

[Web Version](#) | [Update preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)[Forward](#)

Greetings from the General Manager

Welcome to "Active Hands"!

The DSA Board of Directors met on the 8th February to review the Strategic Plan. The new plan which can be seen on the DSA website highlights a number of clear key performance indicators which have now been allocated to the respective director portfolios. The status of these outcomes will be updated at the forthcoming Board Meetings.



The following is a list of the key areas that the Board will concentrate on:

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).
2. New Membership Structure – discussions are ongoing with a number of sports. We hope to have a working system and model in place by mid year which will see a majority of sports operating as committees of DSA.
3. Deaf Starting System (DSS) – an application for our DSS to be approved for use on the world stage has been forwarded to the IAAF. This exciting development aims to have the lighting system being included on the current technical approval manual of the IAAF.
4. 2016 Australian Deaf Games – the Game Organising Committee should be appointed by the end of the month. Currently in place is the Business Plan, Marketing Plan, Sport Agreement, Games Hub, central accommodation site and tentative bookings on a number of venues.
5. Yearly surveys of members and deaf and hard of Community regarding the services DSA provides.
6. The yearly workshops held on the AGM weekend to include Members presenting case studies.
7. The launch of the DSA display cabinet at the National Sports Museum is set to occur in November 2015. This will be an important tool in the promotion and communication plans of DSA over the next year and half.
8. Aim to come in the top three countries at each Asia Pacific Games.
9. Development of a National Juniors and Young Peoples Participation Plan which will become part of the Active Deaf Kids Program.
10. The DSA website is currently being updated to ensure an improved communication vehicle is available to the community.

11. The new NSW and NT Deaf Sport Committees are now operating. It is pleasing to note that these two committees together with DSRQ and DSRVIC have strategic plans that are aligned with the DSA Strategic Plan.

12. A Risk Assessment Analysis Report has been tabled with the Board. The details are currently being reviewed.

13. The DSA Board is currently working through its skill sets and a succession planning processes.

Finally the following table highlights the increase in numbers who are subscribing to the various DSA Communication platforms. We are very pleased with these results:

	2012	2013
ADK website hits	351	2,441
Active Hands eNews Subscribers	1,000	1,270
Facebook Subscribers	1,280	2,142
Twitter Subscribers	220	487

Thank you for reading the Active Hands eNews!

Garry West-Bail, General Manager

Melbourne City Does It Again!

Melbourne City Deaf Basketball Team claimed their first back to back title at the recent 2nd Asia Pacific Deaf Basketball Club Championships that was held in South Korea.

The match results were:

1st Game: Melbourne City 95 def Emperor (Japan) 45

2nd Game: Melbourne City 73 def Taipei Glory (Taiwan) 60

3rd Game: Melbourne City 75 def Tornado Wings (Korea) 31

Grand Final: Melbourne City 72 def Taipei Glory 63

Deaf Sports Australia warmly congratulates the Melbourne City team on their hard work and excellent performances.

*** Photo credit: Melbourne City Deaf Basketball Club*



Michael Fawkner Breaks Records

Many people would often say it's never too late to achieve your dreams. This is the case with Michael Fawkner who recently competed at the Victorian State Athletic Championships where he won silver in the shot put and discus events breaking the Australian All Comers and Oceania Records for his F43 class. He was unfortunately not able to compete in the F01 (deaf and hard of hearing) hammer throw event.

Michael has a rare genetic disease known as Charcot

Marie Tooth Syndrome. There are a number of sub types with the one that Michael has being very rare as only six people in the world are known to have it. Whilst the disease has effected Michael for over 10 years it was only 3 years ago that it was correctly diagnosed. The disease has meant that Michael is has bi lateral cochlear implants and muscle atrophy which causes muscle wastage.

Michael is looking forward to competing in the National Deaf Athletic Meet, the Asia Pacific Games for the Deaf, and the Australian Deaf Games over the next few years.

** Photo credit - Athletics Victoria



Adelaide Gets Active Again



As part of DSA's Active Deaf Kids program, five schools from across Adelaide made the trek to the SA Netball Stadium where over 70 students participated in Cricket, Futsal, Netball and Touch Football activities provided by Cricket SA, Football Federation SA, Netball SA and Touch Football SA.

These five schools were Brighton, Elizabeth Park, Hillcrest, Adelaide High School and Klemzig.

It was a fun day for the students as it also gave them the opportunity to meet their friends from different schools.

Deaf Sports Australia's Sports Development Officer, Irena Farinacci also met with Mark Harris from the Active After Schools Communities program where discussions touched on after school sports programs particularly the transition from school to club environment.

It is hoped that DSA will trial a school to take part in the AASC after school program this year.

Melinda Claims Open Women's event

Melinda Vernon's transition from a long distance runner to a triathlete paid off when she won the Women's Open event at the OTU Devonport Triathlon recently. Melinda's results were impressive that she came third overall winning a bronze medal.

Over the past couple of months, Melinda had been training for the event in San Diego, USA, where she stayed with a host family, and was trained by a top coach Darren Smith.

Melinda has recently put hold on her working career as an Occupational Therapist to pursue Triathlon full time knowing that it is a fantastic time and opportunity to work towards her long term triathlon goal.

If you are interested to learn more about Melinda's journey as a Triathlete, you can check in on her blog:



<http://melvernon.wordpress.com>

*** Photo credit - Triathlon Australia*

Deaf Futsal Gala Day



Want to try out a new sport? Or do you want to improve your futsal skills? Or represent Australia in deaf/hard of hearing international deaf futsal sporting events?

Deaf Sports Australia together with Deaf Futsal Australia will be hosting a Gala Day and Tryout event during ANZAC Weekend in Melbourne from 25th - 27th April 2014.

This event is a great opportunity to try out the sport as well as demonstrate your fine futsal skills! We will also be running futsal team competitions this weekend so why not organise a team to participate. If you don't have a team, we can help organise that for you!

For more information, please click on the link below:

[Deaf Futsal Gala Day](#)

We will also be scouting for potential players to represent Australia at the upcoming Asia Pacific Deaf Futsal Qualifiers to be held in Iran in August 2014.

National Deaf Athletics Meet

After last year's success at our 1st National Deaf Athletics Championships which was held in Brisbane, we will be hosting this year's event in Melbourne at Duncan McKinnon Reserve in Murrumbidgee.

For more information on the event please click on the link below:



[National Deaf Athletics Meet](#)

The event is open to anyone who has a keen interest in track and field disciplines. It is also a great opportunity for participants to either maintain their athletic skills or even try out the sport! Kids aged 5 - 9 years old will participate in Mini-Athletics activities as well as Long Jump, Shotput, Discus and a 50m sprint!

What are you waiting for? Go on and register!

David Confirms Iran Site Inspection Visit

David Peters, who is currently the DSA President also serves on the Board of the Asia Pacific Deaf Sports Confederation as Sports Director.

Last year during December, David visited Iran to inspect the facilities for the Futsal and Football Qualifying Rounds to be held in August and November respectively.

The qualifying rounds are necessary for teams to gain their spot at the 1st World Deaf Futsal Championships and the Asia Pacific Games for the Deaf.

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Deaf Sports Australia
Ground Floor,
340 Albert Street,
East Melbourne
Victoria, 3002