
2021

**Victorian Disability
Sport and Recreation
AWARDS**

Tuesday 23 November

PwC Southbank

#VDSRA2021



2021 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards

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2021 Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards

- Everyday Independence Lifetime Achievement Award
- My Sport Live Sportsperson of the Year
- Marg Angel Junior Sportsperson of the Year
- Masters Sportsperson of the Year
- Administrator of the Year
- Carbine Club Coach of the Year
- PwC Volunteer of the Year
- VicHealth Initiative of the Year- Sport
- VicHealth Initiative of the Year- Active Recreation
- Polytan Inclusive Sport, Recreation or Open Space Infrastructure Award

Welcome

After an online Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are delighted to be hosting the 2021 awards in person at PwC Southbank.

With the event held close to the International Day of People with Disability, we can't think of a better way to celebrate the incredible talent, initiatives and individuals that contribute to a more inclusive Victorian sport and recreation sector.

It's been another difficult year for our members and by celebrating face to face, we can bring a spark of positivity to remind everyone of what can be achieved in 2022 as we continue the return to community sport and recreation.

Our awards continue to grow and this year we saw a significant increase in nominations for many categories, in particular the initiative of the year demonstrating the wonderful work of many organisations all across Victoria to engage in creative ways during the pandemic and to develop programs and initiatives that support people with disability to be active.

Assessing them all was no easy task and we sincerely thank the panel of independent judges for their knowledge, expertise and time in selecting the award finalists and recipients.

Congratulations to all the award nominees and finalists for your achievements, and those who have supported them.

Thank you to the many sponsors, supporters, volunteers and the events team at DSR - the event would simply not be possible without your significant contribution.

We hope that tonight's awards give everyone a sense of hope and community spirit as we look towards a new year of opportunities in 2022 as we continue to provide and promote choice, access and participation in sport and recreation for people with disability.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Anderson".

Sarah Anderson
Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Amon".

Richard Amon
Chief Executive Officer

Keynote speaker

Akii Ngo (they/them)



Photo credit: Liana Hardy - @LongStoryShortAgency

Akii is a disability leader and internationally awarded, multi-award-winning gender equity, violence prevention & LGBTIQA+ advocate and activist, who is passionate about disability rights and representation. They are a proud, young, disabled, non-binary femme and queer/pan, person of colour and first generation Aussie from a refugee background.

Akii is dedicated to accessibility, universal design, non-tokenistic representation and is a fierce advocate for people with chronic pain, chronic illness and all disabilities (i.e. obvious and hidden) due to their own lifetime of lived experiences. Akii lives with extensive and severe chronic illnesses and disabilities which impacts every aspect of their life.

Akii is the recipient of the 2020 Australian Disability Leadership Awards in Social Change, the 2021 7News Young Australian of the Year VIC Leadership Semi Finalist and has recently been announced a 2021 D-30 International Diversability Impact Leader of the Year.

Akii is also an agency represented and internationally published model – working hard to challenge the perception and create a positive change within the media, fashion and beauty industry for appearance diversity (i.e. surgical scars), disabled individuals, gender-diverse and POC communities. Also, having recently modelled in multiple catwalks and shows for the 2021 Melbourne Fashion Week!

Akii has spent their entire career dedicated to making a positive and sustainable difference to the community.

Currently, as Project Manager of Disability Sport & Recreation's Phoenix Project, Akii is leading the revitalisation of the disability sport and recreation sector in a 'covid-normal' world, supporting more Victorians with disability to be active by breaking down barriers.

Finalists 2021

Everyday Independence Lifetime Achievement Award

- Kaye Speed OAM

Previous winners

- 2020 Timothy Chiu
- 2019 Mel and Terry
McMahon Tamika Simpson
- 2018 Greg Crump
- 2017 Maurice Gleeson
OAM
- 2016 Jeff Walkley
- 2015 Darren Pickering
- 2014 Hans Boers

My Sport Live Sportsperson of the Year (Female and Male categories now merged)

- Ben Fawcett
- Martyn Dunn

Previous winners:

- 2020 Phoebe Mitchell /
Clint Pickin
- 2019 Hannah
Macdougall / Ben Roche
- 2018 Melissa Tapper /
Nathan Pellissier
- 2017 Isis Holt / Mitchell
Gourlay
- 2016 Carol Cooke /
Dylan Alcott
- 2015 Cassy Geffke /
Dylan Alcott
- 2014 Jessica Gallagher /
Toby Kane
- 2013 Carol Cooke /
Patrick Francis
- 2012 Ellie Cole / Nazim
Erdem
- 2011 Amanda Carter /
Ben Roche

Finalists 2021

Masters Sportsperson of the Year

- Jason Lees
- Jason Whiter

Previous winners:

- 2020 Duke Trench-Thiedeman
- 2019 Mick Fawkner
- 2018 Maria Strong
- 2017 Carol Cooke
- 2016 Carol Cooke
- 2015 Nazim Erdem
- 2014 Gary Connor
- 2012 Gary Connor

Carbine Club Coach of the Year

- Vicky Lee - Slammin Tennis
- Ian Bridge - Para-Badminton
- Kerry Woods - Special Olympics Gymnastics

Previous winners:

- 2020 Sadat-Jon Hussain
- 2019 Vicky Lee
- 2018 Elizabeth Gosper
- 2017 Alexia Keats
- 2016 Alex Hirschauer
- 2015 Graeme Byrne
- 2014 George Tsangas
- 2013 Greg Crump
- 2012 Randall Joseph
- 2011 Jodi Pixton

Finalists 2021

Marg Angel Junior Sportsperson of the Year

- Sally Schwartz - tennis
- Louise Pendred - athletics
- James Pendred - athletics
- Kirra Wright - athletics

Previous winners:

- 2020 Georgia Powning
- 2019 Mitchell Bond
- 2018 Caytlyn Sharp
- 2017 Jaryd Clifford
- 2016 Brenton Ponza
- 2015 Brittney Neill
- 2014 Keiran Johnson Vickers
- 2013 Matthew Hanappel
- 2012 Hayden McGuigan
- 2011 Sarah Lazzaro

PwC Volunteer of the Year

- Samir Mahir- Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria
- Bill Dooley - SOLVE Disability Solutions
- Nancy Cummane - Cricket Victoria

Previous winners:

- 2020 Caytlyn Sharp
- 2019 Melissa Hale
- 2018 Alana Baldi
- 2017 Alana Baldi
- 2016 Amanda Kwong
- 2015 Moira Ryde
- 2014 David Staley
- 2013 Debbie Pataki
- 2012 Kerrie Brindell
- 2011 Ron Smith

Finalists 2021

VicHealth Initiative of the Year (Sport) – category now split from Active Recreation

- Blind & Low Vision State Championships - Tennis Victoria
- Creating a Positive Experience for Athletes with Autism in Gymnastics workshop - Gymnastics Victoria
- Virtual International Day of People with Disability celebration - Belgravia Leisure

VicHealth Initiative of the Year (Active Recreation)

- Virtual Law Enforcement Torch Run – Law Enforcement Torch Run Victoria
- Fitskills - Latrobe University

- All Abilities Physical Activity Challenge - GippSport

Previous winners:

- 2020 Access Key Project (Access Ability Australia)
- 2019 Access All Terrain Program (YMCA Victoria, DHHS and Parks Victoria)
- 2018 All Abilities Cycling (Southern Masters Cycling Club)
- 2017 All Abilities Sport Ballarat
- 2016 Achilles Running Club
- 2015 Gymnastics Victoria AeroBase
- 2014 Gymnastics Victoria Inclusive Club Guidelines
- 2013 Australian Physiotherapy Webinar
- 2012 Swimming Victoria Talent Identification Program
- 2011 Cricket Victoria Gymnastics Victoria Scope

Finalists 2021

Polytan Inclusive Sport, Recreation or Open Space Infrastructure Award

- Solve Disability Solutions - Building development
- 2020 Casey Stadium (City of Casey and YMCA Victoria)
- 2019 Lilydale to Warburton rail trail chicanes (Yarra Ranges Council)
- 2018 North Melbourne Recreation Reserve Multi-Use Sports Court (Melbourne City Council)
- 2017 Livvi's Playspace (Hume City Council/Touched by Olivia Foundation)
- 2016 Camp Manyung (YMCA Victoria) AquaPulse (Wyndham City Council)
- 2015 Peninsula Aquatic Recreation Centre (Frankston City Council)

Administrator of the Year (New Category)

- Steve Odgers (AFL Victoria)
- Tim Marchinton (SOLVE Disability Solutions)
- Brenton Dinsdale (GippSport)

We also thank Madeleine Hogan and Matthew Haanappel for hosting our awards ceremony and Andrew Walton for his voice over talent.



DISABILITY SPORT
& RECREATION



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