

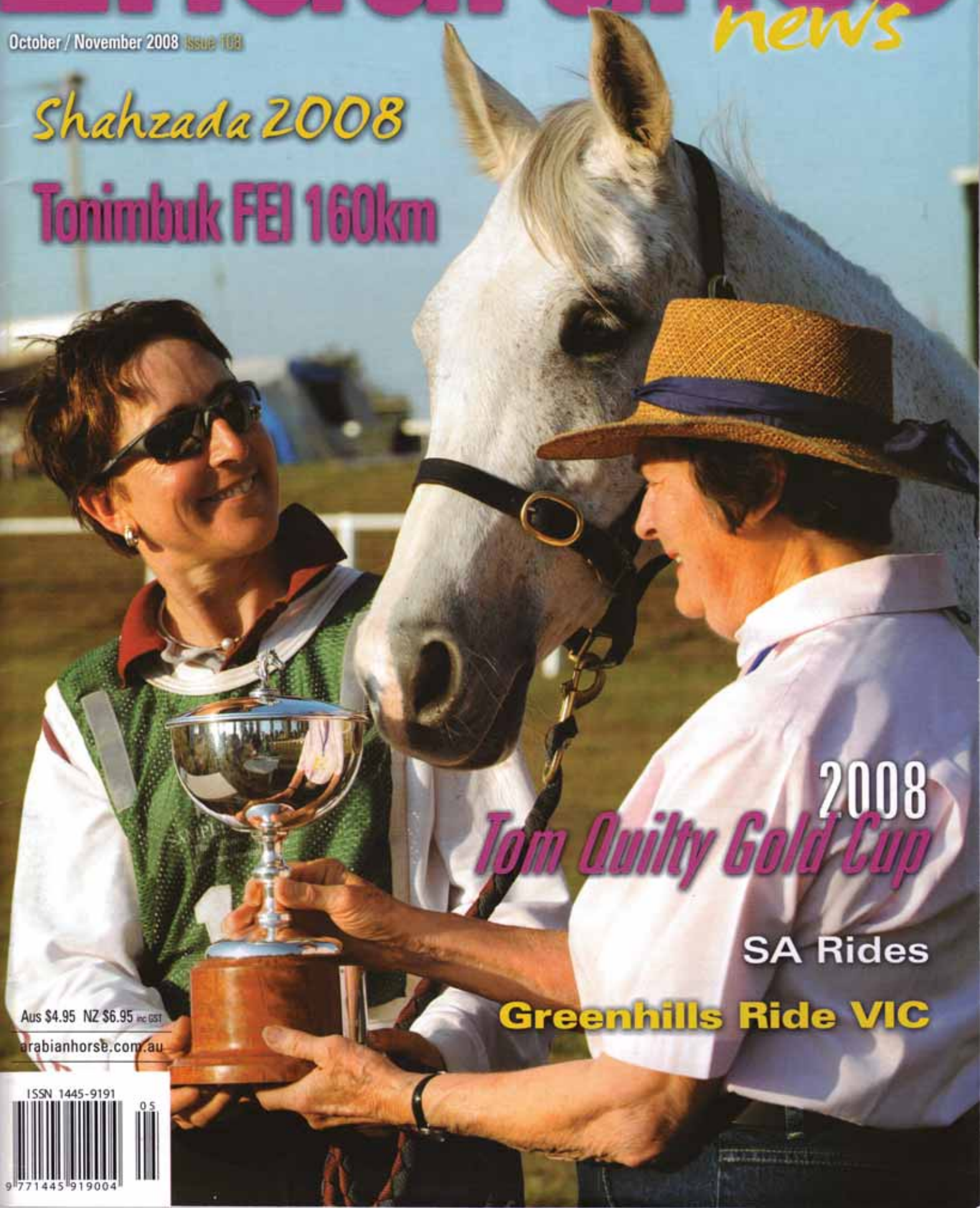
Endurance

news

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Shahzada 2008

Tonimbuk FEI 160km



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Tom Quilty Gold Cup

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FEI 160km*** Open winners Meg Wade and Castlebar Kalahari.

Tonimbuk FEI CEI 3 Star Ride

Report by Helen Ward Photos by Mark Jones

Over 50 endurance riders, including some of Australia's best and several international entrants took the opportunity on 8th and 9th August to ride the endurance course that will become the Tom Quilty Gold Cup National Championship course in September 2009.

This preview ride, known as the FEI CEI 3***, provided entrants with a range of ride options depending on their capability level. Options included a 160km ride, referred to as the 3 star, a 108km FEI** ride and an AERA 108km Elevator ride. All ride categories were open to both adult and junior riders.

Based at the world-class Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre in Bunyip, Victoria the challenging course included six phases, passing through the magnificent Bunyip State Park, traversing private land, bush tracks and all weather roads. Each phase varied in distance with riders required to vet in at base prior to heading off for the next phase.

Event Director, Lissy Verity could not have been happier. "We had riders from Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland, all of whom were warmly welcomed by the Victorians," she said. "International riders from Malaysia and guests from New Zealand and the USA also turned up to either participate in the ride or be dazzled by the facilities of the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre. We also had visitors from the UAE stables."

Whilst the weather forecast had been for heavy rain in the preceding week and over the weekend, riders were not deterred. Those competing in the 160km 3 star ride headed off in the dark at 2am wearing specially designed torch lights attached to their riding helmets. All other riders started at the more civilised hour of 6am.

What an exciting finish. With a time limit of 17 hours to complete the 3 star ride, it was anybody's race right up to the line with three



Louise McCormack and Formosa Park Tali were Middleweight winners in the AERA 108km Elevator.



Rohan Stanes and Shuja Bint Melika finished 8th in the FEI 160km*** Open.

of Australia's top endurance riders coming in within a second of one another. Open winner, Meg Wade crossed the line in 12:37:12 riding the Anglo Arabian mare Castlebar Kalahari (Castlebar Khalifa x Castlebar Tradition), closely followed by Penny Toft, riding Electra BBP Murdoch, a partbred Arabian by Credit from Billabong Oh Susanna (12:37:13), and in third place was Jennifer Gilbertson on Ferrymaster At Webbs Creek in 12:37:14.

As a rider who has successfully represented Australia internationally, Meg Wade was delighted with the overall performance of her Castlebar Arabian Endurance Horse team. "It was a safe yet challenging track," said Meg. "We had 10 horses entered in the event and we had 10 finish." Meg and Castlebar Kalahari also took out the Best Conditioned horse award.

Rohan Stanes' performance really captured the essence and camaraderie of the endurance fraternity. Last to finish following some concerns with his horse, he returned to a standing ovation at 10.30 on Saturday night having spent nearly 17 hours in the saddle. Fellow competitors, officials, friends and family watched, some even shedding a tear, as Rohan's lovely grey Arab mare Shuja Bint Melika (Poldark x Allira Park Star Queen) vetted in successfully. An experienced endurance rider, Rohan said the course was challenging with hills in all phases, and at times the going underfoot was slippery. "Given the degree of difficulty of the course all the horses that completed the course did very well," he said.

Winner of the FEI 108km** Open was Asher Batty riding Castlebar Dell. Brianna Bainger won the Youth category on Magic Glenn Katana and finishing first in the 160km*** Youth was Bridget Nottle riding purebred gelding Zara Farm Shadasj (*Simeon Shagrir x Zara Farm Dasjel). The AERA Heavyweight winner was Ken Bradley riding Pheonix Park Epona, The Middleweight division was won by Louise McCormack on Anglo gelding Formosa Park Tali (Talgar x Formosa Park Musette) and the Lightweight winner was Natalie Thome riding Zayed Shakahn, a 5 year old purebred gelding by Tarong Shahgig from Niarla Shikara. The Junior division winner was Zeke Verspaandonk on Tonki Dee Boo Imagine (Elphyn Comet x Mystique), also 5 years old. The latter two horses are owned and trained by Ross and Debi Chisholm from Olivesprings.

According to Lissy Verity the course has now been tried and tested. "The track held up quite well considering the weather just

prior to the event but there were some boggy spots. We have already reviewed the course and identified some areas of concern including traffic management, arena size and movement of spectators," she said. "We now have a much better insight to running the prestigious Tom Quilty Gold Cup National Championships and the 2009 event will be the best yet."

The Tom Quilty Gold Cup National Championship is legendary in Australia and internationally recognised as an event that truly tests the skill and strength of horse and rider as they compete to finish the 160km ride within 24 hours. It is one of the few events where riders compete as equals - world champions riding alongside juniors and first time Quilty riders.

MAJOR RESULTS

FEI 160km***

Open

1	Meg Wade (Aus)	Castlebar Kalahari	12:37:12
2	Penny Toft (Aus)	Electra BBP Murdoch	12:37:13
3	Jennifer Gilbertson (Aus)	Ferrymaster At Webbs Creek	12:37:14
4	Faizal Ismail (Mal)	Edenfels Zephyr	13:04:12
5	Derryn Nix (Aus)	Rowallan Rufous	13:11:45
6	Corey Nix (Aus)	Dunbar Mahadik	13:11:46
7	Mark Walton (Aus)	Razorback Mexi	15:24:43
8	Rohan Stanes (Aus)	Shuja Bint Melika	16:50:34

Youth

1	Bridget Nottle (Aus)	Zara Farm Shadasj	13:15:37
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FEI 108km**

Open

1	Asher Batty (Aus)	Castlebar Dell	7:57:43
2	Kristie McGaffin (Aus)	Kurrajong Concorde	8:30:44
3	Shelley Cowan (Aus)	China Doll	8:30:47
4	James Sheahan (Aus)	Woodbourne Edmund	8:56:08
5	Linda Tanian (Aus)	Castlebar Darth Vader	8:58:13
6	Zoe Gardner (Aus)	Splitters Creek Fortitude	8:58:15
7	Amily Daw (Aus)	Castlebar Gulfstream	10:17:01
8	Alison Dent (Aus)	Shuja Nanji Riffan	10:32:27
9	Wendy Dower (Aus)	Eastern Park The Duke	10:38:11
10	Nicola Robinson (Aus)	Nakeeta	10:38:33

Youth

1	Brianna Bainger (Aus)	Magic Glenn Katana	8:58:14
2	Jessie Aistrop (Aus)	Castelbar Hot Potato	10:17:02

AERA 108km Elevator

Heavyweight

1	Ken Bradley	Pheonix Park Epona	10:31
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Middleweight

1	Louise McCormack	Formosa Park Tali	8:47
=2	Beverley Raynor Mason	Karumba Nariel	10:17
=2 & BC	Jo-Anne Francis	Hansaar	10:17

Lightweight

1	Natalie Thome	Zayed Shakhan	11:55
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Junior

1 & BC	Zeke Verspaandonk	Tonki Dee Boo Imagine	11:55
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For full results visit www.tonimbukgoldcup.org.au