

# Media Release 25 September 2006

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**Morgan Park, Warwick  
Queensland: 23:29 April**

## Selectors meet to choose World Cup team

**Next week's polocrosse national championships will provide the last chance for elite athletes to impress selectors for the team to defend Australia's world cup title in April.**

Competition at Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park near Sydney (3-8 October) will see a squad of 18 players vie for a place in the national team of eight for the **Ridley Polocrosse World Cup 2007**.

Those who hope to be selected to play for Australia at Morgan Park in Warwick on Queensland's southern downs from April 23 include:

Aaron Clarke	NSW	Jane Cooper*	WA
Gregory Davidge*	NSW	Kristy Crook	WA
Stephen Davidge	NSW	Kylie Dowling	WA
Troy Henry*	NSW	Kylie Gotham	NSW
Andrew Rose	NSW	Katie Grimmond	WA
Cameron Shepherd	QLD	Tanya Hollow**	NSW
Robert Sibley	NSW	Elissa Koch	NSW
Hayden Turnbull	NSW	Suzette Lyster	WA
		Alison Mathie	NSW
		Annette Radford	VIC

\* = members of the 2003 victorious Australian team. \*\* = 2003 Captain

[Brief biographical information on the individuals mentioned above is available on request.]

The national selectors include Bev Hughes from Graman via Inverell, NSW; John Dawson from Beaufort, VIC; and Stewart Neal from Barcaldine, QLD. Selectors are looking for a combination of strong playing skills, riding skills, players who can work as a team and be good national ambassadors.

Commenting on the selection process, Mrs Hughes said, "During 2006 we've watched these players at major competitions throughout Australia plus made two visits with them to New Zealand. The NZ trips were particularly useful because we wanted to get the players out of their comfort zone by riding someone else's horse – which is what they will have to do at the World Cup.

"Given the fact that polocrosse is still an amateur, family sport, we are excited that we've been spoilt for choice with our squad. The standard is excellent, making our job hard - but that's as we'd want it," Mrs Hughes added.

National coach Ross Shepherd (Warwick, QLD) and his deputy Noel Challis (Halliday's Point, NSW) said the squad includes four players from the victorious 2003 World Cup, plus a lot of young blood.

Shepherd said, "NSW has dominated national men's competition nationally for almost 20 years and for the past five years the Western Australian women have been a force to be reckoned with."

Obviously World Cup organisers themselves will hope a Queenslander will make the final team, which would prove a draw card for the home crowd.

**The championships begin on Tuesday October 3 with competition for sub-juniors through to masters. Finals will be played on Saturday and Sunday and Australia's world cup team will be announced at the grounds on Sunday 8 October.**

The Ridley Polocrosse World Cup 2007 will be held 23:29 April 2007 at Morgan Park Warwick. Eight nations will compete – see <a href="http://www.polocrosse.com.au/worldcup">www.polocrosse.com.au/worldcup</a> .
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## ENDS

### NOTES:

1. **The Cup:** In April 2007 Australia will defend its title against New Zealand, UK, USA, Canada, Ireland, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Four other guest nations are likely to attend. The event is expected to draw a live onsite audience of 40,000 to Morgan Park, Warwick - Australia's top Polocrosse facility.
2. **Game:** One of three sports invented in Australia (1938), Polocrosse combines polo, lacrosse and netball. Riders use a cane stick with a squash racquet type head with a loose twisted-thread net, in which the ball is carried. World Cup team consists of eight players (four men and four women), divided into two sections. Each section plays alternate chukkas of a maximum of eight minutes each and either six or eight chukkas usually comprise a full match. The aim of the game is for the horse and rider to work together to score goals. The total aggregate of goals scored by the two sections in each team constitutes the final score.
3. **Location:** Warwick on Queensland's Southern Downs is served by two national highways two hours drive from Brisbane and the Gold Coast. [www.polocrosse.com.au/worldcup](http://www.polocrosse.com.au/worldcup).
4. **Sponsors:** This event is proudly supported by **Ridley AgriProducts**; Australia's largest stock feed company and the Queensland Government through the **Queensland Events Corporation**. Promotional partners include **ABC Radio Southern Queensland, APN Group, Rural Press, Win Television** and the country's largest equine breed organisation: the **Australian Stock Horse Society**.