

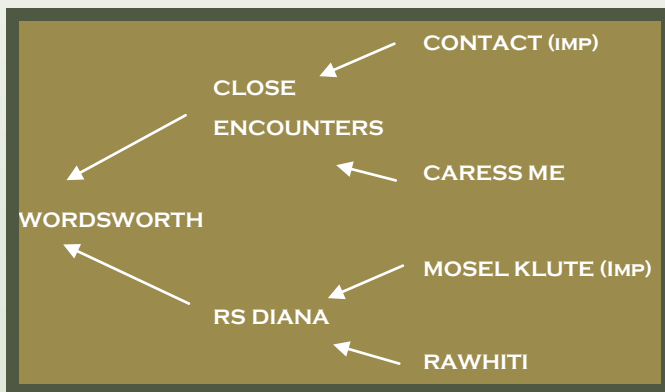
Greetings from William!

August 2010

Most of you probably know by now that I lost my beloved Chief from a heart attack last Christmas. It was all very sad and I simply can't thank enough all the wonderful people who sent me the most divine cards, letters and words of support (although they did make me cry my eyes out). It's nearly a year later and I still miss him most dreadfully, but I am lucky enough to be blessed with another beautiful young fellow William, who is just starting out on his show career.

Wills is an Australian bred warmblood, who I met and fell in love with when he was less than a week old. He was bred by Andrew Inglis and Jenny Sheppard who you will remember were showjumping 'The Chief' for me for a number of years.

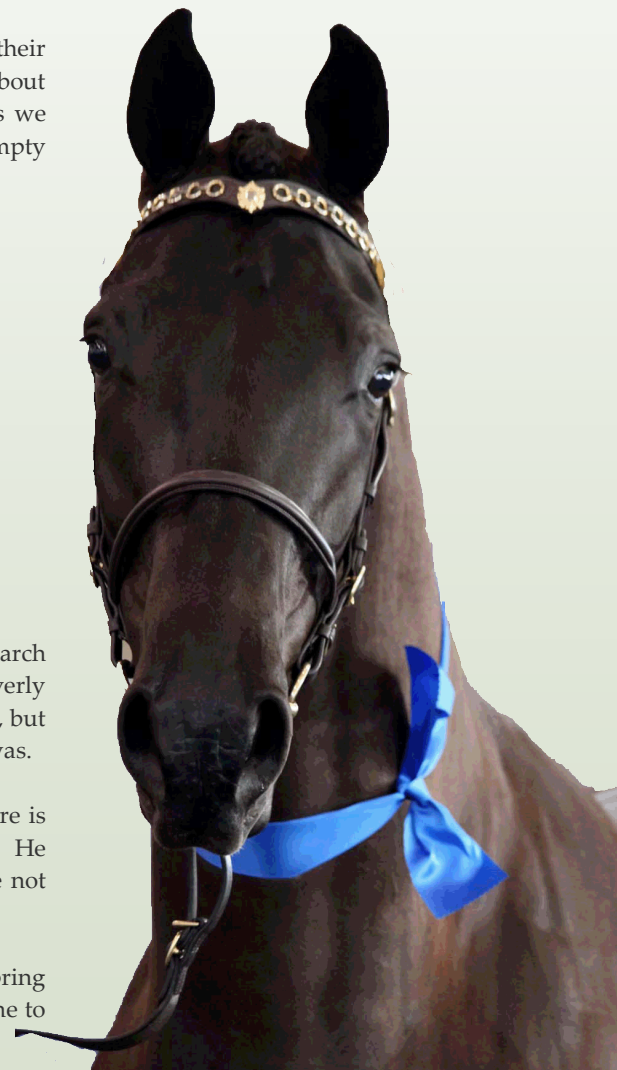
At the property they were living on back then, we had to walk through their huge broodmare paddock in order to get to the jumping arena. In it were about 15 mares with their foals, all of whom gave us hopeful looks of food as we passed by, but who quickly lost interest when they saw we were empty handed. All except young William, that is.



At about a week of age, he would leave his mum and all his mates and march straight over to anyone passing by to say giddyay. It wasn't that he was overly confident exactly (in fact he bursts into tears if anyone gets cross with him), but in the strangest sort of way it seemed like he already knew who everyone was.

I don't want to sound too weird and hippy on you all, but I'm sure if there is such a thing as reincarnation, then William has definitely been here before. He seems quite certain that people mean carrots and scratches and if they're not forthcoming, then it comes as a very big shock to his system.

Anyway, with an introduction like that of course I had no choice but to bring him home. So as soon as he was old enough to be weaned, he headed home to Kenthurst (NSW Hawkesbury region) to live with me.



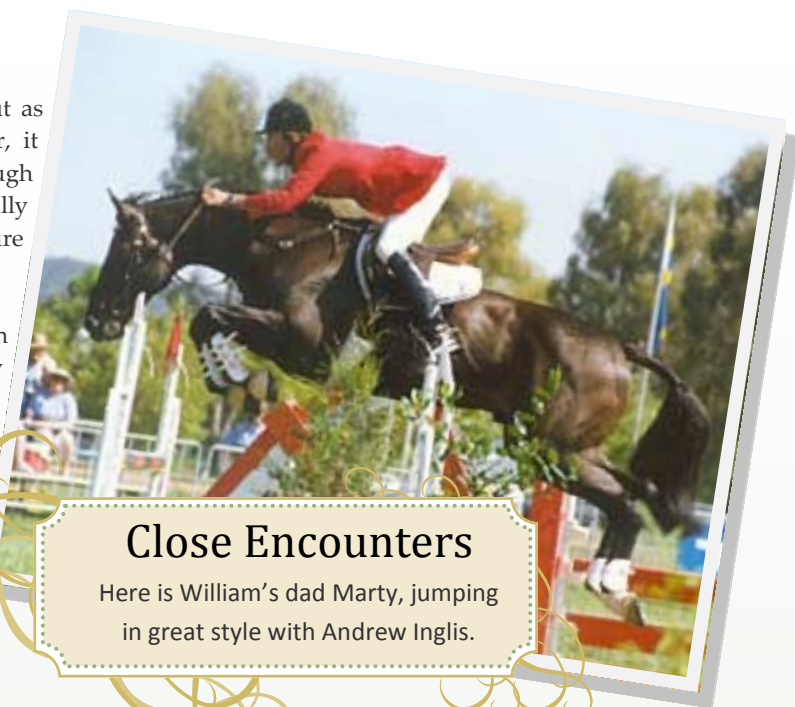
It's been lovely watching him grow and mature, but as I've been without a riding horse for nearly a year, it seems to have taken forever for him to grow old enough to be ridden; but at long last, here we are. Wills finally turned three late last April, and he's now mature enough to start doing a little bit with.

His breeding is in jumping horses all the way down his line and owning a star show jumper was certainly what I had in mind when I bought him. He's by the well-known World Cup show jumper Close Encounters, who was a very successful competitor with both Andrew and Jenny, and his mum is out of jumping super-star Rawhiti, campaigned around the country by Vicky Roycroft.

With such strong jumping bloodlines, I was pretty confident his career path was all set, but as he's grown, he's gotten prettier and prettier and I couldn't resist taking in him out to a show!

In July of this year I took him out for his first event, the NSW Gala Warmblood Show, where all the state's finest sport horses are on display. I went out expecting very little in the way of prizes, as to me he is the most unlikely looking warmblood you've ever seen. Anyone would imagine he's either full thoroughbred, or even perhaps has a dash of English Riding Pony thrown in.

Anyway, to my great surprise and delight William, now officially christened Wordsworth, was sashed as "Best Australian Bred Exhibit in Show". What a wonderful start to his competition career!



Close Encounters

Here is William's dad Marty, jumping in great style with Andrew Inglis.



CPG WORDSWORTH

My plans with him for the rest of the year are to take him out for his led classes at as many shows as I can, hopefully gaining enough performance to qualify him for the Melbourne Summer Royal and Canberra Royal Shows.

Unfortunately Sydney no longer has warmblood classes, so it does mean travelling a bit further afield for the more prestigious events. After that he will compete all year under saddle as a "Newcomer Hack", which will hopefully give him a brilliant grounding before he heads off show jumping just before he turns five.

I'll keep you all posted as to how we are going with all our successes and failures, ups and downs and highs and lows that are all part of the joys of horses.

Best wishes to you all

Jody and William xxx