

Media Release : Friday October 26, 2007



TWO MAJOR 'SCENIC RAILWAY' PROJECTS FOR MELBOURNE'S LUNA PARK

Melbourne's Luna Park today announced that two major projects are underway to refurbish and highlight the iconic **Scenic Railway**. The two projects include the refurbishment and restoration of a pinnacle section of the track and the production of a life size mural for the **Scenic Railway** Station.

The **Scenic Railway**, built in 1911, was the main attraction of Melbourne's Luna Park when it opened in 1912. Heritage listed with the National Trust, this wooden roller coaster is the last of its kind in Australia and is reputed to be the oldest continually operating wooden roller coaster in the world.

Due to dutiful and regular maintenance, the **Scenic Railway** operates in much the same manner as it did when it first opened 95 years ago. The 1km long track was constructed of Oregon wood and fixed with iron bolts and it is an ongoing task to ensure the preservation of this iconic Melbourne landmark, particularly with the recent physical affects of the extended drought and climate change. As a result of these affects, pro-active major '**Scenic Railway**' refurbishments are taking place between the 'Station' and 'Entrance Towers" on the Cavell Street side of the Park.

As Melbourne's Luna Park Executive Director Mary Stuart states, "there is no doubt climate change is having an impact on our wonderful **Scenic Railway**. The structure is being affected by the drying out of the water table and soil movement, in the same way that houses and other older buildings are showing signs of the impact. The **Scenic Railway** is a treasure and we will do all we can to restore, protect and preserve it for the enjoyment of future generations of Australians."

The visual façade of the **Scenic Railway** Station will also soon be an attraction in its own right, thanks to renowned local artist, Mark Ogge. Ogge is creating a stunning, dreamlike mural, 60 square metres in size that is due to be installed in December to coincide with the 95th birthday celebrations of Melbourne's Luna

Park. Ogge has long been fascinated with circus and fairground images, with one of his better-known works being his façade for the "Famous Spiegeltent", which is currently the centrepiece of the Melbourne International Arts Festival. Delicate, detailed and beautiful, the planned **Scenic Railway** mural, created in stages due to its intricate nature, will feature an exotic theme adapted to the Moorish architecture of the **Scenic Railway** Station.

To work with Melbourne's Luna Park is a dream come true as Ogge states, "When I was ten, going for a ride on the **Scenic Railway** was definitely the most exciting thing ever- if I had been told then, that one day I could do a great big painting of whatever I liked on the wall of the **Scenic Railway** station, I would have thought all my dreams had come true! Well, now they have, and I really can't imagine where I can go from here."

Melbourne's Luna Park, one of Australia's most popular icons and Melbourne's premier destination for fun, has excited and delighted generations across nine decades, creating life long memories in this heritage amusement park.

LUNA PARK OPENING TIMES:

Summer times (22 September 2007 - 28 April 2008)

Friday 7pm - 11pm,

Saturday 11am - 11pm

Sunday 11am - 6pm

Victorian Government School and Public Holidays

Monday to Thursday 11 am - 6 pm, Friday 11 am - 11 pm

Saturday 11am - 11pm

Sunday 11am - 6pm

LUNA PARK TICKET PRICES:

Lara Croft: Tomb Raider Anniversary Live!

Adults (13 + years) : \$8.50

Children (7-12 years): \$7.00

Unlimited Ride Tickets:

These tickets give you the freedom to enjoy all the fun rides as many times as you like all day.*

Toddlers (3yrs & under) \$12.95

Children (4 -12 yrs) \$25.95

Adults (13+ yrs) \$35.95

Family (2 adults + 2 children) \$108.95

Additional family members: \$11.00 per toddler

\$22.95 per child, \$30.95 per adult.

*subject to height restrictions and medical conditions.

Single Ride Tickets: (excluding Lara Croft Tomb Raider LIVE!)

1-3 yrs \$3.00

4 -12 yrs \$5.50

13+ yrs \$7.00

LUNA PARK INFO LINE- 1300 888 272
www.lunapark.com.au

FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION:

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