

Presidents Report August 2010

After the success of the National Championships 2010, JVI has thankfully moved into an expected quieter time over the winter months. The July Darebin Tournament was at the low end of participation which is the norm after the intensity of a long period of state training, Nat Champs and international events. This year's international events placed demands on many of our Victorian Members who again enjoyed success. Hopefully there will be more to come in the upcoming World Championships being held this year in Tokyo Japan in September. The Victorians in the Australian Team this year are: Emily Bensted, Carly Renzi, Ivo dos Santos, Dennis Iverson, Brent Iverson, and Mark Anthony. Australian Coach, Stewart Brain, told me recently the build up to this year's Worlds will be intense so I wish them well.

On the local scene a couple of sad announcements came forward with the resignation of two prominent members of JVI's organizing team.

Longstanding tournament coordinator, Lynette Slade, was forced to hang up her hat due to health issues. Fortunately those health issues are surmountable and Lynette is enjoying a speedy recovery.

The other announcement was that of John Jory who, as many of you know, has taken on a very heavy workload during his time on the JVI Board. This was in the roles of the JVI Secretary for six years and the same as Victorian NCAS Chairman. He also joined the JFA NCSA program for a period of two years just to add to his woes. John has decided to call it a day to enjoy some time in the sun which anyone could understand.

I would like to thank both these individuals for their outstanding dedicated service to judo and JVI's membership, with best wishes to both of them for the future.

On Sunday August 29th Mt Waverly held the annual introductory tournament with the usual numbers of enthusiastic young children who were keen to try themselves out at their new sport. The aim of this event is to keep the pressure off the kids with modified rules, that allow fights to run to time, rather than by a quick ippon. Contest rules are explained during the running of the contest with the outcome hopefully being a fun experience for the new members of our judo community.

A thankyou to all involved in the running of this event with a special thanks to George Genitsaris and MT Waverly Judo Club.

On the subject of modified rules it should be noted that due to the attention of a few of Victoria's senior members, JVI runs all (excluding VIOC) tournaments in U/9 and U/12 under special rules. This is a situation that has existed for a number of years now. Victoria is the only state in Australia that has embarked down this road, which hopefully is giving the beginners starting out in our tournaments a safer environment to commence their judo lives in.

Events and changes to look forward to in the near future are added bonuses to our members through new sponsorship deals being enthusiastically negotiated by the JVI Sponsorship Sub-Committee.

Upcoming events in October will be VIOC, the Kata Semina, and the Bendigo Tournament where we encourage as many members as possible to make the effort to participate. Check the website for details.

A special highlight this year is seeing young, or longstanding members moving forward and being recognized with recent successful Dan grade applications. Congratulations to Kiyushi Sakurai, Lauren Fo, Ben Dale, Chyua Shang-Lu and Hayden Miller who have all achieved the status of 1st degree Black Belt.

Yours in Judo,

Michael Picken