

18 January 2006

MEDIA RELEASE

Museum Victoria reveals Opening Ceremony

The secrets of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony will be revealed in the extraordinary *Spirit of the Games* exhibition at Melbourne Museum.

Spirit of the Games is the highlight of an extensive line up of exhibitions and activities hosted by Museum Victoria to celebrate the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, announced today.

Featuring around 300 objects as well as exclusive film footage of the ceremony, *Spirit of the Games* is a major exhibition for Museum Victoria, with more than 70 people working on the highly confidential project over the past two years.

Opening on 18 March, the exhibition will incorporate costumes, props and other highlight material from the spectacular event.

Other highlights of Museum Victoria wide-ranging program include an official Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Live Site on Melbourne Museum's plaza featuring Melbourne Food and Wine Festival activities, craft exhibition *Common Goods* at Melbourne Museum and *Best of the Best* from the Commonwealth Photographic Awards at the Immigration Museum.

"We are really looking forward to playing our part in the excitement of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. Opening just days after the ceremony itself, *Spirit of the Games* is a fantastic opportunity to find out some of the behind-the-scenes secrets of the Ceremony and relive the magic of the most dramatic event to be staged in Melbourne," said Dr J Patrick Greene, CEO, Museum Victoria.

"Our curators and exhibition producers have worked closely with the Commonwealth Games Ceremonies Team to ensure our exhibition captures the essence and excitement of the Opening Ceremony" he added.

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The Museum Victoria program of exhibitions and activities during the Commonwealth Games period includes:

EXHIBITIONS - *Spirit of the Games, Biganga*, an exhibition highlighting the importance of Possum-Skin Cloaks to Victorian Indigenous people, *Common Goods* and *Carve* at Melbourne Museum, the *Best of the Best: Commonwealth Games Photographic Awards* at the Immigration Museum, and *Sportsworks* at Scienceworks.

EVENTS - Commonwealth Games Live Site at Melbourne Museum featuring Melbourne Food and Wine Festival activities, Hedgmony, and performances by the Melbourne Millennium Chorus. There will also be a variety of specially created family and children's activities including Karak, the official mascot of the Games, Indigenous themed children's activities at Melbourne Museum, and perennial favourite *Cruise the Constellations* at Scienceworks.

For further information regarding Museum Victoria's full program of exhibitions and events visit www.museum.vic.gov.au or phone 13 11 02.

Spirit of the Games, CARVE, Common Goods and Best of the Best exhibitions are presented by Museum Victoria as part of Festival Melbourne 2006 and the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Festival Melbourne 2006 celebrates the breadth of culture and art from across the nations of the Commonwealth. The Festival is an integral part of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, and it is proudly funded and supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments.

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