

Presidents Report February 2011

As 2011 unfolds, JVI is entering uncharted waters in a positive way. Our hard working Committee has successfully submitted a Strategic plan to the Victorian Government which has seen our annual government funding increased, based on a performance criteria being met. This Strategic plan will be made available to our members in the near future.

Primarily, the strategic plan outlines a schools program being promoted, which will tie in with the employment of JVI's first Development Officer, soon to be advertised as a paid position. This has been made possible by the increased state funding. It has rightfully been suggested by the State Government that amateur sporting bodies, such as JVI, are no longer able to move forward to an acceptable time frame, or meet membership expectations relying solely on volunteer assistance. A paid employee with clear guidelines and key performance indicators will be a big step forward for this body. All interested parties should stay in touch with the various state and national websites where the position will be advertised. A notice will be sent out to all Clubs at the appropriate time

Another highlight that has just been introduced is the sponsorship package for all JVI members. Through an exhaustive process, JVI's sponsorship sub-committee granted the company Jols, the rights for twelve months, to be the sole sponsor to JVI. This sponsorship is structured to benefit general members and the state team. The benefits this provides is a first in Australian Judo, I believe, with the outlines of this sponsorship posted on the website and forwarded on to all JVI affiliated Clubs recently.

I'm sure there are a few in our organization who have seen the increase in our fee structure, partly attributed to the sponsorship package, as unnecessary. Given that the sponsorship deal was spawned on the question, "How do we entice all practicing judo exponents in this state to be interested in joining JVI? I believe the sponsorship committee put together a very appealing package for any new member, or for that matter, re-registering member.

It should be appreciated that the two other major judo states in Australia, that being, NSW and Qld, both have membership fees within a few dollars of our new fees with no additional returns such as judo suits, tee shirts and the like.

A changing of the guard has also occurred with the Australian NTID program. After some positive changes to the NTID format, the now, former head coordinator, Daniel Kelly, heeded the call of family demands and resigned late in 2010. Fellow Victorian team mate, and National 73kg king for the past 5 years, Dennis Iverson, recently hung up his competitive suit and has now been appointed to the to the vacated NTID role where I believe he will do an outstanding job. Best of luck to him.

All aspiring Victorian judoists should be pleased to note that once again this year, Olympic bronze medalist Maria Pekli re-nominated and was duly accepted as state coach for 2011. She, along with the

our longstanding stalwart manager, Sandy Hollingsworth, returning assistant manager Carolyn Curren, Jnr coach Eddie Leoni and new assistant Jnr coach Trevor Bilney should ensure Victoria makes a similar impact to last year's results at the upcoming Nat Champs held this year in WA, June 10-12.

I wish them well in their preparation.

Upcoming local events to highlight on the calendar are the annual Geelong tournament (March 20th), the first state run event for this year, and the Shoreham Judo Camp March (11th-14th) held on the Mornington Peninsula. Supporting regional tournaments and encouraging juniors to participate in a pleasant judo environment over the Labour Day weekend are highly recommended.

Yours in Judo,

Michael Picken