

Peter Haydon the horse festival's VIP

THE 2009 Scone and Upper Hunter Horse Festival VIP is Peter Haydon.

Peter is a fifth generation member of the Haydon family of Bloomfield, Blandford which was established by the first Peter Haydon in 1832.

The Haydon horses at Bloomfield have the unique claim of being bred by the same family on the same property since the early 1830s.

The horses in the stud today are grouped into families which trace, mother to daughter, to the original foundation mares.

The Haydon family has for six generations had a strong association with horses. Each generation has produced well recognised horsemen in their fields and they have ridden and performed with horses bred at Bloomfield.

A close relationship with his father, FB (Jim) Haydon, who was recognised as one of the county's top horseman, they shared a passion for horses which meant that he was successfully involved with horse competitions and from an early age. He participated in pony club, jumping, eventing, cutting, roping, campdrafting and polo.

While at University of NSW doing a Bachelor of Commerce, Peter maintained a keen interest in horses, attending thoroughbred sales and races in Sydney.

Before lectures, he had a job at Randwick riding, educating and pre-training young thoroughbreds. As Haydon horses had always been bred with at least three-quarter thoroughbred blood,

Peter has always kept up his interest in thoroughbreds and is very knowledgeable on pedigrees.

During holidays, his father continued Peter's ongoing horse tuition. In 1974 and 1975, Peter attended schools with Hubert Eichinger, head rider from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna where he learnt some of the finer points of horsemanship.

Returning home from university and working in business in Sydney, Peter competed in campdrafts winning at all levels and played polo, winning numerous pony prizes. He took on the role of president of the Murrumbidgee Bushmans Carnival while still only in his 20s and celebrated its Golden Jubilee carnival while holding that position.

With the formation of The Australian Stockhorse Society, the Bloomfield horses were all entered into the stud book. Peter was one of the early Classifiers, involved in judging and performing their Haydon Horse Stud horses with success. In 1989, he accepted an offer to play polo and manage the polo stable of HRH Prince of Wales in England. During this time, young horses bred by HM the Queen and based at the Royal Mews, Windsor Castle, were started and trained by Peter who also played polo on them. They achieved great success in 1991 at the Royal Windsor Horse Show with Peter winning the Light and Heavyweight Polo pony classes plus the Championship and Champion Turned Out Polo Pony.

It was also a memorable day for the Australian's abroad as the Champion horse ridden by Peter was an Australian Stock Horse. It was also the first time the horses from the Royal Mews had won these events.

During the early 1990s, Peter played professional polo at Guards Polo Club, Windsor, England where he won many competitions while also being involved in the management of the teams and horses. During this time Haydon Horse Stud conducted on-property sales of their horses which saw them go onto perform around Australia. In 1994, he judged at the Royal Windsor Horse Show and in September he returned home with his family back to Bloomfield Homestead. They continued breeding, training and playing polo on their home bred horses. In 1996, the Bloomfield Team consisting of Peter and his three sons Henry, Nick and David played in a tournament at Scone. Recently the stud has sold a colt to America and continued to sell horses to play in England.

In 1995, with his

wife Ali, Peter started the Scone Junior Polo and he has been president ever since. From its start with just 12 junior players it has grown to be the biggest polo coaching school of its kind in Australia with over fifty young players attending each year. These junior players have now gone on to represent Australia and play overseas.

Peter is currently president of Scone Polo Club which has the most playing members of any Club in Australia.

Last year after rolling his vehicle down a steep hill at Scotts Creek sustaining many breaks and injuries, he was faced with the Doctors prognosis that his riding days were over. However, after a determined recovery Peter is back riding and playing again. Peter has been very prominent in leading the campaign to preserve the local horse industry and Scone's place as the Horse Capital of Australia. He has particularly focused on the importance of not letting mining interfere with our waterways, which are vital to the ongoing prosperity of our horse industry.



CHAMPION OF LOCAL HORSE INDUSTRY:
Peter Haydon, a fifth-generation member of the Haydon family from Bloomfield, Blandford, has been named as the Scone and Upper Hunter Horse Festival VIP for 2009.