

MEDIA ALERT

Wednesday June 4, 2008

Olympics fever hits the National Sports Museum

Faster, Higher, Stronger Winter Holiday Program

There's no better place in Melbourne to get into the Olympic spirit than at the new National Sports Museum at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

The museum boasts one of Australia's most extensive collections of Olympics material, and is also running a special Olympic-themed winter holiday program.

Visitors will experience the sights and sounds of the 1956 Olympics with ***Remembering the Olympics*** – a new theatrical and sound show which will take visitors into the MCG stands for a taste of sporting history. The performance is included in the National Sports Museum general entry and will happen on weekdays at 11.15am and 2.15pm.

Children can also make and decorate their own Olympic medal tally and use it to keep score while Australia wins Gold, Silver and Bronze at Beijing. They can write *'Faster, Higher, Stronger'* in Chinese characters, do Olympic-themed colour-ins and be entertained by roving fitness fanatic 'Sam Starr'.

Rich in artefacts, the exhibition examines the 'spirit of the Olympics' and takes visitors through each of the modern summer games since Athens in 1896. Australia's staging of the Games in 1956 and 2000 receive special attention and the successes of our athletes are showcased throughout.

From the ancient games to the present day, ***Faster, Higher, Stronger*** traces Australia's participation in the Olympic Games. Highlights include a timeline with each Olympic relay torch from Berlin in 1936 to Athens in 2004 (excluding Helsinki in 1952) and medals and artefacts from Olympians including Petria Thomas, Betty Cuthbert, Ian Thorpe, Alyssa Camplin, Shane Gould and Edwin Flack – our first Olympian.

In addition, a special focus-display will highlight the remarkable career of one of Australia's greatest Olympians, Catherine Freeman. ***'All I ever wanted to do was run'*** – **The Catherine Freeman Journey** is a new focus-display tracing Catherine's exceptional career, when her love of running blossomed after winning her first gold medal at school at the age of eight, through to her career on the international stage.

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The display brings together significant items from her running life, including childhood trophies, custom-made competition spikes that carry the Aboriginal and Australian flags, and the outfit she wore when lighting the Olympic cauldron at Sydney 2000.

Medals, running clothes, photos and travelling bags will also be exhibited.

Where: National Sports Museum, Olympic Stand, MCG (Enter at Gate 3)

When: June 13-September 30, 2008.

Time: 10am-5pm (varies on event days – see www.nsm.org.au for details)

Cost: Entry included as part of admission to National Sports Museum:

- Adults \$15
- Concession \$11
- Children (aged 4-15 years) \$8
- Family (two adults and four children) \$45

Media: Please contact Katrina Hall (0421 153 046) or Shane Brown (0418 353 431) for further details.

The National Sports Museum is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Department of Health and Ageing.