



For Immediate Release
June 30, 2011

Media Contact: Dana Woodson
(757) 393-5143

Museum Contact: Pat Jensen, Exhibit Specialist
757-393-5258
jensenp@portsmouthva.gov

First Traveling Exhibit Heading to the New Children's Museum of Virginia
-- "Kangaroo Crossing" Opens July 15th --

(Portsmouth, VA) Where else can you bring to life the exciting hands-on adventures and experiences of the "Land Down Under"? Grab a flight to Australia at the opening of **Kangaroo Crossing** at the new Children's Museum of Virginia, on Friday, July 15th, at 9:00 a.m.

Kangaroo Crossing, on display from July 15th through September 25th, is a global awareness exhibit created in 2003 by EdVenture Children's Museum of Columbia, South Carolina to help educate children about other cultures and communities. It teaches visitors about the differences in growing up on the other side of the world and it expands their horizons by allowing them the opportunity to experience the similarities that we share.

Kangaroo Crossing, designed for kids ages 2-12, will introduce young minds to the geology, biology, economy, sociology, and architecture of Australia by way of "swimming" in the Great Barrier Reef, riding into the outback, visiting the Sydney Opera House, learning what's in a kangaroo's "pouch", and discovering what types of food the natives eat.

With today's technology and global focus, it is important for children to understand the cultures and customs of other countries. Through interactive video screens, hands-on activities, and life-style models, **Kangaroo Crossing** can motivate kids to develop an interest for the Australian way of life and begin to learn facts, locations, and routines of children across the globe.

The Kangaroo Crossing Traveling Exhibit features 10 interactive components:

Eucalyptus Tree

With branches that are six feet or higher, the tree gives visitors a place where they can play with Aussie animal puppets; learn what a didgeridoo is and why the eucalyptus is important to Australia; crawl under the "roots" of the tree; or cozy up with a book about native plants and animals on the bean bag chair.

Marsupial Match

Learn about what a marsupial is; how it moves around; where their babies hide; and which marsupial is the only one found in America. Help the mother koala, kangaroo, and

opossum find their babies by fitting the baby in the correct pouch. Visitors can challenge friends to see who can jump the farthest or compare their jump to a kangaroos on the measured game floor.

Banana Bender: The Queensland Supermarket

Pick up a few items that people in Australia might eat for dinner. With Australian money, children can role play and “buy” clothing, toys, and other essentials or help “check-out” other “shoppers” by working as a cashier.

Natural Wonder – The Great Barrier Reef

Here children can learn about Australia’s water life and the world’s largest coral reef. They can “dive” into the Great Barrier Reef by playing a game that allows them to choose their movements based on what “swims” by.

Termitaria

Visitors can play on a termite hill that is over five feet tall!. Pop out of it or crawl inside to look around and find out how large termite and ant homes are in Australia.

School of Air

Compare school life in the U.S. to school life in different parts of Australia! Visitors experience what life is like for Australian children on the outback who have school at home by listening to live radio broadcasts.

Structures in Australia

Build some of the famous Australian structures such as the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbor Bridge.

Where in the World

Find out why it is winter in Australia while it is summer in the United States. Learn about the different locations and how it effects day/night and winter/summer cycles; and find facts on Australia’s states, topography, population, imports, and exports.

The Children’s Museum of Virginia, located at 221 High Street, is open on Monday – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$11 for Adults ages 18 and up; \$10 for ages 2-17; and \$10 for Military and Seniors. Children under the age of two are free. For more information, call 393-5258.

#