



Let the Games begin



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GAMES sponsor Panasonic has a new website full of information and updates about its Olympic program.

Panasonic spokesperson Gemma Lemieux says the site covers the heritage of the Olympics and has a press centre updated with Olympic news.

Visitors to the site will find a countdown to the opening ceremony and a video designed to walk consumers through ways to create the perfect Olympic viewing experience at home.

The site uses design software called MyVirtualHome 3D so visitors can select Panasonic home-entertainment products and play around with room layout and lighting effects.

The site contains a page dedicated to the Panasonic Olympic ambassadors such as swimmers Ky Hurst and Bronte Barratt and track-and-field athletes Tamsyn Lewis (left) and Matt Shirvington.

Panasonic will also include a downloadable AIR application — an interactive tool that sits on your computer's desktop and contains live information from the Olympics. Features include a medal-tally board and alerts each time Australia snags another medal.

The site also offers visitors a chance to share in a promotion offering more than \$3 million in prizes.

www.panasonic.com.au/olympics

AUSTRALIANS are gearing up to watch the Games at home. More than one million LCD or plasma TVs have been sold

in the past year.

The next step for some of these buyers will be deciding what kind of recording device they can add to their new TV.

Some may decide to use the new high-definition digital video recorder (DVR) called a TiVo.

This clever machine has a built-in program guide.

Recording your selected program is as simple as pressing one button on the remote supplied with the TiVo.

TiVo records two programs at once

while allowing you to watch a third pre-recorded program at the same time.

You can also program this whiz-bang machine to record every episode of an entire series.

And if you enter the name of your favourite actor or producer, TiVo will automatically find and record every program with your favourite.

There's also a safe haven for children called "TiVo KidZone", where kids can enjoy programs without the risk of them watching inappropriate content.

A broadband connection signals new features and functions will be introduced to TiVo as they become available.

TiVo will be in retail stores from July 29 with an rrp of \$699 — and there are no monthly fees.

www.tivo.com.au

SAMSUNG and Foxtel have formed a

promotional partnership that provides a bonus Foxtel HD+ offer or a flagship Samsung BD1500 Blu-ray player to anyone buying a Samsung Series 5 or 6 LCD TV.

The Foxtel offer consists of a Foxtel iQ2 set-top unit and three months' subscription to the company's HD+ service.

