

# Rolling On—September 2011



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## Presidents Report – September 2011

*Welcome back to the 2011-2012 Vewsas Season. A very warm welcome to any new members and their families/carers also. I hope you have all had a good rest during the cold winter and that you are looking forward to a new season of sport with enthusiasm. We would especially like to see players attending the sports regularly and on time (as far as possible) to allow the competition to run smoothly. Please let your team representative know if you can't make it to a game or are running late. I recently attended the Australian Powerchair Football Workshop and National Competition in Sydney and although I was only able to stay and observe the sport for one day I was impressed with the organisation of the event and the sport itself. Vewsas has been successful in obtaining a small grant to help get this sport off the ground, therefore we will be subsidising the cost of the special guards required for the sport. Stay tuned for further information as it comes to hand.*

*On behalf of the committee and myself I hope you enjoy the coming season and invite you to feel free to speak to myself or any other committee member regarding any suggestions or feedback. Equally we would appreciate any assistance you can offer on sports days, whether that be scoring, umpiring, setting up equipment or manning the occasional BBQ. Remember many hands make light work.*

*All the best for the Season*

*Grace*



## **Albury/Wodonga Weekend**

The popular Albury/Wodonga weekend is coming up fast. It is on the weekend of the 25th, 26th and 27th of November 2011, with most players and carers/families arriving in Albury on the Friday the 25th.

We have hired the MDA bus to help transport players that cannot get to Albury in their own vans. Hans and Gordon will supply details as soon as possible.

It may be a good idea to book your accommodation soon if you are planning on attending the weekend.

## **2012 NEWS Victorian State Coach**

If you are interested in coaching the Victorian team for the 2012 NEWS competition, please contact Barry Robson (VEWSA Secretary) for a Duties and Responsibilities information sheet.

You then need to make a formal written (or email) submission to the committee by the **3rd October 2011**. The committee will discuss and evaluate submissions at the October meeting and the State Coach will be announced early October.

## **Ritchies Cards**

We are receiving about \$25 per month under the Ritchies community benefit card program, but we would love to get more!

So we need everybody to take a few cards and get them into the hands of friends and family that shop at Ritchies to increase our monthly donation.

See Rick for more cards or key tags.

## **Bendigo Round**

The Bendigo round is on Sunday the 6th of November. Flyers and a map will be handed out and emailed in early October.

Please put this date in your diary as we would like to see as many players as possible travel to Bendigo and enjoy a great day of sports with bbq and raffles.

## **FIPFA Workshop/State Championship**

In August 2011, three VEWSA players put their hand up and volunteered to take a trip to Sydney and participate in the first ever FIPFA Workshop and State Championships. Michael Deayton, Craig Kilby and I got the opportunity to learn the sport 'Powerchair Football'. Not only did we learn about the rules and tactics, we were coached and trained by four international players from Japan, France and the United States.

The first three days were all about skills, learning the fundamentals of the sport. Groups were made. Each International player had a skill to teach, so each group rotated through each skill set every 30 minutes. There we learnt many things, the Spin Kick, 2-on-1 rule, basic dribbling skills and corner setups.

After the workshop and an inspiring speech from an Australian Soccer icon Rale Rasic, the inaugural Powerchair Football State Championship begun. Victoria only had 3 players, so we were allowed to borrow two players from NSW. We played each state once. We put in a decent performance but unfortunately couldn't manage a win. Considering we only first played the sport 3 days beforehand, we did amazing well. New South Wales went on to win the competition which ended in a tight match against QLD.

It was an amazing week. We all had a fantastic time and can't wait to teach you all the skills we learnt during our stay in Narrabeen.

Regards Luke David

Picture of players attending championship



## **New Zealand Trip by Sam Rendell**

I travelled to New Zealand in December last year with Mum, Dad and my carer Eileen. The two-week holiday was a great holiday to do in a wheelchair. We travelled for three days on the cruise ship The Dawn Princess, and for the next week stopped in seven ports in New Zealand. The cruise ship was accessible and spacious; I spent the first day working out where everything was on the ship. It was relaxing being able to wander around the outdoor decks or just sit and watch the ocean. I was able to fill in time listening to music and reading. There was entertainment at nighttime such as music shows and movies, but I did not go to much of this. I did enjoy playing cards, which was organised for the days we were at sea. The food on the ship was great with a 24-hour buffet and a sit down meal for evening meal, with a large choice of main meals such as chicken, beef, seafood and pasta. I was able to eat some of the fish, which was delicious. The disabled accommodation was large enough to fit hoist, shower chair and wheelchair. There was plenty of room to transfer me onto my bed. There was also no problem in showering and fitting in the bathroom. The staff were helpful and there was a huge staff, probably one for every two passengers. Getting off the ship was relatively straight forward, sometimes the gang planks were a little steep, the wheelchair managed fine but I had to lift up my footplates to stop them scraping at the bottom when I came up or down the gang plank.

The first stop was Auckland, with perfect sunny weather. It is a small city, which was easy to get around just by driving around in the wheelchair. It had good parks and gardens. I enjoyed the Sky Tower, which had amazing view of the harbour. The Pacific Ocean was on one side and the Tasman Sea on the other. Leaving the harbour in the cruise ship we had a great view of the spectacular harbour, with bright blue water, hundreds of yachts, picturesque cliffs and headlands.

The next stop was Tauranga, near Rotorua, we hired a car a Toyota van, I was just able to see enough out the windows to get a sense of the lush, tropical looking countryside with Kiwi Fruit Farms, and forests of ferns, palms and trees with bright green foliage. At Rotorua we explored a Maori village and saw hot lakes, steam rising up from under the ground and large geysers shooting up steaming water into the air. We also explored some beautiful volcanic lakes further south of Rotorua.

Then we went to Napier, which was a small art deco town that had been built in the 1930's after an earthquake. In Napier we had to take a bus, which was a bit steep getting up the ramp, some of the buses are better than others. We took a taxi back to the ship, which was fine. We went onto Wellington, which was a hilly city with a beautiful harbour surrounded by the city and hilly countryside and forest. We explored the museum, which was well worth the visit with its Maori collection. Taking the cable car up to the top of the city to the botanical gardens, we had a great view over the city and the harbour. Wellington has good disabled busses.

The cruise ship next travelled to the South Island. We stopped at Christchurch and hired a ford van, which was easy to see out of. We drove around the bay, over the hills and found the scenery was picturesque. The city itself was easy to get around in the wheelchair, it had some nice buildings and a very small river. It would be very different now after the earthquake. The next stop was Dunedin, which has a great old centre and is quite hilly. Here I took a taxi with Dad to some lush native forest around a river gauge, which was a great example of the New Zealand landscape. Here we were able to get out and walk around. The last stop where we went into several fiords including Milford sound, without getting off the boat, was probably the best part of the trip. The forested mountains with cabbage palms and trees with thick feathery foliage rose from the deep water. Large waterfalls were gushing off the side of the mountains and could be heard from the distance. The mist added to the atmosphere and every now and then the sun would come out from beneath the clouds and the water would shine off the rocks.

Overall it was a fantastic holiday, which I would recommend, particularly to other people who have trouble flying. Even if people flew I would recommend visiting some of the same places.

Sam.

## Tribute to Chris Green (26.03.1984 – 11.05.2011)

Chris had a total fascination with sport of any kind from an early age.

The real thing started when the family went to the Ashburton YMCA sports complex and Chris was still in his manual chair to check out electric wheelchair sports. Chris wanted John to push him around the court so he could play straight away.

As soon as Chris got his electric wheelchair in 1995 he started playing with VEWSA and was still playing ten days before he passed away - being at that stage the longest serving current player participating in VEWSA sporting competitions.

In the early days as a younger member of the Scorpions team Chris would follow Alan Wright around like a puppy chasing a dog during hockey practice or any game break. He often said he learnt so much from Alan, David Middleton and Craig Ferguson who belonged to the same team for a number of years.

His record in local competitions included winning the player voted Most Valuable Hockey Player trophy in his first full year, best and fairest trophies in hockey, soccer and rugby and numerous team best and fairest awards. From 1995 to 2005 Chris played with the Scorpions and later joined the Flames, Storm and Panthers teams- with changes in player and team numbers in the later years of VEWSA competitions.

In 1999 he played for Victoria in an Under 17 team in New Zealand and did very well with the Team winning every match they played.

In 2001 he first played for Victoria in the national championships (NEWS) and in April 2011 was captain for the Victorian team in his tenth year at NEWS. Over this time he played 187 games at NEWS, and if you include the games in New Zealand, he would have played well over 200 games for Victoria. A truly remarkable personal record.

Over the years Chris played at NEWS the Victorian team won six hockey and two soccer grand finals plus two Roger Melnyk trophies as the best performing team during the round robin series of matches in the championships. Chris was also selected in the 2005 All Australian Hockey team as one of the six best hockey players for that year of competitions.

Beyond VEWSA Chris had diverse interests in sport of any kind. He was the only person the family knew who could follow and explain Gridiron rules. He watched any sport on TV and could tell you the names of players in so many sports within Australia and overseas. He followed the Sydney Swans, Brisbane Broncos, ManU in the Soccer Premier league and many others. Quiz shows on TV, quiz questions in the daily newspaper or on the computer

were some of Chris' favorites. He spent a lot of time on and got much enjoyment from Playstation, his computer and any show on TV. Foxtel was made for Chris!

As we prepare for another new playing season in September 2011 it is most fitting that we pause to honour and remember Chris and his great record of achievements with VEWSA and also acknowledge the special contributions of service and support given by the Green family across the years.

(\*\* With thanks to John Green and the family for their assistance with this article) Ed.

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