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MEDIA RELEASE

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Saddle Maker's Convention back again for Horse Australia 2008

Plans are well underway for the second two-day **Australian Saddle Maker's Convention**. The response to the first Saddle Maker's Convention at Horse Australia 2005 was excellent with over 40 saddle makers from all parts coming along and participating in this special event.

Organisers Dan Baker and Michael Bethel are planning the 2008 convention along similar lines to the last one with some exciting changes.

Mr Bethel is currently in negotiations with a legendary US saddle maker and hopes to confirm his attendance as the feature speaker very soon. David Handley, a leading business consultant from Brisbane who was very popular at the last convention will again cover some of the business issues faced by saddlers.

Day one of the convention – Thursday, 1 May - will be 'saddle makers only' creating a unique opportunity for participants to network, discuss, compare and share ideas and techniques with one another in an informal and non-commercial situation. Each participant must bring a saddle they have made that best depicts their work.

Friday, 2 May the convention is open to the public. This will give the saddle makers a chance to showcase their work to the large crowds expected and also an opportunity for the public to access and admire the products of possibly the largest gathering of saddle makers ever in Australia.

Mr Baker is keen to see saddle makers take advantage of the large crowds expected at Horse Australia 2008.

"The convention is a non-commercial gathering and to maximise their exposure to the public there are excellent and competitively priced trade sites available to saddle makers over the full four days of the expo" said Mr Baker.

Trade sites can be obtained by registering online at www.horseexpo.com.au or contacting the Horse Australia office on 07 4923 7033.

Horse Australia 2008 is four days of equine action and excitement featuring trade displays, seminars and workshops, social and entertainment activities as well as competitions in Polocrosse, Campdrafting, Cutting, Hacking, Show Jumping, Interschool, Pony Club, Endurance, Western Performance, Rodeo and more.

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For more information about the **Saddlers Makers Convention** please call Dan Baker 07 4934 7202 or Michael Bethel on 07 4787 8126.