



**Australian One-Day-Event Championships  
2nd & 3rd July 2011  
Conducted by  
BERRIMA HORSE TRIALS**

**COURSE DESIGNER'S COMMENTS**

The Two Star and the Three Star course (particularly) have a number of technical combinations, and it is the course designer's intention that these top horses and riders gain significant experience and confidence by being faced with quite intense series of technical and related fences. This is so that when they get to the Three Day Events, that remain the pinnacle of the sport, they will take all in their stride. This event will be put to good use by horses going to Sydney International Three Day Event (in September) and ultimately the Adelaide International Horse Trials in November. The top riders are jockeying for Australian selection for the London Olympic Games in 2012, many of the Two Star horses would be aimed (perhaps hopefully!) at the World Equestrian Games in Normandy in 2014.

As the horses go up the grades, they are required to gallop faster and further, and jump higher and wider over more obstacles. However, the course designer has a common sentiment for all of the competitors ... that they gain in confidence and experience, without serious accident or error. Much effort goes into making the design and construction of our fences as safe as possible, and we participate in National and International safety surveys with a view to furthering our knowledge and making future improvements. A new feature introduced in 2010 in the interest of safety is **Course Intensity** which is the **Course Distance** divided by the **Number of Jumping Efforts** – the FEI recommends a maximum intensity of 110 metres per effort for Three Star, 105 max for Two Star and 100 max for One Star. Our Berrima intensities meet these recommendations in all three classes – all in the interest of horse and rider safety.

Such is the fitness and jumping ability of the horses in the highest classes that they can all gallop and jump maximum size fences at the required speed. The course designer expects very few run-outs or refusals at these levels, but hopes that the less well trained /less able horses will need more time to be set up for combination fences, especially those where line is important such as apexes or "skinnies" (narrow fences), and that this will show up in time faults. Alternately, they may incur extra time taking a slow route, rather than risk a run out at a more difficult line of fences. The **Animal Company Trakener** and the **Bowral Co-op Pump Bank** in the Three Star and the **Coolaroo Bounce and Apex** in Two Star are good examples of this. Horses at the highest level are expected to be able to jump an upright fence with little groundline – and the new **Equissentials Gate** for Three Star is an example of this.

We have substantially changed the Two and Three Star courses for this event – a degree of rebuild that has not been seen before in the 20 year history of Berrima Horse Trials. The aims of this were to modernise the course, to improve the footing and to improve the flow of the course. However, it also gave us the chance to rebalance the course - a handful of big but straightforward fences to settle the horses, then a complex to test and slow them down, then more straightforward “recovery” fences to reward and relax the horses, prior to the next complex.

Last year we laid over 200 tonnes of roadbase to improve the farm tracks and gateways, and there have been about another 100 tonnes laid on takeoffs and landings prior to this event. (Many thanks for the assistance of Brett Delamont and his Bobcat!) We redesigned the finish to give better flow and a nice flat straight pull-up area. The Stone Wall – the last fence for over 10 years – is now jumped in the reverse direction. Many of the drops have gone or have been modified. A significant number of new 3 star fences - right up to height and width – have been built by our course builder Brett Ryan, assisted by Henk Brus and Nick Waugh. The Tertini Wines Water Complex in front of the Clubhouse has had a major facelift. The Alpaca Bounce has been rebuilt.

Unfortunately, there has been a huge amount of rain – so the Institute Water will need to be bypassed – and the new 3\*/2\* creek crossing jump is on hold for another few months. Likewise the renewal of the Institute Water has to be put on hold. The good news is ... the going is superb!! This week’s forecast is fine and we are all systems go! Remember that we are further from the coast than the Central Coast, and most of the rain from an East Coast Low Pressure system falls on the coast and not inland. In fact, there has been far more rain in the Wells Creek Catchment – eastern Sutton Forest & Exeter & Bundanoon - than at Araluen - so most of our problems are associated with the creek running a banker, rather than poor going on the course.

Best spectator spots are at the Tertini Water Complex, the Highland Drilling Sunken Road fence, the bank near the Stone Apexes and near the Hayrack. The best vantage spots have been marked on the Cross Country maps ... from several of these over two thirds of the course are visible. If you are a spectator, don't get "bogged down" at the Tertini Wines Water Complex ... go for a walk around the course and take a look at the other fences.

Berrima is committed to regaining its status of being one of the best Eventing courses in the country. It is usually difficult to come in within the set time and anyone who manages a "double clear" will justifiably wear a wide grin as they come through the finish!

**Vince Roche,**  
Course Designer