



Purpose: Newsletter

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Circulation: All interested people

6 Months old

As I began writing this I realised that today is our 6 month birthday!! The accomplishments of the team in this time are truly outstanding. We have 63 members, a first, 2 seconds and 2 thirds at Australian Championship competitions. We have built a strong brand and strong brand presence as well as strong reputation amongst the other AHF member states. Our business plan is strong and continues to be executed to schedule.

Memberships

2008 Memberships expire at the end of this month. The affected members will be contacted by email.

2009 Australian Youth Handball Championships

The U21 and U18 championships will be held at the Chandler Arena in Brisbane at the end of May. We are now inviting expressions of interest from players, coaches and managers. As always whatever information we have are on the website. If you are interested in taking part please send us an email.

Handball Victoria Positions Vacant

We have a number of positions vacant from time to time. If you are interested in helping to resource the activities of Handball Victoria then keep an eye on the Positions Vacant page of the web site.

Calendar

Another useful tool on our website is the Calendar. It has key dates for handball activities around the country. It is generally updated monthly with whatever information we have available to us.

2009 Victoria Vase and Victoria Shield

The Melbourne Metropolitan handball Championships will begin at the end of March. The full details have been published to; you guessed it, the web site. Early bird team entries are now open and will close soon. You do not need to be part of a club to enter a team, so act early and get your team entry in now.

Referees wanted

The seamless running of a professional level competition requires the best officials possible. As a result we are looking for people who either have experience refereeing handball or are interested in developing their skills with our help (no previous experience necessary, just a desire to learn and take part). We are offering payment of \$20 per match officiated as well as ongoing training and development. If you are interested or want to learn more please contact us.

2009 Australian Beach Handball Championships

Finally, I am grateful to have this opportunity to thank all 32 Victorians that travelled to Scarborough Beach last weekend for the first ever Australian Beach Handball Championships. It was very easy to be exceptionally proud of everyone that took part both on and off the court.

Particular thanks to Oliver for organising the accommodation. Also to Oliver, Sebastian and Nanna for assisting with refereeing. Similarly Camilla, Kate, Nanna, Camilla, Taylor, Aleksandra, Tanja and Amelia for helping with scoring duties. Special thanks to Taylor, for so understandingly copping the duties assigned to the youngest player. From filling drink bottles, carrying luggage and being the designated ball boy.

A special note also to Jim, Mark, Sam, Gabriella, Judith, Magali and Kass. It's a long way to travel to not take the court. There is no doubt the players and officials value having the additional familiar faces in the crowd, as you were for every Victorian match.

Now, to the results...

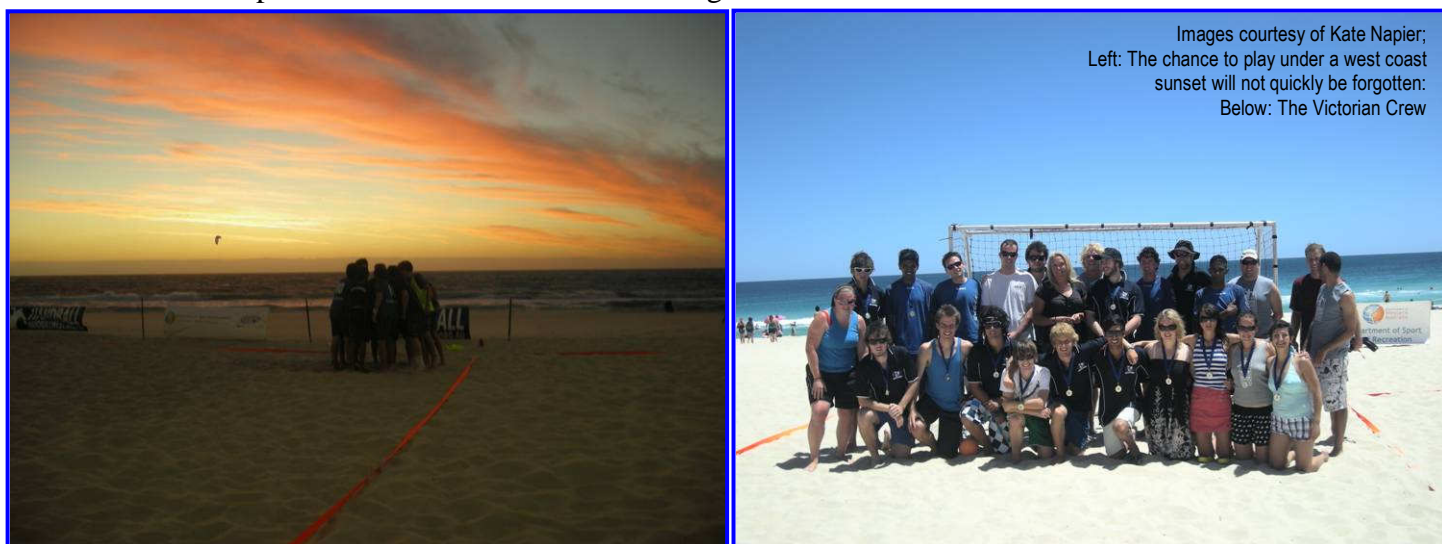
The Senior Men were amongst the biggest surprise results of the weekend. After a slow start in the first match the guys pulled it together and nailed their remaining matches. After playing 6 matches in less than 8 hours during the heat of the day they had finished on top of the preliminary round. Unfortunately Sunday started the same way as Saturday and after a slow start the team never really got it together. A loss in the shootout saw the Senior Men finish equal third overall. A shock result in the other semi final saw the team which finished last in the preliminary rounds take out a very close shootout in the final. Congratulations to Western Australia's B Team.

The Women were well prepared and had reason to be confident. Despite having the smallest squad at the competition the girls did not let the heat get to them. The final on Sunday was a great chance for the girls, most of who had been in the squad that lost the final in sudden death overtime at the 2008 Australian Senior Handball Championships, to revenge that loss and claim a gold medal. The West Australian girls were a fantastic outfit who stepped up even more in the final. Despite an early injury to star goal keeper Amelia the girls adapted well to force a shootout. The shootout went to sudden death but the girls were unable to take their gold. It was another silver to add to the cabinet.

The Junior's were the real unknown quantity of the Victorian effort. A very condensed preparation period had seen a lot of hours put in on the beach in preparation. The boys had never played a competitive handball match prior to arriving at Perth. With the way the draw played out they had only seen, in person, on match in person prior to their first. The 3 days of competition saw some fantastic battles on the beach. Several shootouts, lots of close calls. The somewhat random approach to offence blended perfectly with some powerful defence. When it came to the final the boys were too big, too strong and the experience from their other sports shone through. An amazing journey to bring home Handball Victoria's first ever Gold Medal. Well done boys!!

Finally special congratulations to two outstanding players. Playing in goals on the beach can be a pretty tough gig. However **Jack Hall** took every advantage to be unanimously voted the most valuable player of the Junior Competition. Awesome job Jack.

The Women's competition was deep with talent in all teams. However the experience and capabilities of **Nanna Hedberg** saw her awarded the most valuable player of the Women's competition (yet another to add to the cabinet). In typical style Nanna down played the accomplishment but there was no doubting her deservedness.



Images courtesy of Kate Napier;
Left: The chance to play under a west coast
sunset will not quickly be forgotten:
Below: The Victorian Crew

Photos Wanted

If you have any photos from the Beach Nationals or any other handball related activities we would love to host them for you. Just get them to us and we will make sure you get full credits.

More Information / Contacts

In case you are not aware more detailed information on all these topics is typically available on our web site...

www.handballvictoria.org.au

or you can email us at...

enquiries@handballvictoria.org.au