

BLIND SPORTS AUSTRALIA



2011- 2012 4th Annual Report

Principal Sponsor



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission

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Office Bearers

Blind Sports Australia July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012:

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:

Mr Sam THEODORE

Mr David BLYTH OAM

Dr Frank ARMER

Ms Marg BROWN

Mr Gary SARGENT

CEO:

Mr. Robert McPHAIL

AUDITORS:

LOWE LIPPMANN ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

BANKERS:

NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK

WESTPAC BANK

BOOK KEEPER:

LOGI SOFT Josephine ROBERTS

B.A.DipEd (Melb), Grad.Dip.Sec.Studs (RMIT)

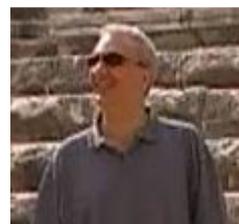
Message from the President

Presidents Report

Sam Theodore

President

Masters in Practicing Accounting;
Bachelor of Business (Banking and Finance);
Senior Associate Fin



Message from the Australian Sports Commission

The Australian Government is committed to getting more Australians participating and excelling in sport. Sport not only inspires and unites us as a nation, it also motivates us to get involved and active.

The staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is an exciting time for all Australians, and highlights the substantial contribution of sport to our community, from athletes competing at the Games to those involved in weekend club competition and social play, as well as parents and volunteers.

Australia's performance at the London Olympic and Paralympic Games is the culmination of extensive long-term efforts across the Australian high performance system. Following the Games, there will be opportunities to celebrate the successes and critically review our next steps to ensure we focus and align our efforts to deliver the best possible results in the next Olympic and Paralympic cycle.

It is two years since the Australian Government delivered its new vision for sport in 'Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success' and substantially increased ongoing funding to the Australian Sports Commission. Since then, we have focused on implementing our new plans, delivering key programs, supporting national sporting organisations (NSOs) to deliver participation and high performance outcomes (as well as building their capacity), and building collaboration, alignment and effectiveness within the Australian sport sector.

The announcement in the May 2012 Budget of the continuation of the Active After-school Communities program will ensure we carry on providing primary school-aged children with a positive introduction to sport. We will continue working with sporting organisations at all levels to ensure the program provides maximum value to sports and supports the transition of program participants into local clubs.

Linked to the London Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Prime Minister's Olympic and Paralympic Challenges will encourage and inspire children to participate in sport and to get active, have fun and earn rewards. This initiative, as well as participation funding programs delivered by NSOs, continues the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring more people can access sport and all the benefits it provides.

The support received from the Australian Government for Australian sport is essential and plays an integral role in connecting our young sporting participants with their dreams of podium success in the future.

This is an exciting and challenging time for Australian sport. The Australian Sports Commission looks forward to working with sporting organisations, state and territory institutes and academies of sport, and state and territory departments of sport and recreation, to promote access to, and participation in, sport across the community, and supporting Australia's continued sporting success.



Mr David Gallop
Acting Chairman
Board of the Australian Sports Commission
30 June 2012

Fourth Annual Report from the CEO 2011 - 2012

In this the fourth year of Blind Sports Australia all member organisations were invited to attend a forum sponsored by BSA in Melbourne. The forum centred on two presentations firstly the Australian Sports Commission on Governance and secondly the Blind Sporting Council on its fund raising and opportunities for Blind and vision impaired sportspeople. The forum encouraged an exchange of ideas, operational perspectives, needs and wants not the least of which was exploring responsibilities, growth and financial opportunities. It was an outstanding success over the two days.

The forum was well represented by both new and well known faces of member organisations who expressed their opinions and contributed with enthusiasm, commitment and purpose. Thanks go to a retiring Director Dr Frank Armer who recently reminded members of the Board that BSA exists to serve its member organisations. The vibrant exchange of members demonstrated their commitment to seeing BSA 'get it right' in support of blind sport.

I sincerely thank the President and members of the Board who give their personal time and expertise in the running of BSA and further the support of individuals of the various member organisations who drive their chapters in the delivery of blind sport, their reports are contained within.

Thank you to the Australian Sports Commission who have provided solid support as we seek to achieve our goals. The ASC not only provide financial support but a human resource through their consultant in assisting us through a time of change and whilst we still dare to dream the sports commission have been there to hold our hand.

Throughout the year the Board got down to grappling with the application of the delivery of the objectives as outlined in the BSA constitution. Whilst Blind Sports Australia's role has moved considerably since its inception the branding of Blind Sports Australia still remains strong and valued favourably in the community. It is this point that we embark on a new fundraising campaign in the new financial year that also addresses the growth of blind sport and the identified needs of member organisations.

Delivery of the Operations Plan over the next financial year would be invaluable to the implementation, support and growth of blind sport.

Robert McPhail

CEO

P.G,Dip (Ed) BApp Sc (PE) Dip (Recreation) Cert Business
Workplace Trainer Assessor



Blind Sports Australia Member Reports

Blind Sporting Association of NSW Inc

Legislative changes and a new state government have had an impact on all state sporting associations during the past year.

This report will focus on the range of activities in which the Association has been involved. While most sports were competitive in nature, members also enjoyed participation on a recreational basis in other community events eg., walks, fun runs, ocean swims, cycling – often with a charity emphasis.

Athletics, Cross Country, Cricket, Golf, Karate, Lawn Bowls, Sailing, Alpine Skiing, Swimming, Ten pin Bowling and Triathlon featured as major interests either through generic clubs or specific blind sports groups from local to elite level competition.

Of 131 members including two affiliated associations, Blind Golf NSW and NSW Vision Impaired and Blind Bowlers Association, approximately 50% were competitors and the remainder volunteers as caddies, directors, coaches, officials, administrators and paramedical personnel, a search for both is constant.

The school sports of Athletics, Cross Country, Skiing and swimming confirmed to identify new talent at primary and secondary level.

Further development opportunity in swimming was provided by swimming NSW which was host to four (4) multi class meets during the year. A group of younger competitors were further encouraged by results achieved at the Blind Sports Australia Swimming Championships.

A home venue that serves Golf as well provided for an extensive program of events. Golfers supported state championships in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia while the Australian Open and international competition with a mix of overseas players proved challenging.

Each year Lawn Bowls State Championships migrate along the eastern seaboard to Clubs which have greens available to host the event. The Australian Blind Bowls Championships were again supported by a small but successful representative team. The development of an accredited Director's Course has fruitful in recruiting interested helpers.

In addition to coaching at his own club, our Karate exponent was selected to the Australian Open Championships in November, 2012.

After exceptional play by everyone, the small group of dedicated Tenpin Bowlers surprising claimed the State Trophy at the Australian Blind Tenpin Bowling Championships held in Belconnen. Meanwhile, the northern hemisphere winter challenged alpine skiers to achieve extraordinary results in their preparation toward 2014 Paralympic selection.

Since the early years of the Association Shirley House, owned by the Association of Blind Citizens of NSW, served our requirements very well for meetings and functions. We lament its loss after being sold.

The untiring effort of volunteers across a wide range of endeavours, the support of Communities Sport and Recreation, the NSW Sports Federation, various generic sports, Vision Australia is recognised and acknowledged by all members as the 2011-2012 year closes.

Dr Patricia Downie.
Honorary Secretary.



BLIND SPORTS VICTORIA President's Report

It's been an outstanding year for all of us at Blind Sports Victoria. In this Paralympic year we have witnessed remarkable achievements in the sporting arena. These achievements are never possible without individual and team sacrifice, commitment and hard work. This partnership approach, based on respect and tolerance for all, is what makes things work within our community.

With the support of our many partners including government, volunteers, corporate sponsors and sporting/recreation organisations, Blind Sports Victoria has been able to enjoy excellent growth in the availability and range of sporting and recreational activities throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria. This growth makes us one of the leaders in the provision of sport and recreation opportunities to members ranging from young to seniors.

While we have enjoyed this growth, we are also well aware of the challenges ahead. In a rapidly ageing society, those facing vision loss continue to increase as do the demands on our resources. We are constantly seeking new ways to meet the needs that are both individual and societal of all ages. We look for and encourage input from our supporters, volunteers and partners to find ways to fund and fulfill these increasing demands.

At Blind Sports Victoria, we continue to strive for a culture that is positive and supportive as we address systemic challenges associated with funding and provision, geography and growth. We are committed to the further development of good governance from our board and our relevant stakeholders.

Once again our members and their supporters were out in full force to support the successful Gala Dinner earlier this year. This successful event raised important funds for a number of our affiliated sporting and recreational groups. The generosity by the working group and supporters assists us to continue to provide wonderful programs like our gymnastics for juniors and primary school children and our swimming for young all the way through to seniors.

It is your involvement with Blind Sports that has made a positive difference in someone's life.

Many thanks to each and every one of you for your wonderful support.

Maurice Gleeson OAM

President

Blind Sports Victoria

Queensland Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association

The Association was financially supported by the Queensland Government (State Sport and Recreation Organisation Development, and Active Inclusion programs) and the ANZ Queensland Community Foundation- Floroyal Sporting Wheelies Foundation. The Australian Sports Commission also continued its funding to enable the Association to support the national *Sports CONNECT* initiative, which aims to increase participation of people with a disability in sport and active recreation.

The Association continues to consolidate its financial position, with an increase in revenue over the previous year allowing for \$120,000 of special funding to be distributed to members in need as a result of the Queensland floods. This was in addition to the usual athlete subsidies and support. Art Union income was up by five percent which was a major contributor to these special funding initiatives.

Inclusion strategy

Encouraging mainstream sport to include people with a disability in their programs and services, and encouraging people with a disability to get involved, remains a key priority for the Association. This year, we worked with 20 state and national sporting organisations to help them develop and implement inclusion strategies. At the same time, we worked with 13 major disability service providers to help them encourage their clients into sport and active recreation programs. Bringing these parties together and helping them to understand and achieve meaningful, sustainable inclusion is challenging, and I commend the efforts of our *Sports CONNECT* team who have a growing list of success stories to their credit. For example, we now have a number of major state sporting organisations conducting events for athletes with a disability, and many more have taken steps to embed inclusion principles into their strategic and operational plans, corporate communications and staff training.

We are having ongoing discussions with the State Government about how to keep the focus on this important aspect of our work in the community.

Key Association outcomes in 2011-12 included:

- more than 9000 visits to our Bowen Hills gym and 30 clients with a spinal cord injury assisted through the *Walk On* spinal injury rehabilitation program
- 980 students from 67 schools participated in our Multi-Sport Expo program for students with a disability
- more than 120 people with a disability were classified to assess their eligibility to compete in disability sport
- 453 competitors at 13 state championship events for athletes with a disability
- more than 130 members achieved representation in national competitions and leagues
- more than 50 members represented Australia in international competition in 17 sports
- 75 members took part in one or more recreation activities including Cirque du Soleil show, Sunshine Coast Hinterland trip, V8 supercar ride, annual ski trip.

Outcomes specifically in relation to athletes with a vision impairment:

- Number of social goalball players remained steady at around 20 players including 4 new juniors. We are pleased to be sending a junior team to the 2012 National Championships.
- 3 goalball development days for total of 16 participants and a Vision Australia Presentation day (information) for 18 participants.
- We are currently working on a goalball development program on the Sunshine Coast with Warren Lawnton targeting 12 potential junior players ages 7-15yrs. We've run 1 introductory session and 3 development sessions on the Sunshine Coast and are in consultation to implement a skill development program for term 4 of 2012.
- The Association conducted the Goalball State Championships.

- The Association provided financial support to athletes - state (2 athletes), national (29 athletes) and international competition (1 athlete)
- Funding support was provided to Queensland Blind Bowlers Association for their local weekly program and state championships, as well as specialised project funding (\$5,000) towards the 2012 Australian Blind Bowlers National Championships held in Brisbane.
- The Association continued to partner with state sporting organisations for athletics, lawn bowls, and swimming to deliver state championship events for athletes with a disability, including athletes with a vision impairment.
- Swimmer, Eleanor Mills was selected in the Association's 2011 Junior Development Squad. Squad members receive funding, coaching and mentoring support and attend 2 development camps.
- Goalballers, Meica Christensen and Nicole Esdaile received Queensland Academy of Sport funding in 2011 and were selected to compete in the Australian Women's Goalball Team at London 2012 Paralympics.
- At the Association's 2011 Annual Awards Presentation Dinner, the Queensland Men's Goalball Team won 'Team of the Year' and Bev Rush won 'Official of the Year' for her work particularly supporting blind bowls. Bev was also awarded 2012 Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her voluntary contribution over the past 24 years.
- Australian representative athlete (goalball and cycling) Ben MacFie was appointed as Athlete Development Officer in April 2012. Ben's responsibilities include coordinating the Association's Junior Development Program, classification services, Multi-sport Expos and liaison with School Sport

Kelli Chilton

Services Manager

Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association



Blind Sports SA

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BLIND SPORTING CLUBS INC.

President

s Report

I am pleased to say that the decisions made by the board a few years ago to implement various changes have proven to be effective as the association has continued in the positive direction established last year.

Following on from our successful strategic planning session last year, aided by our new board members the association established a new vision statement: “Enriching blind and vision impaired lives through sport”, which we feel, more closely represents what the association stands for.

In 2011-2012, a sound financial decision was made by the board to enter into a MOU with the Royal Society for the Blind (RSB) and Blind Welfare Association (BWA) to share the burden of our sports development officer costs and we are pleased to say that this has now been extended for a further 12 months. Our continued relationship with RSB is valuable to our success through reduced administrative costs and access to vehicles for transport and we would like to express our gratitude accordingly.

We have experienced growth in membership, predominantly at the junior level where visits to Mt. Gambier, the running of a gymnastics program at SASVI and a Goalball camp enabled us to capture details of the participants to enable us to support their sport endeavours in future years. With the assistance of Kieran Modra and the Vision support teachers we also ran tandem cycling programs at Charles Campbell College & Seaview High school using mainstream students as pilots. We also conducted athletics and fitness training sessions within these various schools.

Congratulations to Kieran Modra & his pilot Scott McPhee, Felicity Johnson & her pilot Stephanie Morton & Rachel Henderson for representing SA proudly at the London paralympics, Michael Zannis & Mark Haskett in the ashes cricket series. We also look forward to Rebecca Arbon and Neil Cundy (reserve) returning from England with the silverware from the bowls international trophy in 2013.

We are excited about the upcoming 2012/2013 as for the first time in many years we will have South Australian representation at the national Goalball championships with a junior and youth side and we will also be hosting the inaugural vision challenge fun run to raise our profile and improve community awareness of vision impaired sports.

M ZANNIS

Michael Zannis
President

Blind Sports SA Sports Development Officer Report

Following the conclusion of my second year in the job I'm pleased to say we continued to see growth in the association, both financially and within the membership base. A sound financial decision was made by the board to share my wages (and role) by entering into a MOU with the Royal Society for

the Blind (RSB) and Blind Welfare Association (BWA) to work closely within their successful recreation and leisure program. This provided some further security to the role and enabled me to continue to build on the previous year's relationships and raise the profile of Blind Sports SA further. Our main growth in membership has been at the junior level where visits to Mt. Gambier, the running of a gymnastics program at SASVI and a Goalball camp enabled us to capture details of the participants to enable us to support their sport endeavours in future years. With the assistance of Kieran Modra and the Vision support teachers we also ran tandem cycling programs at Charles Campbell College & Seaview High school using mainstream students as pilots. We also conducted athletics and fitness training sessions within these various schools.

Our relationship with the Australian Paralympic Committee and South Australian Cricket association continued in 2011, as we assisted at APC talent search days, come & try days and were provided assistance with a 6 week cricket program at SASVI.

We are excited about the upcoming 2012/2013 as for the first time in many years we will have South Australian representation at the national Goalball championships with a junior and youth side and we will also be hosting the inaugural vision challenge fun run to raise our profile and improve community awareness of vision impaired sports. We would also like to work more closely with our affiliated clubs to determine ways we can help them grow.

I would like to personally thank the board once again for their positive support in 2011 and look forward to working with the new board and other key stakeholders during an exciting 2012/2013.



Kent Dredge

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BLIND SPORTS FEDERATION INCORPORATED.

1. THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BLIND SPORTS FEDERATION INCORPORATED occurred on 20 January 2012 with the AGM scheduled for 10 November 2012.
2. The WA Blind Sport Federation are planning to hold two a summer (April) carnival is held in Morley, at the AMF tenpin bowling centre, the oval just across the street and possibly the Bedford Lawn Bowls Club. Focal sports will be tenpin bowling, lawn bowls and golf putting and a winter (August) carnival is held at ABWA Victoria Park (The Perron Centre). Focal sports will be tandem cycling (around Burswood Lakes), golf (using the simulator in Handa Hall), goalball and martial arts (on a Handa Hall roster system).
3. The two Blind Sports Carnivals aim to increase the quality of life of Western Australians who are blind or vision impaired through their participation in sport and physical activity and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. In particular, this particular summer sports expo will focus on the following specialised “summer themed” blind sports: blind cricket, tenpin bowling and lawn bowls. The come-n-try format of the expo is centred around inclusion, community integration and maximum participation. It caters for men and women of all ages and levels of ability (in terms of eyesight and physicality). Family and friends are most welcome as the secondary objective is to engage sighted persons in the roles of administrators, volunteers and officials
4. The Department of Sport and Recreation in WA engaged consultants to review the disability sport and active recreation sector. The purpose of the review was to identify good practice and gaps in service delivery and to develop recommendations to improve the coordination of services for people with disabilities in Western Australia. A stakeholder reference group provided advice, guidance and feedback to the consultants during the process. Based on the findings, outlined in the preliminary findings and issues paper, the consultants formulated a ‘Recommendations report’ containing 19 recommendations. In late December 2011 the department released the findings paper and recommendations report to the sector requesting feedback. The department appreciates the 24 responses received from the sector regarding both the findings and the recommendations.
Members of the WA Blind Sport Federation contributed to the draft Disability Review Implementation Plan dated 14 June 2012.
5. Goalball WA Inc, is growing from strength to strength - thanks to Gerry Crowley with enthusiastic ladies, juniors and seniors teams in the making.

Australian Blind Bowlers Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I present my second Presidents Report. There has been a lot of activity that has reflected our current and future aims. We are slowly building towards the IBBA Championships in the United Kingdom in 2013.

Trans-Tasman Trophy

Australia was successful in defeating New Zealand for this trophy in May. The team played sustained bowls to win the two tests convincingly. Our congratulations go to all team members who worked most successfully with our new inspiring coach, Graeme Clements.

ABBA Championships

A successful competition was held following the success of the Trans-Tasman Series. Many thanks to Pat Downie and Betty Redman for organising all the activities. Congratulations to Queensland for winning the team trophy and to all those who were successful in winning individual medals. Our thanks also goes to the officials – markers and umpires. Also our deepest thanks go to our indispensable directors who helped us in so many ways.

Retirement of Kerry McGuire

Kerry has been ABBA's secretary for some 25 years and his services have been outstanding. As incoming president, I found his counsel invaluable. The support which his wife, Betty, gave to him and therefore to ABBA is impossible to estimate. We can only thank them both most sincerely for their support over the years.

Life Member – Kath Murrell

Kath Murrell was made a life member at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. Kath had served as President for 10 years and had given many years of service in a number of roles. This was an honour richly deserved.

New Secretary – Brenda Murray

Brenda very kindly stepped into the role of Secretary and has made a significant contribution since her appointment; we would also like to thank her husband, Keith for his support. Brenda will not be continuing in this role after the 2012 Annual General Meeting. Our very sincere gratitude goes to Brenda for the time and effort she has put into the role.

Selection of Coaching Panel

Our National Coach, Graeme Clements, has instituted a panel of state coaches to help with the preparation for the IBBA Championships in 2013. This is a great advance in that potential team members can liaise with the local coach for advice and assistance.

New Selector

Neville Young was unable to continue as a selector. We are most grateful for the support he gave the national team over a number of years. Our National Coach, Graeme Clements has been appointed in his place.

Preparations for IBBA 2013

We have planned at least two training camps in the lead up to our defence of our IBBA Title. The negotiations with various organisations such as Bowls Australia and Blind Sports Australia are on-going but have been very encouraging thus far. This will be a major part of my role in the next 12 months.

Closure of Northern Territory Branch

After 20 years of vigorous activity, Northern Territory has sadly decided to close down. It has provided many good players and officials over many and we congratulate all those involved, particularly Dennis Wormald and Laurie Reed for their magnificent support.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all members of the Executive for their counsel and support during the past 12 months. I believe we have worked together harmoniously to advance the cause of blind bowls in Australia.

John Vance

ABBA President

Blind Cricket Australia 2011 – 2012 Presidents Report

2012 started with the promise to be a very hectic year. Our year started with the National Championships held very successfully in Brisbane at the South Brisbane District Cricket Club which was won by Victoria for the 4th consecutive time.

Afterwards, there was a Training Camp held in preparation for the Blind Cricket Ashes Tour in England to be held in June 2012. The boys were a bit flat during this camp as all of them had just completed in the Championships so our Physio Julie was kept extremely busy. The National Selectors had a hard time picking the squad to go to England.

The Ashes were held at Malvern College and King's College in Worcestershire. The format for this tour was to be 3 one day games (The Ashes) and then 3 Twenty20 games as a warm up for the upcoming Twenty20 World Cup in December 2012 in India. I am pleased to announce that Australia won The Ashes for the first time 3 - 0. The series started with an extremely hot day (for the English anyway) which was then followed by weather that we would expect in England. The first two games were held at Malvern College, with the final game being played at King's College which had a late start due to rain. The games were played in the full spirit of the rules and a great time was had by all. Australia debuted new three players for this series.

Australia supplied the Head Umpire who was up to date with the rules and he then educated the English umpires who usually umpired sighted cricket with the nuances of our game. The games were well covered by the media over there and there is a clip on Foxtel sports about our game.

Due to the bad weather, the T20 series were shortened and after the euphoria of winning the Ashes Australia lost this series. But Australia learnt what to expect for the World Cup and our Coach came home with a start of a battle plan for Australia to progress further than we have in previous World Cup's.

We had another training Camp in Brisbane in August with 3 players who had never played our game before invited to attend. As a consequence two of these players were selected in the squad, one as a reserve. Both the Tour Manager and the new Physio attended this camp also to get to know the members of the squad. The team was subsequently chosen and we are all looking forward to a successful trip to Bangalore in December.

We were pleased with our fund raising efforts with our players/officials being provided support for close to half of their costs for the Ashes tour. We are currently endeavouring to raise funds for the World Cup, but to date we have yet to receive further funding. Cricket Australia has been supportive again with the provision of uniforms for both tours and providing a Manager for the World Cup.

I look forward to our next report stating that we have won the T20 World Cup.

BLIND GOLF AUSTRALIA

This year has seen quite a lot of travel again for our golfers, both interstate and overseas.

The first interstate game was the Victorian Open which has been changed to a Stableford event and was won by Victorians (David Blyth and his caddy Gary McInnes).

The next event interstate was the National Stableford Event in South Australian and this was also won by Victorians Jeff Ellis and his caddy Maureen Ellis.

In July Blind Golfers Gary Sargent, Graham Coulton, Jenny Abela and Glen Niciewjeski from New South Wales, plus John White from Western Australian all attended firstly the Canadian Open and then on to the 2012 World Championships in Canada where they played well and enjoyed their time in Canada.

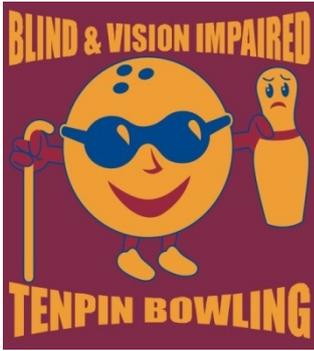
Next will be the WA Open and the Australian Open in Western Australia for 3 days from the 31st October to the 1st November.

There are also 3 golfers attending the inaugural Hong Kong International Blind Golf event and they are David Blyth, Gary Sargent and Graham Coulton.

We would also like to congratulate Blind Golf New South Wales on winning the World Championships to be held in NSW in 2014. A lot of hard work, but we are sure there will be help for you whenever and as required.

We look forward to continued support from Blind Sports Australia once again this year.

Doug Sloan OAM
Acting President, BGA



Blind & Vision Impaired Tenpin Bowling (Aust)

BVIT Has made progress during this year in achieving the goals set out at the beginning of last year. On the admin side, we established a Website, thanks to our member from NSW Glen Barwick. We also send out a very chatty newsletter every 2nd month. Both these formats allow us to keep our members informed of all that is happening.

We have conducted two phantom leagues, which allow our members to compete against each other without having to leave their local Bowling Alley. Congratulations to the winners of the first comp held towards the end of last year and also to the winners of our first one for this year. We are looking for more bowlers, so pass the word to any interested parties.

In October last year, 9 of our members attended the World Championships held in Malaysia. We brought home five medals which was a fantastic result. Our members also had success at the National Disability Championships in Tasmania in June. We congratulate all the winners and all who participated.

Our BVIT National Championships were held in Canberra in March this year. It was great to have bowlers from NSW competing after a short absence. They made their presence felt by winning the Ian Fowler State Shield. The Tournament was a great success. All who took part had a great time. The , friendly atmosphere on and off the lanes made for a very pleasant week. Our thanks to Louise Eady, Tournament Director, Eileen Scott and Gail Underwood for their hard work and never ending support. Some very high scores were achieved and we congratulate all the winners. Our National Championships next year will be held in Perth from April 15 to 19. We are hoping for a record enrolment.

Kay Hancock
President

GOALBALL AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I opened my report last year questioning myself on whether I was doing an adequate job as President. I realised that there needed to be some sacrifices for me to continue to be able to fulfill my role properly and I challenged myself, and other members of the committee, to consider relinquishing other roles that may prevent them performing their role successfully.

One year on and I notice that I haven't taken my own advice, although it can be argued that there were other roles available to me that I eventually did not take. As we continue to grow, the amount of time and work required to propel our sport to a new generation increases. I would like to acknowledge Kevin Frew, Murray Elbourn and Robbie Vogt for the work they have done to help continue this growth.

Whilst those people have an obligation because they are on the Executive, people like Robert Apps, Georgina Kenaghan, Ben Rowe, Tamara Elbourn, Ben McFie and Michelle Baird have also played starring roles in helping to grow Goalball in Australia. There are other people I could mention but these contributions are significant as they are doing our work voluntarily.

The highlight of our year was the participation of the Australian Women's team at the Paralympic Games in London in September. I know they did not win a game over there but their attendance itself was significant. Australia has not been represented at a Paralympic level since Sydney 2000. It is important for the growth of Goalball that international competition is available to us. The highest level of international competition is the Paralympic Games. Georgie and the girls should be very proud of what they achieved and I hope that their experience will drive them on to want to do it all again. In doing this, I hope they also entice another group of athletes to follow in their achievements.

The Australian Goalball Championships in 2012 will be held in Melbourne. Already they are the biggest Goalball tournament hosted in Australia, with seventeen teams from every mainland state as well as a team from New Zealand. We will be hosting competition on Men's Women's, Youth's and Junior's competition. This is further testament to the growth and indeed the profile of our sport.

The Crestani Cup was again held in Perth in July with team competition from Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. There was competition in men's, women's and junior categories. I want to thank Goalball WA for again hosting this event. I am amazed at the progress they have made in such a short space of time. I am looking forward to their increased membership of Goalball Australia as a result.

Further evidence of our strength was the Road to Rio camp organized with the APC. We were able to send twelve athletes and three coaches to four full days of goalball and professional development. I hope that those given the chance to attend not only learned something but will now go back and pass on those lessons to others in their states. Our development on court depends on us all continuously sharing this knowledge.

The most pleasing development for me personally was the start of meaningful Goalball being played in South Australia. I had the privilege of attending a three day training camp there on the long weekend in June. Fourteen athletes attended from all ages. As was the case when I was in Perth, I was driven by their enthusiasm and their thirst for more knowledge. This has culminated in the

nomination of two South Australian teams for the AGCs this year. Who would ever have thought that this could be possible a few years ago?

Murray Elbourn reports that there continues to be development of Goalball in Canberra. The ACT used to be a force in Australian Goalball. There were at least ten athletes attend a similar camp to the one hosted in Adelaide. Allow me to dream that there will someday be regular representative teams from the ACT again at national level.

Local Competitions continue to grow in areas such as Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. I hope to someday be able to say that there is local competition all over Australia. I want to congratulate all states for their efforts. Evidence of your work is seen in the number of new athletes and teams to the AGCs.

The APC has continued its association with Goalball Australia. They assist us with our development programs. They are also assisting us with our structures and processes so that the GA Executive of tomorrow can follow what has worked today and can understand and avoid what hasn't worked.

Further challenges await the incoming committee this year. We need to continue working with our partners and stakeholders to ensure that Goalball continues to be the sport that all other blind sports look to. We are currently in a very strong position nationally, mainly due to our relationship with the APC, the increase in the number of international standard athletes, the growth of Goalball in established states and the expansion to South Australia and hopefully Tasmania, the long overdue creation of our Goalball Australia referee's qualification and finally, in the future, the creation of Goalball Australia as a National Sports Organisation.

As always, I wish those seeking positions all the best. I also want to thank those who are not seeking re-election for their continued efforts in increasing the profile of our great sport.

Rob Crestani
President
Goalball Australia

HONOURS

The following members of the Australian Blind Sports Federation have been granted recognition for their outstanding contribution to Blind Sport in Australia by Queen Elizabeth II and the Australian Government.

YEAR	NAME	STATE	YEAR	NAME	STATE
1987	Patricia Downie OAM	NSW	2000	Kenneth Norris OAM	WA
1991	Muriel Downie OAM	VIC	2001	Paul Clohessy OAM	WA
	Dorothy Laughton OAM	SA		Leila Daniel OAM	QLD
1993	Tracey Cross OAM	WA		Darren Harry OAM	WA
	Mandy Maywood OAM	WA		Lynette Lepore OAM	WA
	Russell Short OAM	VIC		Tania Modra OAM	SA
	William Siddins OAM	NSW		Lynnette Nixon OAM	WA
	Sarnya Parker OAM	SA	2002	Maurice Gleeson OAM	VIC
	Trevor Vayro OAM	QLD	2004	Douglas Sloan OAM	VIC
	Jodi Willis OAM	VIC	2005	Anthony Biddle OAM	ACT
1994	Norman Daniel AM	QLD		Allan Gregson OAM	NSW
1995	Ronald Anderson OAM	WA		Margaret Gregson OAM	NSW
1996	Carolynne Murrell OAM	NT		Lindy Hou OAM	NSW
1997	Kingsley Bugarin OAM	WA		Janelle Lindsay OAM	NSW
	Anthony Clarke OAM	SA		Kial Stewart OAM	ACT
	Kerry Golding OAM	SA	2006	Frank Bartoli OAM	VIC
	Jeffrey Hardy OAM	QLD		Victor Kelleher OAM	NSW
	Kieran Modra OAM	SA		Jennifer Flood OAM	SA
	Teresa Poole OAM	WA		BSA	
	Sandra Smith OAM	WA	2009	Robert Altamore OAM	ACT
	Alan McConachie	QLD			

	OAM				
1999	Rosemary Penn OAM	SA			
	Helen Searle OAM	NSW			

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

2001 Ronald S Anderson OAM
 Dr Patricia Downie OAM SSStJ
 Terence C Kenaghan
 J. Kerry McGuire
 R. Trevor Vayro OAM

ABSF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

1995	Leila Daniel	Queensland
1995	William Fisher	South Australia
1996	Kenneth Curtis	New South Wales
1997	Jenny Flood	South Australia
1998	Ronald Anderson OAM	Western Australia
2000	John Simon	New South Wales
2001	Dennis Peck	South Australia
2002	Nancye Kimmenade	Victoria
2003	Douglas Sloan	Victoria
2004	Maurice Gleeson	Victoria
2005	Kath Murrell	South Australia
2006	Kerry McGuire	Victoria
2007	Trevor Vayro OAM	Queensland
2008	Frank Bartoli OAM	Victoria

BSA

2009	Hazel Hockley	Victoria
2010	Betty McGuire	ABBA
2011	Dr Pat Downie	NSW
2012	Gayle Underwood	BVIT

Australian Sports Medal 2000

The following ABSF members were recipients of the Australian Sports Medal 2000 to commemorate sporting achievements.

Name	State	Name	State
• Jodie Barnier	NSW	• Terence C. Kenaghan	NSW/ GA
• David A. Brace	NSW	• Ann M. Kent	WA/ ABBA
• Les Buchanan	WA/ ABCC	• Nancye Kimmenade	VIC/ ABSF/ GA
• John W. Capes	VIC/ ABCC	• Kerrie- Ann King	NSW/ GA
• Lynette J. Carter	WA/ ABCC	• Troy King	NSW/ GA
• Anthony L. Clarke OAM	SA	• Dorothy E. Laughton OAM	SA/ ABSF
• Graham G. Coulton	NSW	• Robert S. Laycock	SA/ ABBA
• Betty Coleclough	QLD/ABBA	• Malcolm K. Longford	SA/ ABBA
• Jack Cullen	SA	• Marilyn Mills	NSW/ GA
• Neil Cundy	SA	• Rodney Mills	NSW
• Kenneth C. Curtis	NSW	• Kieran J. Modra OAM	SA
• Leila G. Daniel	QLD/ ABSF	• Kath B. Murrell	SA/ ABBA
• Edith D. Donnell	SA	• J. Kerry McGuire	VIC/ABBA
• Peter J. Donovan	QLD/ ABCC	• Raymond J. McKay	SA
• Patricia Downie OAM SSStJ	NSW/ ABSF	• Cecily McPeake	NSW/ ABBA
• Jennyfer A. Flood	SA	• Sarnya M Parker OAM	SA
• Joy M. Forster	QLD/ ABCC	• Tom Perkin	VIC
• Ian F. Fowler	QLD/ APC	• Helen R. Searle OAM	NSW
• Kevin C. Frew	NSW/ GA	• Gregory J. Scott	QLD/ ABSF
• Ruth P. Frith	NSW	• John C. Simon	NSW/ ABSF
• Rae Fuller	SA/ ABBA	• Doug A. Sloan	VIC/ ABCC
• Maurice R. Gleeson	VIC/ ABSF	• Jason L. Smith	SA
• Allan J. Gregson	NSW	• Robyn D. Stephens	VIC/ GA
• Margaret J. Gregson	NSW	• Thomas B. Turner	NSW
• John Hubbard	NSW	• R. Trevor Vayro	ABCC/ ABSF
• Edna Horton	QLD	• Daphne Vayro	QLD/ ABCC
• Robert R Jones	SA		

Past BSA Board of Directors

PAST PRESIDENT

2009-2012 Mr. S THEODORE

BOARD

2009-2010 Mr. A HOCKLEY
 2009-2011 Mr. J SMITH
 2009-2012 Dr. F ARMER
 2010-2012 Mr. D BLYTH OAM
 2010-2012 Mr. G SARGENT
 2011-2012 Ms. M BROWN

Past ABSF Office Bearers

PAST PRESIDENT

1980-81 E.J.HANLON
 1982 N.W.PRESSEY
 1983 J.H.BLACKBURN
 1984 V.ROOFAYEL
 1985 D.E.LAUGHTON
 1986-87 R.J.SHEPPARD
 1988 R.W.DUFTY (to18.3.88)
 1988 G.G.INNES
 1989-98 N.W.DANIEL AM
 1998-05 R.T.VAYRO OAM
 2005-09 Dr P.D. DOWNIE OAM SSSStJ

VICE PRESIDENT

1980-83 R.S.ANDERSON
 1983 C.K.STEWART
 1984 D.E.LAUGHTON
 1985 R.J.SHEPPARD
 1986 D.E.LAUGHTON
 1987 W.HALLIDAY
 1987-88 B.J.COMPTON
 1988-89 N.ROUSE
 1990-91 L.BUCHANAN
 1991 T.C.KENAGHAN
 1992-93 D.E.LAUGHTON OAM
 1993-96 C.D.MURRELL OAM
 1997-99 R.T VAYRO OAM
 1999-05 Dr P.D.DOWNIE OAM SSSStJ
 2005-07 M.R. GLEESON OAM
 2008-09 Mr D BLYTH OAM

Past ABSF Office Bearers

HONORARY TREASURER

1979-80	R.KILPATRICK
1980-81	K.C.CURTIS
1980-82	E.REYNOLDS
1982	R.BROADBENT
1985-87	V.PARKES
1988	J.BOWEN (to 18.3.88)
1988	A.R.CURTIN
1989-90	P.J.DONOVAN
1991-94	D.C.BEAVIS
1994-95	R.D.STEPHENS
1995-96	Dr.P.D.DOWNIE OAM SSSJ
1996-98	K.M.GREEN
1998-03	L.G.DANIEL OAM
2003-06	N.F.L'EFEVRE
2006-08	D. BRACE

HONORARY SECRETARY

1979-80	D.B.WHITE
1980-84	Dr P.D.DOWNIE
1985	J.HENRY

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS/CEO

1985-88	P.A.HUTCHESON (to 18.3.88)
1988	C.K.STEWART
1989-03	I.F.FOWLER
2003-06	K.M. AISHFORD
2006-07	K. C. KAUFMANN
2008-12	R McPHAIL