



MEDIA RELEASE

21 January 2018

DAY TWO – COMPETITION BEGINS!

After an incredible Opening Ceremony, the XVIII Australian is now officially open! The Hon. Greg Aplin, Member of Albury had the honour of declaring the Games open. Our ever amazing MCs, Shirley Liu and Michael Parremore kept the audience entertained with their antics and their innovative thinking, particularly with an interactive poll through *Poll Everywhere*. Athletes from all Australia, New Zealand and Fiji were warmly welcomed to Albury-Wodonga. Julia Murphy from Auslan Stage Left along with Wodonga 1st Scouts Group put on an awe-inspiring performance of the National Anthem.

AlburyCity's Deputy Mayor Cr Amanda Cohn certainly made an impact, using her Auslan skills to good use by signing her entire speech, which is an incredible achievement considering she only learnt Auslan a year ago.

Alex Jones, 2018ADG Chair said "What an honour to have so many dignitaries at the ceremony, representing our principal supporters and sponsors. The feedback from our competitors and guests has been that Albury-Wodonga has welcomed us with open arms. Cr Cohn's speech really struck a cord with the crowd!"

The dignitaries who attended the Opening Ceremony were The Hon. Greg Alpin, Member for Albury; Phil Ventham, Destination NSW; Cr Anna Speedie, Mayor for Wodonga Council; and Cr Amanda Cohn, Deputy Mayor for AlburyCity. The Hon. Cathy McGowan, Member for Indi sends her apologies as she was unable to join us.

The Games Expo also began today with exhibitors promoting their services and/or products. It's also amazing to see various banners on display at the Games Hub and around Albury-Wodonga. With over 850 people attending the Games, we are very excited to see the Games in full steam!

Today's highlight:

- Games Registration at The Games Hub, Albury Entertainment Centre
- Games Expo at The Games Hub
- DSRV's Family Movie Night playing *Rock Dog* at the Cube, Wodonga 7.30pm



What sports are on today:

- Athletics – 8.30am until 12pm at Alexandra Park (Cnr Cadell & Short Street, Albury)
- Canadian Foursome Golf – 8.30am until 11am at Wodonga Golf Club (10 Clubhouse Street, Wodonga)
- Netball – 9am – 5pm at Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre (Hedgerow Court, Wodonga)
- Tenpin Bowling – 9am – 2pm at Twin Cities Tenpin Bowls (2 Sanyo Drive, Wodonga)
- Swimming – 9.30am -1pm at Albury Swim Centre (441 Wodonga Place, Albury)

Athletes to watch:

- Athletics – Jamie Howell (Deaflympian), Liam Wyatt, Olivia Ford, and Samira Cox.
- Swimming – *separate document attached.*
- Golf – Dean Connell, Wodonga local who will be representing Australia for the first time at 2018 World Deaf Golf Championships in Ireland to be held in July 2018.

Today's Social Cultural Program:

- Mountain Bike Social Ride
- Sunday Service in Auslan
- Deaf Women Victoria Get Together
- Family Movie Night at The Cube – Rock Dog at 7:30pm
- Daily self-guided accessible tour at LibraryMuseum or MAMA Gallery

What's on tomorrow:

- 9 Sports Competitions: Beach Volleyball, Darts, Eight Ball, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Tenpin Bowling, Touch Footy
- Yoga Classes at the Space
- Trivia Night hosted by Deaf Sports NSW at Beer Deluxe

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

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