

Locals match Australia's finest

AUSTRALIA's best riders flocked to Canberra last weekend to compete in one of the largest showjumping festivals in the nation's history.

Comprising three different championships, run over three huge weekends, Exhibition Park in Canberra is the place to be for all showjumping fanatics.

The first weekend opened the festival with the seventh Australian Youth Championships for riders under 21 years of age.

Last weekend saw the running of the NSW Equestrian State Showjumping Titles.

Today sees the start of the Australian National Showjumping Championships.

Bega Showjumping Club members have already enjoyed considerable success with the locals once again boasting a state champion.

Entries were huge with more than 700 horses competing over the weekend. Last year, former local Jamie Grant won the prestigious senior state title but this year his younger cousin, Todd Hinde came away with championship honours, winning the NSW State Amateur Title.

An amateur rider is defined as a rider

who is over 21 years of age and has not competed at World Cup or Olympic level.

Hinde competed on two horses in the category, Kalenia Spook and Kalenia Lindsay, winning and finishing in the top three on both of them throughout the five rounds of competition.

To cap the weekend off for Bega Hayley Jessop and her mount Stirling Ovation were runners up to Hinde in the amateur title.

Other Bega Club member Brett Clarke was very unfortunate to not take out the championship after recording a win and second place.

His elimination was due to his horse GH Tiger Lily slipping over in the wet conditions.

Hinde receives a \$1000 fuel voucher from Caltex for winning the championship and Jessop receives a \$500 voucher for finishing runners up. Other competitors from Bega in the amateur categories were Sandra Kenny, Kirsty McPaul, Les Symons and Steve Martin who gained some top three finishes against the very tough competition.

The major awards did not stop there for Jessop. **Continued page 46**



• Hayley Jessop clears another jump on Stirling Ovation last weekend.

Blandy lands a monster

A GOOD mate of mine, Rob Bland of Kalaru, has just returned from the Amazon on an exploratory trip.

Bland said he went on an angling trip to the back blocks of the Amazon with famous author of Fishing Wild Magazines Col Roberts, and it was amazing.

Bland caught an apapaima which was estimated to be between 90-100 kilograms.

The group also caught apapas which is a giant sardine growing to a massive 100-kilogram mark.

Bland said some of the



other exotic species the group caught on 12 days of fishing at this amazing place were an arrawanna which is saratoga-like specie.

Bland also caught payara, which has a mouthful of huge teeth, as well as huge piranha and many other fishes.

Bland said the group also caught around 2000

peacock bass and he looked forward to his next trip.

In local news the rain and wind that hit us early on Saturday made fishing impossible.

On Sunday we fished at Bermagui on the six-mile reef for some good snapper and mowies, before we moved in closer for some good tiger flathead.

Most boats that came in had a feed onboard but the fishing was noticeably quieter due to the weather.

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• Kalaru's Rob Bland (rear) and Amazon locals with Bland's giant catch, an estimated 100-kilogram apapaima.

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