

MELBOURNE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The biggest sporting and cultural event Victoria has ever staged is coming to Ballarat in March.

From 15-26 March, the state will play host to 4500 elite athletes and 2500 performing artists from across the Commonwealth, as well as more than 90,000 interstate and international visitors – all here for the once-in-a-lifetime experience of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

And, some of the Games action is coming to Ballarat, with the city hosting four Commonwealth Games events.

Celebrations kick off with the arrival of the **Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay** on Wednesday 8 March. It's your chance to see relay runners carry the baton through Ballarat's streets on its way from Buckingham Palace to the Opening Ceremony at the MCG. Ballarat welcomes the baton to town with an evening celebration at Lake Wendouree from 4:30pm. The baton departs the next morning to continue its journey to Melbourne.

Throughout the Games, from 15-26 March, a **'Live Site'** in Camp Street will bring you the sports action – live on a super screen. Camp Street will also be home to **Festival Melbourne2006** events, enabling you to experience performances and exhibitions from across the Commonwealth. And, best of all, it's all free!

Ballarat has been chosen to host one of the Commonwealth Games' most popular sporting competitions. On Saturday 18 March and Monday 20 March, spectators will be at Ballarat Minerdome to watch elite international athletes take to the courts for two days of Commonwealth Games **Basketball** events.

With so much going on in Ballarat in March, there's plenty of opportunity to get involved in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Visit www.melbourne2006.com.au for more information about what's happening in our region – and across Victoria – during the Commonwealth Games.

Tips for spectators traveling to Melbourne during the Games

Expect Melbourne to be busy. With many thousands of people pouring into the city to join in the Games sporting events and community celebrations, many city streets and public parking areas will be operating differently. Some roads will be closed; some will be temporary 'no through roads'; and some will have 'Exclusive Games Lanes' designated for use by Games vehicles only. And, there's no parking at Melbourne's Games venues and temporary parking restrictions are in place in many surrounding streets. Don't assume you will be able to park or drive along the streets as usual.

Consider leaving the car at home.

Remember, Games ticket holders can travel from anywhere in Victoria to their event on a V/Line train or coach service for no more than \$10 return. This offer applies the day before, the day of and the day after the event. To take advantage of this special offer, you must book your travel in advance with V/Line by calling 136 196 or book online at www.vline.com.au.

Take time to plan ahead. Avoid traveling through the city and near Games venues, especially during morning and afternoon peak periods. If you do travel by car, perhaps you could arrange to park at a friend's place in the outer suburbs and catch public transport into the CBD. Remember, Games ticket holders can travel free on Melbourne's public transport network (Metcard zones 1, 2 and 3) on the day of the event shown on their ticket.

For more information on traffic and transport changes planned for Melbourne during the Games visit www.melbourne2006.com.au or call the Games Hotline on 1300 00 2006.

COMMUNITY UPDATE THE GAMES IN BALLARAT



15-26 MARCH 2006

Getting around town

Large crowds are expected at Games events, and Ballarat will be busier than usual during this period – it's all part of hosting an international sports and cultural festival of this magnitude.

People living in, working in or visiting Ballarat are advised to take a few minutes to plan your travel. It's one way to ensure you have an enjoyable Games experience.

Vehicle Access Permit scheme

A Vehicle Access Permit scheme will be in place near The MinerDome. Vehicle access will be restricted to local residents and official Commonwealth Games vehicles only.

A permit check point, controlled by Games security staff and Victoria Police, will be established at the intersection of Grandview Grove and Grevillea Road (see X on map at right) on competition days (18 and 20 March).

Residents with vehicle access off Grevillea Road, between Grandview Grove and Dowling Street, will receive a permit and information on the scheme in early March.



Expect Ballarat to be particularly busy on these days:

Wednesday 8 March: late afternoon

Thursday 9 March: morning

Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay

- expect possible minor delays as relay runners carry the baton through streets

Wednesday 8 March: evening

Welcome Celebration for the Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay

- View Point, Lake Wendouree

Wednesday 15 to Sunday 26 March

Live Site and Festival Melbourne 2006

- Camp Street, Alfred Deakin Place: expect increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic

Saturday 18 March: all day

Monday 20 March: all day

Commonwealth Games Basketball

- Ballarat MinerDome, Dowling Street, Wendouree:
 - expect increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic
 - Grevillea Road: closed from Grandview Grove to Dowling Street; no stopping zones
 - Grandview Grove: closed northbound from Grevillea Road to Bowls Car Park entrance; no stopping zones
 - Dowling Street, Coronet Street and Walton Street: no stopping zones
 - street closures will occur from approximately 7am until midnight on both days

