



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
19 January 2018

### **One Day to Go!**

Time flies when you're making history, and we're now just one day away until the XVIII Australian Deaf Games kick off in Albury and Wodonga. The Games will see over 850 people attending this week-long event for the deaf and hard of hearing community and their families and friends from all over Australia. The Games Organising Committee (GOC), AlburyCity and Wodonga Council and the local community have been working closely to ensure the 2018 Games are the best yet!

To get the community in the Games mood, today will see over 50 kids gathering at Willow Park, Wodonga to participate in Mini Deaf Games for ages 13 to 17. We are fortunate to have Vicdeaf joining us to provide concurrent kiddies activities for those who are under 13 years of age. Tim Crespin of Corporate Challenge Events will be hosting the Mini Games with assistance of Deaf Sports Australia. Kids from the Crossing Borders Camp, organised by The Deaf Society and Deaf Children Australia, will be joining the Mini Deaf Games.

Deaf Sports Australia, the GOC, AlburyCity and Wodonga Councils would like to extend a warm welcome to athletes, officials, referees, sponsors, families and friends to the XVIII Australian Deaf Games heading to Albury Wodonga. We will have over 80 volunteers, many of whom are local, to support us and ensure the Games operates seamlessly. Our friends from across the Pacific including Fiji and New Zealand will also be joining us to compete, we wish all involved the very best of luck.

The Games will kick off with a fantastic Opening Ceremony on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Albury Entertainment Centre at 6.00pm. Shirley Liu and Michael Parremore will be MC'ing the event, which also includes the National Anthem translated by Auslan Stage Left signed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Wodonga Scout Group, a special dance performance by Anna Seymour and Amanda Lever, Mobile Love Duets, and more.

130 local community members have had the opportunity to access Deaf Awareness Training presented by Vicdeaf with Conexu Foundation, Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria and the Games Organising Committee. This two-hour training covered basic Auslan (Australian Sign Language), the Deaf community, deaf culture, the do's and don'ts, and communication strategies with deaf and hard of hearing people. This training is in addition to the Auslan classes provided by Vicdeaf through Albury local Will Taffe, made possible through a generous grant by Australia Post, which was very well attended by a total of 174 local community members.

Local businesses have also been very busy behind the scenes to make sure our medals and trophies, program book, posters and banners are ready in time for the Games. A great reflection of the community spirit of the games and just a taste of the contribution the Games make to the economies of our host cities.





Member for Albury Greg Aplin who will attend tomorrow's Opening Ceremony said the event will provide a significant boost to local businesses in the region.

"The Australian Deaf Games provides a fantastic opportunity for local businesses, accommodation providers, restaurants and tourism operators to capitalise on the additional visitors and showcase why Albury is such a wonderful holiday destination. The NSW Government is proud to have secured the Australian Deaf Games via our tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW," Mr Aplin said.

The Australian Deaf Games have been held around the country since 1964 and it is the first time this multi-sport event is being hosted in two cities, and Albury and Wodonga are very excited to be welcoming athletes, spectators, sponsors, families, and friends to the region.

#### What's on tomorrow:

- Games Registration at The Games Hub, Albury Entertainment Centre
- Games Expo at The Games Hub
- Swimming General Meeting – 10.00am to 1.00pm at Commercial Club
- Deaf Sports Australia's AGM – 1.00pm at The Games Hub
- Opening Ceremony – 6.00pm at Main Auditorium, Albury Entertainment Centre
- Kickoff Party at QEII Square from 7.30pm
- Daily self-guided accessible tour at Library Museum or MAMA Gallery

#### Our sponsors

The Games would not be possible without the support of the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW, Sports Recreation Victoria, both AlburyCity and Wodonga Council; and our sponsors Australian Hearing, our official Games "Superfan", Ai-Media, Vicdeaf, The Deaf Society, BeerDeluxe Albury, LaTrobe University, Commercial Club Albury, Conexu, JobCentre Australia, BioRevive, and Oceania Australia Foundation. With their support, deaf and hard of hearing athletes are able to participate, succeed and enjoy sports on many different levels at the Games.

For more information about the 2018 Australian Deaf Games, please contact Sherrie Beaver, Marketing and Communications Coordinator at [sherrie.beaver@deafsports.org.au](mailto:sherrie.beaver@deafsports.org.au)

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*The Games we love...*  
**Australian Deaf Games**  
Albury Wodonga 2018

