

Disabled Surfing for Mornington

What has 62 legs and 1 surfboard? A respirated quadriplegic, think somebody like Christopher Reeves (aka 'Superman' before his accident) or our own Kelly McCann, going surfing with 30 volunteers with the disabled surfers association.

On Wed 2nd November 2011, there will be a 'Testing of the Waters' public meeting to gauge the amount of interest and support for potentially establishing a Disabled Surfers Branch here on the Mornington peninsula.

The venue is at the Performing Arts Centre at the Mornington Secondary College on the Nepean Hwy, opposite Bunnings at Mornington.

The 1 hour meeting starts at 7pm with National DSAA executive officers Gary Blaschke and Jim Bradley explaining how the other 14 branches operate in every mainland state of Australia, including one here in Victoria out at Ocean Grove. Full Q and A is encouraged during the meeting.

The DSAA, Australia's only surfing organisation that has charity status, is a totally voluntary independent surfing body. In its 26th year of operation, with thousands of disabled Australians having been given the opportunity to enjoy a safe happy surfing experience over the past quarter of a century, its mantra is simply to put "smiles on dials".

Average event size is around the 200 (participants, carers and volunteers) with some branches doubling that number.

Catering for the full disabled spectrum, from mild to severe, including neurological, psychological and physical (whether genetic or acquired) the DSA has distinguished itself by setting world's best practice when it comes to disabled surfing. Its minimum number of volunteers to each participant ratio is 6:1, operating only in waist depth water in broken waves.

For more background information (file fotos etc) regards any of the above please contact Jim on 0458759999 or jimbradley@mac.com. For local Mornington contacts please call Gary Morton on 0406013823 or Ashley Gardner on 0417362983.

www.disabledsurfers.org

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