

PERSONAL RESUME

Name: Nicki Stuart

Educational History

1982: Higher School Certificate, New England Girls' School, Armidale NSW. (Dux of Horse Masters' Course)

1988: Bachelor of Arts, Sports Studies (Journalism), Canberra College of Advanced Education.

Further Qualifications and Study

- * Diploma of Equitation Science <https://www.esi-education.com/courses/diploma/>
- * Level One NCAS Coach – Equestrian
Swimming
Basketball
- * Certificate IV Workplace Trainer and Assessor
- * Equestrian Australia (EA) – Skills Specific Trainer and Assessor
- * Tertiary and Further Education(TAFE) - 'Train the Trainer' Certificate
- * Senior First Aid
- * Conflict Resolution
- * Photography
- * Mechanics
- * Bronze Medallion in Lifesaving
- * Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Medallist

Voluntary Work and Professional Development

- * Riding for the Disabled
- * Modern Pentathlon (ACT Branch)
- * EA (SA Branch) Eventing Sub-Committee
- * Media Liaison and Sponsorship – Tarcutta (NSW), Wirrina (SA),
and Grand Cru Horse Trials (SA)
- * SA Dressage Association/Mount Crawford Dressage Club
- * Equestrian Training with international level coaches
- * Board member and Chair – Human Elephant Learning Programs www.h-elp.org

Relevant Work History

1992 – Present: Proprietor/Principal Instructor
Kersbrook Equestrian Centre, South Australia

Development and management of an equestrian business which provides training for riders and horses, as well offering agistment and hosting shows, events and clinics.

Course Presenter: TAFE Principles of Riding
Principles of Teaching
ESA Horse Management

Media Manager: Adelaide International Horse Trials

Coach Assessor: Horse Riding Coach.com
Australian Horse Riding Centres Assoc.

Coaching: Riding School, Pony Club, Individual

Freelance Reporting: The Horse Magazine, Hoofbeats, Horses & People magazines

DVD Production: Scriptwriter, Camera Operator & Editor for 'Academic Horse Training' as developed by Andrew & Manuela McLean

Specific Equestrian Experience

Background:

I showed an independent interest in horses at an early age and began riding at age 7, attending various riding schools around Australia and overseas, in locations where my father was posted with the Australian Army. I was employed as a 'junior instructor' at Canberra's Forest Park Riding School.

My final four years of high school were at the New England Girls' School where studies were undertaken equivalent to the British Horse Society's Assistant Instructor. The school's Horse Masters' course required students to break in their assigned horse, to train a range of horses for the Olympic disciplines, to participate as a competitor in various equestrian activities, volunteer with Riding for the Disabled, conduct in depth studies in areas of interest (mine being equine biomechanics and physiology) and to have a direct involvement in horse management.

On graduating from high school, I worked on thoroughbred studs in Queensland and New South Wales, acting as stud hand and preparing yearlings for sale. My tertiary study and subsequent career as a broadcast journalist with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation then took precedence. However, throughout these years I trained a number of horses and competed successfully in Dressage, Show Jumping, and Eventing.

In 1992, my family and I established Kersbrook Equestrian Centre which enjoys a reputation for its well-presented facilities, the promotion of horse welfare on every level of horse-human interactions, training informed by evidence based principles and techniques, and the development of rider excellence.

Competition

I have competed in the Olympic disciplines of Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing for more than three decades. Levels attained are Medium, Open C Grade and CCI*, respectively. I have strapped and ridden at Three Day Events and strapped at the Tom Quilty endurance ride and for a World Cup show jumper.

While currently enjoying a 'career-break' from active competition I remain aware of developments in equestrian sport and am mindful of competition demands when working with students who have this focus.

Training of Horses and Riders

After attaining my EA Coaching Level One(G) I managed the daily operations of our riding school and was Principal Instructor for 15 years. Through this time I developed a systematic approach to skill acquisition for beginner riders, honed my knowledge and application of rider biomechanics and refined my ability to improve horses and riders. I was contracted to assess trainee instructors by the principals of the registered training organisation, Horse Riding Coach.com. During this time I also became interested in equitation science and was accepted as a full member of the International Society for Equitation Science. www.equitationscience.com This society promotes research and the application of its findings to promote the welfare of horses in all aspects of their interactions with humans. The riding school was wound up in 2007. This shift also resulted in my being a joint founder in 2010 of the H-ELP Foundation, which delivers evidence-based training principles & humane methods to the handlers of captive Asian elephants. www.h-elp.org

For the past decade my focus has been on foundation training and the integration of equitation science into mainstream equestrian pursuits, necessarily including education for horse owners in equine ethology, behaviour & evidence-based management. I have been invited to speak and facilitate workshops for Riding for the Disabled, Horse SA, Pony Clubs and the University of Adelaide. Through my equestrian facility I routinely offer workshops and training courses and have organised clinics for Equitation Science International founders, Andrew & Manuela McLean, for more almost two decades. I take in horses for behavioural assessments, and am in demand for combined rider/horse intensive training periods. My cohort of students includes riders who compete in a variety of pursuits.

Personally, I am constantly searching for and researching training methodologies; I train my own horses daily, and routinely engage in professional instruction as a student. Above all, though, I take the greatest pleasure in seeing the development of horse and rider combinations I have helped, ranging from those starting their own horses, those who have had to find a way through behaviour problems, riders of all ages who have never developed or lost their confidence, through to those who have the highest competitive aspirations.

Other related achievements

- Co-authorship of 'Go Forward, dear', a biographical essay on the life and methods of master horseman, Tom Roberts, with Dr Andrew McLean. This work was commissioned by our state horse council, Horse SA.
<https://www.tomroberts.net.au/>

- Project Manager of the second edition of the academic text 'Equitation Science'. This involved liaising with four authors across the globe, publishers, proof-reading of text, managing workflow to ensure deadlines were met and presentation of the revised text. <https://www.amazon.com/Equitation-Science-Paul-McGreevy/dp/1119241413>

Interests and Hobbies

Golf, travel, philosophy, psychology, current affairs.

Referees

These can be provided upon request.

Website

www.kersbrookequestrian.com.au