

AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC FEDERATION

annual report 1994



'94 a year of GOLD



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AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC FEDERATION

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AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC FEDERATION

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Executive Director Amputee Assn of Aust.

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MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Cerebral Palsy Aust Sport & Recreation Fed.
Australian Blind Sports Federation
Australian Amputee Association
Australian Wheelchair Athletes
Riding for Disabled Australia
Australian Disabled Skiers Federation
Aust. Recreation Assn for People with an
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PResIDENTs RePORT

The success of the Australian Paralympic Team at the 1994 Winter Paralympic games at Lillehammer coupled with quality performances at World Championships in Track & Field, Shooting, Cycling, Weightlifting, Tennis and Basketball and the Commonwealth Games in Victoria augers well for Australian sportspeople with a disability. These results are a credit to the athletes, coaches and the Australian Paralympic Federation Member organisations.

It is indeed fitting to commence this report with an indication of the success of Australian Paralympic Athletes as this is a true measure as to whether or not the Australian Paralympic Federation is meeting its objectives. The Board certainly believes that, through the work of the APF Members and support structure of a wide range of organisations, the preparation of Australian athletes is showing a clear improvement in performance at international level.

The building of the foundations for any austensively voluntary organisation is not an easy task and certainly a more difficult task when it comes to Paralympic Sports. Eliminating pity and the emotional and creating a perception of achievement in sport irrespective of a disability is one of the greatest hurdles. The APF has come a long way in promoting athletes with a disability as people and achievers in Paralympic Sports and the elimination of direct comparison with Olympic Sports and the funding of such sports. The Board considers this is the approach which athletes want and the correct direction in the overall development and marketing of Paralympic Sports.

There are also pressures by the Australian Sports Commission on integration and while the APF welcomes co-operation with National Sporting Organisations it must be understood that the responsibility for Paralympic Teams and IPC competitions rests with the APF Member organisations. The whole question on the interpretation of the Commonwealth Government's policy on integration requires examination, as its interpretation by others appears to range from National Sporting

Organisations taking full responsibility for sport for people with a disability through to a collaborative approach. A clear agreement by all concerned is essential and the Board intends to clarify the situation in the ensuing year.

The wrangling over the organisation and structure of sport for people with a disability, which has been going on since October 1992, is now hopefully drawing to a close. As President I would sincerely hope that the Australian Paralympic Federation and its Members are not subjected to any further pressures and the work in developing the organisation and providing services to the athletes can proceed smoothly.

In terms of the organisation structure the basic Management Commissions covering Finance, Policy, Marketing, Sport, Media, Medical and Athletes is now in place and APF Councils have been established in virtually all States to assist in fund raising and promoting the Paralympic Movement. These Councils are considered essential in building an Australia - wide network of communications and support.

The area of marketing and corporate sponsorship to meet administrative costs, support to athletes and team travel has been a problem area for the APF virtually since its inception. While the public and business sector rallied, through a last minute public appeal, to financially support the Barcelona and Madrid Paralympic teams, the needed cash flow since then has not materialised. To overcome the problem Sports Marketing and Management Pty Ltd of Sydney have been appointed exclusively for marketing and sponsorship through to Atlanta 1996. This organisation will, if required, assist in the fund raising and special events area. Other activities in the fund raising area are the telemarketing of Diaries and T Shirts by Sports Fund-raising Australia, which provide a useful cash flow.

Functions to create an awareness of the Paralympic Movement and to raise funds are another important element and it was indeed pleasing to have the backing of Registered Clubs Association of NSW in arranging a function at the Canterbury Bankstown League Club with the Premier of

NSW Hon John Fahey, present. The Premier in his address gave strong support to the Paralympic movement and spoke highly of the success of Australian athletes in recent times. The Australian Paralympic Federation thanks the President of the Registered Clubs Association, Mr Jack Ball and the Canterbury Bankstown League Club for organising the dinner which raised \$70,000.

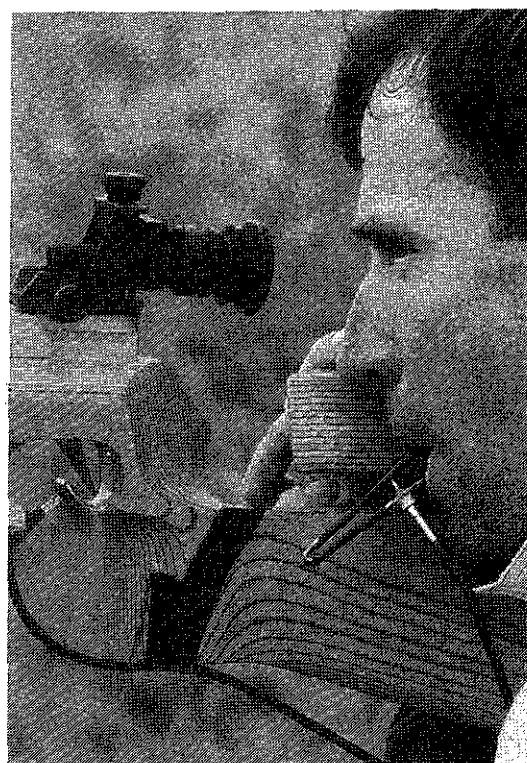
The Commonwealth Government initiative of the Olympic Athlete Program, to provide funding for the preparation of the Olympic and Paralympic teams through to Sydney 2000 along with some administration assistance, is most welcome. Work has already commenced with the formation of the Atlanta Training Squad and the appointment of Jenni Banks as the APF Director of Sport. Jenni has extensive experience in the area of sport for people with a disability and has coached a number of athletes to Paralympic Gold and World Record standard.

The period ahead through to the Paralympic Games in August 1996 is an important time. Important in that the APF with its management, marketing and fund raising in place must succeed in preparing and supporting the Atlanta Team. It is essential for Australia to demonstrate its strength and professionalism in selling the Sydney 2000 Paralympic games to the world at Atlanta in 1996. This is going to require considerable team work and dedication from the Member organisations, the athletes and all those organisations and volunteers involved in the Paralympic movement. Parallel to this is the need for sound government support at all levels.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate those athletes who have represented Australia in 1993/94 and wish them every success in training for selection for Atlanta. To the APF Member organisations, APF Councils, staff, and team management, support and medical staff sincere thanks for your support and dedication.

The support of the Australian Sports Commission is acknowledged.

Bob McCullough
President



**NSW Department of Sport,
Recreation and Racing**

SECRETARY GENERALs REPORT

Where to from here? The question I asked myself when I agreed to take on the task offered by the Australian Paralympic Federation Board, less than six months ago.

The APF is a very young sporting organisation by any standards, yet one with an enormous responsibility to its members - not only its member organisations, but those young men and women who have chosen to pursue elite sporting careers despite physical and mental disabilities. 1994 has provided me with an excellent introduction to their prowess.

In March, Australian television audiences marvelled at an all-to-brief exposure of six young Australian Skiers (courtesy of two ABC TV specials) competing against the mountain at Lillehammer. That they were disabled gave their already polished performances even more creditability.

Being fortunate enough to meet the skiers shortly after my appointment as Secretary-General, gave me a tremendous insight into the desire, ambition and drive of these young Australians - infectious attributes which will remain with me forever.

As I get to meet more of the Paralympians, who have so creditably represented Australia, I am driven to strive even harder, in my own personal endeavours and through leadership of my staff and volunteers, to ensure the success of the APF. To provide, through my own vast experience in the management of sport, an obstacle-free avenue for Australia's Paralympians to reach their potential.

SYDNEY 2000 GAMES

There are very few people in Australia, especially in Sydney, who will ever forget where they were on the night of September 23, 1993. The now famous (mis)pronunciation of Sydney as the host city for the Olympic Games in 2000.

It was most appropriate that Australia's (previously?) greatest sporting memory was on that same day a decade before-when Australian II won the America's Cup.

The first time the majority of Australians became aware of the successful

bid for the Paralympic Games came in the unfortunate, much publicised wrangle between the APF and the Government over the underwriting of the Games. Happily, I can report that a very good relationship now has been developed with NSW Premier John Fahey and his Government.

There are, indeed, exciting times ahead - not only in the preparation for the staging of the 2000 Games, but in the development of the athletes and the Federation - over the next six years to the turn of the century.

AUSTRALIAN TEAMS

During 1994, there has been a quiet, yet significant, change in management of overseas teams, as the APF takes on a bigger role. From financial assistance only to some, provision of staff to others, to the total management, staff and organisational responsibilities of multi-disability events outside the primary role of Paralympic Games. This is most important as we prepare to tackle our biggest challenge yet - Atlanta 1996.

For many, 1994 has been a learning curve (a steep one at that when thrown in at the deep end). But to their credit the young developing talent - both in athletes and management - have taken on the challenge with enthusiasm. To see enthusiastic young managers, support officials, medical staff, coaches and administrators prepared to give freely of their time without recompense augurs well for the future of Australian Paralympic sports participation at the highest level.

DEVELOPMENT

Whether it has been in the past is not something which I am qualified to comment on, but a primary focus point of attention will be the development, not only the APF structure and management, but of the athletes themselves. Development in terms of better preparation through the, soon to be announced, OAP funded Training Squads. Appointment of National Coaches for each Paralympic sport. And development of the ancillary attributes required by elite

athletes like better nutritional and sports medicine support services.

PARALYMPIC WEEK

The inaugural Paralympic Week took place at the end of September with unprecedented national media exposure via specials on Wide World of Sport and A Current Affair - the two covering the making of the advertising campaign for Paralympic Week by advertising giant, DDB Needham in Sydney. In total the generous support given to the APF by DDBs represented over \$1m in production costs and complimentary media placement.

The print, radio and TV ads featured amputee, Neil Fuller and blind swimmer, Tracey Cross - both giving freely of their time to assist the cause.

PARALYMPIAN OF THE YEAR

In one of the major initiatives of the APF, 1994 sees the inaugural award to recognise the most outstanding athlete of the year. A hard enough task from a single sport, single disability base, let alone the wide diversity of paralympic sports.

The performances of this year's 6 finalists, Louise Sauvage, Neil Fuller, Priya Cooper, Alison Quinn, Brian McNicholl and Michael Norton are awesome and it behoves the distinguished group of judges to make their choice - any one of the six would be a worthy winner.

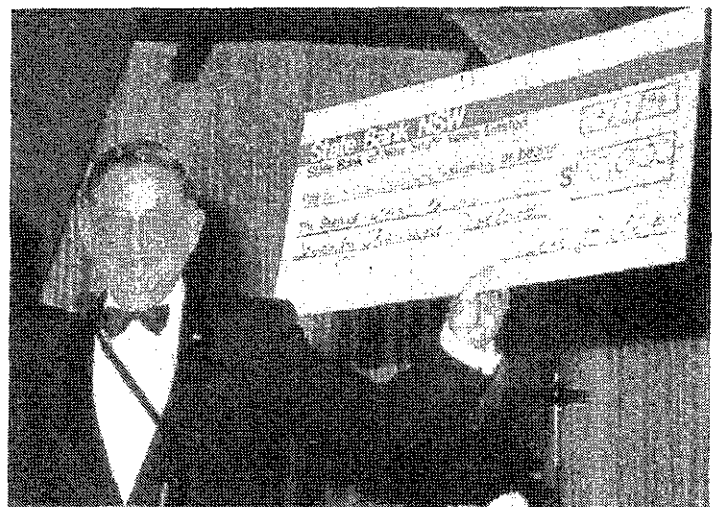
THE FUTURE

Much is left to do in the building of the APF to a "corporation" with which I will be totally satisfied. The end result will provide the sort of services and project the image now enjoyed by such well established organisations as the Australian Olympic Committee - an organisation up with the leaders in sport management in the World.

There is no easy road to achieving this goal - it can only be achieved with thorough planning and co-operation from all member organisations and athletes alike.

Once a business/corporate plan is prepared and agreed, then the APF Board, staff, member organisations and State Paralympic Councils can work together to achieve common goals.

FRANK MARTIN



DDB NEEDHAM WORLDWIDE
Advertising

GOLD Medals 94

ALPINE SKIING

Michael Norton	Wheelchair	VIC
Michael Milton	Amputee	ACT

ATHLETICS

Fabian Blattman	Wheelchair	NSW
John Eden	Amputee	VIC
Don Elgin	Amputee	NSW
David Evans	Amputee	NSW
Anton Flavel	Int. Dis	WA
Neil Fuller	Amputee	SA
Paul Mitchell	Int. Dis	WA
Racquel Nugent	Int. Dis	QLD
Alison Quinn	C P	NSW
Sharon Rackman	Int. Dis	ACT
Louise Sauvage	Wheelchair	WA
Russell Short	Blind	VIC
Greg Smith	Wheelchair	VIC
Darren Thrupp	C P	QLD
Stephen Welling	Amputee	QLD
Jodi Willis	Blind	VIC
Paul Wiggins	Wheelchair	WA

CYCLING

Lyn Lepore &	Blind	WA
Tim Harris		WA
Paul Clohessy &	Blind	WA
Eddy Hollands		WA
Terri Poole &	Blind	WA
Sandra Smith		WA
Paul Lake	Amputee	VIC

SHOOTING

Libby Kosmala	Wheelchair	SA
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SWIMMING

Kelly Barnes	Amputee	VIC
Petra Barker	Int. Dis	WA
Kingsley Bugarin	Blind	WA
Melissa Carlton	Amputee	TAS
Priya Cooper	C P	WA
Tracey Cross	Blind	WA
Gemma Dashwood	Amputee	WA
Rene Hardenbol	Int. Dis	WA
Joseph Walker	Int. Dis	NSW

TENNIS

Michael Connell &	Wheelchair	NSW
David Hall	Wheelchair	NSW



LILLEHAMMER 94

When the first APF sponsored Australian team returned from the Albertville (France) Winter Games in 1992 with the first medals won by an Australian at a Winter Games, planning began immediately for Lillehammer in 1994.

A two year training and squad development programme, coupled with the appointment of high profile ski coach, Steve Graham, brought results at Lillehammer which could only have been dreamed of:

Michael Milton	GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE
Michael Norton	2 GOLD
David Munk	BRONZE
James Patterson	SILVER & BRONZE

Rod Hacon consistently missed a medal place by the barest of margins but, at the end of the day, could be comforted in the knowledge that he ranked in the top six in the world and a little extra work and luck would eventually bring?

Team captain, Craig Windham, suffered leg injury during training for the downhill.

Australia finished 5th overall in the Alpine skiing competition, and 11th in the field of 31 nations in the total medal count. Australia does not yet compete at international level in cross country skiing or in the ice sports events. Yet with a total of about 1000 athletes and officials at Lillehammer, the impact of the tiny contingent from downunder was remarkable.

THE EVENT

The Alpine skiing was conducted at the ski area of Hafjell, where the Olympic competition had been held - facilities were excellent. Each group was provided with two Volvo station wagons and Paralympic buses ran a pre-determined schedule.

Comfortable single and twin bedrooms, common amenities block, team office and common room with a fresh daily supply of soft and sports drinks. The common areas were furnished with a TV, pay phone, large refrigerator and a computerised information service.

A large village mess hall provided excellent varied meals. The village had its own variety of shops, bank, post office, reception and meeting rooms, church, cinema, disco and a free laundry service. The Norwegian Army provided a stringent security service.

The Royal Norwegian Army also ensured that medal presentations were conducted with appropriate pomp and ceremony.

The opening and closing ceremonies were gala affairs which reflected a sense of occasion and the games spirit. The importance of the Games had a wondrous effect on the local community of Lillehammer (pop. 20000) - volunteers and officials alike. The Norwegians were casual and friendly. The military were always willing to assist with transport, snow cleaning, laundry, etc.

TEAM OFFICIALS

Coaches: Steve Graham & Dean Shepperd
Support: Alan Dean, Eddie Jesiolowski,
David Howells & Fiona Barnsdall
Manager: Ron Finneran
Media: Paul Griffiths
Chef de Mission: Nick Dean

PREPARATION

Six separate camps were conducted in Australia between October 1992 and October 1993. In November, the team was selected for the Lillehammer Games.

To conclude preparation for the Games, 4 weeks training and racing were conducted for the team in Tamsweg, Austria and one week training at Hafjell, Norway - site of the Games. Tamsweg was selected due to its similarity in snow conditions, weather and terrain to the Games race site.

The squad contested races, during that time, in the Austrian and German National championships.

According to coach, Steve Graham, "the training camps leading up to the Games developed the team into a very strongly knit, clearly directed group. The selected training site contributed greatly to the overall success"



Lillehammer RESULTS

DOWNHILL

Class		
XII	M Norton	DNF
LWXI	R Hacon	5TH
LW9	J Patterson	2ND
LW2	M Milton	3RD

SUPER G

Class		
LWXI	M Norton	1ST
	D Munk	6TH
LWXII	R Hacon	4TH
LW9	J Patterson	DNF
LW2	M Milton	3RD

GIANT SLALOM

Class		
LWXII	D Munk	3RD
	M Norton	DNF
LWXII	R Hacon	4TH
LW9	J Patterson	3RD
LW2	M Milton	1ST

SLALOM

Class		
LWXI	M Norton	1ST
	D Munk	4TH
LWXII	R Hacon	DNF
LW9	J Patterson	DNF
LW2	M Milton	2ND

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COMMISSIONS

MEDIA

The outstanding achievements of Australia's most elite disabled athletes across a range of events in 1994 once again generated considerable media attention.

In particular, the unprecedented success of Australia's Winter Paralympians was captured in two thirty minute ABC TV specials shown in Australia after the Games.

Regrettably, the considerable cost of transporting and meeting the meal and accommodation costs of a television crew, combined with limited available funding, necessitated a scaling down of media expenses for subsequent 1994 competitions.

APF Media Officer, Paul Griffiths, attended the IPC World Athletics Championships in Berlin without a television crew but was successful in creating considerable interest in the print media and on radio. Subsequent competitions, relying on an Australia-based media effort have also been successful.

Pleasingly, gains made in recent years in terms of media recognition of disabled athletes abilities rather than their disabilities seem to have been consolidated in 1994. The enormous amount of media generated by Arthur Tunstall's comments at the Commonwealth Games and subsequent show of public and government support also left no doubts as to the high esteem in which the achievements of disabled athletes are now held.

Despite this, there is a pressing need to improve the overall media and public relations approach of the APF. To date, activities have focussed almost solely on athlete success at major events - this interest has been unsustained between events. If the APF is to be successful in gaining a higher public, government, and corporate profile - a necessary pre-requisite to achieving increased sponsorship - a much broader approach which secures more regular exposure of APF objectives, activities, and athletes is necessary.

UNISYS

COMMISSIONS

MARKETING & FUND-RAISING

The APF Board, at its June 1994 meeting, realising the enormous task ahead to raise the necessary funding to ensure support for participation at Atlanta, appointed the marketers, Sports Marketing and Management, for a period up to and ending the Atlanta Games.

Their function is to seek corporate support for the APF and its international teams, to provide guidance and advice in the areas of marketing, licensing and fund-raising, as well as seek other means of support such as requirements in team outfitting and travel.

With SMAM comes almost a decade of experience and knowledge since their inception as marketers to the Australian Olympic Committee for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

While the corporate support challenge remains with SMAM, the APF itself is faced with its own challenge of meeting its share of revenue through ingenious and attractive fund-raising activities which return the most cost and resources efficient methods available.

A fund-raising dinner, organised by the Registered Clubs Association of NSW, realised a very worthwhile amount of \$70,000 when hosted by the Canterbury Bankstown League Club in July. The dinner was attended by NSW Premier, John Fahey and Chief Secretary, Anne Cohen. The presence of these two high profile members of the Government ensured a successful night.

As well as the mandatory entertainment, the auction provided the greatest interest and revenue source - David Campese limited edition and signed jersey bringing \$4000 and five Poker Machines, donated by manufactures, averaged \$8000 each. The evening was capably

conducted by Wide World of Sports commentator, Ken Sutcliffe.

Another such function is due to be hosted by the St Georges Leagues Club, and conducted by the NSW Timber Industry Association with 400 patrons expected to attend. It is this type of activity which is most acceptable in the current climate with many other worthy causes vying for the donation dollar.

Sports Fund-raising Australia has been operating a successful fund-raising practice in the name of APF Special Projects for some months now. Substantial revenue has been generated, firstly from the sale of Executive Diaries and more recently from a special T-Shirt sales operation.

Victorian Wheelchair Sports contributed to the APF fund-raising efforts (from their efficient telemarketing operations) at the beginning of the year but, understandable, their own organisation's needs have forced them to concentrate on raising funding for VWS.

The APF benefited (to the tune of \$50,000) from the professionally run AAP Art Union and Golf Day and, although not a beneficiary from the 1995 event, it is hoped that the opportunity will again be available leading up to the Atlanta Games in 1996.

A full calendar of fund-raising events is planned for 1995, not only to provide additional funds for Atlanta, and to support the administration of the APF, but also to be able to contribute to further development of the APFs greatest resource - its Paralympic athletes (present and future).

The APF struck up an association with the Sydney Turf Club during 1994 which saw participation at the October staging (on Sydney's picturesque Rosehill racecourse) of Silver Slipper Day. The NSW members of the World Championship

Swimming Team were guests of the STC as were NSW resident-members of the Australian Women's Wheelchair Basketball team.

DEVELOPMENT

Development has come in many ways during 1994. None more effective than the establishment of State Paralympic Councils in WA, SA, Victoria, ACT, QLD and NSW with plans in place establish representation of the APF in NT and Tasmania.

In Queensland the Council has a full time administrator in blind athlete, Gerrard Gosens, who works very efficiently in an office donated by a Brisbane small business, has his own "talking" computer and a well trained member of staff in guide dog, Anchor.

All Council members, in each State, are voluntary. Each State Council operated a business breakfast during September, and WA ran a successful art union, expected to raise in excess of \$30,000.

The primary tasks of the Councils are to raise funds and to spread the Paralympic word to the widest audience, both through specialised activities and in general everyday contact.

The other form of development comes with the structure of management of the APF and the need to "move with the times". Much planning and thought has gone into the re-vamped constitution of the APF and its streamlined management structure designed to run the "corporation" side of the Federation more efficiently.

Improved operations of the Commissions (and sub-committees attached to these) is the anticipated by-product of these changes.

ATHLETES

The role of the athletes representative has been a matter of debate at both national and IPC level. Far from being the issuing agent for survey forms and carrier of complaints and concerns from the

athletes to the APF Board, the role is seen as carrying a wider mandate for the future.

Development of the athletes is seen as contributing to both the athletes themselves and to improving the image and increasing the public awareness of the Paralympian movement.

Athlete's ability to deal with pressures of the media, and other outside distractions, is paramount for future development. A closer working relationship is also seen as essential between Paralympians and the organisations which represents them on the international sports scene - the APF.

MEDICAL COMMISSION

The Medical Commission was set up in 1993 and its area of activities includes doping, classification, research and sports medicine. The sports medicine section includes the medical touring policy of the APF.

The members of the committee include Susan White (Doctor), Don Perriman (Physiotherapist), Jane Buckley (Physiotherapist), Fiona Mance (Physiotherapist), Norma Beer (Nursing Sister), Scott Goodman (Coach and technical expert) and Jenni Banks.

The committee have had one formal meeting, at the TAC games in Melbourne, in 1994. The staff involved in provision of the medical services at the Berlin Track & Field Championships and the FESPIC games were chosen with a view of assessing them from the point of view of their participation at Atlanta in 1996. All staff have performed at a very high level at these two Games.

The level of expertise in all areas of classification (ie. CP-ISRA, ISOD, Les Autres and ISMWSF) will be upgraded in the next twelve months in Australia.

It is then hoped to send appropriate people overseas to complete their International qualifications in these areas.

SPORTS REPORT

The portfolio of Sport, within the APF structure, will always be one of the most important. It is, in essence, the reason for the APF existence. After all, the fundamental philosophy of the Federation is to provide the support for elite athletes to participate at their peak in international competition.

As the organisation, as a whole, moves through its development, the area of sport will be the one where the major direct input will be received from many of the outside agencies which make up the Paralympic sporting movement in Australia.

Members of the continuously evolving sports portfolio have, and will continue, to act as the APF processing unit on the many areas connected with sports participation.

The original Gold Medal plan and the Training Squads, which have taken shape over recent months, under the Olympic Athlete Program (OAP); justification roles for international teams and appointment of effective management and support staff for overseas teams; tribunal roles in disputes or disciplinary action, are just a few of the activities for which this portfolio has responsibility.

With the assistance of the Athlete Commission, the Sports Commission will also maintain an interest in the development of a support structure for the athletes themselves, both domestically, during their preparation for World Championships and Paralympic Games, and internationally during the actual competitions.

The enthusiasm and support shown by all members of the Commission is certain to continue (and increase) as the time gap closes towards Atlanta in 1996.

1994 has been a Golden Year for the Australian Paralympic Federation with an enviable record created by our athletes in major international competitions. I am sure my fellow members of the Sports Commission share a sense of pride (for the athletes' achievements) and satisfaction for the honour of being a part of it.

George Dunstan
Chairman - Sports Commission

INTERNATIONALS

Participation by Australians at major international championships was as varied in the countries of participation as it was in the number of sports. Likewise the three major areas at the most elite level also took three different versions - Commonwealth Games in Canada; the Winter Paralympic Games in Norway; and World Championships covering the globe. Also a strong presence in the FESPIC Games in China provided an opportunity for up and coming athletes to gain valuable international experience in this development competition for the Far East and South Pacific region.

Limitations on space in a publication such as an annual report often fail to do justice to the coverage of each event, sport and participants. And without seeking to single out any performance as being better than another, some of the highlights are listed below. Australians contested the following major international events:

WINTER PARALYMPIC GAMES - Norway

COMMONWEALTH GAMES - Canada

FESPIC (Development) GAMES - China

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

WEIGHTLIFTING - Melbourne

CYCLING - Belgium

EQUESTRIAN (DRESSAGE) - England

ATHLETICS - Germany

ARCHERY - Belgium

TENNIS - England

SHOOTING - Australia

MENS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL - USA

WOMENS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL - UK

SWIMMING - Malta

BOCCIA - England

MENS GOALBALL - USA

During 1994, international participation by Australian competitors was realised in almost every Paralympic sport. The number of Gold medals achieved (listed on page 11) illustrates the success of Australian athletes during the past year.

The media inspired controversy surrounding the inclusion of disabled athletes in the Commonwealth Games should not be allowed to divert attention from the performances of Australian athletes who were fortunate enough to experience the atmosphere of the large audiences.

Amputee swimmer, Melissa Carlton, captured the hearts of TV viewers when she hopped onto the dias to collect the first of a record haul of swimming Gold medals for the Australians. Paul Wiggins win in the wheelchair marathon, by streets (literally), was arguably the most outstanding in world class performances. But this is not to take away from the medal success of Brendan Burkett and Kelly Barnes (swimming), and John Hubbard (lawn bowls). The on-going debate over inclusion of disabled competition in events such as the Commonwealth and Olympic Games will continue. But given the aim of this exercise the demonstration events in Canada were an undisputed success, especially for the widened media exposure it provided for elite disabled sports.

⌘

Amputee, Neil Fuller and Wheelchair racer, Louise Sauvage, were just two of the success stories of the Athletics Worlds staged in Berlin. Fuller, for his 4 GOLD medal haul in similar style to (and at the same Olympiastadium as) the legendary Jesse Owens in 1936, set a magical record. Sauvage confirmed her position as the world's fastest female racer with 3 GOLD in middle distance events, after dominating sprint events in Barcelona. The Marathon (staged 2 months after the main track program) saw her win another GOLD medal.

Alison Quinn and David Evans also wore out a path to the dias to collect 3 GOLD medals each in Berlin. In all the final medal tally of 56 (25 GOLD) was the greatest achievement by an Australian athletics team overseas, finishing second to Germany on the medal table.

⌘

Priya Cooper became a "household name" in the inaugural World Swimming titles in Malta when she captured 5 individual GOLD medals at the meet and 3 new world records including one established as the first leg swimmer of the relay. Rene Hardenbol also proved that he was the world's best male mentally impaired

swimmer by taking 4 GOLD and setting two new world marks. While these two were the best performers as far as capturing medals there were many outstanding efforts. The meet also identified some young developing talent which will guarantee Australia's dominance in the pool at Atlanta. As with the athletics Worlds, the Australians finished 2nd on the medal table, behind England, with 42 medals (17 GOLD) from a team of 17 swimmers.

⌘

The team which earned the nickname of the "Chariots of Fire" left the Cycling Worlds in Belgium in awe as they "stole" all the GOLD, especially in the tandem events. Leading the charge, Terri Poole and Sandra Smith started in 4 events with success in all to win 4 GOLD medals and set new world marks in three.

And Paul Clohessy and Eddie Hollands added their own 3 GOLD to a total haul of 14 medals (9 GOLD) - the pair also set one of the 5 World records broken by the Australians in the 12 events they contested.

⌘

Liesl Tesch was again named in the All Star World 5 (also named in Barcelona), after the Womens Wheelchair Basketball team took the bronze medal in the Gold Cup competition, to be the first Australian team to qualify for the '96 Paralympics. Captain, Donna Ritchie took the team into the event ranked No 4 and came out in the No 3 spot.



———— Australian Sports ————
 ———— Commission ————

OLYMPIC ATHLETE PROGRAM

Sydney's successful bid for the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games has generated some unprecedented developments in Australian sport, most significantly in terms of government funding.

Australia has always had a proud tradition in both Olympic and Paralympic sport. However, the successful 2000 Games bid has provided the Federal Government with the extra incentive to ensure that our Olympic and Paralympic athletes are given every possible opportunity to develop to their highest potential and to represent our country with distinction.

The Government response to the bid win has been to announce the Olympic Athlete Program. Launched by Federal Minister for Environment, Sport and Territories, John Falkner in July this year, the Olympic Athlete Program includes funding for the preparation of the Australian Paralympic Team for Atlanta in 1996 and for the development of athletes for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

The APF Olympic Athlete Program

The OAP funding for disabled sport, with the exception of AIS and state sports institute scholarship funding, will be managed through the APF Olympic Athlete Program.

The goal of the APF Olympic Athlete Program will be to provide Australia's elite disabled athletes with the guidance and support necessary to allow them to perform to their potential at the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games.

Although Australian disabled sport has enjoyed considerable success across a range of sports in recent years, there are still many areas which require improvement. If Australian disabled athletes are to perform to their potential at the Atlanta and Sydney Paralympic Games, it is vital that the APF Olympic Athlete Program attends to all of the ingredients essential for success in elite level sport - namely, a well-structured plan, committed athletes, expert coaching, sports science and medical support, appropriate competition, talent identification, rigorous

evaluation, and cooperative administrative support.

Accordingly, APF Olympic Athlete Program funding will target four major areas:

- Administration
- Coaching
- Training camps
- Travel to International Competition

Administration

The recently appointed APF Director of Sport, a position made possible by the OAP funding for administration, will be responsible for the overall development and coordination of the Olympic Athlete Program, including liaison with all of the "major players".

Coaching

National coaches and, where appropriate, assistant coaches will be appointed to each of the Atlanta Paralympic sports. Their role will be to develop appropriate training and competition programs; to assist in the identification of the sports science, sports medicine, and other needs of their squads; and to assist in athlete monitoring.

Training Camps

Assistance will be provided in the coordination, resourcing, and funding of approved training camps.

Travel to International Competition

Funding will be available through the OAP program to cover some of the costs for travel to appropriate and approved international competitions.

Scholarships for athletes with disabilities at the Australian Institute of Sport will also be increased as well as scholarship opportunities through the National Training Centres Network.

APF Squad Selection

It is envisaged that each APF member organisation will have a training and development squad for Atlanta and Sydney. From these squads, the APF Atlanta Squad

and an APF Development Squad will be selected. Selection requirements will be stringent. Only athletes with demonstrated international success and proven commitment will be selected in the APF Atlanta Squad. Athletes on the fringe, considered to have the potential to make the APF Atlanta Squad standard, given the appropriate guidance and support, will be included in the development squad. APF Atlanta Squad athletes will have access to coaching, training camps, and assistance with international travel costs; APF Development Squad athletes will be eligible for coaching assistance and attendance at training camps.

The Overall Plan

An outline of the overall APF Olympic Athlete Program will be available shortly. Prior to that, it is essential for all concerned to recognise and accept that achievement of optimal athlete performance in Atlanta and Sydney will require the coordinated input and efforts of all the major players in Australian disabled sport - the NSOD'S, the NSO's, State and Territory Sports Departments, Institutes, and Academies - it cannot be achieved through the efforts of the APF alone. All parties must bring their expertise and resources to bear to ensure the success of the program.

In addition, while the management of the Olympic Athlete Program is the responsibility of the APF, the member organisations will retain their responsibilities in the coordination and management of international competition and training camps and associated funding arrangements other than those allocated by the APF.

While the amount of funding now available to disabled sport represents a significant increase on previous levels, it falls well short of needs. The APF will endeavour to secure a more equitable share of funding in future years. For now, it is essential that the funding available is managed effectively, and further, that the various organisations involved in disabled sport work together towards achieving the goal of optimal performance in the Atlanta and Sydney Paralympic Games.

SYDNEY 2000

Planning for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games is proceeding with the NSW Government forming an Interim Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee in April 1993.

President Dr John Grant AM, OBE.

Committee George Dunstan
Marie Little
Bob McCullough
Peter Trotter
Dr John Bourke
John Brown AO
Donna Ritchie

Office of Olympic

Co-ordinating staff

Beverley Bowyer
Paul Clarke
Catherine Hanly

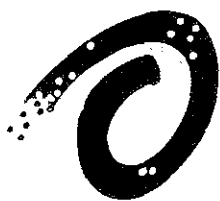
The Committee was established to undertake the important role of advising the Government on the best organisational mechanism for the 2000 Paralympics and to develop a suitable Paralympic Contact for negotiation with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The work of the Interim committee is now complete and the draft Host City Contract document has been forwarded to the International Paralympic Committee. A formal presentation was made, on behalf of the NSW Government, by Dr John Grant to the IPC Executive in Paris in November.

The overall work of the Committee has included progressing of negotiations with the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) in identifying common facilities and services. This work has laid a solid foundation for future close co-operation between the two organisations.

The next step is the formation of the Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee (SPOC), which is currently being processed by the Premier's Department, and the employment of the senior staff.

Overall approach in the organisation of the 2000 Games has been professional and the period from now through to the year 2000 is going to be very exciting for the Paralympic movement in Australia.



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