

Commonwealth quilt on display at Pakuranga

The Commonwealth quilt, to be presented to the next host city of the Commonwealth Games, will be officially unveiled at the Fisher Gallery tonight.

Gallery curator Louis Johnston said the 2.4m x 4m quilt, designed by Carole Shephard, will be displayed to the public until February 25.

Joining it will be the quilt given to Auckland by previous Games host Edinburgh, a children's quilt and a craft exhibition.

This Saturday, the Pakuranga gallery is also holding a free quilt-making workshop from 10am to 4pm.

The tradition of presenting a quilt to the next Games host started at the first Games art festival in Edmonton

in 1978.

About 60 Auckland pakeha, Maori and Pacific Island women have made two identical quilts during the past year.

Co-ordinator Joan Caulfield will take one quilt to the next Games city in Victoria, Canada, this May. The other will stay in Auckland.

Most of the material was donated by fabric merchants Maurice Kain Ltd, but it also contains fabrics and fibres from around the world.

Ms Caulfield is raising money to take a group of quilt-makers to Victoria to present the quilt to its mayor and offer advice to the Canadian quilt-makers.