

# SUCCESS IS THE SPUR



She describes competitive show riding as an “obsession and a passion” and for Veronica Mortimer the fixation has paid off.

The Communications Room Operator at the Brisbane Police Communications Centre has recently taken out six Australian Championship Awards for showcasing Arabian horses and she is keen to get back on the saddle and watch the list grow.

Included is back-to-back Champion Purebred Mare under Saddle at the Australian National Arabian

Championships in 2006 and 2007, Champion Purebred Mare under Saddle at the 2007 Arabian Challenge and Supreme Purebred under Saddle at the 2007 Pan Pacific Arabian Showcase.

Veronica’s love for horses is not just restricted to competing. She also does once-a-month stints at the Mounted Police Unit assisting with training and ceremonial duties.

“It’s completely different riding with the Mounted Unit as your skills in the show ring aren’t required, it’s about being an effective rider,” she said.

“It is awe-inspiring riding in the uniform. I have had the opportunity to participate in an escort for the Polocrosse World Cup in Warwick and for the Governor, and I have attended the Ekka. It’s spine-tlingling and very different in the uniform as you’re part of a team not an individual”.

At the time of print the Equine Influenza had put a hold on Veronica’s immediate plans for competing but her future sights are set on the 2008 Australian National Arabian Championships.

“There’s a competition every weekend and I’m aiming to take Dally (Stapylton Park D’Aliiance) to the Australian Championships in Sydney next year and will attempt to win a third consecutive Champion Mare under Saddle,” Ms Mortimer said.

Shift work, training and competing seems a bit of a juggling act for Veronica, but by the sounds of things she would not have life any other way.

By Jacinda Brown  
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