



NCHA STOCKMANS CHALLENGE

MEDIA RELEASE

This year's 2009 NCHA Futurity to be staged at the Australian Equine Events and Livestock Centre in Tamworth from the 28th May through until the 7th June will see the introduction of an NCHA Stockman's Challenge to its entertainment program.

This NCHA Stockman's Challenge will be restricted to 10 contestants from various states of Australia competing in four gruelling categories for a total of \$6000 in prize money. The first stage of the competition will be held as a Two Handed Cutting competition on Friday afternoon 29th May starting at 5.30pm in the main arena. The second stage of the competition involves a unique Australian tradition, the Whip Cracking obstacle course. To ensure the true challenge amongst all competitors one of the conditions of entry stipulates competitors must ride the same horse throughout the entire competition.

The third and fourth rounds of the Stockman's Challenge are conducted on Saturday evening 30th May, following the first Round of the Open Futurity. The evening commences with the Brumby Catch event which is truly an art that Australian Bushman have forged since the early settlement days and now transformed into a modern form of

competition and entertainment. The brumby's used in this competition still roam free in the high mountain country above Murrurundi.

Without any doubt the highlight of the evening program is round 4, the final of the Stockman's Challenge, conducted as a traditional Poly Saddle Buckjump competition. The rules are very similar to the 1940's where the saddles are very much smaller, creating entertainment not seen before in the AELEC centre. Ten of Australia's toughest and most talented horseman will pit their skills and ability as stockman on some of the wildest bucking horses in Northern NSW for the honor of being crowned the first NCHA Stockman's Challenge Champion. This should prove to be one of the highlights of this years Futurity, with confirmation from highly regarded horseman such as, Scott Bandy of Tumut (twice winner of The Man From Snowy River Corryong Challenge), Morgan Webb (2009 Winner of the of The Man From Snowy River Corryong Challenge), Trevor Nash (2009 Winner of the King of the Ranges Challenge at Murrurrundi), Head Stockman for the Australian Outback Spectacular, Brett Welsh and World Champion Campdraft Winner from the Sydney Show, Troy Palmer. This will be the first time in history such a talented group of Australian Horseman have contested such a unique challenge. This is just one of the big nights of entertainment at the 2009 NCHA Futurity.

Tickets for the 2009 NCHA Futurity are on sale now through Tourism Tamworth and can be purchased through their website www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au or by phoning 02 6767 5300.

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