



PROGRAMME

SUMMER SPECIAL OLYMPICS GAMES

INAUGURAL AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL

LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA, 21st-22nd NOVEMBER, 1986

Conducted by the Tasmanian State Special Olympics Committee
for The Australian National Special Olympics Committee

Proudly Sponsored by

STATEWIDE  BANK

Australia was at
the 1983
International
Special Olympics
held at
Baton Rouge,
Louisiana



Australia will be
at the 1987
International
Special Olympics
to be held at
South Bend
Indiana
in August 1987

"Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt"

MESSAGES

FROM EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS INTERNATIONAL

"I hope you will feel a part of a great world-wide movement that is not only bringing dignity and pride to special people everywhere, but also bringing people and nations together in the spirit of universal peace and justice.

Good luck, athletes!
Sincerely,
Eunice Kennedy Shriver."

The passage quoted above concluded Eunice Kennedy Shriver's message to competitors at the inaugural New Zealand Special Olympics. Nothing could be more appropriate as a message to competitors at the inaugural Australian Special Olympics.

R. B. Walker, A.M.
President
Tasmanian Special Olympics
Committee

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, REG WALKER

Tasmania is honoured to be awarded the inaugural Australian National Special Olympic Games during the period 20th to 23rd November, 1986.

It is my pleasure on behalf of all Tasmanians to welcome competitors, officials, and supporters to this major event in the State's sporting calendar.

Special Olympics in Tasmania has been acknowledged with the financial support of our major sponsor the LBS Statewide Bank, the Tasmanian State Government and the Australian Government, also the many contributors who have given so generously of their time to help achieve the success of the games.

I wish all competitors the joy and success they so richly deserve.

R. B. Walker, A.M.
President
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of all Tasmanians, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants and officials, taking part in Australia's first National Special Olympic Games.

It is a great honour for Tasmania to host these Games and I am sure Tasmanians will support the events and display our renowned hospitality to all the visitors to the State.

The Special Olympics are truly that — special, as are all those taking part.

Sport and recreation is not just the province of the super fit. People of all ages, levels of fitness and capabilities should be encouraged to participate in enjoyable physical activity.

I believe the Special Olympics movement typifies this aim.

The Games have a special message for Australia, in these sometimes difficult economic times.

Like the participants in the various events, we must all strive a bit harder, give that extra effort and we can succeed in overcoming our difficulties.

Special Olympic programmes are now conducted in more than 60 countries and International Meets are held every four years and I am sure many of the participants in these Games will go on to represent Australia at future World Special Olympics.

It is significant that Launceston is hosting our first National Special Olympics, as in Australia's first appearance at the International Games in 1983, the most successful athlete was Launceston swimmer Linda Cox, who won two gold and one bronze medal.

As well, Tasmania has been at the forefront of the development of special sporting and recreational meetings in Australia and has been a national leader in the Special Olympics movement.

These games are the culmination of considerable effort by many people and years of training by dedicated Special Olympians.

I wish the Inaugural Australian National Olympics every success and trust that all participants have an enjoyable and rewarding carnival.

Robin Gray,
Premier of Tasmania

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 20th November

Arrival and settling in, Rutherglen Holiday Village

- 5.15 p.m. Civic Reception, Launceston Town Hall
Hon. Don Wing, M.L.C., Mayor of Launceston
- 6.00 p.m. Barbecue Meal, Rutherglen Holiday Village
Evening free

Friday, 21st November

9.30 a.m. Track and Field events commence at Velodrome

11.00 a.m. **Official Opening**

(1) Competitors' March
Commentator: Mr. Clarrie Strochnetter, O.A.M.,
National Secretary, Disabled Peoples'
International (Aus.)

(2) Introduction
Mr. R. B. Walker, A.M., President Tasmanian
State Special Olympics Committee

(3) Ecumenical Religious Ceremony
Ven. I. A. Booth, Archdeacon of Launceston
Rev. R. Upson, Moderator, Uniting Church
Rev. Dean E. Lloyd

(4) Address:
Mr. Mark Kennedy-Schrifer,
representing Special Olympics International

(5) Official Opening
His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll, A.C., C.B.E.
Governor of Tasmania

(6) Special Olympians' Oath

(7) Song

(8) Dancing display

12.00 noon Gymnastics by Victorian Special Olympians
Co-ordinator: Mrs. Robyn Cook

12.30 p.m. Lunch

1.00 p.m. Track and Field events resume

5.00 p.m. Barbecue Meal, Velodrome

5.30 p.m. Netball

6.30 p.m. Soccer commences

Saturday, 22nd November

9.30 a.m. Swimming events commence at Mowbray pool

10.00 a.m. Indoor Bowling commences at Longford Sports Centre

Lunch will be taken at 12.00 noon at each of the above venues

6.00 p.m. Barbecue meal at Rutherglen

8.00 p.m. Entertainment

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THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS MOVEMENT

The initiator, Eunice Kennedy Schriver, in June, 1963 started a summer day camp at her home in Maryland to explore the capabilities of the mentally retarded in a variety of sports and physical activities.

Many similar camps were subsequently established throughout America, with mentally retarded individuals demonstrating a level of physical ability far in excess of previous estimates.

Recognising that mentally retarded individuals needed far greater opportunities for participation in sports training and athletic competition, Eunice Kennedy Schriver conceived of an international sports event to demonstrate this need.

Together with the Chicago Park District, the Kennedy Foundation planned and underwrote the First International Special Olympics Games, held in Chicago's Soldier Field in July, 1968. These games attracted a thousand competitors, drawn from twenty six States and Canada.

In August, 1970, the Second International Special Olympics took place in Chicago, with two thousand athletes from fifty States, the District of Columbia, Canada, France and Puerto Rico.

The Third Games took place at Los Angeles in August, 1972, the Fourth at Central Michigan University in August, 1975; the First International Winter Special Olympic Games at Steam Boat Springs Colorado in February, 1977 (over five hundred competitors) and the Fifth International Summer Special Olympic Games at the State University of New York in August, 1979.

Australia competed for the first time at International Special Olympics in July, 1983, when a team of eight brought home gold, silver and bronze medals from Barton Rouge, Louisiana.

Twenty-four Australian Special Olympians will compete at the Seventh International Summer Special Olympic Games to be held at South Bend, Indiana, from 31st July-8th August, 1987. Of these six will compete in athletics, six in aquatics and twelve in soccer.

The Australian Team for South Bend will be chosen at the

conclusion of these inaugural Australian Special Olympic Games.

It is anticipated that four thousand five hundred Special Olympians will compete at South Bend, with representation from one hundred and fifteen American States and overseas countries.

MEMBERS, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE
Delegates representing New South Wales

Mr. B. Easey (President)
Mr. L. Burwell (Secretary)
Mrs. M. Bergin
Representing Tasmania
Mr. B. J. Cox (Vice-president)
Mrs. P. Riddiford
(Assistant Secretary)
Mr. J. H. N. Walker
Representing Victoria
Mr. K. Kraushofer
Mrs. M. Sherrif
Mrs. R. Cook
(Publicity Officer)

MEMBERS, TASMANIAN STATE SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE

Mr. R. B. Walker (President); Mr. B. J. Cox; Mr. C. Strochnetter; Mr. J. W. Brain; Mr. E. Gleeson; Mrs. R. Hansen; Mrs. P. Riddiford; Mr. R. Pearn; Mr. E. Smith; Mr. M. Brown; Mrs. J. Cairns.

Secretaries
Miss Joanne Murray;
Mr. J. H. N. Walker.
General Director of Australian National Special Olympics:

Mr. B. J. Cox
Director of Accommodation:
Mrs. Sue Shea
Director of Transport:
Mr. J. W. Brain
Director of Seating and
Marshalling:

Mr. K. Pennicott
Director of Ceremonies:
Mr. Nick Walkem
Director of Catering:
Mrs. June Cox
Co-ordinator of Presentations:
Mr. R. Pearn
Co-ordinator of Sporting
Bodies:

Mr. J. W. Brain
Co-ordinator of Disco Session:
Mr. Eric Smith

THANKS ARE DUE TO:
The Statewide Bank as sponsor. The bank has supported all Tasmanian State Special Olympics Meets from 1979 onwards.

Rutherglen Holiday Village for an extremely generous discount on accommodation.

Mr. Keith Pybus, for provision of medals, and unfailing help from 1979 until now. The first fund-raising project for Tasmanian Special Olympics took the form of an open day at Rutherglen, at Mr. Pybus' suggestion.

Launceston Velodrome, for a handsome reduction in charges.

Foot and Playsted Pty. Ltd. for similar treatment with respect to programmes.

Metropolitan Transport Trust, for free use of vehicles, and to its drivers for donating their services.

To Minute Man Service, for engraving medals.

The media and in particular E.N.T. Group and Mr. David McQuestin.

To many other esteemed supporters for a variety of goods and services. Especially Rotary of Kings Meadows for organising barbecue.

To the following sporting bodies:

Tasmanian Amateur Athletics Association

Tasmanian Amateur Swimming Association

Indoor Bias Bowls Association

To the following for provision of entertainment:

Mr. Doug Lovell and Kings Meadows High School Orchestra
Mrs. Jenny Bakun and Queechy High School Jazz Band

To Miss Joanne Murray, who was made available by the Statewide Bank to act as minute secretary and undertake clerical work as required, but whose contribution extended far beyond these areas. Her keenness and reliability has been a great asset.

To Mr. K. M. Malone, former Regional Director of Education, who contributed as much as anyone to getting Special Olympics off the ground in Tasmania.

To Mr. R. James, Regional Director of Education, who has done as much as anyone to enhance the prospects of these games.

To many politicians of all parties for their unfailing interest.

To Launceston City council, for interest and help.

To State and Commonwealth Governments for financial support.