

## **ARTHURTON HOSTS "BEST SHOWJUMPING COMPETITION IN THE STATE"**

The annual Showjumping Spectacular at the Arthurlton oval from April 17- 19 attracted more than 800 entries from as far as Western Australia to Mildura.

With the brand new Anthony Thomas painted rails and filling which would be one of the most colourful and creative in the whole country (view at [www.southernsporthorses.com.au](http://www.southernsporthorses.com.au) ) and the EFA sponsored wings, the settings were looking a treat underneath the Yorke Peninsula sunshine.

Competition started on Friday with all winners and placegetters doing it hard to get money with fierce and fast jumps offs. All competitors were here to win.

First thing Saturday morning Evie Buller from Western Australia rode Anthony Thomas' classy little mare Classic Oman to a great win in front of It's Will (Kym Afford), Pilot (Jeff Bloomfield), MEC Privilege (Anthony Thomas) and Hot Wheels (Brett Bertelsmeier) in the D Grade class.

Adam Beckel aboard PS Loretta took the honours in the C & D Grade in a time of 35.09 closely followed by Black Rain (Randall Jolley) in a time of 35.27. Third place went to Scenic (Leanne Bruggemann) saving one of the favourites for Sundays Futurity in a time of 45.21. Fourth and five went to the fastest 4 faulters, Tenacious D and APH Lucas both ridden by Jono Farrington.

Now it was time for the kids to contest the Mitavite Final in which they had been qualifying for, for the past 12 months. Last year was a crowd pleasing final jumpoff. Colin Price, chief executive of Mitavite in Australia and New Zealand travelled to Arthurlton to witness the much talked about Mitavite Final underneath the Mitavite tent decorated with plants and opened bags of fresh Mitavite. After the first round there were 9 of the 16 finalists who jumped clear with only 2 dropping out after the second round setting the scene for a fast 7 horse jumpoff. All combinations early in the draw knew that they had to be fast with last years winner and top qualifier at the end of the draw. First out was Skanson Cadiz (Elycia Scatini) who knew there was 12 months sponsorship of Mitavite up for grabs and rode accordingly, very, very fast in a time of 35.58. Rip It Up (Jasmin Dawe) had four faults. Kurt Siviour riding Anthony Thomas' Legal Eagle had a crack at the time but fell short on 36.31 which was now looking like the time could not be beat. Paige Jardine and Terrific turned tight to the second fence but ran off. Robbie's Guns (Reece Boylan) galloped around the course but only managing a time of 36.85.

It was now left to the two top qualifiers of the season, MEC Harvey and Ellie Clark had the second fence down and so cut the throttle back. Galloping into the arena came Katelle Domino and Katie Clark who have dominated the series all season showing the benefits of feeding Mitavite. The little black and white champion hit the start flags at a blistering pace and finished with a time of 34.00.

Katie came out of the arena crying with excitement. Colin presented the placegetters with their prizes and made the announcement of how proud Mitavite was to be associated with the Mitavite Series and the Arthurlton Showjumping Spectacular.

The 130cm saw Kaluna Thunderstruck (Matt Afford) at their best to jump the only clear round in the jump off with BR Steiger (Ben Jolley) ,Stretch Limo (Kym Afford) , and Faultine (Randall Jolley) rounding out the placings.

Charlie Girl (Evie Buller) won the junior one round closely followed by Diamonds Are Few (Nicole Bruggemann) .

Myall Mo (Kym Afford) flew around the Speed Classic just ahead of True Illusion (Randall Jolley) to notch up another speed win.

The 6 Bar is always a crowd favourite and attracted a large field with \$10 being offered for every clear round. Woolabilla Tyler (Matt Afford) won after four rounds in front of crowd and local favourite Kinnordy Goertiz and Volcan both ridden by Anthony Thomas.

The community clubs provided everyone with a steak and drinks at the newly built clubrooms. Then the crowd was introduced to the Calcutta on Sundays Grand Prix with alot of money being spent. The night then just kicked on with a live band.

Sunday morning saw coursebuilder Brenton Ames building a very testing D Grade Championship with only 8 clear rounds in the first round. No jump off was required after the second round with MEC Privilege (Anthony Thomas) being the only clear to claim the championship. Four faulters filled the rest of the placings.

Given a talented line up of Futurity horses in the Koyuna Stud D & C Futurity eight great clear rounds were produced. The larger second round saw jumps fall in different areas of the course for just about everyone but Mysterious Ways ( Michael McClean) who produced the only double clear round. PC Centrefold (Matt Afford) ,Olivers Puzzle (Kate Schlichting) ,Tenacious D (Jono Farrington) , Anton (Jeff Bloomfield) and Jokerman (Mark Lindh) filled the placings. Howard Clark (owner of Koyuna Stud) was present to award the worthy winner and placegetters. He then made the long awaited announcement that every future Koyuna bred horse will go to Anthony Thomas. Koyuna Stud is the leading showjumping and eventing stud in Australia with five horses on the National lists and horses such as Ashleigh Drossel Dan, Warlord II and Dark Ages all bred along the same lines.

The Anthony Thomas Signature Range Saddlery Young Riders Final saw the best Young Riders in South Australia line up to contest the final in which they qualified for throughout the year. The tough and technical course was worthy of a final. Charlie Girl (Evie Buller) and Philadelphia (Katie Clark) were the only clear rounds in the first round and then continued their good form to jump clear again in the second round. Philadelphia was the first to go in the jump off having a rail down in a time of 40.34. The brilliant Thoroughbred mare, Charlie Girl, by Made if Gold cruised around the jump off clear in 37.45 seconds to take the victory and a years sponsorship from Worlds Best Hoof Oil.

Third was Black Velvet (Kim Charles) on 4 faults, fourth Classic Gangster (Sarah Heath) and fifth was Mafia (Jaclyn Zippel) both on 8 faults. Charlie Girl, Philadelphia and Classic Gangster were all purchased from Anthony Thomas.

The next event was the Senior Grand Prix. The sun was shining and the commentators Peter Graham and Taddy McClean were getting excited. First to go was Kinnordy Serena (Clive Reed) who took a disliking to the double of brickwall planks. The next four horses then jumped clear. Princely Guy (Michael McClean) and Rado (John Patterson) both had the first of the treble down. Kinnordy Goertiz (Anthony Thomas) produced a clear round just under the time as did Spiderbait (Adam Metcalfe) but three seconds over the time allowed left him with one time fault. Tosh (John

Patterson) was unlucky having the last fence down while hot favourite Kaluna Thunderstruck (Matt Afford) had 8 penalties.

After two rounds 4 horses were still faultless. Kinnordy Goertiz was first out to tackle the 1.50m jump off with many options, turns and galloping. Kinnordy Goertiz set the pace turning up tight to the big oxers, clear in 43.29. Commentator Taddy McClean thought he may have seen the winner ,not expecting what was to come.

Little trier Faultine started out wider to the bigger oxers but with a quick turn back, throwing a shoe while turning, galloped as hard as he could to the last triple bar to take the lead in 42.65.

BR Steiger (Ben Jolley) set off at a blistering pace but had a fence down in a time of 44.98.

Belcam Gambler and Michelle Clark entered the arena looking like they meant business. Michelle kicked and rode faster than she has ever ridden with Gambler swishing his tail and ears flat back gave it all she had in a time of 41.30 to be a worthy winner in front of a very appreciative crowd.

Spectators,riders, and anyone who watched the jump off commented that it was one of the most memorable jump offs they have ever seen.

The Junior Grand Prix produced another win to Charlie Girl (Evie Buller) jumping double clear with KH Dejavu (Stephen Devine) only 0.11 seconds behind. Third was Lolita (Stephen Devine) and fourth Terrific (Paige Jardine) both with a rail down.

This event provided a true spectacle of horse and rider capability to impress both the novice and seasoned horse enthusiast. Howard Clarke (Koyuna Stud) made the comment that it was the most entertaining, most professionally organised show he had ever been to. Many thanks must go to the Arthurton Showjumping Committee, the local community, spectators, sponsors, riders, judges, course builders and anyone involved in putting this spectacular up with the best in Australia.