

VAS Ltd “EQUINE NUTRITION AUSTRALIA” Saddle Horse Championships

The committee would like to let competitors know that we are currently planning the 2011 VAS Ltd Saddlehorse Championships. We would like to thank all competitors for their support in 2010 and want to assure you that we have taken on board your concerns and suggestions to help improve the Championships. We may not necessarily keep a permanent venue for the Saddlehorse Championships but we have chosen to remain at Bendigo at least for 2011.

Many of you complained about the lack of shade for spectators and this will be fixed. A number of competitors told us that having the Open preliminary judging in the morning and the final late in the afternoon made it a very long day. Next year we will try running all finals directly after their respective preliminary heats. Hopefully this will enable competitors to have the choice to either compete in another section or just relax and have an early trip home.

You may have noticed that in 2010 we stopped giving ribbons in the individual classes. These classes simply become preliminary heats to win selection into the top ten. We want the top ten finals to really mean something special. With that aim in mind, we have brought the two Open Galloway sections back to a single top ten final. Similarly we have done the same with the two Open Hack Championships. The prize money saved here has been poured into the other sections, in particular, the every growing Show Hunter section. We have also added more Leading Rein classes, which again seem to be growing in popularity.

Every Championship, every Reserve Championship and every Top Ten Finalist Sash at the VAS Ltd Saddlehorse Championships is a very special achievement. It is a “Best of the Best” show. Just look at the results from our 2010 Championships. Our ‘Champion Hack’ was the current Royal Melbourne Show Champion, our ‘Supreme Junior Rider’ was the current National Champion, our ‘Champion Small Pony’ was the National Champion and so the list goes on.

Next year’s Saddle Horse Championships will be held 29 & 30 January 2011. Schedules and judging announcements will be posed on the VAS Ltd website in October. We look forward to seeing all the competitors again in 2011.