

# Mothers set to jump

• Bega's Fossil's Cup pays tribute to women

THE BEGA Showjumping Club invites everyone to the Bega Showground this Sunday for the annual Fossil's Cup showjumping competition day.

A great day of showjumping is expected and it will also be a fundraiser for the Australian Cancer Council.

A percentage of all entry fees will go to the Cancer Council, as will as a collection that will be made throughout the Fossil's Cup event.

This year's theme for the event is "Mothers of Showjumping".

In 2012, it will be the seventh year the Bega Showjumping Club has run this very popular winter competition day.

The Fossil's Cup is the brainchild of Jackie Curtis, who wanted to create a competition day that provided something a little different and that involved everyone.

That something different is of course the feature event of the day, the Fossil's Cup, an event made especially for "old" members of the club and an opportunity for those who haven't competed or rode in a long time, to have another go at showjumping and show the new generation what they have got.

Over the years, the Fossil's Cup has subtly adopted themes.

One year the event saw riders

who have never show jumped before, another year competitors were sponsors and popular identities from around the town.

Two years ago, the event saw showjumping champions from the past show off their competitive side.

This year, the club is celebrating women.

Already, there is an impressive line-up of mothers reluctantly preparing to compete for the prestigious trophy.

It is sure to be one of the most competitive cup events yet.

The day will also be a fantastic opportunity to pay homage to all mothers for their endless work, support and encouragement they provide to not only Bega Showjumping Club, but sporting clubs in general.

The "Fossils" will compete in a normal two-round showjumping contest with a few added tasks in the first round.

In past years, competitors have been asked to perform tasks while jumping including riding with one hand, waving to the crowd, mounting and dismounting, negotiating obstacles mid-course and finishing with a gallop around the arena.

These tasks add an entertainment factor to the event as well as test the skills of the competitors.

The Fossil's Cup class should



• Last year's Fossil's Cup winner Craig Cowgill will be stepping aside this year as the event celebrates the mothers of showjumping.

begin at 11am on Sunday.

Spectators are more than welcome to head along and support this year's competitors and the Australian Cancer Council.

Two rings will also be operating throughout the entire day, both opening at 8.30am.

Local sponsors have been very generous once again, enabling the club to offer over \$1300 in prize money and many prizes to give-away to the winners.

For club members, a working bee will be held tomorrow from 3pm to set up for the event.

The entry office will also be open for about an hour at 4pm tomorrow for any riders wishing to make entries before the day.

An entry form is available on the club's website.

For more details and to view a program, visit [www.begashowjumpingclub.weebly.com](http://www.begashowjumpingclub.weebly.com), or call Kirsty McPaul on 0421 902 438.

## Domination continues

Josh Bartlett

FORMER Bega local Boyd Exell has continued his outstanding form on the world carriage driving circuit.

Recently, Exell overcame a disappointing dressage round to win the driving competition in Aachen, Germany.

Exell, 39, has enjoyed terrific success at the annual competition, winning five times, including the past four consecutively.

The reigning Federation of International Equestrian (FEI) world four-in-hand and four times FEI World Cup driving champion remains on track to defend both titles.

Exell was challenged in Aachen and it wasn't until the marathon phase that he jumped ahead of his competitors.

US driver Chester Weber had accumulated a comfortable lead after setting an Aachen record of 33.54 penalty points in the dressage test.

Exell finished the test in fourth place with a score of 44.93.

However, Exell bounced back to set a blizzing pace in the obstacle stage and win the marathon.

The final results saw Exell win with a final total of 139.49 points from Netherlands' driver Koos De Ronde on 151.59.

Germany's Christoph Sandmann rounded out the top three, while the Netherlands won the team competition for the sixth consecutive time.

The Aachen round served as a trial for a brand new system, with a GPS tracker placed on all marathon carriages.

## Riders back in the saddle

IN THE 1970s, a group of horse and carriage driving enthusiasts joined together to form the Bega Valley Harness Society (BVHS).

Members came from different backgrounds, bringing a variation of experience, carriages and horses and ponies.

Over the years, members of the BVHS have competed and won at numerous major shows, including Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra Royal Shows.

The BVHS has had members driving as young as 12 years old and up to 83 years old.

There have been ponies as little as miniature pony, through to clydesdale horses.

Some of the breeds have been hackney, Welsh pony, Welsh cob, Australian stock horse, Arabian, shetland, thoroughbred, warmblood, Clydesdale, riding pony, American saddlebred, percheron

and more.

The pleasure driving is popular with all ages, shapes and sizes. Several members have taken to the eventing side of carriage driving. The BVHS' most successful member has been Boyd Exell, who is now based in England and is currently and four times world champion four-in-hand driver.

With only a handful of members now, the BVHS is asking for anyone interested in carriage driving to head along to the Cobargo Showgrounds on July 29, starting at 10.30am.

Club members will be putting new ponies into harness for the first time.

Interested people are invited to bring along their pony or horse and any equipment, harness or carts.

For more information, contact Nola Robertson on 6492 3491 or Lisa Harrington on 6493 7278.

## Jade shines on big stage

LOCAL dressage enthusiast Jade Moxey put in an impressive performance at the Equestrian Australia (EA) NSW Young Riders Championship in Sydney last weekend.

Jade, 12, and her mount Miss Dalliance finished a creditable third in the preliminary 1D competition.

Young riders are aged up to 21 years and Jade was up against competitors from NSW and Victoria.

Horse and rider combinations had to qualify at official EA events held throughout the year to be accepted.

This ensures an extremely high level of competition with only the best young riders accepted.

Nerves got the better of Jade in her first test, the preliminary 1C, but she still scored a very credible 60.91 per cent for 10th place from 16 competitors.

The second test, the preliminary 1D, was one of Jade's best efforts to date, according to her mum Anne-Marie Moxey.

Jade achieved a score of 69.66 per cent which had her in equal second place, but she was relegated to third on a count-back.

Overall, Jade finished in seventh place, despite being one of the youngest riders in her group.



• Jade Moxey combines with her mount Miss Dalliance to perform well at the Equestrian Australia NSW Young Riders Championships.

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