



MEDIA RELEASE

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BRISBANE LAUNCHES THE 2005 AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Sport, the Honourable Terry Mackenroth, today launched the 2005 Australian University Games (AUG), at Griffith University Southbank Campus.

As Patron of the flagship event on the university annual sporting calendar, Mr Mackenroth's support reaffirms Queensland's commitment to encouraging young people to get active.

Joining the Minister for Sport at the Games launch was Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Events Corporation (QEC), Mr Michael Denton, who highlighted the value the Games bring to Queensland's diverse event calendar.

"Throughout 2005, Queensland Events will support more than 100 sporting, community and cultural events across Queensland," Mr Denton said.

"In addition to the pride we take in welcoming the cream of Australia's university athletes to Queensland, the Australian University Games also allow us to showcase our impressive sporting facilities," he said.

Medal of Order of Australia Recipient and Australian University Sport Acting President, Ann Mitchell and Deputy Vice Chancellor of Griffith University Professor John Dewar were also on hand to launch the event expected to be the best Games ever.

Support for the Games was given an extra boost as Olympic and Commonwealth Games medallists such as Natalie Cook (beach volleyball), Duncan Free (rowing), Craig Rowland (squash) and Paul Gonzalez (baseball) attended the launch in vital positions as Sports Ambassadors. Their important involvement in the Games not only help to raise the awareness of the event but provide role models for the Games participants.

The 2005 AUG will showcase a record 26 sports, four more than those offered in previous years including: athletics, australian football, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, cross country, cycling, diving, hockey, judo, kendo, netball, rockclimbing, rowing, rugby union 7's, soccer, softball, squash, swimming, taekwondo, tennis, touch, ultimate frisbee, volleyball and water polo.

Since their inception in 1993, the Games have grown to be Australia's largest and most diverse annual multi-sport event. The 2005 AUG will attract over 6,000 participants from universities across Australia.

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For further information please contact Toni Bush, Australian University Sport on (07) 3832 9874 or 0403 182 089.

Toni Bush
Commercial Manager
AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY SPORT
Ground Floor, 201 Leichhardt Street
SPRING HILL QLD 4000
PO BOX 939 SPRING HILL QLD 4004
Telephone: +61 7 3832 9874 (ext 19)
Facsimile: +61 7 3832 9879
Mobile: 0403 182 089
Email: toni.bush@unisport.com.au
Web site: www.unisport.com.au
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