



Message from the General Manager

Welcome to “Active Hands” our first publication for 2014! With the Christmas and New Year festivities behind us the 2014 year shapes up as being a key and pivotal time in the development of the Deaf Sports Australia business model. The DSA Board is meeting on the 8th February to review the current Strategic Plan and set in motion a time line that will see a number of key initiatives being developed and finalised. We will welcome at this meeting our three new Board Members Ricky Bryan, Darren Howell and Marnie Kerridge – we thank them for their commitment and wish them the very best for the future.



The four main areas will be:

1. Future Funding – this area will cover our ongoing organizational funding from the Australian Sports Commission as well as a revamped Active Deaf Kids Program. The ADK model will still concentrate on multi sports days but the aim will be to work with a number of specific partners to ensure the children (and families) are aware of the pathways, bridges (to clubs) and choices that are available in pursuing the opportunity to play a sport(s). These partners will include the ASC, AASC, and identified NSO’s and specific corporate partners such as Bluearh Foundation.

In addition DSA will look at seeking new corporate and Government funding in addition to its current fundraising campaign it has in place with APPCO and Little Stars.

2. New Membership Structure – there has been a very positive response to the presentations at the November 2013 workshop. Currently Swimming, Futsal and Wallabies Rugby Sevens are progressing towards completing their sports terms of references. A number of other sports are progressing their deliberations with many of the sports aiming to be part of the new structure by June this year.

Running in parallel to these developments are exciting new participation plans we have with Cricket Australia, Golf Australia and Cycling Australia. To ensure these relationships and plans can mature and be promoted effectively the DSA Board has recently agreed to invest in an update to the DSA website. Further details will be provided in the next newsletter.

A part of this development includes the creation of two committees responsible for overseeing sport in NSW and Northern Territory. Agreements are already in place with key stakeholders as well as detailed terms of references that will drive the outcomes for the committees have been completed. We are currently looking for a small number of people who maybe interested in overseeing this development. If you are interested please contact the DSA office.

3. Deaf Starting System (DSS) – an application for our DSS to be approved for use on the world stage will be forwarded to the IAAF and the ICSD in the next month. This exciting development aims to have the lighting system to be included on the current technical regulations.

4. 2016 Australian Deaf Games – now only two years away the DSA Board has appointed Brett

Hidson (former DSA Board Member and Chef de Mission for the 2005 Australian team at the Deaflympics in Melbourne) as a consultant.

Over the next few months the business plan, marketing and communication plan, and sport and venue agreements will be completed. The various committees including the Game Organising Committee and sport specific committees will be appointed in the next month. If there are interested people who would like to be involved please contact the DSA office.

Again welcome to 2014 – we wish everybody a successful and healthy year.

Garry West-Bail

Lots of Splashes!

Whilst Australia was reaching high temperatures and experiencing heat waves, swimmers took the advantage to make a lot of splashes in the pool at their respective State Swimming Championships.

The State Swimming Championships were held in various states throughout Australia in the past two months. Several swimmers took part and produced some good performance as follows:

QLD State Championships saw two Deaflympians Julia Algie and Michael Anderson as well Brenden Hall, Paralympian (he has hearing impairment too), being competitive against a strong Multi-Class field.

- Julia Algie (16yo) swam in both mainstream and MC events where she collected 1 gold and 3 silvers plus a few Australian Age Records for 16yo. She missed the Australian Open Record by tiny margin - 0.05 in 100m Backstroke and 0.22 in 50m Freestyle. So close, great swims!
- Michael Anderson (26yo) demonstrated that he still have the speed to produce a good world class time in the 100m Backstroke event. He also swam in the freestyle events. Good efforts Michael.
- Brenden Hall (20yo) was thrilled to have a good swim meet with a collection of medals of assorted colours. His biggest highlight was World Record in the 800m (S9 physical disability classification) whilst swimming in the 1500m Freestyle. Well done Brenden.

VIC State Championships saw three youngsters Alex Kirchner (11yo), Samuel Greatorex (14yo) and Monique Beckwith (15yo) in the mainstream events for their respective age group. Both Samuel and Monique also took part in the Multi-Class events. They all swam well.

- Alex Kirchner (11yo) enjoyed his experience swimming in three mainstream events in 11 & under age group. His times were commendable and leaped to number 1 ranking in the Australian All Times Rankings (deaf) for 11yo age group in two events. Awesome!
- Samuel Greatorex (14yo) had a big program with many events spread across two meets: VIC Age Championships (mainstream events) and VIC Open Championships (multi-class events). One of his highlights was reaching the final (mainstream event) in the 100m Backstroke 14yo age group. Another highlight was swimming under 1 minute in the 100m Freestyle on both occasions (heat and final). Samuel have capability to claim at least 14 Australian Age Records for 14yo boys. High five Samuel!
- Monique Beckwith (15yo) soldiered through the meet with solid swims and big heart despite her shoulder injury and training restrictions. She produced a good swim in 200m Freestyle that could be claimed as Australian Age Record for 15yo girls, and collected a swag of medals: 2 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze. Well done Monique!

NSW State Age Championships had one swimmer, Ben Robins (12yo) in the mainstream event for 12yo age group. For the older swimmers, they will have to wait because the NSW State Open Championships will take place in late February with Multi-Class events.

· Ben Robins (12yo) took part with excitement in his first State Championships event in the 50m Freestyle mainstream event for 12yo age group. Also, Ben did a great job as a team member in three club relay events. That's the spirit!

Congratulations to all swimmers for their efforts. Also, big thank you goes to their parents and coaches for their support and encouragement. We look forward to hearing everyone's progress throughout 2014.



Julia Algie receiving her medal



Samuel Greatorex in the Medley event



Monique Beckwith and her medals

Athlete Profile - Jessica Street

Jessica Street (left in the photo) is a young and upcoming athlete who competes in regular track and field events. Jessica also competed at the 1st National Deaf Athletics Championships event that was held in Brisbane in 2013. We asked her a few questions:

Why did you choose to Participate in Athletics?

When i was younger a teacher approached my nan, and told her i could run and we should do something about it, my nan got all the information and classification that i needed to compete in AWD events, i achieved more than i expected and won gold medals from 2009 to current also being selected to represent Queensland and then selected for the Nationals, with success there also.



What is your pre- game routine and how long have you been doing it?

I train three times a week and do extra on the days in between, in my training I've got to do different routines as i do track and cross country, i've been training for four years.

What do you do in your free time?

I love to water ski, i do it as much as possible due to dad's work and my casual work, i also love soccer, but have had to give all contact sports away due to now having a cochlea implant .i Wear head protection to ski.

Who's your favourite professional athlete and why?

Cathy Freeman and Sally Pearson, as they both have represented Australia at Olympic level over a few years and Sally is still achieving her goals.

What is your best memory from playing your sport?

My first gold medal and being selected to represent Queensland at national level.

If you weren't playing this sport what would you be doing now?

Spending more time with my friends at movies and shopping, i don't get much time doing that between working part time, training, and going to competitions.

Where would you go for your dream vacation and why?

Disneyland, because you get to see all the characters from all your favourite movies from when you were growing up.

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