

**Evon Helen Gimenez** daughter of Charlie and Mavis Wilson of Caniaba.



Evon was a vivacious and generous woman who had returned to the family farm at Caniaba with her young son after a failed marriage in Argentina. She became well known in the equestrian community once we became aware of her unique training experiences and extensive knowledge of the equestrian disciplines of Dressage, Jumping and Cross Country. This was in the 70s when dressage was almost a dirty word on the North Coast and many were searching for Dressage Trainers rather than going down the Hacking path. It was from this small beginning that the Summerland Dressage movement actually gained momentum.



I was fortunate to be one of her many friends and benefit from her tuition as well as the loan of her lovely mare Avonela when my horse cut his fetlock just before an event. Evon and I used to travel to Annie Creighton's property for jump training days and I took lessons with her at Caniaba. Avonela and I competed in the first ever cross country in this area held on the Handley property at Wollongbar. Many of us also managed to get a xcountry course on the Lismore showground and actually held a competition in conjunction with the Show. It was extremely challenging with not much consideration given to OH&S. This was not long before Dressage competition was being held in centre ring on the day before the show proper.

The club was originally known as the Riding and Driving Club meeting on the Lismore Show Grounds and holding regular meetings in rooms under the Grand Stand of Lismore Showground.



Evon helped many aspiring dressage riders by giving lessons and inviting trainers Hienz Krueel, and Toni Utendahl among some, to give workshops in Lismore. These days were held in the Bull pen at the Lismore Showground. We also had many training days at Anne and George Gray's Ewingsdale property. Evon originally trained in Victoria then traveled to work under Nuno Olivera. She had a love for the beautiful Andalusians eventually having one of her own which she trained up for local competition with a dream of going further.

Tragically she was murdered on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1978, the victim of domestic violence and abuse.

