



Media release

The Place To Be

From the Minister for Commonwealth Games

13 April 2005

MCG WELCOMES THE COMMONWEALTH TO THE HOME OF FOOTBALL.

Over 60,000 football fans at the MCG last Friday gave a rousing welcome to Victorian mayors and Commonwealth Games delegates visiting Melbourne in preparation for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Delegates walked onto the hallowed MCG ground with Mayors from across Victoria who have each adopted Commonwealth Nations as their second team to support in 2006. The two groups had met for the first time at a special function earlier in the evening. A full list of the pairings of Councils and Nations is attached.

“As a former AFL player I know the excitement of standing before the crowds at the MCG, and the night was about giving a preview of that to our friends from around the Commonwealth,” said Justin Madden, Minister for Commonwealth Games.

“It was important they experience what the world’s best athletes will be seeing in less than a years time - an MCG under lights with a roaring crowd,” he said.

The Minister warmly welcomed the Mayors and emphasised the importance of building relationships with the teams they have ‘adopted’ in the lead up to and during the Games.

“Communities across Victoria will be able to celebrate the many cultures of the Commonwealth by hosting teams for visits, activities, and developing longer term relationships”, he said.

Geoff Lake, President of the Municipal Association of Victoria joined with Minister Madden in welcoming the new connections between Commonwealth Nations and local Councils.

“Local councils right across Victoria are buzzing about the prospect of the Games, and we are all working hard to make the most of opportunities to create new links with vibrant and dynamic cultures across the Commonwealth,” said Cr Lake.

“The Victorian Government has funded local community celebrations in every municipality, and we are keen to make the most of that,” he said.

Preparations to deliver these activities are being co-ordinated by the Victorian Office of Commonwealth Games via a \$4.5 million funding program, in partnership with Victoria’s 79 municipalities.

Commonwealth delegates were in Melbourne to attend the 2005 Commonwealth Games General Assembly, being held in the lead up to Melbourne hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

For further information on the Adopt a Second team program please visit <http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/ocgc/ocgchome.htm>

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

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ADOPT A SECOND TEAM MATCHES ACROSS VICTORIA

MUNICIPALITY	NATION
Alpine Shire Council	Bahamas ‡
Ararat Rural City Council	Scotland ‡
Ballarat City Council	India ‡
Banyule City Council	Lesotho
Bass Coast Shire Council	Tanzania
Baw Baw Shire Council	Gibraltar
Bayside City Council	Wales ‡
Benalla Rural City Council	Fiji
Boroondara City Council	Tonga ‡
Borough of Queenscliffe	Northern Ireland ‡
Brimbank City Council	Nigeria ‡
Buloke Shire Council	Kenya ‡
Campaspe Shire Council	Canada ‡
Cardinia Shire Council	Malaysia ‡
Casey City Council	England ‡
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Scotland ‡
Colac-Otway Shire Council	England ‡
Corangamite Shire Council	Jamaica ‡
Darebin City Council	Singapore ‡
East Gippsland Shire Council	Solomon Islands
Frankston City Council	Samoa ‡
Gannawarra Shire Council	Cyprus
Glen Eira City Council	Bahamas ‡
Glenelg Shire Council	Malawi
Golden Plains Shire Council	Wales ‡
Greater Bendigo City Council	Scotland ‡
Greater Dandenong City Council	Mozambique
Greater Geelong City Council	Wales ‡
Greater Shepparton City Council	The Gambia
Hepburn Shire Council	Jersey
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Singapore ‡
Hobsons Bay City Council	Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent & Grenadines, Cayman Islands*‡
Horsham Rural City Council	Cook Islands
Hume City Council	Zambia
Indigo Shire Council	Swaziland
Kingston City Council	Sri Lanka ‡
Knox City Council	New Zealand ‡
Latrobe City Council	Malta
Loddon Shire Council	Brunei
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	South Africa ‡
Manningham City Council	Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada*‡
Mansfield Shire Council	Kiribati, Nuie, Tuvalu*
Maribyrnong City Council	Bangladesh
Maroondah City Council	Sri Lanka ‡
Melbourne City Council	India ‡
Melton Shire Council	Maldives
Mildura Rural City Council	Tonga ‡
Mitchell Shire Council	Isle of Man
Moira Shire Council	Uganda

Monash City Council	Pakistan
Moonee Valley City Council	Seychelles
Moorabool Shire Council	Guyana
Moreland	Kenya ‡
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Bermuda, St Helena, Falkland Islands*
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Mauritius
Moynes Shire Council	Northern Ireland ‡
Murrindindi Shire Council	Antigua and Barbuda, Turks&Caicos, British Virgin Islands*
Nullumbik Shire Council	Canada ‡
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Namibia
Port Phillip City Council	Papua New Guinea
Pyrenees Shire Council	Guernsey
South Gippsland Shire Council	Anguilla, Dominica, Montserrat, St Kitts&Nevis*
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Botswana
Stonnington City Council	Norfolk Island
Strathbogie Shire Council	Cameroon ‡
Surf Coast Shire Council	Vanuatu
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Samoa ‡
Towong Shire Council	Nigeria ‡
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Nauru
Warrnambool City Council	Belize
Wellington Shire Council	Ghana
West Wimmera Shire Council	Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent& Grenadines *‡
Whitehorse City Council	Sierra Leone
Whittlesea City Council	Cameroon ‡
Wodonga City Council	Jamaica ‡
Wyndham City Council	South Africa ‡
Yarra City Council	Malaysia ‡
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	New Zealand ‡
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada* ‡

* Some smaller nations have been grouped together on a geographic basis for Council to support.

‡ Some nations have been adopted by more than one Council because of the scope of possible activities, and to strengthen links between municipalities.

