

MACCABI ALL ABILITIES YEAR IN REVIEW 2023



maccabi
VICTORIA
all abilities

MACCABI ALL ABILITIES YEAR IN REVIEW 2023



OVERVIEW

Maccabi All Abilities experienced a dynamic year filled with diverse programming, competitive sports, and social engagements. The regular programs of basketball, cricket, and swimming consistently stood out as highlights, showcasing members' skill throughout the year.

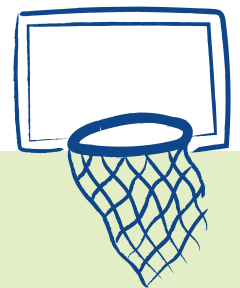
A significant milestone was the establishment of the Maccabi Ajax All Abilities All Stars (AFL) team, who played their first ever season in the FIDA League (Football Integration and Development Association). Despite a slow start, the team improved greatly throughout the season and only narrowly missed out on reaching the finals. Each match was celebrated with a BBQ and unwavering club support, fostering a strong sense of inclusion, and belonging.

The theme of inclusion has gained momentum across Maccabi, with new initiatives including dedicated programs run by Maccabi Aquatics and Maccabi FC Caulfield.

As we head to the end of 2023, we bid farewell to our All Abilities Program Officer, Kate Lustig, and thank her for her ongoing dedication and support to the program. We are excited to welcome our new Program Officer, Caren Lubofsky, and can't wait to see what 2024 has in store.

Our sincere gratitude to every member, coach, supporter, and volunteer. Your support has been the driving force behind all we have achieved this year.

Here is a snapshot of 2023...

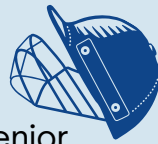


BASKETBALL

Our Dolphins basketball team has been training consistently on Thursday nights. Training sessions include fitness, working on fundamental skills and match play. We look forward to celebrating the year that was with our annual end-of-year team dinner.

We would like to thank our head coaches, Barb Bejer and David Chester, along with all of the other coaches and supporters for their work this year. Your dedication and support is unwavering and the program would not be the same without you all.

CRICKET



Our partnership with the AJAX Senior Cricket Club continues to grow following a successful 2022 season. A notable milestone this year was the inclusion of our All Abilities members in the senior cricket club, alongside their participation in Caulfield Shule's annual Shabbat dinner. Guest speaker Mark Fine's presence added extra excitement to the event. The night provided a sense of community and inclusion for all of the attendees.

We look forward to our annual cricket program with the club, which provides opportunities for our members to refine their skills and enjoy the sport. Thank you to Mike Gersun who has been instrumental to the success of the program.



SWIMMING

Our Snappers swim squad enjoyed training in the pool this year. The opening of Maccabi Aquatics at Bialik has brought more opportunities for our All Abilities swimmers, including a new sensory swim program, which provides individuals with specific needs a more catered experience to learn how to swim.

Thank you to our head coach Alexia Keats and committee member Clive Aarons for their continued commitment to the program.



SIMCHA KIDS

Our All Stars Football team had the unique privilege this year of welcoming some of the simcha kids, who requested donations to the All Abilities program in honour of their Bar Mitzvahs. Thank you to Jesse, Ethan, Joel and Jonah for your donations and for assisting on match day.



AFL FOOTBALL



After two years of intensive training, the Maccabi Ajax All Stars Team joined the FIDA league, a competition providing individuals with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to play competitive sport. Many of our players had never played competitive sport before, and it was amazing to see their fitness and skills transform throughout the season.

The season began with the team gathering for a BBQ and an opportunity to meet the coaches, setting a solid platform for the season's launch. Although the team lost their first couple of matches, the team improved from match to match. This improvement was notable in round 6. With a large AJAX crowd cheering the team on, the All Stars were able to secure their first win of the season. The team would go on to win 3 of their next 4 games, only narrowly missing out on finals.

In true All Stars style, the team came together for a dinner to celebrate the year that was. A big thank you to head coach Jeff Israel, and assistant coaches David Chester and Lenny Gross.

We would like to thank Mike and Michelle Aronson for the continued support of the program.

We look forward to entering the All Stars team into the FIDA League in 2024.



STAFF CHANGES

We're saying a heartfelt farewell to Kate Lustig, our phenomenal All Abilities Program Officer. Kate has been involved in All Abilities for nearly 3 years and has left a lasting impact on the program.

We are excited to announce that Caren Lubofsky will be taking over the role in 2024.



THANK YOU

We would like to thank our generous supporters and donors who have enabled us to run our programs. Without their support, Maccabi Victoria would not be able to provide the range of opportunities to connect, play sport, and create community.

We would particularly like to acknowledge:

- Gandel Foundation: We would like to thank the Gandel Foundation for their continued support of the program.
- Alan Syman: A supporter since the beginning, we want to acknowledge Alan's ongoing commitment and support.
- Michael and Michelle Aronson: The Aronson Family is generously supporting the Maccabi Ajax All Stars Football Team.
- Mark and Judy Gandur, Alan Kozica, Clive Aaron, Sharon and David Hamilton, Bev and Max Michael and the Machlin, Stimson and Schweitzer families.
- Jesse, Joel, Ethan and Jonah who all generously donated to All Abilities in honour of their Bar Mitzvahs.
- The individuals who chose to share their special occasions with Maccabi All Abilities. We appreciate your generosity and community spirit.
- The Department of Sport and Recreation who have provided funding to the program through their Together More Active grants.

We are incredibly grateful, not only for our regular donors, but also for the people who very generously donations to Maccabi All Abilities over the year. We recognise and appreciate their support and invaluable contribution.

We also want to acknowledge our program partners whose commitment to inclusion and community help us deliver high-quality programs. These include:

- Maccabi Victoria Clubs including the Maccabi Ajax Cricket Club, the Maccabi Victoria Basketball Club, the Maccabi Ajax Swimming Club, the Ajax Football Club, and Maccabi Football Club Caulfield.
- Sporting organisations including the FIDA Football League, Cricket Victoria and VicSport
- Community Organisations including Jewish Care, Flying Fox and Access Inc.

LOOKING TO NEXT YEAR... 2024

Preparations for 2024 are in full swing, with the calendar already filling up with activities including cricket and AFL. All Abilities is committed to expanding opportunities for our members by introducing new sporting opportunities such as tennis, squash, and various social engagements. The enthusiasm to build upon the successes of this year is palpable, and we are thrilled to incorporate new and exciting opportunities into our endeavours.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support over the past 12 months and eagerly anticipate sharing the upcoming year's journey with you. Your ongoing encouragement is invaluable as we continue to create inclusive and enriching experiences for our members.