

## **IVANHOE TAKES EARLY LEAD IN ISJ 2017 SERIES RACE**

Led by star equestrienne Jessica Grant, Ivanhoe Grammar won its first ever ISJ Schools Trophy at the Summer Show held at Ayr Hill last Friday. On a day when more than 250 interschool riders from 83 schools competed for top honours, the small but talented team of Ivanhoe riders sent a signal to reigning champions Toorak College that they will be a force to be reckoned in 2017. In what is now the premier show jumping event on the interschool calendar, riders turned on a great spectacle of jumping in their endeavour to earn early points in this year's Championship race.

The top level Stars class was won by Jasmine Dennison, Toorak's equestrian captain. Fresh from her trip to New Zealand as part of the Australian Young Rider team, Jasmine jumped clear all day aboard the talented Nicolossi to take the Champion rosette. Ivanhoe's Jessica Grant was Reserve Champion on Blackall Park Surprise in what was a most impressive debut at the ISJ Stars level. Last year's champion and Jasmine's sister Chloe ran third for Toorak College on the evergreen Fosbury Flop. The Stars class featured a number of new riders who have graduated through the ISJ ranks, demonstrating the ISJ does indeed help young show jumpers reach greater heights!

Darcy Wade, another Australian representative, won the Advanced section representing Gippsland Grammar. Darcy and his quick mount Westley Maxamillian again took home the Snow Spider trophy in the Two Phase class, and his second place in the Grand Prix was enough for him to be crowned overall Champion. Bronte Hutchison, one of the sport's up and coming stars of the future, was Reserve Champion in her first ride at the Advanced Level. Bronte, riding for Haileybury and coached by Olympian Laurie Lever, won the Grand Prix to narrowly edge out Ivanhoe's Clancy Grant who scored valuable points for his school.

Jessica Grant followed up her excellent performance in the Stars to post a victory on her second horse in the Intermediate level. On another Blackall Park mount, Jess made a clean sweep of both classes, leaving Georgia Price riding the decorated TP Classic Act to take Reserve. Georgia was the leading rider for the Summer Show sponsor school Beaconhills College. ISJ veteran Georgia Batten was both third and fourth for Geelong College.

In the hotly contested Progressive level, Cassidy Neubauer scored more maximum points for Ivanhoe by taking the Champion's rosette, with primary school pocket rocket Hudson Craig showing he is one to watch by taking out second place. Harry Luxmore from equestrian powerhouse Braemar College was first and second in the Improvers, with Will Murray from Gippsland Grammar finishing third.

The Encourage class had an exciting finish with more than 20 riders making the Grand Prix jump-off. Isabella O'Donnell Fernando from Our Lady of Sion piloted Airsangraces to victory, with Chloe Durkin from Mirboo North Secondary claiming Reserve Champion. At the Primary Freshman level, Charlize Bradley from Flinders was the winner on Diana and Peninsula Grammar's Sienna Kasickis the runner-up.

The sportsmanship and competition throughout the day was tremendous at all levels. With so many young talented show jumpers emerging through the ISJ and the VEIS, the future of the sport in Victoria looks healthy!