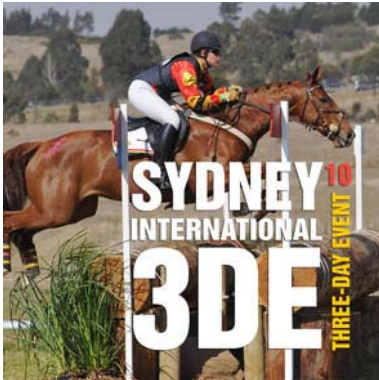




Press Release - Thursday, 15 July 2010



Relive the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games at this Year's Sydney International 3 Day Event 26-29 August 2010

2010 is a very special year for the Sydney International 3DE. In the ten years since the Australian team won gold at the Sydney Olympic games the Sydney 3DE has become an influential selection event for Australian based riders whose goal is to represent Australia in World and Olympic Games. The Sydney International Equestrian Centre is one of the few Olympic venues to still be in use around the world.

This year's Sydney International 3DE event will feature the final selection class for Australian and New Zealand riders keen to represent their country in the World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Kentucky later this year. Sydney 2000 Gold medallist Stuart Tinney is high on the selectors list with consistent performances on both his leading horses Vettori and Panamera. Vettori won the Adelaide CCI4* in 2009 and Panamera was 2nd at the recent Melbourne CCI3*. The two Aussie based female silver medallists from the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Megan Jones and Sonja Johnson, are also in amazing form and won't make Stuart's attempt to qualify easy. Johnson won the Melbourne CCI3* held last month and Jones won the 2009 World Cup rounds in New Zealand and Australia, the 2010 World Cup round in New Zealand and was a very close 2nd in the Australian 2010 World Cup, just behind Chris Burton and Holstein Park Leilani. Burton is yet to represent Australia but his rising form is placing him directly in the selectors sights.

Also on the 3DE program for 2010 is a showcase of the eight equestrian sports to be held at WEG. Leading riders from each of the disciplines will treat spectators to a thrilling display of what is on offer in Kentucky, USA during September. Vaulting is acrobatics on a moving horse. Reining brings the excitement of the Rodeo. Carriage Driving recreates the adventure of the Wild West. Endurance tests the mental and physical fitness of both horse and rider. Para-Equestrian is inspirational. Show Jumping shows strength and accuracy over amazing heights. Dressage is a dance of elegance and beauty. Eventing is the triathlon of the equestrian sports. An equestrian spectacle not to be missed.

The 3DE will also host the Gwaihir Stud Australian Young Event Horse Championships where the super stars of the future will begin their eventing careers. The Gwaihir Stud produced the well know eventer Ari De Gwaihir and is committed to the development of the perfect equine partners for all equestrian disciplines.

On Sunday there will be a myriad of fun for the whole family including live music, a jumping castle and Dog Agility competitions. This entertainment will add to the excitement of the final phase in the 3DE of Show Jumping where the winners of each class will be decided.

Throughout the 3DE celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the Sydney Olympics will take place. A photographic hall of fame is being collated on Facebook and will be displayed in the shopping village at the event. On Friday night there will be an Olympic video night and an anniversary lunch will be held on Saturday next to the start of the cross country course. Another exciting addition to the program is the Tyre Feed Bins Australia CCN Preliminary Class that returns to the long format seen at the Sydney 2000 Olympics including roads and tracks, steeplechase and cross country. Plus anyone who wears their Sydney 2000 Olympics uniform (or part their of) will receive free entry to the event.

Visit www.sydneyeventing.org for more information.

All Media enquiries welcome. Please contact Rachel Smith on 0412 963 893 or rachel.smith@sydneyeventing.org



What's On at the Sydney International Three Day Event 26-29 August 2010

Wednesday 25 August - Trot up of competitors from 2-4pm

Thursday 26 August - Dressage & Gwaihir Young Event Horse Championships

Friday 27 August - Dressage & Gwaihir Young Event Horse Championships

Including... Grand Prix Dressage Invitational Class featuring Rozzie Ryan and Rachel Sanna; Para Dressage; WEG Selection CCI4* Dressage; Olympic Video Night and Sausage sizzle from 7.00pm

Saturday 28 August - Cross Country, the test of speed and endurance

Including... 10th Anniversary of the Sydney 2000 Olympics celebration lunch; Carriage Driving and Endurance displays; Paella and Tango Night from 7.00pm

Sunday 29 August - Show jumping, the final phase. Who will make the team for WEG?

Including... Final horse inspection; Vaulting, Reining and Grand Prix Show Jumping displays; Dog agility competition *organised by Aust Dog Agility Assoc*; Face painting, music and jumping castle

The Trade Village will be open Every Day from 9am.

A full event timetable can be found on www.sydneyeventing.org

Event Statistics

- 9 Classes scheduled for 2010, including the final selection class for the World Equestrian Games, Oakgate Rising Stars, Gwaihir Stud Australian Young Event Horse Championships and the Tyre Feed Bins Long Format CCN Preliminary Class including roads, tracks and steeplechase.
- Number of entries will be available from 10 August 2010
- Riders are from across Australia (ACT -, WA -, SA -, VIC -, NSW -, QLD -) and New Zealand (),
- 2008 Winner CCI*** Heath Ryan & Mystery Whisper
- 2009 Winner CCI*** Wendy Schaeffer & Koyuna Sun Storm
- About the 2009 Winner - From South Australia, Schaeffer was the youngest women to win Equestrian gold at an Olympic Games with team gold at 1996 Atlanta Games. Just nine weeks prior to the 1996 Olympics, she suffered from two broken bones in her leg which were pinned for the competition. With a sense of déjà vu Schaeffer missed out on the Sydney round of 2009 HSBC World Cup with a broken leg. She returned to form with victory at the 2009 Sydney 3DE. Listed on the Equestrian Australia Eventing High Performance Program and the Jumping Development Squad. Schaeffer spent the first part of 2010 campaigning her horses in Australian based selection trials before flying her jump mare, Koyuna Sun Set, to Europe to compete in Germany.



How to Get There

- The Sydney International Equestrian Centre is located on Saxony Road at Horsley Park, just 40 minutes from the centre of Sydney via the M2 and M7.



Tickets

General Admission (includes parking and a program). An undercover grandstand will be open to the general public.

- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - FREE
- Saturday & Sunday - Adults 16 years and over \$15, under 16 years & pensioners FREE
- Sydney 2000 Olympic Volunteers who wear their uniform - FREE ENTRY any day

Adina Vineyard Café

The Adina Vineyard Cafe is a great place to relax and enjoy all the Sydney 3DE action. Located alongside the main competition arena and adjacent to the cross country start guests will have prime, under cover viewing in the café. On Saturday TV screens will be set up in the café for guests to track each riders' performance around the cross country course whilst enjoying a gourmet lunch & drinks.

- Thursday, Friday and Sunday - \$45 per day (includes entry, program, VIP parking, access to Adina Cafe, free tea/coffee, complimentary glass of wine. Gourmet meals and drinks on sale in the cafe)
- Saturday - **Sydney 2000 Olympics 10th Anniversary Celebratory Lunch** \$100 (includes entry, program, VIP parking, access to Adina Cafe, free tea/coffee, gourmet lunch & wine. Full Bar available).
- **Café Event pass** valid for all four days and includes the Olympic Celebratory Lunch – \$200 per head

Hosted Cross Country Walks

- Tickets for the hosted cross country walks on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning can be purchased in advance through the Sydney Eventing website or from the merchandise tent at the event. Exact times will be available online. Cost – \$20

Tickets can be purchased online or from the event each day. Dinner Tickets on sale at the Event.

2011 Events - Weekend of World Cups 6-8 May 2011 & Sydney International 3DE 8-11 September 2011

Eventing Explained

The Olympic sport of Eventing (also known as Horse Trials) is the equestrian triathlon where the three phases of dressage, cross country and show jumping are completed by the same horse/rider combination. This is a true test of fitness and horse management. Eventing is the equestrian discipline at which Australia has excelled with numerous Olympic Medals including gold ten years ago at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. It is also one of the few sports where men and women compete on equal terms and the genuine amateur can compete against an Olympic Champion.

- **Dressage** is the first test which comprises a set sequence of compulsory movements in an arena 20m wide and 60m long. At the highest level the test is judged by three international judges who are looking for balance, rhythm, suppleness and most importantly, obedience of the horse and its' harmony with the rider.
- **Cross Country** consists of the challenge of more than 35 natural obstacles over approximately 4km that has to be jumped inside an optimum time. This phase is filled with thrills and spills.
- **Show Jumping** is the final phase of the competition consisting of one round of jumping with a maximum time allowed. The objective is to jump all the fences clear inside the time.

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