

5TH – 8TH JUNE 2009
WERRIBEE PARK NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
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AUSTRALIA'S BEST HORSES AND RIDERS SADDLE UP FOR ULTIMATE IN HORSE POWER – AN EQUINE TRIATHLON

Over 150 of Australia's best horse and rider combinations will saddle up for the ultimate in horse power when they compete in the equine equivalent to a triathlon, the Melbourne 3 Event at Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre, Friday 5 to Monday 8 June.

Beijing Olympic silver medalists **Megan Jones, Shane Rose and Sonja Johnson** will be amongst the elite equestrians competing over the long weekend in the event which tests the courage and endurance of the equine athlete over three days of intense competition across three very different disciplines – dressage, cross country and showjumping.

The iconic event which is now in its 53rd year, is the longest running 3 Day Event in Australia and the second oldest in the world and features four levels of competition - Junior, One-star, Two-star and the coveted Three-star.

International 3 Day Events are graded according to level of difficulty - the higher the grade the more complex and physically demanding each phase becomes and the more stars awarded to indicate the event's grade. However the horse is graded, not the rider which means relative beginners could be competing against Olympic standard riders if their horses are graded at the same level.

Friday - Indoor Dressage – Junior, One-Star (Novice) & Two-Star (Intermediate)

Junior, Novice and intermediate competition commences with the graceful dressage phase taking place in the 1000-seat undercover indoor arena. This phase demands the exhibition of elegance, skill, obedience and harmony between both horse and rider.

Saturday – Indoor Dressage – Three-Star

The first day of competition begins for Australia's elite horse and rider combinations begins with the **CCI-Three Star**. The challenge for these riders is to execute demanding and graceful movements whilst maintaining control of their fit and fiery steeds.

Sunday – Cross Country

Horsepower is on full throttle with the **heart stomping, adrenaline filled excitement** of the cross country phase. The **5,800 metre course** featuring over **40 jumps** and taking over **1600 man hours to build**, tests the endurance and athleticism of the horse. Designed by the world's youngest course designer, Australian Ewan Kellet, the course starts in the indoor arena, runs through the grounds of the National Equestrian Centre before heading into the magnificent surrounds of Werribee Mansion and the State Rose Garden.

Monday – Indoor Showjumping

Horse and riders' must back up after the gruelling cross country contest and demonstrate supreme skill and control in the indoor showjumping competition. It's nail biting excitement as just one small mistake can affect the result.

Indoor Trade Village

There's plenty of time to look a gift horse in the mouth too with the indoor trade village, featuring over 35 exhibitors, providing a 4 day shopping bonanza for horse lovers. Fuel up on the delicious dutch pancakes, espresso coffee and other savoury delights in the hospitality area.

Event: Melbourne 3 Day Event
Date: Friday 5 – Monday 8 June, 2009 **Time:** 9am
Location: Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre 170 K Road, Werribee
Bookings: Tickets on sale now through GPAC - Tel: (03) 5225 1200 or www.gpac.org.au
Tickets: Day Tickets from \$20.00. Season passes and family tickets also available

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Michaela Hall 0419 113 633 E:mikkih@netstra.com.au