



IVANHOE GRAMMAR SCHOOL EQUESTRIAN PROGRAMME

The Plenty Campus of Ivanhoe Grammar School has developed an extensive and unique Equestrian Program, providing a range of opportunities for students at the Campus as well as from the wider community. This program enhances the academic and co curricular offering, incorporating sport, VCE curriculum and community service.

The Campus is situated on over 50 hectares of land adjacent to the natural parklands of the Plenty River. It is ideally located, with a large number of students living in the surrounding semi rural environment, many of whom have horses or ponies and attend local pony clubs.

The Equestrian Program is coordinated by the Director of Equestrian Studies, Mrs Virginia Creed, who is an experienced International Dressage Judge, National Selector and Dressage Coach.

Equestrian activities initially involved training days only, organised by Mrs Creed. However, horses were soon identified as part of the Plenty Campus with displays and demonstrations at Open Days and mounted members of the School's Cadet Corps providing Guards of Honour at Anzac Day Parades and Cadet Passing Out Parades.

The Campus now has a fully integrated Equestrian Program, encompassing a wide range of activities for students from Prep to Year 12. These include Inter School Competitions, VCE/VET Equine Industry course and Riding Lessons. An Equestrian Support Group of interested parents was developed to assist with the running of these activities.



INTER SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

Ivanhoe Grammar School has provided the benchmark for Interschool Competitions throughout the state, and our students compete regularly at events run throughout the year. The School hosts two or three competitions each year, incorporating the Olympic disciplines of Combined Training, Dressage and Showjumping. These competitions regularly attract 180 – 200 students from over 40 schools throughout Victoria. Schools include Government and non-Government (Independent) Primary and Secondary schools as well as Catholic Primary and Secondary schools.

Equestrian Competitions are designed to give students the opportunity to represent their school, regardless of their age and standard of riding, and to strive towards their personal best. Events are supported by the School community - the Cadet Unit assists with parking and marshalling and catering and VCE Equine Industry students assist with the running of the events as part of their assessment. Proceeds (from entry registrations) assist with the development of facilities at the Campus.



In June 2005, invitations were extended to riders from New Zealand and South Africa to compete at the IGS Dressage Championships on borrowed horses. In February 2006, IGS students were invited to represent Australia in a Dressage Competition in Auckland, New Zealand.

VOCATION AND EDUCATION

Ivanhoe Grammar School has been instrumental in the development of the Certificate II in Equine Industry, through their Director of Equestrian Studies, and is acknowledged in the Course material available through VCAA. The course is nationally accredited and students completing it receive a Certificate II in Equine Industry as well as a studies score for their VCE ENTER.

The Certificate II in Equine Industry is a two-year course, offered to students at Years 10 & 11 or 11 & 12. Students are able to take this course as a subject for their VCE, encouraging students with an interest in the horse industry to stay at school and complete their VCE rather than leave to seek employment in the industry prior to Year 12.

With the horse industry being one of the highest employment industries in the country, students with this qualification can choose to continue their studies at a tertiary level in a range of areas, including Horse Studies, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural and Biological Science.



Ivanhoe Grammar School also offers the course to students from other schools in the local area, including Plenty Valley Christian School, Whittlesea Secondary College, LaTrobe Secondary College and Eltham College.

RIDING LESSONS

Riding lessons are offered to students during school hours as a co-curricular activity, providing opportunities for students to experience riding without the commitment of owning their own horse or pony. Ponies and gear are provided and students are given the choice of individual or shared lessons. A fully qualified NCAS Level 2 Coach provides these lessons to beginners as well as to more experienced riders.

FACILITIES – EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Equestrian facilities have developed at the Campus as a result of the fundraising activities of parents associated with the Equestrian Support Group, supported by the School

Administration. The centre measures 150m x 115m, a total of 1.725 Hectares, and includes an 80 X 80 metre sand all weather arena, 12 holding yards, a large classroom with a separate administration area, a catering container and an equipment storage area.

The Plenty Campus of Ivanhoe Grammar School has developed a unique Equestrian Program that provides opportunities for our own students, as well as those from other schools. The program also extends into the wider community for the Interschool Competitions.

