

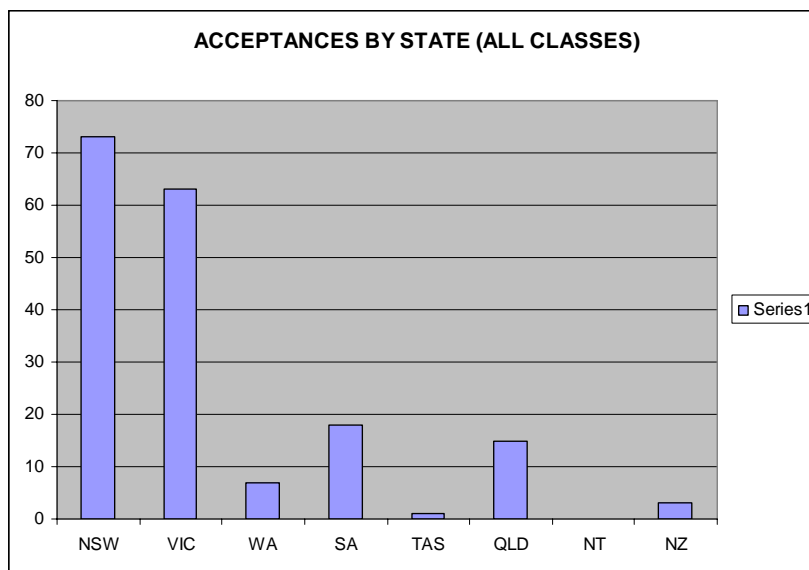
The facts about the cracks. This is where you find information about the Horses and riders that isn't printed in the program.

Overall Acceptances

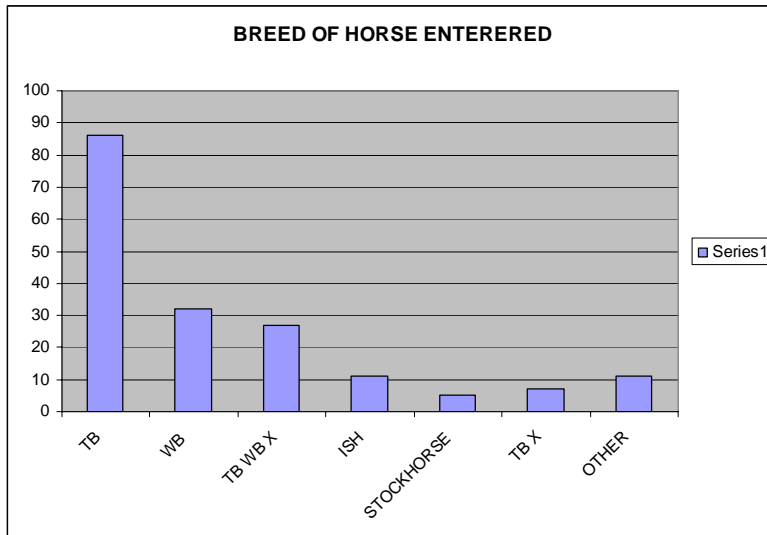
We are now only days out for the start of the 2011 Melbourne International Three Day Event. Acceptances have been released and the venue is starting to take shape with large trade stand area in full swing and Ewan Kellet and his cross country team flat out doing the final touches to the course.

The weekend saw the Victorian Squad members have their final training weekend where the two junior teams were announced for the CCI*J Interstate Teams challenge.

Over the weekend we saw the arrival of the one and only Tasmanian rider, and early in the week competitors will start to arrive at Werribee Park from all over the country and New Zealand before the deadline of Wednesday 5pm. It is interesting to see that even for a Victorian event that NSW continues to dominate the entries. With 73 horses (40%) coming over the border to add to the 180 horses accepted. We will see entries from all states (except NT) including an incredible 7 horses taking the trip across the Nullarbor from Western Australia.



So a look at who is bring what horses, and where are they from, but what are they? How old are the horses, what breed are they and what sex. It is good to see the traditional Thoroughbred still is one of the best breeds for Eventing at this level. With 86 pure bred thoroughbreds entered (48%) followed by 32 Warmblood and 27 TB/WB X. The rest is made up of a mixture of breeds including Irish Sport Horses, Stockhorses, Arab crosses and even a brumby.



Age is always interesting. What is too young to compete a horse at a Three Day Event? When is a horse too old to compete successfully at a Three Day Event? Well overall we see the youngest horse at 6yo in the CCI* and at the other end of the scale we see two 19yo horses, one in the CCI* Junior and the other in the CCI* senior. With no surprise we have an average age of all horses entered at 10.

Everyone seems to have their own opinion on Mares, Geldings and Stallions. And at this years competition we see 146 Geldings (81%), 21 Mares and 1 stallion.

The next area I have looked at is who owns all of these horses. Is Australia moving more towards overseas where we have owners and we have riders? Well the answer to that is no. Of the 180 entered, 141 horses are owned by the rider and 39 have owners other than the rider or their family.

Stay tuned for more in-depth results and facts. Next we will be looking at it class by class before we start competition. The dreaded Trot up starts at 2pm on Thursday and fingers crossed I will be reporting 100% accepted!