

MELBOURNE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The biggest sporting and cultural event Victoria has ever staged is coming to Bendigo 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 Bendigo, with the city hosting several Commonwealth Games events.

Throughout the Games, from 15-26 March, a **'Live Site'** at Bendigo Civic Gardens will bring you the sports action – live on a super screen. The gardens will also be home to **Festival Melbourne2006**, where you can experience performances and exhibitions from across the Commonwealth. And, best of all, it's all free!

Bendigo has been chosen to host two of the Commonwealth Games' most popular sporting competitions.

From Thursday 16 to Monday 20 March, spectators will be at Bendigo Schweppes Centre to watch elite international athletes take to the courts for five days of **Commonwealth Games Basketball** events.

On Sunday 19, Tuesday 21 and Thursday 23 March, the exciting **Commonwealth Games Full Bore Shooting** events will be held at Wellsford Rifle Range on Mclvor Highway.

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

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

Tips for spectators traveling to Melbourne during the Games

Expect Melbourne to be busy. Don't assume you will be able to park on city streets or drive along roads as usual. 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. There's no parking at Melbourne's Games venues and temporary parking restrictions are in place in many surrounding streets.

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, book your travel in advance with V/Line: call 136 196 or visit www.vline.com.au.

Take time to plan ahead. Avoid traveling through the CBD and near Games venues, especially during peak periods. If you do travel by car, perhaps you could 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 BENDIGO



15-26 MARCH 2006

Getting around town

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

Whether attending Games celebrations or just trying to go about your business as usual, people living in, working in or visiting Bendigo are advised to take a few minutes before you leave to consider your travel plans.

It's one way to ensure you have an enjoyable Games experience.

Expect Bendigo to be particularly busy on these days:

Wednesday 15 to Sunday 26 March
Live Site and Festival Melbourne2006

- Bendigo Civic Gardens, between Hargreaves Street and Lyttleton Terrace: expect increased street and pedestrian traffic in local area

Thursday 16 to Monday 20 March: all day
Commonwealth Games Basketball

- Bendigo Schweppes Centre (see map above):
 - expect increased street and pedestrian traffic in the local area
 - some surrounding streets will have temporary 'No Stopping – Tow-Away' zones (see map)

Sunday 19, Tuesday 21 and Thursday 23 March: all day

Commonwealth Games Full Bore Shooting

- Wellsford Rifle Range, McIvor Highway (see map):
 - expect increased street and pedestrian traffic in the local area
 - Rifle Range Road: closed
 - some surrounding streets will have temporary 'No Stopping – Tow-Away' zones (see map)

