

UPDATE – MARCH 2017

2017 programming is in full swing and we have already run over 30 events encompassing regular sport training, physical fitness, mental and emotional wellbeing, and special events.



We kicked off our calendar with a pet-friendly Shmooze and Groove session around Caulfield Park.

Fantastic Opportunities for All Abilities Members

- We had an All Abilities member participate in the whole week of **Perth Junior Carnival 2017**. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it possible, including the team management, host family, buddy and youth leaders. We're now looking ahead to **Carnival 2018** which will be in Melbourne in January and we can't wait to look for as many ways as possible for All Abilities members to get involved from all over Australia! With the age range for Carnival participation being 12-16, we are hoping to engage more adolescents of all abilities. Additionally, we are looking to facilitate volunteer and assistant opportunities for our members of all ages.
- Our **regular programming** for 2017 is well underway and includes basketball, swimming and the Steps to Good Health program (run in conjunction with Jewish Care).
- This semester the **Steps to Good Health** program encompasses fitness sessions, stress and emotional wellbeing sessions with The Happiness Hunter, Sunday Shmooze and Groove, Get Into Cardio Tennis (March/April) and Table Tennis (April/May).
- We have also filled out our calendar with some great **active recreation/social activities** which are run together with Jewish Care and Access Inc.
- We kicked off our calendar with a **4-legged friends Shmooze and Groove**. It was great to see so many members – and pets – enjoying some wonderful Melbourne weather. In true Melbourne style, it started raining as soon as we had finished!

- In what is fast becoming an annual tradition, we were treated to a **behind-the-scenes tour of the Grand Prix** where members had the chance to get up close and personal with the cars, the track and the winners' podium.
- Two All Abilities members are **assisting the AJAX senior football club coaches** and one of our members will also be assisting the coach for a **junior football team**. We love that the clubs are taking on All Abilities volunteers and hope to work with more clubs to create additional opportunities for our members to get involved.



All Abilities member Josh who will soon be volunteering with both the junior and senior football clubs.

Program Updates:

- We wish Shmooze and Groove coordinator Dina a hearty **Mazal Tov** on her recent wedding.
- A big thank you to Tennis Victoria for supporting our **Get Into Cardio Tennis** program. Thanks to their ACE funding, we have been able to offer a 6 week block for our older members, and are looking to start a trial block for adolescents in term 2.



We recently joined forces with Access Inc and Jewish Care to offer a behind-the-scenes tour of the Grand Prix.

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Administration, Funding and Development:

- The All Abilities program was awarded **runner up for Glen Eira Community Group of the Year**, and All Abilities president Sharon Hamilton was awarded **runner up for Glen Eira Citizen of the Year**. We are honoured to have been acknowledged by the Council for everything we do in the community.
- We have created an Easy English version of the **Member Protection Policy**.
- Maccabi All Abilities was awarded 2nd place for Grill'd Elsternwick's December **Local Matters Program**.
- Active involvement in assisting **Maccabi NSW** with establishing their All Abilities program.



Sharon Hamilton, Russell Jaffe and Shari Cohen at the Glen Eira Community Awards presentation at the annual Australia Day breakfast.

Stakeholder relationship development:

- Strong collaboration with other disability organisations through the **JDN** (Jewish Disability Network).
- Developing partnerships with **WIZO Kids** and the **13 bar mitzvah** program to facilitate more inclusive opportunities for our younger participants.
- Participation in the **Maccabi National All Abilities Committee**.
- Attending the **Maccabi Victoria Council** meetings.
- Attendance at other stakeholder meetings including the **Access AGM**, and **Disability Sport and Recreation** meetings.



Members flexing their muscles as part of our Steps to Good Health program.

Marketing and promotion:

- **All Abilities website and community calendar** continue to be developed and updated. The **website** has recently been updated to make it easier to navigate, and has had Easy English pages added for the benefit of our members.
- **All Abilities monthly newsletter** edited and distributed to key stakeholders and incorporated into other organisation's newsletters
- **Facebook page** maintains an active profile, with growing followers (over 200!).



Members brushing up on their racquet and ball skills as part of Get Into Cardio Tennis.

For further information or to get involved 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