



Sport Inclusion
AUSTRALIA

e-News

December 2016

Message from the President – Wayne Bird



Well another year has just about finished, it has included a lot of exciting activities and progress for our organisation, particularly as we head towards the Inas General Assembly in Brisbane in 2017 and work towards the Global Games in 2019. These are both big events for us and will be exciting to present in Brisbane.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the Queensland Government and the the above events, it is very much appreciated.

To the Sport Inclusion families I want to thank you for all the support you provide to the athletes who work so hard to represent their respective sports. To the State Member organisations, on behalf of the Board I want to acknowledge the work you do and support you provide to us in many ways.

The Board of Sport Inclusion Australia who are always available to support and advise Robyn and the staff on any matter as required, thank you for all your time and commitment. The new Board of the Global Games Sports Company who have agreed to oversee the preparation and delivery of this event, thank you for your commitment.

To Robyn and her team, Kellie, Jenny and Michael in Sport Inclusion Australia and Greg at the Global Games Company, thank you for all your efforts.

In closing I want to make a special mention of the work Robyn has done in this year. She has taken on a dual CEO role (of SIA and the Global Games) and has performed to an outstanding level, thanks Rob you are a wonderful ambassador for the people we represent.

Finally may I wish you all a very happy and safe Festive Season, enjoy this very important time with your families and friends.

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Wayne Bird
President



Catchup on the Play by the Rules December Newsletter at <https://www.playbytherules.net.au/>

Sports Forum – 18 November 2016

Sport Inclusion Australia conducted another successful Forum at the National Tennis Centre on Friday 18 November 2016.

Nearly 50 delegates attended the forum from 17 Sporting organisations and 5 disability support groups as well as Government representatives from Victorian Department of Sport and Recreation and the National Disability Insurance Agency along with Sport Inclusion Australia State member organisations.

Paralympian **Todd Hodgetts** spoke on the impact sport has had on his life, it was a moving presentation which emphasised the importance of providing opportunities for people with disabilities and focussing on their ability. Todd's presentation has reached over 7000 people and viewed on facebook more than 3000 times. It is well worth viewing if you haven't already done so: <https://www.facebook.com/Sport-Inclusion-Australia-129956998912/>

The forum which had a Victorian focus included presentations from:

- Amy Coshin and Suzanne Henderson (**Hockey Victoria**)
- Sam Almaliki (**Cricket Australia**) and Emma Staples (**Cricket Victoria**)
- Grant Carr (**National Disability Insurance Agency**).



Participants were divided into 4 groups to discuss the following questions:

- What can the **disability** sector do to ensure that more people with a disability can access sport?
- What can the **sport** sector do to ensure that more people with a disability can access sport?

Key Dates (December 2016 – February 2017)

December 2016

20 – Sport Inclusion Australia Office closed for Christmas New Year Break

January 2017

3 - Futsal National Championships commence, Sydney

3 - Sport Inclusion Australia Office re-opens

8 - Futsal National Championships Finals, Sydney

17 – National Cricket Inclusion Championships commence, Geelong

20 – National Cricket Inclusion Championship Finals, Geelong

25 – 2017 Australian Tennis Championships commence, Albert Park Reserve, Melbourne

28 – 2017 Australian Tennis Championships Finals, Melbourne Park

February 2017

12 – Ivor Burge Basketball Championships commence, Bendigo

2016 Australia All-Schools Athletics Championships

The **2016 Australian All Schools Athletics** Championships were held in Canberra from 2 to 4 December with 38 T/F20 athletes competing.

Congratulations to all athletes who competed in the Championships. It is great to see so many athletes competing and commencing their athletics journey. We look forward to seeing many more outstanding performances in the years to come.

T/F20 medallists at the 2016 Australian All Schools Championships were:

Caitlyn Sharp (VIC)	Silver	U16 girls 100m	14.17s
	Silver	U16 girls 200m	29.70s
	Bronze	U16 Girls Long Jump	3.98m
Ebonie Cooper (NSW)	Gold	U18 girls 800m	2:55.63
	Silver	U18 girls Long Jump	3.45m
	Silver	U18 girls Shot Put	7.52m
	Silver	U18 girls Discus	17.57m
Javin Renibarger (QLD)	Silver	U16 boys Long Jump	5.11m
	Bronze	U16 boys 100m	12.34s
	Bronze	U16 boys 200m	26.16s
Lleyton Lloyd (NSW)	Bronze	U18 boys Long Jump	5.06m
	Bronze	U18 boys 200m	25.66s
Rosemary Boyland (NSW)	Silver	U16 girls Shot Put	10.39m
Cori Watson (QLD)	Bronze	U18 girls Shot Put	6.56m
Jack Connors (NSW)	Silver	U18 boys Shot Put	9.59m
	Silver	U18 boys Discus	30.39m
Corey Anderson (QLD)	Bronze	U18 boys Shot Put	9.18m
	Bronze	U18 boys Discus	24.56m
Edward Parker (NSW)	Silver	U16 Boys 800m	2:27.18
Samuel Torley (ACT)	Bronze	U16 boys 800m	2:31.03
Jessie Venner (QLD)	Gold	U16 girls 800m	2:40.47
	Bronze	U16 girls 200m	29.96s
Belinda Scott (NSW)	Silver	U16 girls 800m	2:42.48
Tayla Parker (NSW)	Silver	U18 girls 800m	2:58.81
Gail Watson (QLD)	Bronze	U18 girls 800m	3:21.80
Jessica Filocamo (NSW)	Bronze	U18 girls Discus	11/87m
Brittney Beilby (NSW)	Silver	U16 girls 200m	29.70s
	Bronze	U16 girls 100m	14.53s
Cameron Labinsky (QLD)	Gold	U16 boys 200m	24.97s
	Silver	U16 boys 100m	11/99s

Particular mention must go to the following athletes who not only medalled in their events, but also reached the 2017 INAS Athletics Championship Open qualifying standard, outstanding achievements by our junior athletes.

2017 INAS Athletics Championship qualifiers from All Schools

Jessie Venner (QLD) - 800m and 200m

Ebonie Cooper (NSW) – Discus

Cameron Labinsky (QLD) – 100m

Susan Wallker (QLD) - Discus

Belinda Scott (NSW) – 800m

Caytlyn Sharp (VIC) – 100m, 200m and Discus

Brittany Beilby (NSW) – 200m

2017 Athletics Australia National Championships

The **2017 Athletics Australia National Championships** will be held in Sydney from 26 March to 2 April. This will be the first time Athletics Australia have conducted their Junior, Open and Para Championships in one event.

Set to span an impressive eight days, the 2017 Australian Athletics Championships will be the largest annual athletics event in Australia and the Oceania-Pacific region and will bring together participants of all ages in the pursuit of personal bests and national championship medals

This will also be the final selection trial for athletes selected to attend the 2017 INAS Athletics Championships in Bangkok (12-19 May 2017). For more information on the Athletics Australia National Championships and full All Schools results please visit: www.athletics.com.au

2017 Hello World Ivor Burge Basketball Championships



The 2017 Ivor Burge Basketball Championship will be held in Bendigo from 12-18 February at the Bendigo Stadium.

BREAKING NEWS – Japan Men's team to take part in 2017 Ivor Burge Basketball Championships
A team of 9 players and 3 staff will arrive in Australia on the 11th of February to compete in the 2017 Ivor Burge Basketball Championships. The Pearls toured Japan earlier this year and the Japanese men's team last competed in the Championships in 2015. Their participation in this years Championships continues the wonderful relationship between Japan and Australia.

For fixtures and results go to: <http://www.basketball.net.au/championships/u20-champs/>

2017 National Futsal Championships



The 2017 National Futsal Championships will be held at Valentine Park in Sydney from 3 to 8 January.

Six teams from Football NSW's Metro Thunder and Metro Lightning, Football Federation South Australia, Football ACT, Queensland Metro, and NHC Tasmania will contest the Championships won last year by Queensland Metro.

To keep up to date with fixtures and results visit: www.nationalfutsalchampionships.com.au

Good luck to all players

2017 National Cricket Inclusion Championships

The National Cricket Inclusion Championships will be held in Geelong from 17 to 20 January. The Inclusion Championships are for visually impaired, hearing impaired and players with an intellectual disability.

Australian Captain **Gavan Hicks** (VIC) attended the launch of the Championships along with Australian team captains for the visually and hearing impaired teams and Nathan Lyon.



Nathan Lyon with (from left) Kym Daley (deaf team captain), **Gavan Hicks** (team for players with an intellectual disability captain) and blind cricketer Matthew Cameron. Picture: Brett Costello

Teams from VIC, SA, QLD, TAS, NSW and WA will contest the Championships which run from 17 to 21 January at Grounds around Geelong.

For more information visit www.ncic.cricket.com.au



2017 Australia Tennis Championships

Record fields and the Worlds best players will contest the 2017 Australian Tennis Championships at Albert Park Reserve and Melbourne Park from 25 to 28 January.

A total of 47 players (35 men and 12 women) will contest the Championships which are run over 4 days. Preliminary rounds are held at Albert Park Reserve with Finals of the singles and doubles at Melbourne Park on Saturday 28 January.

There will be a strong International flavour this year with 5 men from Great Britain and 1 from Japan taking part. Great Britain will be led by former World Number 1 **Fabrice Higgins**, while Japan's sole representative **Taro Matsutani** is their National Champion.

Australia's World Number 1 **Archie Graham** (QLD) took the number 1 ranking from Higgins when he won the 2015 INAS Global Games in Ecuador in 2015. It was a lengthy battle between the two players with Graham winning 7-6, 4-6, 10-8 after Higgins defeated Graham 6-4 in the earlier rounds. Graham defended his World ranking when he won the 2016 INAS World Tennis Championships in the USA.

There is plenty of tennis to be played by both players in a field that includes 6 players currently or previously ranked in the Top 10 in the World: 3. **Mitchell James** (QLD), 5. **Damian Phillips** (NSW), 7. **Joshua Holloway** (QLD) and former number 4. **Dominic Iannotti** (GB).

Our largest field of 12 will contest the Women's Championship which sees World number 2 and defending National Champion **Kelly Wren** going for her 20th consecutive title.

If you are in Melbourne thru January, get down to Albert Park Reserve (25-27 Jan) and or Melbourne Park (28 Jan) to support our players and watch some outstanding tennis and sportsmanship.



Congratulations to Queensland's **Mitchell James** and NSW's **Damian Phillips** on being finalists in the Most outstanding Player with a disability category at the 2016 Australian Tennis Awards. It was always going to be a tough ask for our players being up against Newcombe medal winner Dylan Allcott, but it was great to see them recognised amongst the tennis family.

Brisbane International – Player for a Day

A great initiative by Tennis Queensland (in its third year now) – “Player for a Day” will see 8 players with a disability rewarded for their dedication to training and participation in tournaments with the “player for a day” experience at the Brisbane International.

Players will enjoy the following experience:

- Tour with the Brisbane International operations team ;
- Meet and Greet a Pro;
- Practise on the outside courts next to where the pros are warming up;
- Showcase on Pat Rafter Arena (between matches 2 & 3 in front of a packed stadium);
- A Gift from Brisbane International; and
- 2 Ground Passes for Parents/Guardians



The day is scheduled for Wednesday 4th January 2017.

Players for a Day will be: Archie Graham, Mitchell James, Yasmin Sanders, Breanna Tunney, Maddison Wall, Ryan Spinks, Christian Hauser, and Alex Baker.

Organising the day will be Tyson Thompson & Jenni Hakl of Tennis Queensland and Alison Scott as liaison and coach.

Pearls tour of Japan 3-11 August 2016

This year the Australian Pearls travelled to Japan for a series of Friendly games.

The journey to Japan was quite long for some of us as we decided to all meet in Sydney and travel from there as one group – it ended up taking us 24 hours to get to Tokyo. We then spent a full day on the bus travelling to Matsumoto. There was a long delay on the only road through the mountains – so our planned 3 hour journey took close to 8 hours.

We stayed in a nice hotel and began our short week of training and games. The weather was very warm for the whole time we were there.

The stadium was very nice with 4 courts. We quickly learned the process of taking off our outside shoes before entering anywhere and managed to pick up a few Japanese phrases – it’s always good to be able to say “please”, “thank you” and “Good morning / Good bye”.

Our first game was against a mainstream high school team – they were very fast and tough. After our long flight and extended bus travel, we were not at our best, but it was great to get on the court and see how tough the Japanese players were.

The next two days were for Japan's National tournament (like our Ivor Burge), so they had many teams coming from all over their country. To include us, and to allow lots of girls to have the chance to play against the Australian team, we played a series of 10 minute games against each of the losing teams. They conducted a round robin format with knock out games – so we ended up playing against 8 different teams. This was lots of fun and although they were not the strongest of competitors they all wanted to try hard against the Aussies. We'd taken lots of giveaways, which the Japanese teams loved to receive – there were many fun and happy snaps taken off court.

Our final day of basketball in Japan was held at a high school where we played against the Japanese National team (although they seemed to have about 15 players). This was an excellent game pitting the physicality and speed of the Japanese against the structure, height and discipline of the Australian Pearls. The Pearls won 54 – 41.



Australian Pearls – 2016 Team:

Eliza Mills (NSW), Molly Urquhart-Moran (VIC), Kim Perry (NSW), Kaitlyn Papworth (VIC), Brittany Anderson (ACT), Amy Howard (SA), Taylor Anderson (ACT), Kate Leckenby (VIC), Sam Williver (VIC), Evie Patterson (VIC).

Special mention to the staff of the Australian Pearls:

Larry Davidson – Head Coach of this team and the amazing women who make it up, for over 20 years.

Jo Larkin – who has been a dedicated Assistant coach for over 10 years.

Sally Duncan – who has loved managing these young women since 1999 (over 18 years).

David Taylor - Medical support for the girls on and off the court for the second time - Bringing such excellent advice and treatment.



We finished off the tour with 2 days in Tokyo for sight seeing and shopping – it was hot and crowded but we had a very enjoyable time. Many thanks as always to Basketball Australia and Sports Inclusion Australia for all of the assistance you provide especially prior to our trips when there is so much work to be done.

Thanks to **Simon Robinson** for having the idea for this trip and for all his work in making it happen, and for his Japanese language skills which helped us out many times.

And huge thanks to **Hamish** (our only travelling parent for this trip) who was always helpful and happy, and who took brilliant photos of our amazing Pearls.

As the current World Champions and Global Games Champions, the Australian women's basketball players are keen to compete in 2017.

New Arrival



Congratulations to Sport Inclusion Australia's Jenny Leach and Adam on the arrival of little Henry. The Sport Inclusion Australia Board, Staff and the many athletes you have supported over many years wish you the very best in this new venture.

Member Organisations Updates



As the Christmas holiday season approaches, the Sport & Community Development team at Inclusion WA would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the communities we have worked with throughout 2016.

It has been a very busy year working with communities from Port Hedland to Esperance and all those in between. We are extremely proud of the many positive outcomes we have been involved with in these communities.

To summarise our 2016, we just wanted to share a few of our key achievements with you.

- We have supported 192 volunteers state-wide to contribute 3,209 hours to sport and recreation. This totals \$88,000 of value into the Sport & Recreation industry.
- We have worked with 493 clubs and groups
- Supported 17 local governments throughout Western Australia to develop inclusive practices
- We have delivered social inclusion training to over 1,560 people
- We have recorded over 4,750 attendances at events and community initiatives supported by Inclusion WA

- We were nominated as finalists in two categories of the Community Services Excellence Awards (CSEA): Outstanding Commitment to Citizenship Empowerment and Local Government and Community Services Collaboration.
- We won the category of Community Event of the Year at the Department of Sport & Recreation Industry Awards for our partnership with the City of Bayswater and the popular 'Have a Go Day' event.

We would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of the sporting clubs, community groups, service providers, local government authorities and individuals who have played a role in our 2016 journey.

Our office will be closed from Thursday 22nd of December and will reopen on the 3rd of January 2017.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to sharing our exciting plans for the new year with you in the coming months... watch this space!

The impact of inclusion – Stories of two Mitchells



Mitchell Kilduff had been having a tough few months, with a few disappointments, his self esteem was low.

Mitchell enrolled in a 3 day course to become a Pool Life Guard. Those 3 days were so intensive, 8 hours a day. Too much for an Autistic boy like Mitch. He nearly passed, but not quite. Another disappointment and blow to his self esteem.

Mitchell's Grandmother contacted the Royal Life Saving Co-ordinator Braden, who wanted to help and said that Mitch could split the course up.

So off they went with fingers crossed, and a heavy heart.

Greeted by Penny, Lauren and Jim, they spoke about what Mitch could expect. Then the Magic began. Mitch had his eyes jammed shut, Lauren continued and all the "can't do" disappeared.

Magic and his shut memory returned, Lauren was at war for him to learn, he was inspired and joined in. I could not believe what I was witnessing. then Jim took over for the breathing equipment, he did not allow any hesitation, but gathered Mitch's ability and swept any doubts away.

These two Instructors, ignored his Autism and replaced it with the excitement of learning HIS WAY.

A wonderful transformation took place in Mitchell and his Self Esteem.

Thank you all.

Mitch and Gran Betty

The impact of inclusion – Stories of two Mitchells cont'd

Mitchell James - Tennis

As proud parents on this International Day of Persons with a Disability we would like to acknowledge the organizations that have created the pathways of inclusion in sport for our son Mitchell James.

Mitch started playing tennis at the age of 5 to help with his coordination. He grew to love all sports but struggled for many years to be included in any mainstream competition. He was introduced to Special Olympics in 2007, and he found a level of support that embraced his abilities and a new mateship with other athletes who he could relate too. He went on to compete in regional, state, national and international competitions in both cricket and tennis.



*Mitchell James with Dylan Alcott
at the Newcombe Awards*

In 2009 Mitchell joined Sport Inclusion Australia (formerly AUSRAPID) and with their support and work with Tennis Australia, he has competed on a state level and at the Australian Tennis Championships every year since. During this time he has experienced inclusion, support, acceptance, friendship and competition at an elite level. We have watched his confidence grow as he met new friends and finally found somewhere where he felt he fitted in.

Mitch's dedication to training and competition success has seen him proudly represent Australia in two INAS World Championships and one INAS Global Games. INAS is The International Assoc of Sport for para-athletes with an intellectual disability. They manage elite competition and promote inclusion worldwide.

With the support of Tennis Qld, Mitchell completed his Level 1 Coaching course and works part time. He has received acknowledgement of his achievements by being awarded the Tennis Qld Most Outstanding Athlete with a Disability award and most recently being a finalist in the same category at the Newcombe Medal Awards.

Our thanks go to Lifestream Qld and Sport Inclusion Australia for their continued support and drive for inclusion in sport and their efforts for athletes with an Intellectual Disability to be accepted and included by national sporting organisations. Hopefully we will one day see more ID athletes included in the Paralympics.

Thanks also to Tennis Qld and Tennis Australia for their support and acknowledgement. In closing we cannot recommend highly enough the advantages that sport has brought to Mitchell's life and the friendships, confidence and opportunities to travel that he has obtained.

Allan and Debbie James

(taken from Mitchell James Facebook page with permission)

More Events



NGA Brisbane Grants and Scholarship Program

<http://www.inasglobalgames.org/nextgenathlete/>



INAS Global Games
BRISBANE 2019

Inas Global Games 2019 Sport Ambassadors Daniel Fox and Todd Hodgetts check out the athletics and swimming venues for the Brisbane 2019 Games



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INAS Global Games
BRISBANE 2019



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A Case for Change



It's amazing how far Australian women in sport have come. But we're still far from fair. Now is the time to change that.

Just like Mel Jones helped change the minds of our classroom of kids, we can all work together to bring about equality sooner.

To see more visit <http://www.changeourgame.vic.gov.au/article-change-our-game>

An initiative of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services

Do you have some interesting or upcoming news or events that you would like featured in the next Sport Inclusion Newsletter then please send us your stories and photos. 📷
Send to: mail@sportinclusionaustralia.org.au
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