

PRESS RELEASE – 22 August 2007

HAWKESBURY ARTISAN CHRIS WOOLCOCK'S ROCKING HORSE TO FEATURE IN THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM'S UPCOMING "TOYS IN THE ATTIC" EXHIBITION

The Powerhouse Museum, Australia's largest and most popular museum, will soon feature a large handcrafted traditional dappled grey rocking horse made by the Hawkesbury's own and Australia's only fulltime rocking horse makers, restorers and teachers, Chris Woolcock and his partner Viktoria.

The museum's upcoming fifteen month, seven hundred square metre exhibition entitled, "Toys in the Attic" is aimed at four to ten year olds and their parents and will exhibit toys that one might find in an attic which has stored the memories of three generations from the late 1800's to the 1980's.

The Powerhouse Museum is located in Darling Harbour and has a unique and diverse collection of 385,000 objects spans history, science, technology, design, industry, decorative arts, music, transport and space exploration. The Museum has an ever-changing program of exhibitions covering approximately 20,000 square metres (equivalent to three international competition soccer fields). It presents 22 permanent exhibitions and several temporary exhibitions, complemented by more than 250 interactives.

The "Toys in the Attic" exhibition will feature Chris's rocking horse as an interactive toy with the curator's expecting approximately two hundred children to ride it each day. That's a work out by anyone's standards and so the commission for the horse has some special requirements including: heavy duty, half inch steel swing irons; lower set to the ground (for safety); it's own horse blanket and two changes of mane – one half way through the exhibition and one at the end of the exhibition to ensure the horse is looking good when it is catalogued into to the permanent collection of the museum.

"With thirty years experience and over five thousand rocking horses to his credit, Chris's and Viktoria's lovingly handcrafted horses with all the traditional features, such as handmade English riding saddle, glass eyes, natural horse tail mane and tail, head turned to the right, detail carved muscles, veins and teeth - were the natural choice," said the exhibition's curator, Margaret Simpson. "We have also asked Chris and Viktoria to be available for our "Ask the Experts" sessions planned for later in 2008 where they will answer rocking horse questions and if visitors bring a photo of their old rocking horse, they will be happy to date, identify the manufacturer and provide an opinion on value."

The exhibition opens later in the year for more details you can visit www.powerhousemuseum.com.au.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,
PHOTOGRAPHS OR INTERVIEWS CONTACT:

Viktoria Darabi

Renaissance Rocking Horses

143 Pitt Town Road, McGraths Hill NSW 2756

4577-8697

info@rockinghorses.com.au or visit www.rockinghorses.com.au.

