



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
NATIONAL GAMES 2014
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

GAMES NEWS

5 DAYS TO GO!

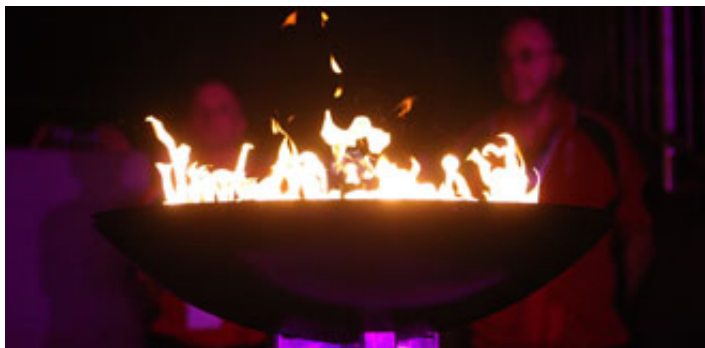
You know the National Games are almost here when Law Enforcement Torch Run officers begin the Final Leg Torch Run. Traditionally the Final Leg starts in the previous National Games host city and so the action kicked off today in Adelaide, host of the 2010 National Games. The Flame of Hope will now be taken on a journey through regional towns in South Australia and Victoria before arriving in Melbourne for our tenth National Games.

Nicola Stokes, Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Australia



Not long now! Photo: Taste Media.

THE TORCH IS ON THE WAY!



At the Closing Ceremony of the Special Olympics Australia National Games in 2010 the cauldron was extinguished. Photo: WinkipoP Media.

TAKE ACTION

DONATE to the team.
ATTEND an event.
PROMOTE our news.



Please share our news and pictures via your own personal or business channels. All content is media cleared for the promotion of Special Olympics Australia. For enquiries please contact media@specialolympics.com.au

ATHLETES ON TV!



National Games media coverage is heating up with ABC TV's *Behind the News* producing a great program featuring 15-year-old swimming champion Charlie Wilkins (Team South Australia) and his journey to the Games.



Now, four years later the Flame of Hope has been reignited in Adelaide as the Law Enforcement Torch Run begins its journey to Melbourne. Senior Constable Michael Klose (SA Police) and Special Olympics athlete Bradley Bettens kicked off the event. Photo: Duncan Images

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg is one of the many traditions of the National Games and it kicked off today in Adelaide. For the Final Leg, law enforcement officers carry the Flame of Hope through local communities beginning in the last host city and ending with the lighting of the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony.

The Flame of Hope left Adelaide Oval today and stopped at Victoria Square where the cauldron was lit and the community celebrated with a BBQ and entertainment.

In total, 90 police officers on bicycles and motor bikes, plus the dog squad joined 50 Special Olympics Australia athletes at the community event.

Lisa Hester from Special Olympics Australia said 'There were a few tears of joy. First when everyone chanted as the torch was lit. Then when the group stopped traffic and were cheered down the main street of Adelaide, and finally when one of our athletes sang the National Anthem.'

The Torch Run is in Naracoote (SA) and Bordertown (SA) tomorrow and will also visit: Kaniver (VIC), Nhill (VIC), Echuca (VIC), Horsham (VIC), Ballarat (VIC), Bendigo (VIC), Geelong (VIC), Melbourne (VIC).

[Click here](#) for details of each Torch Run leg.

THIS IS WHERE THE FUN BEGAN!

In 1962, Eunice Kennedy Shriver invited 75 children with an intellectual disability to Camp Shriver where she gave them an opportunity to play sport in her own backyard. This was the first important step in the history of Special Olympics which today supports over 4.4 million athletes in 170 countries. [Click here](#) to find out more about Eunice Kennedy Shriver and how her sister Rosemary was an inspiration.



Camp Shriver 1962. Photo: specialolympics.org



Prime7 News also met up with Josh Ives, Cameron Pollard and James Hall from Team NSW as they got in some extra training in Coffs Harbour. Good luck at the National Games everyone.

GO TEAM!

While athletes finalise their preparations for the Games lots of our supporters are taking the opportunity to wish them well. Check out the messages of support below. You can also post your own message to the [National Games facebook page](#).



Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne, Robert Doyle.



Kaila McKnight, Australian athletics champion and National Games ambassador.



Sarah Ogilvie, Australian sailing champion and National Games ambassador, and the team at Yachting Victoria.

HOLY SMOKES BATMAN!



Special Olympics exists because of the vision of Eunice Kennedy-Shriver. Photo: specialolympics.org

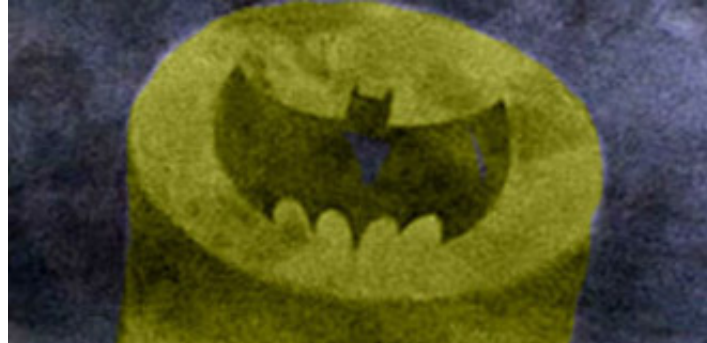
SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

Take a peek at our social media resources which include Facebook avatars, cover photos and videos to share. They are a great way to show support for your state or territory team!

[Click here to visit the Social Media Resources page.](#)



Our social media resources includes athlete videos. Click above to hear from Donna West (Team Tasmania) who is competing in bocce at the Special Olympics Australia National Games!



Did you know that Melbourne was once briefly called Batmania. Not because the first settlers were obsessed with Gotham City and Bruce Wayne, but after John Batman one of Melbourne's founding fathers?

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Get your plans together for the Games by viewing the Sports Schedule, which is officially available now. Click here to download the schedule. In addition, get yourself familiar with each of the venues. Click here to find out where each sport is being held.

MERCHANDISE

Get into the spirit of the Games and grab your merchandise. A great range of clothing and accessories are available. Click here to get yours.

OPENING CEREMONY TICKETS

The Opening Ceremony of a National Games is always a highlight. Make sure you don't miss this great night of entertainment and fun. Click here to grab your tickets.

ACCESSIBLE SEATING



If you are joining us at the Opening or Closing Ceremony and require an accessible seat please register your request with supporters.2014ng@specialolympics.com.au. On the day, look out for the Game Changer Volunteers in their orange shirts who will guide you to your seat.

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www.specialolympics2014.org.au

5 day countdown | 15.10.14

