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EASTERN SUBURBS CELEBRATE THE GAMES WITH \$365,000 GRANT

More than 40 Commonwealth Games-related activities are planned across the eastern suburbs, as every municipality in Victoria shares in \$4.5 million to celebrate the Games in their own way.

At Primary School, the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden and Member for Bayswater, Peter Lockwood, said communities across the Eastern suburbs would create local history – and lasting benefits – through the landmark event.

“Municipalities like Knox have seized on the chance to bring a bit of the Games to their area,” Mr Madden said.

“All of the eight Councils in the eastern metropolitan region applied for *Getting Involved* program funding and each will receive some level of support.

“Projects range from fun runs spanning a municipality, to local festivals on the night of the Opening Ceremony, to creating exhibitions of local sporting heroes.

Mr Madden said there was also incredible support for the *Adopt a Second Nation* initiative, with many councils basing activities around the nation of the Commonwealth they’re linked to.

Getting Involved funding was split into several categories, and community-based organising committees formed to bring ideas together from all corners of the municipality. Councils in the eastern suburbs received a total of over \$365,000 for their activities, including:

- **\$15,000** for the City of Boorondara to host a celebration on Glenferrie Oval at Games time, incorporating community sporting groups including the Hawthorn Football Club;
- **\$25,000** to host the ‘Let the Games Begin’ festival in Ringwood, including a large outdoor screen for events and ceremonies and welcoming events for the municipality’s adopted nation, Sri Lanka;
- **\$10,000** for Games-inspired activities in Yarra Ranges, including a come’n try shooting day and canoeing along the Yarra River; and
- **\$15,000** to create a photographic exhibition of sporting history and heroes from the Knox area.

Mr Lockwood said Knox would receive \$55,000 through *Getting Involved*, to undertake activities like a community bike ride and walk and establishing a Commonwealth choir.

“While the Games themselves last for only 12 days, the activities on the drawing board by Councils in the eastern suburbs will create benefits that last much longer,” Mr Lockwood said.

“Hosting the Games is about much more than sport – it’s about triggering new infrastructure, being more active and learning about other cultures.”

Mr Madden also joined the Member for Ferntree Gully, Anne Eckstein and the Member for Koonung Province, Helen Buckingham to promote Knox Commonwealth Games celebrations.

Media contact: Brent Hooley 9651 5799 or 0407 138 680 www.vic.gov.au