

Media Articles on Special Olympics Gymnastics

The Advocate – 23 July 2017

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The Advocate



Wednesday August 2, 2017

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Special Olympics lifts bar in gym class



Melanie Whelan
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23 Jul 2017, 1:30 p.m.



ON SHOW: Barwon Special Olympics gymnast Lauren Menzies performs on the bar in Ballarat to inspire more gymnasts for the new all-abilities program. Picture: Kate Healy

A NEW all-abilities gym program has opened with a strong emphasis on inclusiveness, challenge and inspiration. Ballarat Gymsports' new Special Olympics activities will include gymnastics, trampolining, parkour and cheerleading.

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Barwon region gymnasts were on hand to show their skills for a launch on Saturday, including retired Australian Special Olympic gymnast Cassy Geffke.

"I'm here to help more kids do gymnastics," Ms Geffke said. "Floor is most important – I like dancing – and bars. It's about working hard and keeping healthy and fitness."

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Casey gymnasts shine in Special Olympics comp

28 June 2017 12:55 PM .




By Cam Lucadou-Wells

Three Casey gymnasts soared to great heights at an inaugural Special Olympics state competition. Miles Green, who secured the second place, Curtis Damato, third, and Christopher Sizer, fourth, starred in routines on six apparatus during the Queen's Birthday long weekend comp. It was the first time that Gymnastics Victoria included a Special Olympic section in their state championships in Melbourne.

The three train at a weekly Access All Abilities program at YMCA Berwick and Endeavour Hills leisure centres. Centre director Monica Ellis said the trio had come a long way since starting gymnastics.


"They have achieved so much and we couldn't be more proud."

Ms Ellis said the program taught children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities in a "safe and inclusive atmosphere".

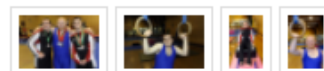
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Chris Sizer, Miles Davis and Curtis Damato gleam with their medals.
169708 Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

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Special Olympics Gymnastics welcomed at Victorian Championships



Wednesday 31/05/2017



Gymnastics Victoria are breaking down barriers at the 2017 Victorian Gymnastics Championships by including Special Olympics Gymnastics as part of the competition.

The Victorian Championships are being held on the Queen's Birthday Weekend (10-12 June) at the State Netball & Hockey Centre in Parkville with the Special Olympics Gymnastics competition featuring on Sunday 11 June.

Fifteen athletes with disabilities will compete in both Women's and Men's Gymnastics across the full spectrum of apparatus after commencing the session with an Opening Ceremony at 12.30pm.

The Victorian Championships Special Olympics competition will act as a qualifying event for the Special Olympics National Championships which can then lead to the Special Olympics World Games.

The session will conclude at approximately 4pm with an awards ceremony which will include medal presentations by one of Australia's most successful Special Olympic Gymnasts, Cassy Geffke.

Gymnastics Victoria have over 9,935 people with disability participating in Gymnastics across the state, with a further 57 in leadership positions, consolidating them as a leader in the inclusivity space.

Over the last 12 months Gymnastics Victoria have played a vital role in establishing the partnership between Special Olympics Australia and Gymnastics across the country.

The partnership works towards Gymnastics removing limitations that exist for people with disabilities in the sport by creating meaningful programs for people of all abilities and ages.

The number of clubs in Victoria which offer Special Olympics Gymnastics programs is set to double this year with a big focus throughout Victoria on clubs offering inclusive Gymnastics options.

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Gymnastics strengthens ties with Special Olympics



A renewed partnership between Gymnastics Australia and Special Olympics Australia was launched at the recent World Cup Gymnastics event at Hisense Arena, Melbourne.

Gymnastics Australia (GA) values and promotes participation by all individuals. Our coaches see each athlete as an individual with value and diversity. The new partnership will ensure consistent delivery of programs and support for Special Olympic athletes at the national, state and local gymnastics club level, throughout Australia.

As part of the launch, an inclusive workshop for coaches was held along with display routines by Special Olympics athletes during the Premium session, promoting Gymnastics as an inclusive sport for all abilities.

GA is also excited to have a new [Special Olympics](#) page on our website providing information for parents on how their child can get involved in gymnastics as well as links to videos for coaches and judges developed by Gymnastics Victoria.

"Special Olympics is thrilled to be working in partnership with Gymnastics Australia as it will provide more opportunities for young children with an intellectual disability (aged 2 to 7 years) to get involved in the Young Athlete program, and ultimately, for them to participate in the sport of gymnastics," said Amanda Beehag, General Manager for Sports Development at Special Olympics Australia .

SOA workshops for coaches will be available for coaches at future State congress around Australia.

To find out more information on how to get involved go to gymnastics.org.au/specialolympics.