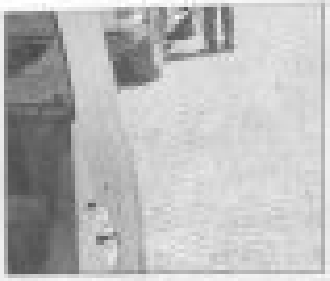

21 outback safari time again. Turn to page 12 to see how you can be a part of the evening Lightning Ridge Polar Bush Safari on 2010.

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UPCOMING FEATURES

BULL SALES

The Tom Quilty, one of the endurance riding's prestigious and demanding horse rides is to be held at Manilla next week.

Considered the ultimate test of horse and rider, the famous cross country ride will be held over four days from Thursday, June 24 to Sunday, June 27.

Competitors have nominated from across Australia as well as from overseas, particularly the near Asian area nations, as well as New Zealand.

Some of the world's leading endurance riders are already in the lower New England town of Manilla preparing for the far what is the biggest event on the endurance calendar.

Local riders Jenny Hargraves, Kim Hagan, Emma Hawkes and Jane Martin have also indicated their intentions to compete.

Regarded as the 'Holy Grail' of endurance riding in this country, riders must complete the 160km course and their horse pass stringent veterinarian tests at regular check points, before they can claim the Tom Quilty Gold Cup and the coveted silver Quilty buckle.

The health of the horse is of paramount consideration.

Competitors will be required to present their horses for pre-ride testing on Friday before riding out at midnight.

They then have 24 hours to complete the 160km course, with the winners expected to finish in less than 10 hours.

Over 250 entries have been received for the event with at least a further 100 late entries expected.

The Tom Quilty is being hosted by the Tamworth & District Endurance Club.

Tamworth Regional Council has chipped in with $10,000 which assisted with upgrades for the kitchen and toilet facilities at Manilla Showground.

The club in its approach to TRC indicated that it had members and volunteers qualified in a number of trades and pledged a combination of work in kind and cash up to $15,000 to match council's contribution of $15,000.

The event had been scheduled for June 2009 but due to the horse influenza outbreak restrictions in 2008, the event had to be put back 12 months.

The Tamworth & District Endurance Club has a very distinct Manilla flavour.

The committee set up to organise the Quilty has husband and wife team of Jill and Guy Buchanan as ride directors.

> CONTINUED PAGE 3

Quilty legend Alwyn Trowbridge will be 73 when he rides in the 2010 Quilty. Alwyn is pictured here competing in his first Quilty in 1967. More on the Tom Quilty on page 3.

Grazing/farming block with tough potential

Ruralco