

## Burnie Equine Endurance Riders

119km Elevated Ride, 40km and 20km Rides

Lions Park, Wynyard

Burnie Equine Endurance Riders



Committee members started their busy day by meeting at the Lions Park at 10am on Friday. Robbie and Di Walsh popped in and kindly offered the use of their hut on wheels, which we promptly decided would be excellent for the Ride Secretaries. No sitting around in a stinky horse float for us, we had a bird's eye view of the vet ring and all the goings on. 😊

Unfortunately at lunch time on Friday, our second vet rang and cancelled her services for the day, leaving us in somewhat of a panic. Unable to contact another second vet in time, we had to reschedule the 120km and change the course slightly to make it 119km. We thank Greg Johnson, Chief Steward, for helping us work our way around this, and other various issues over the period of the ride. His help was invaluable.

Debbie Grull, our vet, was also very helpful and went out of her way to make our ride a success. We thank her for going above and beyond the call of duty, and for vetting a large number of horses on her own with a minimum of fuss. It's a long day when you start at 4am and are still going at 7.30!

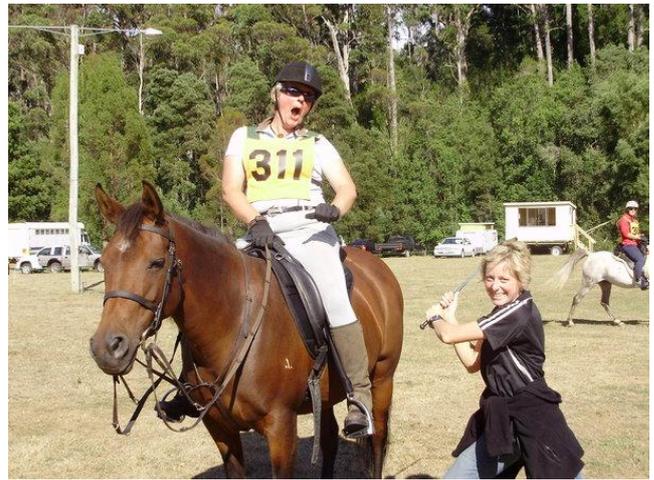
All entrants in each ride received a showbag with their entry and we thank Forestry Tasmania for providing the drink bottles and Farmyard Feeds for providing the feed samples. Giddyup Feeds from Spreyton also provided us with bags of feed to auction off after briefing.

The thirty 119km entrants started their ride at 4am without incident. Watching 29 starters head off in a clatter of hooves was quite exciting, but watching the one remaining horse calmly start off at a walk regardless of the others disappearing into the distance was pretty funny! They had to travel a 4km undulating loop before coming back past base camp. It was excellent for those of us waiting at base camp to see all the lights bobbing back down towards us.



All was going smoothly. Our 40km riders began at 8.30am and started well. They headed out on a leg which included some undulating terrain. They had to face creek crossings, the occasional steep down hill, but generally good going. We also had Rally Tasmania using one of the roads we had to cross over. Fortunately, this was only a transport stage for them and they still had to abide by road rules, however we had safety marshalls and checkpoint operators placed at the intersection. From all reports, both riders and drivers enjoyed waving to one another and both were equally courteous.

Shown here competing in her first 40km ride was Bold Blue, looking keen and ready to go. She was ridden by Katrin Overdijk.



At ride base, we were lucky enough to have a stall run by local feed store: Farmyard Feeds. Farmyard Feeds also sponsored some products for our entry showbags and the rug for Best Conditioned Heavyweight. We had fabulous coffees and iced chocolates all day supplied by our mobile coffee man and our Hot Spud man did the best Beef Stroganoff spuds I have ever tasted! Also on ride base was Equine Massage Release Therapist Gillian Brame, who was able to help both horses and riders where necessary.

Vetting rang smoothly with the Burnie Equine Endurance Riders' group of probationary TPRs keen to get in and help. Our TPRs included Angie Clarke, Helen Astell, Mervyn Mitchell, Darren Duniam and Tony Purton. Our volunteer timekeepers, Liz Keep and Linda Flint, did an outstanding job, working from 5.45am right up until 7.30pm and still miraculously managing to remain cheery throughout. Martin Vesinger, who is becoming known as the 'weigh-in whiz' after he volunteers at many rides just to fulfil this role, was happy to remain at his post all day as well.

At 10.30, some of our 20kms riders needed a bit more 'encouragement' to get out the gate. Shown here is competitor Lea Scholte, on her part arab mare Lacey with Ride Secretary Sonia Hodgetts giving her a helping hand.

The 119km riders were starting to trickle back in off their first leg and head out on the second. The ride was split into four legs, consisting of 2 x 40km legs through forestry, gravel roads, and with numerous creek crossings. Then they were required to complete two 19.5km legs.

All riders had to go past a checkpoint, where we'd stationed some non-horsey volunteers, Graeme and Irene King. They'd parked their Jayco motorhome by the stream and said they really enjoyed their spot in the shade. They liked their job so much they refused to leave when the checkpoint operators came to relieve them. I think they had the best set up!



We'd like to thank Lee Marshall, Adrian Hodgetts, Kaye Mitchell and Tony Purton for all the hours of work they put into marking our track. Riders commented that it had been marked very well and were happy with the track, although it was somewhat hilly in sections!

Pictured here watching proceedings in the vet ring are long time endurance rider Denise Williams, her son Jake, Robbie Williams and our excellent head steward, Greg Johnson.

Ride results at the end of the 119km were:

1 <sup>st</sup> Junior and 1 <sup>st</sup> over the line Best Conditioned	Brooke Cordell Brown, Yonderover Ridge Mojo	6:19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Junior	Shannon Hill, Judha of Glen Dhu	6:35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Junior	Bradley Hill, The Hobbit	7:35
1 <sup>st</sup> Lightweight and Best Conditioned	Alison Dent	7:35
=2 <sup>nd</sup> Lightweight	Michelle Stafford, Dude	9:07
=2 <sup>nd</sup> Lightweight	Vanessa Hoar, Sandine Versarcee	9:07
1 <sup>st</sup> Middleweight and RIDE WINNER Best Conditioned	Kaye Mitchell, Beer Street Blue Witch	7:28
2 <sup>nd</sup> Middleweight	Stacey Dodd, Millenium Star	10.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Middleweight	Anthony Bloom, Kerribea	10:04
1 <sup>st</sup> Heavyweight and Best Conditioned	Natalie Humphries, Enderby Rakaia	9:42



Debbie Grull hard at work in the vetting ring



40km riders start their ride



Blaine Astell, on Underwood Infinity and Stacey Dodd, riding Millenium Star