



## Cutting A Road to Tamworth

With only three weeks before the start of the richest cutting spectacular in the southern hemisphere here in Tamworth later this month, NCHA competitors wishing to put the finishing touches on their cutting horses headed to the Paradise Lagoons Cutting, held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, just West of Rockhampton Qld, at the Acton family property "Paradise Lagoons".

Competitors travelled from far and wide to compete in the lead up the prestigious 2009 NCHA Futurity which will be staged at the Australian Equine Events and Livestock Centre in Tamworth from the 28<sup>th</sup> May to the 7<sup>th</sup> June. With a minimum guaranteed prize purse of \$12,000 for the Open Cutting and \$5,000 minimum guaranteed for the Open Non Pro, the pressure was on for Competitors and horse alike.

Ian Bush from "Maytoe" Alpha in Queensland won the Open Non Pro riding Lethal N Stylish. Lethal N Stylish, an outstanding mare by Peptos Stylish Oak (imp) owned by the newly established stud in Tamworth, Morning Sun Ranch, won the NCHA Futurity in 2006 and finaled in both the NCHA Derby in 2007 and NCHA Classic Challenge in 2008. Lethal N Stylish can be seen competing in the 2009 NCHA Futurity Classic Challenge and Non Pro Classic Challenge events.

Fellow Queensland competitor Richard Prew from Crowsnest, took out the Open event aboard Gidgee Coals. This fabulous little mare won the \$50,000 NCHA Futurity in 2005, placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the NCHA Derby in 2005, won the NCHA Classic in 2007. Her career earnings in the cutting horse industry now exceed \$102,000.00

Local Competitors Janie Vickery from Bective Station and Jackson Gray Moonbi again made Tamworth proud by placing in the top five in the Open Non Pro event. Both will be competing at this year's NCHA Futurity. Janie will be competing in the Non Pro Classic and Open Classic Challenge events on "Lectro Scooter" and Jackson will ride "Little Miss Mac" in the Non Pro Futurity.

With the 2009 Futurity extended to eleven days of competition additional new and exciting evening entertainment has been included in the program of events. Some of these include the NCHA Stockman's Challenge, incorporating Two Handed Cutting, Whip cracking, Brumby Catching and the action packed old style Poly Saddle

Buckjump. These events will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May. Additional entertainment includes Dan Steers and Dan James Aussie Horseman demonstrations on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May who have recently performed at Equitana in Melbourne and more recently at the 2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Another big night of entertainment is the Bull Riding and Rodeo on Friday evening the 5<sup>th</sup> June. This will include Saddle Bronc, Bareback Bronc, Bull Riding and Ladies Barrel Racing. This event will be supported by the leading rodeo contestants from the ABCRA vying for the opportunity to compete at the National Finals Rodeo in January. Add this with an electrifying performance from Sally Ham and the High Velocity Trick Riding Team the night will be one not to be missed.

Book tickets early for the 2009 NCHA Futurity and Entertainment, through Tourism Tamworth Office, either via their website [www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au) or by phoning 02 6767 5300.

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