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Greetings from the General Manager

It is certainly an exciting and challenging time as the following list of activities and events highlights:

- DSA Board Meeting – 27 June 2015 – all day including workshops to discuss future strategic alliances, budgets and sport development programs
- Tuesday 23rd June 2015 marks 200 days before the commencement of the 2016 Australian Deaf Games – online registrations and sport fees are accessible via the 2016 ADG website – www.austdeafgames.org.au

The following are upcoming events that we will have teams competing at the following locations:

- * World Deaf Basketball Championships – Taiwan - 4 – 12 July 2015
- * World Deaf Tennis Championships – UK - Nottingham - 20 – 26 July 2015
- * World Deaf Swimming Championships – USA – Texas - 17 – 22 August 2015
- * International Deaf Lawn Bowls Championships - Ireland - 26th August to 8th September 2015

The 2015 Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Taiwan commences on the 1st October in Taiwan. The Australian team will consist of 50 athletes and officials competing in Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cycling and Football.

We wish all competitors and officials the very best in their pursuit of success!

Since May 2015 the Active Deaf Kids Program led by Irena Farinacci has visited:

- Sydney, Dubbo, Central Coast, Perth, Hobart and Deloraine
- Over 300 children from 20 schools have been involved in the Multi Sports Day events
- The ADK brand is gaining a strong national foothold that has translated into a pleasing acceptance by the Australian Sports Commission to continue funding the program
- Planning has commenced on the development of a new Active Deaf Clubs initiative that will see sport clubs becoming more inclusive. In addition a sport specific Auslan app is being developed that will enhance the connection amongst teachers, coaches and students.

We have via specific Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) excellent working relationships with Australian Rugby, Basketball Australia, Cricket Australia, Golf Australia, Swimming Australia, Tennis Australia and Touch Football Australia. In addition we have working partnerships with Athletics Australia, Cycling Australia, Football Australia, Lawn Bowls Australia and Netball Australia. Our classification/eligibility program has seen over 150 athletes being classified.

Planning has commenced on the opening of a display cabinet at the National Sports Museum (NSM) that is likely to be launched in October 2015. The display at the MCG will highlight the history of Deaf Sports in Australia. A small committee led by President Phil Harper is working through the memorabilia possibilities that DSA have on hand or items that could be loaned by an individual to the NSM for display.

Good sports equals good education!

Over the past few months the Active Deaf Kids (ADK) program continues to make waves across the country with recent visits to New South Wales (NSW), Tasmania and Western Australia (WA).

The ADK program reached Dubbo for the first time as part of the NSW roadtrip. It is great to demonstrate the importance of the program across the country and visit new areas each year reaching deaf and hard of hearing students, in some cases for the first time.

We have been fortunate to have the support of our National and State Sports organisations including AFL NSW/TAS, Cricket WA, Baseball NSW, Basketball WA, Football NSW & WA, and Hockey NSW & TAS providing coaches to help run the clinics. It is also a fantastic opportunity for the coaches to work with deaf and hard of hearing kids through their sport.



In addition, the support from school teachers have helped Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) coordinate the clinics by way of transporting the students to the venues and providing Auslan interpreting.

The overall team work of the coaches and teachers has been extremely beneficial and we are grateful for their support.

The Llewellyn Communications team have also been fantastic in assisting to promote the ADK program through the media providing greater awareness. Below are some media articles for the recent clinics:

Dubbo, NSW: <http://www.dailyliberal.com.au/story/3058354/deaf-sports-visits-dubbo/>

Central Coast, NSW: <http://www.nbnnews.com.au/2015/05/07/deaf-kids-get-active-with-specialised-program/>

Deloraine, Tasmania: <http://www.examiner.com.au/story/3121521/hearing-impaired-kids-have-sporting-day-out/?cs=95>

The benefits of the ADK program has been two-fold. Many deaf and hard of hearing students have made new friends, learned new sports skills and most importantly, gained confidence in themselves which in turn has a positive domino effect on their studies and life in general.

Another benefit is students and parents have an understanding of the choices available regarding pathways to sports including national and international events such as the Australian Deaf Games, Asia Pacific Games and the Deaf and Deaflympic Games. Through the ADK program many students become inspired to pursue their sports at a higher level and set goals to become the next gold medallist at the Deaflympic Games.

Below are some useful resources confirming the benefits of sports participation equalling good education outcomes:

Physical Fitness Gives Children Better Academic Results - <http://fitness.mercola.com/sites/fitness/archive/2012/09/28/physical-activity-improves-academic-performance.aspx>

Play Boosts Children's Development and happiness' article

–<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-28658441>

Cindy-Lu Fitzpatrick OAM receives her 296 badge!

Swimming Australia has a number honour recognition badge system. Each badge has a number allocated to each swimmer who have swam for Australia (mainstream) in Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Pan Pacs, et cetera.

Cindy-Lu Fitzpatrick OAM recently received her Australian Swim Team badge from Swimming Australia during the National Age Swimming Championships that was held in Sydney.



Cindy-Lu represented Australia at two Commonwealth Games in 1982 and 1986 and two Pan Pacs in 1983 and 1985. Her number is 296. It was great seeing Cindy-Lu be presented the badge in front of the young deaf/hearing impaired swimmers and their families at the Sydney event.

Congratulations Cindy-Lu!

Photo source: Cindy-Lu Fitzpatrick OAM

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