

Australian Paralympic Committee

Annual Report 2002–2003



AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE



Australian Paralympic Committee



APC Board members L-R: Nick Dean, Greg Hartung, Justin Holdforth, Graeme Watts (commenced June 03) and Ken Brown.

Board

Greg Hartung	President
Nick Dean	Vice President
Ken Brown AM	Vice president
Paul Bird	Sport
Doug Denby	Finance
Dave Millons	Medical (retired Oct 03)
Jason Hellwig	(retired Feb 03)
Justin Holdforth	
Ian Fowler	(retired Aug 03)

Staff

Darren Peters	CEO
Ros McNamara	Board Secretary
Tony Naar	National Technical Director
Sara Carden	National Marketing Manager
Kylie Elliott	National Games & Events Manager
Jason Hellwig	National Sports Program Manager
Rod Anderson	National Finance Manager
Alesha Vandine	Sports Admin Assistant

State Committees

Di Pass	Chairperson NSW
Jannine Jackson	Manager NSW
Gerry Murphy	Chairperson QLD
Mark Cooper	Executive Officer QLD
Max Kirwan	Chairperson VIC
Nicole Kirwan	Manager VIC
David Baker	Chairperson SA
Marie Little	Chairperson SA (retired Sept 02)
Danielle McBeath	Executive Officer SA
Leigh Collidge	Chairperson TAS

Member Organisations

- Athletics Australia
- Australian Blind Sport Federation
- Australian Sports Organisation for the Disabled
- Australian Sport and Recreation Association for People with an Intellectual Disability
- Cerebral Palsy, Australia Sport and Recreation Federation
- Disabled Winter Sport Australia
- Riding for the Disabled Australia
- Wheelchair Sports Australia





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President's Report



All athletes know that the surest way to failure is to assume that past success entitles them to future glory. Or, to put it more simply: When you take your foot off the pedal, you stop moving forward! I am happy to report that, in the past 12 months, the APC has had the pedal hard to the floor.

There is no doubt it has been a year of changes for our organisation.

Prominent among these has been the appointment of Darren Peters as Chief Executive. Since December, Darren and his team have worked to enunciate and then implement the Board's vision for a dynamic organisation which can successfully compete, in all respects, in a challenging environment. This has meant a close analysis of the structure of the APC national office and the services it provides. That analysis revealed areas where we needed to be better focussed, resulting in a restructure of the office staff and their roles.

It has been very fashionable in recent years to talk about "core business". The truth is that in the past year the APC has become more focussed than ever before on its core business: preparing and supporting our Paralympic teams. We are achieving this by developing relationships which support and encourage other organisations to carry out their responsibilities to athletes at all levels of their development and by concentrating our own resources on those areas which will have the biggest impact.



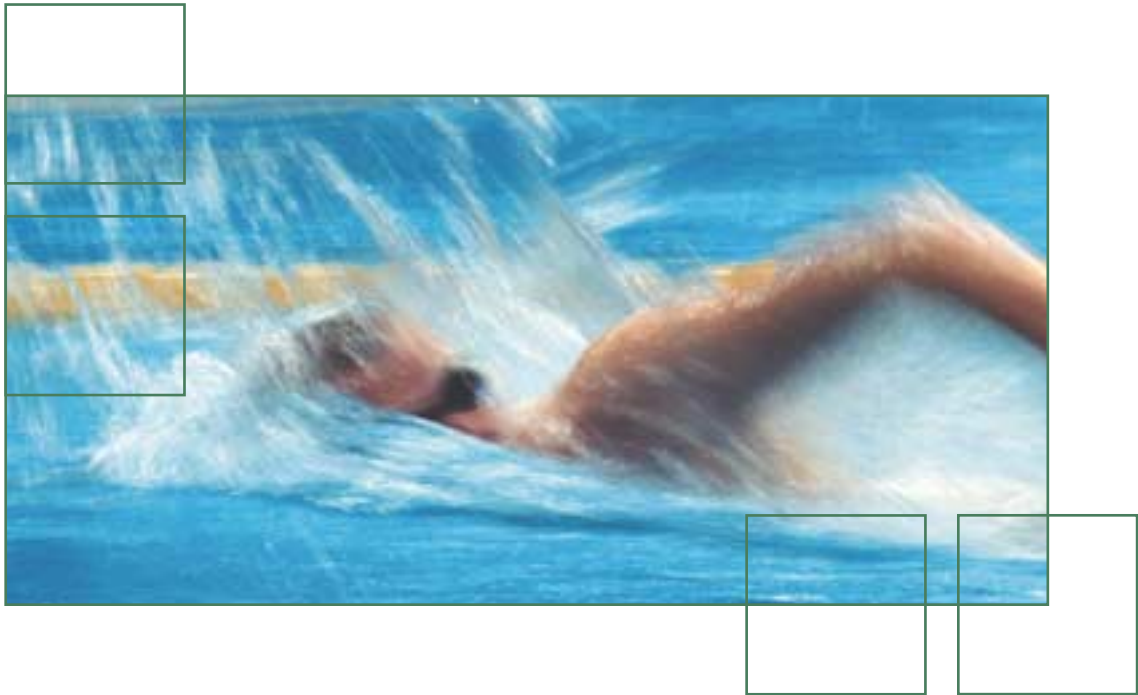
A key element of this strategy is "mainstreaming". Superficially, mainstreaming is where generic sporting organisations take responsibility for the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) for their sport under a contractual arrangement with the APC. In practice, it is part of a process whereby those organisations take on ownership of a wide range of programs for athletes with a disability as part of their overall ownership of their sport. This can include the integration of national championships, inclusion of the PPP within the high performance program for that sport and the integration of athlete scholarship programs at the AIS and state institutes and academies of sport.

For the APC, a key benefit of mainstreaming, and one which impacts on all Australians, is the acceptance of elite athletes with a disability as the equals of any of the greats in Australian sport.

Of course, organisational change has a human side. In the past year a number of APC staff have moved on and new staff have come on board. The APC is lucky that it consistently attracts loyal, committed and hard-working staff of the highest calibre. To those who have moved on go our thanks and acknowledgment for all you have achieved. For the "new" team at the APC, there is appreciation for the vigour with which you have approached your tasks and the successes you have achieved so far.

Our Board, too, has experienced change. During the period covered by this report, Hamish MacDonald and Ian Fowler both resigned from the Board and Graeme Watts accepted an invitation to join it. We are lucky to have on the Board people whose loyalty and commitment to the APC complements that of our staff. My thanks to all those who have served over the past year.

The year has also been one of change at the International Paralympic Committee. The IPC has embraced a new strategic planning process and is implementing key reforms to ensure certainty and consistency for all Paralympic athletes in all sports.



I am fortunate to be involved in the IPC's planning and to be able to ensure that the message of what has worked in Australia is being heard internationally.

In this year of changes there has been one constant, which we all appreciate. The support from government and from the APC's sponsors has been unwavering.

I am delighted to say that our relationship with the Australian Sports Commission, based on mutual respect, is one that continues to mature. Our thanks go to CEO Mark Peters and AIS Director Michael Scott for their support.

I take particular pleasure in the relationship we have forged with the Federal Government through the Minister for Sport, Rod Kemp and the Prime Minister, John Howard. Their support for the Paralympic movement has never ceased since those memorable days of the Sydney Games.

Telstra is a strong supporter of Australian sport and has been the APC's major commercial sponsor for a number of years. From the employment of athletes through to the provision of services and direct support of major activities, we wouldn't be where we are today without Telstra. To Telstra and to all of the APC's commercial sponsors, our heartfelt thanks for being part of the "Paralympic Family".

The changes of the past year clearly have a purpose. That is, to ensure that our athletes obtain the best possible results at the Paralympic Games. The next Games are in Athens, just next year. Our research tells us that, after a period of consolidation for our summer sports following Sydney, our athletes are again achieving the sorts of results that could take us to our goal in Athens – the best ever away result by an Australian team.

That leads me to a final observation. I would like to finish by acknowledging a group which is often overlooked, but upon whom we rely totally for our achievements. I refer to all those volunteers, too numerous to name, who give their time and expertise so that our athletes can perform at their best. From the members of our Board to those who stuff envelopes for mail-outs or do any of those many administrative tasks, those who help during events and especially those who give thousands of hours working with our athletes as coaches, managers, medical staff, mechanics, carers, video analysts and in many other roles, thank you. You are the spirit of our Team and our Team, I believe, reflects the spirit of our nation.

Greg Hartung
PRESIDENT



Chief Executive's Report

During the year the APC Board has made some hard decisions. A strategic review was conducted resulting in the declaration of key business goals for the next 4-5 years. In addition the management structure has been reviewed and a new team of staff (including a CEO) has been selected to drive the organisation towards Athens. Each employee is an expert in their field and focussed on achieving results.

The APC has also sought and secured agreements with five (5) new national Sporting Organisations (NSOs) as part of the mainstreaming policy. These organisations are: Cycling Australia; Yachting Australia; Basketball Australia; Tennis Australia and Table Tennis Australia. Each has a structured High Performance Program and is committed to the goals of 'mainstreaming'. Subject to ratification of these agreements at the AGM, the members of the APC will be seven (7) National Sporting Organisations for the Disabled and six (6) National Sporting Organisations.

The corporate performance of the organisation has improved during the year. Relations with key internal and external stakeholders are in good shape and Board meetings are focussed on strategy and policy rather than management matters. The Board is now meeting less frequently while Board members will become actively involved in the 2004 Australian Paralympic Team. The organisation has achieved its first significant surplus for five years (reported separately). This has resulted from good State Committee work raising funds, a staff restructure plus operational savings. An ongoing objective is to provide monies from each operating year towards the next Games target.

During the past year a number of sponsors and suppliers have been secured, or re-secured. These include: Adecco; Australia Post; Australian Sports Commission; Australian Institute of Sport;

Leo Burnett; Motor Accidents Authority of NSW; Singapore Airlines; Sport the Library; Spotlight Promotions (Team Sports Clothing); State Governments of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria; Tab Ltd; Telstra; and Yakka Australia (Team walkout clothing). Each has offered the APC some unique value, which is ultimately aimed at achieving results.

The APC is an Incorporated Association (NSW) that is a registered charity. Due to this we have previously sought and secured Public Benevolent Institution status. This status is under review and the organisation must protect its position as a respected and worthwhile charity structured to deliver key sport results. Investigations of fundraising licensing throughout the States this year revealed the need to seek and re-secure the license to fundraise in key States. At the time of writing I can report that the following States are licensed: New South Wales; Queensland; Victoria; Western Australia; Tasmania; Australian Capital Territory; South Australia; and Northern Territory.

Sports results are reported elsewhere, however a 2002 review of our World Championships medal standing revealed a decline in results. In 2000 we ranked first, whereas in 2002 we ranked fifth. A recent assessment (2003) indicates this decline has stalled and we are aiming to win over one hundred (100) medals at the 2004 Paralympic Games which should place us in the top three to five countries of the world.

Supporting this tremendous effort by our athletes, I can report that the APC has the staff, structures, strategic planning and partnerships in place to take it successfully through to the Athens Paralympic Games and beyond.

Darren Peters
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Finance Report

The APC ended the fiscal year 30 June 2003 with a \$275K surplus which is attributable to the organisation containing expenditures to well within income levels. Last year the APC reported a loss of \$45K and reported in its 2002 Annual Report that it would implement a vigorous exercise to "live within budget". We are pleased to report that we not only succeeded in managing our expenditure levels, but we took a step further to produce a significant surplus for the year.

The year ended 30 June 2003 is the first year that the APC is reporting fully consolidated figures. The financial statements of the six State committees have been incorporated into the APC's figures to show the results of the national Paralympic efforts and activities.

The financial position of the APC has strengthened considerably over the year with an increase in net assets of \$837K from 2002 to 2003. The inclusion of the States' financial positions accounts for \$500K of this increase.

Due to the continued difficulty of raising funds, our income from fundraising efforts and sponsorship deals decreased by some \$477K from last year,

which represents a 18% fall. In response to this, we reduced our costs by \$356K, which translates to a 38% decrease in fundraising and marketing expenses.

Looking ahead, the APC is implementing more strategic fundraising campaigns for our 2004 Athens Team that are being coordinated at a national level. We are also focusing on attracting new sponsors by initiating and developing relationships within the business community.

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

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

Doug Denby
FINANCE DIRECTOR



Income & Expenditure Statement (in \$000)

	2003 (Incl States)	2002 (Excl States)
Income		
Australian Sports Commission	\$3,481	\$3,035
Fundraising & Sponsors	\$2,210	\$2,687
Income from Investments	\$156	\$16
Other	\$5	\$5
	\$5,852	\$5,743
Expenditure		
Athletes and International Competition	\$2,855	\$2,892
Promotions, marketing and media	\$560	\$916
Administration	\$2,162	\$1,980
	\$5,577	\$5,788
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	\$275	(\$45)

BALANCE SHEET (in \$000)

Assets		
Cash & Investments	\$3,185	\$2,509
Other (receivables, assets, etc)	\$430	\$480
	\$3,615	\$2,989
Liabilities		
Creditors & provisions	\$515	\$792
Deferred revenue/grants	\$566	\$500
	\$1,081	\$1,292
Net Assets	\$2,534	\$1,697

Financial Summary of State Committees (in \$000):

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Net Assets
NSW	\$559	\$352	\$207	\$81
QLD	\$282	\$303	(\$21)	\$253
SA	\$66	\$34	\$32	\$62
TAS	\$24	\$14	\$10	\$35
VIC	\$229	\$68	\$161	\$57
WA	\$28	\$56	(\$28)	\$7



Marketing and Fundraising

We thank our Sponsors and Supporters





National Campaigns

Sponsorship

The APC has created and implemented an ambitious marketing and fundraising strategy aimed at establishing systems for ongoing revenue collection and also establishment of best practice in the area. The primary revenue goal is to raise \$3,000,000 by September 2004. The marketing strategy involves the following core elements:

- 1) Brand and positioning;
- 2) Sponsorship;
- 3) Fundraising; and
- 4) Relationships.

In 2002 the APC set a sponsorship target of \$1 million for sales of associations with the Australian Paralympic Team, either as sponsors or suppliers. At the time of writing we can report significant progress has been made to achieve that target through either cash or in-kind arrangements. In particular Singapore Airlines, Spotlight Promotions and Yakka Australia have all contributed, providing a net value to the APC, which is close to the \$1,000,000 target. We are now aiming for another \$500,000 in value.

The Australian Sports Commission and Telstra remain the greatest financial contributors to the APC, assisting with the sports program expenses

and with team costs respectively. The NSW Motor Accident Authority sponsored the Australian Team in 2000 and recently pledged an additional \$150,000 for Team2004. Tab Ltd has continually supported our athletes since the 2002 Winter Paralympic Games and has contributed \$50,000 for Athens and provides additional media support.

Australian Post is the Official Sponsor of the 2004 Australian Paralympic of the Year Awards contributing \$160,000 while Telstra has also agreed to assist in the presentation of this event. The APC has established positive relationships with all its sponsors and suppliers and their support is greatly appreciated.

2004 presents a number of marketing opportunities for the APC. At least two Cause Related Marketing campaigns will be launched nationally and a revised structure will enable the APC to actively seek new sponsors for both the Summer and Winter Teams. In addition a new brand strategy will help define and communicate the APC's core business. This will be aligned to the brand aspirations of the International Paralympic Committee.





Fundraising

The APC has adopted a targeted approach to fundraising activities. An ambitious fundraising target of \$1,500,000 has been set for the financial period up to and including the next Paralympic Games. This involves State/Territory Committees, staff and our agents utilising a diversified fundraising methodology. Campaigns and programs aim to increase awareness and also revenue. The strategy adopted involves establishing relationships with individual donors and corporate organisations [small, medium, large] in every State/Territory of Australia, which can be contacted annually to secure assistance via direct mail, telemarketing and/or personal visitations.

Working closely with member associations such as Wheelchair Sports groups the APC has implemented telemarketing campaigns in Queensland, Western Australia plus Victoria, aimed at securing funds and developing an ongoing database of personal donors. These combined fundraising efforts will benefit both the national Paralympic Team and assist in the development of future Paralympians.

In 2003 Telstra has provided the APC with a significant Cause Related fundraising opportunity through a direct mail campaign to reach 1.5 million Telstra mobile phone customers. The Telstra donor acquisition program and the telemarketing campaigns will help provide long-term financial sustainability as the APC builds a regular donor database.

The fundraising campaign "Whose Side Are You On?" was implemented in Paralympic Week, 2003. Approximately \$20,000 was raised by individuals who went to work dressed in the colours of their sporting team. This figure represents a 33% increase

on the project's past performance. The APC appreciates, in particular, the support shown by Telstra and Centrelink, whose employees were the biggest supporters of the campaign.

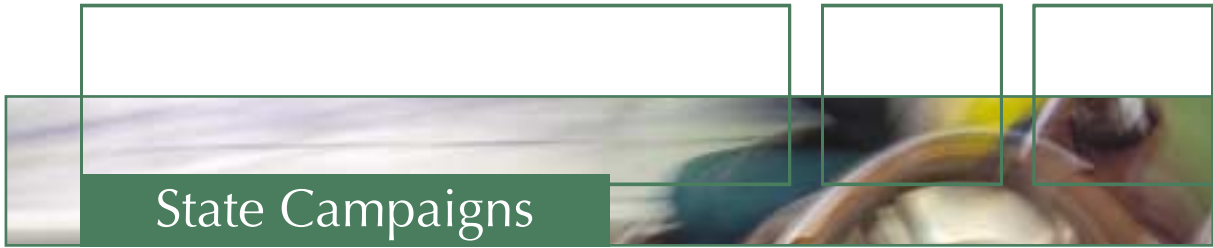
Communications

In December 2002, a communications audit was completed by independent reviewers. Key elements of this review were: internal APC communications; external media contacts; external communications and distribution methodology. The review established that the APC needed to improve communications to the broader community, members, athletes and coaches plus key stakeholders.

As such a new APC owned and controlled website - www.paralympic.org.au - was created and launched in June 2003 to act as the 'one stop shop' for information. It contains regular news updates, sport and athlete information, an athlete database, results and details on fundraising activities and information about the APC and IPC organisations. There is now a dedicated webmaster who will ensure that data and information is displayed in a user friendly, accurate and timely manner.

The APC also launched an electronic magazine (ezine), which links into the website both technically and in terms of visual design. The focus of the ezine during its inaugural year will be the 2004 Paralympic Games.

Also in response to recommendations made as a result of the communications audit the APC has entered into outsourcing arrangements in a range of areas including corporate publications and media liaison.



State Campaigns

New South Wales

Administration

The New South Wales Paralympic Committee (NSWPC) has undergone some major changes in the last twelve months. Sharon Palmer has left after 4 years of dedicated service. The new manager, Jannine Jackson brings a new approach, which will create sustainable fundraising practices towards and beyond Athens.

New South Wales has been a very significant financial contributor to the Australian Paralympic Committee over this financial year and through strategic management will continue to be a strong committee.

Events

NSWPC has been trialling several new fundraising Cause Related initiatives this year. One stand out is the Food for Sport program with over 60,000 school children enrolled across 260 schools encompassing rural, regional and metropolitan areas. The program teaches primary school children the importance of healthy eating and exercise, whilst learning about the Paralympics in the classroom.

Partnerships

The APC extends its appreciation to several supporters, whose continued contributions make the NSW committee successful:

- Firstly Steve Mason and Pat Cole for organising and managing one of the most successful fundraising campaigns for NSW the 'Desert Duel';
- The NSW Department of Sport and Recreation which has launched our Team 2004 Appeal this financial year with a grant of \$150,000; and
- Finally the WorkCover partnership is a demonstration of good corporate citizenship in action providing enduring benefit to both parties.

This year the NSW Committee was also fortunate enough to be a beneficiary of the Australian Gaming Machine Manufacturers Association annual dinner, which contributed an additional \$35,000 towards our Paralympic preparations

Queensland

Administration

The Queensland Paralympic Committee has experienced a number of notable changes over the last twelve months. Gerrard Gosens, who had been the Queensland Executive Officer for nearly 10 years, moved on at the end of last year and was replaced by Mark Cooper. Mark is focused on gaining corporate support from the wider community, including sponsorship opportunities and maintaining a strong relationship with the Beattie State Government.

Partnerships

The relationship of QPC with the current Beattie Labour Government is one of strength and the APC thanks them for their continued support of the Queensland Paralympic Committee. We have received an initial grant of \$80,000 from Disability Services Queensland, while the Department of Sport and Recreation support us with \$56,000 per annum and the Office of the Premier continues their support with \$70,000 per annum. This level of financial assistance enables the QPC to work closely with athletes in assisting them with community awareness programs.

Events

The QPC had a number of events programmed over the year to ensure that Queensland athletes will be able to make their journey to Athens 2004. A "Road to Athens Dinner", held in May, was a great success with over 200 people in attendance. The event received some great support from the media. Paralympic Week saw a plethora of events happening in Brisbane including an Outside Broadcast in Queen Street Mall, afternoon tea with the Governor, athlete demonstrations and a "Ladies Lunch" at Sirromet winery.

Regional support

QPC is also pleased to announce that a great amount of awareness is now being generated in regional communities. There are currently active committees in Townsville, Mackay and the Gold

Coast with Rockhampton to join the ranks later this year. Other major regional areas such as Toowoomba, Cairns, Sunshine Coast and Bundaberg are also being targeted for regional committees. Our athletes come from different and far-reaching areas of the state and these communities are extremely supportive of their local athletes.

South Australia

Events

The South Australian Paralympic Committee has two major annual events. The Corporate Sports Day is held in April. This year 12 teams competed in a variety of Paralympic events, including 100m Blind Sprint and seated volleyball. Plans are now underway for a bigger and better Sports Day in 2004.

The Annual Premier's Dinner, a combined event for the Paralympic, Olympic and Commonwealth Games organisations was held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and was a great success with over 600 people in attendance.

Achievements

Continuation and further development of our "Schools Program" was undertaken during the year. Many South Australian schools support the Paralympic movement thus providing an opportunity to raise much-needed funds and to increase the profiles of our athletes.

Badge Collection days are also an important part of fundraising with the highlight being a collection held at the South Australian Football League's Grand Final in October 2002.

We rely on so many volunteers to assist in fundraising and our Patron, Her Excellency, The Governor of South Australia was a special guest at our "thank you" function for volunteers. The Premier, Hon. Mike Rann also attended the function along with the Minister for Social Justice, Hon. Stephanie Keys.

Partnerships

The South Australian Paralympic Committee continues to be part of the South Australian Games Appeal Committee. This very important committee continues to be a source of funding through government grants and fundraising.

Administration

A number of changes have led to the consolidation of the committee and staff. Rebecca Wickham was appointed as State Manager, Carmel Duffy continued as our tireless and invaluable volunteer and Loretta Sist from the Committee continued to look after the finances and bookkeeping.

A special mention must also go to Marie Little who handed over the Presidency to David Baker. Marie's promise was to reorganise the South Australian Paralympic Committee into a hardworking and effective committee before handing over the reins. She has done that and more.

Victoria

Partnerships

In 2003 the VPC successfully obtained funding from the Victorian Government. On Tuesday 20 May 2003, the Premier, Steve Bracks, and the Minister for Sport, Justin Madden, rewarded the Victorian Paralympic Committee with a grant of \$175,000.00 for expenses and the athletes' journey to Athens 2004.

On Wednesday 25 June 2003, the Committee's financial targets were enhanced when it was presented with a cheque for \$11,000.00, from the Preston Rotary Club, a benevolent organisation that has historically been a major supporter in Victoria for a number of years.

Events

In addition the Committee has planned the following events, which it is anticipated will enable the realisation of the desired financial targets for Athens 2004:

- A Greek Odyssey, the epic journey to Athens 2004 for Paralympic athletes with a Gala Black Tie Dinner, on Thursday 20 November 2003;
- A Major Mail Out Campaign through Committee contacts;
- Geelong Rotary Club Luncheon in September 2003; and
- Further support from Preston Rotary Club in 2004.

Archery

Manager: Vicki O'Brien

Competition

Archery spent the last 12 months developing a small squad of keen archers for the IPC World Championships. Some of the preparations included attendance at international events such as FESPIC Games, New Zealand National Championships and the Australian National Archery Championships.

Training Camps

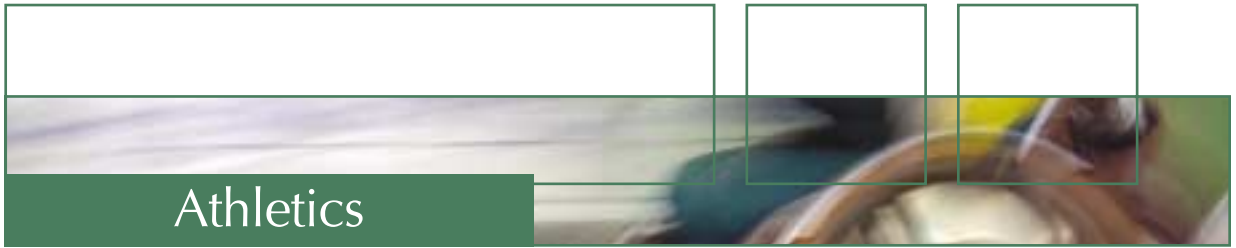
Several camps were held to give the archers access to psychology and nutrition. Archery has also utilised the Assistant Coach from the AIS to provide a second opinion on the style of the current group of archers.

Unfortunately, the last year has seen Archery's Paralympic Preparation Program athletes reduced to one. The current PPP athlete, Natalie Cordowiner, has increased her training and is showing improvements. While it is a problem that there are no other female athletes with disabilities competing, Natalie competes confidently and successfully against able-bodied archers.

Future

Archery has a number of male archers who may be ready for the 2008 Paralympic Games. The Archery program is looking forward to the challenge of the period leading up to Athens.





Athletics

Head Coach: Scott Goodman

Manager: Andrew Faichney

Manager: Louise Mogg

Asst. Coaches: Brett Jones;
Andrew Dawes;
Robbie Bolton
and Gary Lees

Mainstreaming

This reporting period has seen the further strengthening of the partnership between the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) and Athletics Australia (AA). AA has taken full responsibility for the preparation of the 2004 Athens Paralympic Athletics team.

Significant initiatives included: the running of the second combined Athletes with a Disability (AWD) and "Able-Bodied" National Championships; integrated events group camps; and increased AWD events coverage in the Telstra A-Series. In addition, AWD events were included at the IGA Youth (U/16 and U/18) Championships for the first time. Increasingly, AA State Associations have also been providing AWDs with access to local competitions and State Championships.

Competition

On the competition front, this period witnessed some impressive Australian results from the 2002 INAS European Championships, the German Nationals and the 2002 IPC World Athletics Championships.

To finish 2nd on the medal tally at the 2002 World Championships was a magnificent effort given the non-availability of events for athletes with an intellectual disability and the retirement of five individual gold medallists from the Sydney Games.

In light of the above, the focus was on rebuilding the foundations of the team to prepare for another onslaught in 2004. This objective was achieved in that 12, (or 25%) of the World Championship team did not compete in Sydney. Of these athletes, five won individual medals including: Paul Benz (SA); Rod Farr (SA); Amanda Fraser (ACT); Eliza Stankovich (NSW) and Richard Colman (VIC). In addition, all of the 12 newcomers achieved Personal Bests at some stage during the tour.

This was on top of exemplary performances from the nucleus of seasoned performers. Special mention should be made of Hamish MacDonald's gold medal and world record in the F34 Seated Shotput.





Other standout individual performances included:

- Louise Sauvage's determination to win the T54 800m after being pipped out of first place in the 1500m and 5000m;
- Lisa Lloren's victory in the F20 Long Jump and second placing in the hotly contested T20 100m;
- Geoff Trappett's victory in the T54 200m following his personal disappointment at finishing 3rd in the 100m;
- Angie Ballard breaking through for her first medal at a major international event (gold in the T53 100m);
- Bruce Wallrodt's victory in the F54 Seated Shotput;
- Tim Sullivan's 100m and 200m victories in the T38 events;
- Lisa McIntosh's 100m and 200m victories in the T37 events;
- Roy Daniell's second placing in very hot conditions in the T12 marathon;
- Neil Fuller's second placings in the 200m and the 400m following an interrupted preparation due to family illness;
- Russel Short's second placing in the F12 Discus;
- Don Elgin's P44 pentathlon silver medal; and
- Katrina Webb's grit in securing silver in the T38 400m.



There were many other great performances including the Cerebral Palsy Men's Relay Team victories in the 4x100m and the 4x400m and the Amputee Men's Relay Team who finished second in the 4x400m and third in the 4x100m.

Overall, 23 athletes out of the team of 48 medalled in individual events and 3 more medalled in relay events (i.e. 26 out of 48 medalled). Every AA-Paralympic Preparation Program squad member made the Top 8 or better in their preferred event/s.



Head Coach: Murray Treseder
 Manager: Kelvin Browner
 Asst. Coach: Alan Cox
 Asst. Coach Technical: Craig Friday

Competition

The major competitions for the Rollers in the past year were the Gold Cup in Japan and Roosevelt Cup in USA in June 03. The performance in the Gold Cup was encouraging but disappointing in the fourth place position. The team underachieved in its final position but with an ounce of luck could have been playing off for a gold medal. The performance identified a need to be more productive in our low point structure.

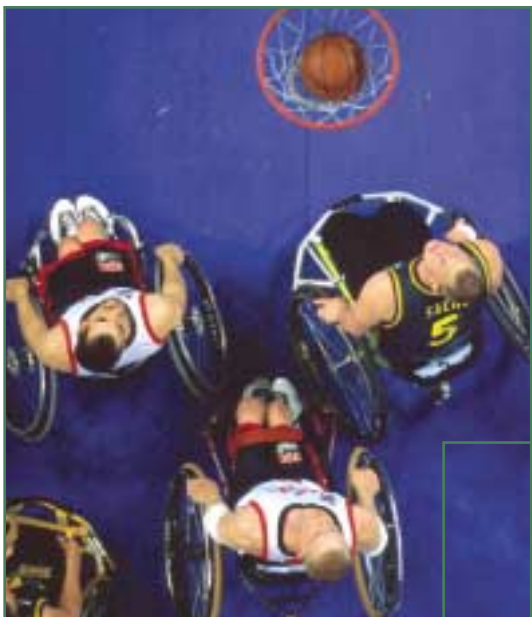
An increase in productivity was evident in the Roosevelt Cup in June and although the pressure was not the same as the Gold Cup, the athletes responded well to the challenges set for them and finished the tournament ranked second to the very strong Canadian team.

The team also participated in an invitation tournament in Osaka in February. Whilst not as strong as expected it gave the coaching staff, in conjunction with the National Wheelchair Basketball League executive, the chance to provide opportunities for developmental athletes to gain experience internationally. As a result of our participation in this tournament, it has now become an annual invitation with the host nation covering all travel and accommodation expenses. The 2004 tournament will provide an opportunity for a full strength Rollers team to participate in another international tournament prior to the Paralympics.

Training Camps

Camps have been held in Adelaide, which offers a central location and also allows the squad to have the expertise of additional support staff including a physiotherapist and mechanic. The program has introduced a 'low point' camp for athletes 3.0 points and below. This group was targeted following the Gold Cup as being an area that Australia has not developed to its full potential in line with progress made by other nations.

Full squad camps were held in January, April and August with additional developmental athletes invited to the camp. This will not be continued next year due to costs and the focus on preparing the team for the Paralympics in Athens.



Basketball – Wheelchair Women

Head Coach: Gerry Hewson

Manager: Sonia Healy

Asst Coaches: Darryl Durham;
and Corinna Lueg

Competition

The Australian Wheelchair Women's team have had a number of changes since the Gold Cup in Japan in 2002. The team finished in 3rd position with good wins over Mexico and Germany in the rounds, a 7-point loss to Canada and a 12 point loss to USA in the semi final. The bronze medal was a win over Japan 61-47. Coach, Liz Fraser established a number of new initiatives with the team. Together with an overall holistic approach to the team's preparation and performance she also introduced able bodied concepts to the wheelchair game, which made a significant difference to how the athletes performed in Japan.

Personnel

Due to personal reasons Liz Fraser resigned as Head Coach following the Gold Cup and Assistant Coach Gerry Hewson was appointed. The Manager also resigned and this position was filled by Sonia Healy with Darryl Durham remaining as Assistant Coach and Corinna Lueg filling in the second Assistant Coach position.

Training Camps

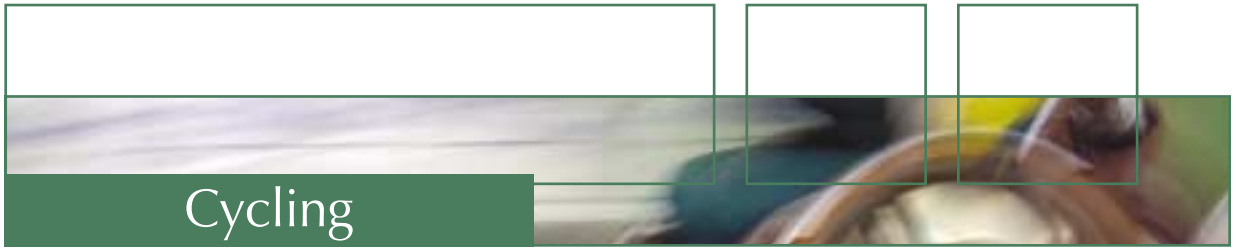
A number of camps were held in 2003, with the team touring USA to compete in a tournament at the Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, Alabama in June. The team played four games against USA and two games against Canada.

One of the key challenges identified following the games in USA was the lack of strength and conditioning of the athletes and this has been addressed with the introduction of a specific strength and conditioning program. With a number of new athletes on the squad a lack of actual games was also identified and this has been addressed in the planning and preparation for the team for Athens 2004.

Athens Preparation

The program to prepare the team for Athens 2004 includes a balance of quality camps as well as a tournament in March 2004 with Japan and Canada in Australia as part of the Asia Oceania Qualification for the Men's teams for Athens. The team will also compete in the USA in June against the two best teams in the world, Canada and USA.





Head Coach: Kevin McIntosh

Manager: Elsa Lepore

Asst Coach: Darryl Benson

This year was again full of highlights for our cycling program.

Competition

IPC World Cycling Championships – Augsburg and Altenstadt, Germany from 5th to 11th August 2002.

Competition for the title of Track World Champions was on the short but lightning fast 200m track in Augsburg while the road competition was conducted in Altenstadt, some 100km away. Australia was the most successful nation on the track, ranked 4th on the road and finished with a total medal tally of 12 Gold, 5 Silver and 6 Bronze medals, not to mention 6 world records.

National Track Championships – Sydney, NSW at the Dunc Gray Velodrome from 27th April to 4th May 2003.

These championships were the final selection event for the 2003 Open European Cycling Championships, held in the Czech Republic in September 2003.

Some excellent results were achieved in this competition, with 2 new world records and other world-class times.

National Tandem Road Challenge – Perth, WA 24th May to 1st June 2003.

With the support of the WA Cycling Federation, the inaugural National Tandem Road Challenge was conducted alongside the premier WA tour, the Tour de Perth.

This will hopefully become an annual event, with the purpose of international event selection for successful tandems on the road. It is intended to be a fully open event for all tandem riders and categories, and will hopefully grow to become the premier tandem road event in years to come.

Top End Tour – Darwin, NT 2nd to 9th June 2003.

Athletes who attended this camp were: Chris Scott; Peter Homann; Noel Sens; and Glen Jarvis, along with Kevin McIntosh (Head Coach), Murray Lydeamore (Manager) and Peter Giessauf (Mechanic). With the full co-operation of the Darwin Cycling Club, PPP team members flew into Darwin for the Top End Tour and road camp.

Training Camps

National Track Endurance Training Camp – Adelaide, SA from 4th to 9th March 2003.

The desired outcome for this camp was for athletes to depart with renewed vigour, outlook and focus. Also to have very clear guidelines as to what is required in the lead up to Athens. This proved to be very successful and assisted all athletes to strive for higher standards and goals.

State Visits

The Head Coach also visited the State capitals at strategically planned intervals to coordinate and monitor the progress of athletes as the major goal of Athens draws near.

Mainstreaming – APC/CA.

As the result of the vision of both Cycling Australia and APC, the 1st of April 2003 saw the commencement of the mainstreaming agreement being implemented by Cycling Australia, to oversee and manage the PPP Cycling Program.





Equestrian

Head Coach: Gillian Rickard

Managers: Sue Cusack (international)
and Judith Cubitt (domestic)

Training Camps

Equestrian training camps were held as follows during the period;

- two camps at Kurrajong Equestrian Centre, Kurrajong NSW – July & August 2002;
- one camp at Werribee Park, Victoria prior to National Championships – September 2002;
- one Camp at the International Academy for Equestrian Studies (IAES) in Warendorf, Germany, October 2002; and
- a second Camp planned for IAES in April 2003 was postponed due to Iraq war and SARS situation.

Horse acquisition

The Athens event is an "own Horse" competition as, unlike the Sydney Paralympic Games, the host nation will not supply a pool of suitable horses for all athletes. It has become imperative, therefore, for Australian athletes to access horses in Europe on which to train and compete in lead up events such as the 2003 World Championships.

Competition

Eight squad riders competed in the Riding for the Disabled, Australia National Championships held at the National Equestrian Centre, Werribee Victoria in September 2002. Most of these athletes also competed in Equestrian Federation of Australia open dressage competition on a regular basis.

Athletes competed in two international invitational events during 2002-03.

Dutch Open August 2003

Two PPP athletes, Jodie Brazier and Georgia Bruce competed in this event, on horses supplied by the Dutch Hippisch Centrum at Deurne. Jodie placed 5th in both her events with Georgia placed 9th and 3rd respectively.

Belgian Open October 2002

Four PPP athletes competed in this event on horses from IAES Warendorf. Jan Pike placed 2nd in both her events, Anne Skinner place 2nd in both events, while Marita Hird placed 4th and 5th and Mandy Waalwyk placed 7th and 4th respectively. There was no team event at either competition.

The 2002-03 year represented a big step forward towards strong performances by equestrian athletes in the 2003 World Championships and the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games.





Football

Head Coach: Ian Murray

Manager: Betsy Trehwella

Asst. Coach: Norm Boardman

The focus for the year was preparing for the 2003 Cerebral Palsy World Championships with the aim of finishing in the Top 5 and qualifying for the Athens Paralympic Games.

Under the guidance of coach Ian Murray, all players embarked on a program of home-based conditioning and skills training, supplemented by semi-regular team camps.

As a young group of players it is clear that Australia has the potential to compete well at an international level. This will be achieved through a long-term approach to improving player abilities, encouraging more participants into the sport and hopefully becoming mainstreamed into a revamped Soccer Australia.



Judo

Head Coach: Trevor Kschammer

With the support of the PPP funding Judo has been represented, over the last 12 months by Vision Impaired athletes Anthony Clarke and Desiree Alan. Both athletes have had an amazing year.

Competition

Last September Anthony competed at the International Blind Sport Association World Championships in Rome, with a result of third place in the U90kg division. This was a very good result, as he lost his first competition and had to come back through the repechage. Anthony also competed in the FESPIC Games in Korea November, 2002.

Desiree Alan was added to the PPP program during the year. In September 2002 she competed in the IBSA World Championships in Rome, and was placed third in her division. She also took part in the FESPIC Games in Korea with no result. However, the experience gained from that competition was most valuable. Desiree also now is competing in able-bodied competitions in Queensland.

Future

An increase in the number of Vision Impaired athletes practicing in Judo is becoming evident. At this stage continued club practice with able-bodied athletes, will help them develop more rapidly.





Powerlifting

Head Coach: Blagoi Blagoev/
Ray Epstein

Manager: Mick Farrell

Asst. Coach: Ray Epstein/Martin Leach

The past year has been an important one for the Powerlifting squad, with all performances being included in the international rankings that will determine the athletes to be invited to compete in Athens.

Competition

There were 2 IPC sanctioned domestic competitions held in Brisbane during the year. Both competitions were followed by PPP squad training camps at which athletes attended workshops on nutrition, sports psychology and Aikido - all designed to assist with enhancing performance.

On the international scene, the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester held a Powerlifting event for athletes with a disability. Under the expert eye of Head Coach, Blagoi Blagoev, Australia sent the allocated 2 athletes. In an extremely close competition, Richard Nicholson won the silver medal and Wayne

Sharpe was placed 6th.

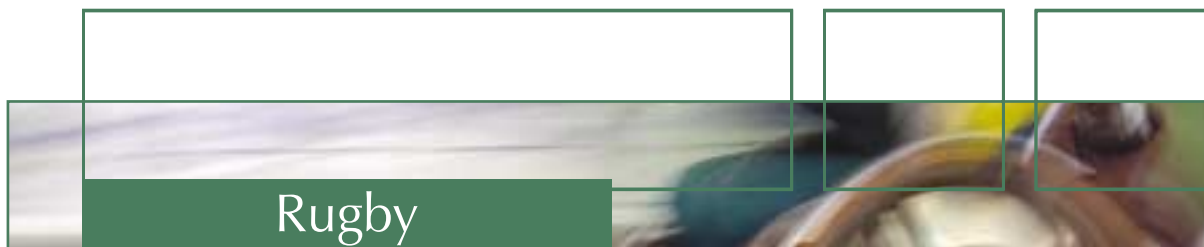
Following Manchester, the Australian team attended the IPC Powerlifting World Championships in Kuala Lumpur in August 2002. Although Australia did not medal, the team improved its overall performance from Sydney with 3 athletes finishing 4th to narrowly miss a medal. The rest of the team also performed well with only 2 athletes finishing out of the top 7.

Personnel

This year saw the end of an era with the resignation of Head Coach Blagoi Blagoev. Blagoi has provided extremely valuable input to the squad over many years. Former Assistant Coach, Ray Epstein, was appointed as the new Head Coach and will be teamed with new Assistant Coach, Martin Leach.

The Powerlifting program would like to acknowledge and thank the Cougars Weightlifting Club and the Queensland Weightlifting Association for their support during the year and also the team of dedicated IPC Referees who continue to assist with competitions. Special thanks are also extended to the Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association in Queensland for hosting and supporting events for the national squad over the last year.





Rugby

Head Coach: Terry Vinyard

Manager: Kim Ellwood

Asst. Coaches: Cherie Harris
and Matt Fuller

Competition

The Australian Wheelchair Rugby National team, which finished 3rd at the 2002 World Championships is still currently ranked third, behind Canada and U.S.A. Their loss in the Chris Handy Cup to New Zealand did not affect their world ranking. Two National team members Brad Dubberley 3.5 and Patrick Ryan 2.5 competed for teams in the U.S. League. Dubberley strung together 5 straight MVP awards going into the U.S National tournament. His team finished 6th in Division 1. Ryan had his share of 'best of class' honours while playing in the United States. He led his team to their best finish ever, with a 4th place finish in Division 2.

Australia also had two developmental tours, featuring seven-player squads, to New Zealand and the U.S. The smaller squads allowed less established line-ups to get more playing time. The Australians finished 2nd at the New Zealand Nationals losing by 4 goals in the final.

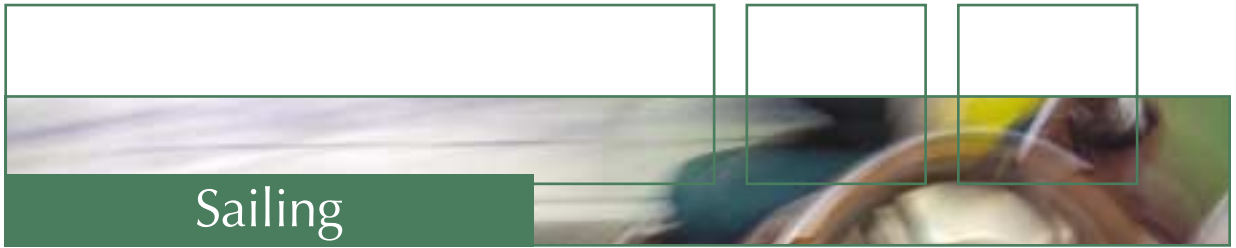
After a rocky start (10th place in Tampa) in the U.S. tour, the team recovered to finish a seed higher in the second event of the tour. The 6th place finish in Alabama showed marked improvement from the 10th place finish a week earlier. Their resurgence was best illustrated by an 8-goal win over Canada Ice who defeated the Australian side a week earlier by 7 goals. Close losses to Belgium, and Great Britain's National team squads who are ranked 4th and 5th in the World respectively built a lot of confidence in the smaller developmental unit.

After returning home the squad has been representing their Individual State teams in the expanded National Wheelchair Rugby League. Each team now plays a 20 game schedule, which is up from the preceding season of 12 games.

Training Camps

Currently the team is holding selection and training camps preparing for the Oceania Zonal Championships to be held in Japan. The reigning Champion Australian side is the number one seed and will look to qualify for Athens with a top two finish. Australia, which was the youngest team in average age at the Sydney Games, has actually lowered its age average, with the addition of youngsters Ryley Batt 14 years old and Scott Vitale at 18 years of age.





Sailing

Head Coach: Lachlan Gilbert

Competition

The major focus for 2002/2003 for Yachting Australia's National Paralympic Squad members was the 2002 International Federation for Disabled Sailing World Disabled Sailing Championships held at Medemblik, Netherlands. This regatta provided all countries with their first opportunity to qualify for the 2004 Paralympic Games.

The international performances achieved by the squad members leading up to the World Championships showed that Australia had a great opportunity to achieve one of the seven qualification spots on offer. Pre World Championship performances included:

Peter Thompson–2.4mR

- Swedish Championships–18th (3rd Disabled Athlete)
- Open Dutch Championships–2nd ;

Michael McLean–2.4mR

- Swedish Championships–13th (1st Disabled Athlete)
- Open Dutch Championships–4th ; and

Noel Robins, Jamie Dunross, Jeffrey Milligan–Sonar

- Open Dutch Championships–16th .

All National Paralympic Squad members performed well at the World Championships despite some tricky wind conditions. Peter Thompson (5th) and Noel Robins and crew (5th) recorded some excellent results. Michael McLean also put in a good performance, finishing in 8th position. These championships also unearthed a second Australian Sonar crew, which finished a creditable 11th.

Peter Thompson and Michael McLean sailed at a number of Australian regattas throughout the Australian summer achieving some excellent results in the Open class fleets.

Mainstreaming

In April, Yachting Australia became the second sport in Australia to sign a "Mainstreaming" agreement with the APC. Athlete and coach services for the Paralympic Squad have been modelled on the National Olympic Squad since 1998, with funding from the APC. This agreement now allows Yachting Australia to fully integrate, manage and administer the National Paralympic Squad alongside other High Performance programs.

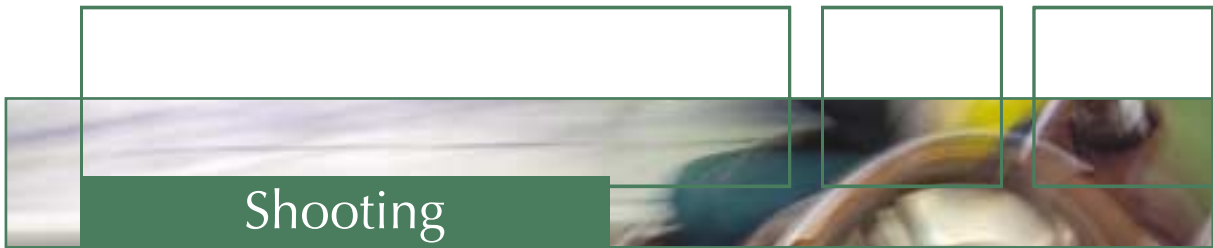
Training Camp

All squad members were invited to attend a National Squad Camp at the AIS in June alongside members of the National Olympic Squad. Here they participated in public speaking training, strength and conditioning sessions, an ASDA seminar, coaching lectures, psychology sessions and rules discussion.

Tragic Loss

2000 Paralympic gold medallist, Noel Robins tragically passed away in May after being involved in a car accident. Noel's sailing achievements over his extensive career had made him a true icon and inspiration to the sailing community both nationally and internationally.





Shooting

Head Coach: Miro Sipek

Manager: Michelle Fletcher

Competition

The year commenced with a team consisting of 8 shooters competing in the World Championships in Korea. Results were excellent with Elizabeth Kosmala becoming a World Champion with 600/600. The Rifle team won Bronze, while Peter Worsley and Jim Nomarhas gained 15th place in Air Prone SH2 and Sport Pistol respectively. Thirty-six nations competed at these Championships.

The squad has competed in 4 ranking shoots in Australia over the twelve months. Scores have been in line with expectations.

The team also travelled to Switzerland and Germany for international competition in May, where it claimed five gold medals with excellent results. Ashley Adams was awarded top male for the competition in Switzerland and Elizabeth Kosmala

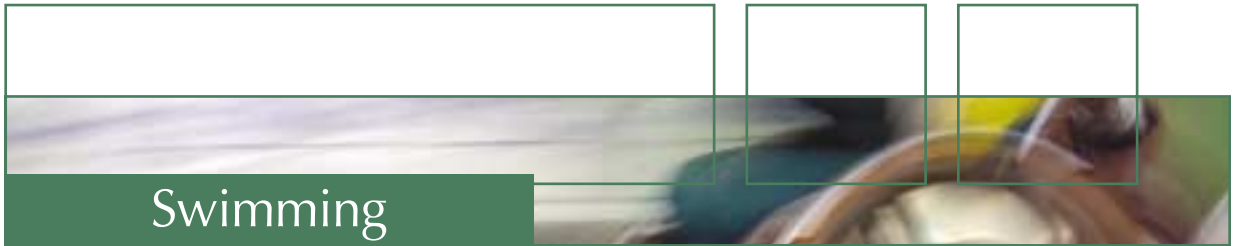
top female. In addition, Ashley Adams achieved a new Australian record in the three position match. Peter Worsley also shot a Personal Best with 600/600 and won a second place in the final. Germany saw mixed results but still on target to the Paralympic Games next year. Switzerland had 15 countries competing at their event, Germany had 22 countries compete, with up to 38 countries expected at the Paralympic Games.

The International Shooting Committee for the Disabled recently announced a Fiocchi Final with the top 80 athletes being invited to compete in Italy in September. We have three confirmed invitations (E. Kosmala, A. Adams and P. Worsley)

Athens 2004

The shooting program has a strong group of athletes competing for selection on the Australian Team for the 2004 Paralympic Games.





Swimming

Head Coach: Brendan Keogh

Manager: Adam Luscombe

Coaches: Frank Hohmann; Ross Tait;
Mark Staiger; Paul Simms;
and John Mitchell

This year has been one of change with a new management team in place, another influx of rookie athletes and the beginning of the mainstreaming process.

Training Camps

This was the first year of AIS/APC Camp Scholarship Program. The year finished with a camp that provided excellent feedback to the athletes about their skill level for starts and turns. The Sports Science team at the AIS will be an asset to the program in the future.

Sports Science

The Swim program has been fortunate to have the services of Brendan Burkett. The race analysis program that Brendan has been using for the Paralympic athletes was used for the Australian Swim Team at their World Championships in Barcelona. Brendan has been pushing for athletes to become more aware of their race plan, post-race recovery and personal management.

Competition

2002 IPC World Championships

Australia finished 5th on the Gold medal tally in Sydney. At the World Championships in Mar del Plata Australia dropped to 8th. However over half of the Australian team were competing at their first major International Meet in their first year of international competition. Also it should be noted that in Sydney, 51 swimmers achieved 50 top 3 places while at the World Championships, 26 swimmers achieved 42 top 3 places.

Commonwealth Games

Four athletes were chosen as part of the Australian Swim Team to compete at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. The exposure of these athletes to the media and public created more interest and helped the PPP Swim Program to gain more credibility in able-bodied circles. Ben Austin, in particular, should be congratulated for his Gold Medals and World Records at this event.

FESPIC Games

This event was successful for the Swim Team with Adam Luscombe acting as Head Coach.

Team Staff

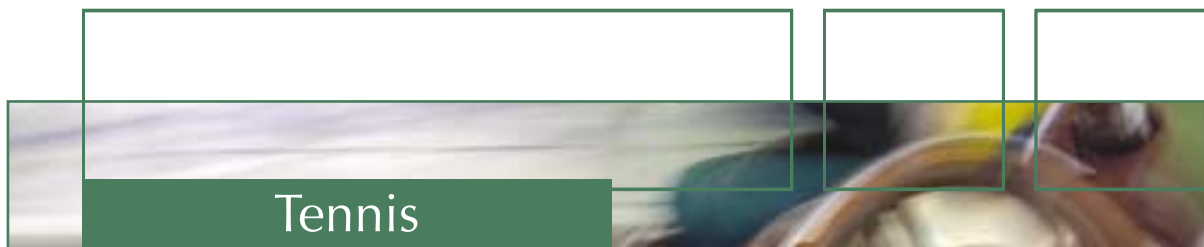
This year more team staff members have been given opportunities, with an increasing number of Home Coaches being included in camps or competition tours. The staff to the World Championships contained 2 coaches on their first International team. The selection process for coaches and staff is becoming more open and based on performance.

Rookie Athletes

The current PPP has witnessed another influx of rookie athletes with 16 out of the current 27 athletes new to the program since 2002. Only 11 athletes have Paralympic Games experience.

Mainstreaming

Swimming is heading down the road of mainstreaming. This will be good for the sport as a whole, bringing a lot more credibility to the program and the athletes. As the mainstreaming process continues more opportunities should open up to athletes in all States.



Tennis

Head Coach: Greg Crump

The Australian tennis team continued their strong competitive edge over many of the world's best wheelchair tennis players.

Competition

Invacare World Team Cup 2002

The Invacare World Team Cup was held in Tremosine, Italy on the 16 – 22 September 2002. The Australian men's team of David Hall and Anthony Bonaccorso was seeded 8 and the women's team of Daniela Di Toro and Lesly Page seeded 5 and both finished higher than their seeded position.

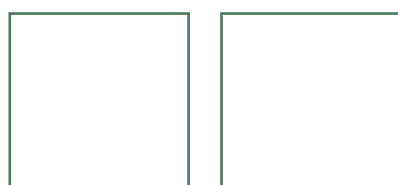
Unfortunately due to budget restraints the Australian men's and women's teams did not compete at the World Team Cup 2003. This was especially disappointing since the men's team would have been defending their 2002 title.

Year Round

David Hall had another great year winning all three Super Series tournaments (British Open, US Open and the Australian Wheelchair Tennis Open) finishing the year as World Number 1.

Anthony Bonaccorso improved his ranking over 20 positions to put him inside the Top 20.

Daniela Di Toro had a solid year coming back after a lay off with an eye injury. While her ranking dropped, at the end of the year she obtained a top 4 ranking. The highlight for Daniela's year was beating world number 1 Esther Vergeer (Netherlands) at the Sydney International 2003. Esther has the longest winning streak in tennis history winning 102 consecutive matches.



Wheelchair Classic 8's

This was the second year that the Wheelchair Classic 8's was conducted at the Australian Open. This is an event where the top 8 men and women in the world compete for the Classic 8's title. The Australian Open is the only Grand Slam tournament to include a wheelchair tennis tournament. David Hall won the men's singles and was runner up in the men's doubles with Michael Jeremiasz (France). Daniela Di Toro was runner up in the women's singles and runner up in the women's doubles with Maaïke Smit (Netherlands).

Mainstreaming

Early in 2003, Tennis Australia and the APC signed an agreement for Tennis Australia to take responsibility for the high performance management of wheelchair tennis. This is a positive step for wheelchair tennis as it is now officially integrated into mainstream tennis.

Wheelchair Ranking Improvement Awards

Developed by Tennis Australia the Wheelchair Ranking Improvement Awards greatly benefited a number of Australian wheelchair tennis players who currently compete on the international wheelchair tennis circuit. Recipients of the awards were David Hall, Daniela Di Toro, Anthony Bonaccorso, Lesly Page, Ben Weekes and Jeff Hilton while Brendan Stroud received the most improved award.



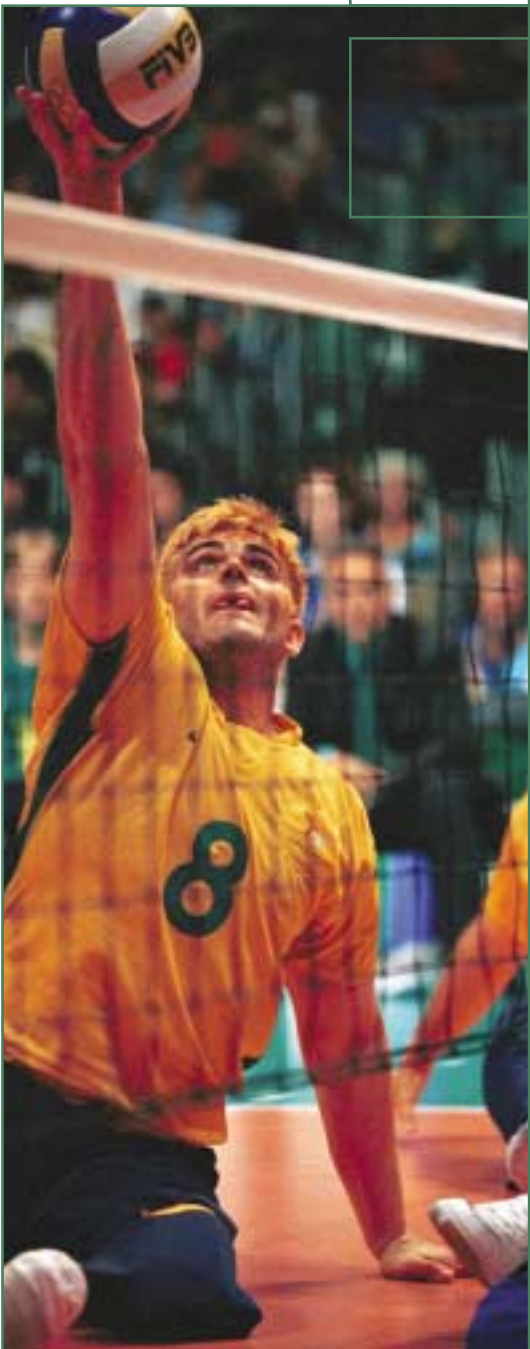


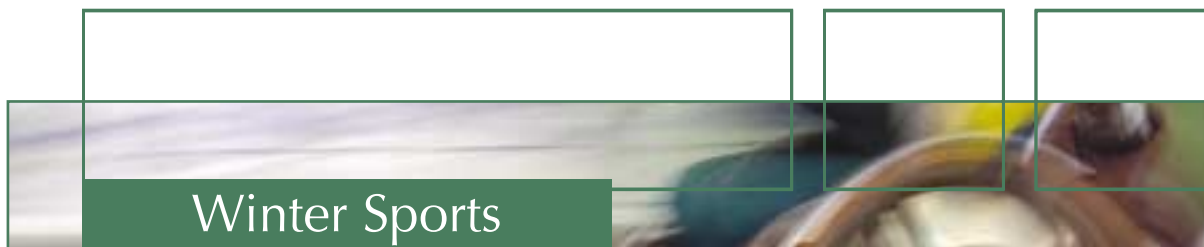
Competition

Entry into the FESPIC Games in Busan, South Korea provided the Volleyball team with its only opportunity to qualify for the 2004 Paralympic Games. Although the small squad performed very well, placing a creditable 5th, they were unable to meet the qualifying standard and will miss out on entry to Athens 2004.

Future Development

The focus for the coming year is to maintain continuity of the Squad and to develop strategies to attract new players to the sport so that it can be recommended for PPP Squad status after Athens.





Head Coach: Steve Graham

Asst. Coach: Michael Dixon

Management Committee

Following on from the hugely successful Salt Lake City Winter Paralympic Games it was decided to form the Winter Sports Joint Management Committee. The committee, consisting of representatives from the Australian Paralympic Committee, Disabled WinterSport Australia and Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre together with an athlete representative, has been entrusted to manage all the necessary programs including the elite, sub-elite and development teams in the lead up to the Winter World Championships in Wildschonau, Austria in 2004 and then on to the Winter Paralympic Games in Turin, Italy 2006.

Training Camps and Competition

Throughout the past 12 months the sub-elite team under the management of alpine coach Silvia Prieler trained in Europe. Centered out of Austria the team competed in events in the alpine areas of central Europe. The benefit of this exposure at World Cup competition level will be immeasurable when members of this team move through to the elite level to compete in Wildschonau next year.

At the same time our development team traveled to Kimberley, Canada and under the direction of our program director Steve Bova spent time on all the necessary technical skills needed to advance further to the sub-elite and elite levels. Talented young cross county skier, arm amputee James Millar also spent time with the Kimberley Cross - country race team, further developing his skills.

Michael Milton

In May of this year we saw Michael Milton, receive the Laureus World Sportsperson with a Disability Award in Monaco. This was a most fitting reward for a person who has committed

himself entirely to his sport from the age of 14. Michael did not stop there; he went on to break a long-standing speed record for disabled skiers when he achieved a speed of 193.16 kilometers per hour in April at Les Arcs in France.

Personnel

In May the Winter sports program accepted, with regret, the resignation of Program Director/Head Coach Steve Bova due to the tragic and untimely passing of his father Dick in Kimberley, Canada. Steve's departure left the program without appropriate coaching staff for the Australian domestic season. As a result Steve Graham, personal coach to Michael Milton and former Head Coach of the Australian Disabled Ski Team at Lillehammer, Norway in 1994, accepted the temporary position. In that role he has performed with great credibility under difficult circumstances and, under his management, a number of future winter athletes have been identified for our development programs.

Facilities

The Winter Program would like to take this opportunity to thank the ski resorts in Australia and in particular Thredbo and Perisher Blue for their outstanding support of all programs be they introductory, development, sub-elite or elite. In addition it wishes to extend its particular gratitude to the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation via its facility in Jindabyne for its equally outstanding support.





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