



Wellard

MEDIA RELEASE
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WELLARD STAR OF THE WEST CAMPDRAFT SET FOR BIG 2009

After attracting a big crowd to last year's inaugural event, organisers of the Wellard Star of the West campdraft are expecting an even bigger roll-up to this year's draft.

Campdrafters from as far away as the Pilbara and the Kimberley will descend on the Northam Equestrian Centre for three days of competition, from November 6-8th.

The highlight of the Wellard Star of the West will be the open draft on the evening of Saturday November 7th, when competitors will display their horsemanship under lights in front of a large crowd. A band will swing into action at the conclusion of the draft.

Last year's winner, Trevor Beer, is returning to defend his Open title. Trevor is more than 70 years old, so the sport's young guns will be out to prove their dash and exuberance can match the master horseman's guile and experience.

More than 850 cattle are required for the draft's 100 riders and 200 horses, who will compete in about 600 first round drafts.

Spectator entry is by gold coin donation, and all entrance proceeds will be gifted to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation.

Wellard Star of the West organiser Justin Morrissey said competitors in the Wellard Star of the West were competing for one of the biggest campdrafting prize pools in Western Australia, so competition would be intense.

"Campdrafting is one of Australia's fastest growing horse sports because the action is fast and furious," he said. "Campdrafting is 20:20 cricket meets the Man from Snowy River.

"The stockmanship and horsemanship on display are admired from seasoned campdrafters through to first time spectators of the sport."

Northam was chosen to host the draft due to its proximity to Perth, ensuring the city and country spectators could witness the state's best campdrafters put their skills to the test.

Drafts include Open, Juvenile, Novice, Restricted, Local and Stallion. Competition begins at 10.30am on Friday and at 6.30am on Saturday and Sunday.

There will be trade displays, food stalls and a bar in operation.

“The Wellard Star of the West promises to be a great day out for competitors and spectators alike,” Mr Morrissey said.

More information is available at www.wellard.com.au/starofthewest

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Background – Campdrafting

Campdrafting is a sport where horse and rider select and manoeuvre a beast around a set course for a score out of 100. There are three areas that make up the scoring criteria.

The first is the camp where the pair select a beast from a mob of cattle in a small yard and demonstrate their ability to keep it separate from the mob. This is scored out of 26 and any score over 21 is considered a great score.

From there the yard gates are opened and the rider must move the beast in a set pattern around two pegs and then through a gate. This section is scored out of 70 points according to horsemanship and the ability of the pair to control the beast while completing the course. A score of 60 plus is a worthy score. The course must be completed in less than 50 seconds.

The final 4 points are allocated for rounding the two pegs and passing through the gate.

Campdrafting needs a combination of practice, skill and a little bit of luck. When the three sections' points are added together any score in the eighties is more than competitive, with the 90 point mark being the Holy Grail for competitors.

For more information visit: www.wellard.com.au