

Draft of President's report

March 2012

Olympic selections: In Victoria we have a number of our players that are in contention for selection for the London Olympics. The selection process is difficult for Australians because players have to compete in a lot of international tournaments and to achieve world rankings of the top 22 for men and the top 14 for women! I am proud to say that Jake Andrewartha, Daniel Kelly, Mark Anthony, Ivo Dos Santos and Carli Renzi are all in the running to make the Olympic team! The final selection process for some of them is the Oceania championships in Cairns next month. On behalf of all of Judo Victoria I wish them every success.

State training going very well: Our coaches and managers are very happy with how state training is going. The attendance has been very good and the training has been of a very high quality. Victoria is very lucky to have Olympic medallist Maria Pekli as the senior state coach. We are also very lucky to have multiple Olympian Daniel Kelly and an Assistant Coach, and David Nabulsi as our Junior Coach.

The national championships are in Wollongong on the Queen's Birthday weekend and Victoria is on track to have a very strong team. Our state managers Boris Ansons and Jean Coughlan are very well organised and have been using technology to communicate directly with our team members. We have had lots of very positive feedback about how state training is going. Best of luck to all of our team members.

Nittadi visit a great success: On the 11th of March the **Judo** Victoria hosted the most successful visit from Nittadi University Judo team at Caulfield. The feedback from everyone was universally positive.

It was a very hot and humid day but it didn't stop 124 judoka from training. The quality of the training was excellent and all of our members that participated certainly benefited from the visit. Daniel Kelly was heard to say that it was one of the best training sessions that he has ever attended in Victoria! The training was followed by an excellent BBQ lunch which our Japanese visitors and state team members really seemed to enjoy.

Thanks are due to Susie Moorshead and the Caulfield Club for hosting the event and for doing an excellent job on the catering. It was great to see our state coaches Maria Pekli and David Nabulsi on the mat directing the training. Thanks are due to Doug Noack for acting as our translator with our visitors and of course to you the members who attended and supported this event.

Sadly Sensi Yamato let us know that they are planning to visit Hawaii next year.

On behalf of Judo Victoria I made it clear that we will welcome any future visits.

Annual Geelong tournament as great success:

Our annual Geelong tournament on the 18th of March was an outstanding success. The number of competitors was up to around 120 and the standard of the competition was very high. A special thanks must go to the Geelong YMCA Judo Club and all of their volunteers. Holding regional tournaments is an important part of our strategic plan.

Geelong was the first time we used our new competition mat which has just arrived from Belgium. Everyone was very happy with the mat and it certainly didn't move around, and is much safer for our members.

One highlight was the number of new referees at Geelong. Overall the standard of refereeing was very high. Without referees we can't hold tournaments. I would like to encourage more members to think seriously about taking up refereeing. If anyone is interested they should talk to our State Chairman of referees Mr Stan Ashley.

Judo Masters in Melbourne: On Saturday the 24th of March JVI held the second annual JMIM tournament at Monash. Everyone that participated was full of praise for the organisation of the event and for the excellent spirit of all of the participants.

The numbers were up on last year and JMIM was bigger than the Australian Masters Games and the Pan Pacific Masters championships! We all hope that it will be even bigger next year.

The standard of both the Kata and the Shiai was very high. It was great to see so many past greats either competing or watching. Andrew Buchanan really enjoyed the event, but thought that when competitors put on Blue Gis it looked like their IQ had dropped by 10%! The other commonly expressed view was that the scoring of Ippon was a lot "softer" than in the good old days when you really had to bury your opponent to score Ippon.

I wish to thank all of the referees, Kata Judges, table workers and other volunteers without whose support we can't run events like this. A special thanks must go to the students from Frank Dando's school who helped pick up and lay the mats on the Friday afternoon.

Overall JMIM was a great social event as well as a great judo tournament. Congratulations to the organising committee that ran JMIM on behalf of Judo Victoria. Well done to Susie Moorshead, Janet Lambert, Boris Ansons, Janet Lambert, Rod Cox and Neville Sharpe.

In 2013 the Australian Masters Games will be back in Geelong and Judo Victoria will be volunteering to run the Judo section of the games.

KATA COMMISSION SEMINAR 1/04/2012.

Was well attended last Sunday the 1st of April, 20 members took part and worked very hard to polish their Kata demonstration for grading purposes.

It was extremely satisfying to see Maeve Coughlan a thirteen year old attend and take part as uki for her sister Aoife Coughlan they both showed exceptional maturity, dedication and reflected the hard work of their coach and themselves to present a quality kata and get the job done.

Their standard on this day would have easily passed their grading requirements for Sho Dan .I'm sure that come exam day they will be able to repeat the same standard.

As a result of receiving a number of Kata examination forms the Kata commission will be holding an examination day , which will be on the 6th of May at Dominance mixed martial arts.

The examination s will take place after State training on the same day , applicants will be notified by the Kata secretary of this exam day.

The order of examinations will be determined by the date of the application and the JVI Kata Commission.

For those presenting kata for grading purposes on this day please keep up your training.

A pass will only be achieved by a worthy demonstration for the grade being sort .Please refer Kata commission guidelines and procedure manual now on the JVI Website under documents.

New Junior Grading system: The Rank Accreditation subcommittee and Judo Victoria have approved the introduction of the new Junior grading system adopted by the JFA Inc. last year. JVI has developed a simplified guide for interpretation to assist coaches in the transition process and this was approved in February. We are now waiting for it to be published. Once it is published we will be hosting a Coaches Forum on the 06/05/2012 at Dominance following state training session but before and during the Kata examination so that coaches can be fully briefed.

Some key points are:

- The grading system is competency based, and it up to the club coach/examiner to assess the appropriate level for each student in the new system.
- The grading requirements are cumulative.
- A cadet full colour belt is kept when a player moves to seniors. If the cadet is at a half/half belt the shift to the lighter of the two colours. Eg Cadet Green-Blue becomes a senior Green.
- A player who starts at an older age may progress without going to each grading. Eg a 13 year old starting judo may skip the first two belts and go directly to yellow as their first grading followed by orange, green, blue, then blue-brown, blue-brown black tip or anywhere in between depending on development.

Peter White

JVI President