

ACCESS FOR ALL ABILITIES

MAY 2007

After a rather prolonged process, Council has been advised that it will be funded for the next two years to deliver the AAA program in this region. This means the AAA program will continue to be a local resource for our clubs and community groups and we can build on our efforts to increase sport and recreational opportunities for people with a disability living in the Shire.

A big thanks to those people who offered letters of support and words of encouragement through this process.

Now onto matters sporting!

The end of March saw the culmination of the Regional Lawn Bowls Program, a program involving schools, clubs and AAA's across the council areas. The program was fantastic on so many fronts and the inter-school competition was the ideal end, bringing students together from across the region to compete for the inaugural title of Regional Champion. So who won? Well you'd better read on to find out....

Season 1 of Boccia is underway and we're delighted to welcome Frank onto the team as a volunteer. He's working closely with Diana to ensure the program continues to grow and develop and not only has his dedication and enjoyment of the game been shown by turning up to play almost every week since the program started last year, he travels all the way from Wheelers Hill to do so. How's that for commitment?

I trust you'll enjoy the May edition of the AAA Melton Newsletter.

Happy reading.

Darren Cunningham – Access for All Abilities

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*and there's plenty
more too....*

**Access
for All Abilities**

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Bowled Over

Students from Melton Specialist School took part in a 6-week learn to bowl program at Melton Lawn Bowls Club which culminated in an inter-school carnival on March 31. AAA's in Melton, Brimbank and Moonee Valley had joined with a school and a club in each area for the program and they came together for a huge celebration and competition in Sunshine.

A variety of games were on offer and students progressed from one to the other, building their schools scoring tally as they went. An energetic team of volunteers from the three bowls clubs kept the event running smoothly and before long we were collating the scores in preparation of the announcement of the winning school.

Imagine the excitement when Melton Specialist School were named the winners. And if that wasn't impressive enough, one of the students made an emotional speech to thank his teammates and the ladies from the Melton Bowls Club. Well done to all involved, students, school staff and the wonderful team at Melton Bowls Club, particularly Marie, Beryl and Helen.

Keen to have a go at bowls yourself? Melton Bowling Club has a tremendous bowls program for novice bowlers and they'd love to see you.

Contact 9747-0062 to find out more.



Club Network

Council's Club Network was established in 2006 and continues to go from strength-to-strength. With around 40 clubs registered, it's a must for any local clubs wanting to tap into some fantastic training and the best chance to hear about and learn from other local clubs and groups.

The next meeting of the Club Network is on 'Policies and Procedures' on Wed June 13th.

To find out more or to register, contacting Rebecca Hickey at the Shire on 9747 7319 or rebeccah@melton.vic.gov.au

Tenpin Bowling

Melton Bowl hosts a weekly, inclusive tenpin bowling program for people with a disability. With around 40 players hitting the lanes each week, it's one of Melton's biggest inclusive activities.

It's social, it's fun and it's well worth a look if you haven't had a go before. Here are the details:

Melton Bowl
378 High St, Melton
Thursdays from 5-6.30pm
Play one game for \$7 or two for only \$11
Contact:
Helen Hodge 9743 9444
meltbowl@bigpond.net.au



Boccia Melton

A weekly mix of coaching and some social competition, this program offers something for everyone. Bring a friend or your partner, everyone is welcome to join the fun.

Saturdays 2-3.30pm
Until June 30th

Victoria University stadium
Rees Road, Melton South
(Melways 342 H3)
Only \$5 per week

Register to play by calling Diana on 0416 088 956



Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS)

A few months ago my son, who has a disability joined the ChIPS program and the impact on him has been amazing. ChIPS is one of those programs you can't believe you or your child ever did without but for years, we did. I recently caught up with Kristen Kappel, ChIPS Coordinator and asked her to tell us about the program.

Kristen: *ChIPS focuses on the well-being of young people with a chronic illness aged 12-25 years. The aims of the program are to empower its members through utilising and developing their abilities to meet the challenges of life with a chronic illness, to increase their level of control over their health status, and to also enable them to be an active member in their communities.*

AAA: And how does ChIPS achieve this?

Kristen: *ChIPS helps young people face the challenges of life with a chronic illness or medical condition, by offering them various opportunities, encouragement and support that can be a significant part of these young people's ability to live with the illness. ChIPS is built on a five-level model of participation with the premise that all young people who live with a chronic illness will experience similar lifestyle and emotional concerns. The program focuses on the individual and their journey, not the illness itself.*

AAA: The young people involved in ChIPS are not only the participants but also the leaders of it, tell us about this.



ChIPS members enjoy a range of social activities and recently they took part in the Run for the Kids fun run

Kristen: *ChIPS is run primarily by the young people who participate in it, headed by a Reference Committee. Through this committee the various activities on the ChIPS calendar are organised and the direction of the program as a whole is determined. Young people start as participants in the 8-week Group Program and over time can progress and become Group Leaders and Committee members. All ChIPS members have opportunities to participate in social events, camps and fundraising activities. ChIPS also develops an annual magazine and quarterly newsletters, and make presentations to schools, agencies and community groups about what life is like for young people living with a chronic illness.*

If you have an interest in ChIPS please contact the ChIPS Coordinator Kristen Kappel on 9345 6616 or kristen.kappel@rch.org.au or check out the website at www.rch.org.au/chips. ChIPS is associated with the Royal Children's Hospital through the Centre of Adolescent Health.



The Ride of Your Life

Melton's Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) has been providing people the chance to have the ride of their lives for more than 15 years.

As for the riders, she added ***“Our motto is Riding Develops Ability and whether you want to ride for fun or to become a future Paralympian, RDA offers something for everyone”.***

If you're interested in becoming a rider or a volunteer, contact Margaret from RDA Melton: 1967 Coburns Rd, Toolern Vale 0407 530 679 www.rdav.asn.au



Grab a grant

Each year, Council disperses around \$200,000 in grants to local clubs and groups and nationally there are many millions on offer. What does it take to increase your chances to get your hands on some of that loot for your club?

Here are some tips to grab a grant:

- 1. Think partnerships.** Applications must show strong partnerships with other groups. Could you partner with a local school, another club from your same sport or even with a club from another sport?
- 2. Plan ahead.** Often find yourself scrambling to put an application together at the last minute? Put important dates in your diary/on your calendar (set a reminder to pop up on your computer) – when particular grant applications open and when they close.
- 3. Think sustainability.** Showing that the program or activity can be continued beyond the life of the grant is vital. Maybe, instead of running a program for free because you have a grant, offer it for a reduced cost instead (say 50%). That way, when the grant runs out, people are more likely to continue if they only have to find the other 50% instead of 100%.
- 4. Be realistic.** Sometimes the easy part is getting the grant, the work really kicks in when you have to deliver on your promises. Only apply for a grant when you really (I mean REALLY) need it and when you're confident you can follow through and run a successful program/activity.

AAA Melton is a valuable resource in finding and applying for grants and funding, call 9747 7332 to discuss your next grant application.

Autism Support Group

Melton Autistic support group was founded to bring together parents, relations and associates of children and adults with Autism.

The group offers monthly meetings and discussion groups as well as seminars and workshops. Coffee mornings are also held on an informal basis to give parents the opportunity to come together and discuss issues. Children are also welcome at the coffee mornings and venues are usually chosen which provide a safe environment.

9743 1516 / pacasg@ozemail.com.au
www.meltonsupport.org.au

Great Resources

AAA Melton has collected a variety of resources that may be well worth a look if your club or group wants some ideas on creating a more welcoming and inclusive environment.

The ***Play for Your Life*** kit is one of the best, jam-packed with ideas on running fun and inclusive games. Ideal for new coaches, it has dozens of activity cards which show how to set up, run and modify a myriad of activities.

If you'd like to find out what's available, contact AAA today.