



## *Learning to ride*

alongside the troops in the British Army, Peter Hill inherited a love of horses from his Riding Master father from a very early age while growing up in England. It is therefore, not a huge surprise that both he and his sister are professionals in the equestrian field working as a qualified Saddler and Riding Instructor respectively. Peter started his Saddlers apprenticeship in 1975 and with harness work, bridle and saddle making, repairs, stitching and fitting his forte, has built a solid and specialised reputation both here in New Zealand, and back in England.

Peter's 12 year old daughter Emily too, has inherited the 'Hill's horsey bug' and when he and his wife Christine moved to Tirau four and a half years ago, for Emily, a pony was definitely the first thing on her 'must have' list!

The Hill family made the decision to move to New Zealand after Peter secured a Saddlers posi-

tion with Matamata Saddlery, having fallen in love with the country while honeymooning here some years ago. Peter worked for Matamata Saddlery for four and a half years and since its closure, with encouraging support from Christine, has started his own business and aptly named it; Just Saddles Limited. "I specialise in on-site saddle fitting as it should be" says Peter, "simple and easy to understand. Every horse is different and its rider needs to be assured that their saddle is fitted correctly for their horse. Sometimes this just requires a bit of adjustment, or fitting and restuffing an existing saddle, or perhaps if it's a new horse and a new saddle is required, I also carry a comprehensive range of quality leather saddles to show the owner

and ensure their purchase is the best choice for them, and for their horse. Saddles are very individual and above all else, it is important that both the horse and the rider are completely comfortable with its fit. I only sell saddles that I would use and recommend myself, so my clients are consistently assured of quality.

With a completely stocked and purpose built truck complete with workspace, Peter's mobile saddle and fitting service is available to single customers with just one horse through to pony clubs, jumping, dressage and general purpose groups which obviously offers reduced rates. "It's great if people want to get together and I can check each of their horses individually on the spot" says Peter, "even if they are perfectly fitted, often its just that piece of mind riders are looking for and I don't mind that at all." Peter also offers a postal service for repairs and you are welcome to contact him to discuss this option. He is happy to be contacted for further information on fitting, repair or saddle enquiries and can be contacted either by phone or email.

