

MELBOURNE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

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

Celebrations kick off with the arrival of the **Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay** on Friday 3 March. It's your chance to see relay runners carry the baton through our streets on its way from Buckingham to the Opening Ceremony at the MCG. Geelong welcomes the baton to town with an evening celebration at Eastern Beach Reserve. The relay continues the following morning as relay runners carry the baton out of town.

Throughout the Games, from 15-26 March, a **'Live Site'** at Steampacket Gardens by the waterfront 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!

Geelong has been chosen to host one of the Commonwealth Games' most popular sporting competitions. On Sunday 19 March and Tuesday 21 March, spectators will be at The Arena to watch elite international athletes take to the courts for two days of Commonwealth Games **Basketball** events.

With so much going on in Geelong 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 on streets or drive along roads 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 GEELONG



15-26 MARCH 2006

Getting around town

Large crowds are expected at Games events, and Geelong 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 Geelong are advised to take a few minutes before you leave to consider your travel plans. It's one away to ensure you have an enjoyable Games experience.

Vehicle Access Permit scheme

A Vehicle Access Permit scheme will be in place around The Arena. Vehicle access will be restricted to local business and official Games vehicles only.

A permit check point, controlled by Games security staff and Victoria Police, will be established at the intersection of Victoria and Slevin Streets (see X on map at right) on competition days, 19 and 21 March.

Businesses with vehicle access on Victoria Street east of Slevin Street and along Baxter Road will be sent a Vehicle Access Permit and information on the scheme in early March.

V/Line passengers

There will be no access to North Geelong V/Line Car Park via Victoria Street from 19 to 21 March. V/Line passengers using North Geelong station will need to access the car park via Slevin Street. Passengers may wish to seek alternative parking arrangements on Tuesday 21 March as the car park is also being used by spectators.

Expect Geelong to be particularly busy on:

- **Friday 3 March: late afternoon**
- **Saturday 4 March: morning**
Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay
Expect possible minor delays as relay runners carry the baton through Geelong streets.
- **Wednesday 15 to Sunday 26 March**
Live Site & Festival Melbourne 2006
Steampacket Gardens: expect increased street and pedestrian traffic in local area.



- **Sunday 19 and Tuesday 21 March: all day**
Commonwealth Games Basketball
The Arena (see map above):
 - street closures will occur from approximately 7am until midnight on both days
 - Slevin Street: closed southbound between Victoria Street and Boral Car Park entrance
 - Victoria Street:
 - closed east of Slevin Street
 - closed east of Benmore Street from midnight 19 March to 7am 21 March
 - Baxter Road: closed from Victoria Street to Margaret Street
 - some surrounding streets will have temporary 'No Stopping – Tow-Away' zones
 - expect increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic in local area.

Tip: you can avoid the venue area by detouring along Douro Street and Weddell Street.

