

Northside Mazda Showjumping Spectacular – 22 June 2003

The King River Pony Club grounds took on a showcase appearance as they played host to the first Northside Mazda Showjumping Spectacular. With two showjumping rings set up, the grounds were a sea of colour with the Mazda pennants fluttering in the wind and various Mazda vehicles strategically placed in key areas.

The Healthway 'Healthy Club' banner and portable shade shelter added to the atmosphere.

Northside Mazda had also provided a range of prizes – from frizbees to biros and caps for the competitors and the standard of the showjumping certainly did not let the sponsors down.

In a jam packed program, and despite the drizzle during the day, some 51 riders from throughout Albany and the great Southern took part, with no fewer than 31 clear rounds being jumped in the opening classes.

The second classes of the day, the AM5 events, produced some excellent showjumping and some really close results. In the 1.05m class, Jackie Sept and the well performed Mr Bassman won the event from Michelle Parsons and Magic Call, with Renae Walker (Ruby Carousel) in third position.

This time riding San Salvador, Parsons had to again settle for second place in the .90cm class, where Kim Porter and Champagne Magnum prevailed, with Fern Faulkner and Mystery in third place.

Parsons' luck changed in the .75cm class where she partnered with Crinkle Cut to defeat the promising Becky Ladner & Windrush Fantasy combination, with Lana Cowcher and Proud Zephyr taking out third position.

Bronte Walker and Posh produced a whirlwind round in the .60cm class to win by a mere .9 of a second from Alisha Brown and the ever reliable Miss Chanelle, and Ashleigh Dowsett and Oliver in third, less than 2 seconds away.

And it was another close result in the .45cm class, with less than one and a half seconds separating the three placegetters. Chelsea Birbeck and Banjo proved victorious from Ashton James (Lulu) and Kyle Barton (Molly) third.

Qualifying rounds for the Graduation, Improvers and Encourage finals to be contested at the Albany Show were next on the program. There were a total of 6 double clear rounds and 13 single clear rounds, auguring well for a really exciting final later in the year.

The next class was the AM2, a new event on the program, which pitted horse and riders against the clock in one helter-skelter round. Results were again very close, with Renae Walker and Ruby Carousel turning the tables on Jackie Sept and Mr Bassman who had to be content with third place in the 1.05m class. Fern Faulker and Niza Shade grabbed a great second place.

Michelle Parsons almost had the quinella in the 90cm class with Crinkle Cut (1st) and San Salvador (3rd), but were denied by a very fast and gutsy ride by Kim Porter on Champagne Magnum who finished second.

Ashleigh Dowsett and Oliver continued their good form to win the 60cm class from Alishe Brown (Miss Chanelle) and Rebecca Hall (Gobbledock) in the 60cm class, with Ashton James (Lulu) winning the final AM2 class from Kim Hoveller (Rocky) and Kelsey Atkinson (Twiggy).

All that was left to complete the program was the exciting Jig Saw Pairs competition, where Renae Walker teamed with her sister, Bronte, in making it an all-family affair to win convincingly. Second place went to Michelle Parsons and Alisha Brown, both of whom had performed solidly during the day, with the new combination of Tess Ladner and Amy Piercey finishing a good third.

Special thanks go to all the helpers, judges, course builders, and the riders, but in particular to the major sponsors, Northside Mazda.