



# The Grand Hotel Bega Showjumping Cup 2011

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## Local stars to shine

LAST year, the Bega Showjumping Cup proved to be a very successful event for Bega Showjumping Club members.

Out of the 25 events over the three days, 15 of them were won by locals. To really top it off, the prestigious main event, the Bega Showjumping Cup was won by Bega rider Jamie Smith and his black thoroughbred Mr Whitter.

Young Bega rider Clint Beresford who, at only 17 years of age, made history by being the youngest rider to ever compete in the cup.

Club secretary Kirsty McPaul asked these two outstanding Bega riders about their achievements and what they are hoping to accomplish this year.

### Jamie Smith:

*What did it mean to you to win the Bega Showjumping Cup last year?*

"I can honestly say that it was the best victory of my life.

"It was obviously a very good feeling and very humbling.

"I have been competing in the Bega Cup ever since its inception 15 years ago and I thought it was the only event in the country that I would never win no matter how hard I tried.

"I have always really wanted to win this class, being a Bega rider, I had a personal connection with it.

"The win had sentimental value and I was thrilled to have finally achieved it."

*Have you been preparing to redeem your title this year?*

"I am currently preparing to have another go but I am no where near as well prepared as I was last year.

"Last year I did a lot of shows in the lead up, but at the present moment I haven't done any.

"I am going to Canberra this weekend for a hit-out if it isn't still raining up there."

*Would the win in the Cup rank up there with your best achievements?*

"Yes definitely, I rank it as the



• Bega's Clint Beresford made history by becoming the youngest rider to compete at the cup. Clint will look to perform well again in 2010.

best although I have won some pretty major classes before.

"A couple of years ago I won the Prince of Wales Cup under lights at the Melbourne Royal Show on Mr Whitter and that was a huge highlight in my career.

"I also won a championship at Dubbo Show one year against over 100 other competitors which was a great feeling also.

"I have competed in Japan, England, France and America but you can't beat winning on your home soil."

*How is the Bega Showjumping Cup different or better to other shows?*

"It is run by horse people for horse people.

"The hard working committee are very accommodating in every respect which can be hard to come by sometimes.

"It is also a nice time of year because everyone is more relaxed and in holiday mode.

"The show is very enjoyable socially as well as competition wise."

### Clinton Beresford:

*Congratulations on your efforts in the Bega Showjumping Cup last year, you only knocked one rail in each round, how did you feel about your achievement?*

"I was pretty excited; I couldn't believe that I only had one down in each round.

"The fact I was the youngest to ever compete combined with it being my first time competing at that standard was very exciting.

"I was so happy with my performance."

*Being only 17 at the time, did you feel any extra pressure than you would normally feel in other competitions?*

"I felt it a little bit, I wasn't intimidated but I felt a little out of my league.

"I am so used to competing against people more my own age so it felt a little surreal walking the course and sharing the warm-up area with riders of such a high standard."

*This time last year you had a short-term goal of competing in*

*a World Cup event. How is your progress coming along in regards to this?*

"I completed my HSC at school this year and did not get to as many shows as usual but I am happy to say that I fulfilled my dream three weeks ago when I competed in my first World Cup class at Sale.

"I then competed in the World Cup at Tonimbuk the following weekend.

"I incurred 12 faults at Sale and 16 at Tonimbuk.

"I did get a few faults but I am extremely happy with my results as I was competing against horses and riders with a load more experience.

"I hope to establish myself a lot more at that level next year."

*How do you rate your chances at the Bega Showjumping Cup again this year?*

"I rate myself a bit better than last year because I have a lot more experience.

"Hopefully I can improve on last year and get a clear round.

"I can't wait!"

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