



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Commonwealth Games

Wednesday March 2, 2005

\$4.5 MILLION FOR ALL VICTORIA TO CELEBRATE THE GAMES

More than 500 Games-related activities will take place across Victoria, as every municipality in the State shares in \$4.5 million to celebrate the Commonwealth Games in their own way.

The Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, announced *Getting Involved* grants today to support these activities.

“Communities everywhere would create local history through this landmark event. They have seized this chance to bring a bit of the Games to their area,” Mr Madden said.

“Each of Victoria’s 79 local councils applied for *Getting Involved* funding, and because of the quality of applications, every single Council will receive some form of support.

“Projects range from fun-runs that span a municipality, to planting 4,500 trees that symbolise the number of Games competitors, to unearthing the stories of local sporting heroes for exhibitions.

“There was incredible support for the Adopt a Second Team initiative, with communities basing many activities around the nation of the Commonwealth they’ve chosen to cheer on.”

Getting Involved funding was split into several categories, and community-based organising committees formed to bring ideas together from all corners of the municipality.

These categories, and some of the successful applications, include:

- **Celebrations** - \$30,000 for a twilight festival in the Yarra Ranges Shire, with sports demonstrations, ‘Haka’ lessons and a large screen broadcasting the Opening Ceremony.
- **Infrastructure** - \$70,000 to restore the grandstand at Camperdown Racecourse (c. 1902), which will then become a focus for local Games celebrations.
- **Local sporting heroes** - \$20,000 for Darebin and Yarra City Councils to jointly create an exhibition of the area’s Indigenous sporting past.
- **Warming up for the Games** – a day of state-wide activity on 20 November 2005, for which Glenelg Shire will receive \$10,000 to stage a walk around the municipality and collectively cover the distance between the town and their adopted nation, Malawi.

“Overwhelmingly, communities are aiming to strengthen their identities and broaden their horizons through Games-related activities,” added Mr Madden.

“Their ideas highlight that hosting the Games is about much more than sport – it’s about bringing people together, being more active and learning about other cultures.”

The XVIII Commonwealth Games will be held from 15 – 26 March 2006 and will bring together 4,500 athletes from 71 nations.

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