

# ***SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL THREE-DAY EVENT***

Media Release

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## **Asian-Pacific Horse Riders Invited to Compete at Sydney International Three-Day Event**

The Sydney Olympics may have long since past but this year's Sydney International Three-Day event\* is set to bring back the international atmosphere by hosting the inaugural Asian-Pacific Challenge Trophy.

The Asian-Pacific Challenge and other top level classes will be held from 30 September to 3 October as part of this year's Sydney International Three-Day Event to be held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park, a world class equestrian facility and home to the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

"Sydney International Eventing is committed to growing the sport of eventing in Australia by hosting international riders just as it did in the Sydney 2000 Olympics." said Mr Paul Cargill, President of Sydney International Eventing.

"The Challenge will give emerging equestrian athletes from the Asia-Pacific region the opportunity to gain first class coaching and international experience in their lead up to 2006 Qatar Asian Games, 2008 Beijing Olympics and beyond." said Mr Cargill. "This is what the Asian Pacific Challenge Trophy is all about developing the abilities of Asian-Pacific riders and building Australia's reputation as the centre of eventing excellence.

Starting at the Pre-Novice level this year, the Asian-Pacific Challenge Trophy will be held each year as part of the Sydney International Three-Day Event, increasing in level each year as riders and horses prepare for the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Asian equestrian athletes will be hosted for up to two weeks prior to the competition with some of Australia's elite riders, compete on well trained horses that they can lease and be given first class instruction by Australia's top coaches including Wayne Roycroft, Australia's National Eventing Coach.

Along side the Asian Pacific Challenge Trophy there will be three other International classes where many of Australia's best horse-and-rider combinations will compete to win NSW's most prestigious event.

"Sydney International Three-Day Event is in its fourth year and has attracted a number of high profile riders over the years and we are expecting this year to be even bigger and better with a true international flavour" said Mr Cargill.

Riders expected to compete at this year's Sydney International Three Day Event include some of the world's best horsemen and women such as Athens 2004 Olympians Stuart Tinney, Olivia Bunn and Rebel Morrow (winner of 2004 Sydney Three Day Event Olympic Selection event) as well as previous CCI\*\*\* winners Heath Ryan and Kadi Eykamp.

Photographs, footage and interviews with elite riders are available on request.

Ends.

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\* A Three Day Event is similar to a triathlon for Horses. The combination of horse and rider compete in three phases, covering the disciplines of dressage, cross-country and showjumping. Penalties are incurred in each phase and the combination with the lowest penalties at the end of the event is the winner.

*Pictured below is international rider Pongsiree Bunluewong, from Thailand, riding Eliza Jane who placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the Sydney International Three Day Event 2004. He was based in Australia prior to the 2004 Olympics to utilise Australia's first class coaching. Photograph by Peter Stoop.*

