

THE BERRYMAN'S



Every endurance rider has a story. Some begin with pony clubs and riding schools, while others are forged through determination, experience and an unwavering love of horses. For Suzie Berryman and her son Levi, theirs is a journey built on family, perseverance and a passion for the sport that continues to inspire those around them.



SUZIE- SARAH SULLIVAN
PHOTOGRAPHY



Suzie's introduction to horses began at the age of thirteen with what she laughingly describes as a "rogue Appaloosa" that tested every ounce of her determination. Without formal riding lessons or a pony club background, she taught herself to ride, learning through experience, patience and countless hours in the saddle. Those same values would later shape the way she introduced her own children to horses, with Levi learning to ride at home alongside his father Josh on the family's Quarter Horses.

The family's endurance journey officially began with a 20-kilometre ride in 2018. Another ride followed in 2019, and Suzie quickly discovered she was drawn to the unique challenge of distance riding. Like many riders, her progress was interrupted by COVID, but once competition resumed she returned with renewed determination, eventually earning Open Rider status after several attempts to complete the qualifying 80-kilometre rides.

Suzie's breakthrough came at the notoriously challenging Bom Bom Ride in 2024, where she successfully completed her first 160-kilometre ride in difficult wet conditions. Rather than relying on seasoned campaigners, she has built her achievements alongside first-time horses, demonstrating patience, horsemanship and confidence in developing new equine partners.

Since then, her list of accomplishments has continued to grow, including successful completions at the Tasmania Tom Quilty, Queensland State Championships and Tasmania State Championships, before completing the demanding 400-kilometre Shahzada Marathon on another first-time horse and proudly earning her coveted buckle.

This year Suzie added another milestone by finishing in the Top Ten at the 2026 Tom Quilty Gold Cup during Stirlings Crossing's 60th Anniversary event, completing Australia's premier endurance ride in an impressive 12 hours and 48 minutes. While an attempt at the 2026 Easter Far-A-Way 400-kilometre Marathon ended with a vet-out at the final trot-up, Suzie's philosophy remains refreshingly positive—every challenge is another opportunity to learn and improve.

Alongside numerous wins and placings over 80 kilometres, Suzie has also stepped onto the international pathway as an FEI rider, claiming first place in her inaugural FEI 2 star event at Kilkivan. Her sights are now firmly set on achieving FEI 3 star status and, ultimately, representing herself and Australian endurance riding overseas.

Yet, for all of these remarkable achievements, Suzie considers one of her greatest successes to be watching Levi develop into one of Australia's exciting young endurance riders.



SARAH SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

LEVI & JOSH

Following the example set by his parents, Levi has embraced the sport with enthusiasm, steadily climbing the junior ranks while enjoying everything endurance riding has to offer. His recent performance at the Tom Quilty, where he claimed 4th Junior, was a highlight that reinforced both his growing ability and his love of the endurance community.

Although naturally competitive, Levi is equally recognised for his willingness to encourage and support fellow junior riders. Whether lending a hand, sharing advice or celebrating another rider's success, he demonstrates the sportsmanship that helps make endurance riding such a welcoming and supportive community.

For all of Suzie's accomplishments, she is quick to point out that none of them have been achieved alone. While Suzie and Levi are the faces seen crossing the finish line, the foundations of their success have been built by Josh Berryman. Suzie jokes that, much like her first "rogue Appaloosa", Josh was once "a bit of a rogue cowboy", but says endurance riding has channelled his energy into the disciplined work ethic that long-distance riding demands.

Behind every ride is an enormous amount of unseen work. Through the family's business, Sujo Horses, Josh spends countless hours providing equine dental care and chiropractic services for clients while also carrying the never-ending responsibility of shoeing and caring for the family's own horses. His craftsmanship, dedication and quiet commitment ensure every horse is given the very best opportunity to succeed.

As a rider himself, Josh has completed 40-kilometre endurance rides and is looking forward to returning to competition, with plans to tackle longer distances in the future. More importantly, he remains the steady foundation that allows the whole family to pursue their shared passion.



LEVI'S FIRST ENDURANCE RIDE AT FERNVALE WITH SUZIE- SARAH SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY



A YOUNG LEVI WITH SUZIE



JOSH BERRYMAN



LEVI & SUZIE TQ 26

ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS

The Berrymans are also quick to acknowledge that endurance riding is never an individual pursuit. Along the way they have been fortunate to build lasting friendships with an incredible network of riders whose encouragement, advice and generosity have helped shape their journey. They extend their heartfelt thanks to Virginia Barber, John "Davo" Davidson, Gillian Taylor, Rachel Brown, Troy and Wendy Butler, Shane Butler, Steve Gray and Sharen Madin. While many more people have contributed over the years, these friends have provided invaluable support and become treasured members of their extended endurance family.

That sense of family extends well beyond bloodlines. The Berrymans affectionately refer to Indra Hofstee as their "endurance daughter", recognising the important role she plays within their team. Sharing in each other's successes, supporting one another through setbacks and celebrating milestones together is part of what makes the endurance community so special.

Away from competition, life revolves around horses. Training, feeding, caring for a growing team of young horses and balancing family and business commitments leave little room for idle time. It is a lifestyle that demands discipline, resilience and countless hours of work behind the scenes.

Yet for the Berryman family, that effort is rewarded every time they arrive at a ride with friends who have become family.

"I love introducing new people to endurance riding and supporting others along the way," Suzie says. "The best part is that we get to do it together as a family."

As Tenterfield Endurance Riding Club celebrates its 40-year history, the Berryman family represents the very spirit of endurance riding. Their story is not simply one of kilometres completed or trophies won, but of commitment, humility, friendship and a willingness to lift others as they climb. Through Suzie's determination, Levi's emerging talent, Josh's unwavering support and the strength of the wider team around them, they are helping ensure that the future of endurance riding is every bit as bright as its proud past.



THE BERRYMANS WITH SUPPORT CREW AT THE TQ2026- SARAH SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY