

SO, WHAT'S COMING UP?

- **Melbourne North Tenpin Bowling Games**
2 August 2009
- **Ski Camp # 2**
Mt Buller
9 to 14 August 2009
- **Outer Eastern Tenpin Bowling Games**
15 August 2009
- **Football Comp & Nat. Games Selection Trials**
15 August 2009
- **Sailing Regatta NG Selection Trials**
Albert Park
22 & 23 August 2009
- **Melbourne West Athletics Sports Day**
22 August 2009
- **State Winter Games**
Wodonga
3 & 4 October

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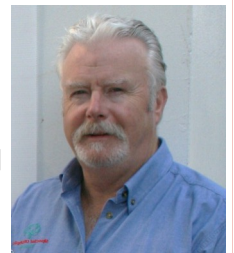
Special Olympics
Victoria

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

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JULY 2009

Message from State Manager, Kevin O'Byrne



With the State Summer Games well behind us, we are now looking towards April 2010 and the National Games. An exciting prospect! For the rest of the year, the SOV community will be focused on 'business as usual', such as training, competitions, fundraising and committee meetings.

Here at the State Office we are continuing to develop and increase the SOV community and have enjoyed a huge win recently with the launch of a new region, Melbourne West. Led by Tanya Files, the project has taken an enormous amount of energy, effort and commitment. The process undertaken by Tanya is viewed as 'best practice' and will be used in our move to develop into other areas of Victoria. Learn more about Tanya's project on Page Two.

I congratulate Tanya and her team in setting up the Melbourne West region and welcome the new committee, volunteers and athletes to the Special Olympics family.

Over the next few months we will be following the same process as we look to establish one or more regions in the Gippsland area. We expect to have Gippsland within our SOV community by early 2010. Our kick-off will be a public forum on Monday 7th Sept 2009 at the Morwell Club, 136 Helen St, Morwell, starting at 7pm.

Events & Projects Committee

As part of our ongoing program to improve the way we operate, SOV has set up an Events and Projects Committee to plan for and manage upcoming or prospective events. The committee has been in place since May 2009 and is chaired by Kevin O'Byrne. Projects and events managed by this committee range from internal events such as SOV awards nights and State games to events managed externally such as the Variety Club Kids Christmas Party. Several subcommittees have evolved and are working on separate assignments, which include:

- International Day for People with a Disability Art Show 3 December 2009
- State Summer Games March 2010
- National Games Melbourne Bid 2014

For further information about these projects, or if you need assistance with a project or event, or to share ideas, please contact the State Office on 9275 6922.

7 Months and a New Region!

For a number of years, the western suburbs of Melbourne have not been directly serviced by Special Olympics. Tanya Files headed up the project to set up the new region, Melbourne West. Beginning in November 2009, the project was completed in July 2009, when the committee came together for the first time., formalising all new positions.

Sports that will be offered in the region are athletics, tenpin bowling, football (soccer), golf, bocce, and basketball.

The new committee has been busy making itself known within the western community, and flying the SOV banner. Committee members are:



Special Olympics
Victoria
Melbourne West

<i>Chairperson</i>	Beth Bakkar	0433 619 442
<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Caroline Dean	
<i>Secretary/Registrar</i>	Angela Stefanie	melbwestsov@netspace.net.au
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gavin Dovey	
<i>Sports Director</i>	Greg Coombs	9370 3569
<i>Athlete Representative</i>	Sarah Dovey	
<i>General Committee</i>	Ruth Kyne, Aimee Reid , Tanya Carrick and Christene Urquhart	

"Adventure is not outside a man, it is within."

David Grayson



SOV fundraiser : Curry & Jazz Dinner Dance at The Ashwood, Friday 21st August, \$35/hd
RSVP by 11th August; Contact Faye on 9754 7713 or Joy on 9499 7839

A New Chair



A critical part of any region is its committee. SOV has a new chair heading up the committee for the new Melbourne West region, Beth Bakkar. Beth took a few moments to share her thoughts about herself and the new region.

Why did you become interested in SOV?

I have a 15 year old son with an intellectual disability and in the west there was nothing available for him and his friends.

What do you see is your role?

My role is an advocate: making sure people are aware of SO in the west, providing hope for children with special needs.

What will be the greatest challenges for the new region?

Raising funds. Convincing people that it's safe and not for the elite. Helping people from non-English speaking backgrounds learn about SOV.

What are you looking forward to?

Launching the region successfully and its ongoing success. Getting sponsors on board.

Community Sports-Link and Affiliates

Special Olympics is committed to building greater communities by providing a place for more people with an intellectual disability to participate in sports. To achieve this SO operate two services, each targeting organisations already support people with an intellectual disability. The two services are:

1. Special Olympics Affiliated Groups, and
2. Community Sports-Link.
 1. Affiliated groups are registered sports clubs, schools or disability service providers, which provide training in one or more official Special Olympics Australia sports. Although the group operates independently of Special Olympics, its eligible athletes can be registered as SO athletes, able to compete in local competitions. Should the athlete wish to represent their state (or higher), must register with an accredited region.
 2. Community Sports-Link is a program aimed at special and mainstream schools, community groups, sports clubs or disability service providers. The program assists these organisations in the planning and management of competitions, development of training programs, providing links to coaches and equipment and being the point of contact for athletes wanting to progress into other SOA sports and social activities.

Currently in Victoria we have one affiliated sports club, the Doveton Special Soccer School Inc. Our goal is to raise awareness of the two services and increase participation.



Doveton
Special
Soccer
School
Inc.

If you know of an organisation that may be interested in becoming involved with the SOV community, through either of these services, please contact Tanya Files on 9275 6922 or E tanyaf@specialolympics.com.au

The Primary Club

The Primary Club of Australia is the Cricketer's Charity and they provide funding for disability sport organisations to purchase sporting equipment for their disability sport programs. We have once again been very fortunate to receive a grant of \$4135.00 to purchase ski gear to assist our athletes attending the ski camps at Mt Buller during July and August 2009.



THE PRIMARY CLUB
OF
AUSTRALIA

The ski gear purchased are gloves, goggles and safety helmets.

Who Am I? Sarah Dovey!

Sarah Dovey is one of the newest members of SOV, having joined the new Melbourne West region in July 2009. Sarah is also the athlete representative on the new committee for the region. Sarah is keen to broaden her sporting interests with SOV.

What are you looking forward to achieving with SO? Getting into the sport, maybe bowling or sailing.

What's your favorite sport? Netball. I play every Saturday morning and play for Brimbank.

How do you like to spend your leisure time? Reading books. I like ghost stories, mysteries and Nancy Drew. I also like watching TV.

What's your favourite type of holiday? Going to Queensland where its nice and warm. I visit my cousins in Brisbane and get to go to the beach.

What's your most treasured possession? I don't have one.

We don't as yet have a photo of Sarah. We'll aim to have one in our next edition.

Some Facts and Figures

SOV has the challenge of growing its community; this means developing more regions, registering more athletes and volunteers. The statistics that follow show the current contribution to SOV as at 30 June 2009 and the future targets for the next two years.

	Current (June 2009)	Future
Number of Regions	11	15
Number of Athletes	665	750
Number of Volunteers	238	275
Number of Sports	11	14

If you know of an individual or an organisation who would like to be involved in the SOV community, please contact the State Office on 9275 6922 for further information.

Joke of the Month

One night Mrs McMillan answers the door to see her husband's best friend Paddy standing on the doorstep. "Hello Paddy! Where is my husband, he went to the beer factory with you didn't he?" Paddy shook his head! "Ah Mrs McMillan there was a terrible accident at the beer factory, your husband fell into a vat of Guinness Stout and drowned." Mrs McMillan started crying "Oh don't tell me that! Did he at least go quickly?" Paddy shakes his head, "Not really, he got out three times to pee!"



Taking Up Golf?

5 golf sets left. Contact State Office to arrange a set.



Leading up to the National Games in April 2010, a regular newsletter will be sent to athletes, coaches, families and carers & will be available off the SOV website

"As is our confidence, so is our capacity."
Thomas Edison

Information regarding the National Games and family travel is available through the State Office. Please contact 9275 6922 for your copy.



Our Thanks to Our Sponsors and Partners



SOV Affiliations



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