

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST WORLD MASTERS ENDURANCE RIDE

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY PAT SLATER

The 120 km endurance ride held by Queensland's South Burnett Club on June 30th was a landmark event. It was the first Australian phase of the World Masters competition, created by Ambassador Endurance Management, Paris in collaboration with the FEI and the UAE Racing and Equestrian Federation.

In this tournament, competing in one of five geographical zones, riders take part in a maximum of ten nominated

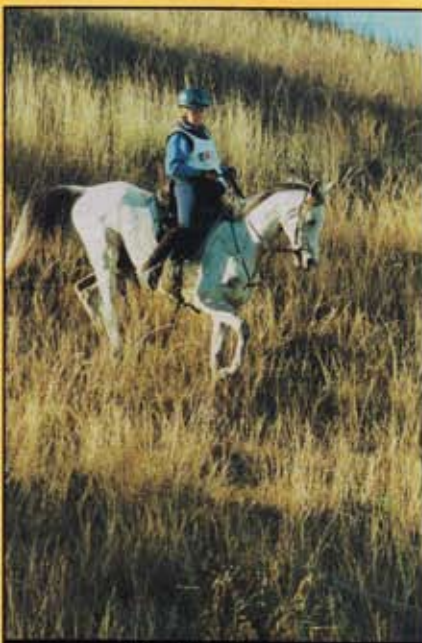
events for the titles of Continental Champion, Zone Champion and, finally, World Champion. Prize money will total US\$1,500,000.

At the inaugural Australian leg of this remarkable series, 24 riders were registered in the Masters series, taking the track with 43 others, 12 of whom were Young Riders. Forty-two, including ten Young Riders, completed the course successfully. All but one of the vet-outs were for lameness.

Ride Base was at Burrandowan racecourse, 60 kilometres from peanut-pro-



A jubilant Meg Wade with Kurrajong Sequel after winning the ride and being awarded Best Conditioned.



Penny Toft and La Creme successfully negotiating the hilly terrain.



Jan Tyrrell on Ghandi (16th) leading Tanya Trevarthen on Cedar Glen Sebastian (19th).



Sue Crockett and Express finished in 17th place.

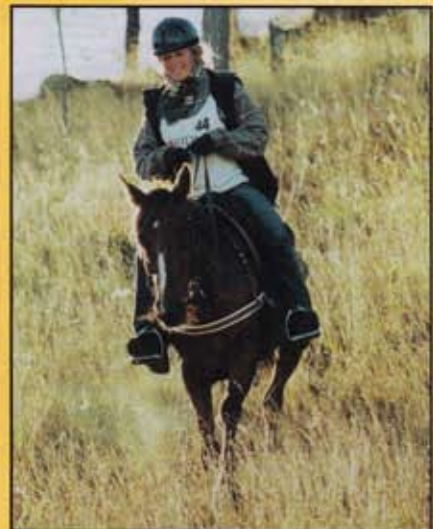
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2nd in the Young Riders Kristie McGaffin riding Wybeena Lodge Shushka.



Making it look easy was 2nd place getter Linda Meredith on Inshallah Souvenir.



Rebecca Heffernan enjoying the challenge on Stanpark Speed (14th).

ducing town Kingaroy. The track ran over three cattle properties, "Passchendaele", "Tocar" and "Strathmore".

Ken and Carolyn Stone of "Passchendaele" were prime movers in making the ride a memorable one. Their property hosted one of the most difficult sections of the course, a ride over stony ground through dead timber culminating in a drop down a steep breakaway studded with rocks. A few cunning riders took a longer but safer course along a spur down into the valley. The majority did a Man From Snowy River, balancing precariously on their horses, or off and leading them, often making their feelings known in loud and colourful comments.

Meg Wade rode her Arabian mare Kurrajong Sequel to win in 6 hrs 59 mins. As she vetted through and then won Best Conditioned Horse, Sequel looked as if she had just come back from cantering three times around a city park. Linda Meredith, on the athletic Arabian gelding Inshallah Souvenir, owned by the Royal Stables of Abu Dhabi, placed second while the fabulous

Anglo, Aloha Gossip, owned by Med Wade and ridden by Jenette Harvey, placed third.

Sorelle Anthony won the Young Riders on Sahateyn Affinity, with Kristie McGaffin, on the third of Meg Wade's "girls", Wybalena Lodge Schuska, second and James Sheahan, on Merific, third.

The weather was forbidding - arctic winds and temperature that dropped to minus five at the 4 a.m. start. However, the event was a highly successful start to a new concept in Endurance, the Masters Series. It also showed that for many Australians simply riding a testing course on a willing, fit horse is reward enough in itself, with no need for glittering prizes. Major ride results listed in Endurance News.

AUSSIE TEAM FLEXES MUSCLE AT BURRANDOWAN

The Burrandowan Ride saw some changes in the short-listed team of riders for the September 16th World Equestrian Games Endurance competition in Spain. During the weekend, Anne Jones and

Caroline Fitzgerald signalled that they were no longer available for final selection, while the following Tuesday added Chris Forrester to the list of resignees.

The Australian Endurance Riders' Association International Selection Committee moved swiftly to announce the final team.

This will consist of Penny Toft, Meg Wade, Terry Wood, Jan Tyrrell, Sue Crockett and Kristie McGaffin.

The horses will be Bremervale Justice, Castlebar McCleod, Castlebar Treaty, Peppersfield Nabucco, Chambers Lodge Kadish and Talisman Tobias, with Reserves Jonah and Shataan Park Samurai.

At Burrandowan 120km Ride, these riders placed as follows: Meg Wade 1st, Terry Wood 4th, Penny Toft 7th, Jan Tyrrell 16th, Sue Crockett 17th.

Kristie McGaffin was 2nd Youth but finished 4th overall.

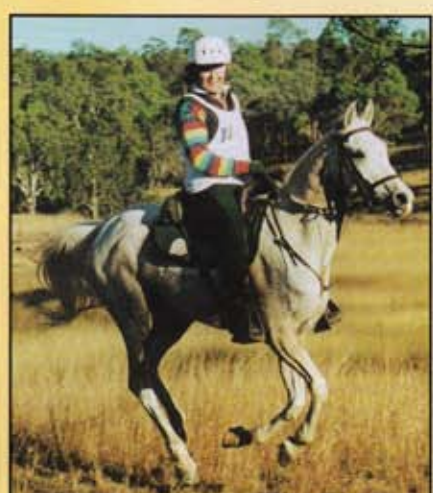
They are a great team and they will do Australia proud after the long and extremely expensive journey to Spain. 🐾



NSW rider Terry Wood riding Tallawarra Tommie into 4th place.



Locked in concentration, Luke Annetts riding Tismah Park Bint Chardonnay (12th).



Chris Forrester riding Charabel Fabian (5th).