



## Sheikh Majid al Maktoum Cup, Wynyard,

### Tasmania, Australia

The Burnie Equine Endurance Riders, in conjunction with Dubai Endurance Stables, recently held the Sheikh Majid al Maktoum Cup in at the Lions Park in Wynyard, Tasmania, Australia. This was an FEI 80km ride and started with 35 competitors. Tasmanian endurance riders have not been able to compete in a ride at FEI level since 2008, when Burnie Equine Endurance Riders held a 160km ride at Sassafras.

We were lucky enough to have three riders from the Castlebar team travel over Bass Strait with their horses, as well as Noni Seagrim and Linda Magro from interstate.

Ride day was overcast but warm, which made it ideal for horses and riders. The ride was held on the North West Coast of Tasmania and travelled over undulating Forestry Tasmania roads and trails. The 80km ride was divided into three legs, 40km, 25km and 15km. The first two legs were on good wide open tracks, allowing the riders to travel along at speeds of up to 20kms per hour. The third leg travelled through winding bush tracks opposite base camp.

Debra Grull, riding Lauralyn Notorious, won the Sheikh Majid al Maktoum Cup. Debra won the FEI 1\* 80km ride in 3:44. A close second was Tony Purton, riding Beer Street Dimity, who completed the ride in 3:49. Tony admitted during presentations that he'd tried to catch Debra in the third leg but travelling at an average speed of 21.4km per hour she was just too quick for him. Third place rider was Kristie Taprell, of Castlebar Endurance, with a time of 4:17, riding Castlebar Bella. Castlebar Bella was awarded Best Conditioned horse in the Open Division.



Winner of the Youth Division, was local Blaine Astell, riding Splitters Creek Cypress, in a time of 3:51 with an average speed over all of 20.8. Second place was Emily Shadbolt, 4:15, riding Malricia Jess. Third place and Best Conditioned went to Noni Seagrim, riding Sahala Abu Simbel.

Pictured here is Open Ride Winner Debra Grull, a veterinarian/rider from Sheffield, and Youth Ride Winner, Blaine Astell.



Out of the 34 riders who started the Sheikh Majid al Maktoum Cup, only 2 vetted out lame which was a testament to both the track condition and the riders taking due care of their horses.

Also held in conjunction with the ride was an AERA national 80km ride. The Burnie Equine Endurance Riders Line Honours trophy went to 13 year old local girl Alice Mitchell, riding Beer Street Blue Witch, who completed the ride in 3:50, an magnificent achievement, especially considering she was competing against 43 other experienced riders. Alice will definitely be a Junior to keep an eye on in the future!



The Burnie Equine Endurance Riders were very happy with the result of their ride help they received from all volunteers, our sponsors Wing Rural and James and Sons, Forestry Tasmania, Hotel Federal, the Tasmanian endurance riders for their support, the assistance of the professional veterinarian team, and all the FEI officials and we hope to hold another FEI ride in October 2011.

We also wish to thank our major sponsor, Sheikh Majid al Maktoum, and the Dubai Endurance Stables, for allowing us to hold an event of such magnitude and we welcome the opportunity to work in partnership to continue to hold further events in the future.

