Australia's most famous monument becomes a billboard
25th October 2001

On Friday night the Sydney Opera House became a 40 foot high billboard featuring a projection of a first fleet sailing ship above the words "BOAT PEOPLE". Tactical media activists staged the action - reminding Australians that most of us are, in fact, descended from Boat People.

The stunt was a huge success with many people offering their support when security guards attempted to shut the projection down. The group responsible, known as the 'Boat People Tactical Media Group', formed as part of the TILT tactical media conference, held recently in Sydney.

"We believe that when armed with the facts Australians will not support the appalling treatment of asylum seekers off our coastline." said the group's spokeswoman Deborah Kelly. "This is only the beginning of our campaign to remind all Australians of our own history".

Many myths have emerged regarding the refugee issue in Australia, however the facts are sobering. Australia receives relatively few refugees by world standards. In 2001 Australia will receive only 12 000 refugees through its humanitarian program. This number has remained static for three years, despite the ever-increasing numbers of refugees' worldwide.

To learn more or join the many Australians who don't support the government's hard line policies on asylum seekers visit www.boat-people.org

Contacts:

David Gravina +61 (0) 408 0804 61
io@digitaleskimo.net

Deborah Kelly +61 (0) 2 9475 1012
dkellysocialchange@yahoo.com