

For immediate release

Simultaneous Blindfold Chess Exhibition

Melbourne, Australia, Saturday 28th January 2006

Croydon Chess today announced a visit from scientist and author **Dr Jonathan Sarfati (FM)** who also happens to be a *very* strong chess player.

A former New Zealand Chess Champion and holder of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) Master title, Dr Sarfati will play a **simultaneous blindfold exhibition** at Croydon Chess on **Saturday, 11th February 2006 at 4:00pm**. If time permits this will be followed by a “regular” simultaneous exhibition where the blindfold restriction is not in force.

Playing chess is difficult enough for most mere mortals ... but **imagine trying to play chess whilst blindfolded** (i.e. without sight of the board). You would have to remember the positions of 32 pieces (16 White and 16 Black) arranged in ever-changing and complicated configurations on a board of 64 squares. Then imagine yourself trying to play multiple, simultaneous blindfold games. The mind boggles, doesn't it!

Twelve simultaneous blindfold games is the most played thus far by Dr Sarfati in a single blindfold exhibition. This will be a fun event for all those with an interest in chess and for those who simply enjoy wondering at the power of the human mind to process vast amounts of information.

Venue: Croydon Christian Church (industrial estate near the corner of
2 / 34 Research Drive Eastfield Road and Dorset Road)
South Croydon VIC 3136

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

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Background information:

About Dr. Jonathan Sarfati

Dr Sarfati is a former New Zealand Chess Champion, and represented New Zealand in three Chess Olympiads, once drawing with Boris Spassky (world champion 1969–1972) in a tournament game. In 1988 the World Chess Federation awarded him the title of FIDE Master (FM).

He was born in Ararat, Australia in 1964. He obtained a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Chemistry with two physics papers substituted (nuclear and condensed matter physics) and a Ph.D. in Chemistry for his thesis entitled 'A Spectroscopic Study of some Chalcogenide Ring and Cage Molecules'. He had a co-authored paper on high-temperature superconductors published in the journal *Nature* when he was 22.

In August 1996 he returned to Australia to take up a position as research scientist and editorial consultant for Answers in Genesis in Brisbane (formerly known as the Creation Science Foundation). In this capacity he is co-editor of *Creation* magazine, writes and reviews articles for *TJ* (the in-depth journal of creation) and contributes to the Answers in Genesis website.

His first book *Refuting Evolution* was published in 1999 and now has 350,000 copies in print. Later that year he was a co-author of the updated and expanded *Answers Book*, answering 20 of the most-asked questions about creation/evolution. In 2004, he wrote *Refuting Compromise*, defending a straight-forward biblical creation timeline and a global flood.

About Croydon Chess

Croydon Chess 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 (N.Y.Wong) is a former Singapore national junior team coach.

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