

Deaf Sports Australia E-News

Passion Through Sport

Deaf Sports
Australia

December 2011



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**2012 AUSTRALIAN DEAF GAMES
GEELONG, VICTORIA**



Greetings!

It feels as if each time I sit down to write my President's Report, the time between each month gets shorter and quicker! And now it's December. 2011 has truly been a very interesting, challenging and memorable year for Deaf Sports Australia for various reasons and I look forward to summarising 'the year that was' as part of my President's Report at our Annual General Meeting.

The event that is in everyone's mind, with excitement levels growing by the minute, is of course the 2012 Australian Deaf Games. Now just over 20 days away, the Games Organising Committee is frantic tying up loose ends and readying itself for what is shaping to be one of the biggest ever, if not the biggest, Australian Deaf Games.

We will have over 1,000 deaf and hard of hearing people in Geelong for 8 days. From every State and Territory, and from New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa. 15 sports will be on offer, plus a fantastic array of social events, sport clinics and ceremonies. There's something for everyone! It is not too late to grab a Visitor's Registration (closes 31 December) to guarantee yourself a front row seat at the Games and unlimited, unfettered access to every sport and social event. Seats at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies (capped at 1,200 each once we include volunteers and parents) may not go on sale if the total number of registrations reaches that figure.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless work of Phil Harper and his GOC throughout the year and wish them every success in Geelong. Also, thanks to Craig and Irena for providing support to the GOC and for delivering DSA's programs at the same time - a considerable challenge that they met.

At the time of writing, DSA has received a few Board Nomination forms and General Business proposals ahead of our AGM on Saturday 14 January 2012 at 9:30am at the Games Hub, Deakin University. Observers are welcome to attend the AGM, subject to capacity.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of Deaf Sports Australia, I wish you a safe and joyful festive season. Spend the time with loved ones and recharge your batteries before I see you all in Geelong!

Lastly, thanks for your continued support throughout the year. There are so many of you who have supported DSA and our activities and we are a stronger and better organisation.

Yours in deaf sports.

Brent Phillips - President

DSA Manager's Update



It is hard to believe that 2011 has come and gone and the 2012 Australian Deaf Games are only a few short weeks away. It is an exciting, busy and nervous time at the DSA office as we work hard with the Board and Games Organising Committee to get ready for what will be a fantastic event.

As 2011 draws to a close it is a good time to reflect on some of the key achievements in 2011. In a first for DSA we ran a national Schools Education program which saw us reach close to 500 deaf and hard of hearing school children to promote the benefits of sports participation and leading a

healthy lifestyle. It was fantastic to be able to engage with the 'next generation' of deaf sportspeople and I am sure many of the youngsters who attended the workshop will now be inspired to get involved in sport and who knows, we may have even identified some future Deaflympians. A big thank you to Irena for her hard work and effort in delivering the program.

Many of you will have read of the story of Sekou Kanneh, the young deaf runner who was refused assistance with a starting aid at a School sport event. While this started as a very disappointing event it was successfully resolved and has ultimately helped to increase exposure of the issue to the general public and sporting organisations' as a result of the valuable media coverage that the story received. It is through exposure and education about deaf sport issues that we can start to make real change and the hard work of everyone associated with the Sekou situation helped bring the inequalities facing deaf athletes into the public eye. I've lost count of the number of people who have come up to me from outside the deaf community who said they read about the story and now are better aware about deaf sports.

In a big development for DSA we were able to successfully change DSA's tax status with The Australian Taxation Office and have DSA approved as a public benevolent institution with Tax Concession Charity Status and Deductible Gift Recipient status. This means that DSA can now start applying for funds from trusts and charities throughout Australia and use these funds to support our activities. Previously we have not been able to do this and it reduced our revenue raising capacity. With the new tax status now in place the hard work starts now on identifying and approaching charities and trusts to get involved and support deaf sport.

In closing I would like to thank Brent, Irena and all the Board for their support, advice, and hard work over the last year. As always it has been a busy, challenging and rewarding year for Deaf Sports Australia and I feel the organisation continues to make good steps forward.

I wish you all a merry and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing many of you in Geelong for the 2012 Australian Deaf Games in a few short weeks.

Until next year I hope you enjoy reading this month's edition.

Yours in sport,

Craig Dodson
DSA Manager

If your family and friends wish to receive the Deaf Sports Australia eNews, all they need to do is to subscribe at www.deafsports.org.au

Please click on the following link to see end of year messages and greetings from ICSD President Craig Crowley:

<http://youtu.be/GT51seIG5qU>

To see an update video regarding Dwight Benedict, please click here:

<http://youtu.be/oWzZd0OwY3g>

ICSD is also happy to confirm that the World Deaf Athletics Championships in Toronto next summer have been given a green light. All ICSD competitions planned for 2012 are currently moving ahead well.

With our warmest greetings for the end of year holidays,

ICSD OFFICE



Deaf Sports Australia

Festive Season Trading Hours

**The DSA Office will be closed from 12pm Friday 23rd
December and re-open at 9am on Tuesday 3rd
January 2012.**

**The DSA Board and staff wishes you a happy and safe
Festive Season!**

Dunn prepares for Games Test

OLIVER Dunn usually only takes his cochlear implant out at night but that will change in the next few weeks.

It's all in the name of preparation for the Warrnambool Lawn Tennis Club member, who will contest the 2012 Australian Deaf Games in Geelong.

The 16-year-old has been profoundly deaf since he was two due to meningitis and since then, he has worn a cochlear implant.

But as a participant of the deaf games, he is required to play without it, which means he will be doing just that in the lead-up to the event.

"I played without it on Saturday and I played pretty well," he said.

"I'll have to practice without it more."

Oliver, who cannot hear anything without his implant, was excited about making his debut at the Australian Deaf Games, which will be held from January 14 to 21.

"I want to get some experience and I want to know how others play and how good they are," he said. "It will be good to have a go."

With the games being his maiden major deaf event, he will use them to weigh up whether to compete in more Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) events in the future.

DSA has kept an eye on Oliver's progress since making contact with him about three years ago.

A promising performance at a points tournament in Bairnsdale has potentially led to him being selected to represent Victoria at the games.

Oliver is coached by Warrnambool's Matt Moloney and has played pennant since he was 10.

His tennis schedule includes junior and senior competitions locally.

The Australian Deaf Games are the pinnacle of deaf sporting events in Australia, welcoming more than 15 sports ranging from beach volleyball to touch football.

The 2012 games mark the first time in 29 years the event has been held in Victoria, while Geelong is taking on hosting duties for the first time. The event is held every four years.



Article written by KATE BUTLER - The Warrnambool Standard on 15/12/12

www.austdeafgames.org.au

As of middle December, we are climbing towards 1,000 participants, which includes sport entrants (including our friends from New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa), visitors, volunteers, Games Organising team, sponsors and others attending the Games, which is a terrific result.



Registration

Only Games Visitor Registration is now available to purchase until 31st December 2011. We have 1,200 seats available at our Opening Ceremony and if you include the GOC, Games participants, volunteers, our Oceania friends, sponsors and VIPs attending this event, we are filling up fast. Don't miss out - buy your registration now! Day Passes will be available to purchase during Games time. A Day Pass ticket does not get you access to the Opening or Closing ceremony.

To buy a registration visit the Games website or contact DSA.

Youth SPORTS program

The XVI Australian Deaf Games (ADG) Youth SPORTS program will provide an opportunity for deaf or hard of hearing young people aged 13-18 years to develop their sporting interest through meeting deaf sports starts and participating in sports clinics offered by players or coaches from National Deaf Sporting Organisations.

The program is proudly facilitated by the Games Organising Committee, Deaf Sports Australia with the support of Deaf Children Australia. For information, please contact Peter Folan on (03 9539 5300 - voice) or email: peter.folan@deafchildren.org.au

Last minute accommodation

If you need other accommodation information, check out:

<http://visitgeelongbellarine.com/geelong-bellarine-home>

Send them a question and they will help you out finding the right accommodation for you. Accommodation is available at Parkwood motel in Geelong. Close to Geelong CBD, this motel might suit your needs. You can find more information at www.parkwoodmotel.com.au/

Further information

If you require further information on any games related matter please contact Deaf Sports Australia on dsa@deafsports.org.au or 03 94731191. A comprehensive games bulletin is also available, if you did not receive a copy on Tuesday please email DSA and we will send through to you ASAP.

DSA Affiliated Members

National Deaf Sporting Associations (NDSO)	State Deaf Sporting Organisations (SDSO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Deaf Darts Association • Australian Deaf Lawn Bowls Association • Australian Deaf Squash 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 Tennis Australia • Deaf Netball Australia • Deaf Volleyball Australia • Southern Cross Deaf Rugby Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DeafACT • Deaf Sports Recreation Queensland • Deaf Sports Recreation South Australia • Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria • Western Australia Deaf Recreation Association • Deaf Society of New South Wales (Affiliate)

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