



President's Message

Welcome to "Active Hands" and Happy New Year. This is my first message as President and I follow the footsteps of a DSA giant, David Peters who has now retired after 30+ years of dedicated service in an official capacity with our organisation. Thank you David and we will continue to seek your advice and support. Our Board has two new members in Alex Jones and Dean Barton Smith - we welcome their skills and knowledge to help DSA continue its development as a strong peak body in sport for deaf and hard of hearing Australians.

With the New Year festivities behind us the 2015 indicates a very busy year for the Board, staff and members. The DSA Board is meeting on the 7th February to review the current Strategic Plan and map out our operations plans for 2015 - 16. Just to give you some examples of major activities occurring this year, they include:



1. Deaflympians Reunion and Sports Awards to be held at Bell City in the East Wing Room on Saturday 7th February 2015 in Preston, Melbourne. This is also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Melbourne 2005 Deaflympics where over 3,000 deaf athletes competed including our largest every Australian team. Many athletes, volunteers, M2005 staff and DSA members will be there to celebrate and remind ourselves of what a great uplifting event it was. Our annual Sports awards will be announced that evening and we have some incredible deaf and hard of hearing athletes being nominated. You can still buy tickets to attend - see elsewhere in the e-news bulletin for more information. SEE YOU THERE.

2. Active Deaf Kids program - we are very proud of how this program has evolved over the last 2 years with thousands of deaf and hard of hearing students participating in sport days across Australia. We are pleased that Australian Sports Commission (ASC) have continued to support the program and we are continuing to source extra funding to expand the program.

3. New DSA Membership Structure - the changes have been discussed with member organisations over the last 12 months and there was a very positive response to the presentations at the November 2014 workshop. By our next AGM, we hope to have our new membership structure completed which will allow all national Deaf Sport bodies concentrate on managing and running their sport programs.

International Sports events:

* ICSD 18th Winter Deaflympics in Khanty-Mansiysk, Magnitogorsk, Russia from 28th March - 5th April 2015. We have no athletes representing Australia at these Games however we will be sending a Board member representing DSA to the ICSD Congress held over 2 days prior to the Games.

* ICSD 8th Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Taoyuan, Taiwan from 3rd - 11th October 2015. There will be an Australian Team attending covering many sports. A Chef De Mission will be appointed early

February and we look forward to a competitive result which for many athletes is a springboard to the Deaflympics. More information further in the bulletin.

Australian Deaf Games 2016

It is less than 12 months away where over 1,000 Deaf and hard of hearing athletes, officials, families and friends will be in Adelaide between 9th - 16th January 2016 to participate in sport competitions and cultural activities. As always this is a marvellous opportunity for us to celebrate our love of sport, deaf culture and community. The DSA Board wishes the Games Organising Committee (GOC) all the best for preparation and hosting the event. Make sure you add it to your 2016 calendar and see you there. More exciting news in this bulletin about these Games.

I must make mention of the recent 2015 Australia Day awards and celebrations. Three Deaf Australians were honored. DSA is proud and thrilled that Drisana Levitzke-Gray won the 2015 Young Australian of the Year award announced on Australia Day. This is a major achievement and her passion for advocating for equal opportunities and access for Deaf and hard of hearing people will become very public as she fulfills her role as an ambassador for young people over the next 12 months.

Anthony (Tony) Gorringer was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his volunteer efforts with Deaf Society of NSW and Deaf Lawn Bowls Australia. Tony is a popular friend of DSA and has been involved in national and international lawn bowls events over many years.

Alex Jones, our new Board member was chosen as the Woolworths Australia Day Ambassador for the regional town of Tenterfield in NSW. Alex gave a presentation as well as assisted with their Australia Day awards ceremony.

Congratulations all 3 on behalf of Deaf Sports Australia - what a year to celebrate.

Future 'Active Hands' bulletins will keep you informed of major DSA Board and member activities. My Board and I look forward to seeing you over the next 12 months and working towards strengthening our organisation in difficult times with funding being harder to access. We are pleased that we have received a high rating score from the ASC and they have recently endorsed (ongoing) DSA as a National Sporting Organisation until June 2018. In addition we are working with the ASC on our future funding which we should hear about in two to three months. Again welcome to 2015 and we wish everybody a successful and healthy year.

Phil Harper, President

Deaflympians Reunion Ticket Sales Closes Soon!

In 2 weeks' time we will be celebrating the 10 year anniversary since the 2005 Deaflympic Games were held in Melbourne.

All Deaflympians including their families, partners, friends and colleagues are invited to celebrate this special occasion. All M2005 Staff and Volunteers who took part in ensuring the Melbourne Games were one of the best are also invited.

The Deaflympians Reunion and Sports Awards will be held at Bell City in the East Wing Room on Saturday 7th February 2015 in Preston, Melbourne.

Light and hearty roving dining will be provided throughout the evening and beverages can be purchased at bar price. We will also have presentations and Guest Speakers.



For more information including the flyer, ticket order form and accommodation offer details, click on the link: [Deaflympians Reunion & Sports Awards](#)

**** TICKET CLOSING DATE EXTENDED TO TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY - BE QUICK! ****

More Swimming News!

January was a busy month for our swimmers. State Swimming Championships took place throughout Australia. They took part in both mainstream events and multi-class events.

The young swimmers definitely made a lot of splashes at the State Swimming Championships with the following combined results:

- 36 Australian Age Records (for deaf/hearing impairment S15 classification)
- 3 Australian Open Records (for deaf/hearing impairment S15 classification)
- 26 medals of assorted colours (gold, silver, bronze) in either mainstream or multi-class events.

Congratulations to the following swimmers for their performance at the recent State Championships:

- Alex Kirchner (VIC-12yo)
- Nicholas Layton (VIC-12yo)
- Ben Robins (NSW-13yo)
- Samuel Greateorex (VIC-15yo)
- Monique Beckwith (VIC-16yo)
- Julia Algie (QLD-17yo)
- Michael Anderson (QLD-27yo – S10 physical classification)
- Brendan Hall (QLD – 21yo – S9 physical classification)

Now the next step for the swimmers to focus and aim for the National Championships (April) and the World Deaf Swimming Championships (August).

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