



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for the Commonwealth Games

Thursday 28 April 2005

COLLEGE HELPS MAKE THE GAMES CARBON NEUTRAL

Staff and students at Worawa Aboriginal College have joined volunteers from around the Victoria to grow 25,000 trees to help make the 2006 Commonwealth Games carbon neutral.

On a visit to the school, the Minister for Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden and the Member for Gembrook, Tammy Lobato, congratulated the school for their tree growing effort to help offset greenhouse gas emission generated by the Games.

“The teachers and students are bringing the Games to their school community, whilst being part of a broader effort to promote sustainability and conservation of some of our precious native species,” Mr Madden said.

“In particular, the students are growing River Red Gum seedlings which are the preferred home of the endangered Games mascot, Karak, the South-Eastern Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo.

“Like the staff and students at Worawa, volunteers from scout groups to suburban households have joined the call to grow trees for the Games and the response has been overwhelming.”

Ms Lombato said while the call for volunteers to grow seedlings has closed, volunteers are still needed to plant trees for the Games.

“With up to 1 million trees to be planted at 12 sites across the State from July, there’s a lot of work to be done,” Ms Lombato said.

“I urge people to follow the lead of staff and students at Worawa and volunteer to get involved.”

It’s a great opportunity to be part of the Games, learn about indigenous plants and do something positive for the environment,” she said.

Volunteers interested in planting trees can register their interest at www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth_games or by calling (03) 9655 2006.

TreeProject, a non-profit community organisation is coordinating the Commonwealth Games state-wide volunteer tree growing project on behalf of the Bracks Government. TreeProject recruits volunteers to grow indigenous seedlings at home for planting at revegetation sites across Victoria.

Other parts of the Commonwealth Games environment program include a new river barge patrolling the Yarra River for litter, construction of 6-star energy efficient houses at the Games Village and installation of water-saving devices at major venues.

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

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