

13 November, 2006

MEDIA RELEASE

TURNING THE SOD AT THE GATEWAY

Manningham is set to receive its third gateway sculpture, with the addition of HELMET by artists Cassandra Chilton and Tanya Court, to be located at Banksia Park in Bulleen.

The commencement of the \$255,000 project will be marked by a ceremonial earth turning at the site on **Tuesday 14 November** by the contributing project partners: Manningham City Council, Arts Victoria through the Victorian State Government's Community Support Fund and, Heide Museum of Modern Art assisted by Parks Victoria.

HELMET will be the third and final in a series of sculptures to mark the gateways to Manningham and will be situated near the intersection of Manningham Road and Bridge Street in Bulleen, adjacent to the recently expanded Heide, Museum of Modern Art.

This project joins Manningham's existing Doncaster and Yarra Valley Gateway sculptures: *Sentinel* by Inge King on Doncaster Road at the Eastern Freeway exit; and *River Peel* by Michael Bellemo and Catriona Macleod at the intersection of Williamsons Road, Porter and Anderson Streets.

Artist, Cassandra Chilton, said HELMET is a fusion of landscape and sculpture that engages with its site and context and draws on the famous iconography of Sidney Nolan's original Ned Kelly series painted at Heide.

"HELMET will function simultaneously as a gateway, faceted landform, sculpture, screen and viewing device," said Chilton.

"The work combines sculpted lawn and steel planes to create an iconic symbol of the area's past and present," she said.

Manningham Mayor, Cr. Pat Young, said gateway sculpture projects help to define the municipal image and sense of place for the City through the installation of significant public art works.

"Gateway Sculptures are designed to reinforce Manningham as a place of creativity and innovation and also strengthen the link between the city's cultural heritage and the environment," said Cr Young.

"Public art provides benefits to the community of creating a feeling of identity, public ownership and pride.

"Banksia Park, managed by Parks Victoria and the location for HELMET, attracts approximately 170,000 visitors per year, as well as being the route for approximately 63,000 cars which pass over the Yarra River from Heidelberg though to Manningham every day," she said.

Council commenced the Gateway Sculpture Project in 1998 as part of its Urban Design Strategy, which aims to improve the appearance of the municipality's streetscapes and contribute to the identity of the City.

The project also forms part of Manningham's tourism and cultural development plans.

Launch of HELMET

Time: 10am

Date: Tuesday 14 November 2006

Venue: Heide Museum of Modern Art
Sidney Myer Education Centre
7 Templestowe Road
Bulleen Victoria 3105

RSVP: by Friday 10 November on 9840 9341

This event coincides with Heide Museum of Modern Art's 25th Anniversary and the new summer exhibition *Unmasked: Sidney Nolan and Ned Kelly 1950 – 1990*.

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Media enquiries contact Sinead Moore on 9840 9411.

PROJECT PARTNERS

