

## Aus Veterans in Sydney a hit!

The Australian Veterans Table Tennis Championships were held from 14-22 October at Sydney Olympic Park, New South Wales.

A team of 53 Queensland representatives travelled to Sydney. This was made up of 15 Queensland teams and 2 President's team players.

In total 440 players competed at the event. This included players from across Australia and New Zealand, along with some Chinese, Vietnamese & Japanese representatives.

The teams event were coordinated in the first part of the week, here are some highlights.



*Sydney Olympic Park venue*



*Melissa Vick*

The Over 30 Men's team event included past Australian senior representative Scott Houston and New Zealand international Ben Collins. Given the level of competition, both QLD teams gave their best efforts and did quite well. The 'A' team finished 6th overall and was led by Venkat Vangaveti, who finished with a 13-4 record. While the 'B' team finished 10th and included a number of first time QLD team members such as Brendan Gaeta, we hope to see them representing QLD in future.

In the Over 40 Men's team event Mark Mulley was the standout performer in the 'A' team, finish-

ing with a 13-5 record. While Darin May performed strongly for the 'B' team, with 10 wins and 7 losses. The A and B teams finished 6th and 9th respectively. While the strong Victorian team which included Chamara Fernando defeated South Australia in the final.

Bernadette Mitchell played very well in the Over 40 Women's team event. She finished with 13 wins and 5 losses. The QLD team finished 5th overall, special mention to Donna Abbott & Monica Deeth who were part of the President's team that finished in 7th place.

The Over 50 Men's team event was another very strong division, it included two highly competitive Chinese teams. The QLD 'A' team finished 6th overall, first time team member Eric Hsiao performed very well finishing 18-8 for the event. While the 'B' team finished 13th.

Jan Yu led the way for the Over 50 Women's team. She finished with 7 wins and 5 losses. The QLD team finished 4th overall. The very strong Victorian team, which included Belgin Bennett won the national title.

In the Over 60 Men's team event, three QLD teams took part. The A, B & C teams finished 5th, 12th & 16th respectively. Thomas Samuelsson had a strong performance in the event only losing 3 of his 25 matches. While Mike Edwards continued his good form from the QLD Veterans and produced some great wins.



Brendan Gaeta

New Zealand were far too strong in the Over 60 Women's team event, winning the title. The QLD team finished 5th overall, Linda Towler was the standout player winning 14 matches and losing 7.

The QLD Over 70 Men's team narrowly missed out on a bronze medal, to finish 4th. Gold Coast representative Col Gradwell led the team and won 50% of his matches (9-9).

Harry & Morrie Bligh along with Ron Hill combined to win silver in the Over 75 Men's team event. They couldn't get the better of the Victorian team that claimed Gold. Congratulations on the silver medal guys!

Finally the Over 80 team of Tony Herbert and John Davis finished sixth overall. Tony played very well to finish with a record of 14-4.

The individual event medalists included: Over 70 Mens singles bronze - Werner Borkhardt. Over 70 Mixed doubles silver - W Borkhardt & M Gabbedy (TAS). Over 80 doubles silver - T Herbert & K Sands (NSW). Over 75 Mens doubles silver - H & M Bligh. Over 65 Mens doubles silver - J Sherriff & M Solomons.



O30 Men & O60 Men 'B' in action

Over 60 Womens doubles silver - S Fran & L Towler  
Over 70 Mens doubles Bronze - W Borkhardt & C Gradwell  
Over 65 Womens doubles Bronze - M Vick & M Gabbedy (TAS)  
A copy of the full results are available on the TTQ website.

TTQ would like to congratulate Table Tennis NSW and all of the event organisers involved in coordinating the event. Also thank you to QLD team manager John Sherriff for his efforts. Congratulations to all QLD team members of your great achievements. The 2017 Australian Veterans Championships are due to be held in Mandurah, Western Australia from 7-14 October.

