

Suzanne Cory High School Comes to the Reventon Academy



In 2017, as the VBSA Media Officer, I was pleased to connect up with Danny Marcok of the Suzanne Cory High School, a selective entry school in Werribee for gifted and talented students.

Several discussions took place with the interest and proposal of adding Snooker or Billiards to the school's sport and co-curricular program. Danny himself was interested in the prospect of including cue-sports and thought it could potentially be a great and exciting option for the students as an alternative from the mainstream activities like cricket, basketball, tennis etc.

It was a pleasure to chat with Danny about this exciting opportunity, one which could possibly be a 'first' for Victorian Billiards and Snooker, and potentially also a first on a National scale of this type of school class coaching format. An arrangement that would be mutually beneficial on various levels and if proven successful, set a precedent for the future, open doors and connections with other schools who would be receptive to the sport as a co-curricular activity.

As we were both entering into unknown territory, not having gone down this track before, it took several conversations and exchanges of details, as it was important to ensure it would be a viable working relationship between the school and the VBSA. Danny liaised with the school's leadership team regularly and sought their thoughts on this proposal. I, with input from VBSA Board, had proceeded to provide Danny with the necessary information based on the suggested 16-25 student amount, including venue, equipment, location, coaching needs, potential program etc.

With all the information collected and provided, Danny was able to put in a full proposal to the school's leadership team and co-curricular co-ordinator, with the prospect of adding Billiards and Snooker to the 2018 curriculum. The timing was also very favourable as the VBSA, along with major sponsor Reventon, had recently setup the Reventon Academy which is the perfect place to host a school program. I was delighted to let Danny know of this venue, describing the wonderful facility and providing photos. Danny was very impressed and it had a positive influence on submission of the proposal.

Great news soon followed as Danny spoke of the Principal and co-curricular coordinator being impressed with the prospect of students being involved with the subject. Approval was given for students to be able to choose Billiards and Snooker as a school sport. This was very wonderful news for the VBSA. The subject was approved to run on a per semester basis, with fortnightly sessions, to commence in February 2018.

The next step was for me to gather a team and seek assistance from key stakeholders, coaches and support network of the VBSA, who would be necessary for the success of the program. Contact was made with VBSA Board member and accredited coach, Jason Colebrook, who then became the key co-ordinator and coach of the program. Jason has been a great asset in providing the tools and outlining the necessary coaching requirements. Jason spoke with several highly credentialed players and referees to see if they could come along and help with the sessions and provide input as to what could be taught given the group situation and limited timeframe per session. A great response was received, including top Australian Billiards and Snooker Champions Steve Mifsud and James Mifsud. Thank you to both Steve and James, also to George Hoy, Henry Chetcuti, Warwick Loton, John Ivett, George Spiteri, and Kelvin Small. Your support and coaching has been invaluable. You have all done a fantastic job and it's evident in the reaction from the students since sessions have begun. To date topics covered have included cue action and grip, bridging, potting ball contact, and use of auxiliary equipment.

The environment during the sessions has been positive, enjoyable, energetic, fun, informative, educational, memorable and overall producing a successful beginning to a program that will continue to develop and grow throughout the remainder of 2018.

As Media Officer, I was very pleased to have initiated this project with Danny and the Suzanne Cory High School. This newly formed association is certainly appreciated by the VBSA Board.

Looking forward to the rest of 2018 and producing some follow up media and communication work promoting the program.

Kim Ivett
VBSA. Media Officer