



## COUNTDOWN TO THE DELHI 2010 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

### COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS WHEN QUEEN'S BATON RELAY JOURNEYS TO AUSTRALIA

The Baton, which carries the Queen's "message to the athletes" to be read out at the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, was seen off on its journey by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 29 October 2009. So began the Baton's journey to all 71 Commonwealth nations.

The Baton will be in Australia for three days – **Sydney: Monday 19 April, Melbourne: Tuesday, 20 April and Brisbane/Gold Coast: 21 April.**

**Sydney.** The Baton will kick-off in **Harris Park, on Monday, 19 April.** The Harris Park leg will commence at about **7.30am** with a rolling series of community activities including participation by local schools, St Olivers and the Performing Arts High School. The Baton will arrive in **Wigram Street, Harris Park at 8.45am.** The Parramatta Lord Mayor Paul Garrard, Minister for Western Sydney David Borger MP and several other dignitaries will be in attendance.

At **9.15am** the Baton will move to **Parramatta** where it will be paraded through the main business district (Macquarie Street) before it arrives at an official reception at Parramatta Town Hall (10-11am). Various cultural displays will also feature. At **11.15 am** the Baton will be carried by foot by a local identity and will move by vehicle convoy to the **Parramatta Ferry Wharf.** It will travel on the Sydney Ferry to Homebush Ferry Wharf where it will be transferred to Marine Rescue vessels for its journey to the Sydney Opera House. The Baton will arrive at approx. **1.15pm** at the **Man-o-war Steps south** where it will be handed to a community identity to convey to the NSW Premier, Kristina Keneally at the Box office podium level prior to an official traditional welcome (**1.30pm**). Baton carriers will then convey the Baton across the **Opera House forecourt** and south **along East Circular Quay.** There will be an Indian cultural display at the Box office podium as well as along the route at the Baton changeover points.

The Baton will then feature at an India - Australia Trade & Investment Forum at the Sofitel Hotel early evening.

**Melbourne.** On **Tuesday, 20 April** the Baton will be in **Melbourne.** Activities planned are a Reception by the City of Melbourne at Federation Square (commencing at approx. **12.30pm**) where the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle will hand the Baton from the previous host of the Commonwealth Games (Melbourne 2006) to an Indian dignitary representing the next host of the Commonwealth Games (Delhi 2010). Steve Moneghetti, the Chef-de-Mission of the 2010 Australian Commonwealth Games Team will run the final leg of a short relay from the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) and present the Baton to the Lord Mayor. The relay (commencing at 12 noon) will feature VIS athletes and members from the local Indian community.

From **10am-midday** the VIS will welcome the Baton to Melbourne during a free public event for schools and athletes. VIS athletes will showcase their skills with interactive cycling, rowing and gymnastics demonstrations allowing the public to get up-close-and-personal with their favourite athletes, discover fitness and training tips and be coached on how to use various training equipment. One of Australia's favourite artists Ricki-Lee Coulter will perform from **11am.** In the evening the Victorian Premier, John Brumby, will host the Premier's Dinner, a fundraising dinner organised by the Victorian Commonwealth Games Association. The Baton will feature at the Dinner which will be held in the Plaza Ballroom, The Regent Theatre, Melbourne. The Baton will also feature at two business events, one in the morning at **9.30 am** being organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Australia Industry Group and the other in the afternoon around **3.00 pm** being organized by the City of Melbourne and CII,

**Brisbane.** On **Wednesday, 21 April** the Baton will arrive in **Brisbane** at approx. **8.15am** and will be officially welcomed by the Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh. The Baton will make a school visit before proceeding to a function by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane (TBC). The Baton will then travel to the **Gold Coast** (who will bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games). A celebration will be held at Southport Broadwater Parklands at approximately **1.45pm** and will include entertainment.

FICCI is organising India— Australia trade and investment business forum at Brisbane on 21 April 2010 and business meetings at Gold Coast on 22 April 2010 on this occasion.

**Stay tuned for further updates as more details will follow closer to the time. Please note program is still subject to change.**