

*What a year 2018 has been...*

2018 has been a big year with almost 1000 attendances at over 120 events, and some members having attended over 70 activities throughout the year! In the face of a changing landscape due to the NDIS, this year has seen us work towards improving not only our programs but also our processes to work towards as smooth an experience as possible for our members.

Here's a snapshot of our year...

*more inclusive than ever:* **Junior Carnival**



Junior Carnival 2018 saw the participation of 3 All Abilities members (2 from Victoria and 1 from NSW), 2 All Abilities Youth Leaders (from NSW) and a number of All Abilities volunteers who helped with activities and with running the kiosk. This was only possible through the hard work of the organising committee, the volunteers, buddies, youth leaders and families who opened up their homes.

*community recognition:* **Glen Eira Awards**



This year we were very proud to be named joint winners for Glen Eira's Community Group of the Year Award. Presented at Council's annual Australia Day breakfast by Glen Eira Mayor Cr Tony Athanasopoulos, the Awards recognise the outstanding contributions of community groups which, through hard work and dedication, have significantly contributed to the Glen Eira community.

*weekly training:* **the Maccabi Dolphins**



The Maccabi Dolphins basketball team trains on a weekly basis. Basketball is where our program began, and it continues to be our strongest program. Our experienced coaches take our players through drills and a social game where they can put their skills to good use.

*involved at all levels:* **All Abilities volunteers**



This year has seen a number of All Abilities members get involved in mainstream clubs and programs in various volunteering capacities. We hope to see this number grow in coming years.

*showing off skills:* **basketball tournaments**



On Sunday November 18th over 100 players from 14 teams descended on Bialik to play in Maccabi's annual All Abilities Basketball Tournament. It was a great opportunity for players from different associations to compete against one another in friendly (but fast) games. The scores were incredibly close and it was a great day of basketball.

*in the water each week:* **swimming program**



Each week the All Abilities swimming program takes place alongside the mainstream swimming club training. By training at this time, the swimmers are able to transition between programs if suitable. The swimmers work on water confidence, stroke technique and water safety.

*taking a dive: partnering with DDV*



Earlier this year a few of our swimmers decided to try something different and go snorkelling with the Disabled

Divers Association.

This was a great opportunity for our members to use their water skills in a different environment, and learn some new skills as well.

*teaching the community: Limmud Oz*



Representatives of the Jewish Disability Network (JDN) recently facilitated a session at Limmud Oz Melbourne.

With a range of panellists, all with different lived experience of disability, they shared their personal stories around employment, volunteering and community involvement.

*the Snappers strike back: MS Swimathon*



Every year the Maccabi All Abilities Snappers take to the pool to raise money for the National Maccabi / MS

Swimathon. Family and friends once again joined our swimmers for this great cause.

*having a hit: table tennis*



This year saw our coaches Ben and Ken run two block programs of table tennis. Our members really enjoyed being able to brush up on their skills and play some social table tennis.

*formalising partnerships: Jewish Care MOU*



Maccabi All Abilities and Jewish Care Victoria signed a new memorandum of understanding, extending a long history of

collaboration. As part of the agreement, we have committed to continuing to provide inclusive social, recreational and sporting opportunities to our community.

*upskilling our coaches: training the trainers*



Simon Rodder, Sport Development & Partnership Manager for Special Olympics Australia facilitates an inclusive coaching session for coaches of Maccabi All

Abilities, as well as coaches from the Maccabi Football Club. Simon encouraged the coaches to consider ways they can make their coaching more fun and inclusive, and reminded everyone that inclusive coaching is often just good coaching.

*busting a move: dance*



In term 2, Maccabi All Abilities, Access Inc. and Jewish Care ran a Wednesday afternoon dance program. Our members loved

having a chance to show off their hip hop skills, Zumba moves and musicality.

*specific skills: Autism Swim*



Thanks to some additional funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation, we have been able to upskill our swimming coaches through Autism Swim's training platform.

*a new home: accessible offices*



This year the Maccabi offices moved to a new home. Our new premises are ground floor, accessible and light and bright.

*new addition: Alexia Keats*



Our swimming coach Alexia Keats joined the team to work with Maccabi All Abilities not only in the pool, but also in the office in a program support role.

*learning new skills: self defence*



For the first time we offered our members a series of self-defence workshops. Run in conjunction with Access Inc. and Jewish Care, these

sessions covered both practice and theory of staying safe.

*out and about: schmoozing and grooving*



Our Schmooze and Groove group meet fortnightly to go walking, wheeling and talking in the sunshine. If the weather isn't on our

side, members will often meet in the Hub to catch up and play board games.

*an annual favourite: tenpin bowling*



Tenpin bowling is a firm favourite, with some of our members bowling weekly with the mainstream Maccabi Tenpin Club.

For the less competitive, we went bowling with Access Inc and Jewish Care. Everyone had a great afternoon working towards strikes, spares or just trying to stay away from the gutter!

*on the green: lawn bowls*



All Abilities members had the opportunity to practice their lawn bowls technique with a fun afternoon hosted by the

Maccabi and Armadale Bowls Clubs where the club members shared their knowledge and expertise.

*planning ahead: strategic review*



In November we called on the community to help us plan for our future. Almost 20 individuals – including Maccabi

Victoria personnel, service users and professionals from the wider disability and sporting communities – shared their hopes and dreams for the All Abilities program. Over the coming weeks we will be distilling all the feedback to shape the future of the program.

*community involvement: sporting community*

We are proud to once again have been part of the Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Organisations Committee. In doing so we have assisted with submissions to government about the future of disability sport and collaborated with other service providers. We are looking forward to working closely with other disability sport providers not only through VDSROC but also through the recently instated communities of practice being hosted by the Department of Sport and Recreation.

*exercising the mind: games night*



We ran an inaugural games night to give our members a chance to socialise, exercise their minds and have some fun. Games ranged from lower-key board games to a group game of Pictionary and even some dancing!

*with great thanks: our amazing funders*



Our programs wouldn't be possible without amazing generosity from the Jewish and sporting communities. We would especially like to thank The Department of Sport and Recreation, Alan Synman, Gandel Philanthropy, the Meydan family, those who directed their Charidy and other donations to All Abilities, and our other generous supporters.

*community involvement: Jewish community*

The ties between the disability service providers in the Jewish community are strong, and continue to strengthen over time. We are so grateful not only for strong partnerships through the JDN (Jewish Disability Network), but also the opportunity to share our programs with the community through events such as In One Voice, Yom Ha'Atzmaut and the Holocaust Centre's Lives Worth Living event.

*Looking ahead...*

For 2019 we want to take the learnings and feedback from our strategic planning session and work towards more personalised pathways to participation. This will be a multi-faceted approach that will include upskilling coaches within All Abilities and the wider Maccabi cohort, and building stronger relationships with both Maccabi clubs and other accessible sporting providers.

We would like to thank you for your support over the last 12 months and look forward to sharing the coming year with you.

*~ Sheryl Furman, General Manager Maccabi Victoria  
Shari Cohen, All Abilities Inclusion Coordinator*

*footy fever: watching AFL*



Going to the footy is a staple Australian activity, and it's no different for our members. Along with Access Inc. and Jewish Care we attended a nail-bitingly close match between Melbourne and St Kilda at the MCG.

*learning by doing: student placements*



This year we hosted a student placement for health promotion student Abbie Gosling. Abbie worked on creating new resources and social media content for Maccabi All Abilities and Maccabi Victoria. We were so excited to hear that Abbie recently took on the role of Communication and Events Manager for TOM Melbourne.

*in memory: Josh Ferenbach*



This year we were saddened by the unexpected passing of one of our program stalwarts – Josh Ferenbach. Josh was involved not only in All Abilities, but also in a number of other clubs and programs with roles including AJAX footy volunteer, AJAX junior footy assistant coach, and recent graduate of the Maccabi Future Leadership Program. His humour, kind nature and passion for sport will be sorely missed, and we are looking to create an award in his name.