

# Volunteers have hi-tech help for tourists all in hand

GAMES volunteers wielding hand-held computers equipped with world-first technology will provide directions for visitors.

About 60 tech-savvy volunteers will be in the CBD and around venues to guide more than 90,000 visitors expected to converge on Melbourne from March 15-26.

Directions to venues, restaurants or hotels are available at the touch of a hand-held device, and can be printed out or sent to mobile phones as text and picture messages.

Want a Greek restaurant? Volunteers can find an eatery, provide a map and directions, and give you a phone number to make a booking en-route.

Up-to-the-minute information, including road closures, will be used to find the quickest way from A to B on foot, or by public transport or car.

Information and Communication Technology Minister Masha Thomson said the technology, developed for the Games by Victorian companies Geomatic Technologies and Readify, might be used for other major events. "We have had international interest in this idea . . . There are endless possibilities," she said.

The \$900,000 project was funded as part of a joint initiative between the Government and Microsoft. **KATE HAGAN**



Directions Plus guide Jessica Davies helps New Zealand TV engineer Rodney Haugh. Picture: Michael Rayner