

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MONDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2003**



### **2004 GAMES ON TRACK WITH NEW APPOINTMENT**

Plans for the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games to take place in Bendigo have moved ahead with the appointment of Michelle Pryde as Games Director.

Michelle will commence her new position on Monday February 3. She comes to Bendigo with a wealth of experience having recently held the position of Deputy General Manager, Villages at the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games held in July last year.

Michelle was second in command to the Manchester Games Village General Manager. Her role included overall management of the operations of the three Villages which accommodated some 7,500 athletes and team officials from 72 nations

Prior to that she held a significant role as Assistant Program Manager, Special Projects and Games Integration, Village Operations of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

Mayor of Greater Bendigo Cr. Willi Carney said the position of Games Director was integral to the success of the games.

"Michelle will be responsible for the planning and conduct of the games and will be required to coordinate staff and volunteers to successfully undertake their roles."

"This is a challenging role and I congratulate Michelle on her appointment. I'm sure she will be able to use her wealth of knowledge to really make the 2004 games a huge success for Bendigo."

"Council is very excited about the appointment and we welcome Michelle to both the position and to Bendigo," said Cr. Carney.

The Hon Justin Madden, Minister for Sport said he welcomed the appointment as a key step in planning for the Games.

"The 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games in Bendigo will set the scene for the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and demonstrate Victoria's capacity to host international events to the world," said Mr. Madden. .... /2

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Bendigo will host the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games in a major coup that will bring \$6 million to the region.

"Michelle has extensive experience in organising major events and her experiences in both Manchester and Sydney will certainly help ensure a successful Commonwealth Youth Games for Bendigo and Victoria."

"This is an important role and it is pleasing that it has been filled by someone with so much experience in this area," Mr. Madden said.

Sam Coffa, President of The Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA) said Michelle will play a pivotal role in the delivery of the 2004 games.

"Michelle has a tremendous understanding of what is involved to produce the best possible games and she will work very closely with the ACGA to provide for the needs of the athletes and sport," said Mr. Coffa.

The 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games will take place from Monday November 29 to Saturday December 4 in Bendigo.

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