

ANNUAL REPORT

2002



AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION

The Australian Paralympic Committee seeks to:

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

Encourage participation in sport by people with disabilities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From left to right:

Mr Ian Fowler, Director; **Mr Ken Brown**, AM, Vice President; **Mr Justin Holdforth**, Director; **Mr Greg Hartung** OAM, President; **Mr Nick Dean**, Vice President; **Mr Doug Denby**, Finance Portfolio

Absent: **Mr Paul Bird** OAM, Sports Portfolio; **Mr Hamish MacDonald**, Athletes Portfolio; **Ms Maria McCarthy**, Director; **Dr David Millons** AM, Medical Portfolio

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Australian Paralympic Committee is on target to achieve many of its post-Sydney 2000 objectives.

Our key theme since the 'best ever' Games has been to sustain our sporting performances while continuing our collective efforts to reposition the APC within the Australian sporting framework. Central to this has been our 'mainstreaming' policy i.e. to ensure that our athletes receive the same consideration and attention as their able bodied counterparts. We have been delighted with the response.

Our relationship with Athletics Australia remains strong and productive on and off the field. Australia's Paralympic athletes now receive access to the same competitions and athlete services as elite athletes. The contractual agreement we have with Athletics Australia has relied on goodwill and an understanding that elite athletes are the same whether they have a disability or not. It is an enlightened and modern approach which is now being emulated in our discussions with a range of other National Sporting Organisations.

Our efforts have been underscored by the support and encouragement we have received from a range of individuals and organisations, not the least being the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard, and the Federal Minister for Arts & Sport, Senator Rod Kemp. Such support has been mirrored in a very practical way by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and my special thanks goes to the Chairman, Mr Peter Bartels and to the Executive Director, Mark Peters, for their recognition of the genuine progress made by the APC in recent years. Not only has the ASC supported us financially, it has also agreed to work with the APC in a Joint Venture to deliver a range of sports programs and services for our athletes, coaches and officials. This can only continue to assist us in delivering quality performances at the numerous international competitions on the annual calendar.

The Agreement we have signed with the ASC has been called 'Project CONNECT' (Creating Opportunities through National Networks in Education, Classification and Training) which will provide sporting pathways for athletes with a disability. Under the program, a range of education, athlete and coaching career opportunities are available. And a new program - designed to enhance the quality and quantity of classifiers in our sports - is about to come on stream. This will have an obvious positive impact in Australia, especially as we progress along the mainstreaming pendulum. But it will also provide opportunities in the future for Australia to offer a valuable and much-needed service to other countries and to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Again, our thanks to the ASC and to the Program Director, Peter Downs.

Our athletes again provided the greatest excitement of the year. This time it came mostly from the ski slopes. I attended the Salt Lake City Paralympic Games and was most impressed with the organisation and presentation of the Games.

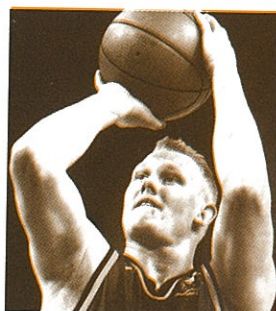


Photo courtesy Tab Limited

But the greatest exhilaration was provided by our skiers. All of them acquitted themselves with distinction but the performances of Michael Milton and Bart Bunting, and guide, Nathan Chivers, was breathtaking. Congratulations to them all and to our veteran Chef de Mission, Nick Dean and his APC team. A superb job all round.

It would be nice to be able to enjoy performances such as these every year, summer or winter. That certainly is our aim. But we realise that success comes at a price. Which is why we are indebted to the ASC and to our loyal and valued sponsors for their continued support, which is essential, as we tackle the challenges ahead. Our budget is tight and the APC Board has been uncompromising in its position to ensure that the APC retains a firm control on costs and expenditure to ensure that the budget is balanced. My special thanks to Board Director, Mr Doug Denby, for his supervision in this area which has been an essential part of our financial management.

I express my thanks and appreciation to our Chief Executive, Mr Brendan Flynn, and to all our staff both at Head Office and in our State offices. Finally, my thanks to my Board colleagues for their support, commitment and for their willingness to support the ideals and objectives of the APC. With support such as this, we can look toward Athens with confidence.

Greg Hartung
PRESIDENT



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) began its first phase toward Athens 2004 by refining the organisation and downsizing in preparation of a 'lean, mean fighting machine' for Athens.

Early in the year, the APC Head Office found a new 'home' at 7 Underwood Road, Homebush. The move has added value to the organisation by offering more space for the Board, staff, coaches, athletes and visitors and improved our professional presentation. Please feel free to visit our home at any time.

After the move, sports began preparing new PPP agreements, coaching structures and support staff, creating a new energy to continue the great work of Sydney 2000.

The huge focus of the year was the Salt Lake Winter Paralympic Games, held in March 2002. The APC was committed to making sure that, like Sydney, our Winter Athletes were given every opportunity to succeed.

The final medal tally of six GOLD and one SILVER medal was the APC's best ever result. It was a remarkable effort by the whole team, especially Michael Milton who won four GOLD medals and Bart Bunting and his guide Nathan Chivers, who won two GOLD and one SILVER. Well done on a fantastic job!

My sincere thanks go to a great management team - Chef de Mission and APC Vice President Mr Nick Dean, coach Steve Bova, APC Sport supremo, Tony Naar, Jenni Banks and Andrew Stainlay. Congratulations on your magnificent contribution to the Winter Team!

The success of the APC is reliant on its Board, State Committees, staff, sponsors, supporters and most importantly its athletes.

The hard work and dedication offered to the APC and its athletes by the APC State Committees, their Management Teams, my staff and our Board never ceases to amaze me. I extend my deepest thanks to these important people, especially President Mr Greg Hartung.

I also extend my thanks to the NSOD's, State Institutes and Academies, the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) as well as the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

The Federal Government, through the ASC, is our biggest sponsor. This commitment and support would not be possible without the support of our Australian Prime Minister, Mr John Howard and Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator Rod Kemp. We thank you for your continuing support.

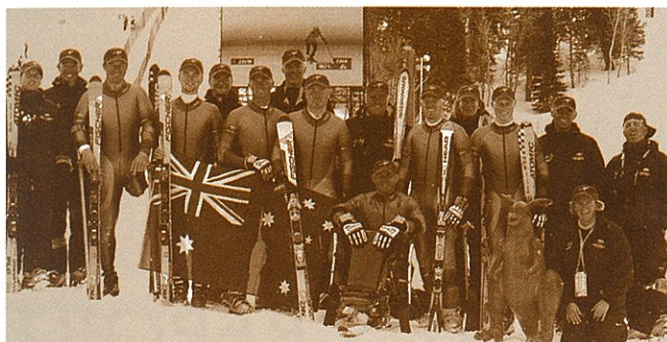
To our APC sponsors and supporters, sincere thanks and I'm sure you are all very proud of our athletes' achievements this year.

I look forward to another year of your support and know that your contribution to the APC will see our athletes get to Athens in 2004.

Let's get on with the journey.

Brendan Flynn
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

FINANCE REPORT



Photograph: Serena Ovens Photography



The year ended 30 June 2002, to say the least, was difficult. After the euphoria of Sydney 2000 and the ability to fundraise and to obtain sponsors without too much difficulty, in the last year, we have seen a considerable change. The fundraising dollar is becoming more and more difficult to raise and sponsors are 'few and far between'!

It will be noted from the summarised financial statements that our fundraising income has reduced considerably, and whereas we were able, to a certain extent, to contain our expenses to reflect the reduction, we finished the year ended 30 June 2002 with a deficit of \$134K.

In the light of the result for last year, it has become even more evident that we must take decisive action to 'balance our books' by reducing costs. This exercise had started, is continuing in the present year, 2002/03, and will be followed through with vigour to ensure that the APC does 'live within budget'.

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

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

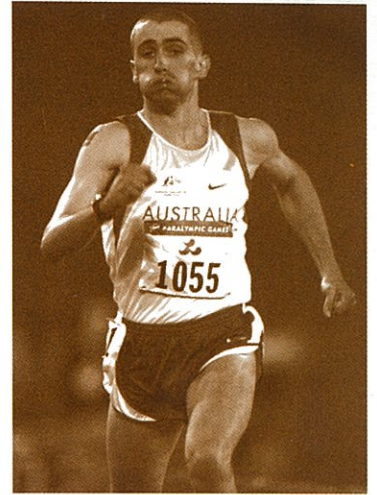
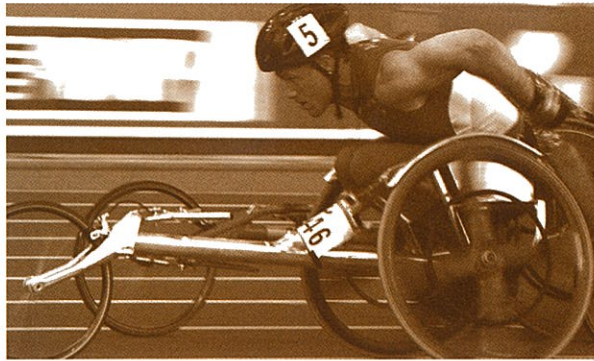
Doug Denby
FINANCE DIRECTOR

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (in \$000)

	2002	2001
Income		
Australian Sports Commission	3,035	2,929
Sale of certain marketing rights to SPOC	-	497
Fundraising and sponsors	2,576	4,953
Income from investments	16	418
Other	5	5
	<u>5,632</u>	<u>8,802</u>
Expenditure		
Athletes and international competition	2,854	4,465
Promotions, marketing and media	916	2,242
Administration	1,996	2,053
	<u>5,766</u>	<u>8,760</u>
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	<u>(134)</u>	<u>42</u>

BALANCE SHEET (in \$000)

Assets		
Cash and investments	2,509	2,376
Other (receivables, etc.)	480	1,323
	<u>2,989</u>	<u>3,699</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors and provisions	781	1,055
Deferred revenue/grants	600	902
	<u>1,381</u>	<u>1,957</u>
Net assets	<u>1,608</u>	<u>1,742</u>



MARKETING REPORT

The past year has been particularly challenging for the Australian Paralympic Committee in attracting new sponsorship partners. The market was tough and the events of September 11 had dampened business confidence in a range of industries. Despite the challenges, the APC successfully teamed up with some major Australian corporations. The support of its new and continuing partners will be the key to the success of the Australian Paralympic Team leading up to and including Athens 2004.

The Australian Sports Commission continues to provide significant Federal Government funding for National and International training and competition programs.

Telstra Corporation has renewed as the Official Telecommunications Sponsor of the APC and the Australian Paralympic Team through to 2004. Their support is being used to assist with telecommunications needs; the Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP); the Paralympic Employment Program (PEP) & web hosting of the official internet site www.paralympic.org.au

Ffreesite continues to provide the development and maintenance services for the APC's on-line presence through the official internet site www.paralympic.org.au.

Adecco has continued their support of the Team through to Athens, providing our athletes with employment recruitment services, with a view to sourcing jobs which suit our athletes' needs.

The APC's partnerships with Workcover NSW and Workcover VIC continue to provide financial assistance to athletes through speaking engagements promoting awareness of workplace safety.

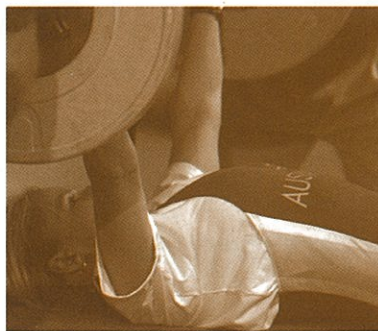
Our 2002 Australian Winter Paralympic Team's unprecedented success during the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Paralympic Games continued to raise the profile of the Paralympic sporting achievements. The media coverage during and after the Games was extensive. Our thanks go to the Australian public for supporting the Team.

Shortly after their successful return home, Telstra hosted a Welcome Home Luncheon for the Team in Sydney. Mr Brian Pilbeam, Director of Corporate Affairs, Telstra and Senator Rod Kemp, Federal Minister for Arts & Sport, formally praised the outstanding efforts of the Team in Salt Lake.

Tab Limited were a key supporter of the Winter Team and announced in June that they were committed to continue their support of the Summer Team through to Athens 2004. The announcement was made at an afternoon tea attended by Tab Limited staff and our top athletes.

The sponsorship and marketing focus of the APC in the coming twelve months will be to build additional partnerships to assist with the major costs involved in mounting the Team for Athens. The goal is to establish long-term sponsors who are pro-active in promoting their association with the Team.

We look forward to an exciting new phase of commercial partnerships for the APC.



SPORTS SCIENCE REPORT

The Sports Science Coordinating Centre (SSCC) is a joint initiative of the APC and the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), funded by the Queensland Paralympic Committee and the QUT. Originally a centre for sports science research, the SSCC's focus has been redirected to give greater attention to the application of sports science management.

A number of outcomes were achieved this year:

Applied Sports Science

Advancement of the top 3 medal winning sports - swimming, cycling and athletics - with the appointment of sports science coordinators for each of these sports;

Improvement in sports science services to APC athletes;

Design of specific protocols for athletes with a disability;

Improved reporting to APC staff, coaches and athletes;

Greater awareness of the SSCC amongst State Academies and Institutes of Sport.

Sports Science Research

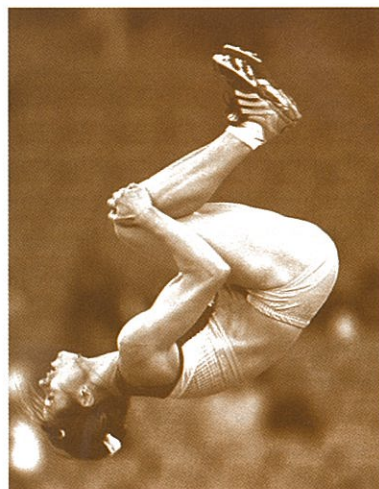
Continuation of Paralympic Games research through the PARA-SHOT project at QUT and the Sydney Academy of Sport;

Continuation of funding through Athletics Australia and QUT;

In September, a research project was undertaken to establish normative and physiological data for talent identification of children with a disability. The project was discontinued due to a number of unforeseen circumstances but received positive support from State disabled sporting organisations and may continue in 2002/3.

Educational Program Developments

The Centre has received funding from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) as part of Project CONNECT to undertake a market research project on the viability of an online classification course. The courses would be accessible to those in regional and city centres throughout the world.



SPORTS REPORT

With the new Paralympic Preparation Program (PPP) in place, the Summer Games' sports spent most of the year preparing for 2002 world championships.

Our Alpine Skiing (Winter) program, however, had a huge year. The Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City were the culmination of a comprehensive program to develop the world's best skiers. Program partners, including the APC and Disabled WinterSport Australia, were thrilled with the results - the best finish ever by an Australian team at the Paralympic Winter Games.

The word "mainstreaming" loomed large for a number of APC programs. Athletics Australia's management of the Athletics program continued to demonstrate the potential benefits of this model. For the first time ever, its national championships was a fully integrated event for able-bodied athletes and athletes with a disability. Moreover, the response of the athletics community generally has been exceptionally positive. From Chief Executive Simon Allatson and right through the organisation, Athletics Australia is embracing our athletes and programs as part of its "core" business.

Other national sporting organisations are set to follow suit and it is inevitable that this will change the nature of the relationship between the APC and "its" athletes.

Towards the end of the year "world championships season" started. Wheelchair rugby was first, with the team returning from Sweden with its first-ever world championship medal, a bronze. The Boomerangs, Australia's men's basketball team for players with an intellectual disability, matched the Stealers' result. Unfortunately, the Boccia team failed to bring any players through to the medal rounds at its world championships in Portugal at the end of June.

By the end of 2002, we will have conducted reviews for most of the PPP sports. The APC will use these reviews and the results obtained at world championships to determine which sports it continues to support through the PPP and which sports will be taken to Athens in 2004.

All sport programs are the responsibility of the appointed head coach, who works in conjunction with a Sports Advisory Committee (SAC). Each sport is overseen by a member of the APC's sport unit staff. They are:

Jenni Banks (High Performance Manager)

Athletics, Cycling, Football (Soccer), Powerlifting, Shooting, Winter (Alpine Skiing)

Kate Fehon (High Performance Manager)

Archery, Basketball for Players with an Intellectual Disability, Wheelchair Men's Basketball, Wheelchair Women's Basketball, Equestrian, Men's Goalball, Judo

Tracy Lawrence (Swimming PPP Coordinator)

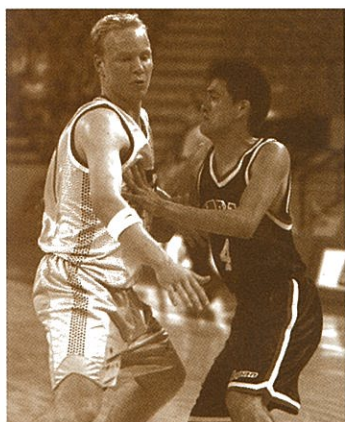
Wheelchair Rugby, Swimming

Kellie Urquhart (Games Coordinator)

Boccia, Tennis

Tony Naar (Manager, Sport)

Sailing, Sitting Volleyball



ARCHERY



Manager: Vicki O'Brien

The beginning of the year was a busy one for the Archery program: Vicki O'Brien was appointed as Manager and a Sports Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed, creating an operational plan for the program through to 2004.

The first events for the year were the trials at Homebush and the Warringah Masters events, both held in August 2001. Four athletes went on to compete at the FESPIC Archery Championships in Korea in September 2001, where Natalie Cordowiner won a bronze medal.

Two new archers emerged from the National Archery Championships in Sydney in April 2002, giving the program eight archers in preparation for Athens in 2004.

A camp is currently being organised for September 2002 at the AIS where we will have the AIS Archery coach, KiSik Lee, helping our archers' coaches.

Mission:

To retain Australia's status as the Number 1 Paralympic Athletics Team in the World through to the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games and beyond

Head Coach: Scott Goodman

Athletics Australia

Paralympic Program Manager: Scott Goodman

Sprints & Jumps Coordinator: Brett Jones

Wheelchair Track

& Road Coordinator: Andrew Dawes

Seated Throws: Gary Lees

Ambulant Throws: Scott Goodman

Distance: Robbie Bolton

Managers: Jason Hellwig

Andrew Faichney

Lynda Gusbeth

Louise Mogg

This reporting period has been one of the most significant in the history of Paralympic athletics in Australia.

While performances on the track have not held the spotlight due to the absence of major events during this time, off the track significant changes that ensure Paralympic athletics is well structured, administered and supported have taken place.

The formalisation of the partnership between the Australian Paralympic Committee and Athletics Australia (AA) which has resulted in AA accepting the responsibility for the preparation of Paralympic teams is a milestone for the Australian Paralympic movement and Australian Sport in general.

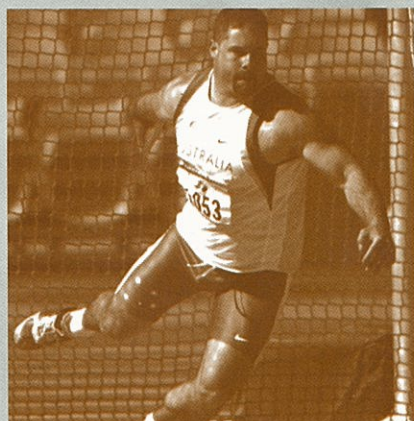
For the first time, Paralympic squad members have participated fully in Athletics Australia event group camps and program planning sessions. This integration was further enhanced by the increased participation of Paralympic athletes into the premier domestic season, the Telstra A-Series and the full integration of the national championships for athletes with disabilities into the Athletics Australia nationals, the Telstra A-Championships.

In 2002, athletes with disabilities were recognised as part of the overall series prize money and awards structures. This small step was significant in establishing a point of progress from which there can be no turning back.

The most significant effect has been the full time employment of Scott Goodman by Athletics Australia in the role of Paralympic Program Manager. In this position Scott forms part of the High Performance Department and has also joined the overall AA management team.

The Paralympic program has also received greater access and support from the broader AA business operations, particularly in areas of development and marketing. AA State Associations have similarly picked up the baton and generally increased the accessibility of local events and state championships for athletes with disabilities.

On the track, the Paralympic squad bid farewell to a number of athletes who retired after the Sydney Games. In their place a new generation of young athletes has started to emerge.



continued next page

ATHLETICS continued

The continued support and efforts of the large number of coaches now involved in coaching athletes with disabilities represents both the present and the future of Paralympic athletics, it would be remiss not to acknowledge the efforts of this group and the coordinating efforts of the event group coaches in establishing this effective network. It is a key challenge for 2002-03 to ensure that this network is not only grown in size but more aggressively challenged to improve their skills and contributions to the program. This challenge will necessitate greater interactions with the established coaching networks and development programs that exist within athletics.

The Australian Paralympic Committee and Athletics Australia have continued to show their support of the athletics program through the initiatives outlined above. The APC's forthright commitment to challenge sports to look closer and more objectively at their programs has been well received. The PPP Athletics Program has sought to repay this support with results on the track by laying down a long-term sustainable structure within Athletics Australia.

With the World Championships in July it is time for the focus to return, rightly, to our athletes. In an environment where more countries are now investing significantly more resources than Australia into their programs, our position as the number one nation will be seriously challenged. It will be increasingly difficult to retain this position.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the issue surrounding the athletes with an intellectual disability, who have paid a hefty price for the events that followed the Paralympic Basketball in Sydney. The World Championship team will not be a complete unit in the absence of a number of key ID athletes and we are keen to see their return into the overall team in the near future.

Finally, it would be incomplete to finish such a report without acknowledging the efforts of the Paralympic Program Manager Scott Goodman during this reporting period. Scott has not only assumed the reigns of Head Coach following Chris Nunn's appointment to the AIS Head Coach role, but has become the inaugural AA Paralympic Program Manager. Scott's work underpins the entire program.



BASKETBALL

for athletes with an
Intellectual Disability (Men)

Head Coach: Peter Corr

Assistant Coach: Craig Painter

Ian McLeod (July-Dec 2001)

George Havakis (Jan-June 2002)

Manager: Kevin Smith

Physiotherapist: Camille Clinton

What an exciting twelve months for the Boomerangs.

With a completely new coaching staff, team manager and physiotherapist, the program's aim has been to enhance the wonderful work done by Tony Guihot and his staff for the past ten years, improve its world ranking into the top four and qualify for the 2004 Paralympics.

The year contained:

The Ivor Burge Championships in Canberra;

Basketball Australia's highly successful and fully integrated All Australian Camp;

Five full squad Camps in Sydney and Melbourne;

A cancelled trip to the European Championships as a result of September 11;

Two retirements along with recruiting and some new blood;

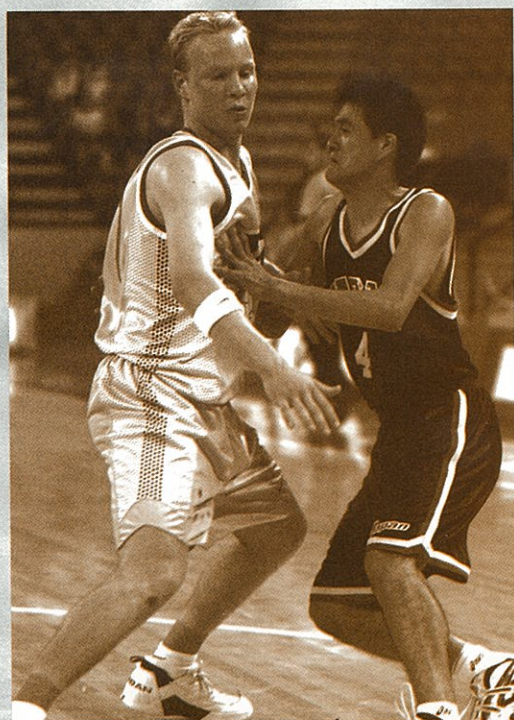
An ongoing intense focus on individual skill development and improvement;

A three day preparation camp for the World Championships;

The World Championships on Madeira Island off Portugal.

Not only was the program full but it provided invaluable experience in facing and overcoming the many adversities and challenges faced by all international programs.

The comprehensive preparation and resultant success in winning a Bronze Medal at the World Championships in June was a wonderful result for a program that worked so hard. To create a new team with new staff, face new challenges, play a new style of game and succeed, has instilled in the team a new sense of self-belief. The team is proud of its progression up the world rankings to number three and is determined to continue its development and improvement. The Boomerangs look forward, with great excitement to further successes, and to Athens in 2004 and beyond.





WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL (Men)

The Rollers have made sound progress throughout the past twelve months as the emergence of new talent combined with retirements will see a turnover of 50% of the team from the Sydney Paralympics to the 2002 Gold Cup.

The Rollers emerged as the top qualifier in the Asia/Oceania qualification in Japan in November 2001. Teams defeated included Korea (twice), Iran (twice) and Japan.

Two Squad camps were held in Adelaide and twenty-two players have attended various camps. It is refreshing to see the development of younger players, in particular Justin Eveson, Tristan Knowles, Shaun Norris, Sean Groenewegen and Michael Hartnett.

A pre-departure camp for the World Cup qualifying in Japan was held most successfully in Singapore. The organisation and cooperation of the Singapore Wheelchair Organisation was first rate.

The Rollers competed with distinction at the 2002 Roosevelt Cup finishing third behind the USA and Canada, without Troy Sachs, Brad Ness (Europe) and Sandy Blythe (medical). We were able to again expose a new group of players to the pressure of international basketball. It was significant that the emerging Rollers took Canada to overtime in a meritorious display. Victories occurred against Japan (twice) and the Netherlands whilst losses to Canada and USA were gallant. The loss to Great Britain, however, was disappointing.

The Program has made significant progress in conditioning by Jarrod Meerkin and video analysis by Craig Friday whilst the assistance of Manager Kelvin Browner, Assistant Coach Alan Cox, Physio John Camens and Mechanic Graham Gould reflect the new coordinated approach which is reshaping Wheelchair Basketball.

Head Coach: Murray Treseder

Assistant Coach: Alan Cox

Manager: Kelvin Browner

Mechanic: Graham Gould

Physiotherapist: John Camens

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL (Women)

Head Coach: Liz Fraser

Assistant Coaches: Gerry Hewson and Darryl Durham

Manager: Michael Hudson

Mechanic: Michael Dowling

Physiotherapist: David Spurrier

With a new look staff providing coordinated direction to the squad, over the past twelve months the Gliders (consisting of 75% of the 'Sydney' Team) have rediscovered the enjoyment and passion required to compete at basketball's elite level. This progress has manifested in the Gliders' 2001/2002 international results:

5-0 Test (Development Series) win over Japan during January 2002;
USA 'Roosevelt Cup Series' third place during May/June 2002.

Implementation of the training program over the past year has included training camps which provide an on-going camp program for elite and development players to ensure optimal performance at peak events.

The running dates and venues of the training camps were:

Adelaide 8 - 10 July 2001

Sydney 3 - 6 November 2001

Sydney 1 - 3 February 2002

Canberra 8 - 11 March 2002

This year, approximately thirty athletes have interacted with the program in some way. Alongside squad activity, a key factor in the development of current athlete depth has been the continued growth of the Australian Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League - supported by the Gliders coaching panel - which is providing Australia's athletes with a high level of domestic competition, sandwiched between national team commitments.

The 2002 Gliders is an exciting combination of experienced and younger 'talented' athletes. The extensive basketball experience, technical expertise and combined passion for the game within the assembled team/staff augurs well for future positive results.





BOCCIA

Head Coach: Joan Stevens

Assistant Coach: Italo Vigolo

This year was a big year for the Boccia Program.

The 2002 World Boccia Championships were held in Porto, Portugal from the

18 - 29 June. The Australian Team consisted of seven athletes and nine staff.

Scott Elsworth was our best placed athlete finishing in the top 16 for his BC2 class.

The team did well, considering the depth and experience of the other countries at the Championships and the difficulties they had getting to the competition.

During the year Head Coach Joan Stevens travelled around Australia, visiting a number of states and identifying new players to increase the depth of the program.

Head Coach: Kevin McIntosh

Assistant Coach: Darryl Benson

**Assistant Coach and
AIS Scholarship Coach: Radek Valenta**

Manager: Elsa Lepore

Mechanics: John Beer, Paul Lamond

Massage Therapist: Maria Di Michele

State Co-ordinators: Radek Valenta (NSW)

John Murray (SA)

Simon Quick (VIC)

Darryl Benson (WA)

The full-time employment of Cycling PPP Head Coach, Kevin McIntosh, and his location in the AIS Cycling Unit in Adelaide has enabled significant progress in the development of the Cycling PPP over the last twelve months, particularly with regard to the development of state-based programs.

There are now well-established programs in WA, SA, VIC, and NSW with some new athletes identified through these programs already progressing to National Team level.

In addition to state program activities the Cycling PPP Squad was also involved in the following activities during the last year:

Italian National Championships (August 2001)

IPC European Championships - Zurich / Neuchatel, Switzerland (September 2001)

PPP Squad Endurance and Sprint Camps / Testing - Adelaide and surrounds (December 2001)

Cycling Australia Track Nationals - Sydney (March 2002)

Bendigo Tour (April 2002)

Riders also competed in a range of other domestic events, generally in their own state (e.g. state championships, club races).

The Italian National Championships served as a lead-up to the 2001 IPC European Cycling Championships in Switzerland, at which Australia maintained its status as the world's number one country in disabled cycling.

The 2002 National Track Cycling Championships in Sydney saw the full integration of riders with disabilities, with a full program of events included within the able-bodied national championship program and athletes integrated into the able-bodied State Teams.

The process of integration has been necessary for our Sport to grow and prosper, and would not have been possible without the support of Cycling Australia, the State Cycling Federations and Phil Bates, as well as the vision of the Australian Paralympic Committee. The transition period has been relatively problem-free and having now experienced one fully integrated National Championship, we can now move forward with big steps.

At the last four peak international cycling events, Australia has finished as the top-ranked nation, made possible through the efforts of management and athlete focus and commitment. The opportunity for riders with disabilities in future National Championships will see the program develop and athletes with a disability promoted on a national stage.

The APC Cycling Program is in very good health, and its future looks bright. Congratulations must go to the program coaches for their commitment and dedication. These are the people who are really important to the success of the program.

The APC Cycling Team acknowledges the significant role of the following in promoting and developing athletes with disabilities (AWDs) and athlete programs of excellence for Cycling: Australian Paralympic Committee Board and staff, Australian Sports Commission, Cycling Australia and staff, AIS Cycling Unit staff, State and Territory cycling Federations, National Training Centre coaches, Alex Fulcher, APC cycling team staff, assisting athlete coaches, Spectrum Sportswear, Alchemy Australia and Darryl Perkins.





EQUESTRIAN

Head Coach: Gill Rickard

Assistant Coach: Carolyn Lieutenant

Manager: Judy Cubitt

Carer: Judy Fyfe

In 2001-2002, the Equestrian program focused on at-home training. Camps were held at the Kurrajong Equestrian Centre from February to August, and a pre-Nationals squad camp was held at Werribee in September.

No overseas travel occurred this year due to a lack of competitions being held. Our first international competition for 2002 will be the Dutch Open in August (two riders), followed by the Belgium Open in October (four riders). These competitions will give some of the less experienced squad members the international exposure and recognition necessary for continued results.

The upcoming international trips will enable us to source horses for the 2003 World Championships and 2004 Paralympic Games. This will be a great challenge as our future success is dependent on finding quality dressage horses that suit our riders and can be accessed for important events.

Sydney 2000 squad members, Julie Higgins and Judy Hogan, have taken leave of absence due to personal and family commitments. It is hoped that both of these athletes will be able to rejoin the squad in the future.

FOOTBALL (Soccer)

Head Coach: Ian Murray

Assistant Coaches: Norm Boardman, David Brand

Physiotherapist: Mark Macdonald

Manager: Joel Lipman

In the last twelve months the Paralympic Soccer program has progressed very well in the areas of player fitness and team dynamics. This is mostly due to the number of highly successful camps held at the Australian Institute of Sport throughout the year and tours to England last July (where the young Team managed a fifth placing at the CP World Cup after finishing near the bottom of the table at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games) and recently, Russia.

We have introduced to the program a number of new players under the age of nineteen, with a view to future development. All players that are under Paralympic consideration by the coaching staff are in full time training programs for strength and conditioning within their respective states and are being monitored by program staff on a regular basis.

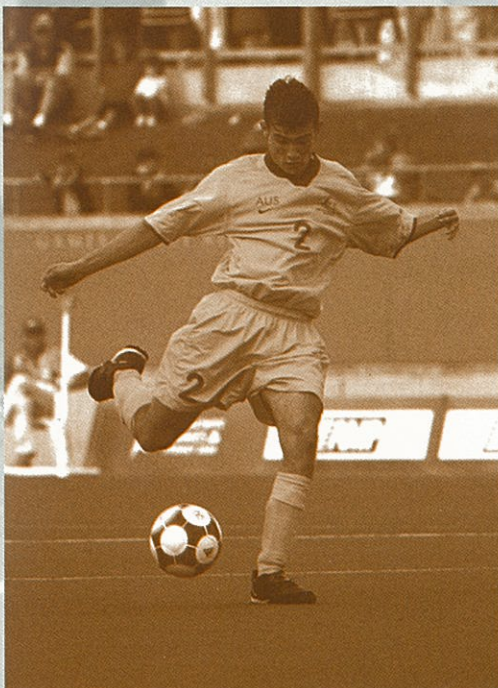
Some problems have arisen internationally in the areas of classification, however this subject has been brought to the attention of the Australian Paralympic Committee and is currently being dealt with at an international level.

We are currently working on improving the skill and technical ability of all players to raise the intensity of their game.

We have also introduced biomechanics to our program as well as a specialist coach to help improve the running technique of each individual athlete.

All staff members have worked tirelessly over the last twelve months, particularly Jenni Banks, Mark Macdonald, and Kellie Urquhart.

Head Coach, Ian Murray, has brought a new level of professionalism to the Paralympic soccer program and, as a result of this, the young Squad has earned the respect of the top soccer countries over the last two years.





GOALBALL (Men)

Head Coach: Jonathon Voller

Assistant coach: Karen Scott

The past year for the Goalball program has been a challenging one.

National Championships were held in late June 2001 and a PPP squad was announced not long after. The squad included three members from the Sydney team plus developing athletes.

Throughout the course of the year several of the more experienced athletes withdrew from the program, for various personal reasons. This meant that the younger athletes were required to step up.

PPP Squad camps were held in Brisbane in November, February and April. The National Championships were then held in early June. At the end of these Championships an expanded PPP squad was announced.

The squad is currently preparing for the World Championships to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in late August 2002.

Head Coach: Trevor Kschammer

Over the last twelve months - with the support of the PPP funding - we have seen Judo represented by our visually impaired athletes, Anthony Clarke (PPP funded) and Desiree Alan (self-funded). Anthony Clarke has had quite an amazing year.

Anthony attended the NSW International Open Championships for able-bodied athletes. There were no results at this event, however the continued match practice was perfect for him to keep motivated towards daily training and further competition.

Anthony recently attended the British Visually Impaired Open Championships in Crystal Palace, England. Anthony had four competitions and he won three. This gave him a silver medal and insight into the standard of players who compete at Visually Impaired Open competitions.

During the year Anthony competed in and was placed in the medal count of various able-bodied competitions such as the SA International Open, Judo Federation of SA State Championships, Southern Zone Championships and the AKJA State Championships. This year Anthony was also graded to the rank of Third-Dan. With his continual commitment to daily training and competitions, he still finds time to teach judo at the Blind Institute, for young visually impaired players.

Desiree Alan recently competed at the Queensland International Open able-bodied competition and won a bronze medal. She was recently graded to Brown Belt.

Trevor Kschammer's commitment as APC Head Coach has been to support these athletes where possible, both in physical and technical areas and to help them achieve their future goals. These include performing well at the IBSA World Championships in Rome (September, 2002) and also the FESPIC Games in Korea (November, 2002) with these competitions in turn leading the charge towards Athens 2004 and beyond.

In Visually Impaired Judo we do not have enough athletes to warrant a training camp as such. At this stage, continued club practice with able-bodied athletes will help them develop more rapidly. We are now starting to show a gradual increase in the number of VI athletes practising Judo.





POWERLIFTING

Powerlifting has enjoyed another successful year, with three domestic competitions (two in Brisbane and one at the AIS in Canberra) well attended despite the squad having lost four members the year before. The remaining members continue to lift well and they have been joined at competitions by new lifters whom we hope will continue to be involved.

The Sports Advisory Committee was expanded this year to include the expertise of Brett Jones (APC National Sprints and Jumps Coach for Athletics and QAS Coach for the AWD Squad) and Martin Leach (an AWF National Coach). The input of both of these people is appreciated. Having Mick Farrell in the Team Manager role for the whole year has worked very well and the section has been able to make best use of its funding to support the athletes in competition and training thanks to 'Micko's' excellent control over the books. Liaison with the APC through HPM Jenni Banks has also worked smoothly.

Under the guidance of the coaching team of Blagoi Blagoev (Head Coach) and Ray Epstein (Assistant Coach), most team members have been able to continue to improve and produce 'PBs'.

At competitions, there has been good support from both the Queensland Weightlifting Association and the AIS as well as IPC Referees Martin Burley, Tony Feltham, Glenn Hogue, Deb Keelan, Barry Harden, Paul O'Brien, Julie Russell and John Woods. Special thanks are also extended to the Sporting Wheelies and the Disabled Association in Queensland for supporting the competitions and training camps for the national squad over the last year.

For the Powerlifting World Championships to be held in Kuala Lumpur in August 2002, a team of two female and six male lifters has entered, accompanied by coaches Blagoev and Epstein, Manager, Mick Farrell and physiotherapist, Sean McCoola. Four Australian referees have also been invited to attend.

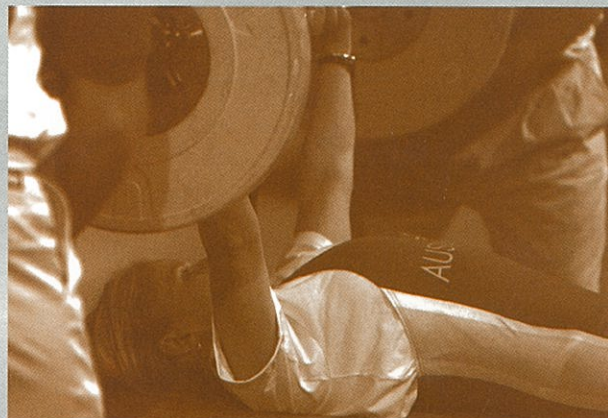
Head Coach: Blagoi Blagoev

Assistant Coach: Ray Epstein

Manager: Mick Farrell

Physiotherapist: Mark Stokes, Sean McCoola

Sports Psychologist: Steve Bannon



WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Head Coach: Terry Vinyard

Assistant Coach: Glenn Stephens

Manager: Kim Elwood

Mechanic: David Bonavita

Physiotherapist: Greg Ungerer

The focus of the wheelchair rugby program following the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games has been to secure the services of Terry Vinyard as Head Coach. Terry has accepted a full time position in Australia as Head Coach of the Wheelchair Rugby team and will be based in the Queensland Sporting Wheelies office in Brisbane. His prime responsibility is to continue to work with the national squad, preparing for the 2002 World Championships. However, he will also be working throughout Australia to train coaches and officials in Wheelchair Rugby and to increase domestic competition opportunities to ensure that the future of the sport in this country is secure.

The Australian Steelers travelled to NZ to play the NZ Wheelblacks for the much coveted Chris Handy Cup in August 2001. This game was arranged to coincide with the first of the Bledisloe Cup games between the Wallabies and the All Blacks. The Steelers continued their performance from the Paralympic Games and secured another win against the Kiwis, retaining the Chris Handy Cup for another year.

The Steelers finished the year on a high note, claiming the bronze medal at the 2002 World Championships in Sweden in May.





SAILING

Head Coach: Lachlan Gilbert

AYF: Sue Thompson

The 2001-2002 Sailing season saw a mostly domestic workload for the Squad. Michael McLean competed in the 2.4m World Championships in Norway with mixed results to finish 51st overall and the 12th Disabled Sailor.

Peter Thompson maintained his edge in the domestic racing to place first in the 2.4m (Disabled) Australian Championships, with Michael second.

With no new sailors challenging on the 2.4m scene, both Peter and Michael have been busy updating their equipment, testing new sails and masts and boat fit-outs. Both have new boats on the order book from our local 2.4m builder, and we are looking at developing the boats with steering wheels and other fittings to make the boats easier to race.

Noel Robins, sailing the three person 'Sonar', has been productive with a new-look crew, and has the advantage of a second boat to test race with.

Stephen Chirm from Sydney is also putting a crew together in the Sonar class and should provide desperately needed competition for Noel at the first Australian Championships in the class.

A major highlight for the squad has been our inclusion in the Australian Yachting Federation's High Performance Unit. This Unit will oversee the administration and workings of the Squad, but more importantly, provides access to the highly successful Olympic squad. The squad had its first camp at the AIS in Canberra in May 2002, with a portion of the Olympic squad, and will benefit greatly from this involvement.

The sailors are now in the final stages of their assault on the Disabled Sailing World Championships in Holland in September 2002.

SHOOTING

Head Coach: Miro Sipek

Assistant Coach: Hans Heidermann

Manager: Michelle Fletcher

Carers: Elisabeth Ziebarth, Craig Jarvis

The last twelve months have been busy for the Shooting PPP program athletes and staff.

The Squad had a number of training camps with the focus on finals and competition pressure. The National Championships were held in Brisbane this year with a number of shooters achieving qualifying scores to compete in international competition.

The Squad competed in the IPC European Championships in Denmark in July 2001 and the IPC World Cup in New Zealand in November 2001. The Squad also had strong competitions in Germany and Switzerland in May this year, in the lead-up to the 2002 IPC World Shooting Championships in Korea in July.

Good results were achieved at all competitions.

Highlights included:

Libby Kosmala won a silver medal in the SH1 Air Standing Female and Jeff Lane won a bronze in the SH1 Sport Pistol at the 2001 Europeans (206 competitors from 33 countries);

Ashley Adams shooting an equal world record of 600 in the Air Rifle Prone in Germany (following another 600 at the Nationals in Brisbane which was the best performance in the event, able-bodied or disabled). Ashley also had wins in the English match in Germany and the three position match in Switzerland (new Australian record);

Libby Kosmala's wins in the Standing event in both Germany and Switzerland, and her win in the three position match in Germany and second placing in Switzerland;

Jim Nomarhas' win in the Sport Pistol event in Germany and third placing in the same event in Switzerland.

The Squad is looking forward to good results in the World Championships. Initial information from the World Championship Organising Committee indicates that approximately 350 athletes from 38 countries will compete. Given that shooting only has two classes and that men and women compete against each other in most of the rifle and pistol events, the event will be hotly contested.



SWIMMING

A small team attended an international event in Mar del Plata, Argentina in December 2001, with the primary objective of gathering information to assist in preparation for the IPC World Championships, also in Mar del Plata, in December 2002. This experience was invaluable for coaches, management and swimmers and will continue to assist us with our preparations for the World Championships over the next six months. The team performed very well in extremely difficult circumstances.

Early in 2002 the PPP swimmers participated in their relevant State Age and Open Championships building up to the 2002 Telstra Australian Open in March 2002. The PPP World Championships Shadow Team was selected from the results achieved at this event. In addition, Australian Swimming selected the athletes to compete in the EAD events at the Commonwealth Games. Throughout this period the PPP squad and invited development swimmers were involved in State-based training camps. These camps provide on-going testing of PPP squad members to monitor their progress, while also introducing young development swimmers to the PPP and the requirements of being a squad member.

Two separate teams travelled to international events in June - one team to the USA National Championships and the other to the Great Britain and German Disability Championships. Both teams performed well at these events. These tours introduced a number of young swimmers to international competition. These youngsters performed very well, which bodes well for Athens and beyond.

The swim program has appointed Dr Brendan Burkett as its honorary Sports Science Coordinator. Brendan is a former Paralympic swimmer with a PhD in Biomechanics.

His expertise in testing and race has already been of great benefit to the swimmers and coaches. Testing protocols for Paralympic swimmers have been developed based on the Australian Swimming test protocols. Swimmers are given video and statistical feedback following each camp and competition to take to their home coaches. This area of the program will continue to be developed in the future.

The immediate future will see the PPP Squad competing in the final selection meet for the World Championships, the naming of the team and then preparation for this event through to December 2002.

In 2001 the structure to take swimming to Athens and beyond was put in place and appointments were made as follows:

Head Coach: Brendan Keogh

Network Coaches: Adam Luscombe (QLD)

Ross Tait (NSW)

Frank Hohmann (VIC)

Mark Staiger (WA)

Medical Staff: Dr Syd Bourke

John Stamoulos

Sports Science Coordinator: Dr Brendan Burkett

Program Coordinator: Tracy Lawrence





TENNIS

Head Coach: Greg Crump

Tennis Australia: Sallee Caldwell

On the domestic Australian summer circuit, the players on the PPP squad were extremely successful. David Hall was runner-up in the Australian Wheelchair Tennis Open, the Sydney International, and the Wheelchair Classic 8's at the Australian Open. Daniela Di Toro was runner up at the Sydney International and the Wheelchair Classic 8's at the Australian Open.

Players in the PPP squad are showing a great deal of potential on the International circuit. David Hall won the US Open, Nasdaq-100 Open and Florida Open whilst Daniela Di Toro won the Japan Open. Anthony Bonaccorso, Matthew Long, Ben Weeks and Lesly Page are other players currently on the circuit and are playing great tennis. Ben Weekes is a junior who is currently playing on the senior circuit and is proving to be a player with a great career ahead of him.

The World Team Cup was held in Sion, Switzerland in August 2001. The Australian men's team of David Hall, David Johnson and Anthony Bonaccorso were runners-up to the Dutch team. The Australian team did not lose a match until the final, where they lost 2:0.

The Australian women's team of Daniela Di Toro and Lesly Page unfortunately only played one round of the women's event. Daniela was injured before starting the World Team Cup but won the first round against Thailand 2:1.

SITTING VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach: Weiping Tu

Assistant Coach: Anne-Marie Anderson

Manager: Glenn Stewart

The prime focus for Sitting Volleyball for the past year was to develop greater depth in the player base to allow for selection of new additions to the PPP Squad whilst still maintaining continuity of existing athlete development.

Many of the existing players have become involved in local generic competitions to raise the profile of the sport and encourage others to join in the sitting form. This has led to positive growth, and with the addition of many able-bodied athletes now playing, much needed matches are being played on a more regular basis.

Meetings were held in Perth and Melbourne, with a meeting in Adelaide unfortunately cancelled at the last minute. The purpose of these meetings was to develop interest and establish contacts with volleyball and disability representatives in those states. With substantial enthusiasm in Melbourne, Victoria seems set to make positive moves for the development of the sport over the next year.

Successful demonstration matches were played in Moss Vale and Leichhardt, which further promoted the sport.

At the camps conducted over the year, teamwork and consistency of approach by coaches was emphasised. This ensured continuation of state development.

With no opportunity for international competition, players entered domestic competitions in district or state teams. These competitions included a fortnightly 4-a-side competition in Sydney, the biannual Stewart Shield tournaments (held in Mudgee and Sydney) and the Queensland versus NSW 'State of Origin' matches.





Photo: Serena Ovens Photography

WINTER (ALPINE SKIING)

Head Coach: Steve Bova

Technical Coach: Silvia Prieler

Manager: Andrew Stainlay

Doctors: Kevin Boundy / Nat Anglem

Physiotherapist: Ben Siu

Sport Psychologist: Michael Martin

Sports Nutritionist: Michelle Minehan

Exercise Physiologist: David Martin

Biomechanist: Valery Kleshnev

Dry Land Program

Coordinator: Manfred Wolscher

Ski Technician: Kevin Poole

The main event for the year was the 2002 Winter Paralympic Games held in Salt Lake City in March, so competitions and training were geared to this big event.

At the commencement of the 2001 domestic season, the winter program became officially known as the AIS/APC Alpine Ski Program, after the AIS and the APC signed a 5-year agreement. Alpine skiing thus became the first single-sport AIS program for athletes with a disability. Athletes on the program receive a full range of scholarship entitlements.

The year started with a Paralympic Squad training camp in New Zealand, followed by training camps at Thredbo and Perisher ski resorts. The National Championships were held at Mt Hotham in August.

At the Team Selections in September, Scott Adams, Peter Boonaerts, Michael Milton, Bart Bunting and guide Nathan Chivers were selected to represent Australia at the 2002 Winter Paralympic Games at Salt Lake City. Mark Drinnan and Cameron Rahles-Rahbula joined the team in the new year after meeting the qualification criteria at international competitions in Europe. The team of six athletes and a guide included just one athlete who had attended a previous Paralympic Games, Michael Milton, who had returned from retirement. Previous Team Captain James Paterson and Nagano veteran Matthew Nicholls both retired in 2001.

continued next page

WINTER (continued)

Final preparations took place in Europe and North America under the supervision of coaches Steve Bova and Silvia Prieler. The APC provided a strong support team for the athletes, and included a ski technician for the first time. During the Games, the team chose to be located nearer to the venue, foregoing the attractions of the Paralympic Village and avoiding the inconvenience of four hours of travelling time each day.

The Team's success is now well known - Australia secured a fantastic fourth place in the Alpine Skiing competition with 6 gold medals and one silver medal, putting Australia ahead of the skiing powerhouses of France, Switzerland, Italy, and Canada.

The coverage of the event in Australia surpassed all expectations, and ensured the extraordinary and exciting achievements of Michael Milton and Bart Bunting received the widespread recognition they deserved. Team Media Officer Margie McDonald was besieged by Australian radio, print and electronic media services. SBS ran a daily summary of the event and commercial television channels carried coverage.

The APC and its program partners the Australian Institute of Sport, Disabled WinterSport Australia and the Jindabyne Winter Sports Academy and sponsors the Australian Sports Commission, Telstra, Tab Limited, Adecco and Larry Adler are justifiably proud of the Team. Thanks must also go to Perisher Blue Pty Ltd and Kosciusko Thredbo Pty Ltd for their ongoing support of the program and for providing world class training facilities for it.

The results achieved in the last four years at elite and development levels have highlighted a number of talented athletes and demonstrated the quality of the Winter program.

After the Games, a program review took place to capitalise on the now-established culture of success in winter sport for the next Paralympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy 2006. The program's four-year strategic plan incorporates a strong development and talent identification focus. A Joint Management Committee has been formed and further AIS funding is in place, greatly boosting the outlook for winter athletes. Silvia Prieler was named Head Alpine Coach of the AIS/APC Alpine Ski Program and Steve Bova Program Director.

With such a strategy, there is every reason to think that Australia will succeed again in 2006. This time, no one will be surprised!

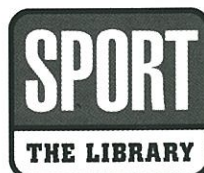
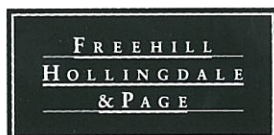




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