

# Richardson Eventing Update

BLAIR AND NIKKI RICHARDSON

August 2007

## UPDATE

### MAXIMUM OVERKILL



*Showjumping at Taupo*

**Tony Harris's Maximum Overkill** and Blair have teamed up again for a successful year so far with a win as members of the **2007 New Zealand team** at Taupo. The CCI\*\*\* Trans Tasman competition between Australia and New Zealand is held every second year.

This sensational result was quickly followed up with a 2<sup>nd</sup> placing at the Melbourne

CCI\*\*\* International 3DE and Blair and Max have now been selected for the 2008 Olympic Games development squad.



*Blair & Max representing New Zealand*

### HAKUNA MATATA

In conjunction with **Cate Plummer and Nigel Nichols**, Blair has purchased a 16.2hh chestnut thoroughbred gelding which will be named **Hakuna Matata** (after the laid back character in the Lion King). He will be aimed at beginning his eventing career next season.

### REVELWOOD GALILEIO

Blair has acquired the ride of a new mount belonging to **David and Amanda Shoobridge** of **Revelwood Warmblood Stud**. **Revelwood Galileio** (known as Magnum at home), is a black 16.3hh three year old warmblood / thoroughbred cross. This exciting new prospect is due to have his first start at the Scone One Day Event in September.

RICHARDSON EVENTING - 'WOOTTON' SCONE NSW 2337



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## KNIGHTRIDER

Nikki has not had the best of luck so far this year however things are about to change! Nikki has secured the ride on **Margot and Michael White's** new purchase of **Knightrider** (formerly known as Yogi). Nikki thinks Knightrider has got what it takes to win gold at her second Olympic Games. The combination finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their first competition at Camden in July.



**Ex-galloper an Olympic hopeful's mane chance**

UPPER Hunter horse breeder and equestrian competitor Blair Richardson says the thoroughbred he is training for the 2008 Olympics is a failed racehorse.

"I presume he was just not fast enough," Richardson said.

But in eventing, speed is not all a horse needs.

The New Zealander describes his Olympic mount, Maximum Overkill, as a good mover and a good jumper.

"That's what makes him good at eventing," he said.

Richardson is fine-tuning his and his horse's performance at events as far away as Warwick in Queensland and Adelaide, which may make or break their chance of competing in the Olympic three-day event, scheduled to be held in Hong Kong.

He hopes to be selected for the New Zealand team.

His wife Nikki competed for Australia at Atlanta and the two moved to Bunnan, near Scone, about seven years ago.

They have begun breeding horses that are part thoroughbred and part Warmblood.

Warmbloods have a reputation for dressage and showjumping and a thoroughbred would bring the qualities of speed and endurance to the cross, Richardson said.

"People are starting to get into that, breeding purpose-bred horses for the sport," he said.

Eventing is a three-phase competition highlighting dressage, cross-country and showjumping.

"It is really hard to find a horse that is good at all three," Richardson said. "It is difficult to train a horse to be brave and bold but also careful to leave the show jumps up."

**QUICK NUZZLE:** Nikki, left, and Blair Richardson with Yogi on their property at Bunnan, near Scone. — Picture by Peter Stoop

— Frances Thompson

Newcastle Herald 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007

For further information contact Blair and Nikki on (02) 6545 4111.

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