually a clean sweep for Grant Hughes. It certainly was a worthwhile first trip to Gunnedah for this Canberra local. He picked up first, second and third place

on Emmaville Ricochet, Blackall Park Atlantis and Yakkity Yak. Upper Hunter rider David Robertson was fourth on Sharpe Seal, George Johnson was fourth on Wondaree Sprite and Peter Carcary was sixth on BP Poets Corner.

The Namoi Valley Bricks & Joe Perkins Building Junior Grand Prix was run under lights and had some great junior riders up for contention. Jack Maunder jumped into first place on Cloncurry, with Jade McCusker riding Cheeky Babe into second place. Elizabeth Koob was third this time on Caesars's Palace, with Jack Maunder gaining fourth on Pacific Wave and fifth on Midnight Rock.

Sunday saw some smaller heights, giving riders the opportunity to bring out some of their younger horses. The Downes Family D Grade was won by Jade McCusker on Everything Equine Bella, with Jack Maunder placing second on Midnight Mist. Brodie Towns came third on Timely Gem and Dale Frew was fourth on Traker. Dungowan rider Lucy Munt jumped into fifth place on Dusty Aura.

The Prydes Easifeed 1.05m AM7 was won by Jake Hunter on veteran campaigner Oh I Say. Ryan Towns placed second on Hailey's Charm, with local rider Polly Witts picking up third place on Trooper. Sally Fardell and Sam Wynne travelled over from Dubbo and placed fourth and fifth on Desert Art and Segenhoe.

The Friends of Gunnedah Showjumping 90cm saw another win to Jake Hunter, this time on Shamrock. Kirsty Carroll placed second on Scooby Doo, with Georgie Gengos riding her new horse into fourth place. Lucy Munt continued to be in the money with third place on her new horse Classic Art and another fifth place on Dusty Aura.

Local rider Tom Witts went one better than his sister and took out first place in the Studio 33 Hair Stylists 60 cm AM7. He was closely followed by Sarah McArthur on Mr Hanks with Georgie Gengos improving her placing from fourth in the previous class to third in this one. Tamworth rider Toots Gilder had a fast round on her Mare Flamingo to take out fourth place, followed by Sarah McArthur on her other horse Woodrow.

Georgie Gengos finally picked up a blue at the end of the day in the Gunnedah Show Society Under 13yrs AM7. Local rider Brigitte Michel cantered into second place on Shiraz and Jake Hunter placed both third and fifth on Imperial Express and Annie. Tom Witts took Fancy Flag around again for a fourth place.

Ring 2 on the Friday saw large numbers go through the 0.45, 0.60m and 0.80 classes.

The Gunnedah Show Society 45cm AM5 was won by Lauren Hill, with Olivia Gallegos placing second, Sarah McArthur third, Kate Strang fourth and Charlotte Brooks fifth.

The Macleay Sport Horses 60cm A2 was won by Kirsty Carroll, with Jack Rice-Ward second, Sarah McArthur third, Jake Hunter fourth and Olivia Gallegos fifth.

The Donaldson / Spanwire A2 80cm was won by Brock Harvey riding the charmingly named Captain Cupcake, with Toots Gilder placing second, Sarah McArthur third, Jeremy Ayton fourth and Olivia Gallegos fifth.