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WEE WAA News

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Travis Dixon with his horse Popeye at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Travis a royal success

Young local horseman and Year 12 Wee Waa High student Travis Dixon has just returned from a successful week competing in the Light Horsemen tent pegging team at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Travis travelled to Sydney at the invitation of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW for the four days of competition.

He and his three team mates played teams from Queensland, Victoria, Albury and Tamworth and were victorious against Tamworth in the grand final.

A highly capable and natural horseman Travis is no stranger to horse sports and has enjoyed a good deal of success with polocrosse and horse ball sports, representing Australia last year in France.

It was not surprising when he and

his young team mate Sam Collett (Tamworth) travelled to Deniliquin in 2014 to try their hand at tent pegging.

These rookies won the junior competition and were recruited by selectors to play in the senior Light Horsemen tent pegging team at the 2015 Sydney Royal Easter Show, along with Mike and Adam Rolland of Tamworth.

Together now for two years this team of four meets at local agricultural shows in the region to train and compete.

In both 2015 and 2016 they have also received invitations to compete at the Newcastle Show.

"The good thing about being invited to compete is that many of your costs are covered, you just have the cost of getting there," Travis said.

"Tent pegging is how Australian

troops trained for war and this is something I'm really conscious of.

"We wear replica khaki woollen soldier's uniforms.

"Uncomfortable, hot and itchy is how I'd describe the uniforms and it really makes me think about how hot our soldiers must have been to do battle in the desert."

Together with his nine-year-old stockhorse 'Popeye' this dynamic duo has been inseparable for the past five years.

"He is a pretty amazing horse; he's easy going, intelligent and versatile."

"I use him to compete in polocrosse, tent pegging and horse ball sports.

"You can tell he loves to compete because he is just as focused on the match as I am.

"He makes sure I'm in the right spot at the right time."