



**Australian Paralympic Committee**  
Annual Report 2005/06



# PICTURE CREDITS



Desert Duel 2006

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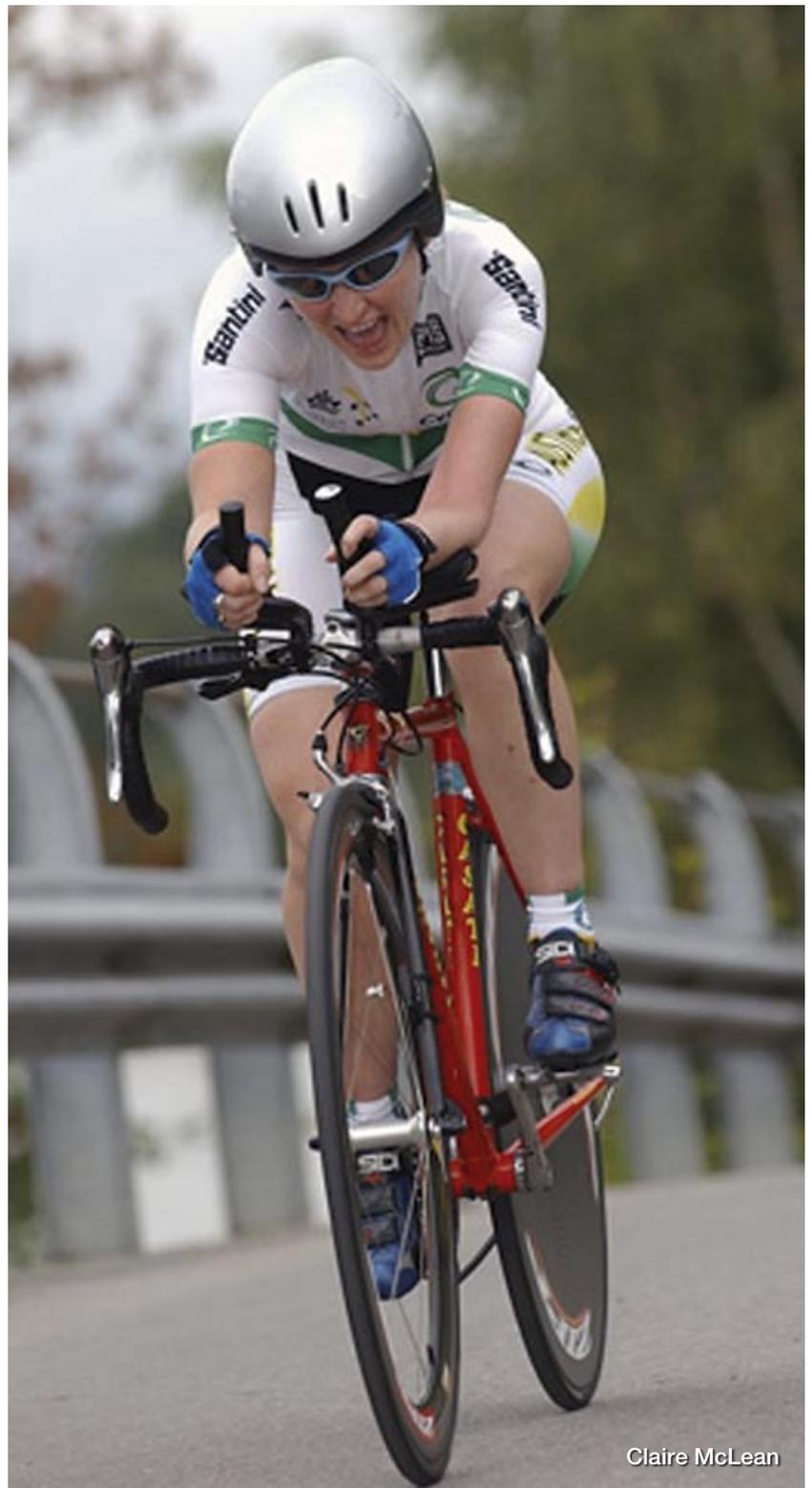
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## Cover photos

Toby Kane at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games

Claire McLean

The reality of Paralympic sport is that today's world record can be next week's minor placing. That is the world in which our athletes compete.



L-R Standing: Doug Denby; Paul Bird; Justin Holdforth; Joyce Parszos; Graeme Watts  
L-R Seated: Nick Dean; Ken Brown; Greg Hartung (absent: Steve Loader and Darren Peters)

#### APC Board

Greg Hartung OAM	President
Nick Dean	Vice President
Ken Brown AM	Vice President
Paul Bird OAM	Director
Doug Denby	Director
Justin Holdforth	Director
Steve Loader	Director
Joyce Parszos	Director
Graeme Watts	Director
Darren Peters	Chief Executive Officer/ Non-voting Director

#### APC Member Organisations

Athletics Australia
Australian Sports Organisation for the Disabled
Australian Blind Sports Federation
Australian Sport and Recreation Association for Persons with an Intellectual Disability
Basketball Australia
Cerebral Palsy – Australian Sport and Recreation Federation
Cycling Australia
Disabled WinterSport Australia
Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia
Swimming Australia
Table Tennis Australia
Tennis Australia
Wheelchair Sports Australia
Yachting Australia

One measure of the success of the Australian Paralympic Committee is the performance of the Australian Team at the Paralympic Games and, increasingly, Paralympic achievements are hard-won. In Athens, there were 304 new world records. In Torino this year, the competition was the toughest ever, with 52 hopefuls finishing behind bronze medallist Toby Kane in the Super-G. For Beijing, the forecast is more of the same.

The reality of Paralympic sport is that today's world record can be next week's minor placing. That is the world in which our athletes compete.

The APC also operates in an environment where, if you are not moving forward, you are going backwards. The Board of the APC is conscious of the need to keep the APC at the forefront of Australian sport – in terms of sport performance and the organisation's corporate performance.

The need to constantly better our previous performances is an ongoing philosophical driver for the APC. The APC regularly examines its role and how it can best achieve its strategic aims. While we learn the lessons of the past, we keep our sights firmly on the future.

This approach has resulted in a number of recent APC initiatives, including the mainstreaming of the Paralympic Preparation Program with national sporting organisations, the Talent Search Program, the APC Classification Program (under the IPC Classification Code) and the Paralympians Alumni. The APC will soon launch the Telstra Paralympic Education Program.

In March 2006, the Commonwealth Games showed how the media can create household names of Australia's leading athletes with a disability. The APC understands the need to provide opportunities for Paralympic athletes to be seen in Australia and the value of communicating images and messages about Paralympic sport and we are initiating relevant programs.

In the coming year, many of these APC programs will take centre stage.

Through the performances of its athletes, most recently in Torino, Australia is seen as a leading Paralympic nation. The APC seeks to support that position from an administrative

perspective, through its contributions to the international Paralympic movement. The APC helped to establish and continues to support the Oceania Paralympic Committee (OPC). Through the OPC, Paralympic sport in the Oceania region is developing. The introduction of the Oceania Paralympic Championships within the 2007 Arafura Games – an APC initiative – will mark another milestone.

The Australian Paralympic movement is increasingly represented on the International Paralympic Committee, from its Governing Board through to classification committees and anti-doping, medical and coaching forums.

Back in Australia, the past year has seen the Australian Sports Commission conduct a major project to develop a national plan for disability sport. While the APC made a submission to the ASC, the APC Board also saw the need to appoint a Paralympic Sport Task Force, under the chairmanship of Jim Ferguson, to ensure that there was due consideration of the needs of Paralympic sport. I expect that we shall see the results of both exercises unfold in the coming year, hopefully to the benefit of all people with disabilities, including those who are and who aspire to be Paralympians. It is essential that the APC (including our members) controls our destiny – our record is unparalleled in sport.

The Board of the APC continues to play a vital role in ensuring that the APC is dynamic and relevant. In the past year its members have continued to be active on a range of committees and, once again, on the Australian Paralympic Team. The APC is fortunate to have such a committed and talented group to oversee its progress.

I also wish to acknowledge the role played by the APC's CEO, Darren Peters, and his staff. We have become a completely different organisation over the past four years, in large part due to the ability of Darren, with his core group of senior managers, to make the changes necessary to keep us effective and relevant to the needs of Paralympic sport.

The APC is fortunate to enjoy strong and ongoing support from a range of sponsors and providers. The most important of these is the Federal Government and the relationship we enjoy with the Government is a factor in our success. Once again, I extend my



appreciation to all those from whom we receive support, especially the Prime Minister, John Howard, the Minister for Sport, Rod Kemp, the CEO of the Australian Sports Commission, Mark Peters, and his staff.

This year I have been delighted to see the establishment of a supporters' group of Federal Parliamentarians, Parliamentary Friends of Paralympians. I am particularly pleased that the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have agreed to become joint patrons of the Parliamentary Friends and I express my appreciation to the group's Chairman, Senator Michael Ronaldson, and Deputy Chair, Senator Kate Lundy. I wish this valuable group every success.

The past year has been another good one for the APC. We have set the foundations for the future, so that we can continue to make the best use of the resources available to us and continue to provide the best possible opportunities for Australians with a disability to pursue their dreams in the Paralympic arena.

**Greg Hartung**  
President  
Australian Paralympic Committee

# MESSAGE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

The Australian Government is a strong supporter of Australian sport. The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is the government body that develops, manages and invests in sport at all levels in Australia.

The Commission funds and works closely with a range of national sporting organisations, state and local governments, schools and community bodies to ensure sport is well run and accessible so that everyone can participate and enjoy the benefits. The Commission upholds the integrity of sport through many innovative programs to promote ethical sporting practices and sport free of performance enhancing drugs.

During 2005/06, the Australian Government, through the ASC, supported the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) through funding of approximately \$5.5 million for the development of the Australian Paralympic movement and the continued support of elite athletes with a disability.

The Commission acknowledges that the APC has continued to work to achieve Paralympic success, resulting in commendable Australian performances at the IX Winter Paralympic Games in winning two Alpine Skiing medals. The four Alpine Skiing top ten

finishes, in addition to the medal winning runs, signify a great achievement for a relatively inexperienced team where six of the ten made their Paralympic debuts. This success continued at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, where Australian elite athletes with a disability won four gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

The 2004 election policy contained a commitment by the Australian Government to establish a working group to strategically review the current environment for including people with a disability in sport and sport-related physical activity. The purpose of this review is to determine if the participation in sport by people with a disability can be better met and to develop a plan at community, regional, state and national levels to address these needs. The review has progressed well, and the Commission will continue to work with the APC to develop a National Sport Plan for People with a Disability report.

The Australian Sports Commission looks forward to a continued winning partnership with the Australian Paralympic Committee.

**Mark Peters**  
CEO  
Australian Sports Commission



Kurt Fearnley (centre)

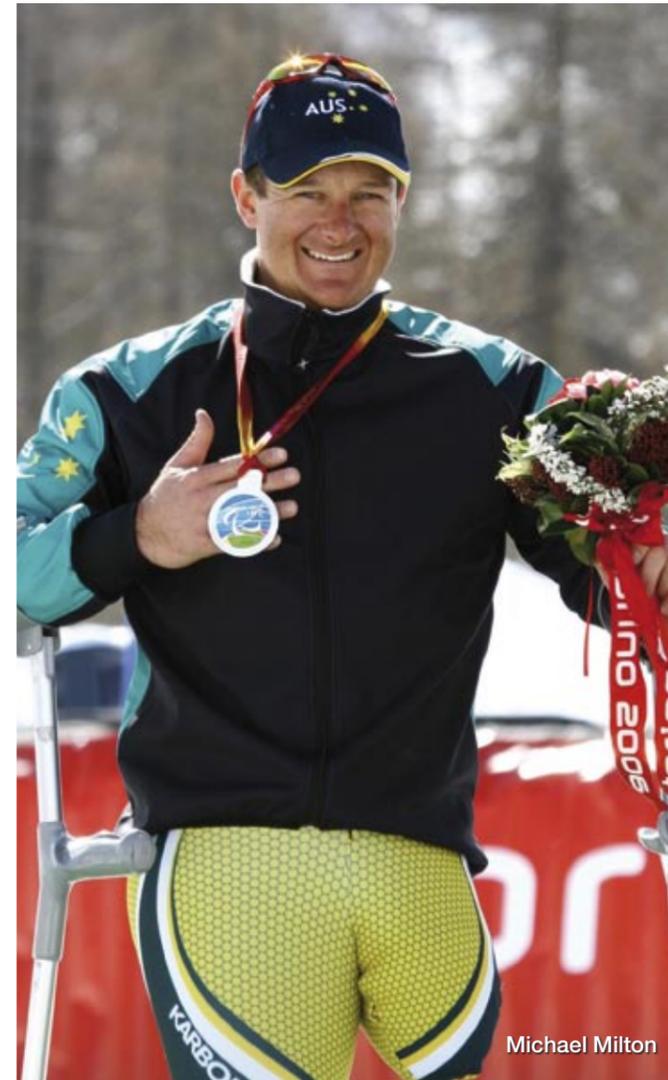
# HONOUR ROLL

## Paralympic Medal recipients

- 2001 Mrs Marie Little
- 2002 Mr Ron Finneran
- 2004 Ms Adrienne Smith
- 2005 Mr Nick Dean

## Australian Paralympian of the Year

- 1994 Louise Sauvage
- 1995 Priya Cooper
- 1996 Louise Sauvage
- 1997 Louise Sauvage
- 1998 Louise Sauvage
- 2000 Siobhan Paton
- 2002 Michael Milton
- 2004 Tim Sullivan



Michael Milton

Five time Paralympian Michael Milton retired from Paralympic competition after the 2006 Torino Paralympic Winter Games. During his career, Michael won 11 Paralympic medals, including six gold. He was named the 2002 Laureus World Athlete of the Year with a Disability, the 2002 Paralympian of the Year and currently holds the world speed record for skiers with a disability.

# CEO'S REPORT

The four year Winter Paralympiad culminated in the 2006 Torino Paralympic Winter Games. Australia sent away its largest ever Winter Team, comprising ten athletes and ten officials.

During this past year the APC successfully met its competitive performance targets of two Paralympic medals in Torino and of increasing the base of talented athletes for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. Now, the competitive challenges lie ahead in Beijing, Vancouver (2010) and London (2012).

Following the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games, the APC introduced a plan for growth. It included strategies aimed at sustainable sport performances supported by systemic growth, business partnerships with governments and corporations and community awareness through Paralympic programs. This report provides an update on the key results, programs and activities of the APC during 2005/06.

An eventful year has included a Paralympic Winter Games in Italy, which overlapped the summer Commonwealth Games in Melbourne; reviews of each sport in the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP); the continued rollout of our successful national Talent Search Program; consolidation of our headquarters and branch operations under a unitary model; and the continuation of a diversified marketing and fundraising strategy aimed at increasing revenue for Games years. The 2005/06 year has been both challenging and rewarding.

The four year Winter Paralympiad culminated in the 2006 Torino Paralympic Winter Games. Australia sent away its largest ever Winter Team, comprising ten athletes and ten officials. The team achieved two medals, Michael Milton's silver and Toby Kane's bronze. Our partners in the winter program were Disabled WinterSport Australia (DWA) and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). DWA identified and developed the athletes over the Paralympiad and the AIS provided resources, technical and sports advice. The program's Head Coach, Steve Graham, set the strategy that ensured the results in Torino. Each organisation and individual involved shares the success of these Games and, on behalf of the APC, I thank them.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Our financial position has improved during the year, partly due to increased Australian Government revenue. The APC received a grant of \$5.23 million from the Australian

Sports Commission and used this funding to advance Paralympic sport and awareness. Total income for the year was \$8.4 million, with expenses of \$8.2 million and an operating surplus \$185,000. In broad terms, the APC performed to budget in 2005/06.

## SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

The principal partner of the APC is the Australian Sports Commission. It provides \$5.23 million of Federal Government funding a year for the achievement of Paralympic sporting results, development and awareness. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Federal Government's support of the APC and the Australian Paralympic Team and thank the Chairman of the Australian Sports Commission, Peter Bartels, and Chief Executive Officer, Mark Peters, for their financial support and advice over the past year. Without this, the APC would struggle to remain competitive.

Sponsorship revenue for the year was \$1 million, incorporating significant components from our major sponsors Telstra and Toyota. This was the first year of new sponsorship agreements with both companies and we intend to continue to build on the initiatives and energy of each to deliver improved benefits to them. On behalf of the APC I thank the CEO of Telstra, Sol Trujillo, and the Executive Chairman Emeritus of Toyota, John Conomos AO, for their companies' support. Both are fully behind the Australian Paralympic Committee and our talented athletes.

Telstra, through the personal support of Nicole Wilson and Rhonda Youil, has been actively engaged in the development of the Athlete Ambassador Program and the Telstra Paralympic Education Program, which will be rolled out between now and the Beijing Games. Each program aims to excite and educate audiences about the role of the APC and Telstra within the community and to connect Australians with our Paralympic athletes.

Toyota, through Peter Evans, Scott Thomson and Jennifer Crowe, has consolidated its strategy for the partnership and has actively used Paralympic athletes to promote its sponsorship of the APC and the Australian Paralympic Team to dealers, suppliers and the broader public. This



community awareness is essential to the wider understanding of Toyota's disability access initiatives and to the exposure of Paralympic athletes and the Paralympic brand. Toyota's association with Michael Milton and the Winter Team this year was particularly well-received.

In 2005/06 we also reached agreement with the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) New South Wales and Workcover NSW.

The MAA, through General Manager David Bowen, has introduced an innovative lifetime care policy which has a direct link to athletes with a disability. This sponsor support is highly regarded and extends the MAA partnership with the APC, which commenced well before the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games.

The partnership with Workcover NSW, through the enduring support of Heidi Pollard and Patricia Rixon, has proven to be invaluable to our athletes. For more than six years now, they have assigned sponsor support for athletes to speak at key engagements to reinforce workplace safety messages and also provide a donation to athletes and the APC. This program works for the public benefit.

During the year the APC has also benefited greatly from the support of companies which have provided professional services on a pro-bono or heavily discounted basis.

In particular, I take this opportunity to thank:

- David Fagan, Managing Partner, and David Hillard, Pro-Bono Partner, of Clayton Utz for legal advice provided to the APC;
- Danny Cunningham, Partner of Ernst and Young for the donation made from the Ernst and Young Foundation;
- Shane Dooley, Business Development Manager of Christie Corporate for the provision of office accommodation in Queensland and Melbourne; and
- John Croll, Chief Executive Officer, and Sean Smith, Account Manager, of Media Monitors for their ongoing provision of media monitoring services and commercial advice.

The APC's marketing and communications activities are overseen by an advisory sub-committee to the APC Board, the Marketing and Communications Commission (MACC). The MACC is chaired by APC Director Joyce Parszos. Its members are David Flasks, Justin Holdforth, Steve Loader and Darren Peters. The MACC has been very active in strategically evaluating marketing and communications needs and in assisting the APC to take advantage of opportunities. The commitment of this group is greatly valued.

The APC is also grateful to have benefited from the knowledge and expertise of Chris Branson QC, Honorary Legal Officer; Nicki Vance, Honorary Doping Officer and Peter Brukner, Honorary Medical Officer, all of whom give freely of their time and advice.

## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising revenue for the year declined to \$1.74 million due to the cessation of some raffles and a slower market – the tsunami effect. Of this fundraising total, approximately half was recognised from prior Summer and Winter Team fundraising activities. Income was derived from events, face-to-face raffles, telemarketing, direct-marketing by mail and general solicitation.

A diversified fundraising strategy has been adopted to increase revenues during the lead-up to Beijing, 2008. More work is required to secure the right commercial partners and agreement terms for these important fundraising programs. We will redouble our efforts to achieve results in the year ahead.

I particularly thank:

- Ray Epstein, his staff and the volunteers at the Queensland Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association, which this year raised \$74,598 for the APC in Queensland. This is a great partnership between two disability organisations which conduct an activity to benefit athletes with a disability on a mutual profit share basis;

- Steve Mason and Belinda Green, who during the year raised \$36,000 for the APC from the 4WD 'Desert Duel' rally. This adds to previous Desert Duel event fundraising which now totals in excess of \$200,000 for the APC;
- John and Di Pass, from 360HR, who created a corporate Bowls Day during the year, raising approximately \$24,000 for the APC;
- John and Yvonne Almgren who donated \$25,000 to the APC during the year. Since 2004, the APC has received \$76,000 from the Almgren family; and
- Peter Perini and the Perini Family Foundation, who donated \$20,000 to the APC during the year. Since June 2004, the APC has received \$35,000 from the Perini family.

The APC's branches play a major role in fundraising, with the work of APC staff enhanced by volunteers in key roles. The contributions made by Di Pass (Chair) and Karen McBrien (Deputy Chair) in NSW, Dale Parker (North Queensland Fundraising Coordinator) in Queensland and David Baker (Chair) in South Australia are particularly appreciated.

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Government support increased during the year, largely due to the Australian Sports Commission grant of \$5.23 million. In addition, the Australian Institute of Sport provided \$240,000 for AIS Paralympic sport programs in Swimming and Alpine Skiing.

State and territory government support declined during the year to \$133,000, compared to \$214,000 in the preceding (Games) year. We are actively working to improve state and territory government baseline contributions to Paralympic sport.

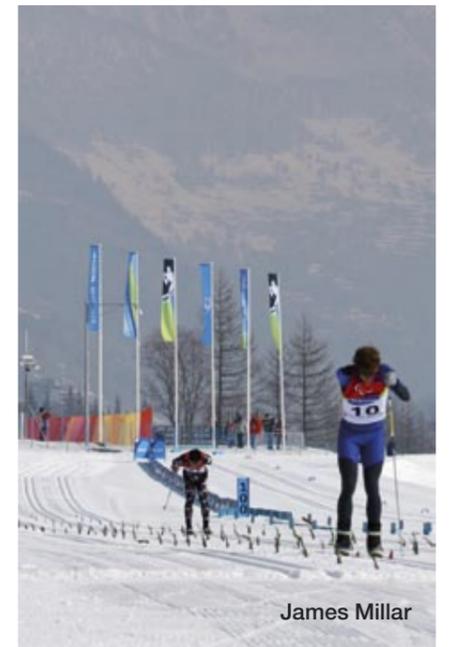
I thank Dr. Phil Hamdorf, Executive Director of the South Australian Office of Sport and Recreation, for its increased support in 2005/06 to assist our Paralympic Talent Search initiatives. The APC received \$46,000 from the South Australian Government Office of Sport and Recreation.

Thanks also to Craig Matheson and Ray Ebert, from Sport and Recreation Queensland, who authorised an independent review of the funding for the APC Queensland Branch, on behalf of the State Government, aimed at maximizing services in relation to the State Development Program. As a result of this review a positive report, with recommendations, has been implemented to benefit both parties for future years. The APC received \$57,000 from the Queensland Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation.

The APC also received \$30,000 from the New South Wales Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation and I thank its Director-General, Bob Adby, and the General Manager of NSW Sport and Recreation, Daryl Clout, for the Department's ongoing support.



Eliza Stankovic



James Millar

During the year the APC sought improved baseline and Paralympic Team related support from governments for the 2006/07 and 2007/08 financial periods. The success of this activity will be declared in next year's annual report.

## NON GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

### New South Wales

WorkCover NSW continued its sponsorship of the Paralympic Speaker Program. This program reinforces workplace safety messages while helping five Paralympians

achieve their sporting goals. These athletes provide inspirational presentations to workplaces, schools, colleges, conferences, media events or annual dinners.

The Motor Accidents Authority of NSW will provide funding of \$300,000 over three years for the delivery of the Paralympic Accident Awareness and Rehabilitation Program. The aim of this program is to link people in rehabilitation centres across NSW to Paralympic sports and raise awareness of specific rehabilitation processes undertaken by elite Paralympic athletes who have been involved in motor vehicle accidents.

The NSW Branch has gained the support of Precedent Productions, which produces The Business Awards. This relationship provides the NSW Branch with access to thousands of small business across NSW as part of the APC's new fundraising initiative, Connect1000.

#### Queensland

The very important strategic, operational partnership between the APC Queensland Branch and the Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association continues to prosper. Following a formal review and the continuation of the Service Agreement established last year, once again the Sporting Wheelies team has provided excellent results in the area of talent identification and is preparing to assist in launching the APC Paralympic Education Program throughout Queensland Schools. The APC appreciates the effort of the many Sporting Wheelies staff members and volunteers who have provided assistance throughout the year.

The Queensland branch office continues to receive generous support from Christie Corporate, which provides office accommodation within the Christie Centre in central Brisbane, through Chairman Robert Christie and General Manager Tim Lambert.

#### South Australia

A new partnership has been formed with Workcover SA, with five of South Australia's well known Paralympic athletes to take part in the program. The Program reinforces

workplace safety messages and positive outlooks while helping these athletes achieve their sporting goals.

#### Victoria

During the year the Victorian Branch welcomed the Victorian Disabled Sports Advisory Committee into its offices. We are delighted that through the continued support of Christie Corporate we have been able to provide this important umbrella body with office space and in so doing have forged a strong organisational relationship that will be of great benefit to all athletes over the coming year.

With the regular conduct of athlete forums for Victorian based members of the Paralympic fraternity, the Victorian Branch has been able to create a regular communication channel and the beginnings of a Paralympic community within the state.

### MAINSTREAMING

Mainstreaming is an area that the APC manages diligently to ensure the best outcomes for athletes.

During the year the APC mainstreamed Shooting and Rowing with the relevant national sporting organisation (NSO). It also entered into an agreement with the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia (RDAA) in relation to the Equestrian program. We continue to work with the Equestrian Federation of Australia and RDAA to forge a tripartite mainstreaming agreement for this program.

There are now ten sports managed under mainstreaming agreements with generic NSOs: Athletics; Basketball; Cycling; Football; Rowing; Shooting; Swimming; Table Tennis; Tennis; and Yachting. In addition, Equestrian and Wheelchair Rugby are currently managed by relevant NSODs. Sports are at varying stages of disability integration and the APC is working with the NSOs, NSODs and government to manage the services and programs provided to athletes with a disability.

### TALENT SEARCH

As part of our goal of doubling our athlete base, the nationwide Talent Search Program

has continued to identify potential Paralympians around Australia. Such is the success of the initiative that a number of athletes identified through the Talent Search Program were selected to represent Australia at World Championships in 2006 in Athletics, Swimming and Rowing. Many more will represent Australia at the FESPIC Games and other international events over the next 12 months as they advance their development.

The program is driven by APC Development Officers in the ACT, NSW, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. In Queensland and Western Australia, we conduct the program under an arrangement between the APC and the Queensland Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Sport and Recreation Association and the Wheelchair Sports Western Australia Association.

Potential Paralympians have been identified in Archery, Athletics, Wheelchair Basketball, Boccia, Cycling, Equestrian, Powerlifting, Rowing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis and Winter Sports. The APC Development Officers work closely with identified athletes and the relevant NSOs, NSODs and state sporting associations to ensure that each athlete has access to coaches and a relevant pathway to assist in fast-tracking their development.

The next twelve months will see more Talent Search Days and a move into areas such as Tasmania and the Northern Territory, with a focus on developing strategies to bring Talent Search to indigenous communities and to offer opportunities for athlete classification as part of the program.

Table 1 summarises the results of the Talent Search program for the 2005/06 year.

### MEDIA

Media attention during 2005/06 was boosted by coverage of the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games and the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, which included events for elite athletes with a disability (EAD) in some Paralympic Sports. Media coverage of these two events is listed in Table 2.

**TABLE 2**

**2006 Winter Games and Commonwealth Games Media**

	2006 Winter Games		Commonwealth Games	
	Articles	Circ./Aud <sup>1</sup>	Articles	Circ./Aud <sup>1</sup>
Print	134	19,411,484	210	22,503,630
Television	410	7,839,769	180	5,864,333
Radio	327	7,455,900	357	8,557,900
Total	871	34,707,153 <sup>2</sup>	747	36,925,863 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Circulation/Audience

<sup>2</sup>Total combined audience over the Games period

**TABLE 3**

**Comparison of web site traffic for first four months of 2004/05/06**

	2004 (Jan–April)	2005 (Jan–April)	2006 (Jan–April)
Total Hits	313,506	564,793	958,801
Total Visits	24,602	69,686	81,734

Coverage of athletes with a disability in both events was predominantly results-focused, concentrating on the Winter medallists Michael Milton and Toby Kane and Commonwealth Games Swimming dual gold medallist Matt Cowdrey.

The ABC provided excellent coverage of the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games and I thank Iain Knight, Head of Sport for this coverage. The group of ABC production staff worked tirelessly in Italy to produce an excellent daily package of action from the Games.

### WEB SITE

Usage of the APC web site continues to increase. In 2005, the APC conducted a customer survey to ensure that remodelling of the site met the needs of key stakeholders. In February 2006 the remodelled site was introduced, with a dynamic new look and additional sport, athlete and organisational information. Table 3 compares the traffic over the first four months of the last 3 years, with both visits and hits more than doubling in that time. Even allowing for the activity around the 2006 Winter Games, the figures clearly demonstrate the continuing increase in traffic.

### STAFFING

The APC has 23 employees throughout Australia, with 15 located at its head office in Sydney.

During the year a revised staffing model was adopted. A functional model, incorporating three business units – sport, policy and information, finance and administration – was chosen to improve results and to increase the APC's strategic focus.

The three business units are headed by Director of Sport Jason Hellwig, who was also appointed Deputy CEO in 2006, Director of Policy and Information Tony Naar and Margaret Boutell, our National Finance and Administration Manager. Each executive

plays a vital role in ensuring the business objectives of the organisation are achieved.

Our Branch Managers and National Development Managers continue to prove that we can be successful 'in the field'. While fundraising has been difficult, there has been an increase in public awareness, athlete numbers (due to Talent Search), organisational standing in the community and operational synergy. I feel we have the right staff to achieve the targets we have set.

On behalf of the President and Board I thank all staff for their dedication and work during this past year.

### GOVERNANCE

The APC Board met on five occasions during the year. The Board has been actively led by the President, Greg Hartung, who has worked tirelessly in his role as President and Chairman. Business addressed by the Board during the year included the Winter Team, funding submissions, the ASC disability review, marketing, financial performance, operations and staffing. The Executive Committee met on two occasions during the year, concentrating primarily on issues in relation to staffing. The Marketing and Communications Commission, chaired by Director Joyce Parszos, met on four occasions during the year. Its discussions centred on the attainment of sponsorship and communications goals.

I wish to express my personal gratitude to Greg Hartung and the members of the Board for their passionate and professional contribution and for the support and guidance they provide to the staff.

**Darren Peters**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Paralympic Committee

**TABLE 1**

**Summary of the Talent Search Program, July 2005 to June 2006**

Number of Days held	21 (13 regional, 8 metropolitan)
Total Participants	473 (including 125 participants with an intellectual disability)*
Participants with Beijing Potential (Tier 1)	55
Participants with London Potential (Tier 2)	167
NSW	6 talent search days, 106 participants (incl 35 ID) 7 Tier 1, 46 Tier 2
VIC	6 talent search days, 134 participants (incl 35 ID) 18 Tier 1, 29 Tier 2
QLD	4 talent search days, 109 participants (incl 21 ID) 8 Tier 1, 28 Tier 2
SA	3 talent search days, 61 participants (incl 5 ID) 9 Tier 1, 25 Tier 2
WA	2 talent search days, 78 participants (incl 25 ID) 7 Tier 1, 22 Tier 2

\*ID figures are excluded from the Tier 1 and 2 breakdown, following the IPC decision to exclude ID athletes from IPC sanctioned events.



Talent search day



Ben Austin

## National Fundraising Campaigns

During 2005/06, there was a decline in fundraising performance as is historically evident in the year following the Summer Games. The gross income recognised for the period was \$1.74m, with expenses of \$1.2m, resulting in a net return of \$574K. The APC invested in donor acquisition, through the face-to-face raffle method, which resulted in an additional 103,574 donors. The cost of this is expensive and is reported in the direct marketing costs for each State and Territory where face-to-face raffles occurred. This action is a key fundraising strategy to secure income as we head to Beijing, 2008 and London, 2012.

Revenue was generated from events (\$194K), face-to-face campaigns (\$369K), telemarketing (\$75K), direct marketing (\$149K), general fundraising (\$71K) and deferred Winter Games fundraising (\$885K) generated in the previous year.

Unfortunately, during the year some natural disasters which occurred in the region reduced the public offering to the Australian Paralympic Committee through planned campaigns. It is expected this will improve in 2006/07. In addition, we have a strong base in existing donors and proposed new fundraising relationships.

Looking forward towards its Beijing, 2008 fundraising targets, the APC has adopted a new fundraising strategy and recently appointed South Australia Branch Manager, Sue Shepherd, to the role of National Fundraising Manager.

### CONNECT1000

Connect1000 is a new initiative of the APC, designed to generate revenue from small and medium sized businesses. It is primarily a corporate membership program where businesses and schools can form a partnership with the APC, for an annual contribution.

Connect1000 was launched in South Australia in May to 50 corporate businesses. In attendance were Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson Nelson, Governor of South Australia and Dr Phil Hamdorf, Executive Director of the South Australian Office of Sport and Recreation.

The NSW Branch has started to roll out Connect1000 to small businesses which were finalists in The Business Awards and will extend the program to small businesses in the ACT in 2006/07.

### DONOR DATABASE

The APC donor database increased from 173,831 to 277,405 during the year. This represents a significant increase of 63% of new donors, largely acquired through Allsports raffle campaigns in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT. The net cost of donor acquisition for the year was \$120,000. In future years this strategy and costs will be of lesser importance as donor relationship building is emphasised.

### TELEMARKETING

While regulations relating to privacy have limited telemarketing within Australia, our telemarketing for the period still generated \$75K. This resulted from a successful Art Union conducted by the Queensland Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association for mutual benefit during the year. NBN Television, through Mike Rabbitt, provided a Community Service campaign to promote the Art Union in the Gold Coast area.

Another activity will be conducted by the Queensland Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association in 2006/07.

### DIRECT MARKETING

Direct marketing generated \$149K during the year, with a net return of \$82K. This derived from two national direct mail campaigns, one in November 2005, and the other in June 2006. On both occasions the highest revenue was derived from NSW, where a total of 1,460 donors contributed a net amount of \$63K. This included a substantial individual donation of \$20K.

Industry best practice for response to direct mail campaigns stands between 0.5 to 1.5%. The response rate for the APC's direct mail activities in 2005/06 was 3.58%.

### FACE-TO-FACE RAFFLES

Face-to-face raffles were conducted in most States and Territories by contractor Allsports, a subsidiary of Cobra Pty Ltd. The gross income generated through face-to-face raffles was \$369K. The two major raffle campaigns running in 2005/06 were in South Australia and Tasmania. South Australia generated a net result of \$180K and Tasmania \$30K. The raffle in Victoria which ran over most of 2004/05 was completed in 2005/06 and raised a net surplus of \$199K.

Raffle campaigns are planned for Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and NSW in 2006/07.

### EVENTS

#### Desert Duel

During 2005/06 the Desert Duel four wheel drive activity was again a major success. As in past years, the event was organised and hosted by Steve Mason and Belinda Green, with fifty Desert Duellers teaming up and navigating their way through the Clare Valley on the way to Woomera, William Creek, Coober Pedy, Marla, Uluru, Kings Canyon and then on to Alice Springs.

This has been an annual event, generating income for the NSW branch for many years. In 2005/06 the event generated \$36K for the Paralympic Team campaign.

#### Corporate Lawn Bowls Day

In NSW, Di and John Pass of 360HR hosted their inaugural corporate lawn bowls day to raise money for the APC. The event was well attended, with Ray Hadley as the auctioneer. Paralympians Kurt Fearnley, Amy Winters and John Marshall participated in the event, which raised a total of \$24K for the APC.

#### North Queensland workplace giving scheme

The efforts of long-standing Chairman of Fundraising in North Queensland, Councillor Dale Parker, were recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. This year, in conjunction with Townsville City Council, which provided all the promotional material, Dale launched a workplace giving scheme, under which staff from Townsville City Council, the Townsville Port Authority and members of the community provide a weekly donation through their pay, right through to Beijing in 2008.

## Finance Report – 30 June 2006

The Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) operated in all States and Territories of Australia during the year ended 30 June 2006 and the attached finance report reflects these operations.

The APC's financial results for the year ended 30 June 2006 reflect a financially sound organisation built on a solid foundation.

For the year ended 30 June 2006 the APC is reporting an operating surplus of \$185K. Income of \$8.4m compares with income of \$9.4m for the previous year. The peak in 2005 is attributable to sponsorship earned for the 2004 Paralympic Summer Games. Total expenses reduced marginally from \$8.6m in 2005 to \$8.2m in 2006. In accordance with Federal Government conditions attached to our funding, additional sport programs have been introduced during the year, as a result of which expenditure on sport programs has increased by \$1.3m for the year (compared with 2005).

The APC has a strong balance sheet with healthy short term and long term liquidity. Net Assets have increased from \$3.7m at 30

June 2005 to \$4.1m at 30 June 2006. An explanation for the movement of Net Assets is given in the Statement of Changes in Equity. The investment account of \$5.3m includes a \$2.0m prepayment from the Australian Sports Commission for use in preparations for the Beijing Games in 2008. The investment account also includes the Sydney Legacy Fund of \$2.25m and \$0.8m relating to the Paralympic Games Reserve (refer below).

This year was also a 'Games year', with the Paralympic Winter Games taking place in March 2006. The cost of sending the team to Torino was \$656K, balanced against a budget set before the Games of \$740K.

In 2006 the APC established two restricted reserves.

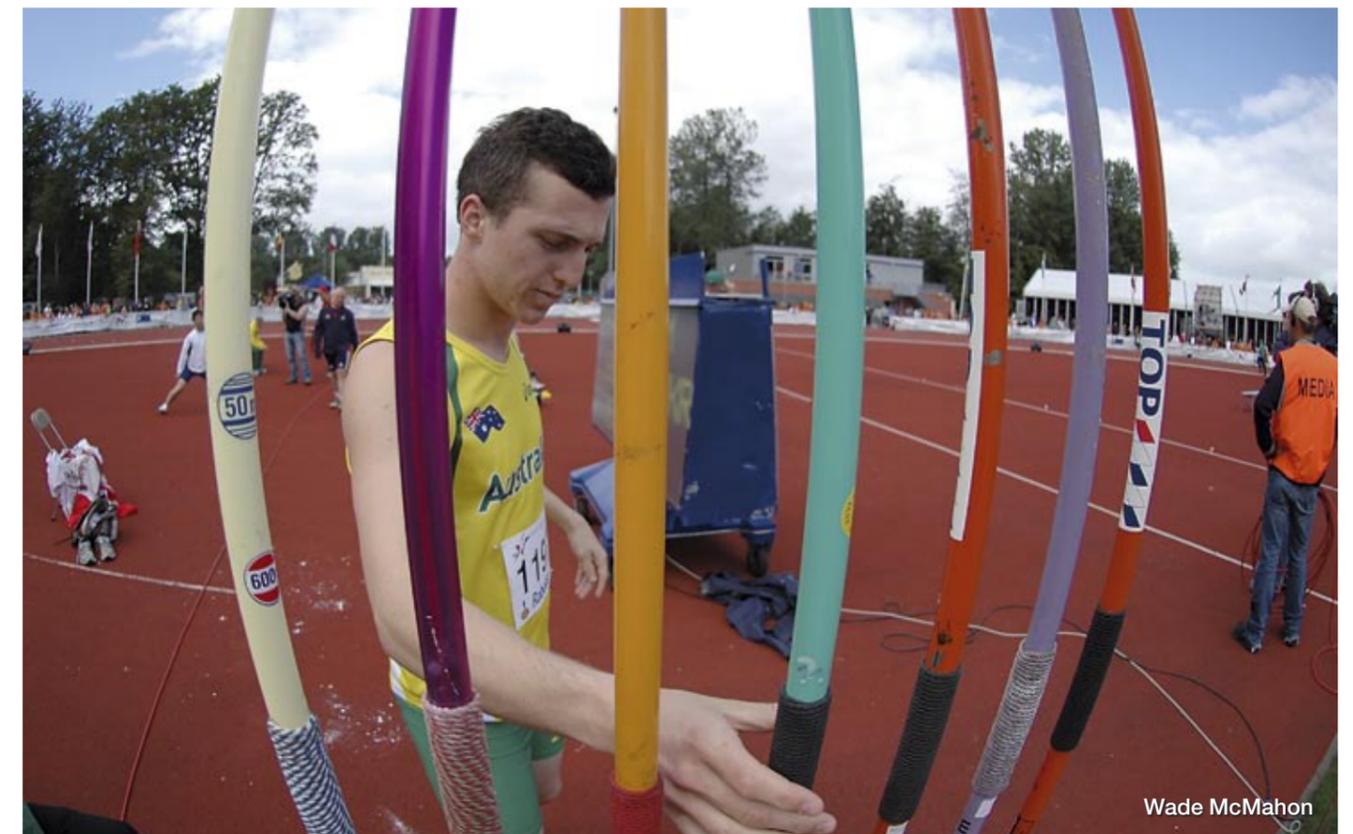
The Paralympic Games Reserve was created to reflect the portion of accumulated funds that have been earned specifically to meet the expenses of future Paralympic Games. The reserve is restricted to Games' expenses. The reserve balance at 30 June 2006 was \$800K.

The Sydney Legacy Fund has been created from the balance of the sale of the Paralympic marketing rights during the period prior to the Sydney Paralympic Games in 2000. The reserve is regarded as 'capital' in nature and is matched by a separate trust fund. The Sydney Legacy Fund balance at 30 June 2006 was \$2.25m.

As always, we are extremely grateful to our sponsors and to our benefactors and especially to the Australian Federal Government through the Australian Sports Commission for its ongoing support of the APC.

The summarised financial report for last year, together with comparatives for the previous year, are given on the next page. For further detailed financial statements, together with the report of our auditors, Ernst and Young, I would invite you to apply to the offices of the APC.

**Doug Denby**  
Finance Director



Wade McMahon

## Finance Report – 30 June 2006 (continued)



Heath Francis

### INCOME STATEMENT (IN \$000)

for the year ended 30 June 2006

	2006	2005
<b>Income</b>		
Australian Sports Commission (Note 1)	4,648	3,750
Other grants and sponsors	1,639	3,237
Fundraising	1,742	2,078
Income from investments	410	356
Other	7	7
	<u>8,446</u>	<u>9,428</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Paralympic Games	656	2,801
Sport programs	4,561	3,227
Promotions, marketing and media	601	913
Fundraising	1,168	469
Administration	1,275	1,142
	<u>8,261</u>	<u>8,552</u>
<b>Surplus for year</b>	<u><b>185</b></u>	<u><b>876</b></u>

### BALANCE SHEET (IN \$000)

as at 30 June 2006

	2006	2005
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,648	2,185
Investments and managed funds	5,339	4,163
Receivables and other assets	382	1,192
	<u>7,369</u>	<u>7,540</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payables and provisions	408	654
Deferred revenue and grants	2,826	3,105
	<u>3,234</u>	<u>3,759</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u><b>4,135</b></u>	<u><b>3,781</b></u>
<b>Equity</b>		
Restricted reserves	3,236	17
Accumulated Funds	899	3,764
	<u><b>4,135</b></u>	<u><b>3,781</b></u>

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (IN \$000)

	Accumulated Funds	Restricted Reserves			TOTAL
		Asset Revaluation Reserve	Sydney Legacy Fund	Paralympic Games Reserve	
<b>At 1 July 2004</b>	<b>2,888</b>	63	-	-	<b>2,951</b>
Fair value revaluation of Investments	-	(46)	-	-	(46)
Surplus for year	876	-	-	-	876
<b>At 30 June 2005</b>	<b>3,764</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,781</b>
Fair value revaluation of Investments	-	169	-	-	169
Transfer to Sydney Legacy Fund	(2,250)	-	2,250	-	0
Transfer to Paralympic Games Reserve	(800)	-	-	800	0
Surplus for year	185	-	-	-	185
<b>At 30 June 2006</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>4,135</b>

### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006 (IN \$000)

	APC	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total as per income statement
Income	6,884	31	602	281	341	87	143	77	<b>8,446</b>
Expenditure	6,732	67	491	228	338	58	285	62	<b>8,261</b>
Surplus / (deficit) for year	152	(36)	111	53	3	29	(142)	15	<b>185</b>

Note 2

Note 2

Note 1: The Australian Sports Commission grant of \$5.23m was reduced to \$4.648m due to an amount of \$582K unexpended during the financial year and carried over to 2006/07.

Note 2: The deficits in ACT and VIC arose as a result of extended direct marketing campaigns over two years where the majority of income was recognised in 2005 with the majority of expenses in 2006.

# 2006 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

The Torino 2006 Team, the biggest to represent Australia at a Paralympic Winter Games, included Australia's first ever female Winter Paralympian – Emily Jansen – and Australia's first Nordic Skier at a Paralympic Games for more than 20 years – James Millar. Competing in a total of five biathlon and

cross-country events, and covering some 55 kilometres in competition, James became known as the "Ironman of the Australian Team".

In his fifth and final Paralympic Games, Michael Milton won his 11th Paralympic medal, a silver in the Downhill for standing

class skiers. Australia's second medal of the Games was won by the Team's youngest member, 19 year old Toby Kane, who won bronze in the Super-G for standing class skiers. Toby shared the medal podium with two athletes who were both in their mid-30s. Australia's two medals – Michael's silver in

Downhill and Toby's bronze in Super-G – placed Australia 13th out of 39 countries on the overall medal table.

Michael Milton was selected as the Flagbearer for both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. While he proudly carried the Australian flag at the Opening Ceremony, he

sought and was granted permission to transfer the Closing Ceremony honour to Toby Kane, who is seen by many as having the potential to also become a legend of the slopes.

On the last day of competition, Scott Adams and Michael Milton officially

announced their retirement from Paralympic competition. Both will continue their involvement with skiing and the APC thanks them for their significant contribution to Paralympic sport and wishes them both well in their future endeavours.

# TORINO 10–19 MARCH 2006

## AUSTRALIAN TEAM TORINO 2006

### Athletes:

- Shannon Dallas – Team Captain
- Scott Adams
- Dean Calabrese
- Emily Jansen
- Toby Kane
- Marty Mayberry
- James Millar
- Michael Milton
- Cameron Rahles-Rahbula
- Nicholas Watts

### Staff:

- Darren Peters – Chef de Mission and APC Chief Executive Officer
- Nick Dean – Assistant Chef de Mission
- Steve Graham – Head Coach
- Andrew Bor – Coach
- Alan Dean – Technical Official
- Fiona Peat – Medical Officer
- Alison Daniel – Trainer
- Natalie Jenkins – Administration Officer
- Margie McDonald – Press Attaché
- Angus Mackenzie – Attaché

### Joint Management Committee:

- Steve Gibb – Chair
- Ron Finneran – Member



Michael Milton



James Millar



Emily Jansen



Shannon Dallas



Nick Dean



Marty Mayberry



Cameron Rahles-Rahbula



Toby Kane, Scott Adams, Emily Jansen



Winter team (absent Shannon Dallas)

## AUSTRALIAN TOP 40 FINISHES AT THE TORINO PARALYMPIC GAMES

Scott Adams	
Downhill	40
Giant Slalom	40
Slalom	38
Dean Calabrese	
Giant Slalom	34
Slalom	37
Shannon Dallas	
Super G	9
Giant Slalom	18
Emily Jansen	
Giant Slalom	21
Toby Kane	
Super G	3
Downhill	9
Slalom	16
Marty Mayberry	
Downhill	33
Giant Slalom	21
Slalom	19
Michael Milton	
Downhill	2
Super G	12
Giant Slalom	13
Slalom	9
James Millar	
Biathlon 2.5km	20
CC Short Distance 5km	22
Biathlon 7.5km	18
CC Medium Distance 10km	25
CC Long Distance 20km	24
Cameron Rahles-Rahbula	
Slalom	14
Nick Watts	
Downhill	31
Super G	33
Giant Slalom	27
Slalom	30

# SPORT REPORTS

## ARCHERY

The Committee has established rigorous selection criteria for the program. By April 2006, there were one silver and two bronze level athletes.



The Archery Paralympic Program (PPP) is managed by the APC in conjunction with Archery Australia (AA).

### MAINSTREAMING

As a step towards mainstreaming, Archery Australia (AA) and the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) have created the Archers with a Disability Committee, comprising representatives of the APC, AA and Australian Athletes with a Disability (AAWD). The Committee oversees the PPP, under the chairmanship of Vicki O'Brien.

### DEVELOPMENT

The Archers with a Disability Committee has formulated a plan to identify and develop archers with a disability, incorporating the following initiatives:

- attend APC Talent Search Days;
- design an Archers with a Disability Pathway Program to run parallel with the able-bodied pathway program;
- advertise for Regional Coordinators for the program; and
- advertise for archers to join the program.

While there is still work to be done to fill all the Regional Coordinator positions, two potential archers were identified at a Talent Search Day in Melbourne and one has been selected to join the program.

### ATHLETES

The Committee has established rigorous selection criteria for the program. By April 2006, there were one silver and two bronze level athletes. Since then one archer has improved steadily and is now close to the gold level. Three archers will attend the FESPIC Games in November 2006.

### CLASSIFICATION

Vicki O'Brien, Australia's only national level classifier, provisionally classified several archers at the National Archery Championships. The availability of a medical classifier is an important next step in establishing a classification process for all archers.

**Program Manager:** Vicki O'Brien

# ATHLETICS

The program is in the latter stages of a rebuilding phase, following the Athletics team's second placing at the 2004 Athens Paralympics.

The Athletics PPP is managed by Athletics Australia (AA) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

The primary goal for the AA-PPP is to produce the best ever away Games performance at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. To achieve this goal, Australia must finish as one of the top two nations. In an environment where our competitors are investing large amounts of resources in Paralympic sport, this is a difficult, but attainable, challenge.

### MAINSTREAMING

During 2005/06, the mainstreaming partnership between Athletics Australia and the APC, commenced in 2001, was reaffirmed.

Key mainstreaming milestones during the year included:

- 1) An agreement to conduct the inaugural Athletics Australia Underage AWD Championships in Canberra in November 2006;
- 2) The inclusion of 12 EAD athletes in the Athletics team for the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games;
- 3) The ongoing support to AA-PPP squad members to attend training camps and access targeted competitions as part of both the qualifying process and the final preparation for Melbourne;
- 4) The running of the fifth combined AWD and able-bodied National Championships; and
- 5) Continued AWD events coverage in the Telstra A-Series.

### DEVELOPMENT

The program is in the latter stages of a rebuilding phase, following the Athletics team's second placing at the 2004 Athens Paralympics. To help find the next generation of Paralympic champions, AA-PPP staff have been working closely with the APC's National Development Officers to support the APC's Talent Search program. Results to date have been promising and have contributed to the establishment of an AA-PPP Emerging Talent Squad, coordinated by Brett Jones. There are now more than 40 "new" athletes in the squad, being nurtured towards the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Paralympic Games.



Evan O'Hanlon (left) and Tim Sullivan (centre)

Coach education has also been a major focus for the AA-PPP over the past 12 months. Alison O'Riordan has liaised with the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association (ATFCA) to implement a number of coach education initiatives, with the philosophy that a larger pool of committed and competent coaches will enhance the program's ability to adequately support the Emerging Talent Squad athletes and athletes with a disability generally.

### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

#### 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games

A number of AA-PPP squad members represented Australia in the six AWD events at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. With significant support from the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA), the AA-PPP implemented a program to assist the athletes preparing for these events. Standout individual performances included:

- Heath Francis' victory in the T46 200m;
- Lisa McIntosh's victory in the T38 100m;
- Katrina Webb's Silver Medal in the T38 100m; and
- Asti Poole's Bronze Medal in the Women's Seated Shotput event.

#### 2005 Canberra INAS-FID World Athletics Championships

The 2005 INAS-FID World Athletics Championships were held in Canberra from 26 September to 1 October, 2005. The Australian contingent of 22 athletes and 9 staff was the biggest team ever to contest these Championships. Head Coach for the team was John Bell, supported by a number of Paralympic Coaches and Paralympians.

#### Head Coach and AA PPP Manager:

Scott Goodman

#### Wheelchair Track and Road Coaches:

Andrew Dawes (Coordinator); Paul Angel; Louise Sauvage; and Greg Jones

**Throws Coaches:** Alison O'Riordan (Coordinator) Gary Lees; and John Eden  
**Sprints and Jumps Coaches:** Brett Jones (Coordinator); Richard Bednall; and Iryna Dvoskina

#### 2005 INAS World Championships Head Coach:

John Bell

**Physiotherapists:** Luke Vladich and Rowena Toppenberg

**Massage Therapists:** Kieran Cusack and Phil Power

**Managers:** Louise Mogg; Andrew Faichney; and Michael Thomson

**Athletics Australia AWD Representative and AWD Statistician:** Neil Fuller

**Distance Coordinator:** Robbie Bolton

# WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

2005/06 was a positive year for the basketball program, with the development work following the Athens Paralympics reaping benefits for both the men's and women's teams.

The Basketball PPP is managed by Basketball Australia (BA) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2005/06 was a positive year for the basketball program, with the development work undertaken in 2004/05 following the Athens Paralympics reaping benefits for both the men's and women's teams.

The men's program has continued to be challenged by a lack of low and mid pointers, even as it enjoys an abundance of high pointers. The women's program has identified some new, exciting, young athletes, who have now been exposed to a high level of competition. However, the number of players, both men and women, is still below what is desired for the future, particularly looking forward to 2010 and 2012.

## DEVELOPMENT

It is imperative for our Paralympic success in 2008, and beyond, to have a strong underpinning program, with good links to grassroots and development programs at all levels.

Off the court, Basketball Australia (BA) was part of a number of meetings involving the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) review on disability sport. Through the Project CONNECT initiative, BA held 2 workshops in



Troy Sachs

June 2006 to bring together representatives of able-bodied and disability basketball. One workshop was devoted to the wheelchair game and one to athletes with an intellectual disability. Both were very successful in bringing national and state personnel together and have already created opportunities for increased co-operation for the sport.

The recently completed Level 0 coach education resource is fully integrated for wheelchair basketball. It includes a coaching manual and a DVD and will be utilised by State and local basketball associations to conduct Level 0 coaching courses. It is hoped that this will increase the number of coaches available to assist at the entry level for both wheelchair and intellectual disability basketball.

## MEN'S PROGRAM – THE ROLLERS

### Camps

In 2006, five Rollers' squad members played in Europe in the Italian and Spanish leagues. While there is no doubt that this competition contributes to the overall improvement of these athletes, it limits opportunities to hold regular camps in Australia. Preparation for the 2008 Paralympics will involve camps in Europe in 2007 and 2008.

In 2006, the preparation for the World Championship in July in Amsterdam included a pre-championship series of games against Italy in Rome.

### World Championship Qualifier

The key focus for 2006 was the World Championships, in Amsterdam in July. The team qualified in first position through its win in the IWBF Asia Oceania Qualification Tournament in Korea in September 2005, where it won its preliminary games easily and defeated Japan in the final.

### Paralympic World Cup

The Rollers won the silver medal for the second year in a row at the invitation-only VISA Paralympic World Cup. After beating Canada easily in the preliminary rounds, the Rollers went down 65–49 to the reigning Paralympic champions in the final.

**Head Coach:** Murray Treseder  
**Assistant Coach:** Mal Keene  
**Program Manager:** Kelvin Browner  
**Physiotherapist:** Ian Lowther



Alison Mosley

## WOMEN'S PROGRAM – THE GLIDERS

### Camps

During 2005 the Gliders introduced a strength and conditioning program. With the assistance of the NSW Institute of Sport, the program was delivered through the Gliders' camps and individual testing sessions. This was a major initiative for the team and is a critical area for the team's preparation leading into the 2008 Paralympics.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

From the evaluation of the 2004 program, it was apparent that the team needed to play more international games. The team travelled to the USA to compete in the World Basketball challenge, where it played against Germany, USA, Netherlands and Canada, finishing in 4th position behind Canada. The Gliders used the tournament to provide experience of international competition to a number of younger athletes.

**Head Coach:** Gerry Hewson  
**Assistant Coach:** Matt Dunstan  
**Program Manager/Assistant Coach:** Sonia Healy  
**Physiotherapist:** David Spurrier

# CYCLING

The standout athlete was Chris Scott, with four gold medals. The lowest placing in their favoured events on the track for any of the new athletes was fourth, an incredible first showing.

The Cycling PPP is managed by Cycling Australia (CA) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## DOMESTIC TRAINING CAMPS

The following domestic training camps were held in Adelaide during 2006:

- LC/CP training camp – 3–7 April 2006
- Tandem training camp – 15–19 May 2006
- Team sprint camp – 21–26 May 2006
- TID follow up training camps – various (held in SA/NSW/QLD)

The purpose of these camps was to ensure optimal performance preparation and assessment of targeted athletes.

## NATIONAL COMPETITION

### 2006 Australian Track Championships, Adelaide SA, 6–11 February 2006

- Fully integrated with able bodied competition;
- Opportunity for squad qualification to National team for 2006 World Championships.

### 2006 Australian Road Cycling Championships, Sydney 3–5 May 2006

- Integrated with the Australian Masters Road Championships, and for the first time the program included a road race and road time trial event for all disability classes according to Cycling Australia Technical Regulations;
- Opportunity for squad qualification to National team for 2006 World Championships for athletes competing in the Hand Cycling and Tricycle categories.

## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CAMPS AND COMPETITION

### 2005 Open European Cycling Championships, Netherlands, 12–20 August

A very inexperienced team travelled to the Netherlands for this major competition, with eight of the 11 athletes having their first exposure to international competition and their first opportunity to be internationally classified, having achieved qualifying times in some events in training. All athletes achieved PBs, some of which happened to be world records.



Lindy Hou and pilot Toireasa Gallagher

The standout athlete was Chris Scott, with four gold medals, the first time he has swept all the events on offer in international competition.

In her first international event, Jane Armstrong picked up two golds and a silver. The lowest placing in their favoured events on the track for any of the new athletes was fourth, an incredible first showing.

Overall, Australia won six gold, seven silver and four bronze medals, finishing as second nation on the track and second overall (track and road).

### 2006 Paralympic World Cup, Manchester UK, 10–15 May

Nine Australian athletes (including tandem pilots) participated in this invitational event, winning three Gold, seven Silver and four Bronze medals (including one new world record for Angela Fleming).

Prior to the Paralympic World Cup, three Australian athletes also competed at the X Paralinpikoentzako Bizkaiko Bira 2006, a road Tour in Bilbao, Spain, from 29 April to 1 May, 2006. This road group then joined the Australian track group in Newport for a day's track racing at the 2006 City of Newport Disability Grand Prix on 3 May.

## TALENT IDENTIFICATION

The CA/PPP cycling program continues to support the APC Talent Search days and is committed to conducting follow up training camps to assist in fast tracking identified elite potential athletes. Two athletes who emerged from this process were subsequently selected in the team for the 2006 World Championships.

## MAINSTREAMING

The cycling program continues to work out of the Cycling Australia high performance centre in Adelaide (SA) and continues to make progress as an equal partner in the Cycling Australia organisation under CA High Performance Manager Kevin Tabotta.

**Head Coach:** Kevin McIntosh  
**Assistant Coach:** David Short  
**High Performance Manager:** Kevin Tabotta  
**Paralympic Program Administrator:** Elsa Lepore

# EQUESTRIAN

An ambitious technical plan was put forward that dramatically increased the size of the PPP Squad and included a strong development component.

The Equestrian PPP is managed by the Riding for the Disabled Association Australia (RDAA) under a memorandum of understanding with the APC.

## MAINSTREAMING

Following a program review in December 2005, the APC formed a strategic partnership with Riding for the Disabled Association Australia (RDAA) in March 2006 to manage the Equestrian Paralympic Preparation Program until 2009. RDAA appointed a new National Coach, Chef d'Equipe and High Performance Manager to implement a performance based technical plan and revitalise the PPP Squad.

## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

An ambitious technical plan was put forward that dramatically increased the size of the PPP Squad and included a strong development component for a National Dressage Squad. In pursuit of the goals set out in the technical plan the following have been achieved since March 2006:

- PPP Squad has eight athletes;
- National Dressage Squad has 24 athletes;
- AIS Training camp held with 26 participants;



Grace Bowman and her horse Hayley's Star

- Squad training in clinics has been held in WA, SA, Qld, NSW, Vic;
- 11 athletes attended international competitions in England;
- Junior riders competed successfully in England; and
- The International Equestrian Federation (FEI) has agreed to hold a qualifier event at Werribee, Australia in October 2007.

## HORSE ACQUISITION

While the training and development of the athletes continues at a high level, the focus of attention is on the acquisition of horses for the 2007 World Cup in England and the 2008 Paralympic Games. A formula for corporate sponsorship has been devised that should enable the purchase of top quality international standard horses for these competitions.

Beijing will be the best opportunity in many years for Australian equestrian athletes to perform at the highest level.

**Head Coach:** Mary Longden  
**High Performance Manager:** Becky Layton  
**Chef d'Equipe:** Ken Dagley



Australian equestrian team

# FOOTBALL

Players who had been part of the previous program welcomed the new structure and, with the Socceroos making the World Cup, it was exciting times for the sport and the CP team.



Beau Menzies (L) and Brett Fairhall (R)

The Football PPP is managed by the Football Federation of Australia (FFA) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## MAINSTREAMING

Following the failure of the cerebral palsy (7-a-side) team to qualify for the Athens Paralympic Games, the APC initiated an independent review of the program.

As a result, the APC and the Cerebral Palsy – Australian Sports and Recreation Federation (CP-ASRF) concluded an agreement with the Football Federation of Australia (FFA) to manage the Cerebral Palsy (CP) Football program. FFA is the governing body for football in Australia and the mainstreaming agreement ensured CP football would be managed within a professional structure and given the opportunity to develop and grow towards Beijing.

FFA consulted with the APC in implementing program changes in line with the recommendations of the review. The first was to advertise for and appoint key personnel.

David Campbell, who has a long history with the CP team, was appointed in



Ben Roche

In March 2006, Paul Brown was appointed as Head Coach and straight away brought a very professional and hard working approach to the program.

## PROGRAM

The new program was officially launched with a three day training camp at the NSW Sports Academy at Narrabeen, which was followed with another camp at Narrabeen in June. Players who had been part of the previous program welcomed the new structure and, with the Socceroos making the World Cup, it was exciting times for the sport and the CP team.

Leading into the second half of 2006 the focus will be set on preparing for the FESPIC Games in Malaysia. The long term vision is to qualify for the Beijing Paralympics and increase the exposure of talented athletes with CP to the sport.

**Head Coach:** Paul Brown  
**Team Manager:** David Campbell  
**FFA Program Manager:** Simon Roberts  
**Assistant Coach:** Kai Lammert  
**Physiotherapists:** Ed Davidson and Mark McDonald

November 2005 as the new team manager. David's skills and knowledge assisted in a smooth transition of the program from APC to FFA management.

# JUDO

Anthony has continued to compete in able-bodied competitions at state and national level within Australia and in events for vision-impaired athletes internationally.

The Judo PPP is not currently active.

## PPP STATUS

Following an analysis of program results in Athens and with limited numbers of athletes competing in Australia, Judo was discontinued as a program under the PPP in 2005/06.

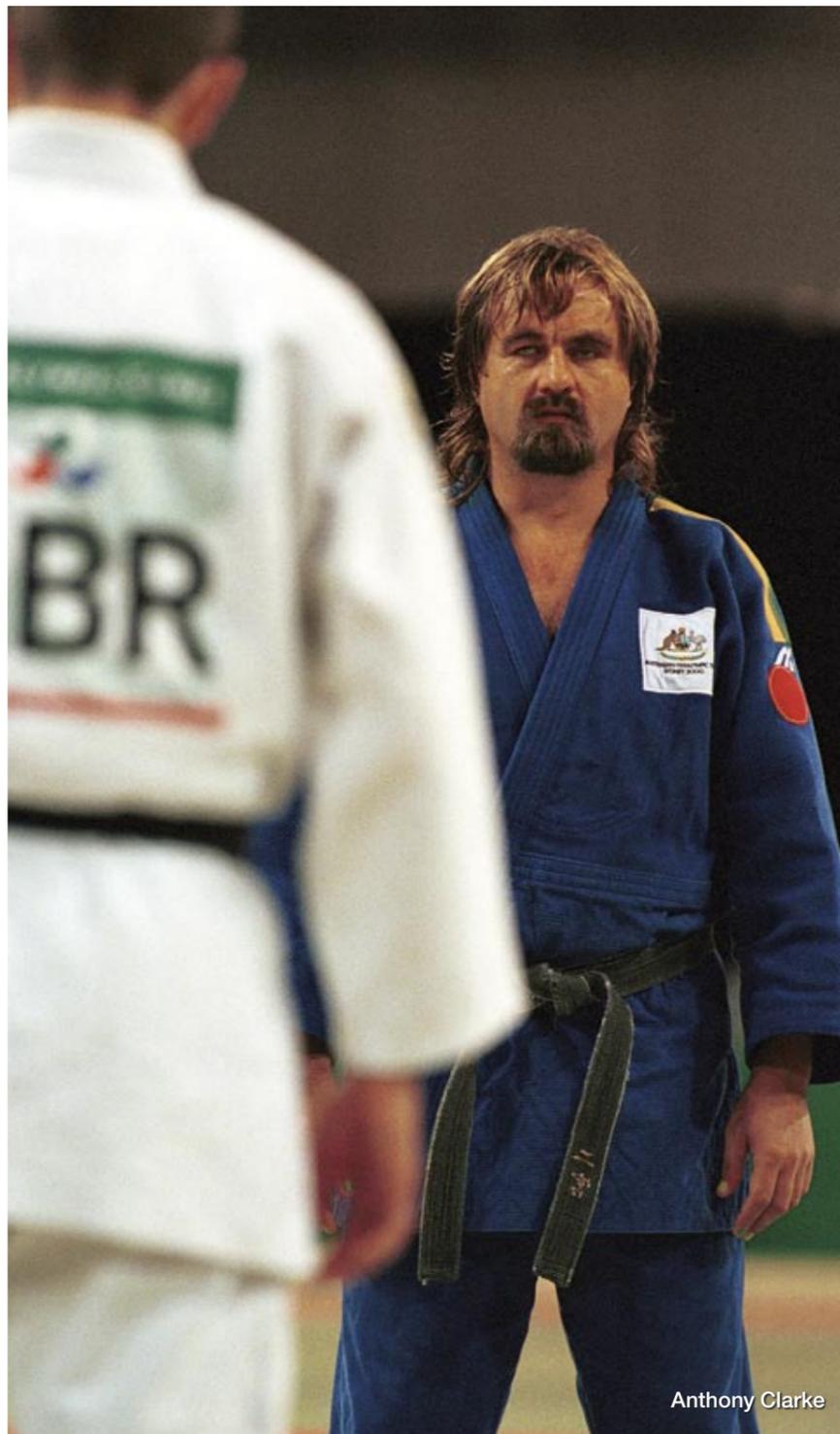
An individual scholarship was offered to Anthony Clarke, who retained the services of Trevor Kschammer as his nominated coach.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Anthony has continued to compete in able-bodied competitions at state and national level within Australia and in events for vision-impaired athletes internationally. Competition highlights for Anthony for the year included:

- July 2005: Kodokan Nationals, Perth – 1st Under 90kg, 3rd Under 100kg;
- October 2005: SA State Titles – 1st Under 90kg, 2nd Open Weight;
- October 2005: Australian Masters – 1st Under 90kg under 50 years, 2nd Open Weight;
- February 2006: ACT International Open – 5th Under 90kg;
- March 2006: SA Northern Zone – 1st Under 90kg;
- April 2006: SA Southern Zone – 1st Under 90kg;
- June 2006: Judo Federation of Australia Nationals – 7th Under 90kg; and
- June 2006: IBSA World Championship, Brommat, France – 7th Under 90kg.

The IBSA World Championship was one of three qualifying tournaments for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. Anthony's seventh place has given him some points towards qualification for Beijing. Anthony also attended an international training camp following the World Championship. Athletes from many countries attended and the standard of teaching was high.



Anthony Clarke

# POWERLIFTING

Powerlifting has had a very successful year internationally, with Australia achieving its best results at World Championships since 1994 and also producing great results at the European Championships.

The Powerlifting PPP is managed by the APC.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Powerlifting has had a very successful year internationally, with Australia achieving its best results at World Championships since 1994 and also producing great results at the European Championships. Darren Gardiner won gold and Steve Green bronze at the European Championships in Portugal in November, while Darren claimed silver and Deahne McIntyre bronze at the World Championships in South Korea in May.

The 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne included an open event for EAD (elite athletes with a disability), which was staged in front of a 'packed house' of 3,000 people, following the last day of the Weightlifting competition. The results were based on the AH formula which allows comparisons across bodyweight divisions. In a tough competition with 29 competitors, Australia's Darren Gardiner won the bronze medal after missing his third lift in an attempt at the silver. Darren's best lift of 227.5 kilograms equalled the biggest weight lifted at the Games. Three Australian referees were

also involved in the planning and conduct of this very successful event.

The next 12 months see a busy competition schedule for the national squad, with teams to attend the FESPIC Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November and the European Championships in Greece in June 2007.

## TRAINING CAMPS

On the domestic scene, Queensland hosted two training camps for the national squad during the year. These were held in conjunction with the Queensland State Championships in September and the Nationals in February. These training camps allowed elite and developing athletes to train together in a supportive environment with guidance and advice from the national coaching staff. Athletes were also given education sessions on a variety of topics designed to enhance their sporting performance, including nutrition, injury prevention, anti-doping updates and sports psychology.

## ATHLETES

The Sport Advisory Committee's (SAC) efforts during the year saw the inclusion of new athletes in the PPP Development Squad and their improvement is such that four of the six athletes to attend the FESPIC Games will be from this group. Our focus for these Games is on development, including the gaining of international experience. The inclusion of two senior athletes in the team will provide a mentoring role to assist with this process.

Long time competitor Steve Green is retiring from the sport but will continue his involvement as an assistant coach for the FESPIC Games.

## STAFF

The SAC has been involved in some succession planning during the year. As part of this, Bill Nancarrow attended the European and World Championships as Assistant Coach and will take the Head Coach role at the FESPIC Games.

**Head Coach:** Ray Epstein

**Assistant Coaches:** Martin Leach and Bill Nancarrow

**Manager:** Paul Ninness



Darren Gardiner

# ROWING

The elite adaptive rowing program took a major step forward with the announcement of the inclusion of Rowing at the Beijing Paralympic Games.

The Rowing PPP is managed by Rowing Australia (RA) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## MAINSTREAMING

The elite adaptive rowing program took a major step forward with the announcement of the inclusion of Rowing at the Beijing Paralympic Games. Subsequently, Rowing Australia (RA) developed its adaptive rowing high performance plan, which was accepted by the APC. The plan details initiatives to develop high performance adaptive rowing and the requirements for athletes wishing to be considered for selection to compete as adaptive athletes in the Australian rowing team.

## ATHLETES

With the assistance of APC funding, RA funded adaptive athletes' participation at the April selection regatta. Invitations were issued to six athletes to trial in the coxed four (LTA4+) and one invitation to trial in the single scull (AM1X). Dominic Monypenny was selected to represent Australia in the AM1X and defend his World Championship while an LTA4+ crew was selected and based in NSW. The first adaptive rowing camp for the Australian rowing team will be held from 12–15 July 2006 in Canberra. The camp will be fully funded by RA through the assistance of the APC funding and represents another significant step forward in the development of elite adaptive rowing.

## FUTURE

Australia's adaptive rowers will compete at the World Championships in England in August 2006.

RA's focus in planning for the Beijing Paralympic Games will be to meet the objectives set out in the adaptive rowing high performance plan. The recruitment of an adaptive rowing coordinator will be pivotal in this process and is expected by the end of September 2006.

With the exclusion of athletes with an intellectual disability in Beijing, a significant talent search effort will be required. Further development of a high performance culture will be achieved through increased selection requirements, camps and support initiatives which have been made possible by RA's partnership with the APC.

**Program Manager:** Adam Horner



LTA4 + Adaptive rowing team

# WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

On the court, there have been some promising results, including strong performances by the team at both the Oceania Zonal Championships in South Africa in 2005 (2nd) and the Canada Cup in 2006 (4th).



Ryley Batt

The Wheelchair Rugby PPP is managed by Wheelchair Sports Australia (WSA) under a memorandum of understanding with the APC.

## OVERVIEW

Wheelchair Rugby in Australia is now in its second year of central management by Wheelchair Sports Australia (WSA). WSA retains very close ties with the APC with regards to the PPP and the various state wheelchair sports associations are still responsible for the initial recruitment and development of new players. This has led to a more cohesive structure, with benefits to the players and the sport.

## TELSTRA NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE

Now in its fifth year, the National League has become bigger and better with Telstra on board as the naming rights sponsor. This

year Victoria came back to league competition as four teams (South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria) went head to head over three rounds. The teams were very evenly matched and all had several national squad members, as well as some hungry young talent keen to make their mark. Opportunities to expand the league in 2007 are currently being explored.

## NATIONAL SQUAD

Australia's national Wheelchair Rugby squad has undergone a makeover in the past 12 months. The appointment of a new coach, Evan Bennett, in August 2005, with Brad Dubberley in the assistant coaching role, and the introduction of new players to the squad, has rejuvenated the entire national squad program. All players are in a tough battle to make selections for each competition and a talented pool of fringe players not currently in the squad ensures that all players put in the hard work to maintain their spots. The level of

enthusiasm and cohesion within the team has not been seen for a long time in Australian Wheelchair Rugby.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

On the court, there have been some promising results, including strong performances by the team at both the Oceania Zonal Championships in South Africa in 2005 (2nd) and the Canada Cup in 2006 (4th). The program is expected to yield continued improvement and success as it builds towards the World Championships in September 2006. Following this, the focus will be towards the 2007 Oceania Zonal Championships in Sydney and ultimately the Beijing Paralympics.

**Head Coach:** Evan Bennett  
**Assistant Coach:** Brad Dubberley  
**Program Manager:** Kim Ellwood  
**Personal Carer:** Angela Mansell  
**Mechanic:** Rob Doidge

# SAILING

The Sonar class team achieved an outstanding result of 4th, missing out on a medal by one point and also securing qualification for Beijing.

The Sailing PPP is managed by Yachting Australia (YA) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## COMPETITION

The Royal Perth Yacht Club hosted the International Federation of Disabled Sailing (IFDS) World Championships for the 2.4mR and Sonar classes in January 2006.

The Australian sailors performed well against the international competitors, with Aaron Hill qualifying Australia for the 2008 Paralympic Games in the 2.4mR class. The Sonar class team achieved an outstanding result of 4th, missing out on a medal by one point and also securing qualification for Beijing. The Sonar team will compete at the next major IFDS international competition in Rochester, USA, in mid-2007.

## DEVELOPMENT

Medal success at the 2008 and 2012 Paralympic Games will depend on the development of the Yachting Australia Sailing Team to ensure continued success at the highest levels.



L to R: Colin Harrison, Jeff Milligan and Jarnie Dunross

Yachting Australia's planning emphasises the full integration of its Olympic and Paralympic programs, with a focus on building the

Australian Sailing Team and the sharing of information and technologies across all components of the Team (Olympic, Paralympic and Youth).

Over the coming Australian summer the Australian Sailing team will come together for a number of training camps.

## PARALYMPIC GAMES EVENTS

In 2005, the International Paralympic Committee announced an increase in the number of sailing events at the 2008 Paralympic Games from two to three. The new event will be a double-handed keelboat, to join the single-handed (2.4mR) and triple-handed (Sonar) events already on the Paralympic program.

The new class chosen by IFDS was the Australian, Bethwaite designed UD-18, more commonly called the SKUD. The challenge is to get sailors and boats training in Australia ready for the IFDS Worlds in 2007, which will be the first selection regatta for this class for the 2008 Paralympic Games.

**Head Coach:** Greg Omay



# SHOOTING

As of 1 July 2006, the high performance squad for shooters with a disability will have access to the same competitions and facilities that are currently available to the able-bodied athletes.

The Shooting PPP is managed by Australian International Shooting Limited (AISL) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

### Oceania Regional Championships

AISL hosted the Oceania Regional Shooting Championships in Brisbane, from 30 October to 5 November, 2005. The organisers approved this event as a combined competition, with events for able-bodied shooters and shooters with a disability. The Para-Oceania Shooting Championships had 47 entries from four countries: Australia, China, New Zealand and Sweden.

The competition also held a demonstration shotgun event for shooters with a disability, with New Zealand and Australian shooters entered.

### European Championships

The only overseas international event for the team this year was the European Championships in Poland in July 2005. The team consisted of Ashley Adams, Libby Kosmala, Jason Maroney, Stephen McCormack and Peter Shannon. The team achieved the following medal results: R6 50 m Prone – Ashley Adams 1st, R8 3 x 20



Libby Kosmala

Libby Kosmala 3rd, R7 3 x 40 – Ashley Adams 3rd. Libby was also presented with a special trophy for the Best and Fairest competitor for the competition.

Events over the next eighteen months will be hotly contested. The World Championships are in Switzerland in July 2006, with 46 participating countries, including an Australian team of seven shooters. The Asian Games are in March 2007 and the European Championships in July 2007. The ISCD has approved the Oceania Regional Championships that will be conducted in Sydney in November 2007 as a Minimum Qualifying event for the Paralympic Games and this will be the last event before the quota places are closed.

## INTEGRATION

AISL has announced that all future Australia Cup ranking competitions will host both able-bodied and disability events. This allows shooters with a disability to attend and compete in their own events at the same time as able-bodied shooters. It is a great step forward in integrating shooting competitions, and has been widely accepted by the shooters.

The pistol and rifle Nationals were separated in 2006, with the rifle shooters able to compete at the Target Rifle Australia National Championships. Pistol Australia was not able to accommodate the Nationals and the pistol shooters have not had a National Championships yet in 2006, due to the small numbers of shooters, making it unviable to conduct a separate competition.

AISL has indicated that, as of 1 July 2006, the high performance squad for shooters with a disability will be combined with the association's able-bodied high performance squad. The squad will have access to the same competitions and facilities that are currently available to the able-bodied athletes. This is a positive step for shooting and the squad looks forward to working in conjunction with the many clubs and associations within the structure. It will also assist the development of all shooters with a disability and in identifying the pathways for those who wish to achieve at a higher level.

**Head Coach:** Miroslav Sipek  
**Program Manager:** Michelle Fletcher



Ashley Adams

# SWIMMING

The AIS program continues to be a success. It has played a major role in developing the skill level of the best athletes and providing an educational opportunity to coaches.

The Swimming PPP is managed by Swimming Australia Limited (SAL) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## OVERVIEW

The continuing support provided by the APC has enabled the SAL Paralympic Program to focus on developing Priority 2 (P2) swimmers domestically this year. This was done by running domestic camps and tours to the Tasmanian Age Championships and the Northern Territory Age and Open Championships. Opportunity was also given to a wider group of coaches to be the Head Coach for these camps and tours, thus creating a process of education, professional development and succession planning. Success in this area will be indicated by the number of P2 swimmers who make the World Championships team to Durban in December 2006.

The profile of the swimming program continues to increase, aided by the success of elite athletes with a disability (EAD) events held at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The APC has supported efforts to clarify the athlete pathway for swimmers with a disability through development activities

conducted by Wendy Ross. Wendy has successfully assisted the state swimming associations to set up development squads and strengthen athlete pathways and has also participated actively in APC programs, including Talent Search.

## DOMESTIC TOURS/CAMPS

A small team of seven swimmers competed in the Tasmanian Age Championships in March 2006, competing against able-bodied swimmers. The swimmers and team staff used this trip to gain valuable domestic race experience.

Another group of swimmers competed in the Northern Territory Open and Age Championships in March 2006. The athletes completed this meet with strong results, despite the monsoonal showers.

A successful swim camp was held at Runaway Bay, Queensland in May 2006. Swimming Australia bought together all the P2 level athletes for an intensive week-long camp.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

### US Paralympics Open Championships

A small team of five athletes competed in the US Paralympics Open Championships in

Minneapolis in December 2005. The athletes returned with three gold medals, two silver and one bronze.

### INAS-FID World Championships

The Australian swim team, comprising Patrick Donachie, Richard Eliason, David Lee, Damien Narbeshuber, Troy Puttergill and Tamleh Wilson competed in the 4th INAS-FID World Championships in Liberec, Czech Republic. Australia finished 4th on the medal tally (four gold medals, ten silver and two bronze) and Tamleh Wilson was named best female swimmer of the World Championships.

### Commonwealth Games

Eight EAD athletes competed at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in March. Matthew Cowdrey was a standout performer on the Australian Swim Team, winning both the 50m and 100m freestyle EAD events in world record times. Annabelle Williams also performed strongly, claiming bronze in the 50m freestyle.

### German Swimming Championships

Australian athletes won four gold, four silver and four bronze medals in Berlin in June. The highlights of this meet were world records to Peter Leek (S8 100m butterfly); Sam Bramham (S9 100m butterfly); Daniel Bell (SB9 50m breaststroke); Damien Narbeshuber (S14 50m backstroke); and Sarah Rose (S6 100m butterfly and SM6 400IM).

## AIS PROGRAM

The AIS program continues to be a success. It has played a major role in developing the skill level of the best athletes and providing an educational opportunity to coaches. It is hoped that this program will increase in the future and more opportunities will become available to our athletes and coaches.

## SUMMARY

The Paralympic Program is looking forward to the next 12 months as the program continues to strengthen in the lead-up to the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing.

**Head Coach:** Brendan Keogh  
**Sports Scientist:** Brendan Burkett  
**Program Coordinator:** Melanie Jenkins



# TABLE TENNIS

2005/06 was the first year of the Table Tennis PPP under a mainstreaming partnership between Table Tennis Australia (TTA) and the APC and it has proven a considerable success.

The Table Tennis PPP is managed by Table Tennis Australia (TTA) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## MAINSTREAMING

2005/06 was the first year of the Table Tennis PPP under a mainstreaming partnership between Table Tennis Australia (TTA) and the APC and it has proven a considerable success. Supported by additional resources from the APC and TTA, the program is starting to take shape and will soon show results.

## ATHLETES

The first Table Tennis PPP squad was established with a modest six athletes. At the end of 2005/06, the program has grown to nine, with the inclusion of development athletes. These numbers will increase further

as management expertise and total numbers of athletes with disabilities (AWD) within TTA increase.

In 2005/06, the PPP has been complemented by the Australian Sports Commission's Project CONNECT and the APC's Talent Search program.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

All three PPP athletes selected for the Commonwealth Games (Joy Boyd, Jane Wallis and Catherine Morrow) recorded victories and only narrowly missed the finals.

Rebecca Julian, a Class 6 female athlete who is ranked in the top five in the world, qualified for the world titles in Switzerland in September 2006. She is the first Australian to compete at the World Championships for many years.

Seven athletes (including six PPP squad members) will compete at the FESPIC Games in Kuala Lumpur in November 2006. The team will be accompanied by a coach and a manager.

## DOMESTIC COMPETITION

The 2006 TTA AWD championships attracted 62 entrants – another new record! It may be that this number will not increase further, as several states will run AWD closed and open championships in 2006. The significance of this trend for championships at a State level is perhaps the greatest development in the sport, with the establishment of state-based competition opportunities and pathways high on the agenda for 2006/07.

**Manager TTA AWD program:** Arthur Wilks



Joy Boyd

# WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

In 2005/06, the elite wheelchair tennis program merged into Tennis Australia's Player Development Department under the National High Performance Academy, alongside the able-bodied program.

The Tennis PPP is managed by Tennis Australia (TA) under a mainstreaming agreement with the APC.

## MAINSTREAMING

The mainstreaming partnership between Tennis Australia (TA) and the APC has brought about strong ties with able-bodied events, showcasing wheelchair tennis at tournaments throughout Australia.

In 2005/06, the elite wheelchair tennis program merged into Tennis Australia's Player Development Department under the National High Performance Academy, alongside the able-bodied program. The 18 wheelchair athletes who are currently on scholarship with the Academy now enjoy the same benefits as able-bodied players.

## DEVELOPMENT

A significant step in the development of the program this year was the employment of Greg Crump as National High Performance Coach. In addition, wheelchair tennis coaches have been appointed to each state academy under the direction of the National High Performance Coach.

TA will be working hard over the next 12 months to develop new talent in the quest for Paralympic success. An exciting development will be the integration of wheelchair tennis into the program of the 2007 Australian Open, thus ensuring strong publicity and a higher profile for the wheelchair game and inspiring the next generation of hopefuls to get involved.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

In May, the 2006 World Team Cup was held in Brazil. This was a benchmark event for Australian wheelchair tennis players ahead of the 2008 Beijing Games. Australia was represented by a men's team and a junior team. Both competed well, particularly the junior team of Michael Esler and Dylan Alcott, who finished runners-up to the talented Belgian team in the final. It was a promising sign, as the program looks for the next generation of stars.

The men's team of Anthony Bonaccorso and Ben Weekes contested the very competitive world group, losing on day one to eventual runners-up France. Unfortunately, by virtue of the draw the men finished in 9th position,

which was not a true reflection of the team's standing in world wheelchair tennis.

## CHAMPION RETIRES

Another significant change in the sport during the past 12 months was the retirement of Paralympian David Hall. David's outstanding career as a player and role

model has left a permanent imprint on thousands of Australians and all aspiring players. The healthy position wheelchair tennis enjoys today, and indeed Paralympic sport in general, has much to do with David's substantial contribution.

**Head Coach:** Greg Crump



David Hall

# WINTER SPORT

Australia currently has three athletes ranked in the top ten in the world: Toby Kane, Cameron Rahles-Rahbula and Shannon Dallas.

The Winter program is jointly managed by the APC and Disabled WinterSport Australia (DWA) under a memorandum of understanding.

The Winter program has just completed a very successful four year cycle, culminating in the Torino Paralympic Games. The program is now starting a new four year cycle, working towards the Vancouver Winter Games in 2010.

## COMPETITION

Over the 2005/06 competition season, Australia's alpine skiers achieved a total of 51 top ten places in international races. Seventeen of these were top three places, including seven first places.

Australia currently has three athletes ranked in the top ten in the world: Toby Kane,

Cameron Rahles-Rahbula and Shannon Dallas.

## TRAINING CAMPS

The Winter program ran a four month training and racing camp prior to the Paralympic Games. Nine alpine skiing athletes and one cross country athlete travelled to North America and Europe to prepare for the Games.

An arrangement between the USA national team cross country program and the APC allowed our cross country athlete, James Millar, to travel with the US team for all international competitions. This proved beneficial for the program, both financially and in performance.

With the first year of the new cycle well under way, a number of training camps have been

held this Australian winter. A talent identification camp at the beginning of July unearthed four new skiers with a disability, including one female, who show the potential to win selection for the 2010 Games. A number of elite and development camps have also been held.

## FUTURE

Further camps will be held over the remaining weeks of the 2006 Australian season and the program will take athletes overseas again this year for a two month training and competition camp.

Even with the retirement of Michael Milton after the Torino Games, the Winter program is looking very healthy for the 2010 and 2014 Games.

**Head Coach:** Steve Graham



Toby Kane

# ACRONYMS

<b>AA</b>	Archery Australia
<b>AA</b>	Athletics Australia
<b>APC</b>	Australian Paralympic Committee
<b>AIS</b>	Australian Institute of Sport
<b>ASC</b>	Australian Sports Commission
<b>ATFCA</b>	Australian Track and Field Coaches Association
<b>AWD</b>	Athlete with a Disability
<b>BA</b>	Basketball Australia
<b>CA</b>	Cycling Australia
<b>CAD</b>	Coaching Athletes with a Disability
<b>CP-ASRF</b>	Cerebral Palsy – Australian Sports and Recreation Federation
<b>DWA</b>	Disabled WinterSport Australia
<b>EAD</b>	Elite Athlete with a Disability
<b>FESPIC</b>	Far East and South Pacific International Committee
<b>FFA</b>	Football Federation of Australia
<b>HPU</b>	High Performance Unit
<b>INAS-FID</b>	International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability
<b>IPC</b>	International Paralympic Committee
<b>IBSA</b>	International Blind Sports Association
<b>IFDS</b>	International Federation of Disabled Sailing
<b>ITF</b>	International Tennis Federation
<b>NSWIS</b>	New South Wales Institute of Sport
<b>OPC</b>	Oceania Paralympic Committee (formerly SPPC)
<b>PB</b>	Personal Best
<b>PPP</b>	Paralympic Preparation Program
<b>QAS</b>	Queensland Academy of Sport
<b>RDAA</b>	Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia
<b>SASI</b>	South Australian Institute of Sport
<b>SB</b>	Season's Best
<b>SPPC</b>	South Pacific Paralympic Committee
<b>TTA</b>	Table Tennis Australia
<b>TA</b>	Tennis Australia
<b>VIS</b>	Victorian Institute of Sport
<b>WSA</b>	Wheelchair Sports Australia
<b>YA</b>	Yachting Australia



Ben Austin

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