

For Immediate Release

February 2006

Print media please note: An image of **Cathy Freeman** and **the Trees of Aspiration** will be released for publication on Feb 15th. Please reserve space for this picture.

International Women's Day – Celebrate the Sisterhood!

Come to the Queen Victoria Women's Centre at QV (corner Swanston and Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne) on March 8th and take part in International Women's Day - the annual event recognised globally to celebrate the achievements and gains of women.

Join in the Kids in Convoy – Mums' City Pram Stroll, or add your hopes to the Trees of Aspirations. There will be market stalls, laughter therapy, ethnic crafts, health and wellbeing seminars, international speakers, demonstrations, musicians and much more!

Housed in all that remains of the Queen Victoria Women's Hospital, the Queen Victoria Women's Centre at QV is one of the most fitting places to celebrate International Women's Day.

Used today to provide a range of services to women by women, the site was originally home to the Queen Victoria Women's Hospital (established in the 1890s) and was Victoria's first women's hospital operated for women by women.

About International Women's Day

Endorsed by the United Nations and celebrated as a national holiday in many countries, International Women's Day was born in 1909 when a group of American women declared National Women's Day as part of their campaign for women's suffrage. It gained greater momentum in 1911 following a factory fire in New York City that killed more than 140 working girls - mostly Italian and Jewish immigrants. While various Women's Days had been previously observed, outrage at the working conditions that caused the death of these women brought greater identification with International Women's Day.

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WHAT'S ON

The Trees of Aspirations – March 8th 2006

Come to QV for International Women's Day and add your hopes to the Trees of Aspirations. A striking forest of white trees created by artist Karen Martin will be erected in the square at QV where women are invited to write down their special hopes and place them on the branches making a stunning collection of hopes, dreams and aspirations.

Kids in Convoy – Mums' City Pram Stroll- March 8th 2006

Mums with prams are invited to take part in a walk from Melbourne Museum to QV. Strap your walking shoes on, secure the kids in the stroller and get moving for mothers! Meeting at Melbourne Museum, Children's Museum at 9.30am.

International Women's Day at QV

Join in activities from the Kids in Convoy – Mums' City Pram Stroll, to adding your hopes to the branches of the Trees of Aspirations. There will be market stalls, laughter therapy, ethnic crafts, health and wellbeing seminars, international speakers, demonstrations, musicians and much more! The QVWC InfoHub, an online gateway for women's resources and information will also launch on International Women's Day. For more information go to the QVWC InfoHub Website: www.qvwc.org.au

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For the image of **Cathy Freeman**, more information or to arrange an interview with Cheryl Teng of the Queen Victoria Women's Centre, please contact:

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