

# Deaf Sports Update

SEPTEMBER 2008

Monthly Updates from Deaf Sports Australia  
**PASSION THROUGH SPORT**



## Deaf Women in Sports Leadership Seminar

### Deaf Sports Australia to send two females to Malaysia.

Deaf Sports Australia has been invited to send two deaf female representatives from Australia to attend the 2nd Deaf Women in Sports Leadership Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 25-27 September 2008. This seminar is delivered by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) and the Asia Pacific Deaf Sport Confederation (APDSC).

This is a major project by ICSD to encourage Deaf Women to be more aware of their leadership skills and to be more active in their sporting community. It has been recognised that there is a need for more women to be actively involved in various levels, e.g.: Athletes, Coaches, Administrators, Board Directors and staff.

DSA strongly agrees with ICSD about increasing the number of female participants in the sporting community, particularly in leadership roles, and is really excited about this upcoming seminar.

The first Deaf Women Seminar was held in Passugg, Switzerland and hosted by EDSO and ICSD in November 2007. Twenty Six women from thirteen countries attended.

The DSA Board of Directors have committed to sending two Deaf Women from Australia to participate at this Seminar and they are Jennifer Grant, Director of Deaf Sports Australia and

Nicola Taschke who is the President of Queensland Deaf Basketball Association and Board member of Deaf Sports and Recreation Queensland.

Nicola is a keen sportswoman having represented Australia a number of times in Basketball and is a Secondary teacher during the day. She is currently completing her Level 2 coaching accreditation and has just finished a sports trainer's course.

Jennifer Grant works for a local government as the MetroAccess Project Officer and has represented Australia at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games in Swimming and also swam at the 2005 Deaflympic Games in Melbourne. She was also a board member of Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria during the time when the late John M Lovett was President.

Jennifer and Nicola are excitedly looking forward to the whirlwind but what hopes to be a informative trip. A report on the Deaf Women in Sports Leadership Seminar will be given at Deaf Sports Australia's Annual General Meeting in November and a written report will be included in Deaf Sports Update E-News in December.



# President's Report...



Friday 5 September 2008 marked the “one year to go” milestone for the 21<sup>st</sup> Summer Deaflympic Games in Taipei, Taiwan! DSA marked this milestone by sending out a letter to every athlete and official who has expressed interest in participating in the Australian Deaflympic Team (ADT). Furthermore, the ADT Squad and Provisional Squad were also announced. Please refer to page 10 to see the squads. The squads will be finalised over the coming months depending on each sport’s timelines and entry requirements. At this stage, it is very likely Australia will be sending our second largest team for an away Deaflympic Games, second only to Christchurch, NZ in 1989.

Having announced the ADT Squad and Provisional Squad, our fundraising campaign is now underway. We know which sports we will be participating in and how many athletes/officials we are sending. The total cost will be around \$500,000 - a massive target. There will be a series of fundraising events - including the “Thank God You’re Deaf!” event held during our AGM weekend on 22 November 2008 in Melbourne. Formal funding and sponsorship approaches to the Australian Government and corporate organisations are currently being prepared.

The 7<sup>th</sup> World Deaf Golf Championships will take place during 30 September - 3 October at Joondalup Resort, Perth. The Championships will be the biggest ever with almost 100 golfers. The President of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, Dr Donald Ammons, will be visiting Perth for the Championships and we are privileged to have her return to Australia for the first time since the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympic Games. I have no doubt the international golfers and visitors will be very impressed with the Australian hospitality we have to offer. DSA wishes the golfers, officials and volunteers a successful Championships! I have accepted an invitation to attend the Closing Ceremony of the World Deaf Golf Championships, which DSA is a sponsor of.

Currently, I am arranging meetings with the Western Australian Minister for Sport and Recreation to discuss how the WA Government can support deaf athletes in their State. This meeting will depend on the outcome of the WA state election, held on Saturday 6 September. Another meeting between Dr Ammons, myself and the Federal Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis, is currently being arranged - this will most likely take place through videoconferencing. These meetings are part of DSA’s commitment to developing close relations with all levels of Governments and ensure they are well-informed and aware of deaf sports in Australia.

We welcome Irena Farinacci back to DSA - she has been appointed Acting Manager of DSA for the next 6 months while Cindy Cave is on extended leave. Irena worked for DSA during 1997-2001 as our National Sports Coordinator and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in deaf sports. She is also a former Deaflympian, representing Australia in basketball at the 1997 and 2005 Deaflympic Games. I am sure you will join me in giving Irena a warm welcome! Her contact details can be found on the back page.

David Peters and myself are set to travel to Bratislava, Slovakia for the ICSD Extraordinary Congress held during 12-13 September. This Congress is a result of the Deaf Sports Reform Symposium, held in Zagreb, Croatia in 2007 which resulted in a series of proposals to reform and restructure ICSD and deaf sports globally by establishing three branches - World Deaf Sports, Youth Sports and the International Deaflympic Committee. The changes and proposals are designed to enhance the standard of deaf sports globally as well as cement ICSD’s relations with the International Olympic Committee - recognising ICSD as the sole governing body of deaf sports. I will be sure to share the outcomes in the next E-News.

Until then, enjoy September!

Brent Phillips - President

## From the office...

Hello!

Many of you would know who I am however for those of you who do not, I am a sports fanatic by nature! My name is Irena Farinacci and I am hearing impaired. For most of my life, I have played and breathed sports, particularly in basketball, tennis and soccer.

My first foray into deaf sports was when I represented Victoria in Tennis at the 1993/94 Australian Deaf Games. I then became hooked on Basketball after seeing the sport at these Games.

My determination to represent Australian in the deaf women's basketball team saw me competing at 3 major international tournaments - 1997 and 2005 Deaflympic Games, and the 2007 World Deaf Basketball Championships. In addition, I represented Victoria at the 1996/97, 2003 Australian Deaf Games as well as represented Jolimont at ten National Deaf Basketball Club Championship events. I also represented Warrandyte Venom in the Premier Division.

Apart from sports, my career roles have included working for Victorian Council of Deaf People, Deaf Sports Australia, 2002 World Masters Games, Sign on Employment and Employment Focus.

I have also participated in the Boards of Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria and Deaf Basketball Australia. I am currently involved as President for Deaf Basketball Victoria.

I look forward to working hard for DSA over the next 6 months especially keen to achieve partnerships through our selected National and State bodies through the Sports Connect program. Am also looking forward to assisting with the preparation of the Australian Deaflympic Teams for the 2009 Deaflympic Games.

**KEEP THIS DATE FREE!**

**SATURDAY 22  
NOVEMBER  
2008**

**Deaf Sports Australia's**

**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

and

**AN OFFICIAL  
FUNDRAISING EVENT  
SUPPORT THE 2009  
AUSTRALIAN DEAFLYMPIC  
TEAM!**

**THANK GOD  
YOU'RE DEAF**

Further details to be  
announced SOON

# News from around Australia

## NEWS FROM DEAF AQUATICS AUSTRALIA (DAA)

Hello everyone, Deaf Aquatics Australia (DAA) is pleased that two of our M2005 Deaflympians will participate in the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.



Michael Anderson (QLD) will swim in freestyle and backstroke events in S10 classification (physical classification).

Teigan Van Roosmalen (NSW) will be an iron woman swimming in 6 events: freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and individual medley in S13 (vision impairment) classification.

The Paralympic Games will begin with an Opening Ceremony on Saturday 6 September and followed by 9-days of swimming on Sunday 7 September. You are encouraged to send a herogram message or video message to Michael and Teigan. Here is a website link: <http://hero.telstra.com/paralympics/> If you wish to keep in touch with results and news on the Australian Paralympic Team, here is the website link: <http://www.paralympic.org.au> Also, here is another link to the official Beijing Paralympic Games website (BOCOG): <http://en.paralympic.beijing2008.cn/index.shtml>

Both Michael and Teigan will try their best on the day. Doing personal best (PB) times would be huge bonus!



## TRIP TO USA

Scott Prosser returned home from a trip to the USA with the Victorian State Surf Lifesaving Team. He took part in the Wieland Shield which is a bi-annual event between Victoria and California. VIC were victors this year. Scott and the VIC Surf Lifesaving Team also took part in various events such as the California Regional

Surf Lifesaving Championships, San Clemente Ocean Festival and plus few other events. Scott demonstrated his poweress in the ocean by winning the Surf Race at the Californian State Championships and also he came 2nd in the one mile race and 3rd in swim-run-swim event, 5th in 500m swim race at the San Clemente Ocean Festival. He enjoyed the experience and had to return home earlier due to work and family commitments.

The next step for Scott is to prepare for a busy summer season with surf lifesaving commitments (including swimming).

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Many swimmers took part in various short course swim meets through out the winter season including State Short Course Championships. Many swimmers did exceptionally well. Well done everyone!

## AUSTRALIAN ALL TIMES TOP 10 RANKINGS

The rankings for Short Course (SC) are now available upon request from DAA. If you wish to have one, please email DAA on [swimming@deafsports.org.au](mailto:swimming@deafsports.org.au)

Annabel Bishop Coordinator  
Deaf Aquatics Australia



Michael Anderson -



- Teigan Van Roosmalen

## News from around Australia...

### Deaf Boardriders NSW's annual 'Surf's Up' competition

Now in its 4th year, the Deaf Boardriders NSW annual 'Surf's Up' competition at Crescent Head was by far the biggest ever. 20 surfers contested the Longboard category, 13 in the short board and 8 in the bogey board making for a busy day with 20 minute heats containing approx 4 surfers each and judge by members of the Crescent Head Board riders club.

In June of this year Crescent Head officially joined the likes of Bell's Beach, Angourie and Lennox Head becoming a National Surf Reserve. Crescent Head, on the mid North Coast is world famous for waves that peel endlessly down the point and has long been the destination of board riders since the 1950's travelling north from Sydney. Its' head peeling waves are well suited to classic longboard surfing. The reserve abounds with marine life, with whales, dolphins, sharks, fish and even stingrays were all commonly sighted over the weekend.

With nine heats, repechage, semi-finals and finals to get through competition started at 7.30am and finished well after 4 o'clock that afternoon. The day started with small but clean waves brushed by nice offshore wind. However as the day progressed wave quality made it difficult for competitors to score maximum points. The finals were held in small but deteriorating surf that made for very close closing, particularly in the shortboard.

The 'Deaf Surf's Up' Competition is regularly held at the end of every second weekend in August with people coming from all corners of the globe, which is Australia, from areas such as Perth WA, Torquay VIC, the Gold Coast and numerous towns up and down the coast of NSW. Some momentum towards establishing a national deaf boardriders club is in progress.

The World Deaf Surfing Championship to be held in Hawaii during July /August 2009 has some competitors enthusiastically planning for this event that will attract between 100 - 150 surfers alone from around the world.

A big thanks must go to Steve White, president of Deaf Boardriders NSW for organising the weekend and for the Crescent Head Boardriders Club for providing the judges and a well run event. Let's hope in the years to come bigger waves will make for more spectacular surfing.

At the pub, which is within walking distance from the beach, the winners were announced as follow:

#### Long board

1. Stephen Ashley VIC
2. Gary Gaschk WA
3. Daniel Hildebrand QLD
4. Rodney Adams NSW

#### Short board

1. Mitch Robson NSW
2. Stephen Ashley VIC
3. Rodney Adams NSW
4. Carl Hansen QLD

#### Bogey Boards

1. Mark Howells NSW
2. Blake Cuthbertson NSW
3. Ben Bradbury QLD
4. Jason Callaghan QLD

#### Awards

Over 60 years - Peter Ashley VIC

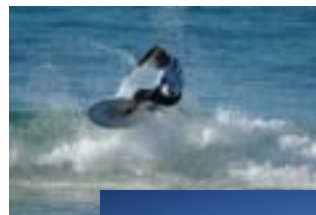
Over 50 years - Steve White NSW

Over 35 years - Rodney Adams NSW

Encouragement Award - Rickie Carr NSW

Highest wave score - Stephen Ashley VIC

Wave of the day - Mitchell Robson NSW



# Upcoming events...

## Wide Bay Deaf Fishing Competition Queensland



\$2000 worth of prizes to giveaway!

Proudly sponsored by the Wide Deaf Fishing Club

**When:** 13th September 2008

**Where:** At Burnett Heads, Bundaberg

Meet at the Lighthouse Pub car-park at 6am to check list names. The weighing will be held at the Burnett Heads Boat Ramp grounds at 4pm.

**Presentation Night:** 13th September

**Where:** Globe Hotel, Perry St, North Bundaberg

**Time:** 7pm

Entry cost includes 'Roast on the Spit':

Senior \$20 Veteran (over 55) \$15

Junior (under 18) \$5

'Welcome' Social event:

**When:** Friday 12th September

**Where:** Globe Hotel

Perry Street, North Bundaberg

**Time:** 'Welcome' at 6.30pm.

Hope to see you all there! Please contact Dale or Jo-Anne for entries forms

Contact: 12 Cameron Street,  
North Bundaberg 4670

Fax: 07 415 6709

Dale Maughan: SMS 0409 516 709

Jo-Anne: SMS 0438 516 709

Deaf Netball South Australia is hosting the

## 9th Margo Allen National Deaf Netball Club Championships



**Where:** ETSA Park in Adelaide

**When:** September 20th and 21st 2008

**Cost:** \$90 player registration fee

This includes 2 lunches, afternoon tea and ticket to the social dinner.

To participate, you will need to be a team member of your state netball association.

CONTACT:

[deafnetballsa@yahoo.com.au](mailto:deafnetballsa@yahoo.com.au)

for more information

## Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria 28th Annual General Meeting

**When:** Friday 26th September 2008

**Time:** 7pm for a 7.30pm start

**Where:** FJ Rose Auditorium

Deaf Children Australia

597 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

(enter via rear carpark)

Nibbles provided

Please RSVP to Meg Aumann

by Monday 22nd September

[dsrv@pacific.net.au](mailto:dsrv@pacific.net.au)

FAX: 03 9473 1122

TTY: 03 9473 1161

Level 3, 340 Albert Street, East Melbourne  
VIC 3002

If you require an Auslan-English Interpreter, please let Meg know by 15th September



## 2008 World Deaf Golf Championship

Joondalup Resort - Perth -

Western Australia

27 September - 4 October

2008



[www.2008wdgc.com](http://www.2008wdgc.com)

# Upcoming events...



## NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of Deaf Basketball Australia will be held on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup>, commencing at 7:00pm. at

Vicdeaf,  
J M Lovett Centre,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 340 Albert Street,  
East Melbourne.

The sole purpose of this meeting is to receive nominations for the position of President and to conduct a ballot in the event that more than one nomination is received.

Any person interested in nominating for the position of President must:

1. Be a current financial member of their State Association as at the date of this notice.
2. Complete the attached nomination form and forward it to [secretary@deafbasketball.org.au](mailto:secretary@deafbasketball.org.au) or by post to PO Box 32, Rosanna, Vic 3084, by 5:00pm Tuesday, September 30, 2008.

No late nominations will be accepted and no other business can be conducted at this Special General Meeting.

*\* To assist delegates from outside Victoria we will also be convening the meeting on-line using MSN. It is intended that this will allow all States to be represented and cast their votes if required, without incurring the cost of travelling to Victoria. If you wish to utilize this facility please notify the Secretary in advance so we can set-up your connection at this end.*

## Victorian Deaf Tenpin Bowling Club Victorian Open Championship

Venue: AMF - Moorabbin

When: October 4 and 5

Time: October 4 - 11.00am check-in  
October 5 - 9.00am check-in

For further information and entry forms please contact: John Smeaton at [jag58@live.com.au](mailto:jag58@live.com.au)  
Entries Close: 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2008

## 2008 AUSTRALIAN DEAF SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

4 - 5 October 2008

Bendigo, Victoria



Venue: Bendigo Squash Club  
242 Barnard Street

Championship times:

Saturday 4 October from 10:30am

Sunday 5 October - Finals from 1pm

*Other activities - all events at Bendigo Squash Club except for Sunday*

- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Welcome Night  
Time: 7pm
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October (open to all)  
Australian Deaf Squash Association AGM  
Time: 9am
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October - Social Function  
Time: from 7pm
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Famous Tram and Mine Tour (depending on numbers)  
Time: 9.30am

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

### PRESENTATION DINNER

Where: The Foundry  
High Street, Bendigo

Time: 6pm

**For details, contact:**

Damien Walters: [waltersbergs75@hotmail.com](mailto:waltersbergs75@hotmail.com)

Jo Richards: [richards\\_jo@hotmail.com](mailto:richards_jo@hotmail.com)

Ben Bruggy: [star3474@bigpond.net.au](mailto:star3474@bigpond.net.au)

# Upcoming events...

## Deaf Netball Victoria - 50 years Celebration Dinner



**When:** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November

**Venue:** Grand Star Receptions,  
Corner of Grieve Pde & Doherty Rd, Altona North

**Time:** 6.30pm - 12.30pm

**Cost:** \$80 for Standard ticket

Please join Deaf Netball Victoria (formerly known as Victorian Deaf Netball Association) in celebrating their 50th anniversary highlighting the many years of netball through the deaf community at international, national and local level. This promises to be a entertaining night with a three course meal and meeting with all netballers from the past and present!

**RSVP BY 11<sup>TH</sup> Oct:** Prudence [dnv50th@gmail.com](mailto:dnv50th@gmail.com)  
SMS: 0413526716

## Queensland Deaf 8Ball Inc 2nd Friendly Competition - Snooker World, Gold Coast, Queensland

Queensland vs New Zealand Qld Deaf 8Ball Inc wish to advise you all that we will be having 2nd Friendly Competition - Qld vs NZ coming up in November 2008. We would like to encourage people that they are welcome to come and watch us playing 8Ball matches. Also welcome to join with us at Presentation Night and we will have tickets for sale in coming weeks.

### 19th November 2008:-

Qld Board and NZ Delegates to have meeting at Mermaid Beach Tavern.

Dinner at 6pm then meeting at 8pm.

### 20th November 2008:-

Welcome Night at Mermaid Beach Tavern -  
Come at 5pm.

### 21st to 23rd November 2008:-

Matches begins!

We start off from 10am onwards!

Registration: \$60 for Qld only / \$40 for New Zealanders including all weekend playing and lunches.

Visitors are welcome and the entry fee is \$5 per person, per day. Visitors can pay for registration if they like to.

### 23rd November 2008:-

Presentation Night - \$60 per person includes Buffet Dinner. Queensland will have their presentation night at same time presenting medals.

Afterwards we will be giving 1st, 2nd and 3rd medals to the teams also same for women for those who wins at 2nd Friendly Competition Match.

### 24th November 2008:-

Knockout Game - win for \$\$\$\$

We really hope that New Zealanders will be able to play for the knockout games because most of people would like to play knockouts for both men and women. Anyone is welcome to play for the knockouts. Singles and Doubles.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me any time via email - [qlddeaf8ball@hotmail.com](mailto:qlddeaf8ball@hotmail.com).

Regards,

Belinda Maggs  
Secretary QDEBI

# Deaflympic article in 'The China Post'

## Deaflympics to put us on world stage: Ma

The China Post

Saturday, September 6, 2008

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- President Ma Ying-jeou said yesterday that hosting the Deaflympics will not only thrust Taipei onto the international stage and provide an excellent opportunity to introduce Taiwan to the world, but increase international community's understanding of the country.

"I hope that next year with the Kaohsiung City hosting the 2009 World Games in July and Taipei City hosting the Deaflympics in Taipei in September, Taiwan will once again be on the international stage and let the world know that Taiwan will never be absent from major international sporting events," Ma said at an event to mark the beginning of the one-year countdown to the 21st Deaflympics.

The international sports event for people who are hearing impaired will be held in Taipei from Sept. 5-15, 2009.

"Through the Deaflympics, we hope everyone can get to see the modern and rich culture of Taipei City," Ma added.

To highlight the significance of the event, the president began his speech using sign language to say "I am Ma Ying-jeou, and I'll take part in the 2009 Taipei Deaflympics." He received loud applause from the audience.

Named host city for the 21st Summer Deaflympics in 2003, Taipei is the first city in Asia to host the Deaflympics games, marking a historic milestone for the hosting of international sporting events in Taiwan.

Noting that the theme of Deaflympics is "Equality through sports," Ma said athletes should have the spirit to "fight to the end and never give up" just like Taiwanese taekwondo Olympian Su Li-wen, who fought to the last minute and nearly won a bronze medal despite painful and crippling injuries.

Su, along with two Taiwanese Olympic bronze medalists Chen Wei-ling and Lu Ying chi, also attended the countdown event to call on the general public to take part in the 2009 Deaflympics.

International film stars Jackie Chan and noted actress Lin Ching-hsia were also at the activity.

Action star Chan told the audience that he has one deaf ear after falling down from a tree while shooting a movie in Yugoslavia in 1987. But he has overcome the inconvenience of losing hearing in one ear.

"Never give up and you will be the winner," he said.

After singing the theme song of the 2009 Deaflympics "Power in Me," Ma, Chan and other participants at the event together activated a 365-day-countdown clock and wished for a smooth and successful games.

Around 4,000 athletes from 80 countries are expected to take part in the 2009 Taipei Deaflympics. They will compete in 20 sporting categories.

The Deaflympics date back to 1924 when the first Summer Deaflympics were held in Paris, France. In 1995 the Games received official recognition by the International Olympic Committee. Today, 96 national deaf sports federations are members of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf.

*Photo: President Ma Ying-jeou, center, with participants at the event together activated a 365-day-countdown clock and wished for a smooth and successful games in the 2009 Taipei Deaflympics. (The China Post)*



# AUSTRALIAN 2009 DEAFLYMPIC TEAM

## MEMBERS OF THE ADT SQUAD:

### Athletics

Lauren Hay	Amy-Lee Mills
Caine Batten	Melinda Vernon
Brad Schofield	

### Cycling

Jarrold Denman	Michael Stankovic
Reece-Emerson Van Beek	

### Badminton

Chaitanya Veeranki

### Judo

Kelly Fong	Milton Reedy
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### Basketball (Men)

Mark Bilyj	Aaron Fitzsimmons
Trent Hansen	Wesley Brockett
Samuel Quinn	Shane Crick
Dylan Beasley	David Van Namen
Michael Ducat	
Stephen Ebersberger	

### Orienteering

Caine Batten

### Swimming

Bryce Glover	Michael Anderson
Jack Kelly	Chezz Mentessana
Craig Morgan	Scott Prosser
Jade Collier	Alana Dougherty
Teneale Houghton	
Teigan Van Roosmalen	

### Basketball (Women)

Nicola Taschke	Ashleigh Kedge
Renee Kahle	Kerry Bevan
Caitlin Johnson	Natasha Gray
Tameka Browning	Karen Sayer
Rhonda Lettieri	Kay Van Namen
Melissa Kennewell	Lisa Westwood

### Table Tennis

Jacob Dyball	Michael Louey
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### Tennis

Glen Findell	John Lui
Joshua Sealy	Stephen Swann

## MEMBERS (ATHLETES ONLY) OF THE ADT PROVISIONAL SQUAD

The names of the ADT Provisional Squad members include those where the selection panel require more information about their sporting record, experience and skills and / or require an assessment process to ensure they are of the standard required for the ADT. The National Deaf Sporting Organisation (eg: Deaf Aquatics Australia - Swimming) will advise regarding the final selections.

### Beach Volleyball

Lee Jarret	Shahab Bozorgsrad
Ben Clarke	Melinda Clarkson
Hua Qian	

### Swimming

Anthony Shing	Joshua Chapman
Brad Jones	Emily Behets
Karin Eaton	Hannah Britton
Matthew Kent	Matthew Keys
Teasha Kruger	Erin Turner
Charlotte O'Connor	

### Shooting

Sean Tubridy

OFFICIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT  
**SUPPORT THE 2009  
AUSTRALIAN DEAFLYMPIC  
TEAM!**

**THANK GOD  
YOU'RE DEAF**

**When:**  
Saturday 22nd November

**Time:**  
7:00pm

**Where:**  
Adamson Hall, Wesley College,  
Prahran, Melbourne

*with thanks to Deaf Australia and SignPost*

# Deaflympic Dream for young Gator...



By Wesley Brockett  
Deaf Basketball Australia  
[www.deafbasketball.org.au](http://www.deafbasketball.org.au)

At just 13, Altona resident Shane Crick is preparing for one of the greatest opportunities in his young life, to try out for selection for the Australian basketball team's 2009 Deaflympics campaign.

Crick's talent was spotted by selectors last month when he participated in the National Deaf Basketball Championships in Brisbane, with Melbourne City club who won the event. Prior to competition, he had registered his interest in playing in the Deaflympics Open Men's team, which has long been his dream.

"I am excited and proud of what I have achieved, especially at the age of 13," said Crick who was born with a severe to profound hearing loss (up to 80%).

"I have always wanted to play in the Deaf Australia team. Playing with the Melbourne City team was really great as well. I've met new friends and do enjoy playing Deaf basketball.

"When I play with the deaf team, we have to take out our hearing aids, so we don't hear anything. When playing it's much quieter than when playing with the hearing team because there isn't any noise (voice). It's fun to try something different that I have never done before.

"I enjoy playing with deaf people because they have fun but take the games and training seriously. I enjoy playing with the men because they have played basketball longer than I have so they know more about basketball than I do and they help me improve on things. Plus in the men's games it's tougher, faster and I love playing at that level. It helps toughen me up!"

Already a promising player in mainstream basketball and recipient of the Rising Star award with local club, the Altona Gators, Crick has also

been identified as a talent potential by Basketball Victoria, previously invited to participate in a talent identification and development program.

He has participated in Deaf Basketball Victoria's Junior Development program over the past couple of years, at which time he was spotted by Melbourne City.

"During this time, Shane has demonstrated his prodigious skills and maturity beyond his age," said Melbourne City coach Wesley Brockett.

"On a number of occasions, we have approached Shane's father Rod about the possibility of Shane joining our team to compete in the National Deaf Basketball Championships. Due to his age and commitments to Altona Gators and schooling, we were unsuccessful. However with the Deaflympics around the corner (September 2009), both Shane and Rod decided to join Melbourne City."

The average age of Melbourne City players is around 25, with Crick the youngest player. Despite the age difference, Crick was able to mix it with the big boys.

"He made an enormous contribution towards Melbourne City's triumph at the Champs," said coach Brockett.

"His ability to do something with the ball and his ability to get the ball was particularly outstanding. He hassled hard in our full court press and man-on-man defense to create traps and steals. He pulled down vital rebounds and he scored when we needed him to score. Shane's a ball magnet and he instilled confidence into our team thanks to his self-belief in his game.

"From a coach's perspective, I thought Shane handled himself with aplomb. Obviously he had to deal with opposition who were taller and physically stronger than what he's accustomed to. Because of this he had to play outside his natural position (as centre) and more so as an attacking guard for Melbourne City.

## Deaflympic dream (continued)...

“Deaf Basketball Australia generally considers players at Shane's age as a Development Player. In Shane's case, he is a lot more advanced in terms of skills and basketball smarts. His attitude on court and his willingness to improve his game will help his chance to make the final National team selection. At the Champs in Brisbane, I have thrown Shane some challenges and he conquered them.

“The thing that will eventually go in Shane's favour in the future is no doubt his never-ending growth in height and shoes. He's 13 years of age, 184cm and wearing size 14 shoes....he's a monster and it's already a scary thought how tall Shane will be in several years time,” said Brockett.

If he makes the final selections for the Australian Deaflympics team, Crick is confident that he can hold his own with the men, and sees his speed and his ability to read the game as his strengths, sentiments echoed by Brockett.

“There is always room for improvement and I have no doubt Shane has the desire to improve all facets of his game. While he has the fundamental skills, it's probably the time for him to step up to another level. He may be a natural centre or power forward in his Gators team, as

evident by his post-up positions and rebounding abilities, perhaps now is a good time for him to work on his ball-handling skills if he is to play against taller, stronger opposition. Ball-handling is commonly known to give basketballers a psychological edge by outsmarting opponents through manoeuvring and precision. Shane will be extremely dangerous if he masters this with both sides of his body.

“There's no doubt that Shane has put himself in a great position, basketball wise. While playing for us in Brisbane recently, Shane was exposed to bigger, stronger players who had some international deaf basketball experience. This experience for him will give him an instant advantage over his hearing counterparts,” said Brockett.

“The standards of deaf basketball in Australia compared to international events are worlds apart. If Shane is to make the final team to compete in the Deaflympics in Taipei next year, he will be playing against some professional deaf basketballers. This type of exposure for Shane at such a young age will assist his game in years to come.

“Time will tell, however I believe he's a star in the making if he's willing to do the hard yards.”

## Deaf rugby team a first for University...

From Northern Star,  
by ADAM HICKS  
July 25, 2008

(Photo: Organiser of the newly formed Southern Cross Deaf Rugby Union team Simon Mahony with his two sons, Elyija, 18 months, and Dakin)



SIMON MAHONY and his rugby union team won't hear the applause as they take the field tomorrow.

But the Lismore man will no doubt sport a smile of satisfaction as he leads the Southern Cross

Deaf Rugby Union team out for their first ever match.

The Auslan teacher and SCU human movements student has almost single-handedly established the team with a long-term focus of developing a deaf rugby community across Australia.

“We play our first game against Coffs Harbour (in Coffs Harbour) this Saturday,” he said.

“It's new and established very recently by me, all by myself.

“I'm focused on this new deaf rugby competition for the deaf community across Australia.”

## Deaf rugby team a first (continued)...

The team has travelled to Coffs for a training weekend which included a friendly match, starting at 5pm.

Mahony, a Gold Rats player and Australian Deaf Rugby Union representative, said he also hoped to play teams from North Queensland, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney.

"By participating in these events, SCDRU players will have the chance to be selected into the Australia Deaf Rugby Union team," he said.

"They will compete in Deaf Rugby Union World Cups and some other tours ... in the future.

"This will be a great opportunity for the deaf community to represent Australia."

Mahony also said he expected the concept to continue growing.

"We have a long-term plan to develop NSW and QLD Deaf rugby union teams including a proposal to organise and hold matches against the three New Zealand deaf rugby union teams during Easter 2009."

But it has been hard work, and the project is dogged by a lack of funds.

"This is a very large load on my shoulders and hard work to establish the SCDRU for a project across Australia," Mahony said.

"We need more sponsorship to achieve this. Any support or donation is welcome."

## Diversity in Sport and Recreation...

### Diversity in Sport and Recreation

#### Deaf squash a real 'hit'

from Department of Planning and Community Development, Victorian Government



Julia Murphy can see and feel the squash ball as it whizzes past her ears, but she cannot hear it. Julia is profoundly deaf and has been since birth.

Julia's parents, Jim and Cathy Murphy, discovered that their daughter was deaf when she was six months old and was not responding to noise, or to their voices.

Julia has attended the Victorian College for the Deaf since prep and is now in year 12 studying for her VCE. Julia has always loved sport, and has been an enthusiastic participant at school. Recently, she joined the *Deaf Friendly Squash* program, supported by the Victorian Squash Federation and LaTrobe University Squash Club. This is the first team sport that she has played in her local community.

Prior to 2005, the Victorian Squash Federation had never had any experience with deaf players. Then, in 2005, the World Deaf Squash Championships were held in Melbourne.

Following extensive consultation with deaf players and their support networks, and a funding grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria, the *Deaf Friendly Squash* program was launched.

"Initial funding meant we could pilot the program. We now have a further four years of funding from VicHealth to expand the program to 12 venues, which will all become accredited *Deaf Friendly Squash* clubs," says Paul Vear, Executive Director of the Victorian Squash Federation.

For Cathy Murphy, her daughter's ability to play squash at her local club is cause for celebration. "Some of the youngsters in Julia's squash team are the only hearing team mates she has ever played sport with," says Cathy.

Cathy recalls, "In the early days when we discovered that Julia was never going to hear, we immersed ourselves in her world. Someone

## Diversity in Sport and Recreation (continued)...



offered an analogy to us when we found our life turned upside down by the revelation that we had a deaf child. They said, 'it is like when you plan and book a plane to Paris and for some unexplained reason you arrive in Mongolia. You either learn the language and how to find your way around or you continue to question why it has happened and make it a very hard journey'."

"We have immersed ourselves in Julia's world - a place very new and foreign - but we have had a great journey and we are now so pleased that Julia is able to immerse herself in our world, our local community. She is making friends outside her school and is becoming comfortable and confident in the hearing community," says Cathy.

Becoming a *Deaf Friendly Squash Club* involves training centre staff including receptionists and coaches, identifying schools in the area with deaf children and hosting 'family fun days' for deaf children and their hearing parents and siblings. "This is the



first time we have been involved with people with a disability. It has been one of our most rewarding experiences and is a blue print for squash becoming more inclusive" says Paul Vear.

[http://www.victoriansquash.com.au/intro\\_squash.htm](http://www.victoriansquash.com.au/intro_squash.htm)



## NDSOs and SDSOs

Listed below are full members of Deaf Sports Australia. If you wish to contact one of these associations or organisations, their contact details can be found on DSA's website by clicking on this link - [http://www.deafsports.org.au/members\\_comm/](http://www.deafsports.org.au/members_comm/)

### National Deaf Sporting Associations (NDSO)

- Australian Deaf Darts Association
- Australian Deaf Lawn Bowls Association
- Australian Deaf Squash Association
- Australian Deaf Tennis Association
- Australian Deaf Tenpin Bowling Association
- Deaf Aquatics Australia
- Deaf Basketball Australia
- Deaf Cricket Australia

- Deaf Eight Ball Australia
- Deaf Football Australia
- Deaf Golf Australia
- Deaf Netball Australia

### State Deaf Sporting Organisations (SDSO)

- Deaf Sports Recreation Queensland
- Deaf Sports Recreation South Australia
- Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria
- Western Australia Deaf Recreation Association

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## E-News

### 2008 Deadlines for Submissions:

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](mailto:jennifer.grant@deafsports.org.au)

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