

# Melbourne International Motor Show

- be part of history

Australians love events. And, with quarter of a million visitors expected this year, they love the Melbourne International Motor Show.

This year's Motor Show (Friday February 27 – Monday March 9) is just around the corner and there are plenty of reasons to make it a 'must-see' event.

"Traditionally, the Melbourne Motor Show is very well supported by the public and we are optimistic about this year's event," VACC Executive Director, David Purchase said.

"Yes, there is a global economic slowdown, but the Motor Show has a magic all its own. It is a great opportunity to see the new technologies in vehicles that will be saving us money in years ahead.

"Many of our visitors just love the atmosphere of the event, to dream a little and, of course, take their own photographs of the makes and models on display.

"Another significant reason to attend this year is that this Show marks the end of an era. Following the announcement of a Joint Venture with the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI), organisers of the Sydney Motor Show, this will be the last ever 'solo' Melbourne Motor Show.

"The Motor Show will then alternate between Sydney and Melbourne, so it will be back in Victoria in 2011.

"However, there is a real sense of history surrounding this 75th anniversary show. There is a special display commemorating the cars over the past seven decades. Many people will want to attend, buy the souvenir program and say 'I was there'.

"It is also the only major Motor Show in Australia this year, so interstate numbers are expected to be higher than usual.

"Since last year's Melbourne Motor Show, the global economic slowdown has affected us all. But there is a lot of positivity surrounding the build up to the event and everyone involved is determined to provide the public with a show to remember," Mr Purchase said.

## Sakis will represent Greece with the song "This is our night"



The big night of the Greek national final for the selection of the song to represent Greece at this year's Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow kicked off on Wednesday night! The spectacular show at the Ahinon Arena music hall was broadcasted live on NET television and eurovision.ert.gr. Greek ESC entrant Sakis Rouvas sang the three candidate songs, from which the Greece audience and the seven-member jury choose the one to represent Greece in the Russian capital.

The candidate songs were:

- Out Of Control (lyrics: ALEXANDRA)

- Right On Time (lyrics: CRAIG PORTEILS and CAMERON GILES-WEBB)

- This is Our Night (lyrics: CRAIG PORTEILS and CAMERON GILES-WEBB).

The music of all three songs was composed by Dimitris Kontopoulos.

The seven-member jury consisted of:

- Mimis Plessas
- Dimitris Gontikas
- Antonis Andrikakis
- Evangelia Piskera
- Olga Pavlatou
- Giorgos Kyvelos
- Stella Flora

# Local MP brings Minister to Bankstown to talk jobs

*Minister for Human Services, Senator Joe Ludwig, joined Member for Blaxland, Jason Clare, in Bankstown to discuss the effect of the global financial crisis on local jobs.*



"This year is going to be a tough one. Unemployment is going up all around the world and it is already starting to hit us here at home," Mr Clare said.

"Latest figures from the Bureau of Statistics show unemployment is going up, and in Bankstown more people signed up for unemployment benefits in December than anywhere else in NSW."

"We have to do everything we can to support local jobs and help people who lose their jobs to get back into the workforce as soon as possible. That's why I asked the Minister to come to Bankstown to talk to people on the ground," Mr Clare said.

Senator Ludwig met with front line Centrelink staff and financial counsellors from local organisation Creating Links.

Last week the Rudd Government announced a \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs plan to support jobs

and keep the economy growing. The plan includes an Education Entry Payment to assist people returning to study or training.

"This payment will encourage people to skill-up in these difficult economic times," Senator Ludwig said.

The Government's plan also includes more than \$99 million to upgrade schools in the Bankstown area.

"This is good for local schools, but will also create jobs for local business," Mr Clare said.

"Today we spoke to a number of people who need help to get back on their feet", Mr Clare said.

"For many people this is the first time they have had to approach Centrelink for assistance", Mr Clare said.

"Centrelink has a variety of payments and services available to help people in difficult situations such as retrenchment or redundancy," Senator Ludwig said.

"In addition to financial support, Centrelink has Financial Information Service Officers available to help people make more informed financial decisions about investment options."

"They also conduct free seminars on a range of topics including financial planning, superannuation, understanding basic taxation requirements and social security provisions," Senator Ludwig said.

Six seminars are taking place in the Blaxland electorate:

To make an appointment to speak to a Financial Information Service Officer call 13 2300.

Alternatively you can contact Mr Clare's Electoral Office on 9790 2466 for more information on what Government assistance may be available for you.

For information about Centrelink services, visit the website [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

