MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

2006 Maroondah Festival Chess Championship

Melbourne, Australia, Saturday 4th February 2006

Croydon Chess today announced that it would again host the 2006 Maroondah Festival Chess Championship as part of the region's annual Maroondah Festival on **Sunday, 19th February 2006**.

"*This is now a regular fixture on our tournament calendar*" said Stephen Frost, President of Croydon Chess. "*We first ran the tournament in 2005 as a 'thank you' to Maroondah Council for their support in helping us start our club. We got a great response from the local community and an influx of new members, so it makes sense for us to run the event again this year.*"

Entry is free and the tournament is open to all-comers, not just club members. **Registrations commence at 12:30pm and the first games start promptly at 1:00pm**.

There will be five (5) rounds, with each game timed (by clocks) at 15 minutes per game per player.

Participants will be separated into two sections: a Junior Tournament for Under 18's and an Open Tournament other players. Each section will contain 10 boards, enabling 20 players to compete.

Strong juniors may optionally enter the Open Tournament if they wish.

"*We are all praying for good weather on the 19th,*" Stephen said "*as we are out in the open air. If the weather is warm, participants would be well advised to bring some sunscreen and a hat!*"

Tables, chairs, boards and pieces will be set up over near the tennis courts, just across Mt Dandenong Road from Arndale Shopping Centre. Visitors are welcome to play casual games on the spare boards, and there will also be a Giant Chess Set which is always a fun challenge for the kids.

Venue: Croydon Park   (Melways 50K4)
             Mt Dandenong Road   (bounded by Springfield Avenue and Hewish Road)

For further information please see the Croydon Chess website at **www.croydonchess.com**

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Background information:

About Croydon Chess

Croydon Chess is the only chess club servicing a region bounded by Ringwood to Knox to Lilydale.

It is the newest addition to Melbourne's list of chess clubs and was founded to encourage the enjoyment of chess amongst residents of Croydon and surrounding suburbs. As part of its mandate to "educate our community about the benefits of a lifetime of playing chess" it has been training participants of all ages to become more technically proficient in their play through its coaching program.

Croydon Chess started in 2005 and regularly runs chess tournaments, as well as providing a welcoming environment for informal (casual) play. It now boasts around 40 members, including one International Master (IM) and a former Victorian Open champion. Its current coach and Club Champion (N.Y.Wong) is a former Singapore national junior team coach.

For more information about Croydon Chess, please visit the club's website at **www.croydonchess.com**, email us at **enquiries@croydonchess.com** or call Stephen Frost (President) on 0413 537 817.