

Maddy makes her mark

TEEN TAKES OUT TWO FIRST PRIZES AT TAMWORTH COMP

Danielle Nicastrì

A LOVE of ponies wasn't a passing phase for Year 9 Loreto Normanhurst student Maddy Nelson.

After almost 10 years of horse riding lessons since she was in kindergarten, Maddy received a horse of her own two years ago.

And training almost every day has paid off.

Maddy won two first places at the Inter-Schools Horse Extravaganza held in Tamworth from October 17 to 20.

The places were for overall dressage champion for division A and first place in the One Day Event senior division EVA 80.

"I was happy with all my results given all the training I did, so it was really pleasing," she said.

"If you work hard and train your own horse, you get a special connection," she said.

"Riding it every day allows you to grow a strong bond and a strong trust.

NEXT UP

Maddy will next represent her school when she competes in the New England Girls School Competition One Day Event from November 7 to 8 in Armidale.

"He definitely puts in 100 per cent each time."

The results made for a stark difference from October last year when Pete, her New Zealand thoroughbred, had a fall.

The accident left him with a bone-deep gash to one of his knees.

It was more than three months of rehabilitation before Maddy could return her horse to training.

Ordinarily, Pete receives a monthly chiropractor visit and acupuncture session and occasional massage.

"It's such a unique sport," she said.

"When everything goes right, and a lot can go wrong, (winning) is so rewarding."



Loreto Normanhurst student Madelyn Nelson at Tamworth. Picture: SAMANTHA BOURNES PHOTOGRAPHY