

UPDATE - JUNE 2015

The second quarter of 2015 has been one of development and growth, with a new Inclusion Coordinator, some great opportunities for our members and some exciting projects in the works.

See below for a summary of our progress over the last few months.



Member Ben Rychter speaking at the Maccabi Victoria Volunteer Awards Night, after receiving the All Abilities Volunteer of the Year Award.

2015 Maccabi Victoria Awards Night

We were delighted to be able to award member Ben Rychter with the All Abilities Club Volunteer of the Year Award. Ben has been integrated into the mainstream bowling club, is a paid coach for our table tennis program, and volunteers at walking group and countless other events. His experience with Maccabi has also helped him secure work through Gymnastics Victoria.

All Abilities Events and Opportunities:

- Offering **seven regular active sporting opportunities** offered for All Abilities members (basketball, lawn bowls, soccer, swimming, table tennis, tennis, walking group). Constantly working to develop and improve these programs.
- **Volunteer roles** created and running in Maccabi Victoria offices as administration assistant and at various functions and events.
- Held a **Healthy Eating Seminar** for members to help them understand how to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- Ran a highly successful **horse riding** event in conjunction with Access Inc. Due to the

overwhelming success we're looking at running more horse riding events in the future.

- Members **integrated into mainstream clubs**, including netball, soccer, hockey, tennis and tenpin bowling.
- **The Dolphins (basketball team)** will be participating in the upcoming McKinnon All Abilities Basketball Tournament.
- **Farewell to Lauren.** Inclusion Coordinator Lauren Mandel was farewelled at a recent Maccabi Council meeting. Family and All Abilities members surprised her by turning up to say thank you and wish her well with her new adventures.

Administration:

- **Handover complete** to new Inclusion Coordinator Shari Cohen.
- **Overview of Maccabi Victoria All Abilities programs** document composed and projected calendar of events for 2015 being developed and updated.
- **200-hour student internship** currently being undertaken by Business/Sports Management student (Fodis) from La Trobe University.
- **History of the All Abilities program** has been completed and published on the Maccabi Victoria website.
- Active participation in **SILC (Social Inclusion Leadership Committee)** and **JDN (Jewish Disability Network)**.



Previous Inclusion Coordinator Lauren Mandel with current Inclusion Coordinator Shari Cohen

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Policy and procedure:

- **MAI's Member Protection Policy** in roll-out phase. Shari has attended training as the integrity officer of the All Abilities Club, and further training for staff and volunteers to follow in the second half of the year.



Some of the participants in the inaugural Maccabi Victoria All Abilities/Access Inc horse riding day

Stakeholder relationship development:

- Meeting with **special need schools** via joint community visits program with Access Inc. and Jewish Care. Further visits to be planned for the second half of the year.
- Continued strong collaboration with other **disability service** via collaborative events, committees, shared resources
- Continued capacity building for **Maccabi Victoria clubs** through provision of resources and support.
- Liaising with **King David School** to support all abilities member receiving paid work as a sports teacher assistant.



All Abilities members learning about healthy eating and lifestyles at our interactive information session

Marketing and promotion:

- **All Abilities monthly newsletter** edited and distributed to key stakeholders and incorporated into other organisation's newsletters
- **Facebook page** maintains active profile, with growing followers, currently 189 likes.
- **All Abilities website, smartphone app and community calendar** continue to be developed and updated.



Ten years on and The Dolphins are still going strong

Grants, funding and sponsorship:

- Came second in the **Grill'd Local Matters** support program, receiving \$100 and raised awareness of the program in the local community.
- Finalised reporting for the 2013-15 AAA funding (received from the Department of Sport and Recreation) and will apply for future grants.
- Awarded a grant for \$13,000 from the Gandel Trust
- Received \$9000 from the Jack and Robert Smorgon Families Family Trust
- Received a generous contribution from the Helen and Bori Liberman family to the program.

For further information please contact:

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Stay up to date with Maccabi Victoria All Abilities:

- **Website:** <http://www.maccabi.com.au/VIC/All-Abilities>
- **Facebook:** maccabivictoriaallabilities