

6TH – 9TH JUNE 2008
WERRIBEE PARK NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
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ELITE EQUESTRIANS SADDLE UP FOR FINAL OLYMPIC SELECTION COMPETITION

The beauty and tranquility of Werribee Mansion and Equestrian Centre will belie the fierce on field competition as Australia's elite equestrians saddle up for the final Australian Olympic selection contest at the Melbourne 3-Day Event, Friday 6 to Monday 9 June.

Often described as the equine equivalent to a triathlon, the 3 day event tests the courage and endurance of the equine athlete over three days of intense competition, across three disciplines – dressage, cross country and showjumping.

Amongst the competitors at the 2008 Melbourne 3 Day Event will be past Olympians **Wendy Schaeffer** (Atlanta 1996) and **Amanda Howell** (Sydney 2000) and future Olympic hopefuls, **Megan Jones, Sonja Johnson** and **Emily Anker** each vying to catch the selectors eye for the Australian Olympic Equestrian team.

The event, which is now in its 53rd year and is the oldest three day event in Australia and the second oldest in the world, has secured German judge Martin Plewa as President of the Ground Jury. Mr Plewa will be one of only three Equestrian Ground Jurors at the upcoming Olympic Games.

The 2008 Melbourne 3 Day Event is also the first of only two exciting World Cup Qualifying Competitions in Australia, with the ultimate prize being to represent Australia in the World Cup Finals.

Day 1- Indoor Dressage

Junior, Novice and Intermediate competition commences with the graceful dressage phase taking place in the 600-seat undercover indoor arena. This phase demands the exhibition of elegance, skill and harmony between both horse and rider.

Day 2 – Indoor Dressage

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

Day 3 – Cross Country

Cross country is an adrenaline rush testing the fitness and athleticism of the horse. The Ewan Kellett designed cross country course challenges even the most experienced combinations with a 5,800 metre course featuring over 40 jumps and taking over 1600 man hours to build. Starting in the indoor arena, the course runs through the National Equestrian Centre before heading into the magnificent gardens of Werribee Mansion.

Day 4 – Indoor Showjumping

After yesterday's gruelling cross country contest, horse and riders' must back up and demonstrate supreme skill and control in the indoor showjumping competition.

Indoor Trade Village

Not all the action is on the course. The 1,000 square metres indoor trade village features of over 40 exhibitors and a variety of hospitality including wood fired pizzas, espresso coffee and Dutch pancakes.

Event: Melbourne 3 Day Event
Date: Friday 6 – Monday 9 June, 2008
Time: 9am
Location: Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre 170 K Road, Werribee
Bookings: Tickets on sale now through GPAC - Tel: 5225 1200 or www.gpac.org.au
Tickets: Day Tickets from only \$15.00. Season passes and family tickets also available

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