

**MEDIA RELEASE
27 OCTOBER 2003**

**400 DAYS TO GO!
COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES CELEBRATES WITH NEW OFFICE**

From Monday 27 October there is only 400 days to go until Bendigo hosts the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games, to mark the occasion new headquarters have been set up in the historic Bendigo Town Hall.

Director of the Commonwealth Youth Games Michelle Pryde said in just 400 days Bendigo will play host to over 1000 athletes and officials from 21 Commonwealth nations.

“This is an exciting time in our planning as we are fast approaching the one year to go mark. The organisation of the Games is progressing well and our new office in the Bendigo Town Hall will ensure the Games organisation can expand as we get closer to the Games”.

“At this milestone it is also great to see the continued support from the City Of Greater Bendigo to ensure Bendigo has the facilities and capacity to host this great event.”

She said the games will utilise the new multi use facility planned for the Queen Elizabeth Oval and Bendigo Aquatic Centre and ensure the 21 nations competing in the Games will have the use of top class venues” said Michelle.

“This facility will be put to considerable use during the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games. It will provide much needed change facilities, medical services and administration for the sports of Rugby 7’s and Swimming”.

“The Games will provide a great opportunity for people to come along and see the many young athletes who will go on to represent their country at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne 2006 and beyond”.

Michelle said the new QEO/Aquatic Centre facility, and improvements to other Games facilities will not only aid the Games, but will provide a lasting legacy for many local sporting clubs who will use the great facilities Bendigo has to offer to hopefully produce some international athletes to join the large number of Olympic and Commonwealth athletes the Bendigo region has produced to date.

1000 ATHLETES
10 SPORTS
3 DAYS

For further Information contact:
Michelle Pryde,
2004 Commonwealth Youth Games Director
(0417) 565 735