



NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA



An Australian Government Initiative



MEDIA RELEASE

***Rare Trades* on show in Kalgoorlie**

The enduring need for people to make things with their hands is explored in ***Rare Trades***, a travelling National Museum of Australia exhibition opening in Kalgoorlie on 22 January.

Rare Trades tells the stories of 20 people from across Australia who maintain the tools and traditions of often ancient trades, exploring how and why they continue to work with their hands in a predominantly digital age.

The exhibition is on show at the Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame until 17 April 2005.

Rare Trades is curated by the National Museum's Sophie Jensen and Mark Thomson, author of the book *Rare Trades* and the best-selling book *Blokes and Sheds*.

"***Rare Trades*** celebrates the ability to transform raw materials into beautiful and functional objects, from the classic trades people fondly remember – like tinsmithing and bookbinding – to more unexpected trades like haystack building and scroll painting," said curator Sophie Jensen.

"***Rare Trades*** comes at a time when more Australians are appreciating the talents of skilled tradespeople and hand made objects. Visitors are responding warmly to these stories of people who continue to make a living from their remarkable connection to their tools and trades."

The exhibition features more than 150 objects, including a Porsche Spyder rebuilt by hand; the shoes worn by Christine Anu in *Moulin Rouge*; a movie theatre with footage of nine traders explaining their work; plus their distinctive tools – prickers, jiggers and ducknib tongs!

Rare Trades explores humans as tool makers and tool users; the process of transforming raw materials into useful objects; the passing on of secret and not so secret trade knowledge; how technological advances relate to these old trades – and our feelings for them today.

A bladesmith, blacksmith, stone tool maker, sailmaker, clockmaker, shoemaker and wheelwright are among other traders featured.

Rare Trades is supported by Visions of Australia and has been seen in Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Ipswich. It moves to Geelong in May.

For more information please contact Leanda Coleman at the National Museum of Australia on 02 6208 5338, 0438 620 710 or l.coleman@nma.gov.au or Norma Latchford at the Mining Hall of Fame on 08 9026 2700 or norma@mininghall.com