

# ***MEDIA RELEASE***



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**Subject:**

## ***Major equestrian event comes to Cardinia***

Cardinia Shire is celebrating the announcement of the Tom Quilty Gold Cup to be held at Tonimbuk in 2008.

Council's General Manager Community Wellbeing Fiona Hodges described the announcement as "great news" and said the event was expected to bring more than 3,000 people to the Shire and will inject about \$800,000 into the local economy.

"Held annually across different states, the Tom Quilty Cup is a world renowned endurance horse riding event and is the fastest growing equestrian sport in the world.

"In October 2008, competitors aged from twelve to eighty will arrive at Tonimbuk on supremely athletic horses to ride 160 kilometres, starting in the dead of night. The course will take riders through the Bunyip State forest and must be completed in 24 hours," Mrs Hodges said.

She said most entrants would travel long distances and place substantial demand for services on the local community.

"Supermarkets, hotels, horse agistment, laundry, accommodation, hairdressers, tourism all stand to benefit, along with chemists, grain stores, mechanics, medical services, including masseurs and chiropractors, and caravan hire, car hire, farriers, local vets."

Cardinia Shire Council is a major sponsor of the cup and is working closely with the organisers of the Tom Quilty to ensure that all opportunities are seized.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Kate Lempriere said: "This renowned significantly successful Arab equine event will focus world wide attention on Cardinia Shire and will generate excellent economic benefits to many areas within the Shire."

Event organiser Lissy Verity said Tonimbuk was a world-class venue and would offer the Tom Quilty unprecedented facilities to stage this prestigious event. For more information contact Lissy on 03 5625 3555.

