



Australia & New Zealand Friesian Horse Society Present:

The 2011 Australia and New Zealand Keuring Tour

MEDIA RELEASE

Friesian Horse Breed Inspections in 2011

A team of judges from the world wide studbook for Friesian Horses, based in the province of Friesland in the Netherlands, will travel to all states of Australia and the North and South Island of New Zealand to inspect and classify Friesian Horses. This event will take place from the 18 March to 5 April, and are unique to the Friesian Breed.

It is now a bi-annual event that was started in 2000, when the first inspections were held. It was followed by more widely held inspections in 2003, 2006 and 2009. The 2011 keuring is shaping up as the largest so far covering all states in Australia.

The Friesian Horse is still relatively new in Australia and New Zealand, with only approximately 500 registered animals. The Friesian Horse is one of the breeds that, nearly extinct some 25 years ago, is going through an enormous revival. In order to develop the breed into a breed suited to modern equestrian events, while maintaining the typical Friesian characteristics, the breeding standards are kept very strict, and are maintained by a world body, the World Friesian Horse Organisation, under the auspice of the Royal Society, the Friesian Horse Studbook. The Australia and New Zealand Friesian Horse Society is a member of this organisation and is therefore responsible for controlling the breeding standards in Australia and New Zealand.

The breed is very spectacular, being black, long wavy mane and tail, with very animated movements and at the same time it is very kind natured. It is very well known in harness,

but is increasingly popular in dressage, competing at the highest level. Many Friesian horses have been used in major movies and recently starred in the Chronicles of Narnia, as well as in performances by equine entertainers and starred in shows such as Royal Gala of Horse, Equestra and now El Caballo Blanco.

At the recently held Australian National Dressage Championships, six Friesian horses entered the competition from Level 2 elementary to Intermediaire II. Unfortunately 3 of those had to be scratched because of personal reasons and injury. The breed albeit small in numbers, is already making its presence known at a large number of competitions throughout Australia and New Zealand. Worldwide the Friesian train, consisting of 12 Friesian stallions participated in the opening of the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky, USA to a crowd of 35000 ecstatic spectators.

The breed featured at the recent opening of the Australian Equine Livestock Event Centre as was by many seen as the highlight of the day.

The inspections, called “keurings”, are done by a two person judging team, of which at least one is an official studbook inspector. Horse are classified and admitted to the adult book if they show sufficient quality in conformation, racial features and movement. The judging team is flying in from the Netherlands on 16 March. The first keuring takes place on 18 March in Brisbane, Queensland, followed by 20 March in NSW, 22 March NZ South Island - 25 March NZ North Island, 27 March South Australia, 30 March Tasmania, 1 and 2 April Melbourne (Victoria), 5 April, Bunbury (WA) .

Connected to the Victorian keuring is a Gala night organized by Wildcroft Friesians entitled “A portrait of a Friesian Horse”.

Further information about the breed and the keurings can be found on our Website, www.ANZFHS.org.au and by contacting the president, Hans Maes on 0429620943 or E-mail at Fryske@ceinternet.com.au or any of the local keuring committee members listed on the website.



Gold sponsor of the 2011 keuring tour