

**\* \* Nicole Kullen Update – 31 July 2010 \* \***

**\* Nicole selected to represent AUS at the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games \***

NK WEG Selection News Update & Reports 31072010.pdf

Hi everyone

I know its been a long time since my last update, but I hope this news update will make up for that.

**I'm very proud to announce that after 3 very successful selection events where Nom & I won everything for our grade at all 3 events, we remain an unbeaten combination in Para Equestrian events in Australia & have been officially selected on the Australian Team to represent at the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Kentucky, USA in October this year.**

This is fantastic news. All our hard work has paid off!

But the hard work is definitely not over yet! We have all our final preparations & training in the lead up to WEG before leaving for overseas around 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

And, although we need a lot more, we have to find at least \$20000 to get me to WEG. There was a shortfall of Team funds so we need to pay part of the costs of the trip to WEG ourselves. *And if I cannot raise these much needed funds I wont be able to go, which would be absolutely heartbreaking!!*

This \$20000 doesn't include the extra \$thousands more I need as well to help with the costs that I've had & still will have in the lead up to the World Equestrian Games, but it's a starting point!

So I am searching for sponsors, supporters & generous donations to help me raise the much needed funds to get me to WEG. Your help is greatly needed & would be much appreciated..

If you or anyone you know may be interested, please contact me now as time is passing by very quickly, & we can discuss things further. But I have to say one thing I rarely admit... ***I need help!***

**You can contact us on:**

**Mobile: 041 825 8039 or Email: [nicole@nicolekullen.com](mailto:nicole@nicolekullen.com)**

Alternatively, if you would like to send a donation to help me get to the World Equestrian Games this September, you can either send it to the postal address listed or do a direct bank transfer into the bank account listed here below as well. For those requiring a tax deductible receipt, please send a request for receipt with Name & Address via email or post so we can send one back to you. Thanks :)

**Postal Address:**

P. O. Box 59  
KINGSWOOD N.S.W 2747  
AUSTRALIA

**Bank Account details for Direct Transfers:**

Account Name: Nicole Cassandra Kullen  
BSB: 012 429  
Account No: 4898 99831  
With reference as: Donation for Nicole Kullen's training

Also, with this great news of selection I thought I'd give you a report about our results from each of the 3 x WEG Selection Events that we've attended on this journey towards Team selection...

*I know it looks lengthy but they're definitely worth taking the time to read. So please read on at your leisure.*

**The WEG Selection Events were the:**

- CPEDI3\* International in Werribee, Victoria – 11-13 December 2009
- 2010 Equestrian Australia Para Equestrian National Championships in Toowoomba, QLD - 24-26 June 2010
- Equestrian Australia Para Equestrian Event - 2010 in SIEC, Horsley Park N.S.W - 16-18 July 2010



## REPORT ON WEG SELECTION EVENT #3 - SIEC 16-18 July 2010

Nikshar Nomination & I had an awesome comp at the Equestrian Australia Para Equestrian Event - 2010 that was held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC) Horsley Park, N.S.W on 16-18 July 2010.

This event was the 3rd & final selection event for Para Equestrian riders to gain scores towards being selected to represent Australia at the World Equestrian Games (WEG) to be held in Kentucky, USA later this year.

The event was held in conjunction with the 2010 Brighton Saddleworld NSW Young Rider Championships & Brighton Saddleworld Dressage NSW Open FEI event & the joining of these 3 events worked beautifully providing a very enjoyable atmosphere for everyone & proving how successful integration of ParaEquestrian Dressage with Open Dressage events can be achieved. The committee & all involved made it a great event.

Nom & I again had the awesome support of my team being my Mum Margaret & Groom/Rider Krysten at this event & I was so happy some of my family & friends were also able to attend & watch me compete over the 3 days of competition. Plus with our 4WD still being unusable due to the damage that happened in Queensland after the Nationals we were very fortunate to have the support of our mechanic & friend Shane & his wife Karen who leant us their 4WD so we could tow our float & get Nom to the comp. Plus our friend Mel who towed our float & took Nom back home to Bathurst for us after the comp & squad camp was finished.

It was also great some of my closest friends & family stayed around for the final presentation ceremony on Sunday & got to share the moment with me when I was officially announced as part of the Team to represent Australia at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky. It was a really nice & special moment to be able to share with them.

**Nom & I had a very successful competition winning all 3 of my Grades' tests with great scores ahead of the competition, plus I won 2010 Equestrian Australia ParaEquestrian Gr1b Champion.**

Along with winning all our tests & Gr1b Champion, Nikshar Nomination & I received an award for winning the *'Highest Score % achieved at the comp'* after scoring 74.545% in my FEI PE Gr1b Team Test on the first day of competition. The award was given to me during the presentation ceremony on the first day of competition (16th July) & I was really happy to have achieved that as it was an added bonus I didn't expect.

### My Results for this EA Para Equestrian Event - 2010 & WEG Selection Event # 3 were:



- \* Day 1 = FEI PE Gr1b Team Test - 74.545% 1st  
*Plus received an award for winning the 'Highest Score % achieved at the comp' after scoring 74.545% in my FEI PE Gr1b Team Test.*
  - \* Day 2 = FEI PE Gr1b Individual Championship Test - 69.710% 1st
  - \* Day 3 = FEI PE Gr1b Freestyle to Music Test - 74.000% 1st  
*Plus one of the judges gave us a 79% for our Artistic Marks Section which was great*
- \* \* Winner of the 2010 EA Para Equestrian Gr1b Champion \* \***

**Then to top the comp off I was announced as one of the riders selected for the 2010 WEG Team for Kentucky! It's funny; I'm really excited but scared all in one.**

After the comp we had a 2 day National Squad Camp which went well & then we decided to give Nom, Mum & I 2wks off as its been a long & hectic campaign towards gaining selection for WEG, & now we know we're in, it was the best time to have 2 wks off before getting back into fulltime training when there'll be no time off between now & WEG.

Unfortunately my first week & a half off so far I've been stuck in bed sick with a throat/chest infection that I picked up at SIEC & still have now, so that's been a bit of a bummer as I haven't got to do as much as I'd hoped during my break time at home, but it's starting to clear up now after a 2 good doses of antibiotics.

***So now all the final preparations towards WEG have begun & things are going to get hectic.***

N.K

***But WEG here we come!***

## **REPORT ON WEG SELECTION EVENT #2 - Toowoomba, QLD 24-26 June 2010**

Nikshar Nomination & I competed at the 2010 EA Para Equestrian National Championships that were held in conjunction with the 2010 EA Young Rider National Dressage Championships on 24-26 June 2010.

The event was held in Toowoomba, QLD & it was a long drive there & back & the weather all week was quite cold. Even me who over heats was freezing on most days, so if I was cold, it must've been cold!!

One morning it was so cold at the showground that the stable shavings pile had ice on it & a dog that was camping at the grounds with one of the riders got his tongue stuck to ice when trying to have a drink in the morning.

But the long drive & bad weather although a problem in some ways, didn't hinder our performances. Nom & I again had an awesome & very successful event winning all 3 events for my grade with excellent scores, including winning the Gr1b National Freestyle Champion & the overall **2010 Equestrian Australia Para Equestrian Gr1b National Champion**, which I've done 2 years in a row now. So I was extremely proud of Nom & I to be able to retain the National title for another year.

I'm also very thankful for the support team I had with me there. I had my new groom/rider Krysten who has come onboard to groom for me at these last 2 selection events & then at WEG in Kentucky, plus my Mum Margaret who's always been my greatest support in so many ways. Our team worked really well & I'm excited about our future together for WEG. Plus it was great to have family & friends from Queensland there to watch & support me whilst I was competing as well.

### **My results at the 2010 Equestrian Australia Para Equestrian National Championships were:**

- \* Day 1 = FEI PE Gr1b Team Test - 69.697% 1st  
*Plus I was 1 of the 3 NSW riders in the State Team & we won & are now the 2010 National State Teams Champions. The same 3 of us also won this title at the 2009 National Championships, so that's another National title we've achieved 2 years in a row :)*
- \* Day 2 = FEI PE Gr1b Individual Championship Test - 71.449% 1st
- \* Day 3 = FEI PE Gr1b Freestyle to Music Test - 73.750% 1st  
*(2010 Gr1b National Freestyle Champion)*
- \* \* Winner of the 2010 EA Para Equestrian Gr1b National Champion \* \***

Unfortunately after a great event & National Squad Camp, Mum & I got stuck at Toowoomba when our 4WD broke down the night before we were meant to leave for home.

Thankfully my uncle drove from his place a few hours away from where we were located & took Krysten & Nikshar Nomination back home to NSW for us which was a huge help, by towing our float with his 4WD. It was a very long trip for him to do there & back, so both Mum & I are extremely grateful for his help as it could've been disastrous otherwise.

Mum & I still ended up stuck in Toowoomba for another day whilst they tried to sort out the problem with our car as it was completely unusable, but in the end we managed to get a hire care for a few days so we could at least get ourselves home but its not looking good for our car at all as its looking like we'll need a whole new engine.

Definitely not the best end to such a great & successful comp & I'm really not looking forward to the bill for the car as the estimate was quite high in the \$thousands & the costs will go even higher as they assess what full damage has been done..

But, thankfully though we eventually got home safe & so did the horse, & the car finally got delivered to our mechanic in NSW where it will unfortunately sit till we can find the money to pay for the repairs. But things are tight, especially with the money I need to find for WEG as well, so as I said; definitely not what we needed to happen! And another reason we really need to raise some funds as our 4WD is vital to my success & general living & training as well. *N.K*



## REPORT ON WEG SELECTION EVENT #1 – Werribee, Vic 11-13 December 2009

Nikshar Nomination & I had a great event at the CPEDI3\* in Werribee, VIC in December 2009. The event was the combination of the Saddleworld Dressage Festival/Victorian Dressage Championships & the CPEDI3\* International Para Equestrian Competition that was both an international WEG Qualifier event, as well as the first of three WEG Selection events for Australian riders to achieve scores towards gaining selection on the Australian Team to represent at the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Kentucky, USA in Sept/Oct 2010.

There were riders from Australia, New Zealand, Canada & Japan competing at the event as both Teams & Individuals all trying to get that qualifying score of 60% & for the Australian riders the added opportunity to reach their targeted selection scores as well.

Thankfully Nom & I had already qualified for WEG thru our performances at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, so in one way it was less of a stress on us as we didn't have that added worry, however we still had a lot of tough times & thoughts as this was the first major event in our campaign towards WEG Selection, so we wanted to make our mark & improve on our previous scores to help show we'd be a competitive combination if taken overseas. So a lot was riding on this event for us to make a good impression to both the selectors & the international judges who were here judging this event, & will also most likely be judging at WEG as well!

Whilst in Werribee for this event, we also had our EA National Squad Camp during the few days before the CPEDI3\* started. The camp went really well & was quite informative, plus there was a dinner for all riders & their support crews attending the para equestrian section of the event. It was a great way to get all the countries together to socialize & enjoy before we headed into the arena as competitors & it made for a great atmosphere.

We settled into Werribee, after a safe trip there which we spread out over 2 days, stopping half way at Tarcutta. Then after having a good start to our riding & sessions with experts at our camp, Mum & I got some very scary news that a bushfire was hitting hard in our area & the fires were only 5km's from our home near Bathurst, NSW.

It was extremely upsetting news & even more worrying when we later heard that there were 2 people already fighting for their lives after being caught in the fire. However, we had to stay strong & focus on why we were here & what had to be done, because there was no way for us to get back to help at all & we were here for a very important reason. So even though it was hard, we kept going. Plus we received constant updates on the fire situation from back home & although it got quite close, all turned out well & the fire was eventually stopped, & thankfully before it reached our property. It was a HUGE relief when we finally got the call to tell us the fires had finally been stopped.

This event was also an important milestone in the history of our sports as this was the first time Equestrian Australia had held a Para Equestrian & EA Dressage event combined together as one.

I think a few able-bodied's were concerned at first about how their horses would react to the sight of all the motorized wheelchairs & scooters around the grounds, but things worked well together & the integration of the two dressage sports into one was a huge success. *I'm sure seeing me put my prosthetic legs on beside the arena was a sight for some too.*

The committee & all involved did a wonderful job & hopefully this will help to continue the joining of these sports in the future & help to show others it is possible & how successfully it can be done & what enjoyment everyone involved from either sport can have when brought together.

### **Our results at the CPEDI3\* International were:**

Nom & I WON ALL 3 of our tests over the comp with 70+% scores every time.

- \* Friday 11 Dec 2009 - FEI PE Gr1b Team Test - 71.412% - 1st
- \* Saturday 12 Dec 2009 - FEI PE Gr1b Individual Championship Test - 70.857% - 1st
- \* Sunday 13 Dec 2009 - FEI PE Gr1b Freestyle to Music Test - 74.445% - 1st

**\* \* Winner of the CPEDI3\* International Gr1b Champion \* \***

***Our final Freestyle score of 74.445% was 8.426% in front of 2nd place.***  
*Plus one of the international judges gave me 80% for my Artist Marks section which I was ecstatic about as it's the second time an international judge has given me the fantastic score of 80% or over for the Artistic Marks section in the Freestyle to Music Test.*



**REPORT ON WEG SELECTION EVENT #1 – Werribee, Vic 11-13 December 2009 continued...**

Plus this international judge was a highly respected judge from Belgium, & he even spoke with me after the competition had all finished & personally congratulated me on my win & on such a great test. I felt very honored by his comments & praise. It's always nice to hear good things about your riding from such highly regarded international judges. Plus he liked my music which was great as I actually put all my freestyle music together myself.

***At the event we were also 1 of 4 combinations selected to represent Australia in the CPEDI3\* International Teams Event which we/AUS WON.***

*There were teams of riders from Australia, New Zealand, Canada & Japan competing & I have to say listening the Australian Anthem play whilst standing beside my team mates during the mounted presentation was a great feeling. Unfortunately though Nom didn't quite handle the applause afterwards & put on a bit of a show during the lap of honor cutting it short, but thankfully all the girls were very understanding.*

***Plus after winning all 3 of our grade's events,  
Nikshar Nomination & I won CPEDI3\* International Gr1b CHAMPION***

I'm so excited as it's a great way to start our campaign towards selection for WEG 2010 being able to achieve such good scores ahead of my competitors both local & international who were competing here.

But my results don't mean I can rest. I plan on working very hard to try to stay ahead of my competition here in Australia for the rest of the selection events, plus to improve on my scores so that our performances improve to a higher standard which will help put us in a better position when we compete overseas.

So this journey towards WEG 2010 has definitely only just begun. And it looks like its going to be an amazing ride!!

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***... Thank you so much for taking the time to read these reports ...***

**And remember...** I'm searching for sponsors, supporters & generous donations to help me raise the much needed funds to get me to 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG)

You've just read about only some of the hard work I've done over the past year to get selected.

Now I need your help to get me the rest of the way...

So, if you or anyone you know may be interested in helping in any way please contact me now as time is passing by very quickly & we can discuss things further.

**You can contact us on:**

**Mobile: 041 825 8039 or Email: [nicole@nicolekullen.com](mailto:nicole@nicolekullen.com)**

Alternatively, if you would like to send a donation to help me get to the World Equestrian Games this September 2010, you can either send it to the postal address listed or do a direct bank transfer into the bank account listed here below as well. For those requiring a tax deductible receipt, please send a request for receipt with Name & Address via email or post so we can send one back to you. Thanks :)

**Postal Address:**

P. O. Box 59  
KINGSWOOD N.S.W 2747  
AUSTRALIA

**Bank Account details for Direct Transfers:**

Account Name: Nicole Cassandra Kullen  
BSB: 012 429  
Account No: 4898 99831  
With reference as: Donation for Nicole Kullen's training



**Again, thank you very much for your time. And look out Kentucky, here we come!**

***This is going to be an amazing ride...***

***Are you going to be part of it??***