

E-news

In this edition of E-News we look at the Office for the Community Sector which has been created by the State Government within the Department of Planning and Community Development. The creation of the office is one of the main action items to come from the Strengthening Community Organisations Project (SCOP) action plan. The office aims to work across government in order to strengthen the support provided to community groups.

Also included within this e-news is important information regarding sporting events scheduled for ANZAC Day in 2009. This year ANZAC Day falls on a Saturday (25/4) and there are important considerations which must be taken into account from sporting organisations scheduling events and owners of sporting facilities.

Other information included in this Enews;

- Office for the Community Sector has a new website
- New High Court Ruling creates new precedent for Sporting Organisations
- 2008 Active At All Ages Awards
- International Day of Disability was on 3rd of December
- Melbourne Continues to Dance with the World's Stars
- Volunteering for the Australian Women's Open
- Cricket Victoria Grants Program is currently open
- Important Grant Websites
- Good Sports Awards
- Information for playing sport on Anzac Day

Enews is also available on our website at www.vicsport.asn.au,

Please contact Jennifer on jenniferm@vicsport.asn.au or 9926 1376 if you would like to include any information in future E-news or if you would like more information from this E-news.

SportsView can now be downloaded from the VicSport website! Please visit www.vicsport.asn.au and go to the SportsView page.

*Kind Regards
Jennifer Matthies*

Office for the Community Sector has a new website

Community organisations are an important part of our state. They deliver valuable services to individuals and the community, provide opportunities for social and economic participation, and are central to developing strong communities. So this year the Office for the Community Sector has been created which will work across government to strengthen the support provided to community groups.

The Office for the Community Sector is one of the outcomes of the Government's Strengthening Community Organisations Project (SCOP), and has been established to work closely with the community sector to implement key actions within the action plan such as;

- Reducing the administrative burden faced by community and not for profit organisations
- Promoting innovation and efficiency in the provision of services
- Establishing a clear base of information and evidence for future decision – making
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination across the Victorian Government; and
- Working across other levels of government to achieve better outcomes

The Office has been established within the Department of Planning and Community Development to implement the [Victorian Government's Action Plan: Strengthening Community Organisations \(PDF 178 kb\)](#) (the Action Plan) or [\(Word version 243 kb\)](#).

The Office for the Community Sector is dedicated to strengthening the NFP community sector and will work closely with the sector to implement the Action Plan. The Office has established sector reference groups to provide advice and feedback on implementation of the actions.

To view The Office's website go to www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/communitysector

New High Court ruling creates new precedent for Sports Clubs

On the 3rd of December 2008, the High Court made a ruling in the case of Word Investments which has implications for Not-For Profit sporting groups. Effectively the ruling states that a company or organisation conducting a commercial business, for the intention of distributing the profits to a charity or NFP organisation, is tax exempt. In the case of Word Investments the organisation was a charity dedicated to translating bibles into different languages and derived income to fund this from commercial property development. The court ruled that the funds made from the property development were exempt from tax.

The implication is not onerous for sporting organisations given there is no change to the existing law however it does clarify the obligations of tax exempt/ non-reporting entities.

To view more information about this new ruling please click on the link below;
http://www.hcourt.gov.au/media/Commissioner_of_Taxation_v_Word_Investments.pdf

2008 Active At All Ages Awards

Do you know an older person who shows that age is definitely no barrier when it comes to involvement in sport or active recreation, either as a player/participant or perhaps as a volunteer? If so, consider nominating them for an 'Active At All Ages' Award.

Council on the Ageing's (COTA's) awards are open to people over 50 years of age who contribute as a participant or as a volunteer in the delivery of sporting opportunities for older people. There is also a category that recognises clubs, groups or organisations that provide opportunities for older people to be involved.

Nominations for the 2008 awards close Tuesday 23 December.
For further details see the Nomination Guidelines attached below.

International Day of People with Disability was on 3rd of December

On December 3, every year, International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) <http://www.idpwd.com.au/index.asp> is celebrated worldwide recognising the achievements and contributions of people with disability.

The Day brings together people with a disability and the general community and aims to:

- Showcase the skills, abilities, contributions, and achievements of people with disability
- Promote a positive body image of people with disability
- Involve people with disability and the broader community in activities to celebrate and raise awareness of the Day

To celebrate IDPwD there were a number of activities on in Melbourne and regional Victoria. The following links has a full list of events and activities

http://www.idpwd.com.au/calendar_events.asp?state=vic&archive=1&Year=2008

Melbourne Continues to Dance with World's Stars

The government has secured the Australian DanceSport Championships in Melbourne for the next four years and will host the Asia Pacific DanceSport Championship in December 2011.

The Asia Pacific DanceSport Championships will bring hundred of competitors from 15 countries to Melbourne and will be held along side the Australian DanceSport Championships, to create a festival of dance in December 2011.

Mr Merlino is also hoping to secure the World Standard (Ballroom) Championship for Melbourne in 2012. This event is the most recognised and the most established of the dancesport styles and attracts over 250 competitors from more than 50 countries as well as an exciting event to broadcast into key tourism markets internationally.

Volunteering for the Australian Women's Open

The Australian Women's Open is now looking for Volunteers to work at the Metropolitan Golf Club from the 12th to the 15th of February.

People can visit www.womensgolf.org.au to register online. The 2009 Australian Women's Open will run from Thursday 12 – Friday 15 February at the magnificent Metropolitan Golf Club.

For more information anyone interested can contact Louise MacDonald on 03 9524 7606 or volunteers@womensgolf.org.au

Cricket Victoria Grants Program is currently open

There are two grants available to Victorian Cricket Clubs and Associations

The Drought Response Grant and the General Facilities Grant

The purpose of these grants is to assist clubs and associations with the purchase and construction of infrastructure that will support the sustainable use of turf wickets and to improve and maintain the quality of practice and playing facilities.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE WEDNESDAY 11th OF FEBRUARY, 2008

For information on eligibility, criteria and applications, please visit <http://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/page/grants.html>

Important Grant Websites

The following websites have more information about available grants:

- For the latest state government grants in Victoria visit Grants at DPCD www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au
- For the latest federal government funding visit www.grantslink.gov.au
- For a guide to community grants for all states / territories, visit: www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/spgrants.htm
- Australia's only consolidated grants information service is the Easy grants newsletter. Subscribe at www.ourcommunity.com.au



ourcommunity.com.au
Funding, Giving & Help Online

Available on VicSport's website www.vicsport.asn.au is Our Community's newsletter for November.

Media Release

Attention News Editors / Sports Editors
December 2008

State Good Sports club of the year 2008

Now in the 4th year, the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) celebrated the achievements of two community sporting – Dalyston Football Netball club and Swan Hill Football Netball club at the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Oration on Tuesday 9 December at the State Library of Victoria. Each club was introduced to the audience and provided with details of some of the significant changes each club has made and how it has contributed towards creating family friendly environments for members and guests alike.

Award presentation –

2008 State Good Sports Club of the Year – Finalist – Dalyston Football Netball club. Changes made within the club includes –

- Development of good connections with local Police and is part of the local Liquor Accord;
- Shift from full strength to light as well as increase in demand for sports drinks;
- The club provides taxis and a bus service to and fro social events and a 'looking after your mates' philosophy to ensure whilst members have a good time they do so responsibly and get home safely;
- Juniors are now catered for with the introduction of underage teams – a strategy that has bought more families (and volunteers) to the club and an opportunity for senior players to play a mentoring role.

The club was presented its framed certificate and cheque for \$750 (to be used, according to the club, for a junior development scholarship commencing in 2009) by Senator the Hon Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing.

2008 State Good Sports Club of the Year – Swan Hill Football Netball club. Changes made within the club includes –

- Strict functions & bar guidelines in place including not permitting events to go too late; a painted 'red line' showing where alcohol can be consumed; and plenty of members (currently 35) RSA trained;
- Safe transport strategies in place that have seen a decrease in drink-driving by members following club events;
- Adoption of AFL Victoria's racial and vilification code – something the club reaffirms with its players annually;
- Family focused club including ladies day functions and child care services available;
- A confidential club contact for members with personal issues; and
- A truly integrated Football Netball club with one committee of management representing both sports.

The club was presented its framed certificate and cheque for \$1,000 by Senator the Hon Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing.

The Good Sports program aims to reduce alcohol related harms, increase the viability of sports clubs and improve the range and quality of sports options available in the community.

It is the first nationwide alcohol management program of its kind and was developed following research conducted by the ADF that showed by introducing responsible alcohol management policies, clubs were able to improve membership and enhance viability.

For further information about the Good Sports Awards or program, contact the State Good Sports Office on (03) 9278 8113 or visit the web site www.goodsports.com.au

Message ends.



SPORT ON ANZAC DAY

Attention is drawn to the provisions of Anzac Day Act 1958 which prohibits the playing of Sports on Anzac Day where an admission fee is charged or donation sought without the prior approval of the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs.

For the purposes of the Anzac Day Act, "sports" means bicycle races or foot races or cricket matches or football matches or any other game, exercise, pastime or contest of a kind usually conducted, carried on, contested or decided which are held on any ground or in any building *to which persons are admitted on payment of an admission fee or charge or after any donation has been sought from them* for the purpose of witnessing the same, but does not include horse races, trotting races or dog races.

The requirements of the Anzac Day Act, which must be observed, are outlined below:

Written approval of the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, is required for any sporting event to which an admission fee is charged or a donation sought.

No sporting event, where an admission fee is charged or a donation is sought, can commence before 1.00 p.m. on Anzac Day.

If other events eg junior matches are to take place before the main sporting event, for which the Minister's approval is being sought, then no fee or admission can be charged or donation sought for the main game until the other activities have concluded.

A portion of the net profit earned by a sporting event approved by the Minister needs to be paid into the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund, or another approved Patriotic Fund.

A detailed statement setting out all receipts and expenditures in connection with sporting events held on Anzac Day should be submitted to the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs within two months of Anzac Day.

If your Association/Club intends to conduct any matches in Melbourne within 50kms of the Melbourne G.P.O. on Anzac Day, it may wish to consult with the Returned Services League, Melbourne, on telephone number (03) 9655 5555 with a view to reaching agreement on the amount of donation which should be paid to the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund. If a country association/club wishes to conduct matches it should consult with the local R.S.L. Sub-Branch to determine the amount of the donation and the name of the Local Patriotic Fund to which the donation will be paid.

Associations or clubs should then apply to the Minister for his approval and include details in their application of the agreed donation and name of the Fund to which the donation will be paid.

Should you have any further enquires on this matter, please contact Sport and Recreation, Victoria on telephone (03) 9208 3422.



2008 *Active At All Ages* Awards

Aims:

1. To increase awareness of the range of sporting and active recreational activities in which older people participate
2. To recognise the contributions of older people as participants, role models and volunteers in sporting and active recreational activities
3. To recognise and promote good practice by sporting and active recreational clubs and groups in engaging older people.

How to nominate:

Complete the appropriate nomination form (see over for award categories and selection criteria). Nomination forms can be downloaded from http://www.cotavic.org.au/healthy_and_active_ageing.

Nominations must reach COTA by COB Tuesday 23 December 2008 either via email to activemanager@cotavic.org.au (include AAAA Awards in subject line) or by post to:

Active At All Ages Awards
COTA
4th Flr, Block Arcade
98 Elizabeth St
Melbourne VIC 3000

General Guidelines:

- The awards are open to all Victorian residents (individuals or teams) and clubs, groups and organizations who deliver activities in Victoria
- Nominations must be submitted on the appropriate form
- Only information included on the nomination form and in the supporting information will be considered by the selection committee
- Nominations must address the selection criteria
- Supporting information considered relevant to the nomination can be attached but should not exceed one A4 side
- Nominations that address the diversity of activities in which older people participate and the need to embrace that diversity are particularly encouraged.

Award Categories and Selection Criteria:

Individuals or teams (complete NOMINATION FORM 1)

- Individuals over 50 years of age, or teams in which all (or the majority of) members are all over 50 years of age
- Regular participants in at least one sport and/or active recreational activity and physically active
- Has been participating in their main sport and/or active recreational activity for at least one year/season
- Is a contributor and/or role model for other older people
- Need not be a member of a formal sporting club
- Need not be a 'high achiever' in competition.

Volunteers (complete NOMINATION FORM 2)

- Over 50 years of age
- Regularly contributes as a volunteer to the delivery of at least one sporting or active recreational opportunity for older people by a club, group (formal or informal) or organisation in any role or capacity (eg as a coordinator, office-bearer, official, coach)
- Has been doing so for at least one year/season.

Clubs, groups or organisations (complete NOMINATION FORM 3)

- Offers a sporting or active recreational opportunity specifically catering for people over 50 years of age
- Is implementing innovative strategies to engage and retain older participants and can demonstrate how these strategies have been effective
- Caters for the diversity of needs of older people within the community (eg culturally and linguistically diverse or indigenous people, disadvantaged or socially isolated people)
- Has been offering the opportunity for at least one year or season
- Demonstrates a commitment to ongoing support of activities for older people.

There may be more than one award recipient in each category.

Award presentations:

Awards will be presented at a special event to be conducted in Geelong on Friday 20 February 2009, prior to start of the 12th Australian Masters Games

For further information contact:

Stephanie Harper
Manager Physical Activity
COTA
Phone: 9655 2105
Email: activemanager@cotavic.org.au