

LaunchPad in Tasmania



Wednesday, 26 September 2012

My name is Marcus and I am the Program Manager for Youth and School programs at Gymnastics Australia. I've spent the last year and a half working with our State Associations on the development of an exciting new initiative that you may have heard about... LaunchPad! Last week, I was lucky to be able to visit several Tasmania clubs to discuss the initiative and how we might implement a pilot within a couple of clubs. Having worked on the initiative for some time now, I don't need any convincing that gymnastics is THE sport to help children develop fundamental movement skills relative not only to our competitive gymsports, but also to help them establish physical literacy for all active recreation.

LaunchPad is not about telling our member clubs how to do what they are already doing. Here at Gymnastics Australia, we're aiming to use LaunchPad to help our clubs further promote and leverage the fantastic work they are doing with the youth of Australia. Creating a nationally consistent brand and helping with the marketing of fundamental gymnastics, is just one of the aims of LaunchPad. Clubs as far north as Wynyard, through Launceston and finally down to Hobart opened their doors to hear more about LaunchPad.

The clubs I visited all seemed enthusiastic about LaunchPad – great to hear! In collaboration with the Gymnastics Tasmania Board, we will be selecting some clubs to pilot the initiative in Tasmania based on expressions of interest submitted by club representatives. We need to be strategic with the implementation of LaunchPad to ensure we are living up to the ideals and philosophies of the programs and also working within our capabilities. Once we have completed the pilot and conducted a review, we'll get right on to taking LaunchPad to even more of our member clubs. Don't worry if you're not one of the first to be accredited, we're aiming to get to more and more clubs as the initiative grows.

I'm excited by the potential that Tasmania will be able to offer LaunchPad. Thank you again to the clubs who made time for me to visit. It was a pleasure to meet such a dedicated group of coaches and clubs administrators – you guys are the ones who will really bring LaunchPad to life! Can you believe I was even treated to home baking?! Tasmania hospitality at its finest!

If you'd like more information on the initiative, please take a look at the LaunchPad website – www.launch-pad.org.au and keep an eye out for the brand in a club near you!