

Deaf Sports Update

APRIL 2008

Monthly Updates from Deaf Sports Australia

Facilitating the access of deaf and hard of hearing people to the best sporting opportunities available in Australia



DSA Board of Directors and Staff

L-R: Pete Folan; Richard Pearce; David Peters; Jennifer Grant; Brent Phillips; Cindy Cave; Phil Harper

Melinda's World Record Recognised!

Congratulations to Melinda Vernon (NSW) for breaking the Deaf World Record for the 10,000 metre event at Olympic Park (Melbourne) on 13 December 2007, which was ratified by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf on 18 March 2008.

Selected for the Australian Team

Melinda was selected in the Australian Team for the World Cross Country Championships to be held in Edinburgh on 30th March.

Other well known Australians selected in the Australian Team are Olympians Benita Johnson and Craig Mottram (from Geelong).

She is very excited to be on the team with these athletes.

One week later, she will also compete in the World University Cross Country Championships in France on 6 April over 6.2 km.

Hopefully she will be competitive at world level...and the experience will be fantastic for her.

NEWSFLASH: Melinda has just competed in the World Cross Country Championships and finished a fantastic 41st!

President's Report

First Board Planning Day

The DSA Board of Directors held a successful Planning Day on 1 March, superbly facilitated by Anne Bremner, Past President and Life Member.

- Key outcomes of the Planning Day included:
- A review of DSA's Vision, Mission and Objectives - a sub-committee will be established, chaired by Director Phil Harper, to carry out a further review and to recommend changes if required
- A review of DSA's 2005-2009 Corporate Plan Identification of key tasks for DSA in the short, medium and long term
- Prioritising those key tasks
- Identification of Portfolios aligned with the above tasks

A key outcome of the day was the allocation of Portfolios to each Director, as outlined below:

Communications and Public Relations	Jennifer Grant
Finance	David Peters
Governance	Phil Harper
Government Relations	Brent Phillips
International Events	David Peters
Marketing and Fundraising	vacant
Membership Relations	Pete Folan
National Sports	Richard Pearce
Youth Development	Pete Folan

Our Constitution allows DSA to appoint a further two Directors, and we will be headhunting Director(s) to lead the Marketing & Fundraising Portfolio(s). If you are interested or may be able to assist, please do

not hesitate to contact me at brent.phillips@deafsports.org.au

A second Planning Day is scheduled for 5 April where we will expand on each portfolio and confirm key tasks and timeframes. I will be sure to share outcomes of that day with you in the next E-News.

Chef de Mission of the Australian Deaflympic Team, Taipei 2009

I am pleased to announce that David Peters has been appointed Chef de Mission of the Australian Deaflympic Team for the 21st Summer Deaflympic Games in Taipei, Taiwan during September 2009. David brings with him a wealth of experience, having led the Australian Deaflympic Team at the 1997 and 2001 Deaflympic Games. DSA has commenced a Fundraising Strategy and will be meeting key stakeholders including the Federal Minister of Sport over the coming weeks. Furthermore, an Expression of Interest to participate in the 2009 Deaflympic Games is attached to this E-News - please distribute this far and wide.

Enjoy reading this month's E-News and please do not hesitate to send any news or event details for publication to dsa@deafsports.org.au. This E-News is sent to a mailing list of over 1,000 people each month.

Yours in deaf sports,

Brent Phillips
President

Expression of Interest

2009 Deaflympic Games - Taipei, Taiwan

This could be your once-in-a-lifetime experience to be a part of the Australian Deaflympic Team!

Please refer to separate attachment or visit www.deafsports.org.au for further information and documents.

From the DSA office...

Hello members

March has been a very busy, yet exciting, month so let's begin with ...

1. A number of Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) have been signed off with the below organisations:

Nationally

- Deaf Golf Australia, Golf Australia and DSA



L-R: Nick Green (Golf Australia Director), Brent Phillips (DSA President), Gavin Balharrie (Deaf Golf Australia Secretary), Anne Lenegan (Golf Australia President)

- Deaf Basketball Australia, Basketball Australia and DSA
- Deaf Cricket Australia, Cricket Australia and DSA

Victoria

- Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria (DSRV) and DSA



Cindy Cave and Gary Kerridge (DSRV President)

The MOUs have been developed with the Sports CONNECT program. This means that National Deaf Sporting Organisations (i.e. Deaf Golf Australia) will develop stronger partnerships with the National Sport Organisation (Golf Australia) and DSA. The intended result is this will lead to clearer pathways and more accessible programs for all, athletes and officials included.

Right now DSA is looking at 6 identified sports, at both National and State level. They are Golf, Netball, Lawn Bowls, Cycling, Cricket and Basketball.

But once they are signed off, and running well, DSA will look at rolling this program to other States and sports - so stay tuned!

2. The next big thing is of course is the T2009 Expression of Interest Form being released.

I encourage all who are eligible and interested to represent the Green and Gold in Taipei in September 2009 to get those forms in before 30 May 2008.

3 - Outside of those things, the month has rolled through by communicating with Government bodies, members of DSA and sporting bodies generally.

There is one thing I do hope for in 2008, it is to see the emergence of a State body in NSW to represent NSW at a state and national level. DSA is looking into possibilities, so hopefully before long there will be one again!

Until next month, be well, stay safe and get active (through sport or on a committee)

Cindy Cave
National Deaf Sports Coordinator

Golf Australia and Deaf sports Australia strive to create further pathways for participation

In an endeavour to continually increase participation, Golf Australia, Deaf Sport Australia and Deaf Golf Australia have signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly-develop and promote strategies to increase opportunities for people with a hearing disability.

The initiative has been implemented as part of the Australian Sports Commission's 'Sports CONNECT' program, which has been specifically designed to prepare sport for the inclusion of people with a disability at all levels from grassroots to elite.

The memorandum is supported by funding from the Australian Government through Deaf Sports Australia and says the three parties will co-operate in the provision and development of services and golf opportunities for deaf and hearing impaired people at all levels. This includes the joint development of coaching opportunities and selection procedures according to Golf Australia and World Deaf Golf Federation standards.

Nick Green, Director of Game and Industry Development at Golf Australia, said "The agreement is an exciting and valuable opportunity for the golfing industry to build sustainable relationships with Deaf Golf organisations which will in turn, significantly increase opportunities for participation in the game.

"This is the first of many formal relationships to be established between Golf Australia and disability sports organisations that represent participants in each category of disability."

Brent Phillips, President of Deaf Sports Australia said, "The memorandum of understanding has established a benchmark for other sports to follow. We are looking forward to working with Golf Australia and Deaf Golf Australia to create more opportunities for deaf golfers to participate in the sport at a local, national and international level".

Robert Bowler, President of Deaf Golf Australia said, "This marks the culmination of significant discussions throughout the last 12 months that we hope will result in better opportunities for our deaf golfers.

"The timing also couldn't have been better as we prepare to host the World Deaf Golf Championships at Joondalup Resort in Western Australia in October 2008. Thank you to Deaf Sports Australia and Golf Australia for their excellent and ongoing support."

For more information on Golf Australia visit www.golfaustralia.org.au



International News

Jerald M Jordan (1927-2008)



With sadness, the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) announced that Honorary President Jerald M Jordan passed away on 26 March 2008 at his home in Maryland, USA.

Jerald Jordan, or "JJ" as he was affectionately known as, served as the 5th President of ICSD (formerly CISS) for 24 years, during 1971-1995. He was succeeded by Australian John Lovett.

During his long service to international deaf sports, he was awarded the CISS Gold Medal of Honour as well as the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee. He was also a Honorary Life Member of CISS.

JJ was a true friend to the Australian deaf sporting community, having visited Australia a

few times, first in 1988 for the Asia Pacific Deaf Football Championships, and most recently the 20th Summer Deaflympic Games in Melbourne.

On behalf of the Australian Deaf sporting community, Deaf Sports Australia passes on our condolences to JJ's wife, Shirley and to his many friends in the international deaf sports family.

A tribute and a photographic montage has been posted on www.deaflympics.com

Brent Phillips
President

Audiogram Form updated

Please note that when sending in audiogram forms for international sporting events, the audiogram form has been updated. For future use, please use the form found on -

<http://www.deaflympics.com/forms/audiogram.pdf>

National Disability Awards

If you have made, or know someone who has made, a significant contribution to their community, either at a local, regional, state or national level, tell us about it by nominating for the National Disability Awards 2008.

There are five award categories:

- Community Contribution Award - Person with disability who has made a significant contribution to their community (no age limit)
- Young Community Contribution Award - Young person with disability who has made a significant contribution to their community (aged between 12 and 25 years)

- Inclusion Award - Person who has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of people with disability (no age limit)
- Go Getter Award - Young person who has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of people with disability (aged between 12 and 25 years)
- Personal Achievement Award - Person, either with disability or caring for someone with disability, who has overcome adversity to achieve personal goals

Nominate today!

Hurry, entries close on Friday 9 May.

<http://www.idpwd.com.au>

Gator's Basketballer Rises Above Deafness



Deafness is no barrier to 13 year old Shane Crick, recipient of the Altona (Gator's) Basketball Association's 2007 Rising Star Award.

Shane, who has played basketball since aged 7, was born with a severe to profound hearing loss (up to

80%). Shane has represented Altona in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) for four years, he also plays domestically with his local club the Altona Meadow's Sharks.

Watching his prowess on the court, the unsuspecting would not be aware of his hearing impairment, unless paying close attention to what goes on off court. Shane relies on father Rod, who uses sign language to relay the coach's instructions from the player's bench. Shane's fellow Under 16's Gator's team mates also lend a hand.

"His team has come up with about half a dozen simple one handed sign gestures for specific plays," said his mother and number one fan, Debra. "Often one of the boys will get his attention and get him to look at the bench when Rod signs. He has developed excellent peripheral vision. He often tells his team mates where they should be standing when they are out of position."

Shane's hearing impairment may be a disability, but it hasn't meant 'inability'. The word doesn't exist in his vocabulary. Earlier this year he was selected to participate in Basketball Victoria's Intensive Training Centre program. The program's aim is to identify and select outstanding basketball athletes, aged between 14 -17 years, and develop their mental, individual playing skills and team concepts to enable them to compete successfully in any basketball environment. Unfortunately Shane had to withdraw due to injury.

Coach, Malcolm Nitschke says "Shane is a talent. His hearing impairment is no disability

for him. He is a great kid and a great player with a lot of potential."

"Coaching Shane last season was a huge adjustment for me. I had to rely on relaying commands to the other players who could make eye contact with him on the court. Because Shane is such a focussed player, it isn't always easy to get his attention, "said Malcolm. "In many ways, his impairment was a weapon against our opponents, because we were signing and not calling plays. That meant the opposition couldn't anticipate our game."

Shane's parents, Rod and Debra have been pivotal in Shane's career thus far, when developing some simple one handed signs to use to communicate during matches, his parents took photos of Shane doing these signs, photocopied them and handed them out to his team mates to learn and use.

Living in Altona, Shane who attends Sunshine College (a mainstream school with a deaf facility) chose to play with the Altona Gators as a chance to socialise and make friends locally.

"Basketball is a fun sport, and is very challenging," said Shane. "One day I hope to take it further and play for the Australian Basketball team in the Deaf Olympics."

Additional information:

- Program leaders of Basketball Victoria's ICT program were unaware that Shane is profoundly deaf, so he had to anticipate the drills and plays with no-one there to assist him, yet still he managed well enough that no-one suspected the full extent of his impairment
- Shane has inspirations to also coach. He has just started coaching an U8 Shark's domestic team with a U16 Shark's team mate
- Shane wears covers on his hearing aids to keep the sweat out of them during the game

Thank you to the Victorian Junior Basketball League and Altona (Gator's) Basketball Association for allowing us to reprint this story.

Sporting News and Results



2008 National Open Swimming Championships

From Annabel Bishop Oh boy, what a week it was! The National Open Championships (also known as Olympic Trials) produced some amazing world record breaking performance by Libby Trickett, Eamon Sullivan, Stephanie Rice, Emily Seebohm and Sophie Edington plus a handful of Commonwealth Records, Australian Records and Multi-Disability World Records. The Australian Olympic Team looks strong in depth - congratulations to those selected in the Olympic Team.

Deaf Aquatics Australia (DAA) would like to say congratulations to Michael Anderson (QLD) and Teigan Van Roosmalen (NSW) for their selection in the Australian Paralympic Team. They took part in the 2005 Melbourne Deaflympic Games and hopefully the experience played a role in their development in their swimming career.

Michael broke a World Record for his own disability classification (S10-physical) hence he may be a potential hope in Beijing. Teigan (S13-vision impairment) will benefit from the experience and racing against quality vision impaired swimmers such as legendary Prue Watts.

Former Paralympian and Deaflympian swimmer, Megan Jennifer Grant, was in Sydney for the announcement of the Australian Paralympic Team. She was proud of seeing Michael and Teigan make the team. Joy Bacon, who was the Swimming Team Manager at the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympic

Games, was pleased to see some 'old faces' plus some 'new faces' at the pool!

The National Open Championships saw many swimmers doing a magnificent job getting personal best times. Their efforts saw some amendments to the Australian Records books (for S15 classification). Well done to all swimmers for their excellent results at the National Open Championships:

- > Michael Anderson (QLD)
- > Teigan Van Roosmalen (NSW)
- > Teneale Houghton (NSW)
- > Jade Collier (WA)
- > Chezz Mentessana (WA)
- > Alana Doughery (ACT)
- > Hannah Britton (NSW)
- > Matthew Keys (NSW)

Please mark in your diary on the following two events. DAA would like to see deaf swimmers to compete as preparations for the 2009 Deaflympics:

- > 2008 National Short Course Championships, 20-24 Sept 08, Melbourne, VIC
- > 2009 National Open Championships, 31 March-5 April, Sydney, NSW
- > 2009 Arafura Games, 9-17 May, Darwin, NT

A thank you must go to Swimming Australia for its outstanding swim meet and also its media outlets for its extensive coverage of the meet. More importantly, a big thank you to the parents. They spent considerable amount of time driving their loved ones to training and competitions.

Sporting News and Results

....continued from previous page....

They play an important role to the swimmers' lives - they have multiple roles in supporting their loved ones by being a mum/dad, chef, taxi-driver, scheduler, finance controller, plus many other roles including encouragement through the good/bad times.

You may like to check out the final results on www.swimming.org.au.

Good news (Water Polo) - Jamie-Lee Lewis (QLD) had made the Queensland School Girls Water Polo Team. Congratulations Jamie-Lee. She has made a fantastic progress in water polo in the past few years. Her achievements included MVP awards, selection in Australian Junior Squad including the Australian School Girls Water Polo Team last year. Jamie-Lee represented her club in the National Water Polo League on a couple of occasions this year. Awesome!

Thank you and we look forward to hearing positive progress by swimmers toward the 2009 Deaflympic Games.

John Webb recognised by Cricket Australia



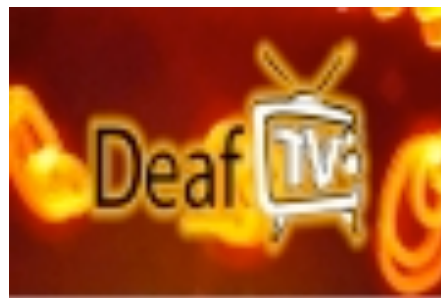
Congratulations to John Webb on receiving an award from Cricket Australia for his services to Cricket.

John was shocked but honoured to receive this award.

Deaf Cricket Australia (DCA) President, Kevin Smith commented that he is proud

for what John had achieved for over 40 years of cricket, and that he deserved the award".

John Webb is the current Secretary for DCA (and also Life Member) and like everyone on the DCA team, is busy preparing for the upcoming Deaf Ashes Tour.



DeafTV sends 14 clips of the 2008 Australian Deaf Games into YouTube

Did you know that you can watch 14 different 'video clips' from the recent Australian Deaf Games on YouTube?

You can visit DeafTV's website - www.deaftv.org.au and watch a video clip of your own choice from your own computer!

Available to watch are:-

- Opening Ceremony
- Athletics
- Tenpin Bowling
- Lawn Bowls
- Darts
- Swimming
- Beach Volleyball
- Golf
- Tennis
- Squash
- 8-Ball Pool
- Netball
- Closing Ceremony



...and if you want to watch the whole video that was screened recently on DeafTV, you can! You can chose the 'View All' option!

Happy viewing and thank you to DeafTV for making the video available for all of us to watch!

Events happening this month and beyond.....



Australian Deaf Table Tennis Championships

14th April to 20th April.
Scarborough, WA

Program includes Deaf Men's and Women's:
Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

It is not too late to enter, must do so ASAP.
For further information
Phone / fax (02)44551133 Mobile 0417 650
566 Email: pmales@ottf.org

These championships are conducted within
the 6th Australian Athletes with Disabilities
Table Tennis Championships

Hockey



For anyone interested in playing Hockey,
Simon Whitney is collecting a list of names ...
in the hope of establishing an organisation for
Deaf Hockey players.

Simon Whitney - sirowh23@bigpond.com

Deaf Friendly Squash: Victoria

FREE Come'n Try Clinic: Sunday, 20 April -
1pm

Bendigo Squash Centre

242 Barnard Street, Bendigo 3550

- 'Fun and Fitness for the whole family'
- ALL AGES (kids and adults)
- ALL ABILITIES (beginner to advanced)
- DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

DEAFinitely a hit

For more information/to register by 11th
April: www.victoriansquash.com.au,
email: dev.manager@victoriansquash.com.au
or SMS: 0409 956 679



Attention!

If you have a sporting event or
competition happening soon in your
state, and you would like DSA to help
promote the event for you, please
email jennifer.grant@deafsports.org.au
the details.

Deaf Sports Australia

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E-News

2008 Deadlines for Submissions:

MAY	Monday 28 April
JUNE	Monday 26 May
JULY	Monday 23 June
AUGUST	Monday 28 July
SEPTEMBER	Monday 25 August
OCTOBER	Monday 22 September
NOVEMBER	Monday 27 October
DECEMBER	Monday 24 November
JANUARY '09	Monday 15 December

All submissions/contributions are to be emailed to Jennifer Grant, Editor, on jennifer.grant@deafsports.org.au

To subscribe, send an email to dsa@deafsports.org.au