



Australia Boccia Returns to Paralympics



Picture: Dan Michel and Ashlee McClure off to Rio

Daniel Michel Makes Boccia Dream Reality

Australian Boccia returns to the Paralympic games with the confirmation of BC3 Athlete, Daniel Michel qualifying for this year's Paralympics in Rio.



Daniel becomes the first Australian athlete since 1996 to qualify for the Paralympics and the first to compete in boccia for Australia since Sydney 2000. His meticulous work ethic saw Dan finish 5th overall at this years World Championships in Beijing and qualify for the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

Dan says, "It means everything to me. Representing Australia at the pinnacle of sport has been my life long ambition and to have achieved it by qualifying for Rio means I have achieved a monumental goal"

Paralympic
Games –RIO

7 -18 September

Boccia Junior
Nationals

4 – 6 November

Tasmania State Titles
22 – 23 October

Queensland State
Championships
26-27 November

Targeting Tokyo
Trials

2016

See pg. 4



2016 Boccia Australia National Titles

Nationals Produces Champions Across the Country

The 2016 Boccia Australia National Titles proved to be a huge success this year with four new champions taking the honors from four different states.

The BC3 category had a number of outstanding performances with Australian representative Tait Jenkins of NSW go undefeated throughout the competition and clearly stamping his championship qualities. Another standout in the BC3 class was Terry Cooper from the Northern Beaches in NSW. After being overlooked by the NSW team selection, Cooper entered as an Independent and demonstrated his natural talent for the game and picked up well-deserved silver. Meanwhile in the bronze playoff, pair's combination Gavin Thorneycroft (Vic) and Lily Kelly (Tas) battled it out, with the former nationals champion Thorneycroft prevailing taking back to Victoria the Bronze Individual medal.

NSW athlete and 2016 Australian Champion Tait Jenkins battles it out with independent from the Northern Beaches Terry Cooper for the Gold Medal.

RESULTS

BC3 INDIVIDUAL:

Gold – Tait Jenkins(NSW)

Silver – Terry Cooper (IND)

BRONZE - Gavin Thorneycroft (VIC)

BC3 PAIRS

Gold – NSW 1

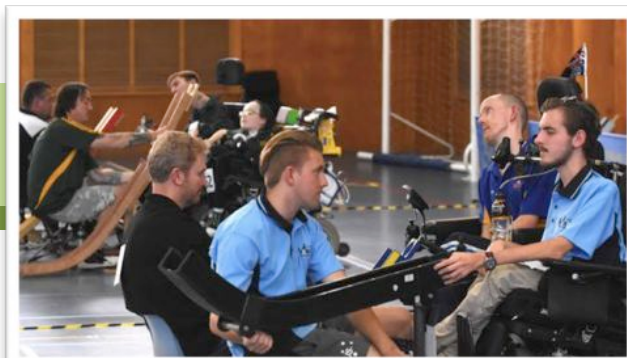
Tait Jenkins, Spencer Cotie, Riley Saban

Silver – TAS/VIC

Lily Kelly, Gavin Thorneycroft

Bronze – NSW 2

Wendy Evans, Ange McReynolds, Siobhan Daley



2016 Boccia Australia Nationals (Continued).....

In the BC1 class, Danny Byrne from Victoria had a terrific event and consistently looked the player to beat. In an all Victorian Gold medal playoff, Byrne was just too good for his team mate John Richardson whilst Nathan Ford of Queensland backed his teams Gold up with another medal, winning the bronze in the individuals.

Girl Power was the order for the BC2 and BC4/EMU competitions. BC2 athlete Fiona Lyons of Queensland and Sarah Mutton (BC4) from South Australia both beat their more fancied opponents with some stunning results.

Lyons was up against NSW athlete Scott Elsworth in the BC2 gold medal playoff, both of whom have previously competed for Australia. It was a tense final but Lyons didn't allow her opponent and 2015 champion Elsworth get to her and proved an outstanding 2016 National Champion. Bronze went to Jason Mayweather of Queensland.

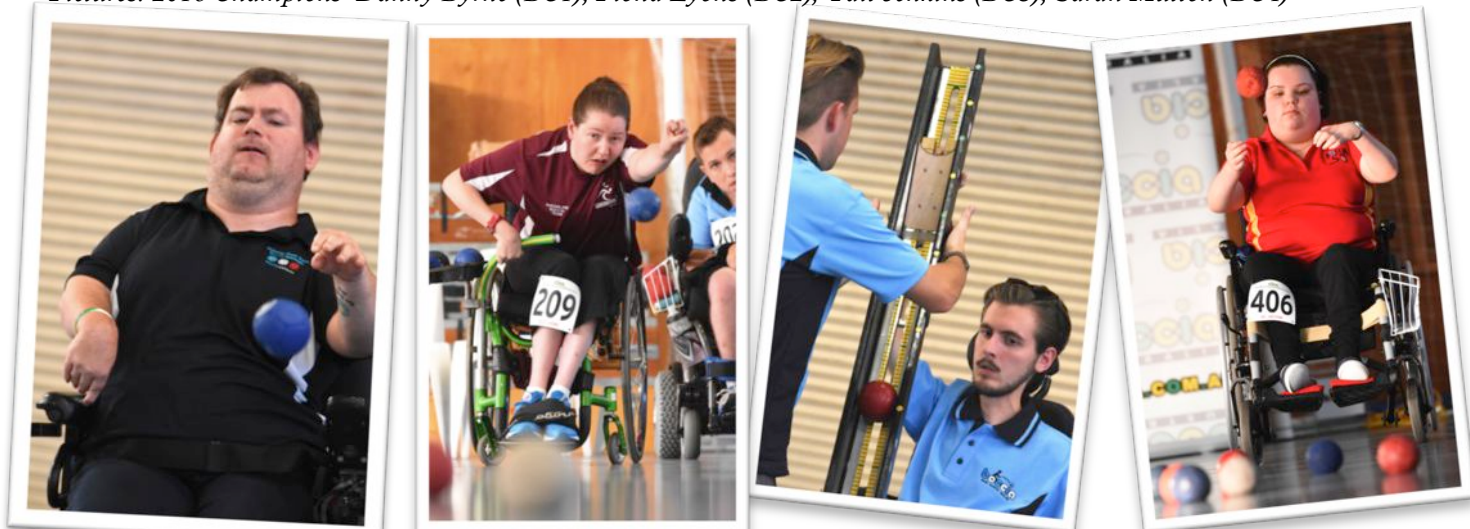
The BC4/EMU final was worthy of an international match. BC4 athletes, Sarah Mutton (SA) and JP LaFontaine (NSW) literally after a few hours from hoping of a plane after representing Australia in Montreal Canada, showed their dominance in the BC4/EMU competition. But it was Mutton who prevailed on this occasion, taking home her first National title in front of an excited crowd. Sarah showed why she is now an Australian representative and exciting times ahead for BC4 boccia at an international level. South Australia's youngster, James Morrison (EMU) taking the bronze.

The standard of boccia was outstanding this year and could have only been possible with the support of the many volunteers including the wonderful officials. The standard of refereeing went to a new level and the boccia competed reflected this.

A huge thankyou to Cerebral Palsy Alliance (NSW) who alongside Boccia Australia put on a great event this year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2017.

***2017 Boccia Australia Nationals – 26 May, 2017 to 1 June, 2017.....more 2016 BANT results page 8**

Pictures: 2016 Champions- Danny Byrne (BC1), Fiona Lyons (BC2), Tait Jenkins (BC3), Sarah Mutton (BC4)



**Australian BC1 Boccia Champion:**

Danny Byrne (Vic)

Australian BC2 Boccia Champion:

Scott Elsworth (NSW)

Australian BC3 Boccia Champion:

Riley Saban (NSW)

Australian BC4 Boccia Champion:

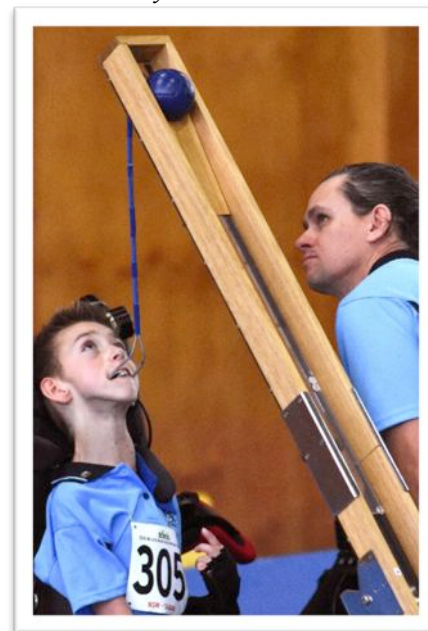
JP LaFontaine (NSW)

Australian EMU Boccia and Australian National Champion:

Phil Bates (NSW)

2015 - 2016 NRS Australia Champions

Pic: Riley and Clint Saban

**Run a Local NRS Event at Your Club**

If your local competition or club is running an event and want to include in the NRS, be sure to have your club connect with your state member or coordinator to apply as a local NRS event.

With a number of clubs across NSW including Northern Beaches and Hunter already involved, we are keen to see and support your club run their very own NRS event.

For further information contact admin@boccia.com.au

Pic: Danny Byrne, Scott Elsworth, JP LaFontaine, Phil Bates





TARGETING TOKYO

Following the 2016 Boccia Australia AGM, the selection process for "Targeting Tokyo 2020" was launched by Head Coach Peter King.

In brief, the campaign will be led by three squads;

Firstly, the Senior Squad from which the team to compete at any event will be chosen from.

Secondly, the Emerging Squad, which will be formed by the backup players who are identified as being capable to join the Senior Squad if required.

Lastly, the Development Squad, which will be comprised of juniors too young to compete for Tokyo.

Nomination forms have been made available to register for the selection trials to be held in late 2016 and will be posted on the BA website from 1st June.

Registration will remain open until the 31st July.

For more information contact your State Head Coach or State Delegate.

Get Involved and be a Referee

Why not get involved and be part of the action.

Boccia Australia now offers two levels of accreditation for Referees:

Level 1 accreditation enables referees to referee at social, local and state competitions.

Level 2 accreditation enables referees to referee at National competitions.

International refereeing accreditation is only available through [BISFed](http://BISFed.com).

Go to: www.boccia.com.au and



News Around Australia

NSW School Comp

The NSW School Boccia competition started on Monday 16th May with 16 competition days being held all over metropolitan and rural NSW. Over 80 schools have registered, and only 16 of these will win a place at the Grand Final to be held at Sydney Olympic Park on the 10th August.

Current Champions Killarney heights lead by Australian athlete Spencer Cotie will be trying to make it a third Title in a row, which has not been achieved in the past.

About 1000 school children will be competing this year and we hope that new talented juniors will emerge and will go on to join regular boccia competitions and boccia clubs across

What's happening in your state or club?

Everyone here at Boccia Australia would love to hear news from your club and to share it with the boccia community.

Email photos, news and any inspiring stories to admin@boccia.com.au



Picture: Geelong Boccia Club

Nottle Inducted Into NSW Boccia Athletes Hall of Fame

NSW Central Coast's Dean Nottle has been awarded as the 2016 Inductee of the NSW Boccia Hall of Fame.

The NSW Athletes Hall of Fame honors, celebrates and pays due respect to both past and current star athletes of Boccia in NSW.

Dean did not start playing boccia until he was nearly 60 years of age but his competitive nature showed its never to late to learn and compete at the highest level.

In 2013, Dean represented and captained Australia in Sydney at BISFed Asia Oceania's Boccia Championships.

Dean is a dual Boccia Australia National Title winner as well as many winning many other titles.

Now retired from competitive Boccia, this is a great recognition.



Green and Gold - International Boccia

It's been a huge year so far internationally for our Australian Boccia representative athletes. Not only have we seen Dan Michel qualifying for the 2016 Paralympics, we have seen the emergence of a number of our national representatives making their mark on international boccia.

Beijing – World Championships (March)

Australian athletes Dan Michel (BC3) and Jean-Paul LaFontaine (BC4) headed over to Beijing for the World Championships. It was the last opportunity for those all-important final points for the Rio Paralympics.

Michel our best chance for Rio finished an impressive 5th and only losing 3:2 against world number 2 Han Soo Kim. This match could have gone either way but it was enough to book his ticket to Rio.

LaFontaine finished an impressive 13 overall in the BC4 category giving his world ranking a significant boost.

Montreal – World Open (April) saw Australia take a BC4 pair for the first time overseas and the debut of Sarah Mutton from South Australia. Although only winning one match against the American pair, the combination of LaFontaine and Mutton looks promising only losing to the experienced pair of Korea by one point.

We also saw JP LaFontaine progress to the medal round of this world open. Not only was this JP's best result internationally since debuting for Australia at the AO's 2013 but the best result for an Australian since 1996 when Australian Pair Kris Bignall and Tu Huyhn won bronze at the Atlanta Paralympics.



JP said: "Finishing 4th was a great result but gives me that drive to do even better and train harder".

Dan Michel advanced to yet another quarter final while Cally Simpson had an outstanding event winning 2 of her three pool matches and narrowly missing a spot in the quarter finals.

Dubai – World Open (June) Tait Jenkins and Spencer Cotie travelled to Dubai to compete in the BC3 pairs and individuals competitions. The pair combination played well and made it to the medal round finishing 4th. Whilst in the individuals, Spencer debuted and won his first international match. Cotie, still at high school, making an impressive start to his international career.

2016 BOCCIA AUSTRALIA NATIONAL TITLES – RESULTS:

State Shield: QUEENSLAND

Individual BC1

Gold: Danny Byrne (Vic)

Silver: John Richardson (Vic)

Bronze: Nathan Ford (Qld)

Individual BC2

Gold: Fiona Lyons (Qld)

Silver: Scott Elsworth (NSW)

Bronze: Jason Mayweather (Qld)

Individual BC3

Gold: Tait Jenkins (NSW)

Silver: Terry Cooper (NSW)

Bronze: Gavin Thorneycroft (Vic)

Individual BC4 – BC5 - EMU

Gold: Sarah Mutton (SA)

Silver: JP LaFontaine (NSW)

Bronze: James Morrison (SA)

Teams BC1/BC2

Gold: Queensland

Nathan Ford (BC1)

Lachlan Kavanagh (BC2)

Jason Mayweather (BC2)

Fiona Lyons (BC2)

Silver: New South Wales

Chris Allerdice (BC1)

Tom Ferguson (BC2)

Axil Pavy (BC2)

Scott Elsworth (BC2)

Bronze: All Stars

Mecenzi Howard (BC1)
(Illawarra/NSW)

Corena Sheridan (BC2) (ACT)

Vishal Chandra (BC2) (NZ)

Nicholas Milner (BC2) (TAS)

Pairs BC3

Gold: New South Wales 1

Tait Jenkins

Spencer Cotie

Riley Saban

Silver: **Tasmania/Victoria**

Lily Kelly

Gavin Thorneycroft

Bronze: **New South Wales 2**

Ange McReynolds

Wendy Evans

Siobhan Daley

Pairs BC4 – BC5 – EMU

Gold: New South Wales 1

Phil Bates (EMU)

Conor Hamlin (EMU)

Silver: ACT

Dave Primmer (EMU)

James Roe (EMU)

Bronze: Queensland 2

Max Macourt (BC4)

Ryan Finn (BC4)

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Or visit:

Facebook: facebook.com/boccia.australia



2016/17 Boccia Australia Memberships:

Athletes, Coaches, Sport Assistants, Referees and Officials, and Volunteers

It's never been more important to be a member of Boccia Australia. Becoming a member not only enables you to compete at any Boccia Australia supported event – and in a small way contribute to the administration and insurance costs – it also helps grow our sport and protecting our members.

If you are an athlete, coach, sport assistant, official or volunteer, you need to become a member.

There is a small fee for athletes, all other members join free.

Membership runs from season to season with new season memberships available July.

The new season is 2016-2017 and finishes with the Boccia Australia National Titles which will be held in Sydney at the end of May 2017.

To become a member go to <http://www.boccia.com.au/> And click on Get Involved.