



AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE



2008/09 ANNUAL REPORT
Covering the period 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009

HONOUR ROLL

Paralympic Medal Recipients

- 2001 Marie Little
- 2002 Ron Finneran
- 2004 Adrienne Smith
- 2005 Nick Dean
- 2008 Scott Goodman

Australian Paralympian of the Year

- 1994 Louise Sauvage
- 1995 Priya Cooper
- 1996 Louise Sauvage
- 1997 Louise Sauvage
- 1998 Louise Sauvage
- 2000 Siobhan Paton
- 2002 Michael Milton
- 2004 Tim Sullivan
- 2008 Matthew Cowdrey

2009 INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE PARALYMPIC AWARDS

- Matthew Cowdrey – Best Male Athlete
- Australian Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team – Best Team Performance
- ABC Television – Broadcast Media





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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Following the very successful 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, the APC has put the spotlight on its internal operations, reviewing all aspects of its performance.

As a result, the APC has updated its structure and refreshed its focus, including its involvement in the sport development pathway.

By taking advantage of the opportunity to renew and rebuild in the post-Games year, the APC has confirmed its relevance and competitiveness within a rapidly maturing Paralympic sport environment.

A highlight of the year was the adoption of a new corporate structure. With the unanimous support of its members, the APC has shifted from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee. The Board is confident that this structural change has positioned the organisation for future growth, while retaining its aims and objectives.

In addition, we have significantly strengthened our focus on the best possible delivery of sport programs, through our mainstream partners and in the programs we currently manage ourselves. We have sought to maximise the allocation of resources to this core element of our business, while ensuring that those resources are effectively used.

On the events front, the second Oceania Paralympic Championships in Darwin were an unqualified success. The Championships are now an established part of the Arafura Games, held every two years in the northern capital. This year we attracted participants from 32 nations.

Events such as the Oceania Paralympic Championships and the Paralympic Youth Games in Melbourne in October 2009 are part of a strategy to develop and promote Paralympic sport throughout the country. The strategy incorporates connecting with existing able-bodied and disability sport events or creating new events where appropriate. It coincides with the developing capacity of the APC and its partners to conduct successful events and to benefit from them.

Many individuals and organisations have contributed to the success of the APC in the past year.

I record my thanks and appreciation to the APC's dedicated and experienced honorary Board of Directors. I acknowledge the outgoing Directors Ken Brown, Tanya Cox and Louise Sauvage and thank them for their work on behalf of the APC during their tenure.

Thanks also to CEO Miles Murphy and his team of professionals within the APC staff for their commitment and willingness to embrace the challenges of the future.

A key relationship for the APC is that with the Australian Government. In particular, I wish to record my thanks and appreciation to the Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis, for her enthusiasm for Paralympic sport and her support for our activities and programs. The support of Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, has also been much appreciated.

Our relationship with the Australian Sports Commission has never been better. My thanks go to the ASC CEO Matt Miller and all his staff, including AIS Director Peter Fricker and his team. The presence of a large team of AIS sports science specialists, testing and analysing wheelchair basketballers during a recent camp in Canberra, was a sign of

how the relationship is producing tangible outcomes for our athletes.

The APC has been progressing its goals in a wider environment in Australia that has not been without its challenges. It is gratifying that the key APC sponsors have come back on board since Beijing. Their contribution is important, both financially and in helping the APC to connect with all sectors of the Australian community.

More than ever, it is incumbent on organisations such as the APC to ensure that elite sport is relevant across the community and to deliver value to all its stakeholders, from the athletes and their families through to Government and corporate supporters. I believe that value is there for all to see.

International sport revolves around a ceaseless drive to be better. The APC is as committed to the same pursuit of excellence and ever-improving performance as our fantastic Paralympic athletes.

Since Beijing, we have been focussed on delivering the best possible teams for the Vancouver and London Games and the numerous championships in between.

Based on performances to date, the Australian Team for the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver may be the largest Winter Team ever selected to represent Australia. One thing is certain – the Australians will be as fiercely competitive as ever! I wish our Winter Team all the best and look forward to seeing them in action in a few short months.



Greg Hartung

President



CEO'S REPORT



With the Beijing Paralympic Games consigned to the record books, and Vancouver 2010 and London 2012 now very firmly in our sights, the APC is under no illusions as to the challenges ahead to ensure Australia's continued success on the Paralympic stage.

As Paralympic sport becomes ever more competitive, the challenges for us as an organisation to remain among the world's best have never been greater. But the APC is fully prepared to meet each challenge and continues to strive to provide the highest level of service to its athletes, coaches, partners, sponsors, member organisations and other stakeholders.

In our pursuit to deliver such service more effectively, the APC recognised the need to review its operations, and where appropriate, implement changes that will ultimately provide Australia's Paralympic athletes the best possible chance for success at the highest level.

The review conducted during the past year culminated with the development of a new Corporate Strategy (2009-2013), which included a new business plan, a new corporate structure and updated operating plans for the APC's four key functional areas - Sport Operations and Development, Marketing and Communications, Finance and Corporate Services, and Executive Services. Each division now has clear objectives and concise directions for the path towards achieving them.

The past year also saw the APC move its legal framework from being an Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. This has not changed the objectives or the outputs that the APC works towards, but simply provides a more robust legal framework governed by the Corporations Act.

Under this new structure, the APC will continue our highly focused approach to Paralympic sport and the delivery of its programs and development pathways.

We have also undertaken sports reviews with each of the national sporting federations which deliver the Paralympic programs and we will continue to closely consult and engage with them to ensure the programs are consistently of the highest quality. I take this opportunity to acknowledge each national sporting federation for their ongoing commitment.

In addition to our sport program reviews, the APC worked with the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) to develop a High Performance Plan for Olympic and Paralympic sport which identifies the programs and funding required to enable Australia's continued success at Games level. The Plan was presented to the Australian Government in March.

The APC enjoys a close working relationship with the Australian Federal Government through the Australian Sports Commission. Its support, including through the Australian Institute of Sport, is invaluable and deserving of our thanks. Moving towards Vancouver and London, we look forward to developing our relationship further - particularly in creating greater program alignment with the ASC and also the academies and institutes of sport in each state and territory.

Commercially, the APC was delighted that even in the difficult global financial climate, major partners Telstra and Toyota signalled their intention to remain with us on the journey to Vancouver and London. Telstra has already re-signed until after the London Games in 2012, while the terms of the new agreement with Toyota are being finalised. Both have been outstanding long-time supporters of the APC, and help form the group of valued sponsors, corporate supporters and individual donors whose contributions and loyalty to our organisation are appreciated immeasurably.

The APC remains committed to the promotion of Australian Paralympic sport, its athletes, sponsors and supporters. Since Beijing, we have placed greater emphasis on producing sporting events within Australia that showcase Paralympic sport and attract international competitors. Events such as the second Oceania Paralympic Championships (incorporated into the 2009 Arafura Games), the Australian Paralympic Youth Games, and the Rollers World Challenge are symbolic of our commitment and provide an indication of the range of events we are working towards staging in the coming quadrennium.

I extend my thanks to APC President Greg Hartung, whose leadership and knowledge of the Paralympic movement is world class. He serves with a Board of Directors who all bring a level of expertise and commitment which is greatly appreciated, and they are integral to the strategic direction of our organisation.

I also extend my thanks to all APC staff, who have helped make my transition into this role an enjoyable one. It is a pleasure leading such a dedicated, competent and hard working team.

As we move into another Paralympic Games year, the APC will again be tested against the very best in the world, where there is no greater measure of our progress than a Games medal tally. Whatever the outcome, I am proud of what has been achieved, but equally determined to build on our position within Australian sport and also among the leading Paralympic organisations in the world.



Myles Murphy

Chief Executive Officer





APC BOARD

- Greg Hartung** President
- Nick Dean** Vice President
- Paul Bird** Vice President
- John Croll** Director
- Doug Denby** Director
- Steve Loader** Director
- Joyce Parszos** Director
- Troy Sachs** Director
- Glenn Tasker** Director
- Miles Murphy** Chief Executive Officer /Non-voting Director

APC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

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

STAFF**Alison Campbell**

Manager, Sports Science and
Sports Medicine

Dee Camporeale

Fundraising Support Coordinator

Jenni Cole

Manager, Classification
(maternity leave from April 2009)

Charlie Coyle

Manager, Finance and Administration

Kieran Courtney

Sport Results Officer

Brad Dubberley

Head Coach, Wheelchair Rugby

Genevieve Duff

Manager, Classification Services

Kylie Gauci

NSW Assistant

Steve Graham

Head Coach, Winter

Michael Hartung

Deputy General Manager,
Sport Operations and Development

Jason Hellwig

General Manager,
Sport Operations and Development

Sabrina Holbourne

Coordinator QLD

Natalie Hutchinson

Sport Operations Coordinator

Erica Kearnes

Website and Database Coordinator

Angela Kerr

Manager, Events

Cathy Lambert

Development Coordinator SA

Tim Mannion

Manager, Communications

Tim Matthews

Manager, Pathways and Development

Cheryl McCormack

General Manager,
Marketing and Communications

Margaret McLennan

Manager, Executive Services

Joel McMaster

Administrative Assistant (Reception)

Kashmira Mistry

Donor Donations Coordinator

Anna Muldoon

Development Coordinator NSW

Tony Naar

General Manager, Knowledge Services

Chris Nunn

Group Manager, High Performance

Greg Omay

Branch Manager WA

Kate Perrin

Manager, Sport Operations
and Development

Kara Retford

Administrative Assistant,
Executive Services

Matt Roper

Development Coordinator WA

Sue Shepherd

Manager, Fundraising

Trevor Spaul

General Manager,
Finance and Corporate Services

Chris Voysey

Manager, Information Technology

Caroline Walker

Sport Operations Coordinator

Yonnie Wan

Finance Officer

Sarah Whitaker

Education Coordinator

Amy Winters

Manager,
Marketing Services and Sponsorship



MESSAGE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION



The power of a successful sports system like Australia's lies within the many cooperative partnerships and relationships between its system partners.

As our sports system has diversified and increased in complexity over the years, so too has the nature of these relationships. Now, as ever, a critical ingredient for our system's continued success and sustainability is to ensure that we all remain on the same page—that our links between each other, our leading programs, our roles and relationships are clearly defined and understood by all.

Sport operates in a dynamic, demanding and rapidly changing environment. The sources of change include advancing technologies, new structures and systems, products and services, people concerns and rising international competition and benchmarks.

The Australian Government has flagged the need to address this change by reforming our sports system and has outlined its approach in the paper *Australian Sport: Emerging Challenges, New Directions*.

The Government has also appointed an independent expert panel headed by lawyer David Crawford to investigate ways to ensure both high performance and community level sport is prepared for those challenges.

The Australian Sports Commission has already taken steps to review and evaluate our strategic position and intent in active consultation with national sporting organisations and other stakeholders. These system improvements will provide a foundation for any changes emerging from the Government process.

Already we have identified a number of priorities. These include: the need to better align our high performance sport efforts with our partners; to work more collaboratively with state departments of sport and recreation in strategic approaches to growing participation in sport; to re-communicate the value of sport to the Australian community; and to retain and develop our best coaches.

Our efforts to act on these priorities are inherently intertwined with our partners. These partnerships represent a powerful tool in our ability to adapt to a changing environment, to share responsibilities, effectively communicate and continue to expand and strengthen sport.

Our work together will ensure that the Australian sports system is progressive, robust and sustainable for decades to come.

Matt Miller

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Sports Commission



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

FINANCE REPORT – FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2009

The APC operated in all states and territories of Australia during the year ended 30 June 2009, and this finance report reflects these operations. This financial year included the Beijing Paralympic Games. Revenue and expenditure areas reflect activity commensurate with those Games.

The surplus for the year amounted to some \$290K. This result is very pleasing on the basis that the accepted budget for the 2009 financial year allowed for a deficit of some \$250K. It should be further noted that the budget allowed for the transfer of funds from the Games Reserve Fund to assist cash flow requirements in a Games year. However, no transfer was required, with all Games expenses being funded from operating funds.

Although revenue decreased by some two percent, to \$16.608m for the year, the ability to maintain this level of income in the economic climate that existed for the majority of the year is attributable to:

- Government grants through the Australian Sports Commission being maintained with any movement over the previous year being the result of rollover of funds from one year to the next.
- Sponsorship increased by five percent. The continued support for the Australian Paralympic Team and Paralympic ideals is encouraging, given the experiences of the international financial crisis.

- Fundraising increased 41 percent on the previous year, with a net contribution of \$2.133m. Again, given the financial crisis and natural disasters experienced in Australia, this is an exceptional result.

Expenditures increased over the previous year, with the notable expense of the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. Expenditures were held within budgeted levels.

Market forces have seen the value of our investments decrease. However, this decrease of some six percent is substantially less than experienced by the market generally. Cash and cash equivalents have increased to \$6.251m at year end as a means of safeguarding the overall investment strategy of the APC.

For the financial results achieved this year, as in prior years, the Australian Paralympic Committee is extremely grateful for the continued support of its sponsors, benefactors and, particularly, the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission.

A summarised financial report for the year ended 30 June 2009, together with the comparative figures for the previous year, is on the following pages. For further detailed financial statements, together with the report of our auditors, Ernst and Young, I would invite you to apply to the office of the Australian Paralympic Committee.

Doug Denby

Chair, Audit Committee

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

INCOME STATEMENT (IN \$'000)

for the year ended 30 June 2009	2009	2008
Income		
Australian Sports Commission	9,603	10,851
Other Government grants	388	629
Sponsors	1,546	1,468
Fundraising	4,399	3,112
Income from investments	655	845
Other income	17	15
	16,608	16,920
Expenditure		
Beijing Paralympic Games (2009)	3,586	0
Sport programs	8,172	8,036
Promotions, marketing and media	684	689
Fundraising	2,266	1,738
Administration	1,610	1,398
	16,318	11,861
Surplus for year	290	5,059

BALANCE SHEET (IN \$'000)

as at 30 June 2009	2009	2008
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	6,251	6,164
Investments and managed funds	5,431	5,780
Receivables and other assets	1,606	2,560
	13,288	14,504
Liabilities		
Payables and provisions	1,497	1,809
Deferred revenue and grants	1,833	2,386
	3,330	4,195
Net Assets	9,958	10,309
Equity		
Restricted reserves	5,548	6,189
Accumulated Funds	4,410	4,120
	9,958	10,309

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

	Accumulated Funds	Restricted reserves	Total
At 30 June 2007	1,158	4,831	5,989
Fair value revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	0	(738)	(738)
Transfer to Sydney Legacy Fund	(137)	137	0
Transfer to Paralympic Games Reserve	(1,959)	1,959	0
Total income and expense recognised directly in equity	(2,096)	1,358	(738)
Surplus for the year	5,059	0	5,059
Total income and expense for the year	2,962	1,358	4,320
At 30 June 2008	4,120	6,189	10,309
Fair value revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	0	(641)	(641)
Transfer to Sydney Legacy Fund	0	0	0
Transfer to Paralympic Games Reserve	0	0	-
Total income and expense recognised directly in equity	0	(641)	(641)
Surplus for the year	290	0	290
Total income and expense for the year	290	(641)	(351)
At 30 June 2009	4,410	5,548	9,958

FUNDRAISING SUMMARY PER STATE (IN \$'000)

	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
Fundraising revenue	3	906	836	642	1	1,205	806	4,399
Fundraising expenses	0	416	385	356	0	661	448	2,266
Fundraising surplus (deficit)	3	490	451	286	1	544	358	2,133
Surplus (deficit) %	100%	54%	54%	45%	100%	45%	44%	48%



MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

Despite being a non-Games period, this report covers a significant year for APC communications, with the introduction of several initiatives. As ever, the focus in this area was on promoting awareness of the APC and its athletes, Paralympic sport and the Paralympic movement.

As part of the updated communications strategy, major projects undertaken in the reporting period included:

- Commencement of the redesign and development of the APC corporate website, APC Vancouver Games website and the Paralympic Education Program website.
- The creation of a consistent look and feel across all of the APC's communications.
- The introduction of multimedia and social media strategies.

The APC engaged Edelman, the largest independent public relations company in the world, to assist in its communications operations, specifically in the areas of public relations, media, digital communications and issues management. As a Worldwide Partner of the International Paralympic Committee, Edelman has a strong understanding of Paralympic sport.

MEDIA

Following a year that saw media coverage of the Beijing Paralympic Games increase 65 percent from the Athens Games four year earlier, the focus during the 2008/09 reporting period was on trying to maximise Australian media coverage across all Paralympic sports without the natural lure of the Paralympic Games.

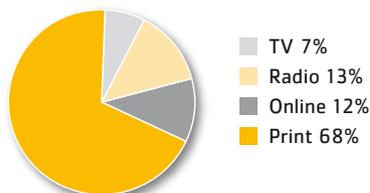
The APC issued more than 100 media releases to metropolitan, suburban and regional media in every Australian state and territory and published many more stories on the APC website.

Among the notable Paralympic sporting events that occurred during the reporting period were the Oz Day 10km, the Oceania Paralympic Championships incorporated into the Arafura Games, the Toyota Australian Paralympic Alpine Skiing Championships, the New Zealand Winter Games, the Rollers World Wheelchair Basketball Challenge, the Australian Short Course Swimming Championships, and wheelchair marathons in Sydney, London, Paris and Seoul – all of which garnered interest from major media outlets across the country.

Paralympic sport was widely reported in the suburban and regional media, which continue to provide the best ongoing coverage of Paralympic athletes and emerging talent.

Media coverage is tracked each week with the assistance of Media Monitors. From 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009, Paralympic athletes, Paralympic sport and the APC received 2,563 mentions in the print media, 508 mentions on radio, 276 on television, and 429 mentions on monitored online news sites nationwide.

MEDIA COVERAGE BY NEWSFEED 2008/09



WEBSITE

During the reporting period, the APC website consistently averaged more than 6,500 visits a month. In the six months from January to June 2009, the APC website had 43,306 visits and delivered more than 124,193 pageviews, with the news stories, athletes’ profiles, raffles and fundraising pages proving the most popular.

Work has commenced on the redesign and development of the APC’s corporate and 2010 Paralympic Winter Games websites, as well

as the Paralympic Education Program (PEP) website. The APC’s Vancouver Games site is due to go live in December 2009, as is stage one of the new corporate site, while stage one of the PEP site is now live. As part of this redevelopment, the APC will also look to build its presence on social media platforms including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

ROAD TO VANCOUVER

The APC has begun the development of a ‘Road to Vancouver’ media plan and continues to work on its Games operations strategies to ensure the 2010 Australian Winter Paralympic Team receives the most prolific coverage of an Australian Winter Paralympic Team ever. With the countdown to the Vancouver Paralympic Games in its final year, media interest surrounding the Australian squad continues to build.

World Championship victories to Cameron Rahles-Rahbula and Shannon Dallas (February 2009), and World Cup success at the Paralympic Games test event (March 2009), in which the Australian squad finished sixth on the medal tally, all generated a healthy level of media coverage. Further outstanding performances from athletes at the Australian Championships (early August 2009) and the New Zealand Winter Games (late August 2009), also attracted media attention and added to the awareness of the upcoming Games.

To build further media awareness, the APC generated and distributed its own video content packages during the reporting period. This strategy was successfully introduced during the Toyota Australian Paralympic Alpine Skiing Championships in Thredbo, where the story that was distributed to media aired nationally on a major commercial network. Given its success, this strategy will play a key role in the APC’s ongoing media outreach at next year’s Vancouver Paralympic Games and other major events across a range of Paralympic sports.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Sponsorship	\$1,000,273	\$1,247,071	\$1,468,003	\$1,546,254
Fundraising	\$1,742,288	\$1,593,556	\$3,111,561	4,398,756
Total	\$2,742,561	\$2,840,627	\$4,579,564	\$5,945,010

SPONSORSHIP

Overall APC sponsorship revenue for the year 2008/09 was \$1.546m, an increase of 5.3 percent on the previous year.

The post-Games period coincided with the expiration of a number of existing commercial agreements, including two of the APC's major sponsors, Telstra and Toyota. Telstra has since committed to a new sponsorship agreement through to London 2012, while Toyota has also confirmed its intention to remain a key sponsor and details of the new agreement are being finalised.

The additional leverage opportunities for the APC presented by partnerships with organisations such as Telstra and Toyota are invaluable in raising the profile and awareness of the APC and its athletes.

Agreements with official sponsors Australian Post and the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW (MAA) have expired. Discussions are underway with both organisations to identify ongoing mutually beneficial opportunities.

MAJOR SPONSORS

Telstra

Telstra's continued commitment to the APC under a new agreement until the end of 2012 retains key elements of the existing partnership – these elements include presenting rights to the Paralympic Education Program, the Telstra Wheelchair Rugby National League and involvement of Paralympians as Telstra Ambassadors.

An exciting development which will provide benefits for both organisations is the supply of new communications technology to the APC. This will improve efficiency and communication effectiveness for the APC and its stakeholders, and presents

an opportunity for Telstra to showcase the use of its technology to the Australian business community. This promotion presents additional exposure for the APC into new business markets that have previously been untapped.

Toyota

Toyota has confirmed its intention to continue its sponsorship of the APC.

The APC continues to work closely with Toyota to identify and increase leverage opportunities. The successful running of the first Toyota Australian Paralympic Alpine Skiing Championships in August 2009 at Thredbo created newsworthy content which promoted the APC/Toyota partnership and affiliation with the APC winter program. This initiative also created cross-promotional opportunities for Toyota with its sponsorship of the Thredbo ski resort.

WorkCover NSW

WorkCover NSW continues to leverage its sponsorship of the APC through the successful WorkCover NSW Paralympic Speakers Program. More than 150 presentations are conducted annually, with athletes sharing personal messages about safe work practices and returning to life and work following life-altering accidents. This program is conducted in workplaces and community groups across the state and provides awareness and increased profile for the APC, WorkCover NSW and the athletes.

OFFICIAL SPONSORS, SUPPLIERS AND SUPPORTERS

The APC was pleased to welcome WorkCoverSA to its sponsor family this year and looks forward to developing this relationship further.

Valuable professional services were provided by the APC's loyal supporters and suppliers: Clayton Utz (legal services), Publicis Mojo (advertising and branding), Media Monitors (media monitoring) and Ernst and Young (financial services).

State government support was also gratefully received from NSW Sport and Recreation, The Office for Recreation and Sport South Australia, the Queensland Government and the West Australian Government.

The APC extends sincere thanks to its commercial and government partners for their contribution to the development, promotion and ultimate success of the Australian Paralympic movement.

FUNDRAISING

\$4.399m gross revenue was generated through fundraising in the 2008-09 financial year, far surpassing the target set for a non-Games year. This fundraising income was largely derived from raffles, lottery and promotion sales, and direct mail campaigns. The ongoing commitment of our contracted raffle trader, Allsports Direct Australia, has enabled us to achieve this pleasing result.

The APC maintained raffle activity over the 12-month reporting period with up to six raffles, lotteries and promotions running concurrently throughout Australia at times.

EVENTS

The APC generated \$378,589 in gross revenue from events.

The ninth annual Desert Duel, held in May 2009, saw 51 participants travel the vast distance from Darwin to Top Springs, through North Queensland. Led by organisers and valued APC supporters Belinda Green and Steve Mason, the 2009 Desert Duel raised more than \$200,000.

Other community events around Australia raised a further \$71,127.



MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

KNOWLEDGE SERVICES

The Knowledge Services area of the APC was created to expand and protect the APC's knowledge and enable it to develop, retain and use information from research and analysis which can improve Australian Paralympic performances.

The APC has identified the Australian Centre for Paralympic Studies as a key vehicle for the acquisition of knowledge through relationships with relevant organisations, including the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Institute of Sport, other government agencies, such as the CSIRO, universities and commercial partners.

The APC is finalising an agreement with the Australian Sports Commission's National Sports Information Centre (NSIC) for the storage and management of the APC's audio-visual collection. This will ensure the protection and proper cataloguing of this unique resource through Australia's leading sports information repository.

The APC is evaluating a project to record the history of the Paralympic movement in Australia. This is a much-needed area of Australian sport research. As part of the process, the APC collaborated with the National Library of Australia to record the first Paralympian to be part of its Australian

Oral History Project – Australia's first Indigenous Paralympian, Kevin Coombes. With the National Library and others, the APC is exploring the best way to build on this start and preserve Australia's Paralympic history.

During the year the APC's athlete database has been updated, with the Games' results entered for every Australian Paralympian back to the first Games in Rome 1960. Results for PPP athletes from all international and major national competitions are entered to ensure that the APC maintains comprehensive information.

Results and performance comparisons assist the APC to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and assist in identifying and targetting athletes and events.

The APC compiled a comprehensive Games report from Beijing, for use as the basis of future Games planning and to ensure the effective transfer of knowledge from one Games to the next.

PARALYMPIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

2008/09 was a period of development for the APC's Paralympic Education Program (PEP).

In December 2008, more than 1,800 teachers involved in the program were surveyed and the results gave a clear indication of what our

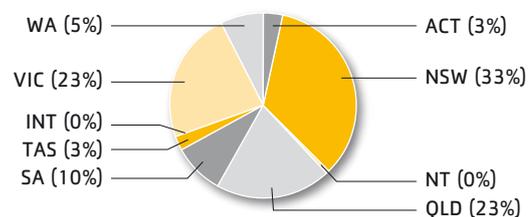
State	Number of Students	Number of Schools per state	Number Registered	Percentage of Schools
ACT	10,021	96	61	64%
NSW	99,059	2,415	605	25%
NT	1,822	176	8	5%
QLD	57,969	1,447	415	29%
SA	25,294	577	192	33%
TAS	7,149	204	46	23%
International	540	-	3	-
VIC	67,553	1,894	430	23%
WA	21,000	910	82	9%
Total	290,407	7,719	1,842	24%

stakeholders had gained to date and what they expected from the program moving towards London in 2012.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with the vast majority of teachers responding favourably to the teaching resource activities. Ninety-eight and a half percent of those who replied to the survey said they would definitely use the program again.

A major focus during the reporting year was the PEP website, which required a major upgrade to improve the level of engagement with students and to encourage them to explore the Paralympic world, while maintaining their interest through the use of fun technical features such as ParalympicSport.TV and videos.

PEP BREAKDOWN BY STATE



The new features of the site include a student portal with a homework helper, glossary, videos and information on each Paralympic sport. There are now more resources available for teachers to enhance their students' learning experience, including updated lesson plans, access to the new classification section, Paralympic Games highlight videos and a forum where teachers can collaborate with each other, and the APC, on the program. Another addition was a portal for parents who are interested in what their children are studying, which gives them access to information on the Paralympic movement.

Cheryl McCormack

General Manager,
Marketing and Communications





SPORT OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Following the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, the APC's Sport Operations and Development division conducted a significant review of its strategy, partnerships and objectives. Detailed reviews of each sport assisted us to understand the drivers and inhibitors to our performance, and the challenges and opportunities we face heading towards Vancouver 2010, London 2012 and beyond.

In undertaking this review, we worked closely with our national federation mainstream sport partners. The engagement of sports with the APC is one of our greatest strengths and is critical to our ongoing sport success. It is clear that the mainstream model – unique in Australian sport – is working.

Also significant are the APC's ongoing relationships with the federal and state governments, the AIS and the respective state and territory institutes and academies of sport.

Those sports operating under APC management were put through the same level of rigorous review and planning. With Boccia and Goalball now added to our suite of managed sports for London 2012, our work in this area continues to grow, as do our prospects for success.

The reporting period also saw the APC join the Australian Olympic Committee in preparing a High Performance Plan that seeks to prevent a decline in Australia's elite sport performances.

The outcome of these growing relationships is a new APC sport plan and a revitalised approach to how we develop Paralympic sport in Australia, from grassroots through to the Paralympic Games.

The lessons learned from Beijing are simple. For us to succeed in Paralympic sport, we need strong and fully connected sporting pathways, talent search opportunities, an

effective and well resourced classification area, quality professional coaches, access to competition at all levels and a targeted and well supported program of sports science and sports medicine. Bringing these elements into effective operation in each Paralympic sport is the immediate task of our sport division and our partner organisations.

HIGH PERFORMANCE

The focus of the APC's high performance program during the reporting period has been on coach education and development, improving the quality of the daily training environment for athletes, ensuring selection of the appropriate level of athlete and that teams are travelling with the support they require to achieve the best possible result.

To address the rapid improvement in performance across all sports at the Paralympic Games, the APC has increased its commitment to the employment of full-time coaching staff and development pathways for coaches across all sports. The APC is committed to increasing the number of full-time coaches beyond the 13 on the Australian team at last year's Paralympic Games.

The APC has also challenged all its coaches to undertake professional development opportunities to enhance the level of expertise they offer to their athletes and programs. As a result, five coaches have enrolled with Queensland University to complete a coaching certificate or coaching diploma. Other coaches have taken the opportunity to develop relationships with mentor coaches.

APC coaches are also embracing services offered by the National Sports Information Centre and using systems such as SPIDAR, a large data and information repository, which improves communication between athletes and coaches by enhancing the



quality of monitoring and shared information. Wheelchair Rugby and Wheelchair Basketball have been at the forefront in utilising this service and are also beginning to use programs which track and monitor athletes during competition.

During review meetings following the Beijing Paralympics, coaches felt that many athletes needed to improve their physical preparation. As a result, the APC has been working closely with sports to ensure athletes receive every opportunity to access appropriate services and facilities in their local areas.

The APC has established a Sports Science and Sports Medicine Advisory Group (SSSM AG). The SSSM AG comprises leaders in all areas of sports science who can advise coaches of local service providers or appropriate intervention strategies for athletes and coaches.

CLASSIFICATION

This reporting period has seen the continued strengthening of the APC classification program as a program of best practice and excellence.

During the year, the APC classification strategy has broadened to focus on:

- Enhancing partnerships with national sporting federations to facilitate sport-specific classification strategies, encompassing all elements of classification;
- Delivery of athlete classification, in collaboration with national sporting federations;
- Targetted implementation of classifier certification pathways, in conjunction with national and international federations; and
- Development of a classification information portal on the APC website and a database of athletes and classifiers.

Efforts have focused on developing and implementing classification strategies for each of the IPC sports in Australia to strengthen developmental competition and subsequent talent identification for sports. Supported by collaborative approaches to classifier training and development, this is helping to ensure that clear pathways and opportunities for athlete classification are in place.

In partnership with sports, the APC has identified priorities for classifier training and development. At the conclusion of the reporting period, a total of 118 classifiers were formally accredited at national level or higher, in accordance with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code. This represents an increase of 20% in national classifiers (now 80 in total) and 60% in international classifiers (38) and has positioned the APC well ahead of its target to ensure priority Paralympic sports are supported by quality sport-specific classifiers before London 2012.

The APC has established plans to ensure that all potential 2010 Winter Team members have presented to international athlete classification prior to the 2010 Vancouver Games. Strategies have been developed to manage the classification process prior to and during the Games, minimising risk and impact on team preparation and performance. Current estimates indicate that less than 5% of Summer Team athletes will require classification in London 2012, compared to 16% in Beijing.

Delivery of the expanding program has necessitated the appointment of a full-time APC Classification Manager.



SPORT OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

OCEANIA PARALYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Supported by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments, the Oceania Paralympic Championships were incorporated for the second time into the Arafura Games in Darwin in May 2009.

Events in eight Paralympic sports - Athletics, Swimming, Road Cycling, Powerlifting, Table Tennis, Wheelchair Tennis, Shooting, Paralympic 7-a-side Football - were conducted as part of the Arafura Games festival.

More than 360 athletes with a disability from 32 countries entered the Games, an increase from 2007, confirming the Championships as one of the most significant multi-sport, multi-disability events in the region.

A particular highlight was the first internationally sanctioned Paralympic 7-a-side Football tournament in Australia since the 2000 Paralympic Games. It was contested by England, Japan, Korea and Australia and drew impressive local crowds. Another major highlight was the Table Tennis competition that hosted 55 athletes, including some of the best players on the international circuit.

At a regional level, the Games saw the participation of six of the seven Oceania Paralympic Committee nations - Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Papua New Guinea. Most impressive was the delegation from Papua New Guinea, which demonstrated not only increased athlete numbers from 2007, but also improved coaching and administrative capacity, a clear indication of the effectiveness of the Oceania Paralympic Committee's development initiatives in the nation.

The APC hosted international classification workshops in Athletics, Table Tennis and 7-a-side Football (CPISRA), a national vision impaired classification workshop and managed the Games athlete classification process. Twenty-six classifiers were certified to national or international level, including 16 Australians and 10 participants from overseas. A total of 157 athletes were classified at the Games.

Four trainee classifiers were supported by the Oceania Paralympic Committee to attend classification workshops: one from Papua New Guinea, one from Tonga and two from Fiji. All are now National Athletics classifiers and the Pacific islands have their first national level classification panel.

The APC hosted an IPC Athletics technical officiating workshop, which involved many members of the IPC Athletics Sport Technical Committee. These highly qualified officials also participated in the officiating of the Championships.

The Arafura International Sport Conference held in conjunction with the Arafura Games featured the IPC Women in Sport Summit. Tine Teilmann, Chair of the IPC Women in Sport Committee, was the keynote speaker and highlighted the IPC's focus on increasing the participation of women within the Paralympic movement. The conference also featured prominent female Paralympians Louise Sauvage, Amy Winters and Jayme Paris, as well as leading experts in the fields of Paralympic sports science and medicine.

For 2011, the APC will continue to work closely with the Northern Territory Major Events Company to expand the program of Paralympic events and to further position the Oceania Paralympic Championships as one of the leading Paralympic regional championships in the world.

SPORT OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

YEAR	PARTICIPANTS	TIER 1	TIER 2
2007	158	20	73
2008	207	29	107
2009	255	45	105

TOYOTA PARALYMPIC TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

The 2008 Australian Paralympic Team was the first to experience the benefits of the Toyota Paralympic Talent Search Program, with 27 Toyota Talent Search athletes achieving selection for the 2008 Beijing Games. The 2010 Vancouver-bound Winter Paralympic team will be the next to benefit from the program, with a number of Toyota Talent Search athletes in line for selection for their first Paralympic experience.

The past year has seen further refinement of the program, with the introduction of sport-specific Talent Search activities across a number of Paralympic Sports. A further 304 participants were tested under the program in the past year, with 25 participants identified as 'tier one' athletes (future elite potential within two years) and a further 105 identified as 'tier two' athletes (elite potential within

four years). The program has now tested more than 1,300 Paralympic hopefuls, in every state and territory, since its inception.

The significant number of Toyota Talent Search athletes within Paralympic Preparation Program squads and the number of athletes now committed to elite training is further evidence of the program's success. Thirty-nine talent search athletes competed at the Oceania Paralympic Championships in May 2009 and the Australian Paralympic Youth Games in Melbourne in October 2009 will provide another opportunity for many young athletes who are embarking on their journey towards the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

The Toyota Talent Search program is driven by APC Development Coordinators in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.



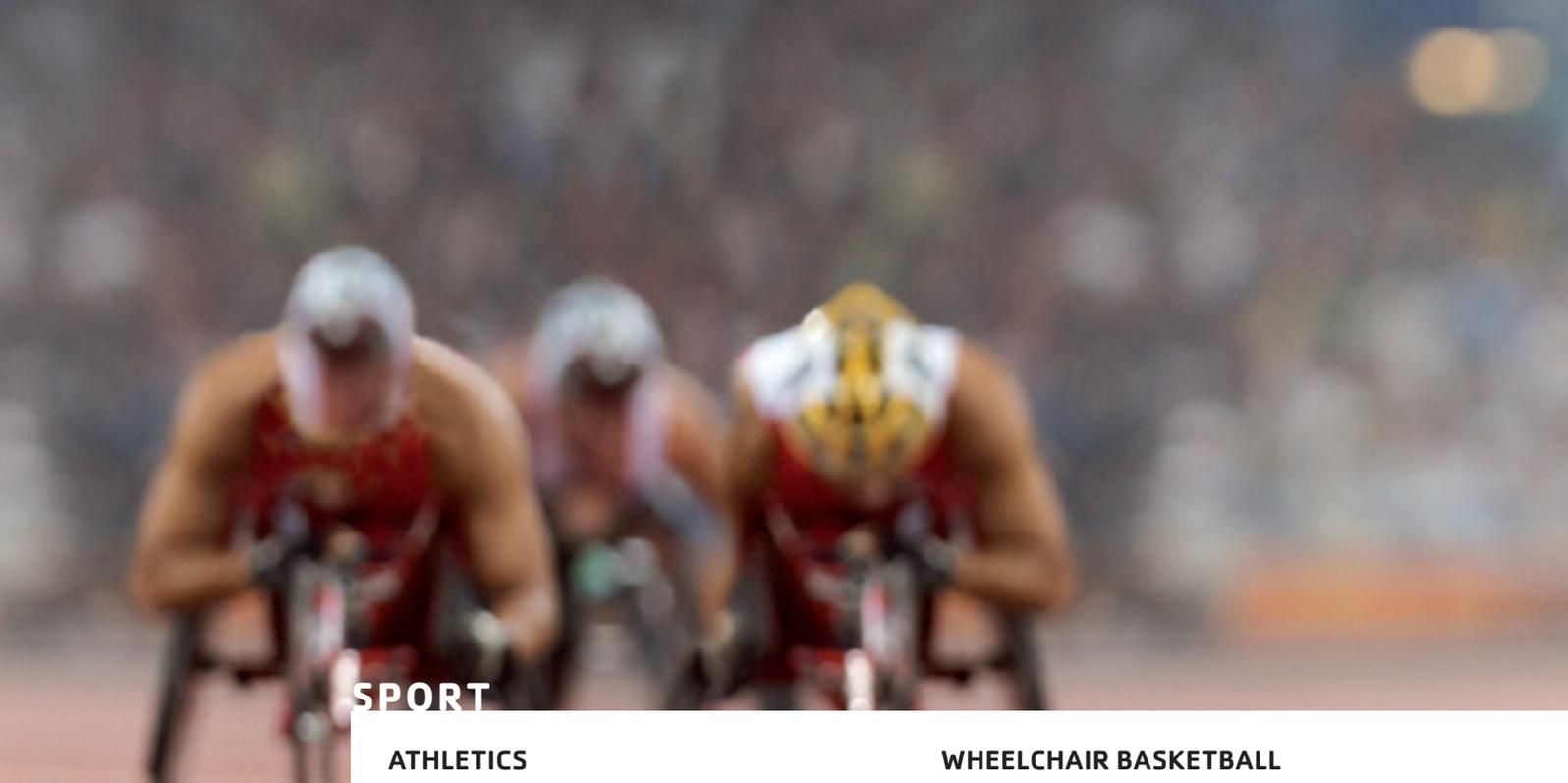
A partnership that will place a coordinator on the ground to assist with the delivery of the Oceania Paralympic Championships and APC development programs is being progressed in the Northern Territory between the APC and the Northern Territory Government, backed by the Australian Sports Commission.

The APC Development Coordinators will continue to work closely with identified athletes and the relevant national sporting federations, national sporting organisations for the disabled and state sporting associations to assist in linking talented athletes into the development pathway for the sports most suited to their disability, physical characteristics and potential access to coaching and competition.

The identification and development of emerging coaching talent will become a key component of the program in the coming year. This will assist in ensuring identified athletes have access to quality coaching environments and facilitate fast-tracking their development.

Jason Hellwig

General Manager,
Sport Operations and Development



SPORT

ATHLETICS

Program managed by:	Athletics Australia
Program Manager/ Head Coach:	Scott Goodman
Benchmark Event:	No major events
Result:	-

Overview

Since the 2008 Beijing Games, the Athletics program has concentrated on domestic activities and planning towards 2012.

However, Paralympic champion Kurt Fearnley continued his international dominance in the marathon. After claiming the 2008 Games gold, he backed up to win the New York, London, Paris, Seoul and Sydney marathons. The AA Wheelchair Track and Road program also tasted success in the North America race series.

The Oceania Paralympic Championships in May (incorporated into the Arafura Games) presented a good opportunity for many up-and-coming athletes to compete against some of the region's best athletes. The highlights included Kelly Cartwright setting a new world record in the women's T42 200m sprint final, after her training partner Michelle Errichiello broke the record in the heat.

AA sent a small team to the IWAS World Junior Games in Nottwil, Switzerland, from 15-19 July, 2009. The athletes won 4 gold, 11 silver and 4 bronze to finish 8th on the medal tally.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Program managed by:	Basketball Australia
Program Manager:	Lorraine Landon
Coaches:	Ben Ettridge (Men – Rollers), John Triscali (Women – Gliders)
Benchmark Event:	Paralympic World Cup – Manchester (Rollers) Canada Cup – Ottawa (Gliders)
Result:	Rollers – Gold Gliders – Bronze

Overview

Following exceptional gold and bronze medal performances at the Beijing Paralympic Games, head coach of the Rollers, Ben Ettridge, was appointed National Wheelchair Athlete and Coach Development Manager while the Gliders welcomed John Triscali as their new head coach.

The Rollers have enjoyed a successful 12 months, with a well fought win over the USA in the final of the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester in May.

They went on to contest the inaugural Rollers World Challenge event in Sydney in August which featured the three medal winning teams from Beijing (Australia, Canada and Great Britain) plus Japan. Australia was unstoppable and moved through the tournament undefeated, finishing with a convincing win over Canada in the final.

The Gliders also performed consistently, with a win at the Osaka Cup in February and a bronze medal at the Canada Cup in late July.



BOCCIA

Program managed by:	APC
Coach:	John Kavanagh
Benchmark Event:	2009 Asian World Regional Championships, Hong Kong
Result:	No medals

Overview

In 2009, the APC re-established the Boccia Paralympic Preparation Program with a view to qualifying the team for the London Paralympic Games in 2012.

The Boccia program is a developing camp-based program and the introduction of high performance management has provided the program with administrative support, coach and athlete development opportunities, sports science and sports medicine servicing and advice.

The team gained invaluable international competition experience at the recent Asia and South Pacific Championships in Hong Kong in August. The athletes are now concentrating on preparations for the World Championships in Portugal in 2010. This event is a qualification event for the London 2012 Games and will provide an accurate indication of Australia's ranking at international level across individual and team events.

CYCLING

Program managed by:	Cycling Australia
Head Coach:	James Victor
Program Manager:	Kevin Tabotta
Benchmark Event:	2009 UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships, Bogogno, Italy
Result:	1 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze

Overview

Following some great performances at the Beijing Games, the past 12 months have focused on the establishment of a stronger squad in the lead up to the London Paralympics.

In early September, Australia sent three riders to the 2009 UCI Para-cycling World Championships in Bogogno, Italy. Exceptional performances from Michael Gallagher, Susan Powell and Claire McLean saw the team come away with five medals in an event contested by 312 riders from 29 nations. A gold medal winning effort from Powell in the LC2/CP4 Women's Road Race capped off a successful event and highlighted the improvement in Australian Para-Cycling and the potential for further success leading to the next Games.

SPORT

EQUESTRIAN

Program managed by:	Equestrian Australia
Head Coach:	Julia Battams
Program Manager:	Brett Mace
Benchmark Event:	No major events
Result:	-

Overview

In 2008 the APC commenced the process of transferring management of the Para-Equestrian program from Riding for the Disabled Association Australia (RDAA) to Equestrian Australia. This transition has brought the program into line with the international position of the sport, with Equestrian Australia the Australian member of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI).

The program officially commenced under Equestrian Australia management from 1 January, 2009.

The first key step forward for the Para-Equestrian program was the appointment of Julia Battams as the National Coach. This has been followed by the appointment of Sally Francis to the role of Chef d'Equipe.

The inaugural Equestrian Australia Para-Equestrian National Championships were held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre from 24-26 September, 2009. NSW took out the Teams Championship.

FOOTBALL (7-A-SIDE)

Program managed by:	Football Federation Australia
Head Coach:	Paul Brown
Team Manager:	David Campbell
Benchmark Event:	2009 Oceania Paralympic Championships, Darwin, NT
Result:	2nd place

Overview

After just missing out on qualification for the 2008 Beijing Games, the Paralympic Football program has qualification for 2012 firmly in its sights.

A key focus for the program has been the growth of the sport across Australia. Head coach Paul Brown travelled to a number of states throughout the reporting period to help strengthen state programs.

The major event in the past 12 months was the invitational event at the 2009 Oceania Paralympic Championships. England, Korea and Japan were the other nations making up the four team competition. The Australian team finished runners-up to England, going down 2-0 in the final.



GOALBALL

Program managed by:	APC
Head Coach:	Rob Apps
Benchmark Event:	FEDC International Tournament in Madrid, Spain
Result:	4th place

Overview

Following the 2008 Beijing Games, the APC re-established the Goalball Paralympic Preparation Program with a view to qualifying a team for the London Paralympic Games.

This developing, camps-based program is working to establish both a men's and a women's team. Critical to the success of the program is the identification of new talented athletes as well as a key focus on sports science and sports medicine.

The men's team travelled to the UK, Spain and Lithuania in July to compete at both the FEDC International Tournament (Madrid) and Vilnius International Goalball Tournament. In Spain, the team showed great potential and narrowly lost the bronze medal match against Iran. Over the two week trip, the team was exposed to a number of well-established Goalball national teams from Europe, North America and the Middle East, giving them great experience as they continue to work towards the London Games.

POWERLIFTING

Program managed by:	APC
Head Coach:	Ray Epstein
Benchmark Event:	2009 Oceania Paralympic Championships, Darwin, NT
Result:	1 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

Overview

In 2008/09, the APC expanded its existing partnership with the AIS to include an AIS camps-based scholarship program for targeted athletes in the Powerlifting Paralympic Preparation Program.

The program provides a high performance training environment for athletes to access elite level coaching and servicing. In addition, the program will assist in promoting awareness of the sport and developing national coaching networks.

All athletes on the squad have shown a consistent improvement in their results, which is a direct reflection of the AIS and APC partnership.



SPORT

ROWING

Program managed by:	Rowing Australia
Program Manager:	Matt Bialkowski
Head Coach:	Pedro Albisser
Benchmark Event:	World Rowing Championships, Poznan, Poland
Result:	1 Bronze

Overview

With the incorporation of Adaptive Rowing within Rowing Australia's National Rowing Centre of Excellence and the introduction of an AIS scholarship program, the future of Adaptive Rowing is looking bright.

In 2008/09, Rowing Australia has invested in a new High Performance Manager, coaching, equipment and talent identification, with the aim of improving the success of the program leading into the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

At the 2009 World Rowing Championships, Australia contested 2 events. The men's single sculls resulted in a bronze medal for Ben Houlison, who covered the 1km distance in a time of 5:12.11 behind rowers from Great Britain and the Ukraine. The second boat, a mixed coxed four, finished a respectable 6th after fighting through the repechage round to reach the final.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Program managed by:	APC
Head Coach:	Brad Dubberley
Benchmark Event:	No major competitions
Result:	-

Overview

After silver medal success in Beijing, the APC appointed Brad Dubberley as full-time head coach of the Wheelchair Rugby program.

The program continues to be a camps-based program and is supported by the Telstra National Wheelchair Rugby League and a tailored daily training environment for all squad members. Individual training programs are reviewed and monitored by assistant coach (strength and conditioning) Greg Smith, an Athletics and Wheelchair Rugby Paralympian.

With the appointment of key program staff, the Wheelchair Rugby program continues to evolve and focus on the utilisation of sports science and sports medicine, coach development and relevant technology to ensure that the Australian team becomes the benchmark in international Wheelchair Rugby.

The squad is currently preparing for the Asia Oceania Zone Championships to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand in late 2009.



SAILING

Program managed by:	Yachting Australia
Head Coach:	Greg Omay
Program Manager:	Sarina Macpherson
Benchmark Event:	Sail for Gold Regatta, Weymouth, UK
Result:	12th place – Rachael Cox 15th place – Duncan McGregor

Overview

The Sailing program has moved forward in leaps and bounds since its successful Beijing Games campaign. The past 12 months saw the program receive additional funding to ensure that the Paralympic Preparation Program athletes have access to appropriate sport science and sports medicine servicing through the AIS and Yachting Australia able-bodied program.

The squad took part in a successful development camp in May 2009, which enabled Head Coach Greg Omay to screen and train existing athletes, identify new athletes and coaches and explain the program direction and pathways leading to London 2012 and beyond.

The squad competed at the Sail for Gold Regatta in Weymouth, England in September 2009 where Paralympic silver medallist Rachael Cox finished 12th overall and fellow Australian Duncan MacGregor ended the regatta in 15th position.

SHOOTING

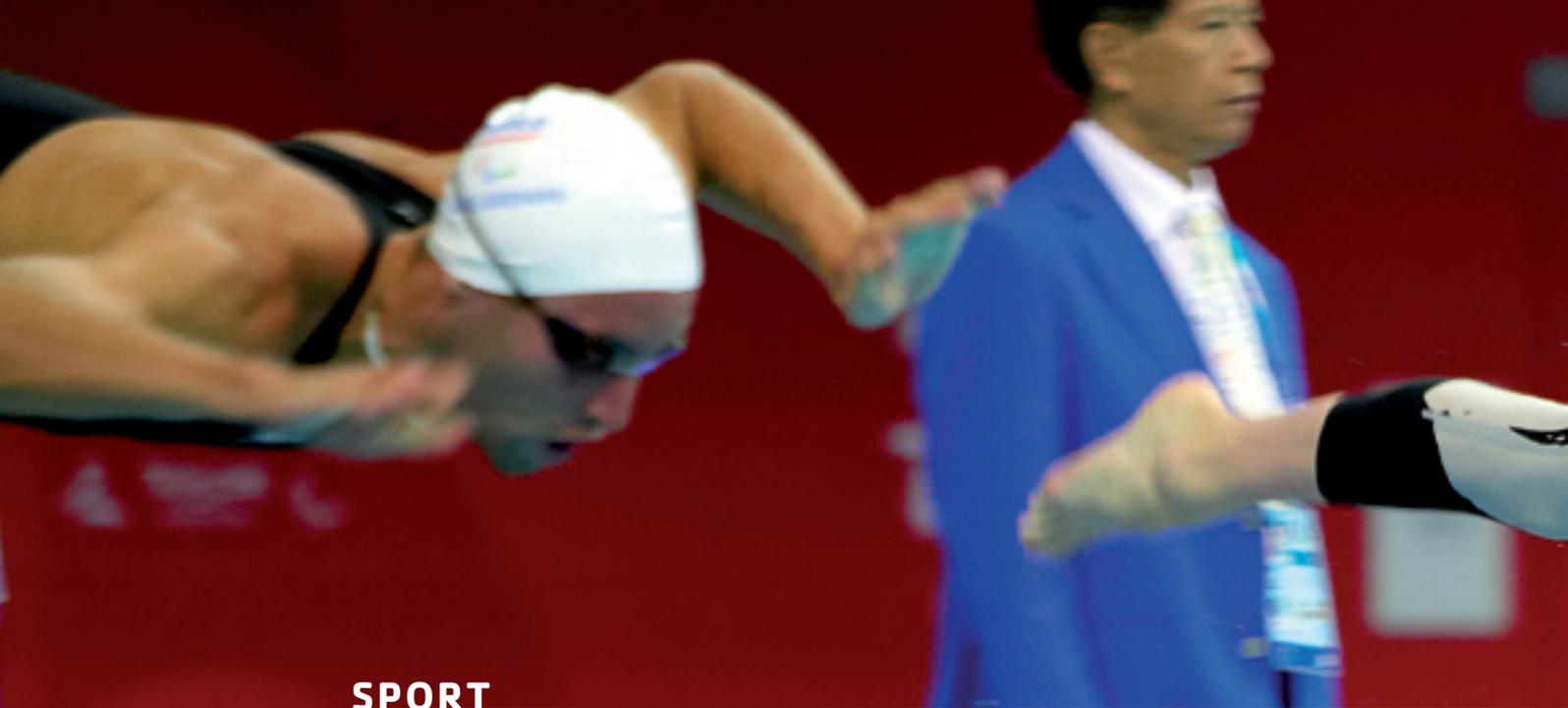
Program managed by:	Australian International Shooting Limited
Head Coach:	Miro Sipek
Benchmark Event:	No major events
Result:	-

Overview

The Paralympic Shooting program is now focusing on improving athletes' international standings, following mixed results at last year's Paralympic Games.

A number of initiatives have been introduced to assist in the preparations for the London Games, including the appointment of a new Adelaide-based assistant coach and the identification of appropriate sports science, sports medicine support servicing.

The program has been evaluating more efficient technology in the areas of equipment and athlete monitoring. Steps are also being taken to provide more opportunities for Paralympic Preparation Program athletes to integrate with mainstream national athletes in competition and training.



SPORT

SWIMMING

Program managed by:	Swimming Australia Limited
Head Coach:	Brendan Keogh
Program Manager:	Meredith Evans
Benchmark Event:	CAN-AM Para Swimming Championships in Edmonton, Canada
Result:	15 Gold, 6 Silver and 2 Bronze

Overview

The Paralympic Swimming program returned from the 2008 Games with a clear objective to achieve even better results in London.

Important steps have already been taken towards this goal. This has included an expansion of the AIS Paralympic Swimming program and the appointment of full-time coach Graham Carroll to oversee this program.

Competition in this reporting period commenced in March 2009, with the Australian National Championships (long course).

The Oceania Paralympic Championships in Darwin in May gave many of the rising stars of the sport an opportunity to start their bids for 2012 selection in the right way.

A select group of five athletes travelled to the CAN-AM Para Swimming Championships in Edmonton, Canada, in July and performed brilliantly to bring home 15 gold, 6 silver and 2 bronze medals.

In preparation for the 2009 World Short Course Championships later this year, the Australian National Short Course Championships were held in from 8-12 August 2009, in Hobart. The team showed Australia is on track for a good performance at the World Championships, with 18 new world short course records set.



TABLE TENNIS

Program managed by:	Table Tennis Australia
Head Coach:	Roger Massie
Benchmark Event:	No major event
Result:	-

Overview

After Beijing, the head coach of the Paralympic Table Tennis program, Brian Berry, stepped down from the position and was replaced by Roger Massie.

The program is currently focused on development and the identification of new athletes.

The Oceania Paralympic Championships was the key event for the program over the past 12 months. Australia's top players, along with many of the up-and-coming development athletes, competed in the Factor 20 sanctioned event.

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Program managed by:	Tennis Australia
Head Coach:	Greg Crump
Program Manager:	Geoff Quinlan
Benchmark Event:	2009 World Team Cup in Nottingham, UK
Result:	2nd

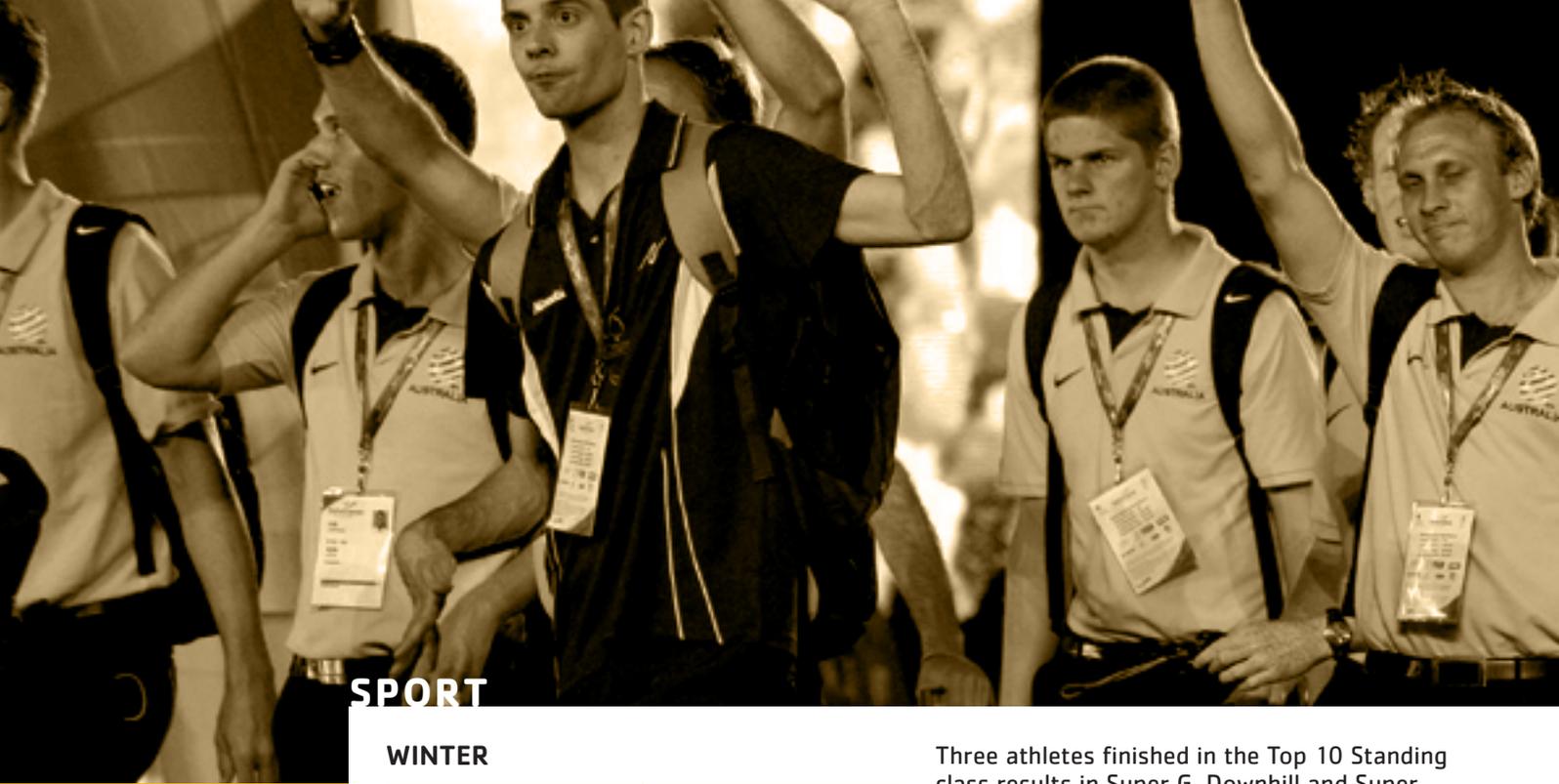
Overview

The Tennis Australia Wheelchair Tennis program has commenced the campaign to London with some good signs from the next generation of athletes.

The Australian junior men finished runners-up to the Netherlands in the 2009 World Team Cup in Nottingham.

Daniela Di Toro also continued her impressive run, currently ranked number 5 in the world in the women's draw. This ranking has come on the back of strong performances in singles and doubles in the Grand Slams as well as tournament wins at the Belgium Open and Trofeo Della Mole.

Even with the good performances internationally the program is still striving for growth in the domestic athlete pool. This will be an ongoing focus.



SPORT

WINTER

Program managed by:	APC
Head Coach:	Steve Graham
Benchmark Event:	IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships, in High 1 Resort, Korea
Results:	2 Gold, 2 Bronze

Overview

The APC winter program continues its preparations towards the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

During Australia’s summer, the squad once again moved its preparations to Europe for training in Spain before competing in World Cup Circuit Races at La Molina, Spain and Sestriere, Italy. After a short break in Australia, the squad competed at the 2009 Alpine Skiing World Championships in Korea in late February. Outstanding performances from Shannon Dallas and Cameron Rahles-Rahbula saw each win a gold and a bronze medal in their respective classes.

The Paralympic Games test event formed the World Cup final. This was a great opportunity for the athletes to gain valuable experience at the venue for the Paralympic Games in 2010. Cameron Rahles-Rahbula again demonstrated his abilities by winning two gold medals and a silver.

Three athletes finished in the Top 10 Standing class results in Super G, Downhill and Super Combined at the end of the 2008/09 season. This was the most Top 10 finishes of any nation in the Standing class.

During the Australian winter, Thredbo hosted the 2009 Toyota Australian Paralympic Alpine Skiing Championships, an internationally sanctioned event, which allowed developing athletes to gain world ranking points and earn qualification for IPC events in 2009/2010.

The New Zealand Winter Games was a new competition on the winter program’s schedule. Alpine and Nordic competitions were held at Coronet Peak and Snow Farm respectively. The Alpine competition saw the team win two golds and a bronze while Nordic Skier James Millar won his first international gold medal in the Men’s LW2-9 Freestyle Sprint Event.

In preparing for the Paralympic Games, the winter program will send a strong group of athletes away during the Australian summer to America and Europe to train and compete in the World Cup Circuit. They finish their preparation in Aspen, Colorado for the World Cup final before heading to Whistler for the Games.



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