

ANNUAL REPORT 1998

AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE

AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

NRBN 001 547 057



APC Board Members & Portfolios

President

Greg Hartung

Vice President

Nick Dean

Sport

Paul Bird

Policy

Maurice Frichot

Media & Public Relations

Peter Kelly

Finance & Administration

Doug Denby

Athletes

Brendan Burkett

Marketing

David Floyd

Member Organisations

Australian Sports Organisation for the Disabled Inc **SA**

Australian Blind Sports Federation **Qld**

Australian Sport & Recreation Association for Persons with an Intellectual Disability **Vic**

Australian Wheelchair Athletes **ACT**

Cerebral Palsy Australia Sport & Recreation Federation **Qld**

Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia **Vic**

Disabled WinterSport Australia **NSW**

Associate Members

• Australian Yachting Federation • Basketball Australia • Powerlifting Australia • Soccer Australia

• Table Tennis Australia • Tennis Australia

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General Manager Sport

Brendan Flynn

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Bronwyn Campbell

General Manager

Events Co-ordinator

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ACT

Ron Cahill

NSW

Peter Dawson

Bankers

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Auditors

Ernst & Young

Honorary Solicitors

Freehill, Hollingdale & Page, Sydney

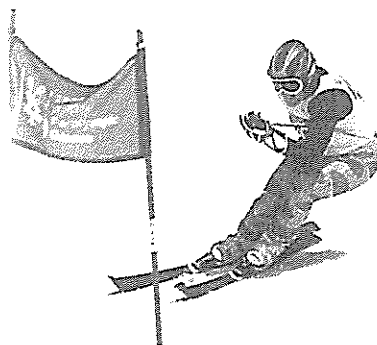


MISSION STATEMENT

The Australian Paralympic Committee seeks to:

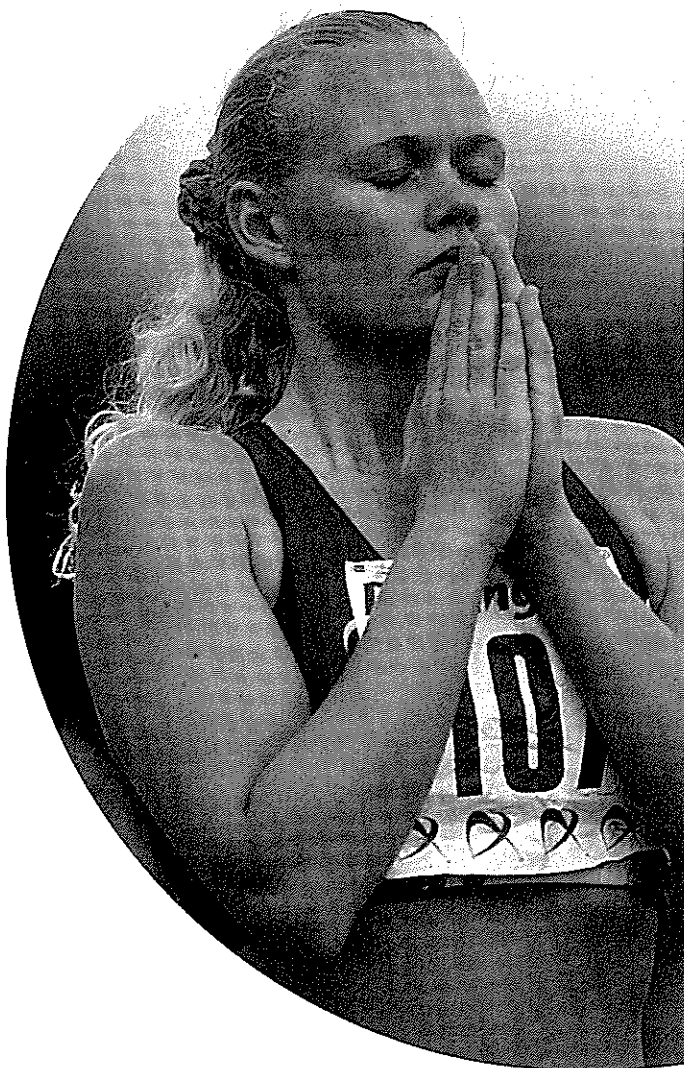
• FACILITATE SUCCESS BY ATHLETES IN
PARALYMPIC GAMES AND OTHER ELITE
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS (SANCTIONED BY IPC)

• ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN SPORT
BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

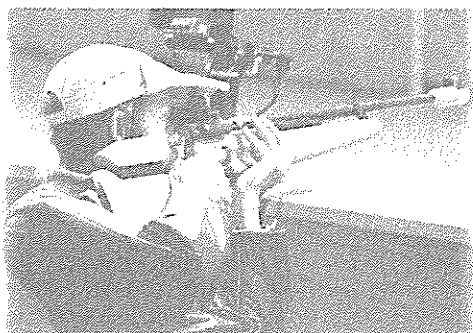
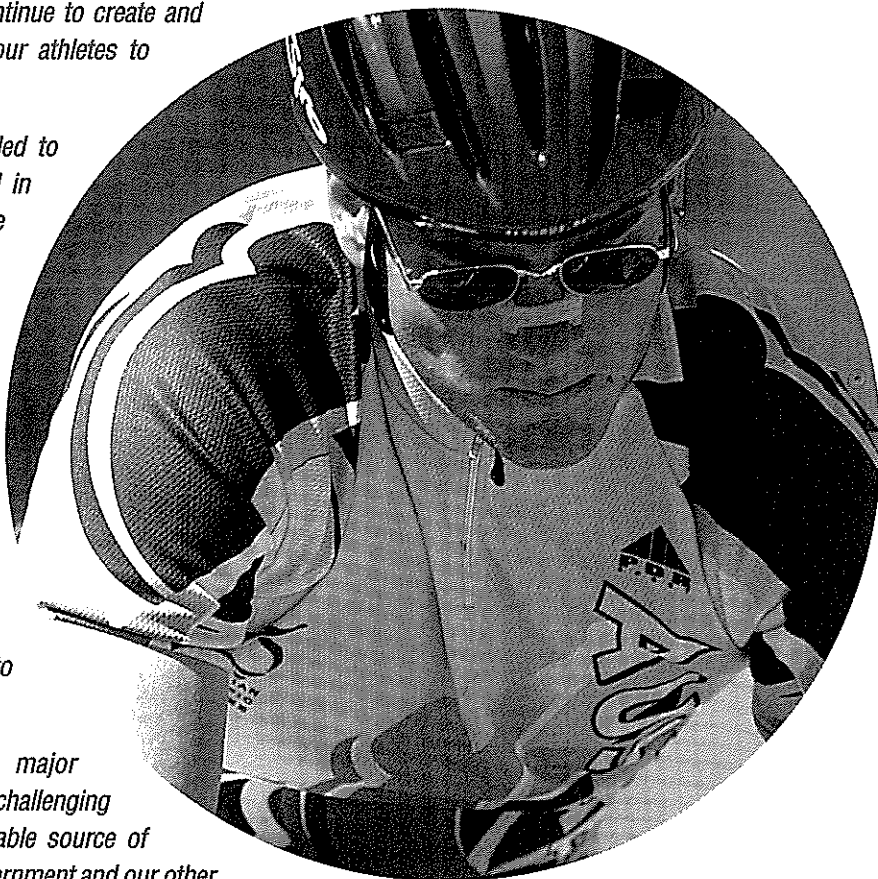
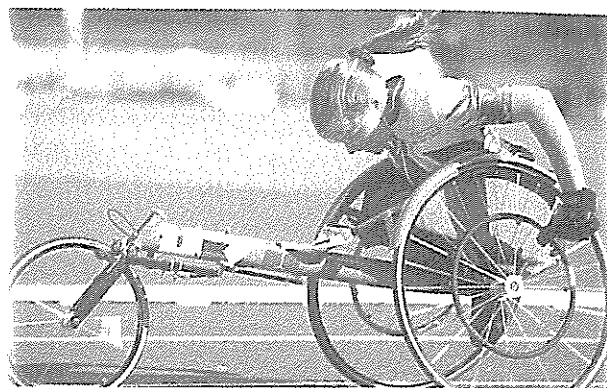
The past 12 months has been both exciting and extraordinary for the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC). It has been a period of significant change and challenge embellished by the exploits of our athletes and, I suspect, the growing community understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of their amazing achievements. Our athletes continue to raise the bar and are now on target for a spectacular Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

The performances of our athletes at the Nagano 1998 Winter Paralympic Games and at the numerous world championships has continued to build Australia's reputation as one of the leading Paralympic nations. Congratulations to all our athletes, coaches and support staff. The challenge confronting the APC is to continue to create and protect the environment that enables our athletes to reach their potential.

The on-field performances have added to the motivation we have all felt off-field in further building and improving the management practices and outcomes of the APC. APC staff led by Chief Executive, Scott Derwin, has risen to the challenge. We have a professional team and a management structure appropriate for a modern sporting body. There have been the visible changes associated with a new logo and headquarters. And, most importantly, we have office systems in place to maximise our marketing capacity and to support our State Committees.

Funding levels continue to be a major headache. Like all organisations with a challenging agenda, we need an adequate and reliable source of funding. And we believe we give the government and our other supporters very good value for their investment. Our funding is derived from three primary sources - fundraising, the sale of our marketing rights to the Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee and the Federal Government through the Australian Sports Commission. We are extending our efforts in order to boost our fundraising receipts and are optimistic these initiatives will be rewarded in the future. But we believe the Federal Government needs to substantially alter its approach to the APC and the athletes under its responsibility.

We did not believe that the initial \$1 million allocation to our athletes under the \$25 million Olympic Athlete Program (OAP) was either fair or equitable. We argued our case strongly and responsibly with the Federal Government and explained our position to our athletes and the general public. Four per cent of the funding available under the OAP was inadequate. Our case has centred on



PRES. REPORT CONT. the application of the same criteria for funding purposes to our athletes as that which applies to Olympic athletes. If you accept that our athletes are elite and the best the country can produce to contest the world's most testing and prestigious events against the best the rest of the world has to offer, then it is not an unreasonable expectation that they be treated with fairness when it comes to the apportionment of funding. The principles of equity and fairness are quite clear and supportable.

The support we have received from our campaign for funding reform has been overwhelming and we are committed to continuing the campaign until we reach our goal. We have received fantastic support from the public, our athletes and politicians of all persuasions. It is a watershed campaign for the APC - not just for the immediate need for the funds, but also for the principles behind the campaign. We simply cannot afford to lose.

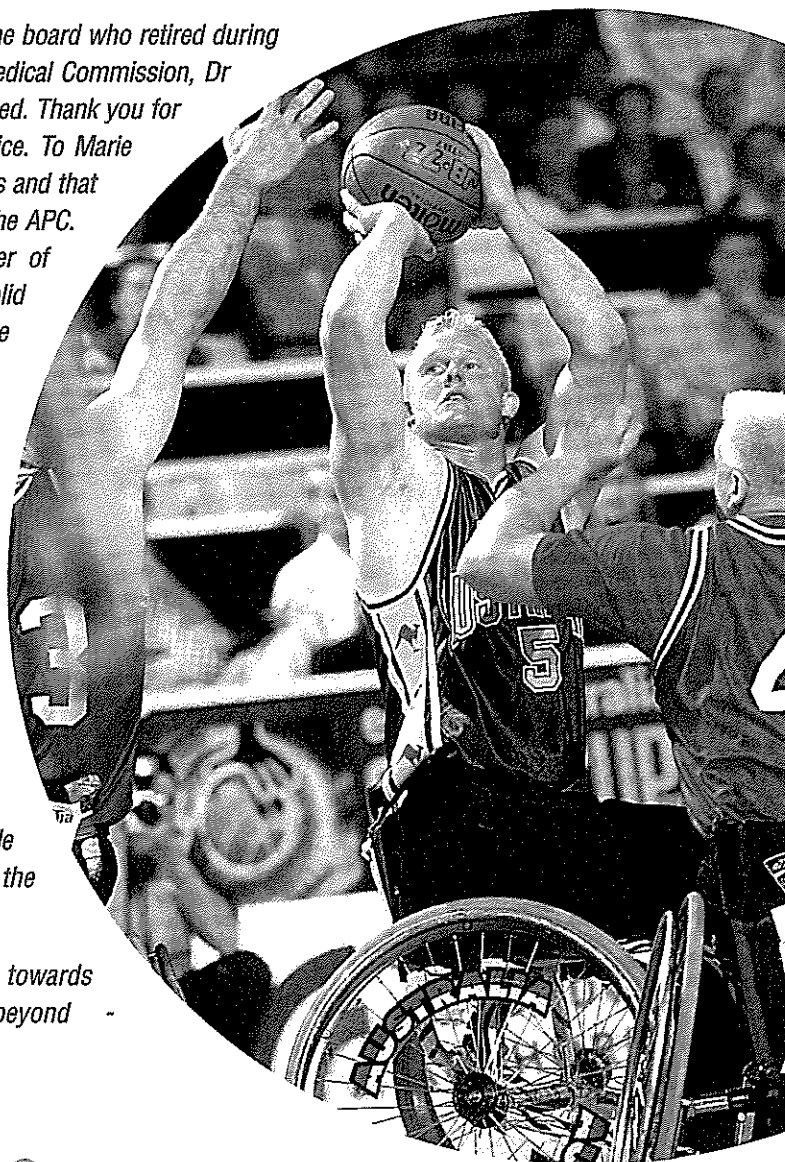
The bid to receive funding fairness has required a substantial commitment from our Chief Executive that goes well beyond 'normal' expectations. I would like to place on record my thanks to Scott for that invaluable effort. We are fortunate to have very able and selfless staff at the APC. They have extraordinary dedication to the Paralympic movement and have always displayed the energy and enthusiasm to put in the extra effort. We are indebted to them.

I would also like to record my thanks to my colleagues on the APC board for their support and individual contributions to the growing maturity of the organisation.

I reserve special mention to two members of the board who retired during the past 12 months. I refer to the chair of the Medical Commission, Dr John Bourke, whose expertise will be greatly missed. Thank you for your contribution during the many years of service. To Marie Little, my predecessor, I formally record my thanks and that of the Board for her outstanding contribution to the APC. Under her leadership the APC tackled a number of organisational challenges and established the solid base upon which we can look forward to future growth. Thank you again for your wonderful contribution to the APC.

Finally, I acknowledge and thank all those individuals and organisations, including our State Committees, who have supported the APC during the past 12 months. Your support has been gratefully received and, we trust, has been rewarded by the wonderful performances of our athletes. It has been a successful and productive year by any measure and we are looking to build on this next year with our focus on reliable funding firmly on the agenda.

We can look towards 2000 - and beyond - with confidence.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

We must always remember that the APC's primary role is to deliver quality services to Australia's elite athletes with disabilities. I am happy with the progress that we made during the past 12 months in improving our systems and infrastructure to help us deliver that result. There are a number of other significant challenges and issues to confront and address.

The central argument in our ongoing funding battle with the Federal Government is to ensure that our athletes are treated with fairness and equity and in the same way as any other elite athlete, particularly when it comes to the allocation of government funds. This is a fight that must be fought until it is won. We, of course, won't have a better window of opportunity than in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games to advocate and pursue our cause.

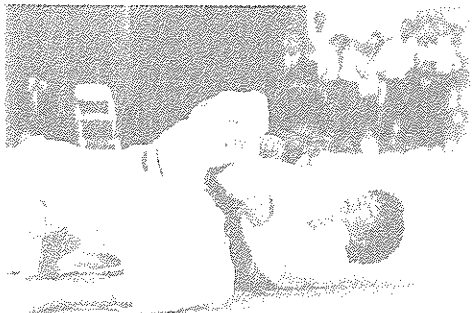
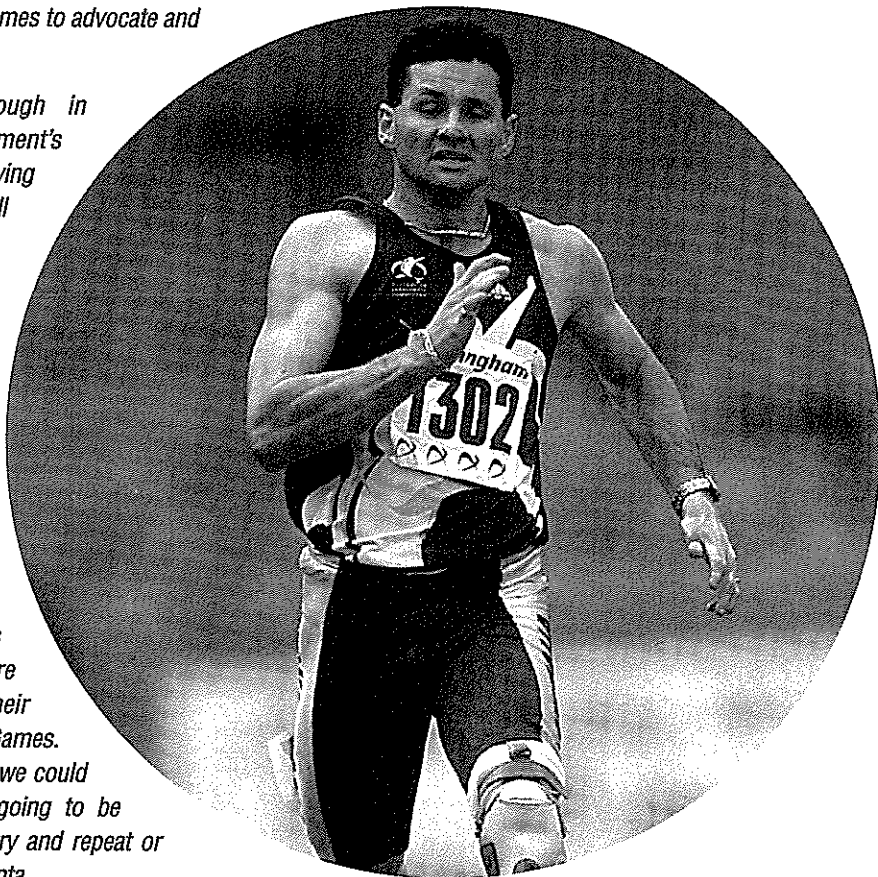
We made a significant breakthrough in September with the Federal Government's commitment to another \$600,000 to us, giving an annual grant of \$1,850,000 - an overall increase now of \$850,000. More importantly, was the promise to work together to develop a funding criteria for future allocations. This criteria is to be modeled on the Olympic Athlete programme funding criteria and should deliver funding based upon principles of fairness and equity.

It is terribly important that we are able to provide increased financial support to our athletes in the countdown to 2000. What we have learnt this year is that a number of other countries are spending significant amounts on their Paralympic athletes in preparing for the Games. This support is, in fact, way beyond what we could even dream about. There is therefore, going to be tremendous pressure on our athletes to try and repeat or better the fantastic results achieved in Atlanta.

Our athletes have of course once again done us proud with their performances during the past 12 months on the field of play. We have had outstanding results in many events and many sports, including World Championships. Who, of course, will be able to forget the performance of our Track and Field team in winning the IPC World Championships in the UK in August. This is to name just one of many great performances.

Of course the performance of our athletes would not be possible without the enormous contribution made by a very committed and dedicated band of volunteers, including coaches, medical and other support staff. It amazes me the time and effort that these people selflessly make to our athletes. This is not unnoticed and on behalf of the athletes and the APC we express our deep gratitude.

Our Winter team performed admirably under difficult circumstances at the Winter Paralympic Games in Nagano, Japan in March 1998. The Team of six was reduced



CEO. REPORT CONT. to four even before the Games through illness and injury. The results achieved by such a small team were a credit to it. However what we learnt was the need to have a more structured program to prepare our winter athletes and the need to have a permanent coach to work with our squad. Amazingly our team did not have a coach at all until a couple of months before the Games when they were able to second Canadian coach, Steve Bova, who did a great job in a short time. With the generous financial assistance of the Federal Government we have appointed Steve as the Winter coach. A formal program will now be implemented with a view to increased success in the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. This program is a joint initiative of Disabled WinterSport Australia, the NSW Winter Academy of Sport and the APC.



The other major issue ahead of not only us, but all in sport, are the challenges which will face sport after 2000. There is every indication there will be less financial support from the Federal Government in the elite athlete area. In addition, historically there is a decline following Olympic/Paralympic Games for a year or so from the corporate sector. We must therefore move towards a greater degree of self-sufficiency and ensure that we have an organisation that is professional to take us successfully into the next millenium.

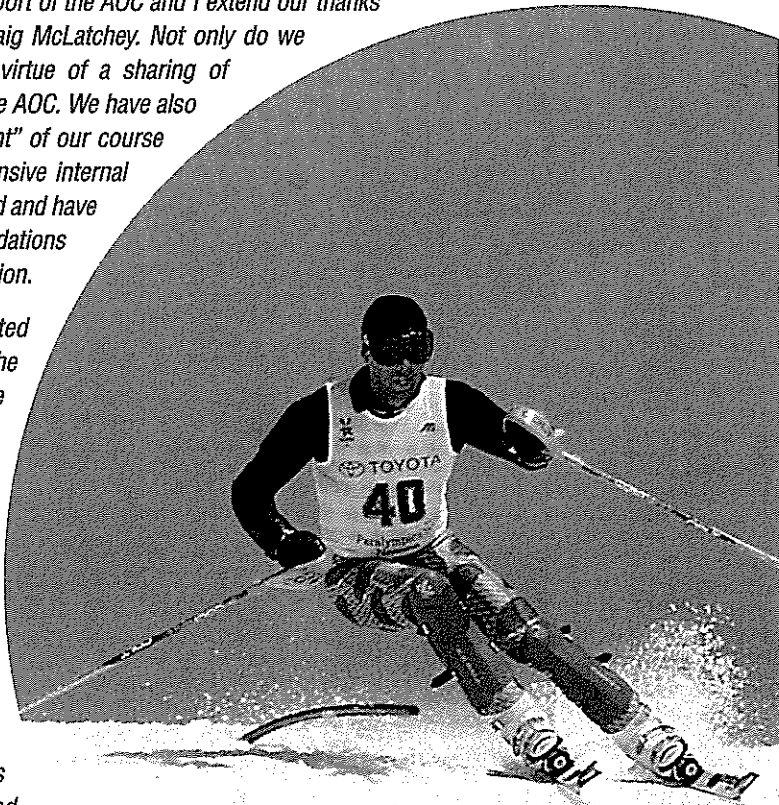
We have, by necessity, increased our staff to deliver the services necessary to our 200 plus athletes in 18 sports. Still only with 10 staff, there are considerable pressures to provide the services that our athletes expect and are entitled to.

The past 12 months have seen a number of significant changes. A change of name, new logo and livery as well as a change of office premises, to co- share with the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC). This would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the AOC and I extend our thanks to President, John Coates and Secretary- General, Craig McLatchey. Not only do we now have a prestigious headquarters, but also by virtue of a sharing of resources, we are able to learn from the expertise of the AOC. We have also completed a Business Plan that gives us the "blueprint" of our course during the next four years. We also had a comprehensive internal management review conducted by Coopers and Lybrand and have already adopted a number of significant recommendations that have led to productive reform within our organisation.

While our marketing opportunities are restricted because of the joint marketing agreement with the Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee, we do have a small number of corporate supporters, whose assistance is crucial. In this regard I record our deep gratitude to the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW, Adecco, Telstra and Ansett. In addition the Registered Lions Australia Clubs Association of NSW, The Club Managers Association of Australia, Australian Netherlands Chamber of Commerce and the Sport and Tourism Youth Foundation have given us generous support. Many, many thanks to you all. In addition we must also record our appreciation to the

Australian Sports Commission and Federal Government for their continuing financial support.

In closing I thank the Board and the State Committees for their significant contribution.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Refining financial and administration procedures is an ongoing project, but significant improvements have taken place following a major review early in the financial year 1997/98. The progress was delayed temporarily during the year with changes in accounting personnel, but has gathered momentum with the recent appointment of Rod Anderson.

Our income of the year under review has decreased substantially from the previous year due to:

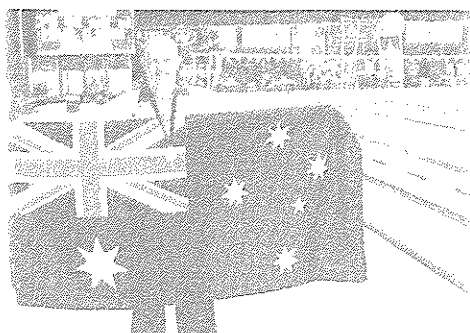
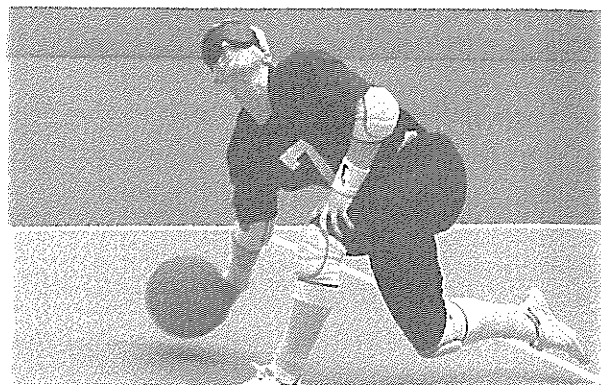
- a) a significant reduction in monies coming to the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) from fundraising and sponsors, and
- b) a change in accounting policy as to the treatment of the sale of our marketing rights to the Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee (SPOC) is recognised (ie: from a "cash received" basis to an "as earned basis").

Our expenditures overall have risen dramatically, particularly in costs associated with athletes in the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) for Sydney 2000, together with costs associated with Winter Paralympic Games, Nagano, 1998. In addition, with the increased activity in PPP, and the move to new offices, the administration expenses have also risen.

As you will note from the summarised Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June, 1998, below, the year ended with a deficit of \$512,000, which has been met from existing resources. A summarised Balance Sheet at 30 June 1998 is also appended.

The detailed financial statements, together with the report of our auditors, Ernst & Young, are available from the APC office.

	1998	1997
Income and Expenditure (in \$000)		
Income		
Australian Sports Commission		
Received in year	995	1,155
Carried forward	387	(387)
	<u>1,382</u>	<u>768</u>
Sale of certain marketing rights to SPOC	765	1,500
Fundraising and sponsors	112	869
Investment income	150	105
Other	18	5
	<u>2,427</u>	<u>3,247</u>
Expenditure		
Athletes and international competition (including Atlanta in 1997)	2,078	1,118
Promotions, marketing and media	184	430
Administration	677	386
	<u>2,939</u>	<u>1,934</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	<u>(512)</u>	<u>1,313</u>
Balance Sheet (in \$000)		
Assets		
Cash and investments	2,883	2,784
Other (receivables and inventories, etc.)	2,777	94
	<u>5,660</u>	<u>2,872</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors and provisions	732	54
Deferred revenue/grants	3,086	387
	<u>3,818</u>	<u>441</u>
Net assets	<u>1,842</u>	<u>2,437</u>



For the first time in many years, the Australian public is embracing Paralympic Athletes for what they truly are – elite athletes. While this change in attitude has been gradual so far, it would seem likely to accelerate in the lead up to the Games. This increased “brand awareness” is essential for the future success of the APC.

As well as the brilliant success of our athletes and their own personal promotion – part of the recent rise in awareness can be attributed to the aggressive PR campaign run in support of our claim for greater and more equitable funding from the Australian Sports Commission. This campaign has had the effect of increasing awareness not only of the cause, but also of the brand as a whole. Subsequent to this there has been a marked increase in the number of unsolicited enquiries for both sponsorship opportunities and donations.

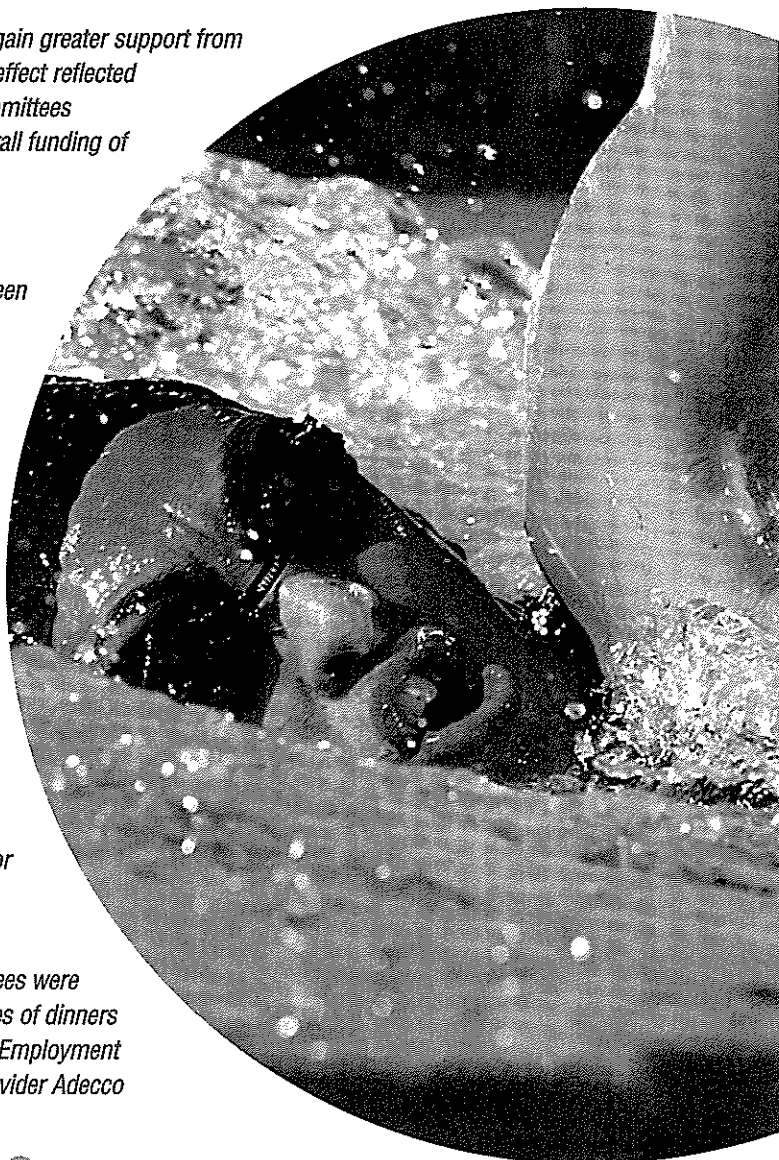
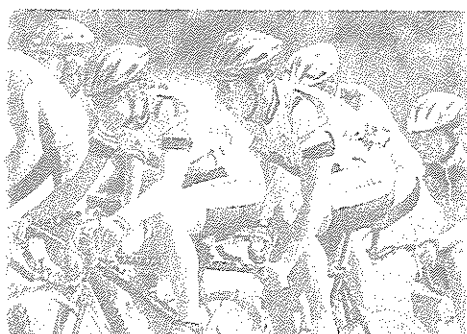
As long as we continue to increase exposure and gain greater support from the media, the APC can expect to see a very positive effect reflected through sponsorship programmes and the State Committees fundraising efforts which are so important to the overall funding of the APC.

During the past year the State Committees have been very busy with a number of successful fundraising activities and promotional programmes. Their valuable contribution to the APC comes not only from their fundraising efforts, but also from the strong awareness they generate on a local basis and their close relationships with State Governments and sporting organisations.

Paralympic Week, held from March 1 –7, was very successful with each state and the National office involving themselves in various functions. Queensland (QPC) took the reigns in co-ordinating this event and also launched its Path of Glory

project – a world's first site where companies and individuals can sponsor a part of the path and support Paralympians.

The State Committees were also involved in a series of dinners hosted by Paralympic Employment Programme (PEP) provider Adecco



including a great event in Victoria that tied in with the opening ceremony in Nagano.

Both South Australia and Western Australia also had busy calendars.

The APC is also working toward the establishment of a NSW Committee to be in place by the end of 1998.

Lions Australia

Lions Australia has confirmed that the APC will become a beneficiary of their organisation in the future. The Lions, which represents some 35,000 members Australia wide, is one of the worlds oldest service clubs and will provide support to the APC both financially and via the supply of manpower and logistical support.

There has already been support shown to individual athletes in NSW and a larger programme will be rolled out in 1998/99. This close association will be of significant benefit to the APC and all its athletes.

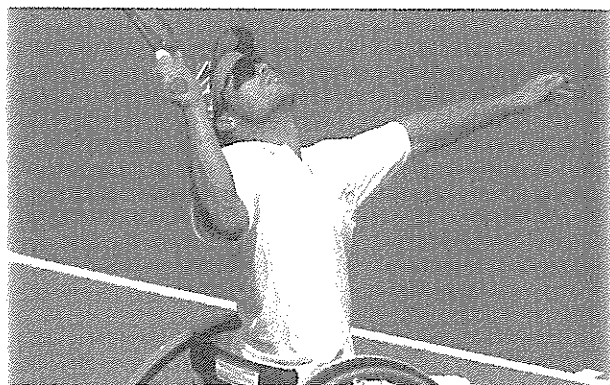
Sponsorship

While the APC is limited in its ability to gain significant sponsorship between now and 2000 by the Joint Marketing Agreement with SPOC - we are still actively perusing a number of sponsorship options.

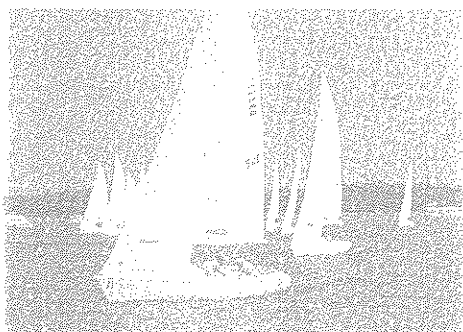
We are currently close to signing to key agreements for the APC. The first is a Value -In-Kind (VIK) arrangement with Telstra to provide us with our telecommunications requirements until 2000. The second is a major contract with Ansett for our air travel both nationally and internationally. Both will greatly assist the day-to-day operations of the APC.

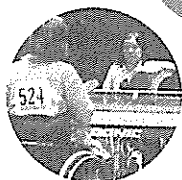
Our thanks also goes to our existing sponsors - Motor Accidents Authority and Adecco, which run the Paralympic Employment Programme, both of whom continue to provide considerable support.

We are now working with SPOC on a number of opportunities to access their existing sponsors between now and 2000 and are also working on strategies to secure major corporate sponsorships for post 2000 operations.



BANJO - The official mascot of the Australian Paralympic Committee.





SPORT

1998 WINTER PARALYMPIC GAMES - NAGANO

Everyone knows Australia's Paralympians are firmly established at the top of the international tree, yet it is not widely known that since the 1992 Paralympic Games at Albertville/Tignes, Australian athletes have been very competitive at Winter Paralympics. Since the 1992 Games at Albertville/Tignes, Australia's Winter Paralympic team has consistently won gold. Australian Paralympians were the first to succeed and win medals at Winter Games.

A remarkable performance at the 1994 Paralympic Games, at Lillehammer, placed our national team fifth from 32 countries in Alpine Skiing and an overall seventh. The stars of that team were world champions Michael Milton and the late Michael Norton with strong performances from David Munk, Rod Hacon and James Paterson.

The nucleus of the team re-gathered at the 1996 World Championships in Austria, however this event became the swan-song for many of the team stalwarts rather than an important stepping stone towards the 1998 Nagano Paralympic Games preparations - in fact, it lost momentum.

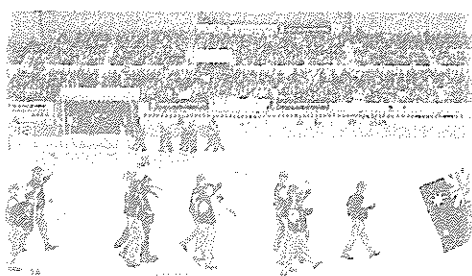
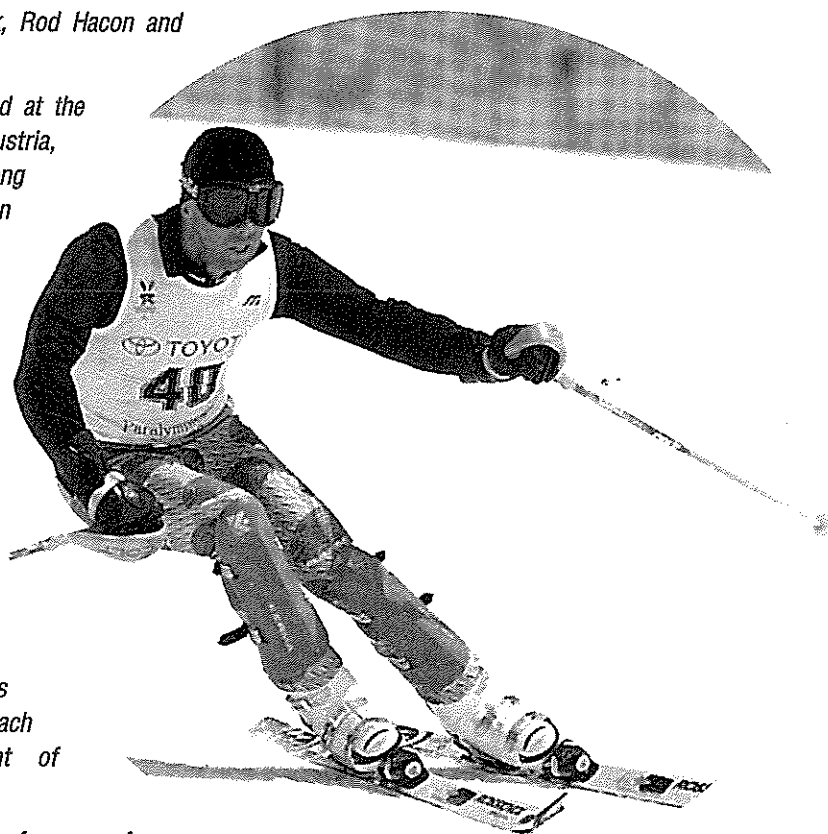
Nevertheless, in late 1997, a final squad was identified comprising veterans Rod Hacon, David Munk and James Paterson and newcomers Alistair Mars, Matthew Nicholls and Anthony Bonacuso.

The squad trained hard in unsympathetic Australian conditions and then embarked on an intensive pre-games programme under the tutelage of Coach Steve Bova and the management of Commander Adrian Pay (RAN).

Winter Paralympic Games are out of season for Australians, which means the squad spent months acclimatising in Northern Hemisphere conditions. During this lead up period, our two senior team members endured the awful disappointment of having to withdraw from the team. Rod Hacon severely damaged his hand in a freak accident, while carrying his ski, which required microsurgery and ongoing treatment; David Munk became seriously ill and could not continue. These were catastrophic personal blows for Rod and David who have been world class participants for several years representing Australia at the 1992 and 1994 Winter Paralympic Games.

The balance of the team arrived in Japan at the beginning of March.

The 1998 Nagano Paralympic Games in Japan were unquestionably the most successful to date in terms of participation with 25 teams and more than 1500 participants as well as public interest - 100,000 tickets had been sold before the games commenced. The facilities and organisation were second to none and the delegates from the competing countries universally congratulated the host nation.



The quiet efficiency of the organisers and volunteers and the enthusiasm and interest of the Japanese people more than offset any potential difficulty. Nagano lifted the standards and expectations for future Winter Paralympic Games.

The Winter Paralympic disciplines include alpine skiing, ice racing, sledge hockey (an exciting ice hockey spectacle) and cross country (Australian cross country athlete, Colin Scott, from Melbourne, failed to make selection, despite every effort and considerable personal sacrifice). The Australian team competed in alpine skiing, which involved four events, downhill, super giant slalom, super slalom and slalom.

The competition venues were the same as for the 1998 Winter Olympic Games. Alpine skiing was held at the Shigakogen Ski area, located approximately one hour and 20 minutes by bus from the Paralympic Village. Traffic marshalling and restricted parking ensured punctuality and facilities at the venue were excellent.

The courses for all events except slalom were very demanding. Due to the lateness of the season, snow conditions were extremely variable during the day. This meant that the races began at an early hour. In order to meet the schedule the team had to rise at 4.30am every day. Larger amounts of equipment and clothing were therefore required to contend with the cold and icy conditions early and then the warm and wet conditions from mid-morning.

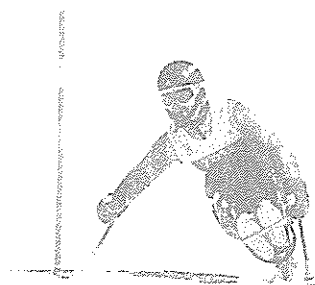
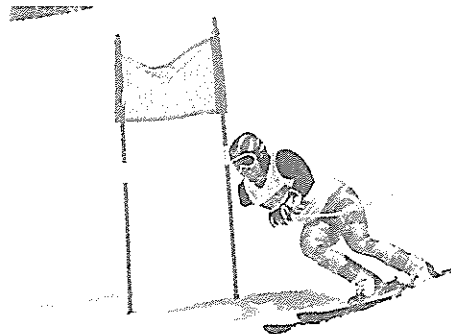
James Paterson eclipsed the opposition in the first and blue ribbon event - the downhill. He followed up this gold medal performance with appalling bad luck in both the super g and the giant slalom. In the final (slalom) he demonstrated true quality by fighting back from the brink in the second run to take bronze.

The next best performance was Matt Nicholls, with sixth place in the giant slalom.

James Paterson's marvelous achievement was accomplished in a true team environment. His victory was very much the team's victory and everyone shared the success. A touch more luck and the medal count would have been more golden.

The team enjoyed the support and goodwill of many friends in Japan. Our embassy people in Tokyo deserve special mention. The hero faxes from home were invaluable and the formal welcome home events sponsored and arranged by Telstra were greatly appreciated.

Preparations for the 2002 Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City, USA, are already underway. Steve Bova has been appointed head coach and is working closely with Disabled WinterSport Australia through Ron Finneran and the Australian Paralympic Committee General Manager Sport, Brendan Flynn. New and higher goals are planned to ensure the continuing success of our athletes at the Winter Paralympic Games.



PARALYMPIAN OF THE YEAR

Another outstanding year, is the only way to express the fantastic achievements of one of Australia's foremost Paralympians Louise Sauvage, when looking at her record for 1996/97.

She scooped the pool at the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games bring home gold medals in the 400m (games record), 800m (games record), 1500m (world record), 5000m (world record) and fourth in the marathon. Our premier wheelchair track and field athlete also took gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic games in the 800m demonstration event.

It topped off a great year for Louise who had set new records and continued to surprise the world with her amazing feats cross a range of events and distances.

In addition to her Paralympic wins, Louise wins during the year included:

1996 Oita Marathon, Japan

1997: Registered Clubs Oz day 10K, Sydney

• **Summer Down Under '97, Sydney** •
International Wheelchair Road & Track Series - Sprint, distance and overall categories •
Newcastle Bicentennial 15K Road Race, Newcastle •
Waitangi Day Road Race, New Zealand •
Los Angeles Marathon, USA •
Boston Marathon, USA •
Atrium Classic, Darwin •
Piedmont 10 Mile Criterium, USA •
Americas Series, USA/Canada •
Peachtree 10K, USA •
IAAF World Athletics Championships, Athens (800m) •
World 10K Championship Road Race, USA •
Berlin Marathon, Germany

Other achievements included:

Telstra Sports Awards (National) - finalist
Cosmopolitan - 30 Most Successful Australian Women under 30 years •
Coca Cola Sports Champion of the Year (Western Australia) - finalist •
Young Achievers Awards Western Australia - outstanding achievement award •
Western Australia Citizen of the Year Awards (Youth) - finalist •
Western Australia Disabled Sports Association - Sports Star of the Year •
Women in Sport Foundation Western Australia - finalist

With an already illustrious career, Louise's brilliant success during the past 12 months resulted in her becoming 1997's Paralympian of the Year - a title she had already held three times.

It is her continuing quest to retain her world titles and improve her times, along with a drive to make it to the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games that make her an outstanding athletes with unbeatable credentials for the past 12 months.

A full-time professional athlete, Louise is the undisputed number one female road and track racer in the world. A title she has dedicated a lot of time and effort in retaining this year.

Congratulations Louise on another outstanding year as an Australian Paralympic Committee athlete.



SUMMER SPORTS

Archery

Head Coach, Kee Sik Lee

The archery Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) began the financial year under the direction of Australian Wheelchair Athletes (AWA) archery coach, Stan Nelson, with one archer, Arthur Fisk. Fellow former Paralympian Eric Klein was added to the program at the beginning of 1998.

As a result of a perceived need to provide greater high performance program support, coaching direction was transferred to Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and Olympic Athletes Program (OAP) archery coach, Kee Sik Lee in May, 1998. Archery Advisory Committee members have taken responsibility for the provision of equipment and sports science and medicine support to PPP Squad members. Further work is required within the archery program before the potential within Australian archers is realised.

Athletics

Head Coach, Chris Nunn

Event Group Coaches: Marius Ghita (Sprints and Jumps)

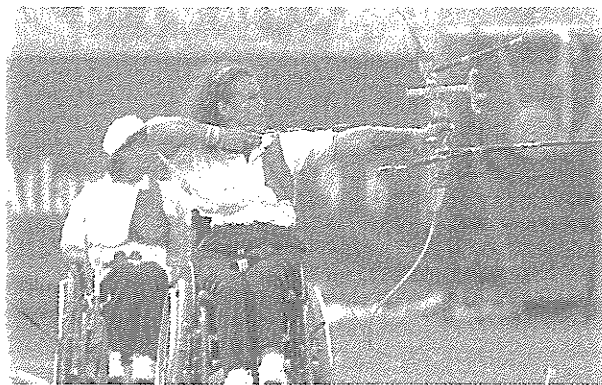
Scott Goodman (Throws)

Andrew Dawes (Wheelchair Track and Road)

Robin Gorringe (Middle Distance/Distance)

Preparation for the 1998 Worlds included attendance at various event group training camps, plus the Athletics Australia Disabled Track and Field Nationals in Canberra (April) - the final selection trial for the Worlds. Athletics PPP Squad members funded at Level 1 also had additional preparation opportunities. These included individual athlete visits to coaches in other states for intensive coaching and athlete access to Athletics Australia Grand Prix (able-bodied) events - the highlight of which was the amputee men's relay team's matching with the Australian women's able-bodied relay team.

The 1997/1998 financial year has seen outstanding performances - from established competitors in the Athletics PPP Squad as well as a number of talented new (and young) athletes. This augurs well for this year's World Championships and the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.



Basketball - Wheelchair Men

Head Coach, Mr Bob Turner

Assistant Coach, Mr Richard Oliver

Assistant Coach, Mr Evan Bennett

Manager, Mr Fred Heidt

The Mens program appointed Mr Bob Turner as the new Head Coach through to and including the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

Since Atlanta, the program has been particularly quiet, but Bob, his professional staff and the Basketball SAC have prepared a well planned training and competition structure in preparation for 2000.

During this 12 month period, training has intensified greatly and Bob introduced much needed international competition against Great Britain. Five tests were played around Australia and the men will have 15 International Games in preparation for the forthcoming Gold Cup in October 1998.



Basketball - Wheelchair Women

Head Coach, Mr Peter Corr

Assistant Coach, Ms Tracy York

Assistant Coach, Ms Corrina Lueg

Manager, Ms Shona Casey

The Women's Program capably coached and managed by the above staff have prepared a long term operational plan in its quest for Paralympic Gold in 2000.

The Women have increased their squad numbers during this period and have gained valuable experience from the many training camps and competitions during this 12 month period.

A successful trip to the Netherlands highlighted the 12 months preparation and we look forward to continuing success at the Gold Cup and the build up during the next two years.



Basketball - Intellectually Disabled Men

Head Coach, Mr Tony Guihot • Assistant Coach, Mr Matthew McKenna

Assistant Coach, Mr Ian MacLeod • Manager, Mr Michael Hudson

The Intellectually Disabled Basketball program has increased the professional intensity of the program with numerous camps, games and National Championships during this 12-month period.

The dedicated staff has been searching for talented players around Australia and will continue that approach to achieve the highest standard possible in its quest for Paralympic Gold.

All concerned are looking forward to the forthcoming World Championships in November 1998.



Boccia

Head Coach, Mr Wally Collalti

Following some superb results in Atlanta, the year of 97/98 was a "mixed bag". With a change of coach and Wally Collalti taking charge, preparation for the World Championships was spasmodic due to illness or injury.

The World Championships were held in New York in June and Lyn Coleman achieved the best Australian result with a fourth place.

The goals for Sydney are to improve current results and medal in single and team events.

Cycling

Head Coach, Kevin McIntosh

Technical Advisor, Ken Norris

New Head Coach, Kevin McIntosh has directed the 1997/98 Cycling PPP. Kevin is a Level 3 Coach and is also involved in the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) cycling program and with the Australian Junior Able-bodied Team. Former Head Coach, Ken Norris, has remained on the program as a Technical Advisor to support Kevin. Disabled cycling stalwart, Ron Anderson has chaired the Cycling Advisory Committee.

In 1997/98 the Cycling PPP has concentrated on talent identification - an area in which it has been extremely successful with a number of new, world-class talents identified. The Cycling PPP has also provided funds for PPP Squad members to attend both exhibition events at the able-bodied Track Nationals in Adelaide as well as a training camp and the Multi-Disability Cycling Nationals in Perth. The Perth Multi-Disability Cycling Nationals acted as the selection trials for the 1998 IPC World Cycling Championships and resulted in the selection of a very strong Australian Team of six staff and 24 riders. For the first time, the depth of amputee and cerebral palsy riders has matched that of the tandem (blind and visually impaired) riders. The depth and level of talent observed at the Perth Nationals suggests Australia is well on track for top performances at this year's World Championships in Colorado (September).

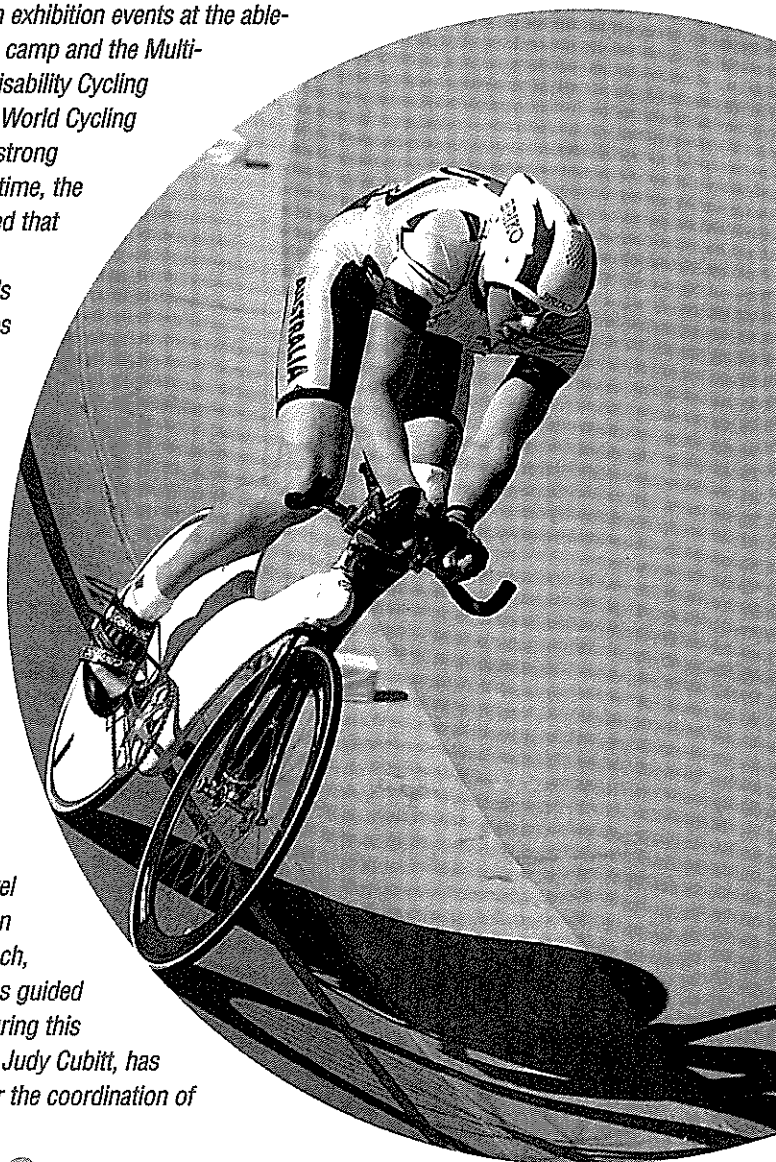
Most riders have been involved with their state institute of sport programs and able-bodied racing within their state in addition to the competition and training opportunities provided by the PPP.

Equestrian

Head Coach, Carolyn Lieutenant

The Equestrian program, the only program not to have a World Championships in 1998, has grown in both depth and performance level during 1997/98.

Extremely capable Level 3 Equestrian Federation International (EFI) Coach, Carolyn Lieutenant, has guided the Equestrian PPP during this period. Chef d'Equipe, Judy Cubitt, has taken responsibility for the coordination of



PPP Squad training camps as well as the write-up and distribution of the Squad newsletter. Five riders - four Atlanta Paralympians and one newcomer - have made up the Equestrian Squad.

The current Equestrian PPP Squad was selected following performances at the 1997 RDAA National Dressage Championships in Strathalbyn, South Australia. Since that time PPP Squad members have participated in a series of training camps and domestic competitions in preparation for the 1999 World Dressage Championships for Disabled Riders.

Selected riders from RDAA's Talent Squad (the feeder program for the Equestrian PPP) have attended training camps, while Head Coach Carolyn Lieutenant has made visits to several states to identify talented new riders and provide coaching support to Equestrian PPP riders.

In June 1998, two Equestrian PPP Squad members, Julie Higgins and Sue Haydon, and Talent Squad member, Charmaine Dalll, competed in the British National Championships and an International Invitational Event at Hartpur, England. All riders performed well with Julie winning two events and Sue and Charmaine gaining placings in a strong international competition.

The increase in depth and performance level across all grades as well as the performances of PPP Squad members at international competition this year, augurs well for the future of Australian Paralympic Equestrian.

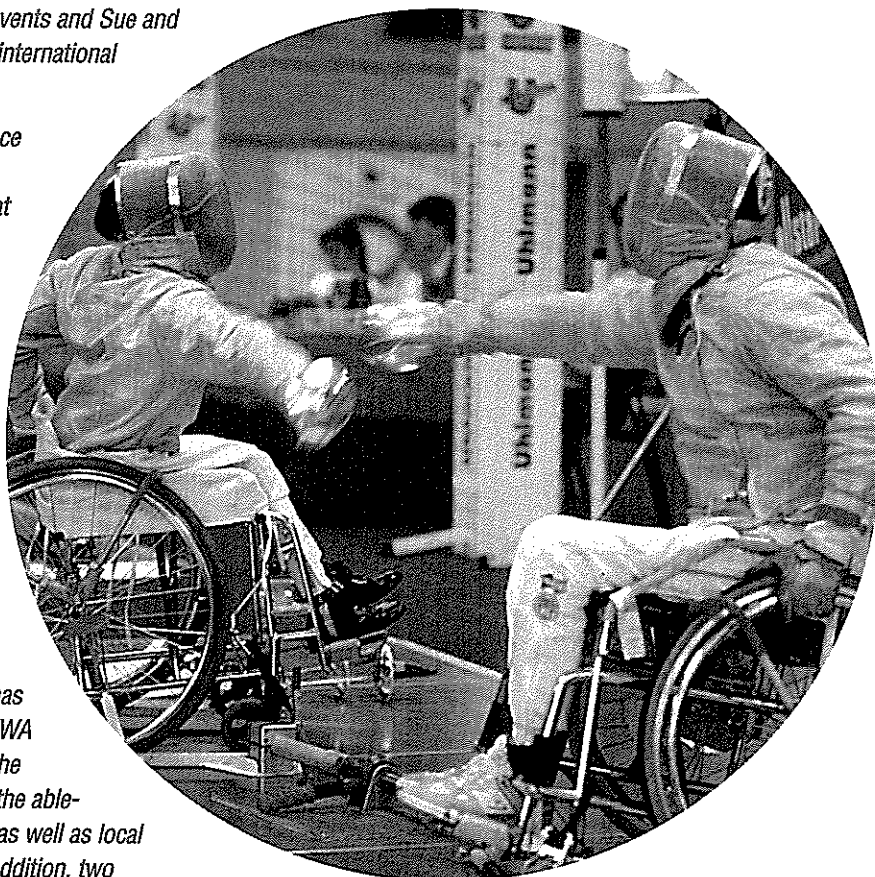
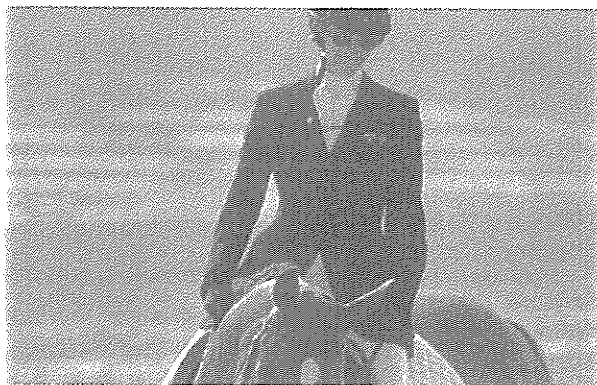
Fencing

Head Coach, **Sally Kopiec**

During the 1997/98 period, the Fencing PPP has been guided by Head Coach, Sally Kopiec. The Fencing PPP Squad has included one fencer during this time, Michael Alston.

During this period the Fencing PPP has had two intensive training camps with AWA Squad members (the feeder Squad for the Fencing PPP) and has been involved in the able-bodied fencing national championships as well as local and state able-bodied competitions. In addition, two international competition tours have been conducted in an effort to both increase international competition experience and travel skills and also gain points for the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Fencing world rankings list which will be considered in the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games qualification process.

Michael has had an excellent build-up for the August World Championships (his first) in Germany and is expected to perform well for his experience level. Further work is required within the Fencing program before Australian fencers become truly competitive on the international scene, which is dominated by the Europeans.



Goalball Men

Head Coach, **Mr Sam Theodore**

Assistant Coach, **Mr Robert Apps**

During this period, the sports camp component has been consistent with the Head Coach, Mr Sam Theodore's requirements and he has been impressed with the skill development of his group as a unit.

The preparations and objective for 2000 are for the team to equal or better its fourth place in Sydney.

The main goal for the 97/98 period was to prepare for the IBSA World Championships in Spain in July.

The program will endeavour to increase its international competition component in preparation for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

Goalball Women's

Head Coach, **Mr Terry Kenaghan**

As with the Men's Team, international competition is an area that the Head Coach and APC must address for the women's squad. Head Coach Terry Kenaghan held regular training camps during this period and developed specific team concepts.

The main goal for the 97/98 year was preparation for the IBSA World Championships in Spain in July.

The program goals to 2000 are to improve results and to aim for a top four world ranking.

Judo

Paralympic Head Coach, **Trevor Kschammer**

The Judo PPP has had an excellent year under the guidance of Olympic and Paralympic Head Coach, Trevor Kschammer. The Judo PPP Squad during this time has included one very talented member, Atlanta Paralympic gold medallist, Anthony Clarke.

Attempts to identify more male visually impaired judo players during the year were unsuccessful, however Anthony Clark has continued to produce excellent results in able-bodied judo competition at state and national level. Where possible, Anthony has continued to access OAP judo training camps in preparation for this year's World Championships.

Performances this year to date indicate more excellent performances are likely from Anthony at the upcoming 1998 IBSA World Championships in Madrid (July).

Powerlifting

Head Coach - **Mr Blagoi Blagoev**

The Head Coach held numerous training camps and domestic competition during this period. Overall, results have been encouraging with many athletes achieving "personal bests" during this time frame.

Main focus for the year was the team preparation towards the World Championships to be held in Dubai in October 1998.

With the addition of Women's events to the Paralympic Games, we can be assured of a best ever result at the 2000 Games.



Rugby

Head Coach - Mr Darryl Wingard

Assistant Coach - Mr David Bonavita

Having completed in Atlanta as a demonstration Sport, the Rugby program has taken "huge strides" during the last 18 months.

A disappointing factor was a lack of International Competition, but the group held many competitions in preparation for the World Championship in Canada in June.

The team recorded a much improved 5th place at the Worlds and is extremely keen to "TAKE THE NEXT STEP" toward 2000.

Following the World Championships, Darryl Wingard resigned as Head Coach. The Australian Paralympic Committee sincerely thanks Darryl for his contribution and we are currently searching for a new Head Coach.



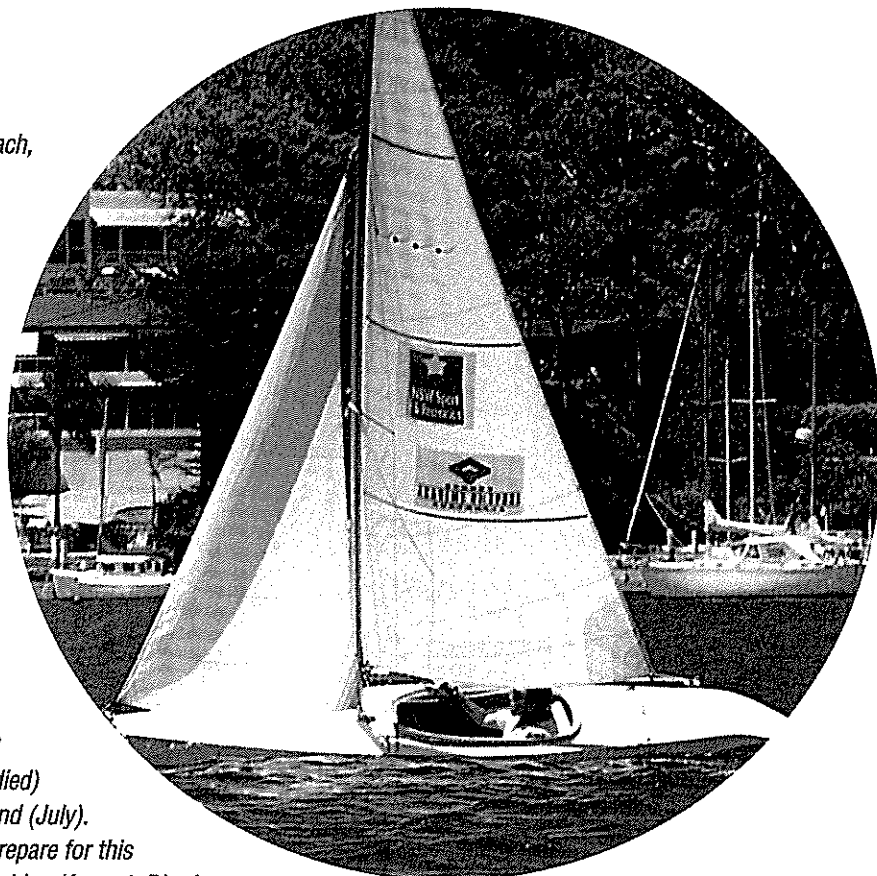
SAILING

Head Coach, Lachlan Gilbert

During the 1997/98 period, Head Coach, Lachlan Gilbert (former Olympian and World Champion sailor and former Australian Youth Sailing Coach) has guided the Sailing PPP. The Sailing PPP Squad has included athletes from both Paralympic sailing disciplines - the international 2.4mR (single-man keel boat) and the Sonar (three man keel boat).

Throughout 1997/98, PPP Squad members participated in several training camps with PPP Head Coach, Lachlan Gilbert (in addition to their own home-based individual preparation programs). PPP funds were also used to purchase two international 2.4mR boats to help prepare our 2.4mR sailors for this year's Open (i.e. able-bodied) World Championships in Tampere, Finland (July). The Sonar sailors have been forced to prepare for this year's World Disabled Sailing Championships (August, Rhode Island, USA) in J24's due to the current non-availability of Sonars in Australia.

Australian sailors have yet to compete in Paralympic Games and for most Sailing PPP Squad members, this year's World Championships will be their first. Solid performances by athletes from both disciplines are expected.



SHOOTING

Head Coach, Yvonne Hill

Assistant Coach: Lucky Anagastou (Pistol)

Cynthia Jones & Anne Bugden (Rifle)

The Shooting PPP has had another excellent year under the very capable guidance of Olympic and Paralympic Coach, Yvonne Hill. Assisting Yvonne in coaching is PPP Assistant Coach, Lucky Anagastou (Pistol), and Cynthia Jones and Anne Bugden (Rifle).

As with several sports, the initial focus of the 1997/98 Shooting PPP was on talent identification in addition to the preparation of existing PPP Squad members. Shooting's talent identification program, driven through the able-bodied shooting associations by Pistol Australia's Ray Brummell and Athlete representative Ashley Adams (rifle), has yielded exceptional results with a significant increase very talented shooters have been identified and added to the Shooting PPP Squad as a result.

During 1997/98 Shooting PPP Squad members participated in training camps at the AIS and competed in the National and Oceania Championships as well as local able-bodied competitions. Athletes with access to a computer also had use of the Shooting program's SCATT machine - the latest in shooting training devices - during the periods between training camps.

The Shooting Squad's excellent preparation during 1997/98 was rewarded with Australia's best ever results in the 1998 IPC World Shooting Championships in Spain (June). The Shooting Team won a silver medal in Atlanta versus two gold, one silver, and one bronze medals at the 1998 IPC World Shooting Championships in Spain plus several high placings that could be converted to medals during the next two years.

Swimming

Head Coach, Ms Rae Szulawa

During this period the program was unfortunate to lose one its Senior Coaches in Matt Brown. The APC sincerely thanks Matt for his huge commitment to the program.

The program continues to develop with outstanding results from Level 2 athletes and obviously continued good form from all Level 1 athletes.

The year was highlighted by some excellent results at the National Titles in Melbourne and an overseas competition in England.

The group maintained a focus on preparing for the World Championships in New Zealand in October AND the goal of being number one swim team in the World at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

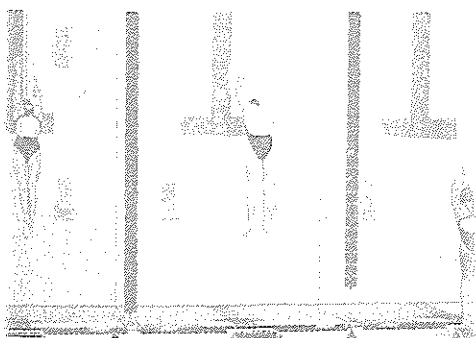


Table Tennis

Head Coach - Mr Joe Hoad

Main focus for Head Coach, Mr Joe Hoad, was based on trying to increase the number of athletes through to and including the PPP level.

Highlight of the training year was revolved around preparing the squad for the Stoke Mandeville Games and the World Championships.

We look forward to an increased player base in preparation for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.



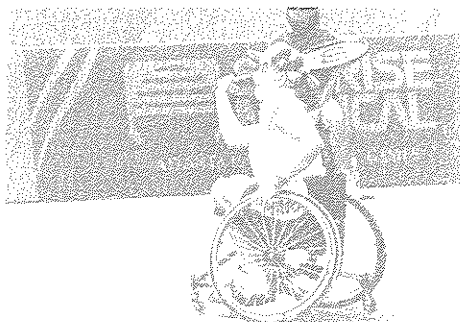
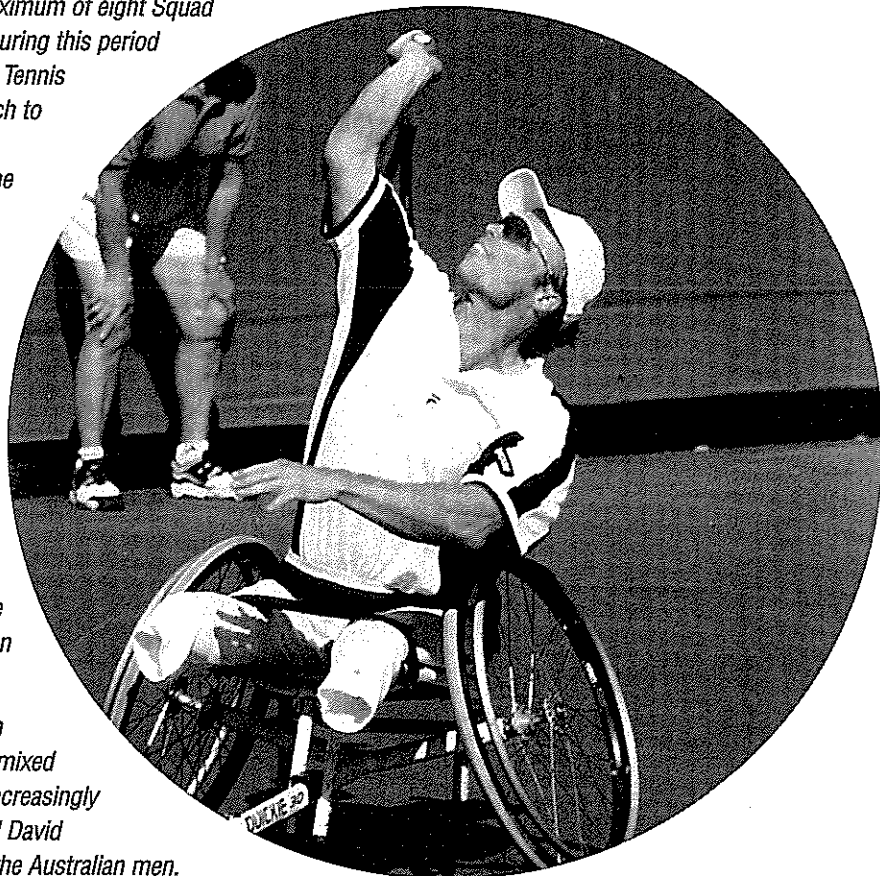
Tennis

Head Coach - Greg Crump

During 1997/98 the Tennis PPP was headed by Paralympic Tennis Coach Greg Crump and comprised a maximum of eight Squad members - four male and four female. During this period PPP funds were generally used to assist Tennis PPP Squad members and the Head Coach to access tournaments on the international circuit, including the World Team Cup, the British Open, US Open, and Australian Open tournaments. Funds were also provided for World Team Cup members to attend a training camp/lead-up tournament to the 1998 World Team Cup in Spain.

At the 1997 US Open, Australia experienced one of its finest moments with tournament wins to both David Hall in the men's singles and Daniela Di Toro in the women's singles (and double's). This performance was repeated at the 1998 Australian Open in February.

At the 1998 World Team Cup in Spain (June) the Australian Team experienced mixed results. Excellent performances by the increasingly formidable men's team of David Hall and David Johnston resulted in a bronze medal to the Australian men. With the non-availability of Australia's top two ranked women, Australia entered two players relatively new to the international circuit - Lesly Page and Branka Pupovac - in the women's competition. They finished 12th and gained considerable experience.



WINTER SPORTS

One winter sport, alpine skiing, was active in the Paralympic Preparation Program during the 1997/98 financial year.

Alpine Skiing

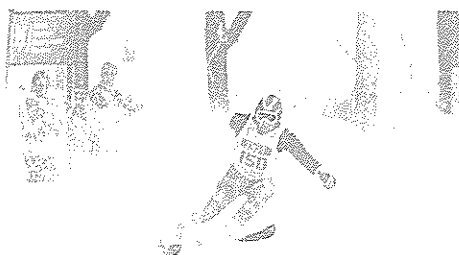
Head Coach, **Steve Bova**

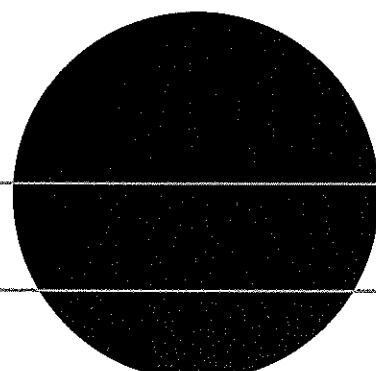
The highlight of the 1997/98 financial year for alpine skiing was the 1998 Winter Paralympic Games in Nagano, Japan.

An Australian Winter Paralympic Squad for the Games was selected following the Disabled WinterSport Australia Nationals in Mt Hotham, Victoria, and a series of dry-land and on-snow training camps. Poor snow conditions during the Australian winter made selections and preparation difficult, however the final squad included James Paterson, Matthew Nicholls, Alistair Smailes, David Munk, Rod Hacon and Anthony Bonaccorso.

An accident and an illness during three months of pre-Games preparation in Canada, the USA, and Japan, robbed the Australian Team of two potential medallists - sit-skiers Rod Hacon and David Munk. In the Nagano Paralympic Games, Australia was finally represented by four skiers. James Paterson, the only previous Paralympian, was successful in winning a gold (downhill) and bronze medal (slalom) and was unlucky not to medal in two other disciplines.

After the 1998 Paralympic Games, a review of the entire winter program was conducted. This review confirmed the need for continuity and an early appointment in terms of coaching staff and the need for an ongoing and well-structured training and competition program. Funds have since been provided by the APC, the Australian Sports Commission, and the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation to establish winter sport's first year-round program under the direction of PPP Head Coach, Steve Bova.





*NATIONAL
SPORTS
ORGANISATIONS
FOR THE
DISABLED*



AUSTRALIAN SPORTS ORGANISATION FOR THE DISABLED

One would have thought things might have been quiet prior to the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games, however that has not been the case. The workload at the national office has increased significantly with the introduction of the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP).

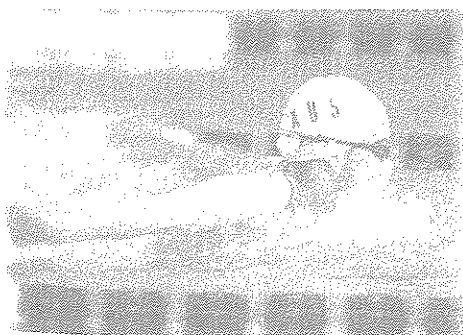
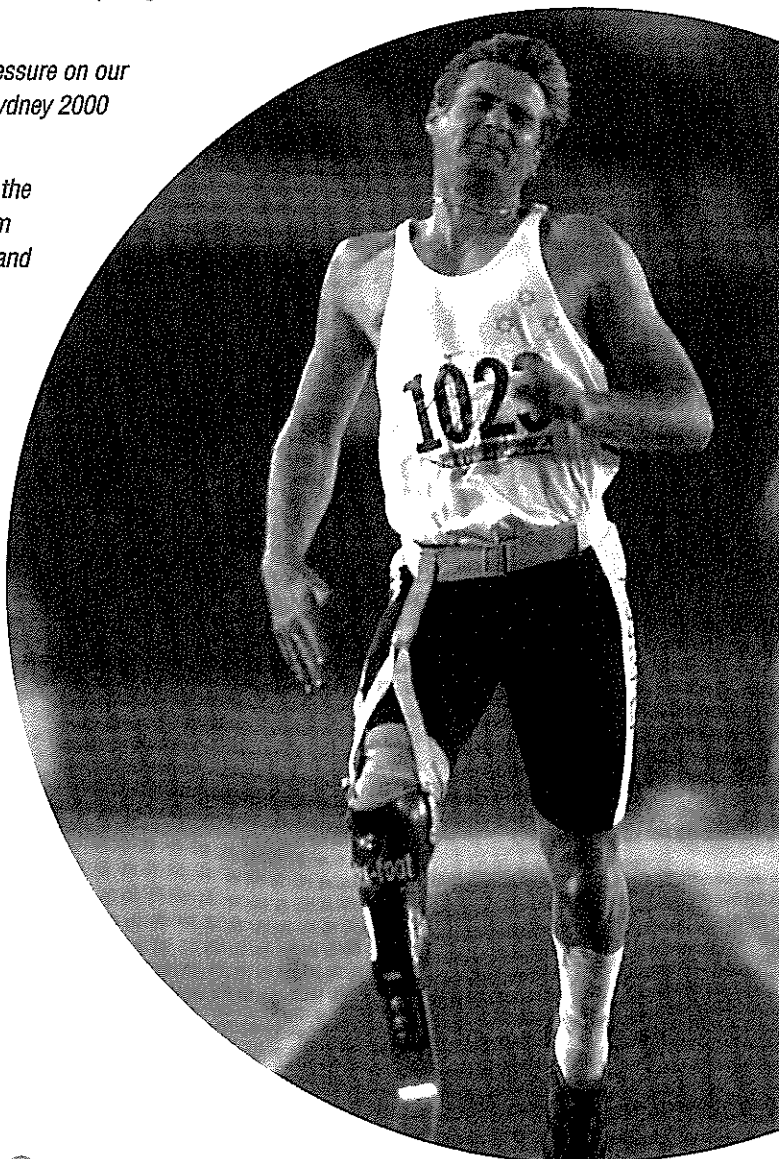
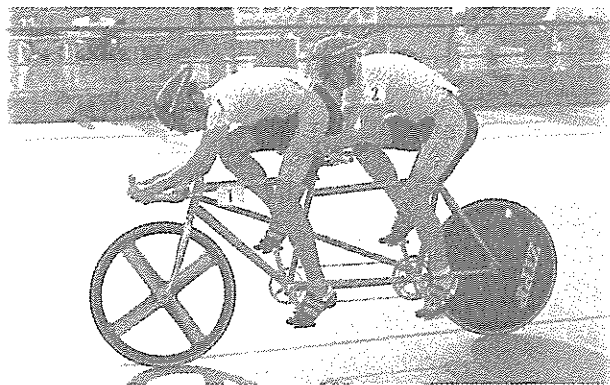
The organisation has changed from the Amputee Federation of Australia Inc to the Australian Sports Organisation for the Disabled (ASOD) bringing it in line with its international body and giving it a broader community scope. The name change appears to have been successful with a substantial increase in membership during the latter half of the financial year.

During the past three years we have concentrated on developing the organisational structure of ASOD - introducing Western Australia and Northern Territory - and streamlining operational procedures. We want this to provide a stronger organisation to take us into the next millennium. With the resources we have available, ASOD has aimed to streamline its services to fulfil members' needs and deliver an effective and efficient sports council, which is likely to be our most vital reform.

The introduction of Volleyball (sitting and standing) and the organisation joining the World Organisation of Volleyball for the Disabled (WOVD) was realised this year. Training squads were set up under experienced coaches such as Wei Ping Tu (Sitting) and Gary Jenness (standing). Although there is no competition available, particularly for the sitting team, 38 players are now competing in able-bodied competitions around Australia.

We have achieved a lot, and now, with increasing pressure on our organisation even more will be asked of ASOD as the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games approaches.

None of our work could have been achieved without the incredible contribution of our Executive Director, Graham Golley. Graham works incredible hours - all under paid and many not paid - and the single obvious reason why our organisation enjoys the respected reputation it does.



AUSTRALIAN SPORT & RECREATION ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

The Australian Sport and Recreation Association for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (AUSRAPID), has been involved in many positive developments in sporting and recreational opportunities for people with an intellectual disability during the past financial year.

Some of AUSRAPID's highlights during the past year include:

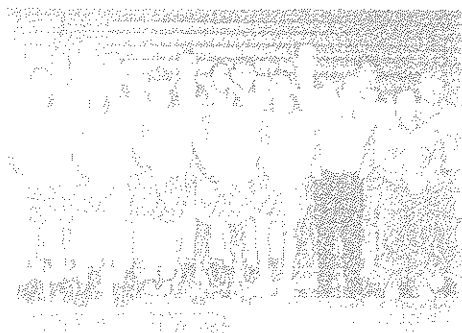
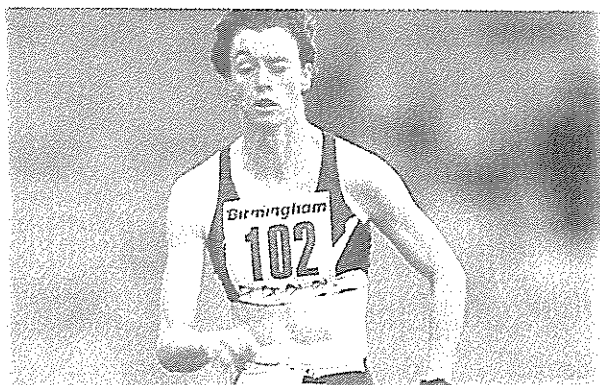
The Men's and Women's Basketball teams successfully toured Japan - August 1997
Successful inaugural Australian Tennis Open at Melbourne Park - February 1998 • **Development of a National Table Tennis event - August 1998** • **Inclusion of Japan in the National Basketball Championships in Bendigo - July 1998**
Inaugural Basketball test matches conducted between Australia and Japan - July 1998
• **Promotion of athletes to compete in FESPIC in Thailand - February 1999**
• **Selection of 35 athletes in the Paralympic Squads** • **Involvement of Hong Kong athletes in National Athletics Championships in Canberra - April 1998** • **Registration of more than 530 athletes - an 18 per cent increase**

Mainstream national events including athletes with an intellectual disability continue to be a highlight of the sporting calendar. Each year, the national programs continue to make significant improvement, both on and off the field. This is largely due to the support generated the previous year, giving impetus for the programs to be adopted by State sporting organisations.

Some critics object to establishing national events before consolidating sound infrastructure at state level, however, we have found that establishment of quality National events has set the direction for the mainstream State/Territory organisations to become fully involved.

AUSRAPID would be unable to carry out its job effectively without the fantastic efforts of its member organisations. Unfortunately, WESTRAPID is currently in abeyance, however, it is hoped this will be rectified in the near future. Our seven other state and territory members have varying degrees of government support and funding, however this does not effect the enthusiasm they have toward their task.

The International Sports Federation for People with Mental Handicap/Intellectual Disability (INAS-FMH) has undergone many changes since the General Assembly in April 1997. AUSRAPID President, Marie Little, has recently been appointed to the Presidency of the Asian/South Pacific region of INAS-FMH and will use her position to keep the needs of athletes with an intellectual disability at the forefront of the international scene.



AUSTRALIAN BLIND SPORTS FEDERATION

The Australian Blind Sports Federation (ABSF) continued its pro-active role in the development of vision impaired sport both in Australia and internationally. ABSF representatives played a significant role in the establishment of an Oceania Region for the International Blind Sports Association at an inaugural meeting held in Fiji, in November 1997.

Queensland's Greg Scott was elected IBSA Oceania Chairperson with support from ABSF National Executive Director, Ian Folwer, Oceania National Olympic Committee Secretary General, Dr Robin Mitchell, and Fiji Sports Association for the Disabled President, Dr Jagdish Maharaj. Representatives from Australia, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu took part in forming the regional body.

Oceania training camps for specific sports have begun with countries being represented by athletes and coaches - the first was swimming held at Caboolture in Queensland. Following the camp, the swimmers were included in the ABSF nationals in Sydney. The next development camp will be in Goalball, while athletic coaches will visit the countries within the region for coaching clinics.

With no Australian Multi Disability Championships during 1998, the ABSF held its 18th National Championships in athletics and swimming at the NSW Sports Academy at Narrabeen, Sydney, hosted by the Blind Sporting Association of NSW. South Australia was the overall winner, while 7 open and 16 age records were established in athletics and 8 open and 30 age records were set in short course swimming. These championships served as the final selection for athletes to attend the IBSA World Championships.



CEREBRAL PALSY - AUSTRALIAN SPORT & RECREATION FEDERATION

Cerebral Palsy - Australian Sport & Recreation Federation focussed on a development program for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games and activities in classification.

Nationally, the Federation is making plans to co-host the 1999 Australian Multi Disability Championships in Sydney. It is expected that about 1400 athletes from participating Paralympic nations will travel to Sydney to compete. The sports being contested include track and field, swimming, boccia, cycling, powerlifting, with options on basketball, shooting, soccer and lawn bowls.

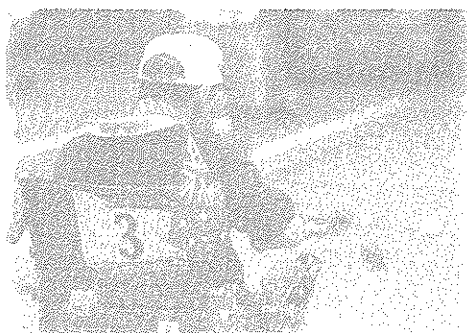
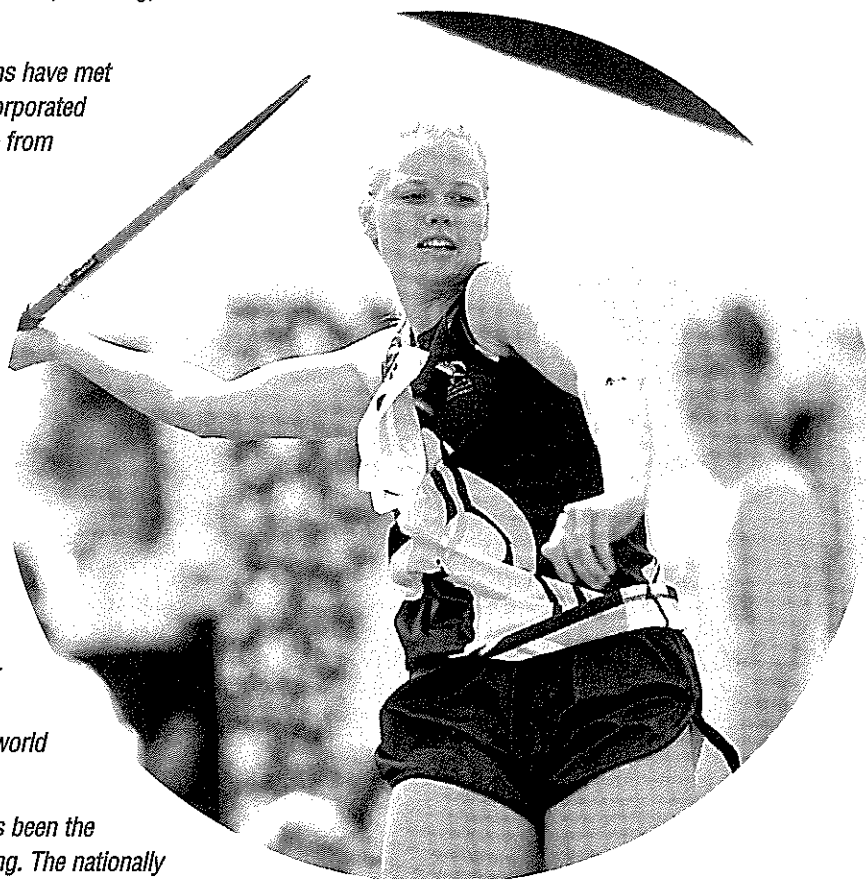
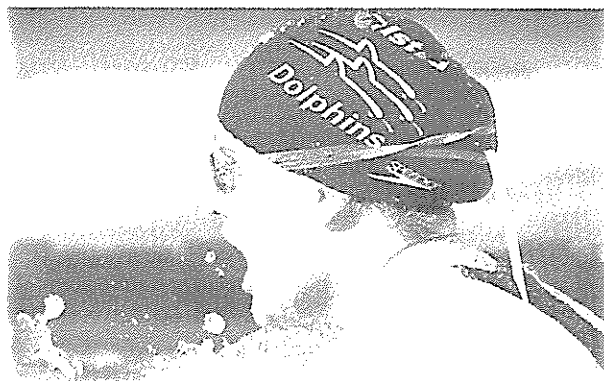
Increasingly state sporting organisations have met with state disability organisations and incorporated events for our athletes at sporting meets - from Saturday afternoon competition to state championships. Many athletes are taking advantage of this extra training and competition.

The major international competition in 1997/98 for athletes with cerebral palsy was the World Games in Nottingham, United Kingdom. This incorporated the World Athletics Championships, the World Swimming Championships, World Cycling Championships, and the Bowls World Cup. There were 900 competitors from 42 countries with Australia sending a team of 26 athletes. Australia's medals for this championship were 20 gold, 3 silver and 5 bronze additionally, the team set 8 world records and 19 Australian records.

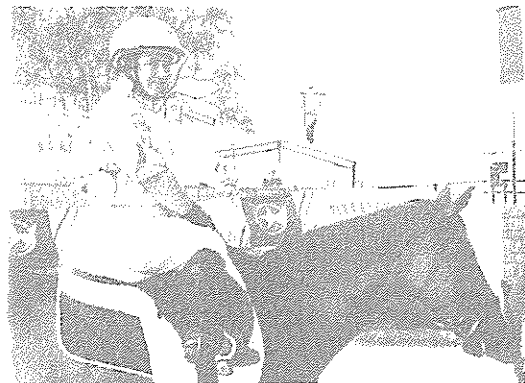
Another focus during the past year, has been the development of classification and officiating. The nationally accredited classifiers were issued with revised manuals. One of our international classifiers was funded to go to the World Championships in Birmingham to keep current with new trends. A doctor and two physiotherapists were funded to gain accreditation as international classifiers.

CP-ASRF funded and conducted Come-And-Try days in each state with the cooperation of the state organisations. The program ranged from specific Boccia talent identification in one state's regional areas to multi sport activities across several weekends in other states. A cooperative program in conjunction with the NSW Motor Accident Authority was very successful.

This year, CP-ASRF had a priority of raising soccer's profile and boosting player numbers to develop a team to compete at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. A squad of 16 players has had training camps and played together. Taking part in the 1999 FESPIC Games is the next step in this development program.



RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



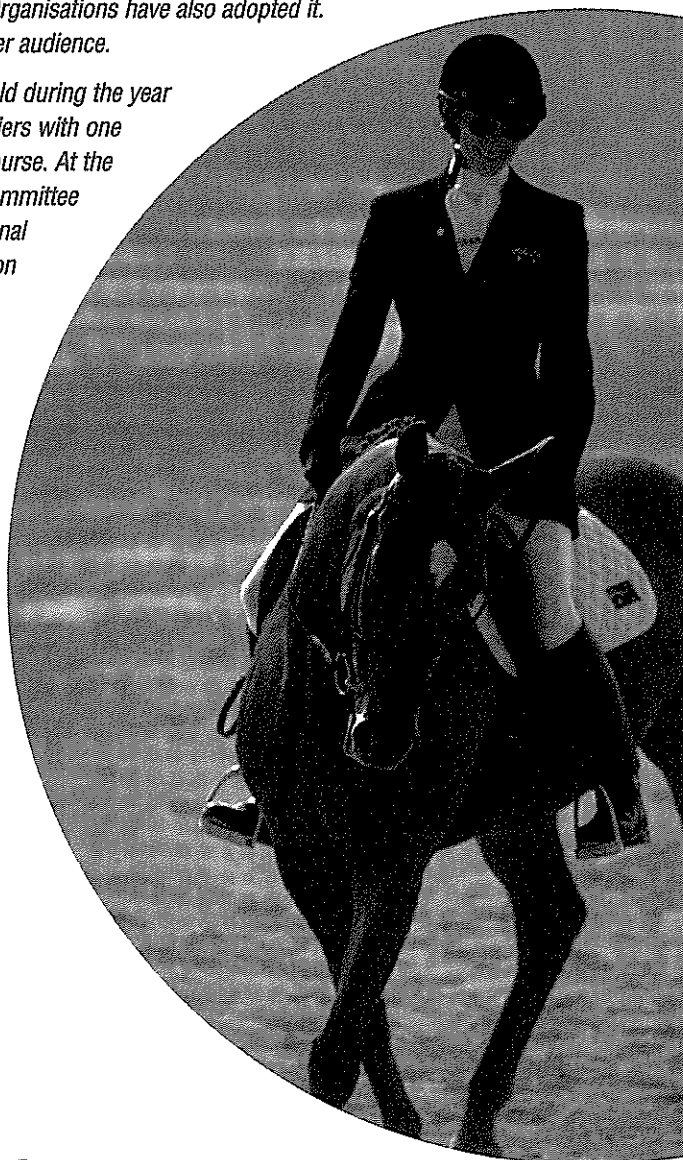
The past year has been one of great progress for the Equestrian discipline of dressage. Level three Equestrian Federation of Australia (EFA) Dressage Coach, National Judge and former successful Grand Prix Dressage rider, Mrs Carolyn Lieutenant was appointed National Coach. Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia (RDAA) and riders have welcomed her expertise and knowledge.

Mrs Lieutenant quickly to expand her knowledge of disabilities and she is now a listed national advisor for equestrian classification. In addition, Mrs Judy Cubitt was appointed Equestrian Chef d' Equipe - further consolidating the management team.

The National Coach has visited Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria to train riders and has invited some of them to attend the training a camp, prior to the RDAA National Championships. In addition, several riders in Grades 1 to four have been identified as developing athletes who have the potential to reach elite level.

In conjunction with the EFA, a system of exemption for riders with a disability to allow them to compete on equal basis in open dressage competitions has operated for the past two years. This system has proven so successful that other National Equestrian Organisations have also adopted it. This has brought the skills of disabled riders to a wider audience.

A classification school for physiotherapists was held during the year and as a result, Australia now has six National Classifiers with one New Zealand physiotherapist also accredited at the course. At the same time, an International Paralympic Equestrian Committee judges course, Australia now has two more international judges and four more international candidate judges on the IPEC list.



DISABLED WINTERSPORT AUSTRALIA

During the past financial year, Disabled WinterSport Australia has continued to expand through participation programs focusing initially on identifying athletes who can be trained to elite level. It is envisaged that building depth within the training squads will ultimately lead to a larger contingent of winter athletes and better representation for Australia at international events.

Major highlights included cooperation agreements with the NSW Sports Council for the Disabled to identify potential athletes. To this end, three ski camps were held during the season with skiers, who exhibited talent and skill, attending an advanced development week later in the season.

In June 1998, it was announced that Australia's winter sport for the disabled would have an alpine head coach. Disabled WinterSport Australia in negotiations with the Australian Sports Commission was able to secure funding for this position through to the Year 2000.

Australian Winter Paralympic Team Head Coach, Canadian, Steve Bova, was appointed to the position and is now based in Jindabyne conducting programs at ski resorts in NSW and Victoria.

This year, a strategic partnership was formed between Disabled WinterSport Australia and the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation to establish the Australian WinterSport Institute for the Disabled - a "Centre of Excellence". An immediate objective is to build extensions to the existing Finsko's Lodge to double the number of beds available for winter disabled athletes and support staff.

For this project, financial support has come from several sources including the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation and the NSW Department of Gaming and Racing.

In March, the Australian Winter Paralympic team trained in Kimberley, Canada then travelled onto Nagano, Japan, to compete at the Winter Paralympic Games. Largely through the efforts of star skier James Paterson, the team maintained Australia's high world ranking in disabled alpine sports.



*THE AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ITS
SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS AND
SUPPLIERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.*

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