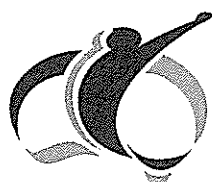


A N N U A L



R E P O R T



AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE



Our Mission

The Australian Paralympic Committee seeks to:

Facilitate success by athletes in Paralympic Games and other elite international events (sanctioned by the International Paralympic Committee).

Encourage participation in sport by people with disabilities.



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President's Report

The past 12 months have been of enormous significance to the growth of the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC). While we are all planning with great anticipation toward the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games next October, the APC has a responsibility to look beyond the 'big event' using the Games themselves as a foundation upon which to build a sustainable future.

The year was highlighted by the continuing success of our athletes whose magnificent performances are documented elsewhere in this report. They continue to set new standards and return rich dividends to our sponsors and supporters. Without placing any unnecessary pressure on our team, we are approaching the 2000 Games with optimism. The fact that we are so well positioned is not only a credit to the hard work and talent of our athletes and their families, but also, to the support provided by our coaching network and our tireless staff at the APC.

As for the longer term targets, the APC Board and Chief Executive, Brendan Flynn, have been planning beyond the Games and have draft budgets prepared for the 2002 Winter Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City and the next Summer Games in Athens in 2004. The challenges in both financial and human resource terms are substantial but not overwhelming. This is one of the reasons we have embarked on a program to establish the Australian Paralympic Foundation, which we hope will leave a lasting financial legacy for future Paralympic teams. The APC has matured significantly in recent years and has earned a justifiable reputation for professionalism and hard work. Having set our targets high for Sydney, we cannot slip back.

One of the priority objectives beyond 2000 will be to find a permanent headquarters for the APC. Our accommodation adjacent to the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) office in Kent Street, Sydney has been excellent, but is temporary. And while we have used the opportunity to establish very good working relationships with the AOC at all levels, we will need to locate a larger and more permanent solution to our accommodation needs in the future.

Our relationships at home have been another priority for the APC Board. Apart from the AOC, we have nurtured a very co-operative relationship with key government agencies, including the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). Our thanks go to ASC Chair, Peter Bartels and to Chief Executive, Jim Ferguson and his staff. We have also improved our links with Federal and State Ministers and Shadow Ministers. We are grateful, on behalf of our athletes, for the financial and other support provided by governments at all levels.

We have been pleased with the level of co-operation with the Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee (SPOC) in recent months. Both our Chief Executive, Brendan Flynn, and Chef de Mission, Paul Bird, are in regular contact with SPOC Chief Executive, Lois Appleby and her staff, and have held discussions on all matters which will affect our athletes at the Games. The Games will be a huge success and will set a new benchmark for Paralympic competition. In pursuing our target we are indebted to our sponsors and donors for their continuing confidence and for their tangible support to our program.

My thanks are also extended to the APC membership and our State Committees. They have provided strong support to the Board during a period of change and challenge. It has been of fundamental importance to our progress that such support has been generously provided.

That support was clearly demonstrated during the 'Vision 2000 Workshop' held at Wiseman's Ferry in July. The occasion brought together a dynamic gathering of athletes, coaches, APC and Team2000 staff, the APC Board and membership representatives. The meeting was clearly a watershed for the APC, and I admit it surpassed my expectations. However, it demonstrated to me the great strength and commitment underpinning our organisation and provided encouragement as we tackle the challenges ahead.

It is time for the APC to develop closer relationships with National Paralympic Committees within its region. Competition that is relatively inexpensive to access is imperative for our own development. In addition, we have a leadership responsibility in the Pacific region to encourage the growth and development of Paralympic sport in countries close to home. A stronger competition base near our shores will help make us stronger. We look forward to taking up that responsibility in the next 12 months and will work with the International Paralympic Committee in pursuing that objective.

This year, the APC Board engaged our Chef de Mission, Paul Bird, as a full time member of our staff. We were delighted that Paul could obtain leave from the Queensland Education Department to take up the position. The decision had both an immediate and positive influence on our Team's preparation for 2000. There is no doubt our Team will be the best prepared ever.

We are fortunate in having two first rate teams - one responsible for the day-to-day management of our office and the second for our 2000 mission.

It is a pleasure to work with such a generous and committed Board and a Chief Executive and staff of such ability. Since taking up the Chief Executive's reins earlier this year, Brendan Flynn has had a significant impact. His impressive background in sport has been a great bonus to the APC and his ability to work productively with the full Paralympic network has earned the respect of all. We enjoy building an organisation with a quality to match that of our athletes, and we look to the future with great optimism.

Greg Hartung
President

President's Report



Chief Executive's Report

The Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) has continued its sprinting momentum towards 2000 and providing a quality service to our elite athletes. As Chief Executive, I am extremely happy with the Team2000 focus and the professional infrastructure the APC has in place. The APC continues to grow and change.

With the Olympic Athlete Program funding from the Federal Government being drastically cut post 2000, many National Sporting Organisations (NSO's) and National Sporting Organisations for the Disabled (NSOD's) will have to look to the future and analyse their growth. The APC, with Team2000, will have no better opportunity to showcase its potential, both current and future, than at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

The APC will enter the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games fielding its biggest team - more athletes, more sports and more staff than ever before. The APC Board appointed Paul Bird full-time Chef de Mission with him commencing duties on 1 July 1999. His Team2000 staff have implemented the most professional and comprehensive program that Australia has ever developed in Paralympic sport. For the first time, Australia will compete in all sports at the Paralympic Games - 18 in total. We are endeavouring to give our athletes every opportunity to repeat or better the fantastic results achieved at the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta.

During the past year, our elite athletes have once again excelled. Outstanding results have been achieved in many sports including Athletics, Basketball, Cycling, Shooting, Swimming, Rugby and Tennis. Our Equestrian squad is in final preparations for the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) World Championship and we wish them well in this competition.

Our winter squad continues its preparation for the 2000 IPC World Championships and the 2002 Winter Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City, USA. With the generous financial assistance from the Federal Government, through the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), Head Coach Steve Bova is developing a broader base of athletes and, with input from Disabled WinterSport Australia, the NSW Winter Academy of Sport and the APC, the future looks promising.

The past 12 months have seen significant changes within the APC. A new Chief Executive, new Manager Sport, new Project Officer plus, the professional services provided by the people in our office, my APC staff. They are, without doubt, the best sporting administration team I have had the pleasure to work with.

The APC continues in co-sharing office premises with the Australian Olympic Committee. The support we receive from President John Coates, Secretary-General Craig McLatchey, Director Sport Craig Phillips, their staff and the professional liaison has been extremely important to the APC. Of course, our athletes' performances would not be possible without the professional contribution of our very committed and dedicated coaches, managers, medical staff, volunteers and other support staff.

To the NSOD's a personal thanks for your open communication and increased involvement during this period. I look forward to working together as a team up to and including the 2000 Paralympic Games. To the relevant NSO's, State Institutes, Academies of Sport and the Australian Institute of Sport, through the National Elite Sports Council, sincere thanks for your commitment to, and support for, athletes with a disability. We are stepping together into the new millennium.

The APC records our deep gratitude to the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW, Adecco, Telstra, Ansett Australia, EnergyAustralia, Colliers Jardine and AMP and to the Registered Clubs Association of NSW, the Club Managers Association of Australia, Lions Australia, Ffreesite, Reebok and Woolmark for their continued support and commitment.

The APC must also record its appreciation to the ASC and Federal Government for their continuing financial support and the professional working relationships we both have worked so hard to achieve.

In closing, my personal thanks to the President, Greg Hartung and his dedicated Board for their governance, and to all the State Committees and their staff for their support and significant contribution.

Brendan Flynn
Chief Executive

Finance and Administration Report

It is pleasing to report that despite the increased staff and work load as we approach 2000, the office finances and administration are in "good shape".

The results of our major review of office procedures in 1997/98 are providing us with the opportunity to meet the challenges as they arise. My thanks, particularly, to Rod Anderson, who has been instrumental in implementing the improved procedures.

Our results for the year under review (i.e. to 30 June 1999) are satisfactory in that we finished with a small surplus of some \$16,000, after income in excess of \$4.1million, and expenditure of a similar amount.

Income for the year increased over that of last year, principally from

- a) an increased grant from the Australian Sports Commission, and
- b) higher income from fundraising and sponsors.

Similarly, our expenditure increased, due to

- a) a higher level of spending in the Paralympic Preparation Program, and
- b) increased administration costs, principally in salaries and wages.

A summarised Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 1999, together with a Balance Sheet at 30 June 1999 is given below.

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

Income and Expenditure Statement (in \$000)		1999	1998
Income			
Australian Sports Commission	1,975	1,382	
Sale of certain marketing rights to SPOC	1,294	765	
Fundraising and sponsors	790	112	
Investment income	50	150	
Other	5	18	
	<u>4,114</u>	<u>2,427</u>	
Expenditure			
Athletes and international competition	2,518	2,078	
Promotions, marketing and media	388	184	
Administration	<u>1,192</u>	<u>677</u>	
	<u>4,098</u>	<u>2,939</u>	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>16</u>	<u>(512)</u>	
Balance Sheet (in \$000)			
Assets			
Cash and investments	2,199	2,883	
Other (receivables, etc.)	<u>1,586</u>	<u>2,777</u>	
	<u>3,785</u>	<u>5,660</u>	
Liabilities			
Creditors and provisions	135	732	
Deferred revenue/grants	<u>1,792</u>	<u>3,086</u>	
	<u>1,927</u>	<u>3,818</u>	
Net Assets	<u>1,858</u>	<u>1,842</u>	

Marketing Report

The past year has been very exciting, in terms of Marketing and Fundraising, for the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC).

Recognition in the marketplace of the Paralympic brand is steadily increasing - both through the APC's and the Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee's (SPOC) efforts. This increased consumer awareness is helping to drive interest from corporate supporters as well as through our fundraising efforts, nationally and on a state basis.

There is still the issue of confusion about the roles of the APC and SPOC, however it is diminishing and will obviously no longer exist after November 2000!

This increased awareness helps across the board. Corporate sponsors can see commercial benefit beyond "good corporate citizenry". Service clubs and groups such as Lions Australia have increased their activity relative to the raised profile of individual support, through contributions, donations and many other methods.

The main event, during the past 12 months, has been the EnergyAustralia Gold Cup. Held in Sydney during October 1998, the world's best men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams came to Sydney for their international championships. While the eventual winners were the USA Men's and the Canadian Women's teams. Australia was a respectable bronze medallist in the Women's and fourth in the Men's. Wheelchair Basketball and elite disabled sport took an enormous boost in this country.

The success was due, in the main, to the inspiring promotional work undertaken by EnergyAustralia and the great promotional program (including a major school program) by SPOC. Noisy crowds of 1000-plus at the State Sports Centre and regular coverage on ABC TV (with some solid ratings) helped get Wheelchair Basketball to a large audience. The Gold Cup was awarded the Best Sporting Event in NSW from the NSW Sports Federation and EnergyAustralia has received countless industry plaudits for its campaign.

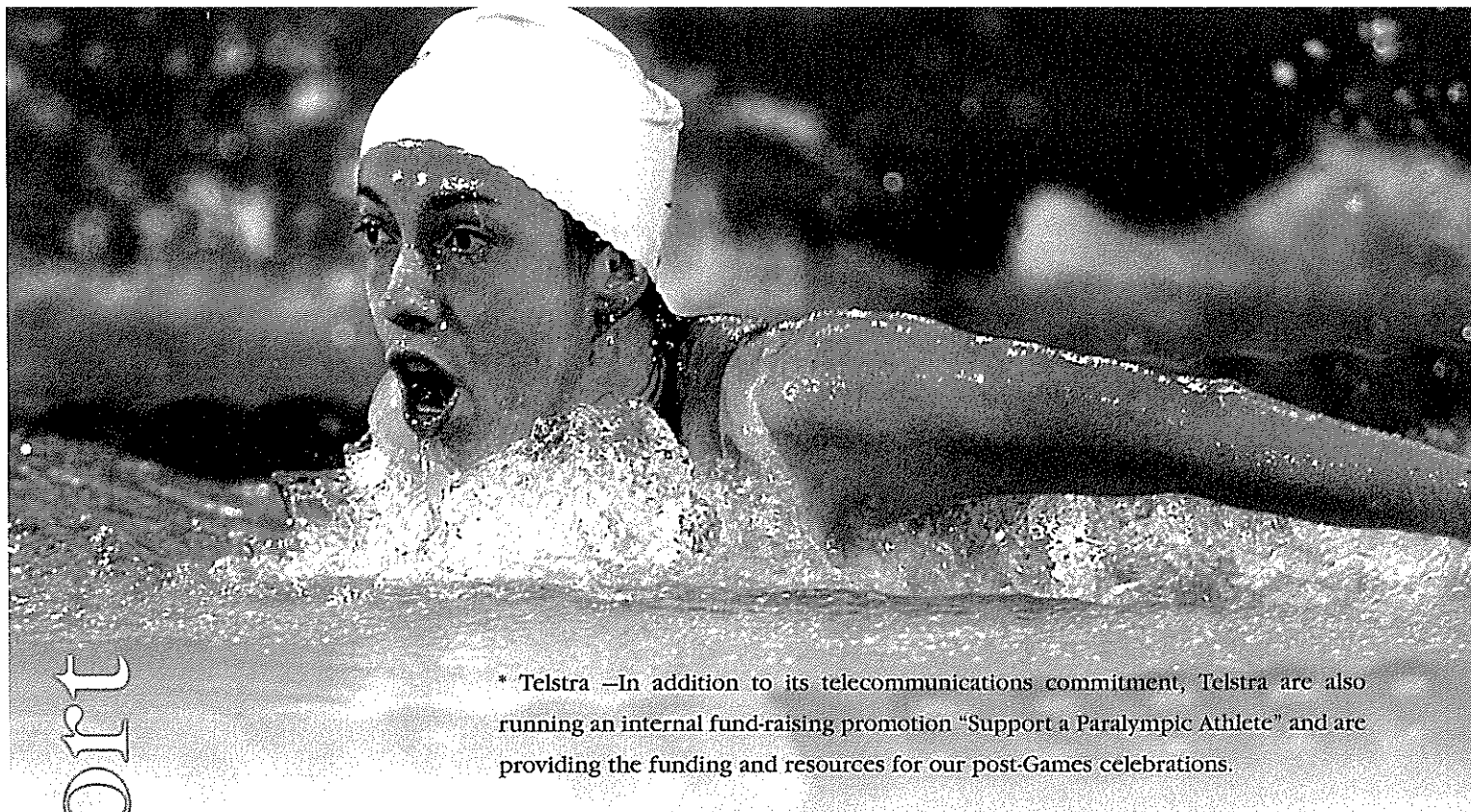
So successful was the EnergyAustralia Gold Cup that EnergyAustralia has continued its support as naming rights sponsors of both the Men's and Women's Australian Wheelchair Basketball Squads.

Other recent additions to the Sponsor Register include:

* AMP - naming rights sponsor of the APC Athletics squad

* Fforesite - provider of all the APC's internet services and assembly of our database system.





* Telstra —In addition to its telecommunications commitment, Telstra are also running an internal fund-raising promotion "Support a Paralympic Athlete" and are providing the funding and resources for our post-Games celebrations.

* Reebok - supplier of Team2000 competition and casual clothing.

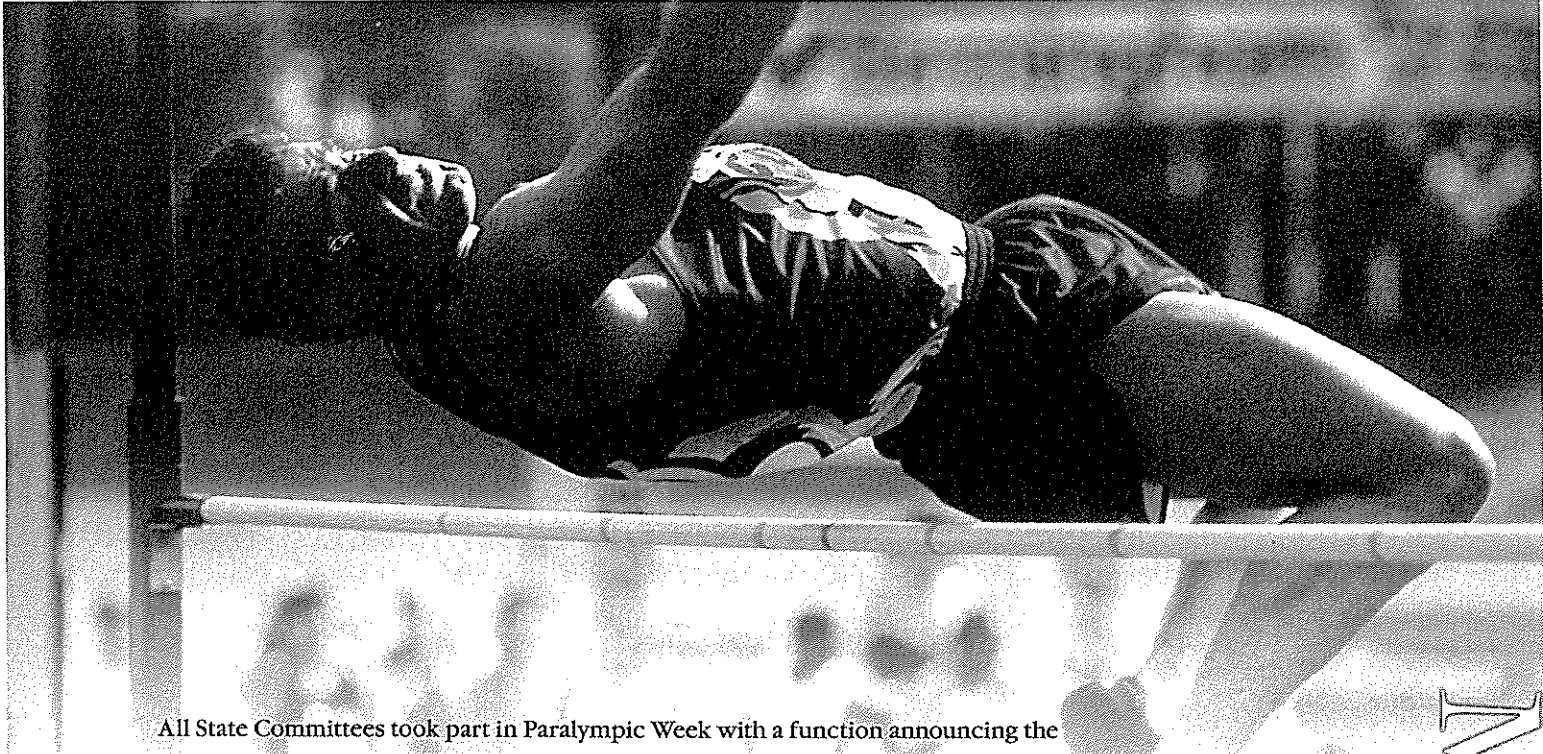
They join our other sponsors and supporters in providing cash and value-in-kind services to the APC. We thank them very much for their continued support.

The State Committees have again performed minor miracles in generating significant income to the APC. Firstly we welcomed Tony Wright and his formative Tasmanian Committee. In terms of fundraising, Queensland again led the way under Executive Officer Gerard Gossens and Chair Gerry Murphy's expert leadership. Their experienced committee and team contributing significant resources and support to their local athletes.

NSW, with its brand new committee chaired by Peter Dawson is making some major inroads and, in fact, has secured a \$150,000 one off grant as well as other ongoing support from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation to help secure its future.

The Victorians, under Max Kirwan's chair and Nicole Kirwan as Executive Officer are working hard with great initiatives such as gala dinners at Crown Casino and other planned activities.

Marie Little's South Australian, Maurice Frichot's West Australian and Ron Cahill's ACT Committees have also been very productive under completely voluntary staff. Each of these Committees will benefit from the addition of full time Executive Officers who will be in place late 1999. In addition, NSW will also have a full time Executive Officer based out of Sport and Recreation's departmental headquarters

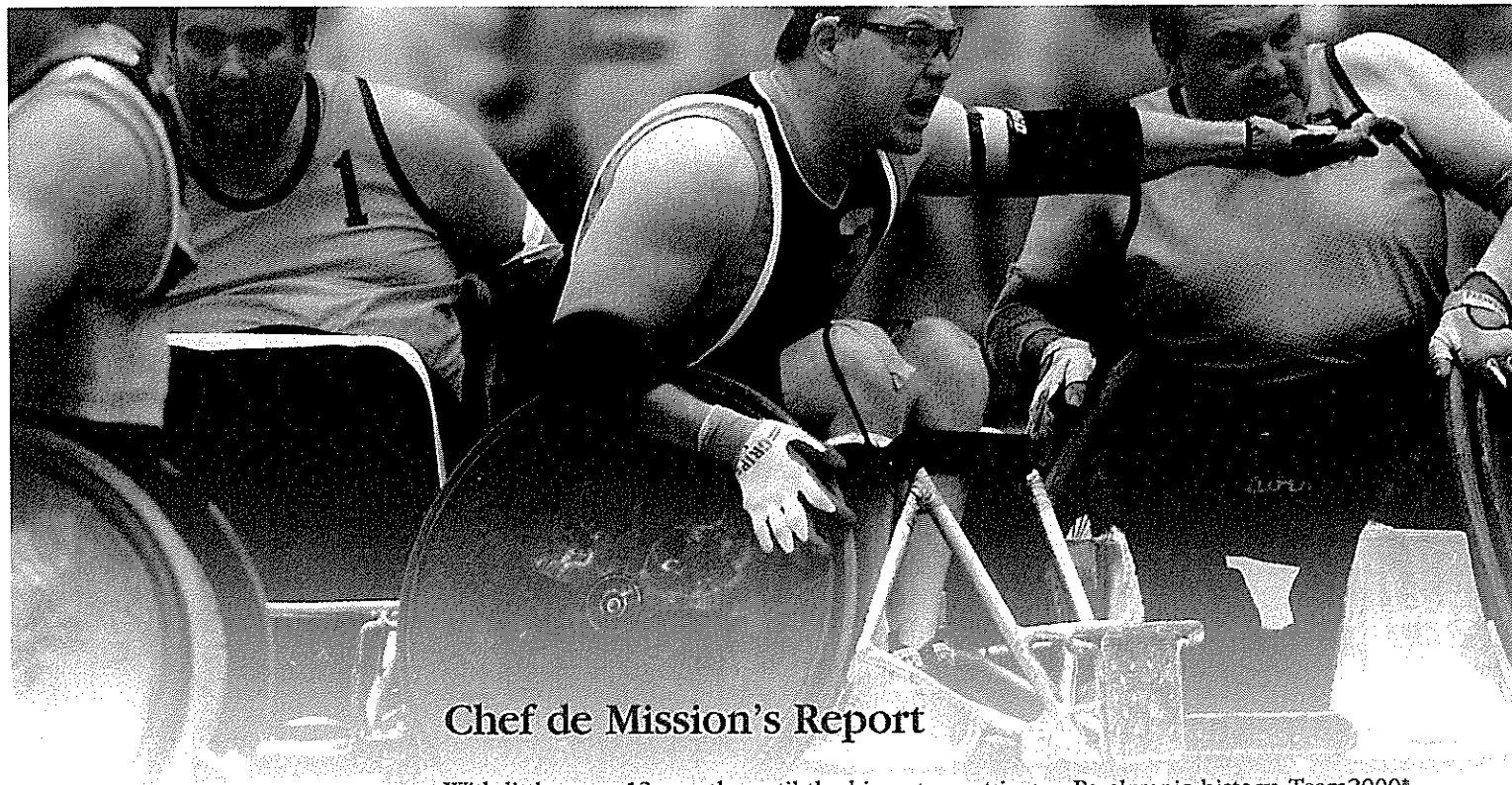


All State Committees took part in Paralympic Week with a function announcing the APC Team2000 Training Squad. Other features of Paralympic Week included a press briefing on Team2000 progress, the Victorian Gala Black Tie dinner at Crown Casino, sponsor activities with MAA and Telstra and other events in each State. While simple in execution, press coverage from this year's Paralympic Week was again greater than last year, showing that interest, generally, is increasing.

Looking forward, there is a great deal to be done in the next 12 months to capitalise on the Games and our team's performance. We will be working hard with all the Paralympic (both Games and APC) sponsors to maximise their exposure to and benefit from - the team. We will also be encouraging them to use their sponsorships and actually promote their Athletes/Teams/Games association in press and electronic media. Who will be the first company with a dedicated Paralympic advertising campaign?

The APC is also working closely with all the State Committees to ensure that the tools, systems and processes are in place to better serve their needs and maximise their return beyond 2000. This includes much closer working relationships with the national office and clearer direction.

Finally, with Team2000 and the APC generally, we will be working hard to build equity in the Paralympic brand in this country. Our mission is to ensure a lasting legacy of broad recognition, acceptance and enthusiasm for our sports - and the financial gains that recognition brings.



Chef de Mission's Report

With little more 12 months until the biggest event in our Paralympic history, Team2000* is in great shape and on target to achieve outstanding success and elevated profile for the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) beyond 2000.

The Team2000 structure is focussing on a committed service to athletes through the four core programs of Sport; Operations; Administration; and Communications. This structure is now fully operational under the direction of the four Assistant Chefs de Mission and guided by the Team2000 Strategic Plan and the Coaches and Managers Guide.

A key strategy to promote and share the direction of Team2000 was the "Vision 2000 Workshop" held in late July. The workshop brought together a wide cross section of participants representing the key stakeholders of our Paralympic family, who joined with staff, coaches and athletes from the APC Team2000 Training Squad. Key outcomes saw the embedding of the Team2000 structure and an unequivocal affirmation for the strategic direction being taken for our participation in the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

Significantly, the APC Team2000 Training Squad was launched at separate state functions during Paralympic Week this year. The squad - made up of more than 280 athletes - representing the full complement of 18 sports was broken into two distinct groups - Medal Potential and Team Member. The differentiation allows for more resources to be directed to the Medal Potential squad and opportunities for athletes outside both squads to vie for inclusion based on current performance. The "Australian Paralympic Committee Team2000" will be announced nationally in July 2000, during Paralympic Week.

A major component of the Operations Program, "Team Processing" is due to start shortly. My thanks are extended to Team2000 volunteers and APC staff, athletes, coaches and National Sports Organisations for the Disabled for their patience as this major logistical exercise is unfolding. Reebok and Yakka targeted all potential Team2000 members for Team Processing that will include induction and the all-important uniform fitting and measurement session. We are extremely excited about the team uniform image we will portray during the Games.



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Archery

PPP Coordinator: Steve Jennison

After disappointing results at the 1998 International Paralympic Committee World Championships, the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) Archery athletes have made steady progress in the past year.

The two current squad members, Arthur Fisk (W2) and Tony Marturano (standing) have achieved some excellent results in FITA Star competitions. Olympic Athlete Program Archery Head Coach, Kei Sik Lee, has assisted with coaching at training camps and competition, along with Steve Jennison and Jim Larven.

There are a number of archers on the fringe of PPP selection and a major aim will be to develop a strong team for the 1999 World Qualifying Championships and the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

The support of Northern Archers Archery Club is much appreciated.

Athletics

Head Coach: Chris Nunn • Throws Coach: Scott Goodman

Assistant Throws Coach: Peter Negropontis • Sprints Coach: Brett Jones

Assist Sprints Coach: Lorraine Feddema • Distance Coach: Di Barnes

Wheelchair Coach: Andrew Dawes • Manager: Jason Hellwig

Following a successful tour of Madrid and Birmingham in 1998, a full review of the athletics program was conducted in November 1998. It was apparent that while the program continued to rely on voluntary management and coaching, many athletes would not reach their full potential by October 2000. To address this issue, Scott Goodman was appointed as a full-time athletics coach for the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) in April 1999.

Since then the momentum within the athletics squad has increased significantly and individual feedback to athletes and coaches has been excellent. The improvements in performances are evident across each of the discipline groups.

The appointment of Jason Hellwig (currently Athletics Australia's National Development Manager) as the manager of the AMP Team2000 Athletics Squad has ensured the continued excellent relationship the squad has with Athletics Australia. Jason has negotiated access for athletes during the Athletics Australia Grand Prix Series. Importantly, the able-bodied National Championships in 2000 will be the Olympic test event where Paralympic Preparation Program athletes will have access to competition within Stadium Australia.

While there have been many outstanding successes for the squad to date, Louise Sauvage, Amy Winters, Neil Fuller, Lisa Llorens and Lachlan Jones have maintained high performance standards. One of the exciting features of the program has been the continued improvement from athletes including Stephen Eaton - 34.27m new world record in F34 discuss; 15-year-old Murray Goldfinch - two bronze medals at the International Paralympic Committee World Athletics Championships; Tim Matthews - the fastest Paralympian in the world with 10.87secs for 100m; Lisa McIntosh - continues to show improvement in the sprint events; Jeff McNeil T11 (2:49.50); and Roy Daniel T13 (2:45.10), now ranked in the top two in the world for the marathon.

The athletics squad has the cohesion, discipline and commitment to ensure success. We wish to thank the APC for its ongoing support, the medical staff for the advice given to coaches and athletes and each of the families who play such a large role in the preparation of the squad.





Basketball - Men's

Men's Basketball

Head Coach: Tony Guihot

Assistant Coach: Ian Macleod

Assistant Coach: Matthew McKenna

Manager: Michael Hudson

The Men's Basketball team for athletes with an intellectual disability has made remarkable improvements during the past 12 months. Held in November 1998, the World Championships saw two teams progress to the semi-finals with Australia being beaten 57-73 by Spain and 70-66 by Poland. On previous occasions Australia was beaten by Spain 91-19 and by Poland 62-39, so this shows a remarkable improvement. Australia beat Mexico 107-18, Japan 96-35 and Greece 72-49 to secure fifth place. The most outstanding player for Australia during this tournament was Justin Wrblk.

National championships were held in Brisbane, Queensland, in July 1999. Victoria Metropolitan was the winning team, beating New South Wales, with Queensland third. The Japanese national team again competed in the championships and it is hoped that New Zealand will also be able to compete in 2000. At the conclusion of the national championships a revised Paralympic Preparation Program squad was announced with five new members added.

The next 12 months is something we look forward to with the knowledge that we will exhaust every possibility in our attempt to optimise our performance at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

Basketball - Wheelchair Men

Head Coach: Bob Turner • Assistant Coach: Richard Oliver

Assistant Coach: Michael Walker

Assistant Coach: Greg Warneke • Manager: Fred Heidt

The old adage is "Sometimes you have nothing to gain and everything to lose!" and this seemed to apply to the EnergyAustralia Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team at the commencement of the year.

Following the euphoria of the gold medal winning effort at the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta, the EnergyAustralia men's team was putting its "number one" ranking on the line at the World Wheelchair Basketball Championship (EnergyAustralia Gold Cup) in Sydney, October 1998. While the records will show that Australia dropped from number one to number four in world ranking, not all was lost and indeed much was gained.

A highlight for the year was the decision to rename the team the "Aussie Rollers" (for marketing purposes). While this may not seem particularly significant, it contributed greatly to increasing public recognition of the team and its performances.

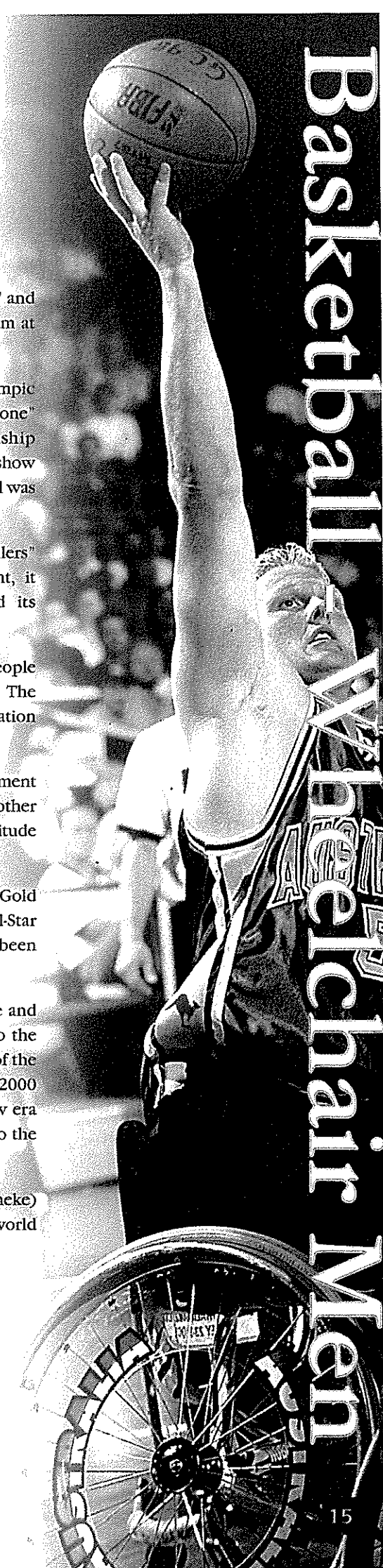
This was no more evident than at the Gold Cup when a crowd of 4000 people cheered on the Aussie Rollers in their first tournament on home soil. The EnergyAustralia Gold Cup was the culmination of an extensive preparation program that was fully funded by the Australian Paralympic Committee.

In the final analysis, the Australian team played below its potential in a tournament where the top six teams were highly competitive and could have beaten each other on any given day. The Aussie Rollers were caught short in two main areas - attitude and fitness.

It is worth recognising the individual performances at the EnergyAustralia Gold Cup and, in doing so, highlight the selection of Sandy Blythe in the World All-Star Five at that competition. Blythe is one of only five Australians to have been awarded this honour in the history of this sport.

Looking back on the year, one can reflect on a number of changes that have and will occur. Coach Bob Turner has graduated from his initial introduction to the team and the dramatic learning curve associated with the wheelchair version of the game. He is now perfectly placed to take the team forward to the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. Changes in the make-up of the squad have heralded a new era for the Aussie Rollers in that a significant injection of youth has been added to the squad.

Further changes to the coaching staff (ie, add Michael Walker and Greg Warneke) have resulted in an off-court team that is equal or better than anything in the world of wheelchair basketball.





Basketball - Wheelchair Women

Head Coach: Peter Corr

Assistant Coaches: Tracy York

Assistant Coaches: Michael Callahan

Manager: Kevin Smith

It has proven to be another exciting year for the Women's Basketball Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) highlighted by the achievement of a bronze medal at the World Wheelchair Basketball Championship (EnergyAustralia Gold Cup) in Sydney in October 1998. Following the EnergyAustralia Gold Cup event, three additional players were added to the PPP squad. One of the outstanding achievements of the EnergyAustralia Gold Cup was Liesl Tesch being named in the World All-Star Five for the second consecutive year. At the same time, Tesch was acknowledged as being the top point scorer and top rebounder for the Australian Team.

During April and May 1999, the EnergyAustralian Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team was invited to Japan by the Kinki Wheelchair Basketball Association and the Japanese Wheelchair Basketball Federation to participate in a celebration of their 25th anniversary. The team achieved a clean sweep of the series winning all tour games and the three test matches with a highlight being the 61-25 final win in front of the Japanese royal family. During the tour, the team was honoured to have had an audience with the Emperor of Japan at the official team dinner.

The appointment of Michael Callahan as assistant coach has proven to add significant value to the teams' ongoing preparation for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. As a multiple Paralympian, Michael brings with him a great deal of experience, complementing the work of Tracy York.

It is apparent that through the establishment of a regular Women's Club Championship, the National Women's program has gained significantly in the sense that players are able to participate in regular matches. This initiative of the national team aims to ensure that preparations for the Paralympic Games in Sydney are enhanced, and to ensure a successful future beyond 2000.

The sponsorship by EnergyAustralia as team sponsor has been outstanding and its support is highly valued by all those involved in the program.

Boccia

Head Coach: Walter Collalti

Manager and Assistant Coach: Joan Stevens

During the past year, the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) Boccia squad has continued its preparation for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games under the direction of Head Coach Walter Collalti.

At the October 1998 New Zealand Championships, athletes Daniel Collalti, John Richardson and Lyn Coleman won gold medals in the BC1 category while Karen Stewart took a bronze in the BC3 pairs event.

At the Australian national championships in November 1998, Stewart won a gold medal in the BC3 individual event; Scott Elswood scooped a gold medal in the BC2 individual event; while in the BC1 individual event, Richardson won gold with Collalti taking the silver.

PPP Boccia squad training camps continue to take place and form the basis of athlete preparations for the Games. Along with tactical skills, the camps provide players with the opportunity to refine their physical and mental preparations as well as to participate in physiotherapy and hydrotherapy.



Boccia

Cycling

Head Coach: Kevin McIntosh

Assistant Coach: Ken Norris

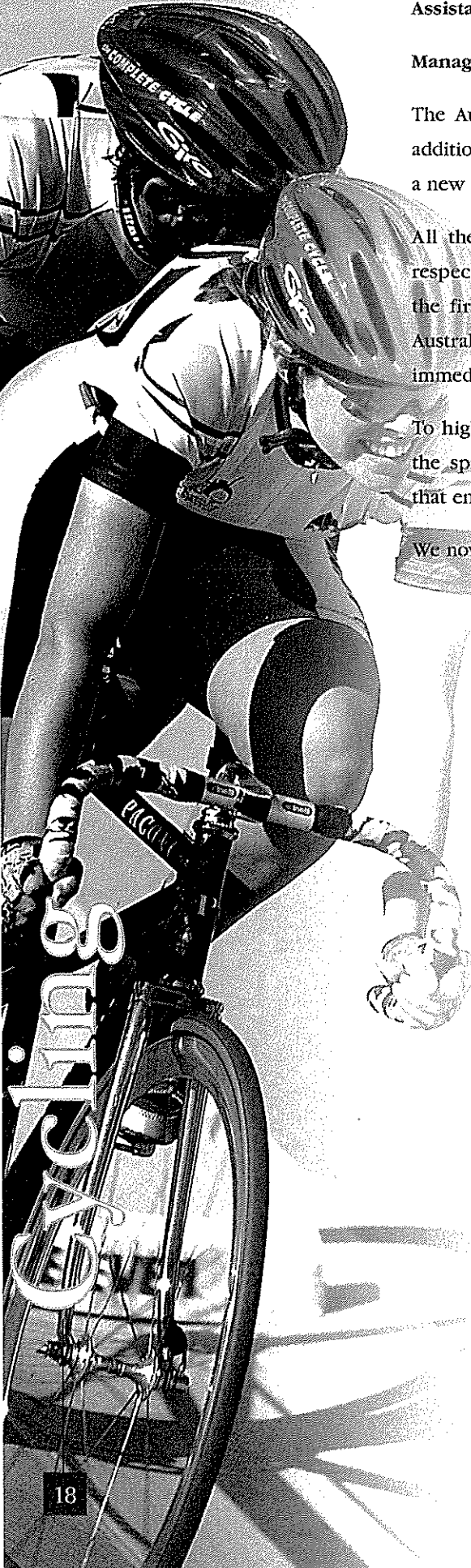
Manager: Elsa Lepore

The Australian cycling squad is currently ranked number one in the world. In addition to the medals won, members of the team broke 12 world records and set a new record in a category where there was not one previously.

All the medal-winning cyclists are also current Australian champions in their respective divisions. Held at the Perth Speed Dome in March, the nationals were the first fully integrated elite able-bodied/disabled cycling championships. The Australian Cycling Federation has agreed to continue this relationship in the immediate future.

To highlight one member from this extraordinary squad would be impossible as the spirit is one that is shared by all members of the team, as is any success that ensues.

We now look forward to the next 12 months with much optimism.



Equestrian

Head Coach: Carolyn Lieutenant

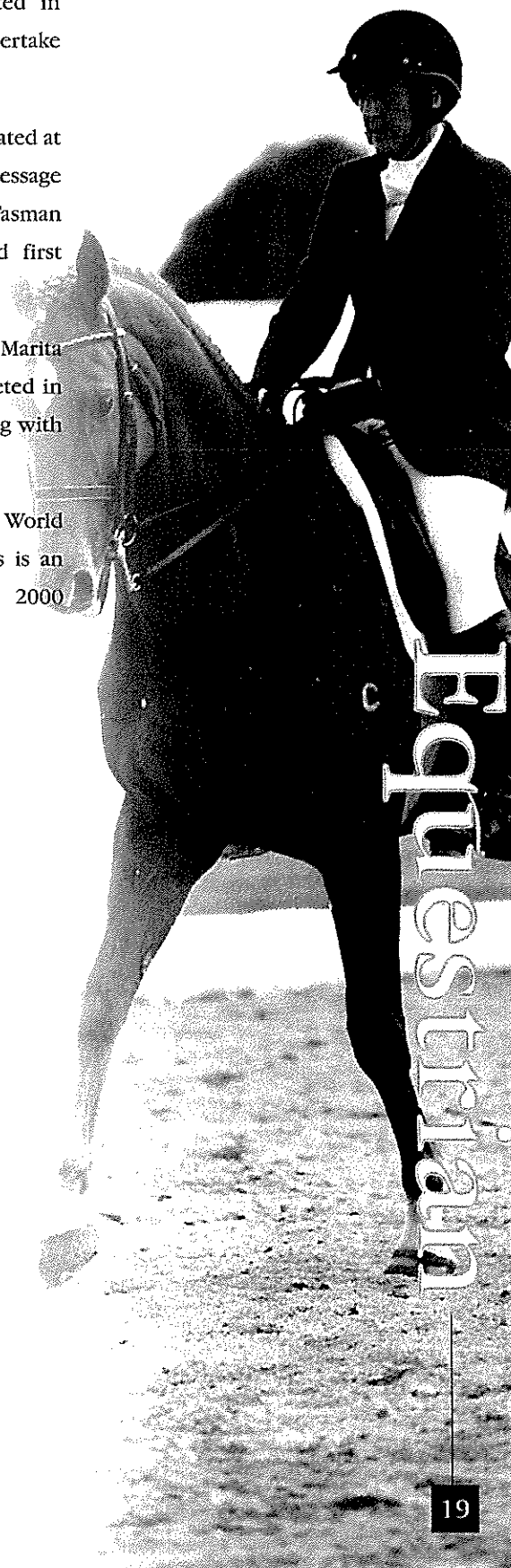
Chef d' Equipe: Judy Cubitt

The performance of the Equestrian squad in 1998/99 has continued to reflect the commitment and dedication of the staff and athletes. Lead by Head Coach Carolyn Lieutenant, Paralympic Preparation Program squad members participated in several training camp activities to practice riding on a variety of horses, undertake sport psychology and work on technical aspects.

For the first time, teams from New Zealand, Great Britain and Japan participated at the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia (RDAA) National Dressage Championships (October 1998). Of the four squads contesting the Trans-Tasman Team Challenge at this event, the two Australian squads were placed first and second.

In April 1999, a squad of seven riders including Jan Pike, Charmaine Dalli, Marita Hird, Vicki Reardon, Debbie Shearer, Liz Pugh and Georgina Bruce competed in the New Zealand Trans-Tasman event. The results achieved were outstanding with the team recording eight firsts, four seconds and three third placings.

Following a terrific build up in the past year, the squad is now looking to the World Dressage Championships to be held in Denmark in late July 1999. This is an important benchmark event for riders in preparation for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.



Fencing

Head Coach: Sally Kopiec

The past year has proven to be a strong one for the Paralympic Preparation Program Fencing squad with members participating in several international events and delivering some impressive performances.

Athlete Robert Goodwin achieved an individual bronze in the 1998 Fespics Games while the team of Goodwin, Michael Alston and Aaron Bourne took a silver medal.

During the Japanese National Championships, Goodwin won a gold medal in the Epee and a silver medal in the Foil. At the Stoke Mandeville Games, Goodwin was again successful taking a gold medal in the Foil and a silver in the Sabre, while Alston won gold in the Foil. In the DEFI Sports Event, in Canada, Alston took a silver medal in the Epee and a bronze in the Sabre. And lastly, at the World Team Cup A-events held in Italy, both Goodwin and Alston improved on the results achieved at the World Championships in 1998.

The support of the Blacktown City Council is gratefully acknowledged.





Football

Head Coach: Russell Marriott

Assistant Coach: David Campbell

Manager: Cornelis Van Eldik

In March 1999, soccer players with cerebral palsy representing six states were brought together to trial for the first Paralympic Preparation Program Football squad. Twelve athletes were selected from this trial.

Two more training camps have been held at the Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen and the management is continuing to scout for new talent. The aim of the program is to build a competitive Australian team to compete in the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games, having qualified automatically as the host nation.

The squad is looking forward to a four-game test series against The Netherlands (gold medallist at the 1996 Paralympic Games and silver medallists at the World Championships) in Sydney in October. The test series will be good game-play time for the squad and will ensure they gain vital international competition experience.

Goalball - Men

Head Coach: Sam Theodore • Assistant Coach: Robert Apps

Australia placed ninth at the 1998 International Blind Sports Association World Championships in Madrid, which was a disappointing result compared to fourth place at the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta.

The Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) Goalball squad has held several training camps during the past year to develop effective combinations and refine style of play.

The current squad consists of nine athletes and support staff. Three PPP athletes, in particular, deserve a mention. Warren Lawton is attempting to compete at his fifth Paralympic Games - twice competing in athletics and three times as a goalball player. The other two athletes vying for similar honours are Robert Crestani and Kevin Frew who are attempting to compete at their fourth Paralympic Games as goalball players.

Goalball - Women

Head Coach: Terry Kenaghan

Following a poor result - tenth place - at the 1998 International Blind Sports Association World Championships in Madrid, the women's squad has specifically looked at talent identification and positional play to improve its performance.

Squad training has been formatted around the content of the "Psychological and Physical Training Programs of Goalballers" - a manual produced by Geoff Pearce and Patsy Tremayne of the University of Western Sydney - Macarthur's Department of Sport Studies. The support of the university has been invaluable to the sport of Goalball.



Judo

Head Coach: Trevor Kschammer

Athlete Anthony Clarke continued his march towards the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games in fine style this year.

Competing in the 90kg weight class, Clarke won a gold medal at the International Blind Sports Association World Championships in Madrid, in August 1998. Clarke continues to participate in both Paralympic and able-bodied competitions in preparation for the Paralympic Games and has continued to achieve outstanding results. Some of Clarke's notable performances are First at the 1998 Kokodan Australian National Titles, Adelaide (under 90kg) and First at the 1998 Kokodan SA State Titles, Adelaide (under 90kg).

Both Trevor Kschammer and Clarke continue to maintain a strong and clear focus on the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games with the Paralympic Preparation Program providing the necessary support to enable this goal to be achieved.





Powerlifting

National Coach: Blagoi Blagoev

Assistant Coach: John Woods (for World Championships, Dubai, Oct 1998)

Assistant Coach: Ray Epstein (appointed up to and including Sydney 2000)

During 1998/99, the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) Powerlifting squad has continued to make progress towards success at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. Head Coach Blagoi Blagoev's leadership and knowledge has been the catalyst to the squad's steady improvements.

In the 1998 Telstra National Championships, new Australian Records were set by Sue Twelftree, Vicki Machen, Melissa Trafela, Wayne Sharpe, Richard Nicholson and Kahi Puru.

A squad of 12 lifters attended the 1998 International Paralympic Committee World Championships in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) in October 1998. Lifter Julie Russell in 82.5+kg class took a silver medal -the Australian squad's highlight of the tour. Other placings included Kim Neuenkirchen - fourth 75kg class (Lift 60kg); Wayne Sharpe - fifth 48kg class (Lift 122.5kg); Richard Nicholson - fifth 56kg class (Lift 162.5kg); Paul Hyde - 15th 75kg class (Lift 160kg); Steve Green - ninth 82.5kg class (Lift 177.5kg); Darren Gardiner - eighth 100kg class (Lift 182.5kg); Shaun Cavuoto - sixth 100kg class (Lift 187.5kg); Kahi Puru - seventh 100+kg class (Lift 205kg); Mick Farrell - ninth 100+kg class (Lift 195kg); Martin Burley - 13th 100kg class (Lift of 167.5kg) Unfortunately veteran Brian McNicholl was forced to withdraw from the competition with an injury.

Martin Burley retired from lifting in February 1999 due to injury, but will continue his association with the sport as a referee. Dual Paralympian and Seoul Paralympic Games bronze medallist, Mick Farrell, has also recently retired due to business and family commitments. Farrell will be missed as a squad member and also for his valuable contribution as athlete representative on the Sports Advisory Committee, a role now filled by Richard Nicholson.

Thanks are extended to the Australian Weightlifting Federation, the Queensland Weightlifting Association, the NSW Powerlifting Association and Paul Waters from NSW, for the continuing support.

Rugby

Head Coach: Terry Vinyard

Assistant Coach: Glenn Stephens

Assistant Coach: Nicholas Bailey

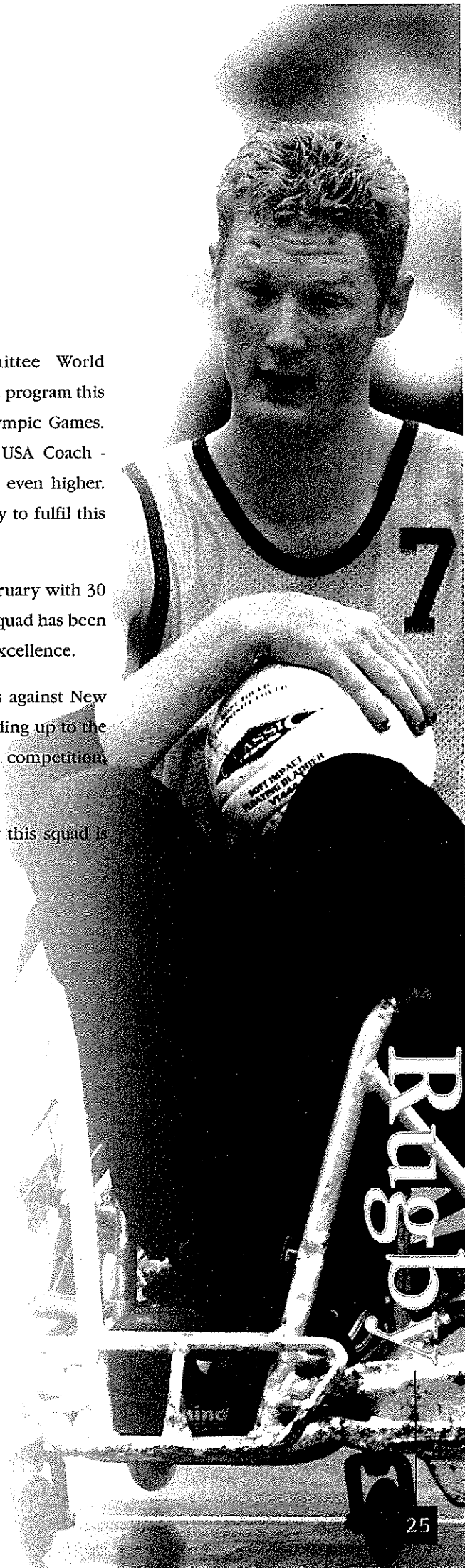
Manager: Kim Elwood

After coming fifth in the International Paralympic Committee World Championships, a review highlighted that given the right support and program this team had great potential in the build up to the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. With the appointment of Terry Vinyard as Head Coach (former USA Coach - Paralympic gold medal) the expectations of this team were raised even higher. Selection camps held early in 1998 identified players with the ability to fulfil this potential.

The Paralympic Preparation Program Rugby squad held trials in February with 30 athletes selected from around Australia. About six months later the squad has been cut to a group of 12 cohesive and determined athletes, striving for excellence.

The squad participated in a friendly international three-game series against New Zealand (World number two) and won the series 2-1. The plan, leading up to the Paralympic Games, includes camps and extensive international competition, particularly against NZ and USA.

Everyone involved with the program is excited about the headway this squad is making and this has created a great team environment.



Rugby

Sailing

Head Coach: Lachlan Gilbert

It has been a busy year for Sailing's Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) including identifying recruits for the Sonar class that Australia will contest for the first time at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

Head Coach Lachlan Gilbert has continued to guide the activities and training programs of the PPP Sailing squad. In the 2.4mR, Peter Thompson maintained his world ranking of 1998, and was unbeaten in Australia in the disabled division. Peter won all bar the NSW Championships in the Open category in Australia, and finished 10th overall in the Open Swedish Championships. He has purchased a new boat, custom made to his requirements, and is gearing up for the first selection series on October 1999.

Michael McLean continues to improve. Although unable to finish ahead of Peter in any regatta to date, Michael can now give Peter much needed competition. Michael has also purchased a new boat, and has committed himself to a "time off without pay" philosophy to gain Paralympic selection.

Thanks must go to Australian Yachting Federation (AYF) High Performance Manager Tracey Johnstone, who has successfully bought the Sailing program under the AYF's banner. This will enable the considerable data, resource's and sponsors of the AYF to be used by the PPP squad.





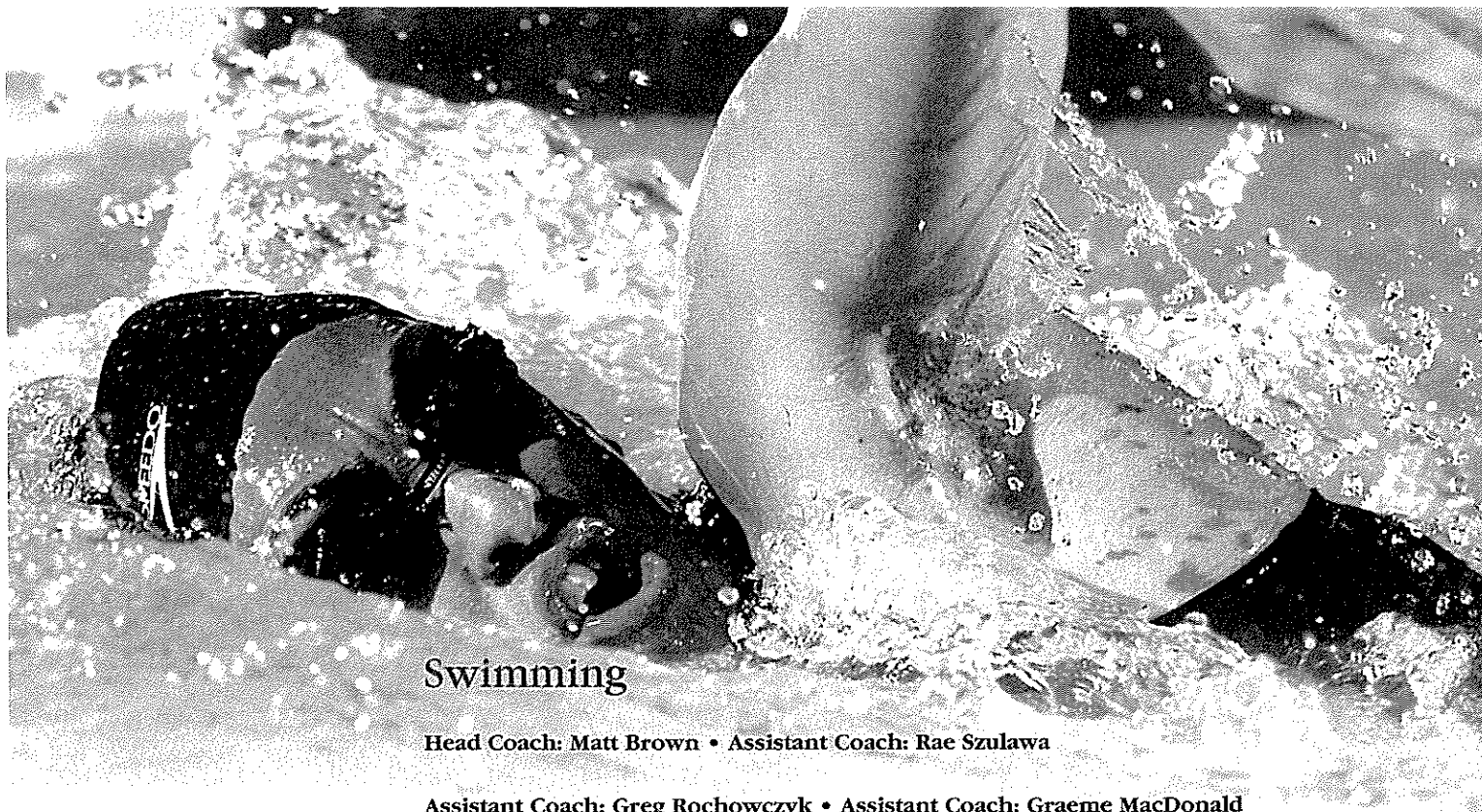
Shooting

Head Coach/rifle coach: Yvonne Hill

Assistant Coach - pistol: Lucky Anagnostou

Under the guidance of Yvonne Hill and Lucky Anagnostou, the "Shooting Stars" or the Paralympic Preparation Program Shooting squad has had a strong year with regular training camps and competitions. The squad also participated in a number of international competitions including events in Thailand, Korea and Germany.

Some of the notable individual achievements included a perfect score and equal Australian and World Record in Air Rifle Prone achieved by Libby Kosmala. Peter Tait came first in sport pistol in Germany - a personal best score and higher than Germany's National Record. Ashley Adams produced a sixth place finish in the able-bodied Australia Cup Final in the English Match. Additionally, Peter Shannon and Stan Kosmala achieved personal bests in international competition. In the past 12 months, National Records were also set by Jim Nomarhas in Sport and Free Pistol, by Libby Kosmala in Air Standing (women), Air Prone (mixed), English Match (mixed), and by Ashley Adams in Air Standing (men).



Swimming

Head Coach: Matt Brown • Assistant Coach: Rae Szulawa

Assistant Coach: Greg Rochowczyk • Assistant Coach: Graeme MacDonald

Assistant Coach: Brian King • Assistant Coach: Bruce Power

Assistant Coach: John Ornsby • Manager: Michael Scott

The Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) Swimming squad competed in the 1998 International Blind Sports Association World Swimming Championships Madrid in July and the 1998 International Paralympic Committee World Swimming Championships, NZ in October. The total number of medals won during these two World Championships were 17 gold, 21 silver and 21 bronze. Australia finished third on the medal tally behind Canada and Great Britain.

While Australia remains one of the strongest nations in swimming, it is evident that Canada and Great Britain are the squads to beat. With this in mind the Australian Paralympic Preparation Program Swimming squad competed in the German Nationals and the BT Nationals in England, in May 1998. The results from these events laid very firm foundations for the 12-month build up to the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. All squad members performed well at both events with personal bests, Australian and World Records being set and, Australia winning the inaugural Five Nations Cup at the BT Nationals.

With the appointment of Matt Brown as full-time coach it is expected that the APC will have more involvement with the swimmers when they are not in camp or competition, and will ensure that home coaches are aware of the requirements of the squad members.

Without necessarily wishing to single out individuals, it is worth noting that outstanding performances are still being achieved by Priya Cooper, Kingsley Bugarin and Siobhan Paton who are continuing to break World Records at national and international events.

Thanks must go to Australian Swimming and its state bodies who continue to support swimmers with a disability at the grass roots level and with the provision of state and national competition opportunities.



Table Tennis

Head Coach: Joe Hoad

The two members of the Paralympic Preparation Program Table Tennis squad achieved some strong results in international competition in 1998/99.

At the World Wheelchair Table Tennis Championships in August 1998, Jeff Needham won gold in class one singles and Ross Schurgott won gold in class five singles, as well as bronze in the class five teams event.

Ross Schurgott reached the last eight in class five singles at the 1998 World Disabled Table Tennis Championships in France, while Jeff Needham won gold at the FESPIC Games in Bangkok.

Both players are aiming to further improve their international ranking and participate in more regular training camps next year.



Tennis

Head Coach: Greg Crump

Administrative Assistant/Coordinator: Sascha Miller (National Coordinator - Tennis for People With Disabilities, Tennis Australia)

The Paralympic Preparation Program Tennis squad continued its dedication to the tasks ahead with outstanding performances in 1998/99.

In July this year, Daniela di Toro and Branka Pupovac won the World Team Cup (Women) for the first time breaking a thirteen-year domination by the Netherlands. The men (David Hall and David Johnson) fought out a tough battle with the German team to clinch the bronze medal for the second consecutive year. The women's win in the 1999 World Team Cup in New York was a huge improvement on last year's result in Barcelona, where they finished 12th. The World Team Cup is similar to the Davis Cup and is the only tournament throughout the year where countries compete as teams. World Cup results auger well for our tennis squad at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

Both di Toro and Hall achieved the world number one ranking in singles during the year after wins in the 1998 British Open, the 1998 US Open, the 1999 Sydney International, the 1999 Australian Open, 1999 Lipton Championships (di Toro), and the 1999 Japan Open (Hall). Both di Toro and Hall successfully defended their British Open titles at the 1999 British Open in July. Johnson has moved his singles world ranking in the highly competitive men's field up to number seven - an enormous achievement.

Thanks must go to Sascha Miller - National Coordinator, Tennis for People with Disabilities, Tennis Australia; Virginia Nicey (Tennis Advisory Committee) for their terrific assistance to the program. Sascha will take up a position as the Wheelchair Tennis Administrator for the International Tennis Federation based in London while Virginia has taken up a position with NSW Institute of Sport as a Sports Consultant.

The Australian Paralympic Committee would also like to acknowledge Tennis Australia, Wheelchair Sports Australia, and the State Wheelchair Sports Associations for their ongoing support of wheelchair tennis.

Standing Volleyball

Head Coach: Keiron Rochester

Assistant Coach: Gary Jenness

Manager: Graham Golley

The sport of Standing Volleyball was added to the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) in early 1999 following the significant development of the sport in 1998.

The Australian Standing Volleyball squad have achieved some good results in international competition, at both the 1998 World Championships in Poland and the 1999 Pan-American Standing Volleyball Championships in Canada.

The PPP squad competes regularly in able-bodied volleyball competitions and participates in training camps at the Sydney Academy of Sport. The popularity of the sport is growing quickly and the standard of the squad is constantly improving.

Sitting Volleyball

Head Coach: Weiping Tu

Assistant Coach: Glenn Stewart

Manager: Graham Golley

Sitting Volleyball is a new sport to the Paralympic Preparation Program in 1999. The Australian Sitting Volleyball squad made its international debut at the 1998 World Championships in Iran. Since then, a number of new players have been identified, particularly from Queensland. With regular training in Sydney under the guidance of Weiping Tu (ex-National Coach for China), the standard of the team is constantly improving.

A tour of China in June 1999 provided the Australian team with the opportunity to demonstrate this improvement with very competitive results against the Chinese national team.





Winter

Head Coach: Steve Bova

The 1998 Winter Paralympic Games in Nagano proved to be a great success for the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) Skiing squad. Gold and bronze medal finishes by James Paterson in downhill and slalom proved our potential to be strong at a world-class level.

Following Nagano, a detailed four-year plan was implemented to ensure success at the International Paralympic Committee World Championships at Anzere and the next Paralympic Games. Through the Sports Council for the Disabled, a talent identification program is being conducted and has already resulted in athletes being selected from recreational ski camps to participation talent camps.

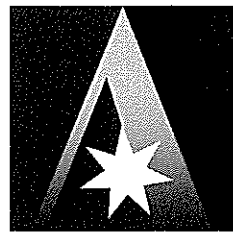
In 1998, both talent squad athletes and the national squad members traveled to Canada for one month to train and race. The national squad consisted of Michael Milton, Joanne Milton and Mathew Nichols. The squad achieved some terrific results in the USA, Canada and Europe including gold, silver and bronze status for Michael Milton throughout the USA and Europe; a silver medal for Joanne Milton in the USA; and Nichols, who consistently performed in the top half of his class.

A year-round training program has been implemented and is monitored regularly through the Sydney Academy of Sport in Narrabeen. The testing has been valuable in helping athletes maintain the high standards of fitness required for ski racing.

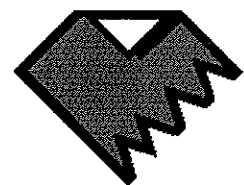
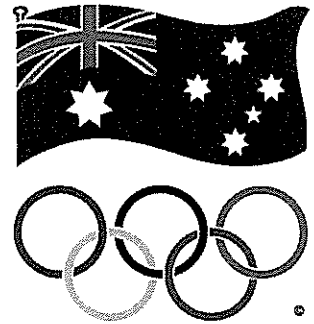
The program is strongly supported through the tireless work of Disabled WinterSport Australia's Ron Finneran. Jindabyne Sport and Recreation continues to provide outstanding support to the program and our thanks are extended to Steve Gibb and his team. The ski resorts at Perisher Blue and Thredbo have been supporters supplying ski passes and training space. Their support continues to be important to our ongoing success.

Winter

We Thank Our Sponsors and Supporters



ANSETT AUSTRALIA



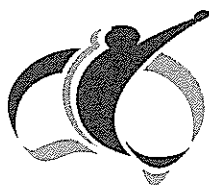
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