

All power to Jamestown

We reckon RM Williams would be proud. The South Australian home town of the bush innovator and businessman is now home to one of the world's biggest and most advanced batteries. The battery, which can store 129 megawatt hours of power, is made from an array of lithium ion Tesla Powerpacks, and has the ability to power 30,000 homes for an hour. It will store power from the adjoining Hornsdale Wind Farm (issue 109, p38-63) and is seen as an important way to balance out some of the short-term power shortages in South Australia. It is owned by energy provider Neoen in partnership with Tesla, and was built in less than 100 days after Tesla founder Elon Musk promised that it would be delivered for free if he couldn't build it in that time. In late December, South Australia's energy minister Tom Koutsantonis said the battery had been performing better than expected, delivering 100 megawatts into the national electricity grid in 140 milliseconds when a coal-fired power plant tripped and went offline. "That's a record and the national operators were shocked at how quickly and efficiently the battery was able to deliver this type of energy into the market," he said on 5AA radio.

A week after the official opening, the gates were thrown open to a free community event marking both the opening, and the completion (after three years) of the 95-tower wind farm. Colin Byles, CEO of the Northern Areas Council, says about 490 people came to the celebration and many toured the site. "It was very well organised and very much appreciated by the local community," he says.

Colin says that the site provides another reason for tourists to stop in the town. As well as the RM Williams interpretative displays, there are now a series of signs in the main street outside the Commercial Hotel on the wind farm and its construction.



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*The site of the massive
battery beside the
Hornsdale Wind Farm
near Jamestown, SA.*



Winner of the CIC3 at the Australian Three Day Event in Adelaide, Christine Bates, on Adelaide Hill, receives her trophy from R.M. Williams' Rebekka Stubing.*

TOP EVENT

Some 25,000 spectators surged to the 20th Australian Three Day Event held late last year to see the country's top eventing riders and horses at Victoria Park in Adelaide. The event was marred by the passing of much-loved event coordinator Gillian Rolton, a two-time Olympic gold medal winner. Aged 61, she was perhaps best known for her gutsy ride in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, which she completed with broken collarbone and ribs, to help Australia to victory. New Zealander Clarke Johnstone won the premiere CCI4* event against 19 other riders, and Christine Bates took out the R.M. Williams-sponsored CIC3*.

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