

Blind Sports Australia

April 2016



Promotion, Participation & Advocacy of Sports for the Australian Blind Community

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A Message from the CEO



In the newsletter below you will see a hive of activity in blind sports recently, and I

have been fortunate to go to several events and meet up with a number of member organisations and their members. A number of member organisations have recently elected new committees/executive teams and I congratulate and thank all of the committees/executives and look forward to working with you.

I have begun having one-on-one conversations with several of BSA member organisations outlining focus of BSA in 2016/2017. The usual BSA/BSA Member March discussions will be deferred from March to May this year and are really an opportunity whereby members can discuss with BSA how we all can work together with a common goal. A focus will be on strengthening governance in blind and vision impaired sport. Poor governance reflects badly on all, and quite frankly, creates a lot of unnecessary work and directs attention away from the main game – the participation in sport. Another focus will be trying to have all working together – BSA, BSA Member Organisation,

individual members, stakeholders, supporters and volunteers all working for the goal to strengthen and develop blind sport in Australia. A strong blind sports community with benefit all blind sport.

I would also like to people to consider how social media is used. BSA has a Social Media Policy and this can be found on the BSA website. Below is an excerpt from the policy which summarises the intent of the policy.

“Blind Sports Australia seeks to encourage information and link-sharing amongst its membership, staff and volunteers, and seeks to utilise the expertise of its employees and volunteers in generating appropriate social media content.

At the same time, social media posts should be in keeping with the image that Blind Sports Australia wishes to present to the public, and posts made through its social media channels should not damage the organisation’s reputation in any way.”

The new BSA website is live – a couple of features are the events calendar that can be directly

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Blind Sports Australia

**A Foundation Member of the
Australian Paralympic Committee**

ABN 68 008 621 252

PO Box 2114, Oak Park Vic 3046

downloaded to your personal calendars, the volunteer job board, and the Facebook feeds that come straight to the website.

Stephen Barnes, CEO
ceo@blindsportsaustralia.com.au

What have our Members been up to?

Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria

Ready Steady Yarra!

Are you vision impaired?
 Do you enjoy walking tours & cafés?

Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria, with the support of the City of Yarra, would like to invite you to our new **Ready Steady Yarra program**, exploring six different Yarra City sites throughout 2016 with an emphasis on walking, learning and café dining.

- When: Tuesday 22 March, 2016
- Where: Abbotsford Convent & Convent Bakery, 1-16 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford
- Time: 10:00am with tour commencing at 10:30am - lunch/coffee to follow
- Cost: \$12.50 (concession) tour + cost for lunch/coffee

Transport: Option to meet at Flinders Street train station steps under clocks to travel to venue together.

For enquiries please contact Miriam Bilander, telephone: 9822 8876 or email: miriam@blindsports.org.au

Blind Tennis Program - Volunteers Needed

With many blind and vision impaired people never having held a tennis racquet or been on a tennis court, the blind tennis program enables them to develop skills associated with tennis movements such as serving, forehand and backhand with the assistance of trained volunteers. Numerous types of balls are used including audible, coloured and various sizes tennis balls.

The key purpose of the blind tennis program is to provide a fun and safe opportunity for blind and vision impaired participants to learn and play the game.

The program is held 4 times per year in 6 week blocks on Friday evenings at Melbourne Park Indoor Tennis Courts.

We are looking for volunteers who can support and assist blind and vision impaired participants. All volunteers will be trained.

If you would like further information on this program, have a look at the following YouTube link to learn more <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCMammGrDWo> or email Susan at info@blindsports.org.au

Maurice Gleeson/Susan
Blind Sports Victoria

Blind Sporting Association of NSW

Vision Youth Camp, April 18-21, Point Wolstoncroft

This year Blind Sports NSW will hold 3 Vision Youth camps. We are headed to the central coast of NSW to the Sport & Recreation camp site of Point Wolstoncroft on April 18-21.

Registration strictly closes on Thursday March 23rd by 5pm.

This year's first camp will include some really exciting activities including sailing, rock climbing, rowing, archery, goalball, futsal, arena ball, tennis, putt golf & special learn to do NRL & AFL. Nightly activities including the famous Disco Night with DJ MVP & the new TALENT QUEST where big prizes could be won! For further information, contact Murray Elbourne, President via blindsportsnsw@gmail.com.

"Sand in your Eye" Wrap Up

There has been a lot of build up to the "SAND IN YOUR EYE" beach inclusion day and I have to say it lived up to the hype.

The day began with the instructors from Let's Go Surfing who came down and had one to one instructor to participant ratio's which worked great. Our Vision Impaired participants including Shayne McDonagh who is 62 years old and totally blind. Shayne is totally blind with no useful vision but wanted to give it a go and try the surfing. From the picture below I would say Shayne had the time of her life thanks to the great team from Let's Go Surfing who donated their time at no cost for this community event!

From the success of the Surfing lesson we moved to TUG OF WAR which was supported by Ben Hoffman from ATOWA, who also donated his time and traveled down from Maitland to run the event which was really well received by the participants and the volunteers. The event lasted for nearly 5 minutes, you can get more information about this fun and competitive sport at

www.tugofwar.com.au

Emily Rogers then ran our Beach Yoga session who kept the participants limber throughout the day. Emily is a great volunteer who helped Blind Sports NSW on multiple occasions again donating her time.

From there the crew from Ocean Swims came in to run the buddy swimming in the North Bondi Ocean. This group volunteered their time and are experienced swimmers who worked so well with the vision impaired participants and offered to keep being involved for future days. Achilles Running Club of Sydney conducted a number of guide runs along the path behind the beach. Achilles are the recognized leaders in guide running for NSW.

Also big thanks to Surf Life Saving NSW and Dep't of Family & Community Services who supplied a grant for this day, Waverley Council and North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club for all their help and support leading up to and on the day. Keep an eye out for our next Beach Inclusion day in early May.

*Murray Elbourn, President
Blind Sports NSW*

Sporting Wheelies & Disabled Association of QLD

Golf empowering people with a disability through access to equipment and programs

A Queensland hub has been established by Empower Golf Australia at Parkwood International Golf Club on the Gold Coast for golfers of all abilities.



Figure 1 Photo of James Gribble, founder of Empower Golf Australia lining up a swing using the ParaGolfer standing wheelchair

A specialised piece of equipment, the ParaGolfer, will be based at the club for free use by anyone with a disability. The ParaGolfer enables a person with a mobility impairment to get their body into the best position to address the golf ball and manoeuvre around the course. Parkwood International Golf Club is also offering anyone with a disability free green fees and use of the driving range.

Similar hubs have been established in Sydney and Melbourne and are being developed in Perth and Adelaide. There are also plans for expansion to a Brisbane and a north Queensland hub.

At the ISPS Handa Australian Women's Open, being conducted by the LPGA in South Australia in February, the PGA will be conducting 'ParaGolfer' and 'Golf for People with a Disability' training for the very first time for 40 PGA members, which they will take back to their club in order to deliver clinics.

James Gribble, founder of Empower Golf Australia, is committed to working in partnership with the disability sector and the golf industry to ensure a wide variety of people can access golf through the hubs. Queensland has a head start on this

concept with golf stakeholders already working together to promote each other's events and a strong link to the sector through the Sports CONNECT Queensland Network, coordinated by Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association.

Association member Ben Tullipan will head up the Queensland hub with support from Jamie Turner. Tullipan says, "It's great to be able to promote the wonderful sport of golf by empowering those lesser able-bodied people with the gift of golf."

Empower Golf Australia is looking to develop a National Multi-Disability Golf Championships, which Golf Queensland's Inclusive Golf Championships could be a pathway to. The ultimate goal is to see golf included in the Paralympics in the future, mirroring the inclusion of the sport for the first time in the Rio Olympics this year.

Gribble, who broke his neck in 2008 resulting in quadriplegia, sums up the importance of providing access to golf for people of all abilities. "Getting out and playing again with my mates on the golf course is a massive thing for me. The feeling of being outside, the banter, the mateship, everything that goes with golf, is fantastic! I am determined to make golf accessible to men, women and children of all abilities."

For further information about Empower Golf Australia and the ParaGolfer visit:
<http://www.empowergolf.com.au>, or email Ben Tullipan on ben@empowergolf.com.au

Young stars get a flying start to sporting career

Twenty-one promising young Queensland athletes with a disability

have been named in the 2016 Junior Development Program (JDP) coordinated by Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association.

The 2016 JDP reflects the spread of sporting talent across Queensland, with representatives from Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns.

The athletes come from six sports – wheelchair basketball, goalball, boccia, swimming, athletics and wheelchair tennis – and range in age from 12 to 19 years.



Figure 2 2016 JDP athlete Georgia Bishop-Cash

The 2016 JDP features a tiered system of Gold, Silver and Bronze levels to reflect the different levels of athlete achievement and commitment. A Shooting Stars Squad will support rising stars who have shown early potential in one or more sports.

“One of the things JDP athletes value the most is the opportunity to come to our JDP camps and meet other young people who have similar sporting dreams,” said Sport Development Coordinator Joe Moynihan.

“As well as training and professional development sessions, the camps offer team-building activities that provide a fun atmosphere and encourage athletes to develop

friendships that provide great support through their future sporting careers. “This year, we’re planning one major camp at Tallebudgera Recreation Centre on 3-6 July, as it worked so well last year.”

The JDP started as an annual program in 1988 and has supported some of Australia’s most successful young Paralympians.

For more information about the Junior Development Program, Sport Development Coordinator Joe Moynihan on (07) 3253 3333.

Queensland forum encourages collective effort on inclusion moving towards NDIS launch

The annual Sports CONNECT Queensland Network Forum was held by Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association on Tuesday 8 March. The event allowed key stakeholders from the sport and disability sectors to learn more about the NDIS and discuss how each sector can enable greater choice for people with a disability.

The forum was officially opened by Treasurer and Minister for Sport Curtis Pitt and the keynote speaker was Fiona Anderson from the National Disability Insurance Agency.

Interstate presenters and athlete panelists provided further insight into the NDIS and what inclusion can look like, with Joel Johnston from Queensland Rugby Union providing a great example of how parents, clubs and state bodies can work together to deliver opportunities.

2016 Queensland Goalball Programs underway

Goalballers are back in action in Queensland, with Cairns players

starting back on Wednesday 3 February at Cairns State High School. The Brisbane Goalball Program will start up on Saturday 2 April at the YMCA Bowen Hills.

The first session will encourage anyone interested in the sport to come along for a free also try, and friends and family are encouraged to get involved as well. Both program will encourage participants to develop their individual and competition skills in the lead up to the 2016 Hells Bells Queensland Goalball Championships held from 16 – 17 July 2016.

For more information or to register please contact Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association on Ph: (07) 3253 3333 or email goalball@sportingwheelies.org.au.

Junior Disability Sport Showcase - Tuesday 22 March 2016

Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association is coordinating a Junior Disability Sport Showcase on Tues 22 March from 3-5pm at YMCA Bowen Hills in Brisbane.

The event aims to encourage children with a physical disability or vision impairment to get active. Participants can try sports such as boccia, goalball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, para-cycling/handcycling and gymnastics and learn about other programs to help live an active, healthy life. Parents, carers, siblings and friends welcome!

For more information or to RSVP call (07) 3253 3333 or email mailbox@sportingwheelies.org.au.

*David Bartholomaeus, Sport & Recreation Manager,
Sporting Wheelies*

Association of SA Blind Sporting Clubs

The first quarter of 2016, has seen Blind Sports SA undertake a lot of planning to enable us to deliver a more structured regional program in 2016.

This will commence later this month as we head to the Riverland to take Blind Sports to the local community, with the support of SA School for Vision Impaired visiting teaching service, Monash school & the local council, before heading to Port Augusta May & Mt Gambier in June.

Plans have also been put in place to run Cricket, Soccer, AFL & Hockey each term over the next year at SA School for Vision Impaired and discussions have been entered into with the various state bodies to support the delivery of these programs.

*Kent Dredge
Sports Development Officer
Blind Sports SA*

WA Blind Sports Federation

What has been happening in WA?

It has been a busy few months in WA with many events, forums and meetings taking place. A brief snapshot of some of these include:

Blinded By Sunset, 6th March. This was a community awareness and fundraising event presented by Retina Australia WA. All proceeds from this fabulous event went towards funding research that will enable treatment, prevention and cures of inherited retinal diseases.

Disability Sports & Recreation Forum, 11th March. This forum was held at the Department of Sport & Recreation in Leederville.

Meeting with Football West representing WA Blind Sports Federation about setting up Blind Football (Soccer) in WA. This was one of many meetings that have taken place to date, with an estimated kick off being in June or July! More info to come regarding this exciting new opportunity.

We were booked in to do Hula Hopping with Bree from Happy Healthy Hoops on Saturday 26th March at Stirling Gardens on the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace, Perth. Whilst this promised to be a fun and energetic event for all it was unfortunately cancelled given the inclement weather. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of the rescheduled event.

Volunteers needed as Sighted Travel companions

Vision Impaired Tour of Singapore 2016 with George Booth, 17th July 2016 for 6 nights

For more than 10 years George Booth has designed and escorted tours for people who are blind or vision impaired to many cities in South East Asia, China and New Zealand delivering many exciting experiences, appealing to the senses, with interesting content inclusions to ensure maximum enjoyment on tour.

In 2016 an escorted tour of Singapore has been designed with flights departing from around Australia, as part of the opportunity to meet other like-minded persons, whilst holidaying in the multi-cultural garden city of South East Asia.

The activities include morning walks, open top bus tour, the National Orchid Gardens, the Bird Park and even lunch with the parrots. Leisure time mixed with the opportunity to shop, take optional tours and eating out together from our central base of Peninsula/Excelsior Hotel.

For more information or to make a reservation contact Ms Faye Pafumi on (08) 93825082 or Email: faye@traveltree.com.au

Want to learn how to sail?

Sailability programs provide sailing opportunities for people with a disability regardless of their ability, mobility or circumstances. A variety of vessels are utilised, from small stable 2-person dinghies to 20 foot and larger yachts. The sailing areas are safe protected waters and all activities are supported by a safety boat.

On a weekly basis during the sailing season places on boats are provided to give people with a disability the opportunity to sail. They can be from agency networks or living independently within the community. They can be assisted by a support worker or family member or be independent, sailing in easily accessible, stable and safe boats under the control of an experienced skipper.

The Hansa 2-person dinghy Class has been specifically designed to be extremely stable and simple to operate. Several larger yachts are also utilised, which can accommodate more participants. Hoists are available to transfer wheelchair users into the boats provided. All volunteers are trained in safety and first aid, and a support powerboat is provided for all activities. For further

details

visit www.sailabilitywa.com.au

Source of contribution: The Western Australian Blind Sports Federation Facebook Page.

Australian Blind Bowlers Association

The Australian Blind Bowls Association has started 2016 with some exciting events fast-approaching.

At the end of April, the Australian team will head to Auckland, New Zealand for the Trans-Tasman Series. The team has seventeen members: one male and one female bowler in each of four sight categories, eight Directors, and the Coach/Manager. The Series will be played at the Brown Bay Bowling Club, on Auckland's North Harbour, from 27 April to 30 April. ABBA would like to acknowledge and thank the many bowls clubs across Australia who have made donations to help the Australian team get to Auckland.

The team prepared for the Series with a training camp in late February at Bribie Island Bowls Club, which is about an hour north of Brisbane. Bribie's wind-swept, fast greens provided the team with some idea of the conditions that can be expected in Auckland, although playing in the expected cooler weather in Auckland in April should be less arduous. ABBA would like to thank Bribie's members for their wonderful hospitality and their spirited competition.

The 2016 ABBA National Championships will be held at Port City Bowling Club at Port Macquarie, New South Wales, from 1 June to 9 June. This is the first time that Port City has hosted the ABBA Nationals, and all competitors will be looking forward to playing at a new venue. Thanks to the NSW Association who are organising and hosting the event.

The Nationals will be followed quickly by the Australian Open which will be held on the Gold Coast in mid to late June. Blind bowlers will be competing in Men's and Ladies' Singles, and in Open Pairs. If the quality and keenness of the competition are anything like that seen in 2015, it should be a great event!

Chris Backstrom, President, Australian Blind Bowlers Association

Blind Cricket Australia

RP's Star for both Australia and England in International Blind Cricket Series.

Steve Palmer, Ricky Segura and Matt Cameron (on debut), all RP's, were the standout performers for Australia in Adelaide during the Lord's Taverners International Blind Cricket Series from the 22nd to 31st January. Unfortunately, Australia lost the ODI series 4-1 but split the T20 series 1-1.

England ODI captain Matt Dean (RP with Ushers) dominated the series and was awarded the Vision Australia 'man of the series' and an iPad Pro.

Blind Cricket Australia Chairman and Australian fast bowler Ray Moxly said, "Australia needs to find more well sighted (but legally blind) RP's if they want to remain competitive at the international level".

Blind Cricket Australia is running a number of High Performance talent identification camps over winter in the hope of finding some new RP's to add to the squad going to India in November to the T20 World Cup.

Blind Cricket is a sport for people who are legally blind at all levels but those who just qualify as being legally blind tend to have the greatest impact at international level.

For more information on talent identification camps or Blind Cricket in general contact Ray Moxly on 0413 767

375, email
chairman@blindcricket.org.au or
Facebook Blind Cricket Australia.

Ray Moxly, Chairman, Blind Cricket Australia

Blind Golf Australia

The period December through February is usually a fairly quiet time for blind golf and this year was no different. There are no major tournaments to report on, and Western Australia (WABGA) take a break during the very hot summer in Perth. "Club" events continue in the eastern states with regular competitions in Victoria/NSW.

Competitions

The only major event played was the Interstate Challenge between NSW and Victoria which is played at Yass NSW each year. There was a good attendance this year and Victoria won the event by a solitary point, in part due to an excellent round by David Blyth.

Blind Golf Victoria (BGV) played their club championships in January /February and like he did a few years ago David Wheatley came from behind to win the 2 round event. The highlight of David's rounds was that he didn't have a "miss" over 36 holes—one of the few times this has been achieved in blind golf events.

BGV also played the annual caddies championship in March. Sue Stevenson enjoyed the long drive back to Camperdown after winning this event for the first time. BGV was delighted with the attendance at recent events, particularly from the new players and caddies.

2016 Calendar of Major Events

Since the last newsletter, BGA has firmed up dates and venues for the major events to be played this year. Being a world championship year and with the inaugural Queensland Open,

2016 shapes up as a full programme. Details are as follows

- Victorian Open Rosebud Country Club, April 14/15
- Australian Stableford Adelaide Shores GC, May 26/27
- Queensland Open Virginia Golf Club, July 17/20
- Western Australian Open Collier Park GC, August 15
- ISPS HANDA Australian Open Wembley GC, August 17/18
- NSW Open Bankstown GC, September 19/20
- ISPS HANDA Japan Open Saitama Prefecture Japan, November 8
- ISPS HANDA World Blind Golf Championships Saitama Prefecture, Japan November 9/10

News from the BGA Board

Unfortunately, due to a combination of work and study, Dona Kuruvitaarachy has decided to resign a Secretary/Treasurer of BGA – BGA thanks Dona for her contribution over the past 18 months. The position of Secretary Treasurer will be filled as a “casual vacancy” at the BGA Board meeting in late March.

The BGA website has been bought up to date, particularly in showing blind golf events throughout Australia for 2016. The new “local rule” in respect of the use of Distance Measuring Devices in blind golf is now set out the website. Go to www.blindgolf.com.au for further information.

The Board is now working on the final details for the Australian Stableford Championships to be played in Adelaide in May and the inaugural Queensland Open to be played in Brisbane in July. Entry forms for the Australian Stableford will go out in early April. The Board is hopeful of a good attendance in Adelaide for the only blind golf event played in South Australia. Expressions of interest for the Queensland Open are above expectations at this stage.

It is also hoped that the “come and try” day scheduled for Sunday July 17 at

Virginia GC will be successful amongst the blind sports fraternity in Queensland - a great opportunity to see how blind golf is played and get some lessons from professionals.

ISPS HANDA 2016 World Blind Golf Championships

The International Blind Golf Association has awarded Australia 9 places (out of a total 56) in the 2016 World Blind Golf Championships to be held in Japan in November. This event will be preceded by the 2016 ISPS HANDA Japan Open and all our team will also play in this event.

The team is as follows:

- David Blyth Victoria
- Graham Coulton, Rod Mills, Stephen Mitchell and Gary Sargent NSW
- Jenny McCallum, Deanna Minciullo, Malcolm Elliott and Doug Burrows WA

This is probably the most diverse team Australia has sent to a World Championship event with 3 states represented, 2 ladies in the team, and 2 B3's, 6 B2's and 1 B1. There is a potential world champion – or champions – in this team!

Training the Professionals

In association with the ISPS HANDA Australian Women's Open held in Adelaide in February, Golf Australia in conjunction with the PGA and the LPGA conducted a 2day seminar to “teach professionals how to coach disabled golfers”.

Robert Curtin SA attended the second day of the seminar to give the professionals “hands on “experience and then took part in the pro-am later in the day. Robert reports that the seminar was excellent and provided the opportunity to meet other golfers with a disability.

*Geoff Walsh/Doug Sloan
Blind Golf Australia*

Goalball Australia

The bells are ringing to sound the beginning of the 2016 Goalball season

Around Australia new and old faces are returning for another year of fierce competition. Each state has their own social competitions and local training sessions to cater for the ever growing number of Goalball players around the nation.

The Australian Women's Goalball team, the Aussie Belles, didn't waste any time and had a national training camp in Sydney in early February. These nationwide training camps see the best women players in Australia come together for a weekend of elite training. Their on-court sessions are supplemented by rigorous cardio and weight schedules.

All this training isn't in vain. Australia's experienced Goalball players are all preparing of the Aussie Invitational Cup which will be held on the Gold Coast over April 8th – 10th. The Aussie Invitational Cup is a coveted title and a highlight on the Australian Goalball calendar.

To support the development of the youth program, this year the tournament will see the youth and senior players competing together. The competition will feature a men and women's draw and players from around the country will be placed into teams.

The Aussie Invitational Cup will be held at Gold Coast Recreation Centre so if you are in the area please feel free to drop in and watch this unique sport.

*Jenny Blow, Vice President, Goalball
Australia*

Blind & Vision Impaired Tenpin Bowling

BVIT National Championships - 2016

The 8th Australian Blind and Vision Impaired Tenpin Bowling Championships were held at Aspley bowl, Brisbane from Monday 14th to Thursday 17th March 2016. The event, which was an accredited Tenpin Bowling Australia tournament attracted B1, B2 and B3 bowlers from WA, Vic, NSW and Qld.

This event followed the current IBSA tournament structure:

- Day 1 - Singles (6 consecutive games)
- Day 2 - Teams of 4 (4 consecutive games)
- Day 3 - Doubles (6 consecutive games) and
- Day 4 - Trios (4 consecutive games)



Day 1 – Bowlers on the lanes at Aspley Tenpin Bowl

The crucial role of Tournament Director was again filled by Louise Eady from Victoria. Louise was the Australian Team Coach at the World Games in Seoul, South Korea last May where Australia came fourth in the overall medal tally. Louise is also heavily involved in junior development in her state so we were very fortunate that she was able to fit our event into her busy schedule.

Our long-serving tireless committee

member Gail Underwood missed the event at the last minute after her son Ryan broke his leg requiring surgery. We missed them both in Brisbane and hope Ryan is back bowling again very soon. Get well Ryan from all at BVIT.

The BVIT Annual General Meeting was held at Aspley Tenpin Bowl on the afternoon of Tuesday 15th March. The meeting followed the published agenda; the following committee members were elected:

- President - Glen Barwick
- Treasurer - Gail Underwood
- Secretary - Eileen Scott
- Ordinary member - Marilyn Luck
- Ordinary member - Rhian Patching
- Ordinary member - Ryan Underwood

The Presentation dinner was held at the Kedron Wavell Services Club on the Thursday night. Blind Sports Australia was represented by board member Karen Ryan who presented some awards on the night.



Group at the 8th Australian national tenpin bowling championships

The following trophies were awarded:

- FEMALE Bowler of the Year - Marilyn Luck
- MALE Bowler of the Year - Rhian Patching
- FEMALE Encouragement Award 2016 - Cassandra Lovett
- MALE Encouragement Award 2016 - Ryan Underwood
- FEMALE High Game - Marilyn Luck (178)

- MALE High Game - Rhian Patching (278)
- Highest Pins over entering average - Glen Barwick (+20)

The following medals were awarded:

All Events - Scratch

- B1 Female - Marilyn Luck (2,504)
- B1 Male - Justin Bettes (2,423)
- B2 Female - Judy Schmidt (2,134)
- B2 Male - Glen Barwick (3,223)
- B3 Female - Cassandra Lovett (2,175)
- B3 Male - Rhian Patching (3,863)

All Events - Handicap

- B1 Female - Hazel Hockley (4,408)
- B1 Male - Graeme Byrnes (4,42)
- B2 Female - Maureen Hardcastle (4,196)
- B2 Male - Joel Swindail (4,119)
- B3 Female - Jessica Lovett (4,251)
- B3 Male - Tim Wilson (4,004)

Teams of 4 - Scratch

- **Gold** - Marilyn Luck, Glen Barwick, Tim Mitchell, Rhian Patching
- **Silver** - Justin Bettes, Joel Swindail, David Martin, Reg Pollard

Teams of 4 - Handicap

- **Gold** - Joan Andrews, Judy Schmidt, Cassie Lovett, Jenny Ingle
- **Silver** - Hazel Hockley, Matt Bryant, Donna Holland, Tim Wilson

Doubles - Scratch

- **Gold** - Marilyn Luck, Rhian Patching
- **Silver** - Joel Swindail, David Martin
- **Bronze** - Tim Wilson, Glen Barwick

Doubles - handicap

- **Gold** - Hazel Hockley, Betty Mill
- **Silver** - Graeme Byrnes, Jenny Ingle
- **Bronze** - Justin Bettes, Cassie Lovett



Photo: Cassandra Lovett, Glen Barwick, Jessica Lovett and Karen Ryan

Trios - Scratch

- **Gold** - Marilyn Luck, Glen Barwick, Rhian Patching
- **Silver** - Justin Bettes, David Martin, Joel Swindail



Photo: Karen Ryan with Bowler of the Year Awards - Marilyn Luck (Left) and Rhian Patching (Right)

Trios - Handicap

- **Gold** - Maureen Hardcastle, Donna Holland, Betty Mill
- **Silver** - Joan Andrews, Judy Schmidt, Tim Wilson



Photo: Glen Barwick and Karen Ryan

Planning for our next national event is already underway but on-going difficulties with funding, coupled with the increased cost of air travel, accommodation and centre lane costs will be a major factor in where and when the next event will be held.

Visit the BVIT web page at <http://www.bvit.asn.au> for a full run-down of the championships.

Glen Barwick, BVIT President

BVIT Award Presentation – 17 March 2016. Kedron-Wavell RSL

As Glen mentioned in his report, I attended the BVIT Award presentation on 17th March. Thank you to the BVIT Committee for the invitation. It was great to be able to attend, meet many of those who participated in the Championships and to be involved in handing over some of the Awards!

Here are a few photos taken at the Award Presentation Evening.

Other News

Winner of the Scratch & Win Competition

Congratulations to the BSA Scratch & Win Major Prize winner Glenice Mitchell from Geraldton, WA.

Glenice was the lucky winner of the Scratch & Win promotion drawn on Monday, 4th April. Glenice has been awarded the major prize of \$30,000!

Thank you to everyone that supported BSA in this promotion

Blind Sports Australia Website

We are very proud to announce that our new website has been launched! Since going live, enquiries through the site have increased dramatically which can only be a good thing for BSA and our member organisations!

The BSA website has been designed as an awareness/marketing tool of Blind Sports Australia and as such assists us to meet our objectives of promotion, participation and advocacy. There are many great features of our new website, one of which is a new calendar of events. This will enable all visitors to the site to be aware of events and functions coming up locally and nationally that they may be able to attend. In order to keep this section of the website updated, it would be appreciated if you could send details of your up-coming events to Melissa Martin via melissa@blindsportsaustralia.com.au

Top Class Table Tennis - Swish

Australian National Para Table Tennis Championships for Athletes with a Disability

“Come and see the best Para Table Tennis in Australia at the Carmel Gym in Yokine, Perth, Western Australia. Players will be fighting it out for National Individual and Teams titles as well as vying for spots in the national squad and possible National representation. Public welcome to attend. Hours of play 10am to 5pm each day of competition. Tuesday 10am to 2pm.”

Should you have any further queries, please contact Chau Giang from Vision Australia at Chau.Giang@visionaustralia.org.

Confederation of Australian Sport Forum: A cross-sector approach to increasing physical activity by 15%

over 5 years. 23rd March 2016.

It's quite startling to discover that only 43% of adults and 19% of children currently meet the Government's Guidelines for Physical Activity. The statistics relating to those with a vision impairment would, I'm sure, be even less!

The purpose of the CAS forum was to begin discussions regarding a potential collaboration between the Sport, Health and Education sectors. This was the first time over 60 organisations within these three sectors were brought together to determine what, if anything, we can do together to increase physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviour.

The general consensus seemed to be that there are many synergies and opportunities for collaboration so.... Watch this space! More communication from CAS will follow over the coming months. Should you wish to find out more in the meantime, feel free to send me an email via melissa@blindsportsaustralia.com.au

Melissa Martin, BSA Board Member

Focal Point - 1197 AM Radio 5RPH Adelaide.

On Peter Greco's Focal Point, he speaks with Marilyn Luck.

Marilyn Luck, winner of 5 Gold Medals and being the outstanding ten pin bowler at the recent Nationals for Athletes who are blind or vision impaired.

You can hear these interviews, go to www.rphadelaide.org.au/links/FP.mp3

The Challenges of Sport in Australia

Visit the "Newsletter, Facebook, Audio" page on the Blind Sports Australia website to hear Stephen Barnes, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Blind Sports Australia speak about the challenges currently faced in Sport. The audio link on the BSA website is of his straight shooting presentation to the Blind Citizens Australia Annual Conference in Perth in October 2015.

PERTH - Deafblind West Australians

The West Coast Street Rod Club has generously offered to host an event for Deafblind West Australians and their supporters.

Saturday April 23rd from 11.30 am
West Coast Street Road Club

Come along catch up with friends old and new and enjoy a joy ride in one of these incredible vehicles. A BBQ lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by Wednesday the 13th of April to secure your place
RSVP to
email:karen.wickham@senses.org.au
mobile: 0424900788

Upcoming Events

April 2016

14th & 15th April

Blind Golf Victorian Open, Rosebud Country Club

May 2016

15th May

Blind Golf Vic Long Handicap Day, Malvern Valley

26th & 27th May

Blind Golf Australian Stableford Championship, Adelaide

July 2016

18th & 19th July

Blind Golf Queensland Open, Virginia GC, Brisbane

August 2016

15th August

Blind Golf WABGA WA Open, Collier Park, Perth

17th & 18th August

Blind Golf ISPS HANDA Australian Open, Wembley, Perth

September 2016

19th & 20th September

Blind Golf NSW Open, Bankstown, Sydney

More details of upcoming events will shortly be added to the Blind Sports Australia website. Keep an eye on the calendar to see what events are coming up in your sport / state.

For enquiries contact ceo@blindsportsaustralia.com.au

Blind Sports Australia Board Members



Mr David Blyth AO
Director, Chair



Mr Gary Sargent
Director



Mr Sam Theodore
Director



Ms Karen Ryan
Director



Ms Voula Karantzas
Director



Mr Garry Humphries
Director



Ms Melissa Martin
Director



Mrs Eileen Sargent
Company Secretary



Mr Stephen Barnes
CEO

Blind Sports Australia Member Organisations

