



Richardson Eventing Update

Winter 2008

Blair and Nikki Richardson

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Blair and Nikki Richardson have certainly hit the ground running this year, after plans went awry last spring as a result of the Equine Influenza outbreak, which scuttled Blair's plan to take Maximum Overkill to the Australian International CCI*** event in Adelaide.

Maximum Overkill, owned by long-time supporter Tony Harris, made the winning New Zealand Trans Tasman CCI*** and backed up that effort with an emphatic second in the Melbourne CCI***. That performance resulted in this exciting combination being

long-listed for the New Zealand Olympic team for Beijing.

But the subsequent cancellation of Adelaide International in November left Blair and Max



Vantage Hill at Middlebrook Road in Scone

"all dressed up with nowhere to go!"

In fact, Blair and Nikki had their work cut out for them because, along with Max and Nikki's extremely promising young horse Knight rider, they

were caught in the infamous lockdown at the Warwick World Cup event in late August. After this character-building experience that lasted 39 days, Blair and Nikki eventually returned home on October 3. With typical resilience, the couple picked up where they left off. The pair have wasted no time regaining lost momentum. Blair has a busy schedule with clinics throughout NSW and Queensland, and has just returned from Warwick after competing on July 26 and 27 to finish sixth in Pre Novice on impressive young prospect Ngatamea Beer – how fast the year has gone!

Moving right along...

Blair and Nikki, and sons Oscar, 5, and Charlie, 3, relocated in April to the heart of the Horse Capital. Richardson Eventing headquarters is now the superbly-appointed equine property Vantage Hill on Middlebrook Road in Scone.

The property has commanding views of the Hunter Valley and is adjacent to Scone Racecourse, which has excellent amenities including an equine swimming pool – an ideal location for Richardson eventing to expand into pre-training, breaking and educating thoroughbred racehorses.

Blair and Nikki have built a 60m x 40m arena boasting state-of-the-art Capricorn soiltex surfacing. Vantage Hill features 12 boxes, a round-yard, eight small paddocks and two expansive

spelling paddocks as well as plenty of room to ride. "With the creek flowing through the property we are able to get all the young horses used to water and there are flats on the other side of the creek to take pre-trainers for a good canter," Nikki says. "We



Cantering pre-trainers at Vantage Hill

have excellent hilly country to do fitness work, and the plan is to continue improvements with a 24m x 10m shed and more stables to meet demand. We are also excited about building some cross country training jumps," she said. Vantage Hill is less than five minutes from Scone township and most major thoroughbred nurseries in the district. As well as managing a flourishing pre-training business, the move has ensured Blair and Nikki's popularity for individual lessons and clinics in dressage, show-jumping and cross-country, and short and long-term training for horses at all stages is rapidly increasing.



Now in Australia



Pre-training breaking-in spelling schooling lessons

Exciting future for Nikki and Knightrider



Nikki Richardson has several exciting young prospects

“Blair lost a lot of ground last year with the cancellation of Adelaide, but it was out of our hands,” - Nikki Richardson.



Enjoying the water at Vantage Hill

Blair and Nikki's considerable expertise has ensured their new pre-training service tailored for thoroughbred racehorses has become rapidly established. But the dynamic couple have naturally relished a return to competition in 2008, kicking off at Camden in February and competing in Sydney the same month, Berrima and Scone in March, Scone and Quirindi in May and

Sydney again in July, before Blair made a quick trip to Warwick with Ngamatea Beer.

Nikki is very excited to be aboard Knightrider, a horse she half-owns in partnership with Margot White.

The five-year-old has placed at every one of four Pre-Novice events this season before stepping up to CNC* at his fifth outing, finishing second in dressage and a

creditable 11th overall.

“Knightrider is my up-and-coming superstar and I am now aiming him for Sydney CCI* in September, with Camden CIC* at the end of August as a lead-up,” Nikki enthused.

Nikki has also competed with consistent success on several youngsters at introductory and preliminary level as she works toward building up a fresh new team.

Adelaide International is 2008 goal

Blair has his sights firmly set on the Adelaide International Event from November 14 to 16 with Maximum Overkill, who also began this year at Camden with a fifth in the CNC*** before winning the CIC*** at Berrima on March 9.

Blair opted to withdraw this seasoned veteran from Warwick due to a minor setback, and by campaigning Max sparingly, Blair is confident the pair will make their presence felt in Adelaide. “He has had a good year so far and hopefully he can go well at Adelaide,” said Blair.

After achieving an outstanding dressage result

at Scone CIC*** in March with Max, Blair focussed on the Bates Sydney International 3DE with Max finishing ninth in the CCI*** and Clifton Zengarie finishing fifth in the CCI*.

Blair has also ridden Clifton Zengarie and Ngamatea Beer with pleasing results including first for Ngamatea Beer in Pre Novice at Quirindi and third placings for Clifton Zengarie in CNC* at Quirindi and Sydney in July.

Clifton Zengarie is only quite young and he is performing very consistently,” says Blair. “Ngamatea Beer has just come over from New

Zealand and he is showing a lot of promise, he is aiming for his first CCI* this year either in Sydney or at Lakes and Craters in Victoria,” he added.

“We also have several young horses we are pleased with as well as Cate Plummer and Nigel Nichol's horse Monkey, who was injured in the paddock last year but is coming back in to work and will compete at preliminary level at the end of the year,” he said.

“We are thrilled to be back competing and we would like to thank our sponsors so much for their continued support,” Blair concluded.

New website for Blair and Nikki

Richardson Eventing will soon launch a brand new website featuring all the latest news and pictures of Blair and Nikki, their established stars and the rising stars: keep an eye out for www.richardsoneventing.com!