

PROGRAM

VICTORIAN SPORT AWARDS 20

WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021

RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE THE
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN
VICTORIAN SPORT AND ACTIVE
RECREATION DURING THE 2020
CALENDAR YEAR.

JOINTLY PRESENTED BY



VICSPORT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here tonight.

Please note, the order of the awards in this program follows alphabetical order and may not match the order of award presentations.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE
THE SUPPORT OF

MAJOR PARTNERS



PARTNERS



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Victorian Government, I'm delighted to welcome all athletes, coaches, teams, volunteers and our sport sector representatives to the 2020 Victorian Sport Awards.

In a year that saw our sports community rally like never before, I would like to start by commending our Victorian clubs, coaches, officials and volunteers who have stepped up to truly make a difference.

While the amount of formal, organised sport and active recreation that took place in 2020 was greatly reduced, the Awards are a chance to recognise the great initiatives that kept participants engaged in what they love, in non-traditional ways and often in non-traditional settings, with fields and courts making way for lounge rooms and garages.

They also provide us with the opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and inspiration of those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. These outstanding individuals include local administrators and volunteers who have made it possible for grassroots sport to continue while ensuring our athletes succeed at home as well as on the world stage in what was a challenging 2020.

It's success stories like these that don't often make the headlines and tonight our homegrown unheralded sporting heroes and initiatives get a well-deserved opportunity to shine.

It's these contributions to sport, community and our state that make Victoria the sporting capital.

By acknowledging and celebrating outstanding role models on and off the field, I hope that we can help to inspire a new generation to follow in their footsteps.

Best of luck to all of the 2020 Victorian Sport Awards finalists.



A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Ros Spence.

The Hon. Ros Spence MP
Minister for Community Sport

Welcome to the 2020 Victorian Sport Awards.

The first question you might ask is why would we be holding an awards ceremony for sport in Victoria when very little sport was held during 2020? Whilst that may be the case, and whilst 2020 challenged us in an unprecedented way, I believe that these circumstances provide the opportunity for us to focus our attention on the amazing efforts of those who are normally behind the scenes and who rose to these challenges in 2020.

We need to remember that while limited to no sport occurred on the field of play, there were still amazing achievements off it. From our administrators who fought to keep their clubs and codes alive amongst financial pressures, to the innovators who found a different approach, the volunteers who gave all of themselves and the organisations that continued to support our industry in its time of need are all deserving of special recognition this year. Our categories reflect these achievements and we want to, indeed need to, acknowledge these amazing efforts in this special year. Eight awards will be honoured with a focus on recognising inspiring initiatives, acknowledging those that have worked tirelessly to keep the spirit of Victorian sport alive whilst also celebrating our return to sport!

Therefore, the Victorian Sport Awards continues to be the highlight of the Victorian sporting calendar regardless of the format or the challenges. Nothing should ever stop us from doing that.

Over 580,000 volunteers across 16,000 sporting clubs accessing over 10,000 parks, playgrounds and reserves, with the backing of our Governments, corporate sponsors and the media, all came together to support our 4.5 million participants. Acknowledging a wide range of heroes from elite athletes to the people behind the scenes that encourage and promote active participation through competition or leisure is what makes the Victorian Sport Awards such a special night.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the Minister for Community Sport the Hon. Ros Spence, Sport & Recreation Victoria and all of Vicsport's sponsors for their ongoing support and contribution to the Victorian Sport Awards.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous effort, hard work and collaboration amongst sports clubs and associations, government agencies, local government, the media and the many businesses who support local sporting clubs. Together, their outstanding contribution helps to make sport so viable and successful in Victoria.

Finally, I would like to recognise the enormous effort of the Vicsport management team led by our CEO Lisa Hasker and the Board. This team rose to a new level of service, advocacy and influence in support of our members and the broader industry in a way that I know was truly appreciated.



Ron Gauci
Vicsport Chairman

Good luck to all finalists and on behalf of Vicsport's Directors and staff, enjoy tonight's celebration of the best that Victoria has to offer in sport. Thank you.

JUDGING

Nominations for the 2020 Victorian Sport Awards were assessed by an esteemed independent judging panel comprised of Olympians, former athletes and Victorian sport administrators. Members of the judging panel were:

Melissa Backhouse

Principal Program Officer, VicHealth

Sean Callanan

Founder, Sports Geek

Ian Cohen

Manager Director, COZALIVE Media

Grant Cosgriff

Executive Director, Triathlon Victoria

Keddie Davis

Director, Participation and Sector Development, Sport and Recreation Victoria

Rochelle Eime

Professor of Sport Participation, Victoria University and Federation University

Tanya Gallina

General Manager Club Services and Heritage, Melbourne Cricket Club

Cassandra Hadson

General Manager, Regional Sport Victoria

Anne Marie Harrison

CEO, Victorian Institute of Sport

Nick Hatzoglou

Head of Diversity and Inclusion, Football Victoria

Suzanne Henderson

General Manager of Game Development, Hockey Victoria

Emma Jackson

Active Recreation Manager, Sport and Recreation Victoria

Laura Johnston

Founder, People, Integrity & Culture Consulting

Chyloe Kurdas

Female Engagement Senior Manager, Golf Australia

Chris Lacey

Physical Activity & Sport Manager, VicHealth

Kristie Middleton

CEO, Baseball Victoria

Steve Moneghetti AM OLY

Four-time Olympic marathoner, Commonwealth Games gold medalist

Rayoni Nelson

CEO, School Sport Victoria

Ben O'Brien

Project Officer, Sport and Recreation Victoria

Kate Palmer

CEO, OneAthletics

Bron Parry

Projects, Planning & Systems Manager, Commonwealth Games Australia

Dr. Erica Randle

Research Fellow, Centre for Sport and Social Impact, LaTrobe University

Kirsty Reidy

Group Manager Metropolitan Melbourne, Sport and Recreation Victoria

Iain Roy

CEO, SIGPA: Sports Integrity & Governance Partners

Ayden Shaw

Sport and Recreation Manager, Disability Sport & Recreation

Tony Sherwill

CEO, Bowls Victoria

Gen Simmons

GM Marketing & Industry Development, Gymnastics Victoria

Professor David Shilbury

Director Deakin Sport Network, Deakin University

Kayt Spano

President, Fencing Victoria

David Stewart

Acting Manager, Events, Sport and Recreation Victoria

Erin Trebley

Group Manager, Sport Development, Sport and Recreation Victoria

Kyle Vander-Kuyp OLY

Two-time Olympian, Australian 110m Hurdles record holder

Michelle Williams

A/ Manager Inclusive Participation, Sport and Recreation Victoria

BUNNINGS TRADE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR

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GET ACTIVE! AT HOME SERIES – MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

Created to encourage and support their community to stay active with local deliverers during lockdown periods, Maribyrnong City Council's free Get Active! At Home Series (GAHS) saw over 1,250 registered participants engage with 20 local providers across 25 different six-week programs. These initiatives included Taekwondo Fitness, Kids Beginner Gymnastics and Adult Jazz Dance with some programs continuing beyond the initial six weeks due to popularity. Overall, 84% of participants stated they were more physically active due to engaging in the GAHS, 75% reported they felt healthier and over 100 participants subsequently registered with a local sports club or leisure centre.



#CASEYGIRLSCAN PROGRAM – CITY OF CASEY

#CaseyGirlsCan is an ongoing campaign by the City of Casey to encourage women and girls to get involved in sport and physical activity, address barriers to their participation and support the This Girl Can Vic campaign. Utilising Vicsport's Innovation Lab, Casey Council empowered CALD women to take up leadership roles in locally led, culturally appropriate physical activities for other CALD women while also partnering with a number of organisations to reach over 12,000 women in online Zumba sessions. A range of activities are available for free via #CaseyGirlsCan on YouTube and new approaches used in 2020 will now be permanent features of the campaign.



MENTAL HEALTH IN SPORTS CLUBS PROGRAM – CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Following a survey within Cardinia Shire that identified the need to understand and support mental health challenges, the Mental Health in Sports Clubs program was established. Volunteers from 15 clubs were upskilled through an accredited Mental Health First Aid Course, Monash Health and Headspace were engaged to ensure clubs had avenues for support and ongoing game plans while Co-design approaches were utilised to address club issues, policies and procedures. The success of this program has seen it be replicated and delivered throughout the broader Cardinia community.



SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY – CITY OF CASEY

After engaging with 339 individuals across multiple providers, strategic partners, community groups and individual residents, City of Casey committed to 37 strategic initiatives aimed primarily at getting less-active residents more engaged through their Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. Targeted conversations with CALD and other underrepresented groups provided useful insights to the specific barriers women and girls face and a new physical activity program was developed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls, co-designed with Casey's Aboriginal Gathering Place. The Strategy will guide Council's decision making for the next four years, ensuring a positive impact on the health and well-being of its residents.

GAMEDAY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR - EUNICE GILL AWARD



GameDay assists sporting organisations of all sizes from NSOs to SSAs and grassroots clubs to save time and energy by managing administration tasks such as membership and registrations, competitions and tournaments, events & ticketing and fundraising. GameDay's product suite provides intuitive tools to run activities, practices and other league events more efficiently, giving administrators time to focus on their ultimate goals.



SARAH LOH – SOUTH METRO JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CEO Sarah Loh bucked the trend of COVID-19, positioning the South Metro Junior Football League (SMJFL) to be the only football league to not charge a single fee in 2020 while covering the insurance for over 11,000 players and its member clubs. They retained all staff and remained financially viable while investing in mentoring and mental health programs for kids. A modified "Football-4-Fun" program assisted kids to play football after lockdown in a COVID-safe environment with 2,500 players aged 7-18 participating in 460+ games for free over four weeks.



STEVEN GATT – NETBALL VICTORIA

Initially joining Netball Victoria in 2015 to improve the organisation's systems and procedures, Steve has since become a critical member of the team and now serves as Chief Operating Officer. A barometer for staff at all levels, Steve carefully guided Netball Victoria's finances during 2020 to enable the organisation to retain all staff while improving revenue across merchandise, ticketing and membership which added to the bottom line and enabled greater investment into affiliates and grassroots netball. On Vixens' game days, Steve can be seen entertaining VIPs, ushering patrons to their seats as well as setting up and packing down sponsor activations.



LISA HASKER – VICSPOORT

As the CEO of Vicsport, Lisa displayed outstanding leadership to navigate all Victorian sports through imposed restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. During weekly Zoom meetings, Lisa helped interpret the rules as they related to the sports industry while also updating and advising on constant changes throughout the year. Beyond those meetings, Lisa provided one-on-one guidance, personally attended to specific enquiries from sports, analysed Return To Play plans, co-hosted COVID-19 information webinars and liaised with government on behalf of sports to provide an approachable, knowledgeable and reassuring presence during an uncertain time.



AYDEN SHAW – DISABILITY SPORT & RECREATION

As Sport and Recreation Manager at Disability Sport & Recreation (DSR), Ayden was instrumental in designing, developing and implementing a number of innovative projects during a challenging year. Driving an agenda of change to create better access to community activity for Victorians that live with disability, Ayden promoted Wheelchair Rugby Victoria and a strategic plan to grow the sport in this state, set up a partnership with Proud 2 Play to broaden the experiences of Victorians with disability who identify as LGBTQI+ and created 'DSR Kids Online Active', transitioning the DSR Kids Hospital program online for any child with disability in Victoria.

INVOLVE GROUP OUTSTANDING MEDIA COVERAGE OF SPORT AWARD

involve
think creatively.

Involve are a creative agency with a depth of experience working with clients from the sporting, education, construction, manufacturing, retail and fashion industries. They see creative design as a powerful business tool that will position your organisation, engage your audience, deliver your message correctly and create an identity which will give you a return on investment and add to your bottom line.



LIAM MURPHY – CALISTHENICS VICTORIA

Needing to be creative, innovative and courageous to maintain connection with existing members and build new audiences during COVID-19, Calisthenics Victoria created "This Is Calisthenics", a two-part reality TV show that saw the sport, for the first time ever, brought to a national audience. The program shared four stories celebrating the diversity of calisthenics, showcased the athleticism and artistry of the sport as well as the strength and courage of the calisthenics community. Reaching an audience of 100,000 across TV and streaming with another 600,000 people reached on social media, "This Is Calisthenics" positively impacted the sport's community during a dark time.



SEAN WHIPP AND TIM CROSBIE – ATHLETICS VICTORIA

In response to the events of 2020, Sean and Tim pivoted the content of their 'Down the Track' podcast to focus on community engagement with interviews from club committee champions, regional athletes and local coaches while also engaging experts in the field of gender equity, nutrition and para-sports. These human-interest stories offered new perspectives on what the sport of athletics means to people as well as expanding the podcast's reach beyond the athletic community. With more than 17,000 downloads in 2020, 'Down the Track' showcased athletics as a welcoming and safe environment suitable for all individuals.



PUMA – MELBOURNE VIXENS/NETBALL VICTORIA

Following a description of netball as a 'glamour' sport in The Age, Melbourne Vixens' partner Puma created the 'Witness Fearless' social media phenomenon. Showcasing the sport in a fierce, positive way, fighting back against those that belittle netball and engaging a new audience at the same time, the campaign caught fire. Online correspondence flooded in with messages of gratitude and support, the likes of the Shameless Podcast, radio hosts and clubs throughout the AFL, AFLW, NBL and NRL joined the rallying cry and the term 'fearless' will now underpin the overall ethos at Netball Victoria and the Vixens.



RAFF AGOSTINO – SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA

Running the Communications and Marketing for School Sport Victoria (SSV), Raff managed the "Ask SSV Show" in 2020. Spanning 32 weeks, the hour-long shows saw athletes interviewed with students granted the opportunity to ask questions live and directly to their sporting heroes. 221 schools and 277 students participated, thousands more tuned in to watch the show and listen to the podcast while a focus on inclusion allowed students with a disability to take part as well. During the pandemic, Raff also built an online system where students could submit media of their athletic performances with Olympians and elite athletes contacted to promote engagement.

LOVE THE GAME VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

LOVE
THE
GAME

An initiative by



Victorian
Responsible
Gambling
Foundation

The Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation's Love the Game Sporting Club Program aims to reduce the exposure of young people to sports betting promotion and disrupt the social norm of betting and sport.



MARG JONES – PAKENHAM LIONS NETBALL CLUB

As President, Marg was a driving force behind maintaining positive wellbeing amongst the athletes and support staff of the Pakenham Lions Netball Club during the COVID-19 pandemic. Balancing full-time work and caring for her family, Marg personally contacted every player, coach, committee member and sponsor of the 25 teams within the Football Netball Club and local indoor competition to check on their wellbeing while also posting daily updates on Facebook, checking in via emails and providing informational webinars. Not missing anyone's birthday during this time, Marg also organised weekly Zoom sessions focusing on strength and conditioning, yoga, team chats and committee meetings.



RICHARD LAWYSZ – ATHLETICS VICTORIA

A National Technical Official for 40 years, Richard serves on committees from grassroots to national level. He is the interim President of Geelong Athletics Regional Centre where he also works as an official and coach while at Athletics Victoria, he is a member of the Victorian Officials Committee and represents Geelong on the Athletics Victoria Shield League subcommittee. During COVID-19, Richard ensured the Officials Committee stayed connected, facilitated virtual seminars and was a co-presenter of a world-first officials education initiative set up online. Excelling in all aspects of the sport, Richard is a highly valued educator within the athletics community.



HEATHER WEBB – WAVERLEY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

In 2020, Waverley Softball Association hosted the Under-16 national Championships, bringing national softball back to Victoria for the first time in a decade. As President, Heather was a key organiser in the event which included four months of regular meetings with organisations, managing volunteers, ground works, catering, preparing facilities and ultimately convening the seven-day event by working 12-hour days. Heather worked full-time while completing this project and carried out all other Presidential duties at the same time. Her leadership was rewarded by Waverley being named host for the upcoming Under-23 men's national Championships as well as the Under-16's tournament for another three years.



JOSEPH JOYCE – ROWING VICTORIA

President of Rowing Victoria since 2017, Joseph took on the additional role of interim CEO for ten months in 2020. Navigating the COVID-19 lockdowns, Joseph worked over 40 hours a week but alongside his voluntary Presidential role, Joseph forwent remuneration as interim CEO as well. He used the lockdown to empower staff by encouraging them to implement new initiatives such as indoor rowing competitions, worked with elite clubs to support aspiring rowers, strengthened relationships with stakeholders to better serve the rowing community post-lockdown, exceeded budget expectations by managing financials and worked tirelessly to get rowers back on the water as soon as possible.

SPORT GROUP PETER NORMAN INCLUSION AWARD

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Sport Group is the world's largest business dedicated to sport surfaces, selling and installing more synthetic turf sport fields, athletic tracks and courts globally than any other business. From Olympic hockey venues to FC Bayern Munich, the 1966 Astrodome to the Miami Open tennis, Sport Group's brands, products and innovations enrich the experience of athletes and fans around the world.



ELIZABETH GOSPER – INCLUSIVE SPORTS TRAINING

Elizabeth is the head coach of Inclusive Sports Training, an Australian-first triathlon club for people with an intellectual disability. Starting in 2013 with 33 competitors, a partnership with Triathlon Victoria saw the program expand and she now coaches 90+ athletes over 20 hours a week which included pivoting her sessions online during COVID-19. Athletes are encouraged to be competitive but not at the expense of good sportsmanship while Elizabeth promotes mentoring opportunities with elite athletes to build work experience and future employment prospects. Her partnership with Triathlon Victoria culminated with the intellectual impairment category being added to the 2020 Australian Triathlon National Championships.



LIFE SAVING VICTORIA

Through a stand-alone department dedicated to the needs of the CALD community, Life Saving Victoria (LSV) partnered with 170 CALD organisations, schools and clubs to provide 22,000 CALD community members with a targeted 'welcome' and the first steps towards safe and enjoyable involvement in aquatic sport and recreation. 440 separate activities and courses were delivered with 1,150 participants learning to swim while 53 CALD youths subsequently joined clubs or found employment within the aquatic and recreation industry. LSV has since shared the successful education model with the aquatics industry as well as other SSAs, local councils and lifesaving clubs.



STELLA LESIC – BUSHRANGERS SPORTING ALLIANCE

During 2020, Stella led the Bushrangers Sporting Alliance (BSA) to become the largest LGBTIQ+ community not-for-profit sports club in Australia. Their Come Out & Play (basketball) and Come Out & Roll (roller skating) programs re-engage the LGBTIQ+ community that has become disillusioned with sport while their governance framework has seen them work closely with NSOs and SSAs to help improve their inclusion practices. Removing gendered competition and welcoming gender diverse folk in their Carlton Baths competitions is a national first for mainstream basketball while COVID-19 did not halt BSA's progress as they signed a number of new teams and held weekly online training sessions.



YVONNE SNELL AND SARAH WHEADON – SPECIAL OLYMPICS AUSTRALIA

The peak body for developing and delivering inclusive sport and physical activity for people with intellectual disability, Special Olympics Australia held a six-part webinar series in 2020 titled Autism Inclusion in Sport, Recreation and Physical Education. Presenters included people with lived experience of autism, teachers who support young people with autism, researchers and inclusive sports program providers. Learning about the exclusion that people with autism face and how to counter it, 2,129 participants were reached including organisations not wholly connected to sport who gained an understanding of how important inclusion and education is to the sporting sector.

PETER THOMSON AO CBE
PROFILE – 2019 RECIPIENT
VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORIAN SPORT AWARD

Last year, the Outstanding Contribution to Victorian Sport Award was presented posthumously to golfing legend Peter Thomson AO CBE.

The most prestigious honour bestowed at the Victorian Sport Awards, Thomson's accolade was presented to his wife, Mary, and son, Andrew after Peter passed away in June 2018 at the age of 88.

Thomson was a prolific golfing tournament champion around the world, winning the national championships of ten countries, including the New Zealand Open nine times.

He won the Open Championship five times between 1954 and 1965 and is the only golfer to win a modern major three times in succession – The Open in 1954, 1955, and 1956.

"Peter's contribution to golf in Victoria was immense and his legacy continues today," said Vicsport Chair Ron Gaudi. "We are pleased and proud to recognise Peter's achievements around the world and the very high standing his reputation has today by awarding him the Outstanding Contribution to Victorian Sport Award."

In addition to his playing career, Thomson was President of the Australian PGA from 1962 to 1994, was active as a golf writer for over 50 years and designed more than a hundred courses. He was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985 and World Golf Hall of Fame in 1988.



SPORTS ACCOUNTING AUSTRALIA SPORT INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR



Sports Accounting Australia assists sports organisations in Australia with their finance and business planning, providing simple but effective financial packages to suit your needs.



NORTH WEST TRAVEL LEAGUE – SOFTBALL

With uncertainty surrounding the softball season due to COVID-19, three associations (Northern District, Sunshine and Keilor Park) formed a partnership to develop the North West Travel League. This agreement, that included modified rules to avoid contact as well as shared grounds, players, officials, equipment and resources, ensured members would have a ready competition to play in as soon as lockdown ended. In addition, all three associations halted a decline in memberships and reduced the financial impact by hosting multiple rounds which generated revenue through food and drink sales.



THE INAUGURAL OMNIUM REGATTA – ROWING VICTORIA

With no multi-lane racing allowed during COVID-19, Rowing Victoria (RV) developed a one-way 7km course around Lake Wendouree. Divided into sections of differing distances, crews could participate and/or compete against others that matched their fitness and skill levels, using the Strava app to track their times. The inaugural Omnium Regatta was held just after the conclusion of lockdown with 400 athletes and ten officials taking part while media promotion attracted a local Ballarat crowd. The successful event can be partly credited for a subsequent 15% increase in athlete numbers and race entries while future Omniums will now form part of the RV calendar.



MAPLINK (DIY ORIENTEERING) – ORIENTEERING VICTORIA

At the commencement of lockdown, Debbie Dodd put out a call to the Orienteering Victoria community who produced a total of 138 new courses accessible in urban areas under a DIY initiative called MapLink. Available via MapRun (an app that allows users to upload, save and share their completed courses for virtual competitions), Facebook and Google Docs were also utilised to track a virtual scoring system. Between April and September 2020, 2,140 participants were recorded completing a course and the online activity enabled Debbie to ensure enthusiasm, fitness and entertainment levels remained high through lockdown while the use of technology has opened new avenues for the orienteering community.



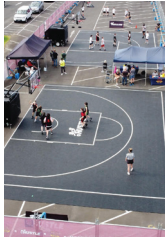
CLUB RACE SERIES – TRIATHLON VICTORIA

Spanning the last five months of 2020, Triathlon Victoria (TV) collaborated with clubs to develop the Club Race Series. Utilising Zwift, a multiplayer online cycling and running program, clubs went head-to-head in virtual races with a grading system allowing all abilities to compete on an even playing field. Becoming the 48th largest team on Zwift out of nearly 10,000 teams worldwide, 70% of affiliated clubs competed in the series and women represented 35% of competitors. Following the series, TV's membership grew 20% and the series' success will see it return as a winter option in 2021.

VICHEALTH ACTIVE RECREATION INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR



The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) is a pioneer in health promotion – the process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health. Their primary focus is promoting good health and preventing chronic disease.



'THE CAGE' – MCKINNON BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

With 'no facility to call home', McKinnon Basketball Association has always been at a disadvantage but COVID-19 provided a chance to re-focus and turn a negative into a positive by creating 'The Cage'. Temporary outdoor basketball courts housed a 3x3 tournament that featured 65 teams and over 1,000 competitors across four weekends while weekly trainings, the Aussie Hoops junior program and an All-Abilities program were also held. Offering flexibility, cost effectiveness and a way to engage all members, 'The Cage' provided a carnival atmosphere that not only saw players return to training and playing in a COVID-safe environment but also reconnected the basketball community after seven months apart.



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FITSKILLS – LATROBE UNIVERSITY



FitSkills is a 12-week community-based program addressing the lack of social support and inclusive programs for people with disability aged 13-30. In collaboration with seven community partners, participation was facilitated at 20 community gyms where a young person with disability was matched with a student mentor from the same locality to exercise together. Adaptations of the program enabled 27 young people with more complex disability to also take part. Participants stated they felt confident and capable after the sessions and those feelings extended to home and work activities while also providing the impetus to pursue exercise beyond the program.



I SPEAK FOOTBALL – CITY IN THE COMMUNITY

I Speak Football is an innovative community football program run in Victorian schools and community settings aimed at engaging young CALD people aged 7-19. Activities, tournaments and holiday programs are held while participants (a majority of which have experienced barriers to traditional sport and recreation) can access education and employment mentoring and training. Across the program's two years, over 20 young leaders have gone on to run community football programs across Melbourne as casual staff or volunteers. Independent evaluations of 500 participants (40% of which are women) have proven the program has positively impacted participants' self-confidence and sense of belonging.

IN HONOUR OF

Two of our awards tonight are named in honour of people who made an historic and positive contribution to sport in Victoria. The Administrator of the Year Award is named after Eunice Gill and the Inclusion Award is dedicated to Peter Norman.

EUNICE GILL

Born in Armadale, Eunice Gill (1918-1987) was a sportswoman, administrator, coach and academic. A senior lecturer at Melbourne University, Gill was an influential advocate for improving standards in school curricula and the importance of team sports participation. She was an active member on several national and international councils as well as associations dedicated to improving health, physical education and the inclusion of women and girls. Gill served as President of the All-Australian Women's Basketball (now known as netball) Association and was delegate to three netball World Championships while helping to establish an international code for the game in 1960. In 1995, she was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

PETER NORMAN

Hailing from Coburg, Peter Norman was a track athlete who won a silver medal in the 200 metres at the 1968 Olympics (with an Oceanic record that still stands). He also won a bronze medal in the 4x110 yards relay at the 1966 Commonwealth Games as well as claiming first place in five Australian Championships from 1965-1970 in the 200 metres. Following his retirement, Peter worked in Government for Sport & Recreation Victoria. He is perhaps best known for his stance on the podium at the 1968 Olympics when he wore an Olympic Project for Human Rights badge and stood in solidarity alongside Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos.

Recognise & Celebrate

20 20

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