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**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
**INTERSCHOOL EQUESTRIAN STATE TEAM**  
**PRESENTATION OF KITS**  
**LORETO COLLEGE, 324 PORTRUSH ROAD**  
**MARRYATVILLE**  
**SATURDAY, 28 AUGUST, 2010**

I am very pleased, in fact quite honoured, to be with you and to have been asked to present team kits for the State Equestrian Interschool Team.

First of all, I would like to congratulate all these young people – many of still tender years – who have been selected for the State Equestrian Interschool Team.

Your selection is the culmination of dedicated work and much discipline.

I must say that I have great admiration for equestrian sports for many reasons, but mostly because they require a level of understanding between riders and their mounts that is not necessarily required of athletes who use inanimate objects.

The care of an inanimate sporting object is important, but more important, more demanding and more satisfying is the care of a living, breathing creature that shares a bond and dependence with another living being.

That, to me, says that the riders here tonight have a great sense of discipline, responsibility, obligation and trust.

That needs the kind of discipline that most people would find nigh on impossible to achieve.

The other thing that makes equestrian sports stand out is the inherent poise, beauty and grace that the horses and their riders possess, both individually and in

combination: that combination of physicality and elegance that is achieved when they move as one.

It is often said that dog is man's best friend but I think that a truthful and critical look at history would seriously challenge that notion.

The human race made great bounds when it learned to bond and work with horses.

Horses carried our goods, pulled our ploughs and helped us work the land.

History was made on the back of the horse: it carried emperors to new conquests, generals into battle, and explorers into new lands.

And, at some time in the past, we learned that we could enjoy our time and our bond with horses as much as work with them.

The horse was, still is, central to the history and life of many cultures – Mongolians, Cossacks and many Central Asian peoples, for example.

Horses were vital to early European settlers in Australia, and since then, we have created our own great traditions of horsemanship, which the young equestrians who are “earning their spurs” are continuing to uphold and to develop.

Australia has, of course, written her own great chapters with horses, and none more legendary or heroic than the history that was blazed by the Australian Light Horse in Palestine.

The equestrian sports that we enjoy today, and which the young people here this afternoon practise with such great and evident ability, are a distillation of the many centuries of human and equine cooperation.

Looking at equestrian sports is like looking back at history.

The traditions and the colours of the sport are but two hallmarks of that long history.

I congratulate you all on your individual and team achievements.

It is with a great deal of joy and admiration that I wish all the young equestrians who have been selected for the State Equestrian Interschool Team every success possible as you represent South Australia.

Thank you.