



**MEDIA RELEASE  
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MICROSOFT REFERENCE SUITE 2001**

## **GOING FOR GREEN AND GOLD**

Encarta Reference Suite 2001 is now more relevant to Australians than ever. 150 new articles have been added to the existing Australian content in Encarta and many exciting new features have been included to help you find relevant local information quickly and easily.

New additions to Australian content include entries on topics of interest such as current Australian political and social leaders, recent Australian legislation, and past and present Australian sporting heroes.

Other new highlights include entries on Australian writers and poets, painters, archaeological sites, animals and plants, historical figures, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history.

New Australian entries have been compiled by experts in their fields. Entries on Australian historical events and figures have been written by Professor Ann Curthoys of the Australian National University in Canberra, while the new entries on Australian artists were written by Art History academic, Dr Sasha Grishin.

A team of 200 editors and contributors worldwide make Encarta as accurate as possible. Local Australian contributors and a Sydney-based editor ensure that content in the Australian edition is relevant, accurate, and meets the needs of Australian. "Our monthly updates also add to the currency and accuracy of Australian content," says Australian editor, Prunella Webber.

New additions have also been made to the format of Encarta Reference Suite 2001's Australian Edition. This edition contains 35 sidebars from past editions of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which offer contemporary accounts of significant historical events such as the Gallipoli Campaign and the founding of Canberra. These sidebars provide valuable insights for students into the events themselves, as well as the reporting styles of the day.

Microsoft® Encarta Reference Suite also includes sidebars from the Australian Conservation Foundation dealing with a range of environmental topics designed to encourage children's interest in and respect for their environment.

Also new to Microsoft® Encarta Reference Suite is the Dynamic Timeline. This feature allows users to see lists of events related to their research topic according to when they took place. Users can then click on these links to read related entries in order to gain an understanding of their research topic in its historical context. You'll find key Australian historical events such as the Australian Gold Rush and the landing of Captain Cook.

Five new charts and tables on specifically Australian content have also been added to the Encarta Reference Suite 2001. Topics include Melbourne Cup winners, Governors General, Australian Rules Premiers, Brownlow medallists and numbers of convicts carried on First Fleet ships.

Encarta Reference Suite 2001 even helps you to stay one step ahead of the kids! For older students, Encarta Reference Suite 2001 has expanded its Australian Curriculum Guide to include a total of six subjects at senior secondary level. The inclusion of 48 lesson plans written by teachers in Australian schools (an increase from 14 in Encarta 2000) helps teachers incorporate Encarta products to devise new and interesting ways of presenting syllabus material.

Microsoft's commitment to Australian content spreads throughout Encarta Reference Suite 2001. To bring geography and social science to life, Interactive World Atlas now contains new information on Australia so you can use it to help you with anything from school projects to planning the perfect trip!

The significant increase in Australian content now offered in Microsoft® Encarta Reference Suite 2001 makes the package a great education tool for the whole family.

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Prepared for Microsoft Corp.  
Prepared by Spin Communications  
For further information contact Em Leiding or Pam Thornback  
on 02 9360 3377 or [e.leiding@spin.com.au](mailto:e.leiding@spin.com.au) or [p.thornback@spin.com.au](mailto:p.thornback@spin.com.au)