

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

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2009

SO, WHAT'S COMING UP?

- **ALPs Governance Training**
21 March '09
Box Hill
- **SOA Financial Management Info Session**
21 March '09
Box Hill
- **State Summer Games**
4th & 5th April '09
City of Whittlesea
- **Western Metro Ten Pin Bowling Come n Try, Altona Bowl,**
15 April, 10.00am
- **SOV Sailability Intro, Coaching & Races**
19 & 26 April '09
Docklands Yacht Club

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Our New Website	2
Law Enforcement Torch Run	2
Head Office Visit	2
Who am I?	3
State Summer Games	3
New Sports	4
State Office Role	4



Message from State Manager, Kevin O'Byrne



Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable break over the Christmas/New Year period. 2009 has had some challenges so far, particularly with the devastating bushfires. We extend our thoughts to those who have been affected.

We have come up with a motto for 2009 **"Working together to build our future"**, which seems very appropriate considering the recent events! It also applies to SOV and the work we have ahead.

I have recently attended eight regional committee meetings and have an understanding of the issues faced by the regions. Following these visits we have managed a few small wins, such as procuring a new meeting venue for the Dandenong Valley Region and an athletics coach for the Barwon Region.

It has also been great to see our athletes in action at various regional games. It's encouraging to see the support of the families, coaches, volunteers and athletes!

2009 promises some exciting opportunities, such as setting up of a new region in western metropolitan Melbourne and the introduction of a number of new sports available to our athletes. We will also be launching our new website soon, which will improve our communication and ensure that we are more accessible.

Good News!

On 14 February 2009 we hosted a Football 'Come and Have a Go' day at the Darebin International Sports Centre. We had three players attend who enjoyed the try-out. We were also joined by representatives from the City of Yarra and Richmond Soccer Club (RSC).

RSC has a large player base and hopes to establish a program for people with an intellectual disability. The connection with such a large football club will assist us in developing soccer as a key sport offered to athletes. If you are interested, register your interest with Peter Mitten on 9205 5555 or contact the SOV State Office.



Our Thanks to Our Sponsors and Partners

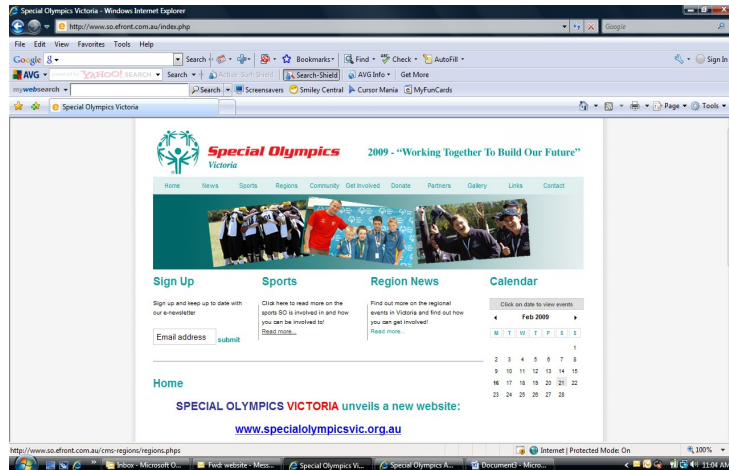


Supported by the
City of Whitehorse

Our New Website

Work is currently underway to develop a new website for SOV. The website is due to be launched later in March and will be a key link in our future communications.

The website will include special information to prospective athletes and volunteers, a calendar of events as well as news items from regions and the State Office. We will let you know when the website is up and running.



Law Enforcement Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), was initiated in 1981 by a police officer in the USA. The LETR has now become a global initiative, raising money across 55 countries for Special Olympics. Since starting, the LETR has raised over \$250 million for Special Olympics. Fundamentally, the Torch Run is an actual running event in which law enforcement officers and athletes run the "Flame of Hope" to various 'Opening Ceremonies'. The LETR Victoria Inc. has now been established and the first official torch run is taking place at the State Summer Games on 4 April 2009. The torch run will start outside the Meadowglen International Athletics Stadium with both the Victoria Police and SOV athletes taking part and bringing the lit torch to the Games' Opening Ceremony.



*"Trust your hopes
not your fears."*

David Mahoney

SOV Meets Head Office

The State Office team visited SOA head office in Sydney in February 2009. The purpose of the visit was to contribute to SOA's planning and to present a status report to the SOA Board. The presentation included a summary of work to date and an outline of planned support and activities for 2009, such as:

- increasing awareness of SOV, and numbers of athletes, coaches and volunteers,
- setting up new regions,
- setting up and running new sports., and
- increasing funding.

Feedback from the Board was positive and the CEO was impressed by level of commitment the regions and State Office has towards sport and its athletes and our work to date.

State Summer Games - 4th and 5th April 2009

Our athletes have been training with great enthusiasm, looking forward to the State Summer Games. We are also looking forward to the Games and hope to see many supporters there, even if you are not a participant! To help with your plans, the following information may be helpful.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies - Meadowglen International Athletics Stadium

McDonalds Road, Epping (Mel. Ref. 182 J10)

Athletics - Meadowglen International Athletics Stadium

McDonalds Road, Epping (Mel. Ref. 182 J 10)

Aquatics - Mill Park Leisure Centre

Morang Drive, Mill Park (Mel. Ref. 9 J 1)

Tennis - Epping Tennis Club

High Street, Epping (Mel. Ref. 182 B 8)

Bocce - Casa D'Abruzzo Club

O'Hems Road, Epping (Mel. Ref. 182 A 8)

Softball - Mill Park Baseball/Softball Centre

Morang Drive, Mill Park (Mel. Ref. 9 J 1)

We are looking forward to some great competition! Show your support by attending these Games, helping to make this the most exciting event on our sporting calendar this year!

Don't forget the Torch Run will start outside the Meadowglen International Athletics Stadium with Victoria Police and our athletes carrying the 'Flame of Hope'.



Congratulations

All regions have become accredited by Special Olympics Australia to operate as a Special Olympics program in accordance with the Special Olympics International rules!

Logo Design Competition

In our previous newsletter we announced the logo design competition with a \$100 prize. We have withdrawn the competition as we have not received any entries.

Who Am I? Elise Bishop!

Elise Bishop joined the Barwon Region as a tennis fan nine years ago. Elise has continued to play tennis and also plays bowls.

What's been your greatest SO achievement? Going to the SOA National Games in Queensland and competing with the other states. I had torn a tendon in my hand, so I was playing with an injury. I did pretty well considering.

What's your favorite sport? Tennis!

How do you like to spend your leisure time? Going to the beach; shopping for new clothes and reading. I am currently reading Stephanie Meyer's Twilight Series.

What's your favourite type of holiday? Relaxing. I would like to do a cruise one day.

What's your most treasured possession? My bed! It has a brown/beige cover with cushions. I like a good night's sleep although I find it hard to get up in the morning.



During 2009 we will be introducing a few new sports, including golf, cricket, football and sailing. These sports will increase the opportunities for new and existing SOV athletes. The sports are in various stages of development.

Golf

The golf program is in its infancy. A 'Come 'n Try' day is planned for the school holidays in April (details will be advised).

Cricket

SOV State Office is working with key organisations and cricket clubs to further develop the cricket program across Victoria.

Football

During 2009 SOV will be introducing football to its calendar of sporting events. SOV is working with a number of soccer clubs as well as VICSRAPID to further develop the football program across the State.

Sailing

The SOV State Office is working with Sailability Victoria and now has developed a sailing program with introduction, coaching and races planned for the 19th and 26th April at Docklands Yacht Club.



Role of State Office

In our previous newsletter, we introduced the State Office team, (L) State Manager, Kevin O'Byrne, (C) Business Development Manager, David Rhodes and (R), Community Development Officer, Tanya Files. This gives a bit of an insight into David's work.

Business Development

A key focus for David is to ensure that Special Olympics funding flows down to SOV; additionally, David's role is to procure additional sponsorship.

So far SOV has been successful in obtaining advertising packages with several major TV networks as well as radio networks. The new advertising will generate a greater public awareness of SOV. David has also been developing key relationships with the State Government and various philanthropic sources with a view to securing additional funding.

In our next issue we'll be looking at Tanya's role and the work she does with the community.

Note to Regional Secretaries

Over the next few months SOV will enjoy greater publicity through the new website as well as advertising on TV and radio. This may mean that you receive additional enquiries. Please advise the State Office in you need any assistance in handling these enquiries.



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
kevin@specialolympics.com.au

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

"If we did all the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves."

Thomas Edison