



## THE TOM QUILTY GOLD CUP 2006

BOONAH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 8 – 12

### Twenty things about the Tom Quilty Gold Cup 2006

- 1. The Tom Quilty Gold Cup 2006 will be held in Boonah, South East Queensland, from June 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2006 (June long weekend holiday).**
2. The Quilty was started by bush legend RM Williams and his wife, Erica, in 1966. It was named after Kimberly cattle producer, Tom Quilty who provided funds to make the gold cup. Boonah will be the 41<sup>st</sup> Tom Quilty.
- 3. This is the second time the event has been held in Boonah. In 2000 it attracted 300 competitors and was the biggest endurance race in the world at that time.**
4. About 350 people are expected to take part. Together with their crews they are expected to swell the Boonah population by about 5,000. Most will camp on the showgrounds alongside their horses.
- 5. The objective of the Quilty is to 'ride 100 miles on one horse in one day'. The race follows 160kms of bush tracks winding through the hills around Boonah. It is conducted in five legs. Tracks follow a clover leaf pattern with horses and riders returning to the base after each leg for vet checks.**
6. The race will start at midnight on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Although competitors have 24 hours to complete, the front runners are expected to cross the finish line early Saturday afternoon.
- 7. A team of 35 vets will check the condition of the horses after each leg. They test for pulse, metabolics, heart rate and gait. Any horse not deemed fit enough will not be allowed to continue. All test results are entered into the horse's log book.**
8. Endurance riding is the world's fastest growing horse sport with countries such as the USA, UAE, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, UK, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, and Malaysia taking part.
- 9.. Australia has won more medals than any other country in the World Endurance Championships and the World Equestrian Games since their inception.**
10. In 2005, the Australian Endurance Squad won Silver in the World Endurance Championships, held in Dubai. The Australian Youth Squad won Gold in the World Youth Championships, held in Bahrain.
- 11. About 8,000 people are involved in endurance riding. These are horse owners, riders, crew, vets, officials and volunteer helpers.**

12. Endurance rides are usually 80kms in length (50 miles) or in the case of state championships or internationally accredited rides, 160km (100 miles). A few marathons are held, notably the Shahzada nr Sydney, and the Faraway at Imbil on the Sunshine Coast. Training rides are also held (40kms) and some clubs run introduction rides (20kms).

**13. All breeds and types of horses can be used in endurance riding but the horse of choice is the Arabian. This is because the Arabian has evolved to travel long distances on very little sustenance. They have slow-twitch muscles designed for long distance work. All elite endurance horses are pure-bred or part-bred Arabians.**

14. This year the Quilty is being broadened to incorporate a Quilty Country Festival. The town will close its main street on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> for a food and wine festival. A country music concert will be held on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>.

**15. In February a well-loved celebrity will be named Tom Quilty Ambassador**

16. Details of the food festival will be announced in February

**17. Details of the musical entertainment will be announced in February and March.**

18. Volunteers will be a key contributor to the success of the event – and there will be hundreds of local and interstate volunteers working in areas such as ride administration, track communication, catering, strapping, gate keeping and so on.

**19. If you want to come to Boonah and be a part of the Quilty in 2006, check out the website for more details, and a list of accommodation: [www.aera.asn.au/quilty](http://www.aera.asn.au/quilty)**

20. Major sponsorship of the Quilty has come from the Boonah Shire Council, Queensland Regional Events. Many other businesses, companies, clubs and individuals have also contributed to the 2006 Quilty.

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