

MELBOURNE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The biggest sporting and cultural event Victoria has ever staged is coming to La Trobe Valley 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 Traralgon, with the city hosting four Games events.

Celebrations kick off with the arrival of the **Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay** on Tuesday 28 February. It's your chance to see relay runners carry the baton through our streets on its way from Buckingham Palace to the Opening Ceremony at the MCG. Traralgon welcomes the baton to town with an evening celebration at Kay Street Gardens. The relay continues the following morning as relay runners carry the baton out of town.

Traralgon has been chosen to host one of the Commonwealth Games' most popular sporting competitions. On Thursday 16 and Friday 17 March, spectators will be at Traralgon Basketball Stadium to watch elite international athletes take to the courts for two days of Commonwealth Games **Basketball** events.

Throughout the Games, from 15-26 March, a **'Live Site'** at Moe Racecourse in Waterloo Street will bring you the sports action – live on a super screen. The racecourse will also be home to **Festival Melbourne2006**, where you can experience performances and exhibitions from across the Commonwealth. Best of all, it's all free!

With so much going on in Latrobe Valley 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 LA TROBE VALLEY



Getting around town

Large crowds are expected at Games events and areas of Traralgon near the sport stadium and Moe near the Live Site at the racecourse may 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 these areas 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 the Games celebration and sports venues to be particularly busy on these days:

Tuesday 28 February: late afternoon
Wednesday 1 March: early morning
Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay

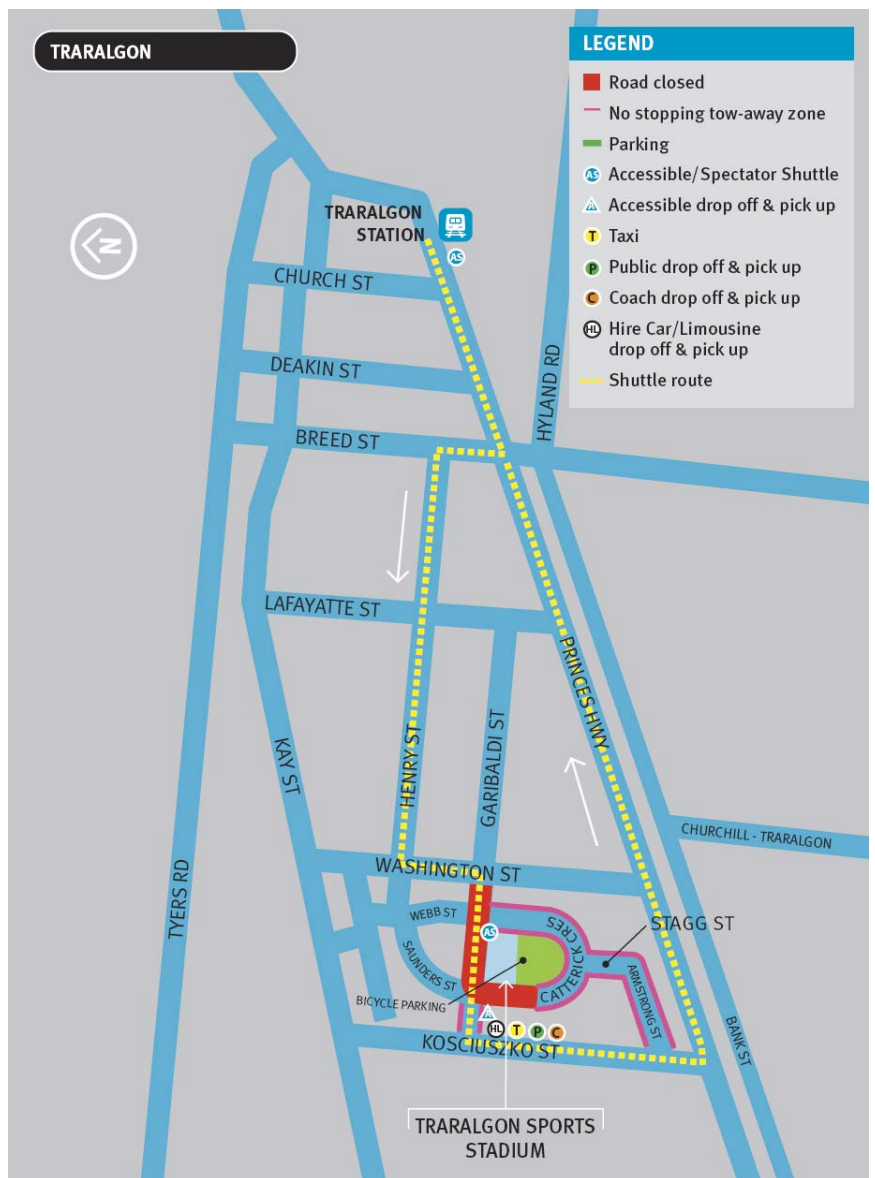
- various locations: expect possible minor delays as relay runners carry the baton through our streets

Tuesday 28 February: evening
Welcome Celebration for the Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay

- Kay Street Gardens

Wednesday 15 to Sunday 26 March
Live Site and Festival Melbourne2006

- Moe Racecourse, Waterloo Street: expect increased street and pedestrian traffic in local area



Thursday 16 and Friday 17 March: all day
Commonwealth Games Basketball

- Traralgon Sports Stadium (see map above):
 - expect increased street and pedestrian traffic in the local area from 7am Thursday 16 to midnight Saturday 18 March
 - Garibaldi Street: closed from Saunders Crescent to Webb Street
 - Catterick Crescent: closed at western ends (local access only)
 - some surrounding streets will have temporary 'No Stopping – Tow-Away' zones (see map).

