

# DISABILITY SPORTS AUSTRALIA 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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## MESSAGE FROM SPORT AUSTRALIA

It has been a watershed year for the Australian Sports Commission. We've launched a new public-facing brand - Sport Australia - with a renewed vision for Australia to be the world's most active sporting nation, known for its integrity, sporting success and world-leading sports industry.

This aligns with the Australian Government's long-term vision for sport in this country, outlined in Sport 2030, released in August 2018 by Minister for Sport, Senator Bridget McKenzie. Sport Australia will be central to delivering the priorities outlined in this national sport plan.

At the fundamental level, Sport Australia's focus will be on getting Australians moving through sport and, more broadly, physical activity. We want to inspire and activating people across every age, race, gender, cultural background and physical ability. We will continue to build partnerships in the health and education sectors to ensure physical activity is a national priority.

We need to ensure sporting organisations are equipped to make the most of a renewed interest in physical activity, and so we will continue working with sports to improve the workforce capability, governance and partnerships. We want to help sports innovate, connect with existing and new participants in the digital era and provide products that meet current expectations.

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) is redefining its role too, leading a united and collaborative high-performance system for Australian sport. Success will be measured by Australians consistently winning medals at major international events, but also in the national pride and inspiration generated by our athletes.

Working in partnerships, the AIS will be focused on doing the big system-level things on the frontiers of ethical sporting performance that no other body is naturally positioned to do.

The AIS has launched a new Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement team, focused on supporting athletes to transition through their sporting careers and connect with their communities. We want sporting champions to be positive influences.

Australia enjoyed genuine sporting success in 2017-18. In challenging times, the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games helped restore Australia's faith in our sports and athletes.

Positions on the podium are wonderful to celebrate, but the narrative is incomplete without humility, generosity of spirit, confidence in what our athletes stand for and how they carry themselves. At the Gold Coast Games, we saw the very best in our athletes, and this display of spirit and integrity is sure to give them the best start to their preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We also had some outstanding performances at the PyeongChang Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. Australia equaled its most successful Winter Olympics haul of three medals in PyeongChang, two silvers and one bronze medal matching the result in Sochi 2014. It was also our best result at a Paralympic Winter Games in 16 years.

Sport integrity has justifiably gained additional focus in the past year and is a very important priority for Sport Australia and for Australian sport more generally. We, and everyone involved in sport, owe it to the athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, fans and the public at large to ensure that Australian sport is fair and clean, and is seen to be fair and clean.

We thank all of our partners – including athletes, coaches, board members and administrators – for your effort and contribution to Australian sport, and your enthusiasm for building a more active Australia. We look forward to continued success and progress together.

#### John Wylie AM

Chair Sport Australia

# **MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON**

I am honoured to be the Inaugural Patron of Disability Sports Australia (DSA).

It is my belief that sport and active recreation should be accessible to all Australians, and DSA's programs and development activities are vital in helping people with a physical disability to develop and engage with the community through sports participation and recreational opportunities, from the grass roots to national level.

As a former Federal Minister for Family Services with responsibility for Disabilities; Minister for Sport; Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the 2000 Olympics; and Chairman of the Australian Sports Commission, I have a deep appreciation of the important role sport can play in people's lives – particularly those with a disability.

This year, DSA was the Host Organisation for the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship (2018 WRWC).

Prior to the event, I was pleased to attend a Welcome Reception with team representatives at NSW Government House hosted by the Governor of NSW as 2018 WRWC Patron.

I was proud to welcome His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC, Governor-General of Australia and Lady Cosgrove along with His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC, Governor of NSW and Mrs Hurley to the Opening Ceremony and Opening Match of the 2018 WRWC.

As Patron, it is my desire to see the DSA Board and Executive achieve their Mission of "Changing Lives Through Sport" and I am pleased to be an ambassador to assist in raising awareness and much needed funding.

I enjoy my association with DSA and am pleased to see the enthusiasm the community, executive and government has in support of the programmes and initiatives that benefit athletes towards a common purpose to help them realise their dreams and their future.

The Hon Warwick L Smith AM Patron

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Psychical activity and participation in sport can change lives. This simple statement drives our enthusiasm at Disability Sports Australia (DSA) to make a difference in the community.

The social, physical, mental and health benefits of being active are well documented and DSA's mission is to help people with a physical disability to develop and engage with the community through sports participation and recreational opportunities.

The past year has been challenging as DSA delivered the GIO 2018 IWFR Wheelchair Rugby World Championships in Sydney from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> August, as well as our full program on national events. It has also been rewarding to see athletes provided with world class competition and spectators the opportunity to see the best our sports can offer.

The quality of these events would not be possible without the dedication of our small but incredibly committed team of employees at DSA. They achieve incredible results with their skills and "can do" attitude. The Board and I thank them and the hundreds of volunteers involved in our programs for everything they have achieved over the past year.

I would also like to thank the Australian Sports Commission and GIO for their incredible support, it goes without saying that we would not be able to deliver such an ambitious plan without their support.

DSA was also proud to play an important role in delivering the Invictus Games in 2018. Our specialization in organizing and delivering Wheelchair Rugby and Sitting Volleyball was utilized by the Invictus Games organising committee and the games and these events were a spectacular success.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board members who volunteer of their time and skill to ensure DSA is a well-run organisation and has a clear vision and strategy for the future.

Through DSA, you are all actively and directly involved in changing lives through sport.

John Croll

Chair

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION

#### 1. Our Vision

Sport and active recreation for all Australians with a disability

#### 2. Our Mission

We provide leadership in sport and help people with a disability to get involved in sport and active recreation.

#### 3. Primary Purposes

Our primary purpose is to increase participation of people with a physical disability in sport and active recreation by:

- 3.1. Providing leadership in sport and active recreation for people with a physical disability
- 3.2. Promoting the benefits of sport for people with a disability to government, lead agencies, sporting organisations and the community
- 3.3. Performing the role of national coordinating body, providing a single point of contact between partner organisations (e.g. ASC, APC, NSO's) and our state and territory members (e.g. Wheelchair Sports NSW)\
- 3.4. Being the National Sporting Organisation managing the Wheelchair Rugby National Program and Pathways in Australia, including providing opportunities for the development of athletes, coaches and sports officials from grassroots through to elite level.
- 3.5. Supporting our partner organisations in the provision of sport and active recreation opportunities for people with a disability throughout Australia.

#### 4. Objectives

- 4.1. Growth to measure and increase participation of people with a physical disability of all ages in sport and active recreation
- 4.2. Engaged Stakeholders to engage with key stakeholders to build collaboration to deliver on our primary purposes
- 4.3. One Voice to provide one strong national brand and voice for members
- 4.4. Effective Partnerships to work collaboratively with:
  - 4.4.1. Our members, the APC and IWRF on developing Wheelchair Rugby pathways and competition in Australia and the Asia Oceania zone,
  - 4.4.2. Other organisations (e.g NSO's, Department of Defence) to increase the choices in sport and active recreation for people with a disability
- 4.5. Development Framework to establish a framework to deliver sporting opportunities for people with a disability from grassroots to elite levels in Australia
- 4.6. Sustainable and increased revenue to generate increased revenue and build an effective organisational structure to deliver effective services and programs into the future

# **SPORT AND EVENTS**

Sport Australia's *Sport 2030* Plan aims to encourage and support all Australians to become more active – particularly people who aren't active enough.

Through innovation and partnership, Disability Sports Australia seeks to grow and increase the range of choices for people with a disability to get involved with sport and active recreation, leading to greater engagement and enjoyment of being active.

DSA will initiate new sport and recreation opportunities for people with a disability and support its growth and development through to either effective mainstreaming or sustainable delivery of the sport through another organisation where possible.

The Australian Government is promoting Australia as a host of choice for major international sporting events.

DSA's management and involvement in domestic and international events are strategically utilised to:

- provide a competition pathway for wheelchair rugby and incubator sports;
- provide opportunities for all participants across the pathway including elite development; and.
- grow awareness and partnerships to support ongoing development of the sport.

Following is an overview of DSA's involvement with sports and events throughout 2018.

# WHEELCHAIR RUGBY AUSTRALIA

#### **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY IN 2018**

2018 was a milestone year for wheelchair rugby in Australia. Building on the success of the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship Official Test Event and the 2017 GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Championship held in August 2017, Wheelchair Rugby Australia, on behalf of Disability Sports Australia, looked to 2018 as a year of increasing awareness, and building development and participation in Australia.

#### **Domestic**

In October, the GIO 2018 Wheelchair Rugby National Championship was held in Penrith, New South Wales. The event saw three representative state teams and an invited guest team, the Australian Invictus Wheelchair Rugby Team, compete over three hard-hitting days. More about the event is shown later in this Annual Report.

In 2019, Wheelchair Rugby Australia will seek to develop current state programs whilst also fostering participation in less developed states such as Western Australia and South Australia, with the aim of increasing participation at national level tournaments.

#### International

Hosting the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship (2018 IWRF WRWC) in Sydney placed wheelchair rugby in the global spotlight and introduced a plethora of new spectators in Australia to the sport. The event is reported separately in more detail in this Annual Report. In a thrilling gold medal match, Japan narrowly edged out Australia to secure the World Championship in a 62 - 61 score line. As noted by event Technical Delegate, Tim Johnson, the final of the GIO 2018 IWRF WRWC "proved to me that wheelchair rugby is one of the most exciting sports to be involved in..... in any capacity."

Internationally, teams set their focus on their respective IWRF Zonal Championships and, for qualified nations, the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Following the success of the 2018 IWRF WRWC, wheelchair rugby was again put on show for the Australian public during the Invictus Games 2018. Although a variation of the sport was played, wheelchair rugby proved to be the hot ticket of the event with the finals being the first session to sell out. The Invictus Games was able to bring wheelchair rugby to a new audience domestically and Wheelchair Rugby Australia will look to leverage off this success in developing wheelchair rugby in the future.

At the 2018 IWRF General Assembly, held at the conclusion of the 2018 IWRF WRWC, DSA Deputy Chair and 2018 IWRF WRWC Organising Committee Chair, Mr Steve Loader, was appointed as Member at Large on the Board of the IWRF.

## **AUSTRALIAN WHEELCHAIR RUGBY TEAM**

The Australian Wheelchair Rugby Team, the Steelers, continued to grow from their successes at the 2014 IWRF World Championship in Denmark and the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio leading into the World Championship in August 2018. The Steelers are currently managed by the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) with funding through the Sport Australia's Winning Edge program.

At the 2018 World Championship, the Steelers, led by Head Coach, Brad Dubberley, and Captain, Ryley Batt, were undefeated through their Pool A matches, quarter final and semi-final. In what was dubbed the "best final in Wheelchair Rugby World Championship history", Australia was narrowly defeated by Japan, 62 - 61.

2018 Australian Team (for the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship)

- Ryley Batt (3.5)
- Chris Bond (3.5)
- Jayden Warn (3.0)
- Andrew Edmondson (2.0)
- Andrew Harrison (2.0)
- Josh Nicholson (2.0)
- Jason Lees (1.0)
- Jake Howe (1.0)
- Ben Fawcett (0.5)
- Michael Ozanne (0.5)
- Ryan Scott (0.5)

The 2018 World Champions (Japan) automatically qualify for the 2020 Paralympic Games however, as they are the Host Nation, that qualifying place is passed on to the silver medallists, Australia, enabling them to defend their Paralympic gold medals won in 2012 and 2016.

The Steelers have several international competitions in the lead up to the 2020 Paralympic Games including the Four Nations Tournament in the USA and the 2019 Asia Oceania Zonal Championship in Korea.

Disability Sports Australia looks forward to working collaboratively with the APC to develop strong and sustainable pathways for wheelchair rugby in Australia to ensure the continued success of the national team.

# 2018 GIO WHEELCHAIR RUGBY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

On 5 - 7 October 2018, the GIO NSW Gladiators, Suncorp QLD Cyclones, Victoria Protect Thunder and the Australian Invictus Wheelchair Rugby Team (as an exhibition team) met at Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre for the National Championship in three hard-hitting days of the best wheelchair rugby Australia has to offer.

The Australian Invictus team showed their strength and the benefits of several team training sessions, remaining undefeated in their matches. This event was their final tournament prior to competing in the Invictus Games 2018. As Invictus team members were not classified under IWRF rules, they were not eligible to compete in the final.

Ultimately, the Suncorp QLD Cyclones were able to learn from their bronze medal performance in the 2017 Nationals and secured the gold medal in the fourth quarter of the 48 – 44 final, defeating Victoria Protect Thunder. The GIO NSW Gladiators rounded out the podium clinching the bronze medal. DSA would like to offer congratulations to the participating teams and the 2018 GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Champions, the Suncorp QLD Cyclones.

All matches in the 2018 Nationals were live streamed via Facebook and the Wheelchair Rugby Australia website – with the Wheelchair Rugby Australia website receiving 26% of its total annual visits over the course of the event. Additionally, 46% of the total Facebook views for Wheelchair Rugby Australia were immediately prior, during and post the 2018 Nationals.

This event would not have been made possible with the continued support of Naming Rights sponsor, GIO, who continue to champion wheelchair rugby in Australia and provide all athletes an opportunity to participate. The 2018 GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Championship would not have been a success with the support of the 30-person volunteer workforce and the ongoing support of BLive Streaming, Tom Brassil, Australian Defence Force, Rugby Australia, SG Fleet, Eventeamwork, ISC and the International Day of People with a Disability.

## **OFFICIALS' DEVELOPMENT**

#### Referees

At the 2018 GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Championship, three potential referees sat their National C Badge exam. Two of the potential referees will still need to be evaluated in a full competition match. The third, Peta Haynes from NSW, was awarded her National C Badge. Wheelchair Rugby Australia and Disability Sports Australia congratulate Peta on her appointment.

Wheelchair Rugby Australia will continue to develop referees' and officials' pathways during 2019 and help provide as many opportunities to officiate as possible throughout the year.

#### **Score Bench**

Lead by Head Table Official, Michelle Nicholas, the national score bench officials' database continues to grow. With 16 Australian officials participating as National Technical Officials at the GIO 2018 IWRF WRWC, the score bench officials were able to gain significant experience in their roles at a world-class event. With a core base in NSW, Wheelchair Rugby Australia will look at pathways and initiatives for developing national level bench officials throughout the country.

# AUSTRALIAN INVICTUS WHEELCHAIR RUGBY TEAM

To assist in their preparation, the Australian Invictus Wheelchair Rugby team (the 'Wheeling Diggers'), participated in a number of state and national level wheelchair rugby events. In early to mid-2018, DSA member organisations, Rebound WA and Wheelchair Sports NSW, invited the Australian Invictus team to participate in state-based tournaments and 'bashes'. This training was invaluable to the team in the lead up to Invictus Games 2018.

As a final step in preparation, the Australian Invictus team was invited to participate as an exhibition team in the GIO 2018 Wheelchair Rugby National Championship, two weeks before the commencement of Invictus Games 2018. Though not eligible to win the National Championship, the team were able to play a number of matches against the best three teams in Australia. Team Manager, WO Andrew Bertoncin OAM, noted that throughout the Australian Invictus teams' participation in both the state and national tournaments they "....were welcomed, encouraged and held to account to play the game with the shape it demands and, importantly, with the passion that is required."

Ultimately, the training and competition paid off with the Wheeling Diggers claiming victory at Invictus Games 2018, defeating the United Kingdom in the final by 23 – 17. Disability Sports Australia is proud to have supported the Wheeling Diggers in their path to success and congratulates the team on their result.

# GIO 2018 IWRF WHEELCHAIR RUGBY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship (2018 IWRF WRWC) was held in Sydney Olympic Park from 5 – 10 August 2018. Disability Sports Australia, as the Local Organising Committee for the 2018 IWRF WRWC, worked with the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF) to plan and deliver the event.

The IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship is held every four years in a different city around the world and, in 2018, it was the first time the event had been held in Australia.

The 2018 IWRF WRWC saw the world's best twelve (12) nations compete for the title of World Champion. Competing nations were: Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, and USA.

Over the six (6) days of competition, the world's best nations battled it out on the field in the most competitive Championship to date. The 2018 IWRF WRWC concluded on Friday, 10 August with Japan winning their first Wheelchair Rugby World Championship title by narrowly defeating defending champions, Australia, in the gold medal game (62 - 61) in what was dubbed the "best final we have ever seen at a World Championship" by IWRF President, John Bishop.

Disability Sports Australia and the 2018 IWRF WRWC Organising Committee, as event hosts, were responsible for the planning and delivery of the event, including: event operations, sport operations, marketing and media, sponsorship, filming and production, international relations, digital and design, workforce and medical.

DSA's objectives in electing to host the World Championship was to provide a high quality international standard sporting event that showcased the sport of wheelchair rugby to participants and spectators, the Australian public and the world, and to provide the Australian Steelers a platform to defend their World Championship title on home soil.

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales served at the Vice Regal Patron of the 2018 IWRF WRWC.

The 2018 IWRF WRWC saw over 5,000 spectators attend the event including over 1,500 school children who attended as part of the official Schools Program that was run by DSA member organisation, Wheelchair Sports NSW.

As a way of increasing the reach of the event, and making footage available to those who were unable to attend, all matches were live streamed to five (5) Facebook sites – in addition to the live stream via the official event website.

The 2018 IWRF WRWC gained significant media traction throughout the event. Over 390 million people were reached during the event with all media reach platforms equating to AUD 4.09 million in editorial value. Domestically, there were 1,042 media hits across multiple platforms, including both radio and editorial.

In addition to DSA staff, the 2018 IWRF WRWC would not have been possible without the commitment and willingness of over 190 civilian volunteers and 49 Royal Australian Navy (RAN) personnel. Eventeamwork were responsible for planning and delivering the workforce program for the 2018 IWRF WRWC. The volunteer feedback survey indicated that over 65% of volunteers would rate their overall experience at the 2018 IWRF WRWC as "very good" and 96.1% would volunteer for DSA again. The volunteer program will be one of the key lasting legacy pieces for DSA moving forward.

Integral to the successful delivery of the event was the support provided by our event sponsors, partners and supporters.

#### **Host Organisation**



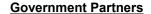
#### Naming Rights Sponsor



#### **Major Sponsors**













#### **Supporters**









#### **IWRF Official Ball**



#### **Suppliers**



























The 2018 IWRF WRWC was *the* significant milestone in the 2018 DSA calendar. DSA, in conjunction with our valued event partners, is committed to leveraging the success of the 2018 IWRF WRWC to continue to deliver world-class sporting events to Australian and international audiences.



#### From the 2018 IWRF WRWC Organising Committee

For Disability Sports Australia, 2018 was dominated by hosting the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship (2018 IWRF WRWC).

As Host Organisation, DSA was responsible for delivering the event for the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF).

Thanks to the generous support of our event sponsors, partners, supporters and suppliers, we were able to provide an outstanding World Championship that was well attended with incredible contests amongst the twelve competing nations.

The Gold Medal match was contested between Australian and Japan with the defending champions going down in an extremely close game by one try to the new World Champions, Japan. This was an exciting result for Japan as they prepare for their 'local' Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The Bronze Medal match between the U.S.A. and Great Britain was a tough contest and resulted in the U.S.A. gaining third place.

Congratulations and thank you to all teams who competed - particularly to Ireland and Colombia who had qualified to compete in their first ever World Championship.

Thank you in particular to:

- GIO Naming Rights sponsor;
- Citi Major Sponsor;
- Land Rover Major Sponsor;
- Australian Government Government Partner;
- NSW Government and the NSW Office of Sport Government Partner.

Thank you to our event supporters: the Australian Defence Force (Royal Australian Navy), Rugby Australia and Wheelchair Sports NSW and to the vast number of volunteers that made the event possible.

Thank you to the 2018 WRWC Organising Committee for their time and efforts: Jenni Cole, Mark Condon, Daryl Kerry, Kevin Reinert, Craig Sheridan APM and John Trevillian AM – and thanks also to Matt Kayrooz (a true 'champion' of wheelchair rugby in Australia), Karen McBrien and Tracy Weller-McCormack for their initial assistance.

#### Steve Loader

Chair, 2018 IWRF WRWC Organising Committee
Deputy Chair, Disability Sports Australia
Board Member, International Wheelchair Rugby Federation



# **2018 IWRF**WHEELCHAIR RUGBY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

OVER 300,000 ENGAGED LIVE STREAM VIEWS

AUD4.09 MILLION IN EDITORIAL VALUE

REACH OF 394.5 MILLION PEOPLE

1,042 MEDIA HITS ACROSS MULTIPLE PLATFORMS

96% OF VOLUNTEERS WOULD VOLUNTEER FOR DSA AGAIN

"Rarely have I seen a team work with such focus, effort and genuine passion when delivering an event / tournament. Because of their commitment, they made it possible for everyone to achieve great outcomes."

**Gary Lowe** 

"This competition was, in my opinion, the most competitive I have witnessed in all my experience as an athlete and spectator."

Tim Johnson (Technical Delegate)

# WHEELCHAIR AUSSIE RULES

# 2018 WHEELCHAIR AUSSIE RULES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

From 21 – 23 March, the 2018 Wheelchair Aussie Rules National Championship was held at Casey Stadium, Cranbourne East, Victoria. Proudly hosted by DSA along with the Australian Football League (AFL) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF), six teams competed for the title of 2018 National Champion. Competing teams included state teams from South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria as well as two ADF teams and a NSW team from RSL Active.

For the third year in a row, South Australia took home the title of Wheelchair Aussie Rules National Champion with a convincing win over runners-up, Tasmania, 21.7 (133) – 14.2 (86). Victoria were able to secure the bronze medal, edging out the ADF team, 7.11 (53) – 4.5 (29).

South Australian centre, Matthew Gregory, was awarded the Most Valuable Player of the Championship and Tasmanian, Joe Chivers, won the Spirit of the Game Award.

DSA would like to thank the AFL and for their continuing support of wheelchair aussie rules as well as the staff at Casey Stadium for their generous assistance.

#### VICTORIAN WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The inaugural season of the Robert Rose Foundation Victorian Wheelchair Football League (VWFL) kicked off in 2018. The five-team competition saw teams representing Victorian Football League (VFL) clubs: Collingwood, Essendon, Hawthorn, Richmond and St Kilda. Team competed in the ten (10) round competition, culminating with a Grand Final on Sunday, 2 September 2018.

AFL Victoria is responsible for governing the sport in Victoria, with DSA member organisation, Disability Sport & Recreation Victoria (DSR) managing the day-to-day functions regarding teams and players.

The inaugural season doubled the active participation in wheelchair aussie rules in Victoria, with many further expressions of interest to play forthcoming during the season.

DSA would like to congratulate DSR and AFL Victoria for the incredible success of the VWFL. As a result of this success, the model of the VWVFL and key learnings from the inaugural season will be paramount in developing the sport throughout the rest of Australia in the future.

#### WHEELCHAIR AUSSIE RULES COMMITTEE

In March 2018, the DSA Wheelchair Aussie Rules Committee was established to provide leadership and propose development strategies for the growth of the sport. The key goals of the Committee are to:

- Develop strategies for the future growth and development of wheelchair aussie rules;
- Set future goals for wheelchair aussie rules;
- Initiate the development of annual activities to promote the growth and increase the profile of wheelchair aussie rules;
- Work with key partners to further the aims of the DSA Wheelchair Aussie Rules Committee;

• Recommend changes and updates to the rules, policies and procedures for wheelchair aussie rules.

Thank you to the members of the DSA Wheelchair Aussie Rules Committee:

- Kevin Faulkner (Chairman) Founder of wheelchair Aussie rules
- Jenni Cole CEO, DSA
- Tim Nield Inclusion (All Abilities) Manager, AFL
- Major General Matthew Hall AM CSC Chairman, ADF Aussie Rules
- Squadron Leader Mark Rinne National Head Umpire.

# **LAWN BOWLS**

# 2018 MULTI-DISABILITY LAWN BOWLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2018 Multi-Disability Lawn Bowls National Championships, otherwise known as 'the MultiBowl', was held at Kardinya Bowling Club, Western Australia, from 20 – 25 May 2018. The 2018 MultiBowl had 48 competitors from New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania vying for national titles.

Across the six days of competition, athletes competed in Men's B5/6 Singles, Men's B7/8 Singles, Women's B5/6 Singles, Women's B7/8 Singles, Men's B5/6 Pairs, Men's B7/8 Pairs, Women's Pairs and Open Triples.

Although it rained on the final day of competition, spectators witnessed some excellent bowls with some nail-biting finals across the six days.

The Clover / Lester Encouragement Award recognises an individual player each year that is relatively new to the sport at a national level and who sets a good example at all times on and off the green, displaying good sportsmanship, encouraging others and having the potential to become an excellent bowler. The 2018 Clover / Lester Encouragement Award recipient was Lyn Hamblin from Victoria.

The Interstate Aggregate Champion Trophy is awarded to the State that has the highest points on aggregate across all disciplines and classes, and divided by the number of players on the team. This year's Interstate Aggregate Champions Trophy was won by Queensland.

Disability Sports Australia would like to thank Bowls WA and Kardinya Bowling Club for the assistance of their fantastic staff and volunteers and for hosting the event, Rossmoyne Bowling Club for generously hosting the final day of competition due to wet weather, the Government of Western Australia – Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the Government of Western Australia – Department of Communities, and the City of Melville Mayor, Russel Aubrey, for their generous support. Finally, thank you to the DSA Lawn Bowls Executive Committee and Mr. Steve Flynn, Tournament Director, for making the 2018 MultiBowl a success.

## DSA LAWN BOWLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In May 2018, two new members were appointed to the DSA Lawn Bowls Executive Committee.

The first appointee was Sheila Corcoran. Sheila is the Head Classifier for International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) and has been an integral part of international lawn bowls classification and training lawn bowls classifiers around the world. Sheila brings her extensive experience and knowledge about bowls for the disabled to the Executive Committee.

The second appointee was Steve Loader. Steve is currently the Deputy Chair of the DSA Board and has worked in sport for over 25 years nationally and internationally. Steve's experience in the sports industry globally will be extremely beneficial to the Executive Committee.

#### XXI COMMONWEALTH GAMES, GOLD COAST

Two para-sport lawn bowls events were held as part of the XXI Commonwealth Games at the Broadbeach Bowls Club, Gold Coast, from 5 – 13 April 2018. The first event was Mixed B2 / B3 Pairs for vision impaired athletes and the second was the Open B6 / B7 / B8 Triples for athletes with a physical disability. The Australian triples team was selected by a Committee put together by Bowls Australia. The triples team was made up of Josh Thornton (VIC), Ken Hanson (VIC) and Tony Bonnell (QLD). The Australian team finished the sectional play ranked first, winning four of their five matches. During the knockout stages the team was able to come out victorious over South Africa in the semi-final and ultimately secured the gold medal – beating New Zealand by one in the final.

The Australian Team's performance at the Commonwealth Games was a highlight for international lawn bowls for people with a disability and, in the final match, it came down to the last roll to secure the Australians the gold medal. In recognition of their performance at the XXI Commonwealth Games, the triples team of Josh Thornton, Ken Hanson and Tony Bonnell were unanimously awarded the Graham Golley Memorial Award for achievement in the true spirit of lawn bowls in international competition.

# **ATHLETES WITH CEREBRAL PALSY**

#### 2018 CPISRA WORLD GAMES

The 2018 Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CPISRA) World Games (the '2018 CP World Games') were held in San Cugat, Spain, from 6 – 12 August 2018. The Australian Team was comprised of five (5) athletes competing in para-athletics and paraswimming. The team was: Tahlia Blanshard (swimming), Summer Giddings (athletics), Mali Lovell (athletics), Nick Riches (athletics) and Holly Saunders (athletics).

DSA, in partnership with the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (CPA), were proud to support sending the Australian Team to the 2018 CP World Games. DSA was able to assist with fundraising support, team development and uniforms for the Australian representative team.

The event was a huge success for Australia, with the team finishing ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) overall on the medal table bringing home seven (7) gold, two (2) silver and three (3) bronze medals.

The Australian team would not have been able to succeed in Spain without the unwavering support of DSA member organisation, CPA, and CPA staff member / Australian Team Manager, Peter King, who provided invaluable support in preparing and managing the team.

DSA, along with their state / territory member organisations, will aim to develop CP sport over the next four (4) years with a goal of sending a larger team and delegation to the next CP World Games in 2022.

#### **RACERUNNING**

In 2018, DSA began proactive steps to develop RaceRunning in Australia following the success of the sport internationally. RaceRunning is an innovative sport for people with a disability with impaired balance. By using a custom-built 'RaceRunner', people of all ages from young children to more mature aged athletes who have impaired balance are able to move and run by themselves. Internationally, RaceRunning is recognised as a para-athletic event and over seventeen (17) countries competed in the sport at the 2018 CP World Games.

In May 2018, DSA held its first RaceRunning Workshop in Sydney, bringing together various stakeholders to look at the developments in RaceRunning internationally and discuss the pathways and development of the sport in Australia. The workshop was incredibly beneficial to all those who attended and created a platform to plan for the future of the sport.

In July 2018, nine-year-old Arran Keith became the first Australian to compete internationally in RaceRunning at the 22<sup>nd</sup> RaceRunners Camp & Cup in Copenhagen, Denmark. Arran won four (4) gold medals in the U10 RR2 60M, 100M, 200M and 400M finals – an incredible result!

Leveraging off the momentum of the RaceRunning Workshop and Arran's results in Copenhagen, DSA established a national RaceRunning Working Group whose main focus is to drive strategy, development and participation for RaceRunning nationally. The Working Group is chaired by Richard Keith (Arran's father) and is comprised of representatives from: disability sport; therapists; Cerebral Palsy sport; equipment providers; athletics.

The Working Group's initial focus was to set up smaller, reference groups in each state, factoring in the various functional areas represented by the core Group.

As a result of the initiatives of members of the Working Group and the state reference groups, throughout October and November 2018, a number of come 'n try days were conducted across Australia raising the profile and awareness of the sport to both athletes, therapists and coaches.

DSA will continue to support the Working Group as part of its national strategic plan with a goal of developing and increasing regular participation nationally.

DSA Board Member, Joan Hacken, is involved as an international classifier for CPISRA and RaceRunning.

# **POWERCHAIR HOCKEY**

# INTERNATIONAL POWERCHAIR HOCKEY (IPCH) WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

From 24 September - 1 October 2018, the Australian Powerchair Hockey team (the 'Sliders') competed in the International Powerchair Hockey (ICPH) World Championship in Italy.

Disability Sports Australia was proud to support its member, Australian Powerchair Hockey (APCH), and the Australian Sliders in their World Championship campaign.

2018 Australian Sliders Team for the ICHP World Championship was:

#### # Name

- 1 Daniel Newcombe
- 3 Chantel Bongiovanni
- 4 Santo Bongiovanni (co vice-captain)
- 9 Shaun Mott
- 11 Kieran Watts (co vice-captain)
- 23 Luke David (captain)
- 35 Nicholas Nguyen
- 94 Jonathan Grigg

The Australia Sliders competed valiantly, finishing  $4^{th}$  in their round robin pool after losses to Belgium, Denmark and Germany. The proceeded to playoff for  $7^{th}$  /  $8^{th}$  position against Canada. In a closely contested match, Australia's impressive second half performance unfortunately wasn't enough to defeat Canada. The Australian Sliders gained an incredible amount of experience in international competition and ultimately placed eighth at the 2018 ICPH World Championship.

As the Australian member of the International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) and as part of the partnership with APCH, DSA supported through assistance with fundraising and uniforms.

# WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

#### NATIONAL LEAGUES

The National Wheelchair Basketball League (NWBL) and Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League (WNWBL) were run from March - July 2018. The Leagues are managed and coordinated by Basketball Australia (BA).

The 2018 NWBL concluded in July with the Wollongong Rollerhawks fighting their way from the bottom of the finals ladder to claim back-to-back National Championships in their defeat of the Queensland Spinning Bullets, scoring 72 – 65 in the gold medal match.

#### Final 2018 NWBL results:

- Gold: Wollongong Rollerhawks

Silver: Queensland Spinning Bullets

Bronze: Red Dust Heelers

Two weeks later, the WNWBL capped off the 2018 season with the Queensland Comets becoming 2018 National Champions by defeating the Be Active Western Stars, 71 - 64.

#### Final 2018 WNWBL results:

- Gold: Queensland Comets

Silver: Be Active Western Stars

- Bronze: Sydney University Flames

DSA would like to thank and acknowledge the work of BA in their organisation of the both the men's and women's Wheelchair Basketball Leagues in 2018.

#### **KEVIN COOMBS CUP**

The Kevin Coombs Cup was held in April 2018 at the Geelong Arena, Victoria. The Kevin Coombs Cup is the Australian Junior Championship for wheelchair basketball and is managed and organised by Basketball Australia (BA) in conjunction with the Australian U18 Championships for basketball.

The 2018 Kevin Coombs Cup had five (5) teams competing, with the Victorian Kevin Coombs Cup Team defeating the Western Australia Black Ducks in the final to be named champions.

DSA would like to thank and acknowledge the work of BA in their organisation and delivery of the 2018 Kevin Coombs Cup and look forward to the next event in Townsville in 2019.

# 2018 IWBF WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2018 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) Wheelchair Basketball World Championships were held in Hamburg, Germany in August.

Proudly organised and supported by Basketball Australia, the national men's team (the 'Rollers') and the national women's team (the 'Gliders') vied for World Championship titles.

The Gliders had to compete against eleven (11) of the best teams in the world over ten (10) days and finished ninth ( $9^{th}$ ) overall.

The Rollers competed over ten (10) days against the sixteen (16) top wheelchair basketball nations. The Rollers were able to secure a phenomenal result, defeating Iran by 68 – 57 to earn the bronze medal. This is the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) consecutive medal for the Australian men's wheelchair basketball team at a World Championships.

DSA would like to thank and acknowledge the work of BA in the preparation and management of the Rollers and the Gliders in their World Championship campaigns.

#### INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS

At the 2018 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) World Congress, held at the conclusion of the World Championships, Australian Referee Commissioner for the NWBL and WNWBL, Mr Matt Wells, was elected as a Member-at-Large on the IWBF Executive Council.

Additionally, IWBF Classification Chairman, Mr Don Perriman, was presented with the Gold Medal Triad award. The Gold Medal Triad is for an individual who has contributed in an outstanding manner to the growth of wheelchair basketball both at national and international levels. The recipient must be recognised for their achievement by a large majority of the wheelchair basketball community. DSA congratulates Don on this very well-deserved achievement!

# **INVICTUS GAMES 2018**

#### **DELIVERY PARTNER**

Disability Sports Australia was proud to be a Delivery Partner for Invictus Games 2018 (IG18) held in October in Sydney. DSA provided support for the Australian Team and activation for the IG18 Organising Committee and Australian Defence Force (ADF).

DSA's assistance in the preparation of the Australia Team was an extension of our partnership and part of our ongoing relationship with ADF Adaptive Sport.

DSA assisted in a variety of roles for IG18:

- Set up and delivery of sports demonstrations at the 'hard launch' of IG18 (attended by HRH Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex and founder of the Invictus Games);
- · Categorisation support for athletes;
- Sports equipment (sitting volleyball);
- Community partner;
- Office space in Sports House for senior ADF personnel;
- Provision of the Australian Team's High-Performance Manager (Chris Nunn);
- Secondment of DSA staff to IG18 for event delivery (wheelchair rugby);
- Team training and competition opportunities at the 2018 GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Championship;
- Provision of coach mentors for Australian Teams competing in:
  - wheelchair rugby
  - sitting volleyball
  - wheelchair basketball teams as well as equipment where required.



# **DSA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Historically, DSA has relied on its member organisations to provide volunteers to assist operationally at events.

The 2017 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship Test Event and GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship (2018 IWRF WRWC) allowed DSA to develop a comprehensive Volunteer Program, guided by Eventeamwork as part of their partnership.

Throughout the 2018 IWRF WRWC, DSA established a database of over 200 volunteers. A large majority are spectator services / general event volunteers however, the database also includes specialised volunteers in areas such as medical, transport and VIP protocol.

With the new volunteer database, DSA also has the legacy of using a consistent system for scheduling and communications through provider, Better Impact.

In addition, the process used for the 2018 IWRF WRWC has also allowed DSA to develop a 'best practise for volunteers' procedure for use at future events with the ability to target key volunteers for specific, longer term positions such as on-site event merchandise sales and finance.

# **MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**



www.wsnsw.org.au



www.cpsara.org.au



www.apcha.org.au



www.cerebalpalsy.org.au

#### **QUEENSLAND**



www.sportingwheelies.org.au

#### **VICTORIA**



www.dsr.org.au

#### **WESTERN AUSTR ALIA**





ww.reboundwa.com

www.rda.org.au

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



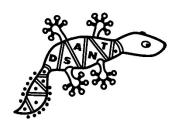
www.drssa.org.au

#### **TASMANIA**



www.paraquadtas.org.au

#### **NORTHERN TERRITORY**



dsant@connexus.net.au

# **PARTNERSHIPS**

DSA deeply values our valued partners. We acknowledge and express our gratitude for their support and belief in the work we do.

As DSA continues to deliver by *changing lives through sport*, we know that this would not be possible without the collaboration with, and contribution by, our valued partners.

DSA seeks to develop and gain more effective partnerships with corporates, in the sports sector and in the wider community. Our partnerships are critical in providing DSA with the capability to develop and deliver further programs, and in expanding the opportunities for people with a disability to participate in a variety of sports and active recreational opportunities nationwide.

#### **AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT**

Our major partner is Sport Australia (SA) (formerly the Australian Sports Commission). Their support enables DSA to operate day-to-day and carry out its core program activities. DSA welcomes the leadership of SA in sport governance, sport research insights and best practice in the sector.

DSA successfully secured a grant from SA for the initial phase of development of the Sports eHub Project which, once completed, will increase sport participation by developing a technical solution to help people with a disability connect and engage with sporting programs and initiatives across Australia.

This year, DSA has directly engaged with more than 30 organisations, as well as with people with a disability, their parents, carers and champions to map the sector and to explore and document what people with a disability experience in trying to get involved with sport. The insights gained will provide the final piece of the preliminary design phase as DSA continues to work with sport providers of all types to explore how the Sports eHub concept can help. The next step is to engage potential participants and ensure their needs can be met.

## **MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

Our member organisations are the heart and soul of disability sports in Australia.

DSA's state and territory members provide a range of sport and active recreational programs for around 7,000 people with a disability in their respective states / territories, as well as community engagement and advocacy.

DSA supports their activities, providing one voice for advocacy, leadership in research, and in being the link between a growing number of national partners such as Rugby Australia, the Australian Football League, ADF Adaptive Sports and facilitating an expansion of those partnerships to respective DSA members. Creating state-based links provides greater opportunities to our member organisations and our partners to collaborate, grow programs, deliver events and increase sport participation for people with a disability across the country.

## YOUTH AMBASSADOR

On Monday, 3 December, International Day for People with a Disability (IDPWD), eleven-year-old Emily Prior was announced as Disability Sports Australia first ever Youth Ambassador. The first addition to DSA's ambassador portfolio, the engagement of Emily is a ground-breaking step forward

for the organisation, in a move that is sure to increase awareness and promote adaptive sport and active leisure opportunities available to Australian's living with physical disability.

#### CORPORATE PARTNERS

In an environment of very scarce resources for disability sport, our sponsors and corporate partners hugely amplify what we are able to achieve in *changing lives through sport*. Their support is more than financial and includes staff engagement, volunteering, promotion and championing the DSA cause. It is very much appreciated.

Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, our relationship with GIO continues to grow and their remarkable support of DSA with a particular emphasis on the wheelchair rugby, research and grass-roots development is highly valued. Their partnership has enabled the delivery of a wheelchair rugby program that continues to grow and strengthen the sport, providing competition and training for all participants including members of the state and national teams.

ISC Teamwear is our Official Apparel Supplier. We are proud to join an elite group of sporting organisations wearing ISC apparel.

#### UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

DSA's partnership with the University of Sydney has continued to allow research and education projects including the development and delivery of a pilot program training pediatric physiotherapists in disability sport and completion of a systematic literature review about the benefits of sport and active recreation for people with a physical impairment.

#### **AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE**

DSA continues to strengthen its partnership with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) through ADF Adaptive Sport including providing opportunities and training camps for the Australian Invictus Games team ahead of their October campaign at Invictus Games 2018 in Sydney.

As part of DSA's partnership with the ADF, presentations were delivered to Defence Force members about the importance and benefits of adaptive sports in the lead up to the Invictus Games.

The continued partnership between ADF Adaptive Sport and DSA is highlighted through a partnership with wheelchair aussie rules with the ADF entering two teams in the National Championship each year.

## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

DSA regularly communicates and collaborates with the international federations of which DSA is the Australian member, or with which DSA has an effective relationship.

International Federations are:

- Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA)
- International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD)
- International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWASF)
- International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)
- International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)

# MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

#### **WEBSITES**

#### **Disability Sports Australia**

www.sports.org.au

KEY STATISTICS					
Traffic	107% Increase in unique visitors from 2017 to 2018				
	63.3% increase in visits from 2017 to 2018				
	50% increase in page views from 2017 to 2018				
Sources	76% of traffic sources are from search				
	21% of traffic sources are from direct links				
	2% of traffic sources are from social media referrals				
Geography	82% of total audience is located within Australia				

The Disability Sports Australia website continued its steady, positive growth in 2018 despite a reduction in content being distributed via the site. This reduction was a result of the majority of resources and content being channeled through the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship official website.

There was increased exposure and recognition generated to DSA from the 2018 IWRF WRWC website via a direct link to DSA's home page. DSA's site did not lose momentum during the event due to the direct traffic being referred links from the 2018 IWRF WRWC site.

Popular content statistics on the DSA site also yielded some interesting results. Not including the home page, the top five most viewed pages on the website in 2018 were:

- Sports Page (list of sports)
- Wheelchair Basketball
- About DSA
- Upcoming Events
- Volleyball

Positively, the highest-ranking page is the list of sports page as it highlights DSA is the overarching organisation able to provide adaptive sport and active recreational / leisure options to the wider community.

#### GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship

www.2018wrwc.com

KEY STATISTICS					
Traffic	1,737% increase in unique visitors from 2017 to 2018				
	2320.9% increase in visits from 2017 to 2018				
	3077.7% increase in page views from 2017 to 2018				
Sources	21% of traffic sources are from search				
	47% of traffic sources are from direct links				
	20% of traffic sources are from social media referrals				
Geography	39% of total audience is located within Australia				
	9% USA, 8% UK, 7% Japan, 6% Poland, 4% France				

The GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship website achieved unprecedented growth. Statistically, the engagement was gradual until 3 weeks prior to the event commencing (5 August 2018). As the event drew closer and more frequent information was being distributed throughout the site, there were large, consistent increases in traffic to the page. The posting of match results, images and live streaming of matches during the event period provided the largest period of engagement.

The top five most viewed pages (not including the home page), on the 2018 IWRF WRWC website were:

- Watch
- Results
- Schedule
- Japan
- Event Recap

Embedding the live-streamed matches greatly enhanced this sites' performance and engagement results. The log of past World Championship matches, plus the live video encouraged large amounts of traffic during the event and for weeks afterward.

#### Wheelchair Rugby Australia

www.wheelchairrugby.com.au

KEY STATISTICS		
Traffic	22.9% increase in unique visitors from 2017 to 2018	
	13.6% decrease in visits from 2017 to 2018	
	19.5% decrease in page views from 2017 to 2018	
Sources	70% of traffic sources are from search	
	23% of traffic sources are from direct links	
	5% of traffic sources are from social media referrals	
Geography	78% of total audience is located within Australia	

Similar to the statistics received from Wheelchair Rugby Australia's social media impressions for 2018, growth for this site was slow in comparison to the DSA and 2018 IWRF WRWC sites. A direct result of internal resources being allocated toward the World Championship.

The top five most viewed pages on the Wheelchair Rugby Australia website were:

- How to Play
- National Team
- GIO 2018 Wheelchair Rugby National Championship Recap
- Play
- Live

Positively, the highest viewed page, 'How to Play' indicates that the public trusts Wheelchair Rugby Australia and its information when prescribing clubs / options for prospective players.

#### **FACEBOOK**

#### **Disability Sports Australia**

The Facebook reach of the DSA page dramatically increased from 2017 largely attributed to a change in content, the regularity of posts and the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship. Since 2017, the DSA Facebook page has increased in 'likes' from 2000 to 2600.

The key progression this year that highlights the engagement DSA's Facebook page shares with our online community is through the live streaming offered directly through DSA's Facebook page throughout the Wheelchair Rugby World Championship and the Wheelchair Rugby National Championship. Without investment in advertising behind any live-stream, DSA's Facebook page consistently reached over 1,000 organic views on live sport offerings, with the highest performing posts being the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship Gold Medal match between Japan and Australia (3,600 organic views) and the Opening Match of the GIO Wheelchair Rugby National Championship (4,600 organic views). At any of the live events, DSA streamed direct to many of Facebook sites / pages, including the Official 2018 IWRF WRWC site, Wheelchair Rugby Australia and interested member organisations – which indicates the actual impact of the live streaming is greater than, and extends far beyond, just the DSA page.

The impact of the live-streaming posts was experienced most through discussions and comments with an increase of over 800% in post clicks and reactions to live content.

A distinct strategic shift in the content posted on the DSA Facebook page to promote the positive work of our member organisations and any relevant positive news within our industry showed 72% of content come from re-shared posts which, in turn, DSA began to see reciprocated by our members through shares of our organic content.

#### Wheelchair Rugby Australia

Page 'likes' have increased by a third (or 200), from 600 in 2017 to 800 in 2018. Although this is a high percentage of growth, there was less content distributed from this page when compared to the DSA page, which contributed to its moderate growth.

A trial of paid advertising for the Wheelchair Rugby National Championship in October delivered outstanding results for this page, with over 19,000 reach and engagement on the announcement post. Additionally, event live streaming was also very effective in its engagement, generating over 174 post clicks and the most comments a page received all year.

#### **INSTAGRAM**

#### **Disability Sports Australia**

@DisabilitySportsAustralia

On the @DisabilitySportsAustralia Instagram page, there has been an increase in 'followers' by 30% in 2018 to reach a total of 1,352 'followers'. DSA streamlined its digital strategy in 2018 across all platforms to highlight our members' success stories, which saw us receive our highest performing post on Instagram (impressions and reach) which was a repost of disabled surfers WA in February. The post received 613 impressions, reached 476 and was liked by 62 followers.

#### **2018 IWRF WRWC**

@2018WRWC

The @2018WRWC Instagram page received large growth in 2018 which was to be expected - increasing 461%. Its main purpose was to build brand recognition and highlight key milestones in the leadup to the event before switching focus to a visual information portal during the event with score updates, results and ladders. The page lost 'followers' post event as content began to cease.

#### Wheelchair Rugby Australia

@WheelchairRugbyAustralia

The @WheelchairRugbyAustralia Instagram page has increased 51%, from 520 follows to 786. The page was predominantly dormant until the Wheelchair Rugby National Championship, which increased its engagement with the community. A focus on more consistent communication will continue to yield greater results for this page.

#### **DSA NEWSLETTER**

KEY STATISTICS						
Industry Average (non - profit)		Disability Sports	Australia Average			
Open Rate	24.11%	Open Rate	33.2%			
Click Rate	2.97%	Click Rate	6%			

The Disability Sports Australia Newsletter performed at a higher than industry standard in 2018. Despite many resources being allocated to the 2018 IWRF WRWC, a concerted effort was made to continue the DSA Newsletter and ensure its distribution.

The above statistics indicate a high level of engagement with our audience and members. The double industry average click rate also indicates that the content being distributed has engaged our list and database.

# **GOVERNANCE**

DSA believes that governance structures can significantly affect the performance of sporting organisations and as such DSA's policy is to meet Sport Australia's *Mandatory Sports Governance Principles* (MSGP)<sup>1</sup>. DSA's compliance with the MSGP is set out in further detail below.

#### 1. STRUCTURE FOR SPORT

- 1.1 A single national entity for all forms of the sport from junior through to high performance with horizontal integration of sport disciplines.
  - DSA and its members are responsible for participation, from junior to national level competition and Paralympics Australia (PA) is responsible for high-performance outcomes at the elite international, Paralympic level. Discussions continue with PA regarding the integration of participation and high-performance responsibilities for wheelchair rugby for the benefit of the whole sport.
- 1.2 Where sports have a federated structure, all parts of the federation must demonstrate they are working in cohesion and adhere to a strategic direction set by the national entity to maximise the interests of the sport.
  - Within the current federated structure, DSA and its members have aligned objectives and purposes resulting in the achievement of positive sporting outcomes for the past few years.
- 1.3 The national body should be established as a company limited by guarantee
  Disability Sports Australia Limited is a company limited by guarantee, established in April 2003.

#### 2. BOARD COMPOSITION AND OPERATION

- 2.1 A staggered rotation system for board members with a maximum term in office The DSA Constitution has a staggered rotation system with one-third of directors retiring at each Annual General Meeting. The maximum term of a director's appointment is nine years (three terms).
- 2.2 A nominations committee that nominates directors for vacancies upon which the members vote DSA has a Nomination and Remuneration Committee, comprising of three persons which may be a combination of directors and independent external appointments with significant business and governance expertise.
  - The CEO has a standing invitation to meetings of the Nominations Committee to provide clarification where necessary.
- 2.3 An audit and risk committee, including at least one external and independent Certified Practicing Accountant or Chartered Accountant
  - DSA has an Audit and Risk Committee, comprising of three persons which may be combination of directors and management with basic financial literacy and at least one external and independent Certified Practicing Accountant or Chartered Accountant.
  - The CEO has a standing invitation to meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee to provide clarification where necessary.

<sup>1</sup> www.sportaus.gov.au/governance/mandatory\_sports\_governance\_principles#sport\_transparency\_reporting\_and\_integrity

#### 2.4 Chair elected by the board

In accordance with good business practice, the directors elect the chairperson. The position of chairperson is reviewed by the DSA board through a board evaluation process conducted annually. The normal term for the chairperson is a period of two to four terms, subject to satisfactory performance.

2.5 Annual board performance evaluation process involving external input

The DSA board conducts an annual board performance evaluation to monitor and evaluate its performance and implement change as appropriate. The results will form a board planning and a governance review.

#### 2.6 Gender balance on boards

The DSA board has a gender diversity target of 40 percent female representation. At 31 December 2018, the female representation on the DSA board was 37.5% (3 of 8).

2.7 All directors to be independent, regardless of whether elected or appointed

All DSA directors are elected by members and are considered independent by the DSA board.

Specifically, DSA directors:

- a) are not elected by members to represent any constituent body;
- b) are not employed by the organisation;
- c) do not hold any other material office within the organisational structure; and,
- d) have no material conflict of interest as a result of being a director.
- 2.8 Board skills mix appropriate to meet strategic goals, including the ability for the board to appoint a minority number of directors to obtain an appropriate skills mix

The DSA Nomination and Remuneration Committee, led by the Chair, reviews and maintains the board's skills matrix, determining future skill requirements and skill gaps. The DSA board is to have regard to the skills mix of directors when determining whether or not to appoint a person as a director, either as an additional director or to fill a casual vacancy.

2.9 CEO not to be appointed to board after leaving role (for three years)

Under the Constitution, the CEO is not eligible to be a director of DSA during or after their employment for a period of three years.

2.10 Conflict of interest register which is enforced

DSA has a Conflict of Interest register which contains all interests notified to the DSA board and any updates are requested as part of the agenda at every board meeting. DSA has a process which governs a director's involvement in any decisions in which they have a conflict.

2.11 Minimum of five board meetings per year

The DSA Constitution requires the DSA board to meet a minimum of five times a year. In 2018, the DSA board meet 8 times. Director attendance at DSA board meetings is detailed in this Annual Report.

# 3. SPORT TRANSPARENCY, REPORTING AND INTEGRITY

- 3.1 NSOs to publish annual reports consistent with Corporations Act requirements.
  - DSA produces audited financial statements with abridged accounts included in the Annual Report for members and key stakeholders. The full accounts are available on DSA's website and distributed annually for consideration at its annual general meeting, held in quarter 4 each year.
- 3.2 NSOs to report consolidated national financial accounts annually to Sport Australia in addition to national entity information
  - DSA provides audited financial statements and an Annual Report to Sport Australia annually, in addition to its annual Acquittal Statement.
- 3.3 NSOs to adopt rolling three-year strategic plans with clear and measurable targets, including a detailed operating budget for the next financial year.
  - DSA produces a rolling four-year Strategic Plan which addresses its strategic objectives and how they will be achieved.
  - The Strategic Plan is presented to and discussed with member organisations annually and is implemented by DSA. The Plan includes a detailed twelve-month operational plan and corresponding detailed budget.
  - Measurable objectives include relevant key performance indicators by which performance can be measured and trends shown.
- 3.4 Disclosure of administration expenses in the sport, including remuneration and associated expenses for key management personnel.
  - DSA details employment costs and gross administration expenses are fully disclosed.
- 3.5 NSOs to provide in a timely manner all information requested by Sport Australia.
  - DSA has provided all information requested by Sport Australia in a timely manner, to enable Sport Australia to complete its Annual Sport Performance Review and effectively monitor the performance of DSA against the outcomes set in its funding agreement.
- 3.6 NSOs to sign up to Sport Australia's integrity measures on anti-doping, protocols for sports science, and match fixing.
  - DSA and its members have adopted the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) policy.
  - DSA board is cognisant of its obligations under the sport's anti-doping policy, national anti-doping scheme and applicable international federation anti-doping requirements. It is, cooperating and liaising with ASADA, including in relation to the conduct of any investigation or committed to assisting hearing on any alleged anti-doping rule violations.
  - DSA board is investigating enacting an anti-match-fixing policy and code of conduct and the provision of appropriate education to athletes, agents, support personnel, officials and staff regarding their responsibilities under the National Policy on Match-Fixing in Sport.
- 3.7 Financial and high-performance reporting requirements
  - At the date of this report, Paralympics Australia is responsible for the provision of high-performance services and reporting.

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Director Name	Start Date	Finish Date	Total eligible	Total attended
Michael Lane	Pre 2012	current	8	8
Karen McBrien	March 2015	January 2018	3	1
Joan Hacken (Steele-Mills)	March 2015	current	8	6
Steve Johns	September 2015	current	8	6
Steve Loader	February 2016	current	8	8
John Croll	February 2017	current	8	7
Dr Elizabeth Rushbrook	February 2017	current	8	8
Leeanne Grantham	February 2018	current	3	2
Kevin Reinert	February 2018	current	3	3

#### John Croll (Chair)

John has worked in the media industry for more than 30 years and was appointed Chief Executive Officer of iSentia in 1999. He has led the company through private ownership, private equity with Quadrant Private Equity and finally an Initial Public Offering on the Australian Stock Exchange in 2014. John is a Life Fellow of the International Association for the Measurement and Evaluation of Communications (AMEC), a Life Fellow of the Public Relations Institute of Australia and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. John was previously the Vice President of the Australian Paralympic Committee.

#### Steve Loader BBus, GAICD (Deputy Chair)

Steve has worked in sport for over 25 years in Australia and overseas. He has facilitated courses and presented to staff from international sporting federations on sponsorship, brand management, elite athlete and coach pathways, international federation integration, new media in sport and a wide variety of other topics. Steve is Chair of the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship Organising Committee. He is a recipient of the Australian Sports Medal and has served on the Boards of the Australian Paralympic Committee, Skiing Australia and Rowing Australia.

#### Leeanne Grantham

Leeanne has over 20-years' experience as a CEO and senior executive in the sport and major event industries. She operates her own consultancy business with a focus on global sport industry recruitment. Leeanne has been the Chief Executive Officer of: Women's National Basketball League; 2002 World Masters Games in Melbourne; Australian Major Events (Events S.A.); Adelaide 36ers (NBL) and Community Football (SA). Leeanne was also Head of Women's Football for Football Federation Australia. Leeanne led successful bids for significant major events in South Australia including: Rugby 7's; Australian Masters Games; World Cycling and BMX events; international football (soccer) events for men and women. Leeanne is a currently a Director of Cycling Australia, Commonwealth Games Australia and Netball S.A.

#### Joan Hacken BSc (Physiotherapy)

Joan is a physiotherapist with over 30 years' experience. After working in Amsterdam and the UK moved to Sydney in 1990. She is recognised for her expertise is neuro-rehab and para-sport involvement with people of all ages with complex movement disorders especially cerebral palsy and acquired brain injuries. She recently sold her practice but continues to work for "Rehab on the Move" and "Child First" and continues to be an international classifier for a variety of Paralympic sports. Joan is a recipient of a Sports Medal for promoting sport for athletes with Cerebral Palsy and Acquired Brain Injury.

#### **Steve Johns LLB, BSc**

Steve is a Partner at Bird & Bird. Bird & Bird is an international law firm with offices in 29 countries. Steve advises clients on cross-border M&A and joint ventures. He has worked in the US and extensively throughout Asia. He advises clients across a number of industries but has a particular focus on the technology, media and entertainment sectors. He holds degrees in Law and Science from the University of Sydney and was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW in 2000.

#### Michael Lane BSc

Michael has over 25 years' experience in the retail and commercial property industry having worked for Coles Myer, Lend Lease and DEXUS Property Group. Michael has previously held senior roles in Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability and is currently GM of Developments at Vinta Property Group. Michael has experience in property and portfolio investment, asset management and capital transactions. Michael has held positions on various property committees at both State and National levels. He has also been a member of the City of Sydney Better Buildings Partnership Leadership Panel.

#### Kevin Reinert BCom (Hon), CA (Sth Africa)(Hon), MAICD

Kevin is a chartered accountant with extensive experience in strategic finance and business development as well as being responsible for financial and investment management topics across the real estate industry. Before being the Chief Financial Officer for DNW Group, Kevin worked with the publicly listed Dexus Property Group in a range of executive roles. He is also a former Senior Financial Reporting Manager with Stockland and a Director of Deloitte. He is a member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. He is a member of the Property Council of Australia CFO roundtable as well as the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

#### Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Rushbrook CSC, MBBS, MHA, FRACMA

Liz is a registered Medical Practitioner with a specialty in medical administration. Her interests include sports medicine, clinical governance and disaster and operational management. With 25 years of experience in the Royal Australian Navy, she reached the rank of Commodore and has provided services in the areas of Navy operations, sports medicine and disaster management. Liz transitioned to Queensland Health in 2016 providing medical leadership at the Metro North Hospital and Health Service, and the Prince Charles Hospital. She also supports the Royal Australian Navy through board membership of the Fleet Command Board and is a Director of Team Rubicon Australia.

# Karen McBrien (Retired Board member)

Karen retired from the DSA Board in January 2018 following nearly 3 years' service. Her contribution to the Board and DSA was extremely valuable during a period of growth and change. The DSA Board and staff wish Karen all the best in the future endeavours – thank you Karen!

# **DSA BOARD COMMITTEES**

#### **Audit & Risk Committee**

Chair Michael Lane

Non-Executive Director John Croll

Non-Executive Director Kevin Reinert

#### **Nomination and Remuneration Committee**

Chair Liz Rushbrook

Non-Executive Director John Croll

Non-Executive Director Steve Johns

#### **Revenue Committee**

Chair Steve Johns

Non-Executive Director Steve Loader

Non-Executive Director Kevin Reinert

Non-Executive Director John Croll

#### **Awards Committee**

Chair Steve Loader

Non-Executive Director Joan Hacken

#### **Governance Committee**

Chair Steve Johns

Non-Executive Director John Croll

Non-Executive Director Steve Loader

#### **Lawn Bowls Executive Committee**

Acting Chair Jenni Cole

Head Coach Jan Palazzi

Member (& Head of Classification) Sheila Corcoran

Member Bernie Wolland

Member Steve Loader

#### **Lawn Bowls Reference Group**

Executive Committee As above

SA Representative Michael Smith (DRSSA)

VIC Representative Carol Protopapas (Bowls VIC)

QLD Representative/s Roxanne Bell (Bowls QLD)

David Bartholomeus (Sporting Wheelies QLD)

NSW Representative Mark Wilson (WSNSW)

ACT Representative Kate Lyttle (Bowls ACT)

NT Representative Jan Palazzi (DSANT)

TAS Representative Kevin Faulkner (ParaQuad Tas)

WA Representative Denise McMillan (Bowls WA)

### Wheelchair Aussie Rules Advisory Committee

Chair Kevin Faulkner

Member Major General Matthew Hall AM CSC

Member Mark Rinne

Member Jenni Cole

Member & AFL Rep Tim Neild

### **Wheelchair Rugby Executive Committee**

Chair and Head Referee Quentin Fleischfresser

League Commissioner Darryl Wingard

Head of Classification Tracee-Lee Magginity

Ex Officio(CEO DSA) Jenni Cole

Wheelchair Rugby Coordinator Glen Lebeau

Athlete Representative Andrew Edmondson

#### Wheelchair Rugby Reference Group

Executive Committee As above

NSW Representative Mark Wilson (WSNSW)

QLD Representative Robyn Stephenson (Sporting Wheelies)

VIC Representative Jason Lees (DSR)

WA Representative Hayden Lewis (Rebound WA)

SA Representative Michael Smith (DRSSA)

# Commonly used acronyms

ADF Australian Defence Force

AFL Australian Football League

APC Australian Paralympic Committee

ASC Australian Sports Commission

CPISRA Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association

DRSSA Disability Recreation and Sport South Australia

DSA Disability Sports Australia

DSR Disability Sport and Recreation Victoria

IF International Federation

IPC International Paralympic Committee

IWBF International Wheelchair Basketball Association

IWRF International Wheelchair Rugby Federation

NDIS National Disability Insurance Scheme

NSO National Sporting Organisation

NSOD National Sporting Organisations for the Disabled

SA Sport Australia

SSO State Sporting Organisation

SSOD State Sporting Organisations for the Disabled

WSNSW Wheelchair Sports NSW

# **AUDITORS REPORT**



Principal: Douglas Wood, FCA, RCA Associate: George Vourantonis, RCA Consultants: George Raffan, RCA Simon Joyce, RCA

ABN 20 203 719 909 PO Box 629 North Sydney NSW 2059 Level 6, 8 West St North Sydney NSW 2060 Tel: (02) 9956 7500 www.fosterraffan.com.au

#### **Auditor's Independence Declaration**

#### To the Responsible Persons of Disability Sports Australia Limited

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Act 2012, as auditor of Disability Sports Australia Limited for the year ended 30 June 2018 I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-forprofits Commission Act 2012; and
- (b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in respect of the audit.

Foster Raffan

ster Raffan ertered Accountants Chartered Accountants

G D Wood, FCA Principal, RCA 4479 29th day of October, 2018 North Sydney, New South Wales

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#### DISABILITY SPORTS AUSTRALIA LIMITED ABN 96 104 461 814

#### **DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**

In the directors' opinion:

- a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 9 18 are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* including:
  - complying with Accounting Standards, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, and
  - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date, and
- b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable, and
- at the date of this declaration, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the members identified in note 14 will be able to meet any obligations or liabilities to which they are, or may become, subject.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director

John Croll

Dated this 29th day of October 2018



Principal: Douglas Wood, FCA, RCA Associate: George Vourantonis, RCA Consultants: George Raffan, RCA Simon Joyce, RCA

ABN 20 203 719 909 PO Box 629 North Sydney NSW 2059 Level 6, 8 West St North Sydney NSW 2060 Tel: (02) 9956 7500 www.fosterraffan.com.au

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### To the Members of Disability Sports Australia Limited

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Disability Sports Australia Limited (the company), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2018, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Disability Sports Australia Limited has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the company's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information is the directors' report accompanying the financial report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.







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In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors of the company are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <a href="http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx">http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx</a>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Foster Raffan

**Chartered Accountants** 

G D Wood, FCA Principal

RCA # 4479

29th day of October, 2018 North Sydney, NSW 2060

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# **PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

### **Government Partner**

Sport Australia

# **Major Sponsor**

GIO

### **Supplier**

ISC Teamwear

# **Supporters**

ANZ Stadium
Australian Defence Force Australian Rules
Seabridge Tax
Foster Raffan
Royal Australian Navy
ADF Adaptive Sports Program
Truro Partners

Thomas International

# **Partnered National Sporting Organisations**

Australian Paralympic Committee Australian Football League Rugby Australia Basketball Australia Bowls Australia Volleyball Australia

#### **Partnered International Federations**

Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWASF) International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)

# **DSA Supporters Club Foundation Members**

GIO Paul Bedbrook John Croll John Hart

# **DSA STAFF**

Name	Title
Jenni Cole	Chief Executive Officer
Chris Nay	Manager - Marketing & Partnerships (from February 2018)
Kelsey Singh	Manager - Sport & Event Operations
Michaela O'Leary	Manager - Digital & Design
Glen Lebeau	Sport Coordinator - Wheelchair Rugby
Cherie Harris	Manager - International Relations - GIO 2018 IWRF WRWC (April -
	August 2018)
Accountant	Knightsbridge Tax

# CONTACT

# **DISABILITY SPORTS AUSTRALIA**

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