

Southern Games heats up



“The challenge is there for RMIT to defend the title”

Southern University Games will be held in July this year at a number of locations throughout Melbourne.

The drought and water restrictions are making it tough to confirm playing fields for the outdoor sports but preparation has started in a big way with the use of key volunteers and preparing almost 100 volunteers for the event itself.

The sports commence play on

Monday July 6, competing for the John Campbell Trophy (Overall Games Champion), the title won by RMIT last year. The challenge is there for them to defend the title with the inclusion of Melbourne perennial powerhouses – Melbourne and Monash.

The final games will be played on Wednesday July 8 with both the Overall champion named and the Hugh McKechnie Trophy awarded to the Overall Champion based on per capita.

Australian University Sport’s national development manager Daniel Tackenberg (pictured with this year’s trophy) said the work of the volunteers ensured the successful implementation of one

of the biggest annual multi-sport events in Victoria.

Recent sports admin and events management graduate from Victoria University, Kate Ulman is one of those volunteers.

“The games are an excellent avenue to network and build relationships with sporting organisations that, in normal circumstances I wouldn’t be afforded,” she said.

“Each time I commit to volunteering, I learn new things, make great friends and build on my hands on experience of event management.”

To compete or volunteer, check out unigames.com.au

Cops find cricket harmony

Seventy international students from Victoria University and 10 police officers from Melbourne’s western suburbs came together for a cricket match at Footscray Park recently under the theme of Harmony in Cricket.

Associate director of VU International Student Support, Danielle Hartridge said the impressive turnout showed students were keen to learn more about how the police operate in Australia.

“At a time when some international students are being targeted in violent attacks we’re looking at a variety of ways of letting them know the important role the police play in their overall safety,” Hartridge said.

Cricket Victoria’s Community Programs Officer Andrew Lee said the Harmony in Cricket message

is that regardless of race, religion or ability, the game of cricket breaks all boundaries.

“Cricket has an incredible power to bring diverse groups of people together to play one of Australia’s culturally iconic games while respecting and embracing cultures that are different to your own,” he said. “This includes taking a stand against racism, prejudice and intolerance.”

Leading senior constable Vic Robb, from the multicultural unit, said: “Today’s cricket match is all about building relationships between the police and international students. It’s important that we make ourselves available to build trust and understanding on the critical issue of student safety, whether it’s on our streets, on public transport or at the beach. 

