

SO, WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2010

- State Office reopens 18 January
- National Games State Team Coaches Meeting 31st January
- Melbourne Southern Aquatic Games 7 February
- Melbourne Eastern Ranges Bocce Games 19 February
- Melbourne Eastern Ranges Aquatics Games 20 February
- Melbourne Inner East Athletics Games 21 February
- SOV Tennis Games 21 February
- State Summer Games 20/21 March
- National Games Adelaide 19 to 24 April

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SO, what's news from the 'Hill'?

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DECEMBER 2009

Message from State Manager, Kevin O'Byrne



As we draw to the end of another year, I have taken a moment to reflect on our achievements of 2009 and also consider the opportunities for the year ahead; some of these are highlighted in this newsletter. It has been a very busy year with the growing recognition that State Office is a valuable resource for all to use.

As this will be the last newsletter for the year, on behalf of Tanya

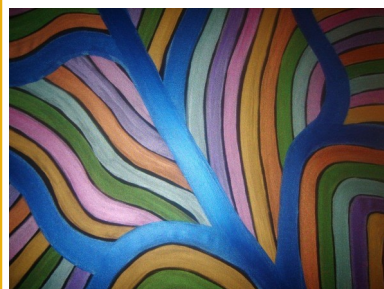
and myself we wish to extend our best wishes to the Special Olympics Victoria family for a happy and safe festive season and a prosperous new year.



An Athlete and an Artist

Patrick Francis is a Special Olympics Victoria athlete with a creative flare in painting. Recently Patrick was invited to exhibit three of his pieces for an exhibition at Federation Square between 25 November and 1 December. The exhibition included amateur and professional artists with special needs.

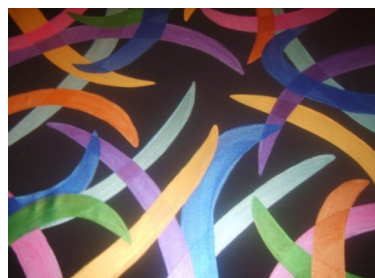
These are the paintings exhibited by Patrick, who is also featured as our "Who am I?"



Rivers Run



End of the Rainbow



Firebird

What a year 2009 has been! Coming to the end of a year, it is timely to reflect on our successes. Here are some of SOV's accomplishments we have shared this year.

1. Establishing the new region, Melbourne West, which has been up and running now for five months.
2. Commencing the consultation and development of a new Gippsland region.
3. Developing, submitting and winning the bid for Melbourne to host the National Games in 2014.
4. Selecting the team that will travel to Adelaide for the 2010 National Games.
5. Establishing the Athlete's Advisory Group that will provide athletes with a 'voice' across all regions.
6. Developing and strengthening partnerships with state and local governments, especially with the Access for All Abilities Officers.
7. Affiliations with Doveton Special Soccer School and Wangaratta Special School.
8. Introducing three new sports: football, sailing and golf, all of which will have representation at the National Games next year.



"You can't make a great play unless you do it first in practice."
David Grayson

2010 - The Year Ahead

The year ahead will see the many more opportunities to further develop and strengthen SOV. Whilst many of us are focused on the National Games in Adelaide in April, there are a number of other challenges for SOV, including:

- Establishing a new SOV State Board
- Conducting the Summer Games on 20 & 21 March—East Burwood sport venues
- Ongoing development of Melbourne West & Gippsland regions,
- Conducting a 'sports forum', that will see the development of coaches and coordinators across all regions.

Who Am I? Patrick Francis!



Patrick Francis has been an athlete with Melbourne North for the past eight months. As featured on Page One, Patrick is also a talented artist.

What 's been your greatest SO achievement? Making friends and learning how to compete.

What's your favorite sport? Bowling and swimming equally, but I push myself in swimming.

How do you like to spend your leisure time? Reading and looking at books, especially encyclopedias. I also like playing play station and computer games.

What's your favourite type of holiday? Travelling abroad once a year mostly to India although I'm going to Kuala Lumpur next year. In Australia the Gold Coast with all the rides is my favourite.

Athlete Advisory Group



Athletes across the state of Victoria will now be able to channel their collective thoughts through a new Athlete Advisory Group. The Group was established in October and consists of five athletes and their mentors, it is expected the Group will represent SOV athletes by actively seeking input and feedback from athletes and communicating thoughts and ideas to a variety of management committees.

The following athletes are members of the Group. There is one vacancy left for an athlete. For information about joining or to contact one of the Group's members, contact the State Office on (03) 9275 6922 or email info@specialolympicsvic.org.au.

Elise Bishop	Barwon
Mark Hutton	Melbourne Southern
Amanda Gorman	Dandenong Valley
Erin Gumbleton	Echuca Campaspe
Brian Porter	Barwon
Steven White	Melbourne Southern
Andrew Williams - Facilitator	Melbourne Southern
Evan Wilson	Melbourne Inner East
Jacqui Wischer	Melbourne Inner East

LETR Vic—Run with the Law

In the lead up to the 2010 National Games, the Law Enforcement Torch Run will take place across six states and territories taking the Special Olympics 'Flame of Hope' to a record 40 cities in 29 days between 19 March and 19 April 2010, finishing in Adelaide at the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics Australia IX National Games.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is an important fund raising event for Special Olympics with police officers giving their time and money to us.

You can participate in this history-making event. Come and show your appreciation and join the run or wave them on. You can participate in Victoria on the following dates:

- 8 April 2010 Wodonga
- 9 April 2010 Melbourne CBD
- 11 April 2010 Geelong

If you are close to Melbourne, come and join the Chief Commissioner Simon Overland* in carrying the torch through the city and the ceremonial lighting of the cauldron at Federation Square.

For more information and to register to 'Run with the Law, check out the website www.runwiththelaw.com.au.

* depending on availability

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN
RUN WITH THE LAW
 SPECIAL OLYMPICS AUSTRALIA



NOTE: SOV STATE OFFICE CLOSED FROM 24 DECEMBER AND WILL RE-OPEN ON 18 JANUARY 2010

SOV Awards Night



Phil Parson and Mark Streeting

SOV hosted the Awards Night at the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood on 14 November 2009. Around 200 people attended the evening, enjoying a dinner, live music, a silent auction and raffle. Special guests included the Chair of Special Olympics Australia, Mark Streeting, Acting Chair of SOV, Kurt Kraushofer OAM, SOV Life Members and Helen Harris—Mayor City of Whitehorse.

Phil Parson was the master of ceremonies.

Congratulations to all those who nominated for the various awards and to the recipients of an award. The Award Winners are:

Name	Award
Katrina Hughes — Westernport	2009 Athlete Achievement Award Special Olympics Athlete (Female)
Peter Forsythe — Melbourne Southern	2009 Athlete Achievement Award Special Olympics Athlete (Male)
Lovell Family — Barwon	2009 Family with Special Olympics Athlete
Corona Melvin — Melbourne Inner East	2009 Regional Volunteer Award (Individual)
Echuca Moama Lions Club — Echuca Campaspe	2009 Regional Volunteer Award (Group)
Kerry Wood — Barwon	2009 Regional Coach Award
LOOP — Echuca Campaspe	2009 Regional Media Award
Ballarat Stationers — Ballarat	2009 Regional Sponsors Award
Croxton Special School — Melbourne North	2009 Regional Sponsors Award
Joy Lawton — State Secretary	2009 Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Service
Moira Ryde — State Treasurer and State Sports Manager	2009 Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Service

*“The man who has
no imagination has
no wings.”
Muhammad Ali*

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Wangaratta District Specialist School

Affiliations



Doveton Special Soccer School Inc.

Publisher
Special Olympics Victoria State Office
Suite 9, Town Hall Hub
27 Bank Street
Box Hill VIC 3128
Ph: (03) 9275 6922
Fax: (03) 9275 6920
info@specialolympicsvic.org.au

Editor
L. Hamilton
Send contributions to
NewsVictoria@specialolympics.com.au
or post to the SOV State Office.