PUSHERSPOST

Wheelchair Sports NSW

AUTUMN 2012

WS NSW member and current GIO Oz Day 10K Champion Kurt Fearnley OAM, the Honourable Barry O'Farrell MP Premier of NSW, Canadian Paralympian Michelle Stilwell and Jim O'Brien CEO, WS NSW at the Premiers Reception welcoming our 2012 GIO Summer Down Under Wheelchair Track and Road racers to Sydney.

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Sport Shorts

Presidents Report

I can report that both our major international events in the late January period were very successful and I was particularly pleased with the involvement of the Premier and the Minister for Sport Graham Annesley MP.

The Premier hosted a wonderful reception at the Opera House for athletes from home and abroad competing in the Oz Day 10K Race. The Minister for Sport and the Minister for Disability Services Andrew Constance were also in attendance at that reception.

The Premier and Minister Annesley backed up on Australia Day with the Minister starting the race with the Premier presenting the trophies. The Minister also attended semis day at our Sydney International Tennis. Altogether very pleasing government representation, and this is important given the current State Government is still a relatively new one, and doesn't know us as well as the previous one.

Another government source has helped us out recently with a significant sum of money for the refurbishment of our Kevin Betts Stadium at Mt. Druitt. Lifetime Care and Support Authority (LCSA) is a government statutory authority and they provided close to $900,000 for a major facelift of our 26 year old Stadium. 2011 was actually the 25th anniversary of the Stadium along with our own 50th anniversary.

The Re-opening of the Stadium following the refurbishment was held on March 10th and again the Minister for Sport was present to perform this task. Also present at Mt Druitt on the day was Nicholas Whitlam the Chair of LCSA.

I was so delighted that Wheelchair Sports NSW was able to recognise the work of Mike Spiteri and Lorraine Buck who have each both clocked up 20 years of dedicated service at the Stadium.

Another award I would like to inform the members about was that for Vice President and Life Member Craig Jarvis. Craig was given a Distinguished Long Service Award for his over 30 years of service to Wheelchair Sports NSW. This honour was bestowed on Craig at the NSW Sports Awards Gala Dinner in February. Congratulations Jarvo!

It was sad to hear of the recent passing of Geoff Crellin. Our condolences to the Crellin family. Geoff was one of the trailblazers of wheelchair rugby along with the likes of Life Member Richard Cordukes. It was great to see Geoff at our 50 year Anniversary Dinner last October. Geoff was then in great spirits.

This being a Paralympic year, I wish all our members striving for paralympic selection the very best and I trust some sporting dreams will be realised come late August in London.

Michael Godfrey-Roberts
President

CEOs Report

I would like to concur with the President Michael about the success of our two major international events. Big fields (107 for the Tennis, and 60 for the Summer Down Under and Oz Day) were a challenge but with the wonderful backing of our major sponsor for both, namely GIO, plus our support sponsors, we were able to stage quality and high profile wheelchair events.

As well I am pleased to report that the combined budget for both events will show a small profit and so there is no cost as such for our members.

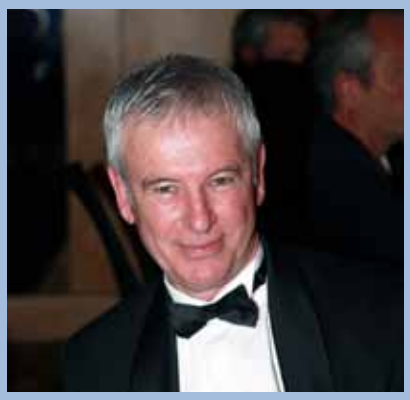
On behalf of all the membership I would like to sincerely congratulate President Michael Godfrey-Roberts on the awarding of his Order of Australia (AM) in a recent Australian Honours list. This is a highly prestigious honour which recognises his outstanding achievement and service to wheelchair and disability sport. Note: Michael's 32 years service has all been in a volunteer capacity.

I would like to report a few staff changes at Wheelchair Sports NSW. Kerri Mikkelsen our Sports Development Officer is leaving us after 20 months of dedicated and highly efficient work. Kerri gained the respect of all she dealt with, and we wish her and husband Daniel the very best when they return to their native New Zealand.

A staff member who has just joined us in Helen Caporusso in the reception/admin area. She will share the work with our long standing staff member Mel Jones.

The Board of Wheelchair Sports NSW is committed to continuing to provide member financial support. And even with anticipated extremely tight budgets for our 2012-2013 financial year, the Board took the plunge and went with providing our annual Wheelchair Sports NSW Athlete Grants.

NSW Minister for Sport Graham Annesley presenting Lorraine Buck with her 20 years Service Award



WS NSW provides a very significant amount of money each year for athlete grants, but we see it as the most tangible way we can support our members.

The Athlete Grant process is coupled with our annual membership renewals and I make a plea to all members to have these renewals and grant applications back to the office by March 30th. (Note: Late Grant applications will not be accepted under any circumstances).

National Leagues for Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby are in full swing – early this year as everything needs to be fitted in given it is a Paralympic year. As well international wheelchair basketball and rugby will be played in Sydney and I suggest you consult out website and calendars to dairy date all these fabulous competitions.

As well our junior basketball team will be travelling to Perth for a National Junior Championships in April and both the Ashley Coops Trust and WS NSW will be financially supporting the team members. After all the future is in our juniors and they are our paralympians of tomorrow.

I believe 9 year old member Hayley Slocombe pointed that out with part of her speech at last year's 50 year Celebratory Dinner. To quote Hayley: "I plan on being at the 100 year Anniversary Dinner of Wheelchair Sports NSW"

The spirit of our juniors!

Jim O'Brien
CEO

Unveiling the plaque: Stadium Manager Delmas Green (left) with Bart Bassett MP (State member for Londonderry) and NSW Minister for Sport Graham Annesley (right)

Mayor of Blacktown City Council Alan Pendleton receiving a copy of the WS NSW history "Pushing Strong" from Jim O'Brien, CEO

Some wheelchair rugby league players enjoying the newly refurbished Kevin Betts Stadium

NSW Minister for Sport Graham Annesley presenting Michael Spiteri with his 20 years Service Award

KBS
KEVIN BETTS STADIUM

wheelchair sports nsw

2012 GIO Summer Down Under Series

Canberra track racing - Jean Paul Compaore (CAN)

Hannah Cockcroft (UK) racing in Canberra to a new world record

Sponsors of the 2012 GIO Summer Down Under Series "up in lights"

The 2012 GIO Summer Down Under Series held in January showcased elite wheelchair races from all over the world competing in an international series of wheelchair track and road racing. The Series hosted one of the largest fields with over 60 athletes competing.

The Series commenced with a welcome function hosted by the ACT Government. ACT Minister for Community Services, Joy Burch welcomed the athletes to our nation's capital and Susie Walford (from major sponsor GIO) wished them well at the track meet in Canberra. Congratulations to Michelle Stilwell (Canada) in T52 400m, Hannah Cockroft (Great Britain) in T34 400m and Rheed McCracken (AUS – QLD) in T34 1,500m on their new World Records set at the Australian Institute of Sport Track, Canberra.

2012 GIO Summer Down Under racing at the Sydney Track Meet

Start of the 2012 GIO Oz Day10K

In Sydney on Monday 23 January, athletes, sponsors, supporters and friends of Wheelchair Sports NSW attended a reception hosted by the Honourable Barry O'Farrell MP Premier of NSW at the Opera House. Our well known Aussie Paralympian, Kurt Fearnley OAM spoke about the iconic GIO Oz Day 10K, now in its 23rd year.

The second Track Meet of the Series was held on Tuesday 24 January at the Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre. Congratulations again to Michelle Stilwell (Canada) on breaking her own 100m and 200m World Records. Oceania records also fell that night, Rheed McCracken (QLD) T34 200m and our own Angie Ballard 100m, 200m and 400m.

Open Women's pack racing in the 2012 GIO Oz Day 10K

On Australia Day, Thursday 26 January Sydney's streets around The Rocks were closed for the 23rd GIO Oz Day 10K. For the first time this spectacular event, footage was captured and broadcasted live via a big screen and online around the world. Fortunately the rain held off during the race as we watched crowd favourite and defending champion Kurt Fearnley OAM win his 8th consecutive title in a new course record of 20:23.

Kurt Fearnley OAM wins his 8th consecutive Oz Day 10K in a new record time of 20.23

GIO Oz Day 10K can't take place without our sponsors and we do need to recognise the great contribution of GIO as naming right sponsor for 2012.

Organisations who also committed support this year were;

- NSW Sport and Recreation
- Invacare (we welcome Invacare to this sponsorship)
- Australian Paralympic Committee
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority

And our contra sponsors include:

- NSW Premiers Department
- Contact and Clarendon

Once again thanks must go to the tireless efforts of Serena Ovens' our Event Manager. And the great work of our volunteers and officials from Athletics ACT and Athletics NSW.

To watch the Highlight clip of the 2012 GIO Oz Day 10K, visit www.wsnsw.org.au

2012 GIO Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open

Men's Main Draw runner up Maikel Scheffers (NED) and winner Michael Jeremiasz (FRA)

Women's Main Draw winner Esther Vergeer (NED) in action during the final

The 2012 GIO Sydney International is the only tournament of its type in Australia and is a crucial component of the "new look" Australian Wheelchair Tennis Tour. This is the opportunity for local athletes to seek international standard competition in Sydney each year. The tournament is the largest of its type in Australia and will continue to create avenues for our athletes into the future. It has developed into an event with international wheelchair sporting significance and a major contributor to the growth and acceptance of wheelchair sport into the mainstream sporting arena.

The 24th Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open was held from 20 – 24 January 2012 at Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre. This year's event showcased the world's best men and women wheelchair tennis players, with 110 players from 22 countries competing. The top 8 ranked men and women in the world were featured in the tournament.

This 5 day tournament was a star attraction in the Wheelchair Tennis Circuit with our Aussies taking on a tough international field. With fierce competition, matches were exciting and demonstrated some quality wheelchair tennis. The Main Draw Men's final was played by Maikel Scheffers (Netherlands) current world number one against Michael Jeremiasz (France) who is on his comeback from injury. This was a highlight match with Michael Jeremiasz defeating Maikel Scheffers, 6-4, 6-3.

Quad Main Draw winner Noam Gershony (ISR) with Tennis NSW CEO Glenn Tasker (left) and Tournament Director Lara Giltinan

Israeli player Noam Gershony was cheered through his semi final by quite a crowd.

In the Main Draw Women's division, Dani DiToro (world number 5) from Australia competed in semi finals against Aniek Van Koot (world number 2) from the Netherlands, this was a close match but Dani was out-played by Aniek. In the women's finals current world number 1 Esther Vergeer (Netherlands) dominated the match to defeat Aniek Van Koot, 6-1, 6-0.

After amazing results in the Main Draw Men's singles, two of our upcoming NSW players won the Men's Second Draw Doubles, Keegan Oh Chee and Richard Engles. Great achievement for Keegan and Rick, improving their overall points and experience against a quality international field.

Men's Second Draw Doubles winners Keegan Oh Chee (NSW) and Richard Engles (NSW)

WS NSW members Adam Kellerman and Ben Weekes team up in the Men's Main Draw Doubles Quarter Final

Of course the 2012 GIO Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open would not have been the success it was without our team of volunteers and our wonderful sponsors. We welcome a great contribution of GIO in joining the Tournament as naming right sponsor for 2012.

The partnership between WS NSW and Tennis NSW is also growing from strength to strength and suggests a big future for wheelchair tennis in NSW.

Organisations who also committed their support this year were;

- NSW Sport and Recreation
- Australian Paralympic Committee
- Sydney Olympic Park Authority
- ipac financial services

And our contra and support sponsors include:

- NSW Premiers Department
- Contact and Clarendon
- Tennis Australia
- International Tennis Federation
- NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour

Fundraising News

Thank you to our supporters, sponsors and donors who kindly supported Wheelchair Sports NSW recently. Thank you to our supporters who donated to the 2011 Christmas Appeal and a special thank you to the following:

AAWD
Allianz
ANZ Foundation
APC
ASX Thomson Reuters
Australian Chinese Foundation
Charity Challenge Fund
Commonwealth Bank
Contact and Clarendon Print
CMAA
GIO
Golden Stave Foundation
IPAC
Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
Mounties
NSW Sport & Recreation
Revesby Workers Club
Roth Charitable Foundation
Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club
SOPA
St George Foundation
Stacks Goudkamp
The Rocks
Tennis NSW
The Primary Club
Uniport

Mounties supports our junior tennis players

Thank you to Mounties who supported our junior tennis athletes through the Talented Athlete Program. The Talented Athlete Program identifies promising junior wheelchair athletes and provides a pathway to develop and improve their fundamental skills. Also the Program provides intensive training and specialist coaching to allow progress to an elite performance level. This Program has one of our junior tennis players, Andy Parker who competed in the 2012 GIO Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open and won his first match in senior competition. This is a massive achievement for 13 year old Andy, as he never thought he would stand a chance against the "older men".

TAP Program athletes Stephan Rouchecouste (left) and Keegan Oh-Chee (right) with Marilyn Price (Director - Mounties)

2012 Uniport Race Day supporting Wheelchair Sports NSW

Under grey skies over 160 people supported WS NSW through the annual Race Day. This was the first year we held the event at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, and the change of venue was a success!

With prime seating on a private balcony directly above the finish line, wonderful food and a bumper silent auction and raffle items, a fantastic day was had by all.

With many thanks to Ben Coles our esteemed MC, the wonderful Tina McKenzie our guest speaker, Louise Sauvage OAM golden raffle ticket seller and the sponsor of the day Uniport.

Thank you to all of our table hosts and guests for attending and for your support as we raised over $18,000 for individuals with disabilities to have the opportunity to participate in sport.

Geoff Harber (Director, Uniport), Tina McKenzie (Australian wheelchair basketballer), Louise Sauvage OAM (Patron of WS NSW) and Mark Booth (Director, Uniport)

WS NSW Fundraising Manager Sarah Hozack with winner of the "best dressed gentleman" Ivan Dzajkovski

Challenge yourself for disability 2012 City2Surf!

Wheelchair Sports NSW is participating in the Sun-Herald City2Surf on Sunday 12 August. We want you to join our team! Wheelchair Sports NSW is looking for team captains and participants to join our team.

In 2011 there were over 85,000 people competing in the fun run, many raising funds for their chosen Charity. Entries for the 2012 City2Surf will open in May 2012, however if you would like to register your interest, please contact Sarah Hozack on 9809 5260 or sarahh@wsnsw.org.au

Stacks Goudkamp Charity Golf Day

Join us for the annual Stacks Goudkamp Golf Day on Tuesday 29 May 2012 and experience a great day of golf with colleagues, clients and friends, whilst raising much needed funds for Wheelchair Sports NSW. The Golf Day is organised by Gary Dawson and Matt Laverty from Charity Challenge and it provides exciting, fun competition with prizes, giveaways and a great atmosphere for our golfers.

The day includes 18 holes of golf at the prestigious Macquarie Links International Golf Club, starting at 7am for registration and breakfast, golf carts, drinks, prizes and finishing with a fantastic buffet lunch and presentation.

Put together your team of 4 or just come along yourself and enjoy some competitive fun golf for a worthy cause Contact Sarah Hozack on 9809 5260 or sarahh@wsnsw.org.au

STACKS GOUDKAMP

Like us on Facebook!

Wheelchair Sports NSW is on Facebook. Do you like our page? Join our group and have your say, you can upload photos, share stories and make comments. facebook.com/wsnsw

Like

Bequest

Bequest segment – For more information about how you can make a bequest to Wheelchair Sports NSW please phone Sarah Hozack on 02 9809 5260

Team Stacks Goudkamp at the 2011 Stacks Goudkamp Charity Golf Day

The game goes on - rain, hail or shine. Join us in 2012 for a great game of golf, whilst supporting Wheelchair Sports NSW.

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For more information or to arrange a trial call us on Freephone **1800 460 460**

INVACARE

www.invacare.com.au

Yes, you can.

Many of you may have heard about the Wheelchair Sports NSW Roadshow Program, in this Pushers Post I would like to give a brief run down of what the Roadshow actually involves.

The Roadshow has been a highly successful program running over the last 12 years visiting schools, TAFE's, PCYC's and various community groups.

Each year we visit over 250 schools across NSW and participate in large community programs e.g. The Youth & Road Trauma Forum at Acer Arena where over 3000 students across NSW come through to participate in our program over three days.

The Roadshow program contains the following:

- A 20 minutes talk on **road safety** and the consequences of taking risks on the road by 2 of our staff who have unfortunately experienced these consequences first hand. The talk is made more powerful by the fact that our presenters can say that they were "just like you" when they were teenagers, but through a mistake they made on the road they are now in a wheelchair for the rest of their lives.
- A 40 minute game of **wheelchair basketball** with the students to give them a taste of wheelchair sport plus an idea of what it is like to be in a wheelchair, if only for a short time.
- We can offer the talk on **disability sport** rather than road safety. Our presenters are members of Wheelchair Sports NSW so all have played wheelchair sports in their lives. Some of our presenters are Paralympians or international sports players.

Our presenters visit the schools or venue with our Roadshow Vans loaded up with 12 wheelchairs and equipment, so all that is required by the school is a basketball court or flat surface.

I would like to share with you some of the testimonials that we have received from school students:

"It's the best 2 periods of my school life"

"Even the students who expected the same old road safety talk told me how much they enjoyed the presentation and, of course, the wheelchair basketball."

"It was a real eye opener as they told of many life experiences and facts to make you think twice in dangerous situations"

"Excellent presentation. Positive safety message and enjoyable, practical skills"

Join the Roadshow Presenters Team

You have read the brief description of what the Wheelchair Sports NSW Roadshow program involves, does this sound like something you would love to get involved in?

We are looking for additional Roadshow Presenters to join our team in 2012!

The role of a Wheelchair Sports NSW Roadshow presenter is an enjoyable, interesting, varied and satisfying one!

Are you interested in: encouraging safer driving habits for young drivers, highlighting the consequences of taking risks on the road with your own personal story, create a greater understanding of people with disabilities and encourage integration and raising awareness of wheelchair sport?

Please email your letter of interest and a brief description of why you would be suitable to join our Roadshow Presenter Team to:

Mel Jones – Roadshow Coordinator reception@wsnsw.org.au

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Presenter Role in more detail, please call Mel on 9809 5260..

Sport Shorts

Basketball

Suncoast Spinners Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, QLD

The Spinners tournament was held 13 – 15 January 2012 in Sippy Downs, QLD. A NSW Juniors team of 7 attended this competition. Fifteen teams entered this event, with the NSW Juniors placing 4th. Following the event, at feedback was received from the coordinator of the tournament:

"Hi Paul and Kerri
A quick note to let you now how impressed we were with your NSW junior team over the Suncoast Spinners Basketball Tournament weekend! When asked if they could help out with scoring, everyone who was approached was more than willing to help. I also wanted to let you know that we have had some extremely positive remarks from officials and volunteers about the caliber of the juniors we had helping out...' what classy and well parented children you had helping out. They are a real credit to you'
Thanks once again for another great weekend.
Best Regards,
Sharon & Glenys"

Emerging Rollers, Dubai

Basketball Australia received an invitation to participate in a tournament in Dubai with our emerging Rollers players. This is an excellent opportunity for Basketball Australia men's wheelchair program to have a fully funded invitation to participate against 7 other wheelchair teams from the Western Asian/Gulf region. The tournament will be held in Dubai from 5 April through to 12 April.

The players have been a part of the Australian Development Camp, Frank Ponta Cup and Rollers squads for the past 2 years and will form the basis of our the 2013 U23 team for the World Championships.

The following NSW players have been selected out of a 12-man squad to be a part of the tournament:

CJ Grogan	Darwin/Sydney
Tim Mackrow	Canberra
Keegan Oh-Chee	Sydney
Colin Smith	Wollongong
Asst. Coach: Sonia Healy	Sydney
Team Manager: Pablo Jimenez	Wollongong

NSW Juniors Selection Camp and 2012 Australian U18 & Kevin Coombs Championships

During late January, a NSW Selection Camp was held at the Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen. 16 Sixteen juniors (50/50 male & female) trialled for the NSW Juniors Wheelchair Basketball Team. Coaches Evan Bennett and Paul Auprince were impressed with the number of juniors coming through and at how they were developing.

The Kevin Coombs Cup will be held in conjunction with the Australian U18 Men's and Women's Championship at the WA Basketball Centre, Perth, WA.

The Kevin Coombs Cup will commence on Tuesday 17 April and will finish with the finals on Saturday 21 April. The NSW Junior team that has been selected for the Championships is:

CJ Grogan	David Moreira
Jessica Pellow	Mikaela Dingley
Josh Meoli	Brad Fisher
Tim Markcrow	Brad Gilbert
Craig Jarrett	Maxwell Illingworth

Upcoming Events:

- 17-21 April Kevin Coombs Cup, Perth, WA

Handcycling

National Handcycling Series Wrap Up

The first race of the 2012 National Handcycling Series (NHS) was unfortunately cancelled in Tasmania. This meant the first official race of the 2012 NHS was held in Sydney 3-5 February. The weekend represented the first "triple-header" with a criterium race, road race and time trial included.

NSW was represented by Glenn Bennett, Ron Gibson, Jon Franklin, Rosemary Little and Ben Perry from Parramatta Cycling Club and also Christian Robertson.

In the Friday criterium, the heavens opened up and it poured throughout the entire race. Glenn Bennett finished 1st in the H1 class. Ron Gibson finished 3rd in the H2 class behind Michael Taylor (Vic) and Jarrod Moncur (Qld). Ben Perry and Stuart Tripp (Vic) finished 1st in their respective categories – H3 & H4.

Parramatta Cycling Club's Ben Perry racing in the NHS Criterium. Photo courtesy of Rev. William Stewart.

Saturday seemed to be in a different world with the handcyclists greeted with strong sunshine and intense heat. As a result and due to safety concerns, the race was shortened to 22km for H1 and 33km for H2-4. Sue Reid (New Zealand) started her first race in the Series in place of Rosemary Little who withdrew.

L-R: Ron Gibson, Michael Taylor and Jarrod Moncur in action in the NHS road race.

NSW's Glenn Bennett won the H1 class in a time of 1:25:43. Victoria's Michael Taylor once again won the H2 class breaking the 1-hour mark finishing in 58:20 with Jarrod Moncur (QLD) and Ron Gibson in the placings. Sue Reid finished ahead of Ben Perry to win the H3 class. Stuart Tripp won the H4 class with a time of 57:40.

The last part of the 'triple-header' weekend left 5 racers remaining. The course was a 25km road course from the Australian Time Trial Association in Calga. Stuart Tripp (H4) recorded the fastest time of 44:31. Michael Taylor (H2) also broke the 1-hour mark with ease in a time of 49:04. Sue Reid (H3) narrowly missed out on breaking the mark finishing in 1:00:12.

Leader Board after Race 1 NHS

Class	Pos.	Name	Criterium	Road Race	Time Trial	Points
H1	1st	Glenn Bennett	10	10	DNS	20
H2	1st	Michael Taylor	10	10	10	30
	2nd	Ron Gibson	8	8	8	24
	3rd	James Ormerod	7	6	9	22
	4th	Jarrod Moncu	9	9	DNS	18
	5th	Christian Robertson	6	7	DNS	13
	6th	Jonathon Franklin	5	5	DNS	10
	7th	Rosemary Little	4	DNS	DNS	4
H3	1st	Sue Reid	DNS	10	10	20
	2nd	Ben Perry	10	9	DNS	19
H4	1st	Stuart Tripp	10	10	10	30

Thanks to Sutherland Shire Cycling Club, Bankstown Sports Cycling Club and Australian Time Trial Association for their support for the 2012 NHS Sydney races.

Following the Sydney races, the trio of Glenn Bennett, Ron Gibson and Jon Franklin headed south of the border to Echuca Victoria to compete in Race 2 of the NHS.

NSW Leader Board after Race 2 NHS

Class	Name	NHS 1	Time Trial	Road Race	Points
H1	Glenn Bennett	20	9	9	38
H2	Ron Gibson	24	7	8	39
	Christian Robertson	13	0	0	13
	Jonathon Franklin	10	1	0	11
	Rosemary Little	4	0	0	4
H3	Ben Perry	19	0	0	19

In the 13.4km time trial, Glenn Bennett finished 2nd in the H1 race behind WA's Craig Parsons in 42:03:01. In the H2 race, Ron Gibson finished 4th with a time of 24:53.3 while Jon Franklin finished in 32:37.1.

The road race was set on a 30km for H1 and H2 women while the H2 Men – H4 competed in a 60km race. H1's Glenn Bennett finished in 1:42.3 claiming 2nd place. In the H2 race, Ron Gibson finished in a time of 2:05.5 finishing 4th.

Lawn Bowls

The year began with the 2012 WS NSW Singles Classic, held at Everglades Country Club, 12-14 February. Despite the inclement weather, bowls were still able to be played with little time lost. The event showcased 25 NSW bowlers fighting for places in the NSW team ahead of the 2012 Wheelchair Sports Australia National Lawn Bowls Championships.

In the Men's Draw, James Reynolds (Tathra) and Eddie Gollan (Raymond Terrace) played off in the Final. In a close encounter James Reynolds won the Gold. In the Third Place Play-Off Doug Lambert (Park Beach Bowling Club) defeated Jim Newton (Lemon Tree Passage).

In the Ladies' Draw it was Lynn Smith (Roselands) who won Gold defeating Joanne Hunter (Gymea). Carolyn Nelson (Engadine) defeated Christine Redman (Raymond Terrace) in the Third Place Play-Off.

Following the Singles Classic, WS NSW have announced the NSW team for the 2012 Nationals in June.

Mens
James Reynolds
Eddie Gollan
Doug Lambert
Geoff Seton
Jim Newton
Jim Sigsworth
Gilbert Hicks (Reserve)
Michael Vassallo (Reserve)
Brian Burdakin (Reserve)

Ladies
Lynn Smith
Joanne Hunter
Carolyn Nelson
Donna Elliss
Cheryl Benbow (Reserve)

Rugby

During 2012, the format of the National Wheelchair Rugby League has changed to become a development series called the 2012 National Wheelchair Rugby Series (NWRS). This is to allow greater player participation and development opportunities. The National Wheelchair Rugby Series incorporates two stand alone 3 day tournaments in both March and May and one National Wheelchair Rugby Championships in late June.

Tournament One was hosted by Disability Sport and Recreation, 2-4 March at Caroline Springs Leisure Centre, Melbourne, Victoria. Five teams competed, Victorian 'Coloplast' Thunder, GIO NSW Gladiators, Jetstar Gold Coast Titans Wheelchair Rugby Squad, Enforcers and Spartans.

The new format allowed for more games and greater court time for both players and referees. As part of the

development spirit, many coaches regularly rotated their players to allow as many of the players, especially rookies, to get good amounts of playing time on court.

There were 10 minor round robin games and the top four finishing teams went on to compete in the final series on Sunday. After some very tight finishing games in the minor rounds, the Enforcers finished in top spot, Jetstar Gold Coast Titans Wheelchair Rugby Squad in second, Victorian 'Coloplast' Thunder in third and Spartans rounded out the final four. Unfortunately, the GIO NSW Gladiators finished 5th.

The Jetstar Gold Coast Titans Wheelchair Rugby Squad went on to take out Tournament One against the Spartans (55-41), while Victorian 'Coloplast' Thunder took out third spot over the Enforcers (45-35).

Table Tennis

Come and Try days are being held monthly in Fairfield/Cabramatta PCYC. Coach and Classifier Tien Quach is managing these sessions.

Wheelchair Tennis

2011 Metropolitan Wheelchair Tennis Open

The Metropolitan Open was held from the 2-4 December 2011 at City Community Tennis, Surry Hills. This was a fantastic venue as there was a lot of foot traffic passing through the park. This meant a number of spectators would stop and view the matches and ask questions about WS NSW programs. Unfortunately the finals were rained out Sunday morning but Keegan Oh-Chee and Mick Connell were to meet in the Men's Singles finals and Henry De-Cure/Keegan Oh-Chee and Rick Engles/Mick Connell were scheduled to meet in the Men's Open Doubles.

2012 NSW Wheelchair Tennis Tour

Tournament dates are as follows:

- 14-16 September – South Pacific Open, Nowra
- 2-4 November – NSW Open, Wollongong
- 30 Nov– 2 Dec – Metropolitan Open, Surry Hills, Sydney CBD

Regional News

If you have any news of activities or WS NSW members in your region please email articles/images/stories to Kathleen Nicholls (kathleenn@wsnsw.org.au)

JUNIORS

Junior Days

Junior Days for 2012 have been held at the St George Archers in Monterey and Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus.

Upcoming Junior Days

Sunday May 27th Junior Day

As well as tennis clinics for juniors are held on the second last Sunday of each month at Surry Hills.

Christmas Camp

The Christmas Camp was held on the weekend of 9-11 December 2011. We had 15 campers with approximately four new juniors attending. The junior committee felt the camp was a success, regardless of the low numbers – junior member retention is an ongoing work in progress. The Christmas Camp presentations included 2 x $250 cash Encouragement Grants. These were awarded to Coban Palmer & Hayley Slocombe both of whom showed exceptional sporting talent and a great "camper" attitude.

Please see below an email from the family of a new member, 9 year old Coban.

"Hi Kerri,

Thank you for organising a fantastic weekend. Coban has not stoped talking about it and he even made a comment on the way home in the car 'that weekend has changed my life'.

We cannot thank you, your organisation and the volunteers enough.

In 2012 we would love to help out and be more involved where we can. So anything that we can do please let us know.

Many Thanks Again
Nicole, Keith & Coban Palmer "

Fun at the 2011 Junior Wheelies Christmas Camp

Upcoming Events

	Level	Sport	Event	Location	Event contact
April					
7	State	Rugby	Sydney Slam Series	Ryde Community Sports Centre	WS NSW - Will
13-15	National	Basketball	Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League		Basketball Australia
14	State	Rugby	Sydney Slam Series	Ryde Community Sports Centre	WS NSW - Will
15-16	National	Handcycling	Australia Para-cycling Road Championships	Sunshine Coast, QLD	Sporting Wheelies
17-21	National	Basketball	Kevin Coombs Cup	Perth, WA	WS WA
20-22	National	Rugby	Rugby State Championships - The Bash	Brisbane, QLD	Sporting Wheelies
20-22	National	Basketball	Men's National Wheelchair Basketball League		Basketball Australia
27-29	National	Basketball	Men's National Wheelchair Basketball League		Basketball Australia
TBC	Development	Tennis	Coaching Clinic	TBC	Mick/Megan
May					
3-5	National	Basketball	Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League		Basketball Australia
4-5	International	Rugby	Australia v Japan Test Series	SOP Sports Centre	Australian Paralympic Committee
5	State	Rugby	Sydney Slam Series	Ryde Community Sports Centre	WS NSW - Will
11-13	National	Basketball	Men's National Wheelchair Basketball League		Basketball Australia
19	State	Rugby	Sydney Slam Series	Ryde Community Sports Centre	WS NSW - Will
25-26	National	Basketball	Men's National Wheelchair Basketball League		Basketball Australia
25-27	National	Rugby	QLD Cup	Brisbane	Sporting Wheelies
27	Development	Juniors	Junior Day	TBC	WS NSW - Megan
June					
1-3	National	Basketball	Men's National Wheelchair Basketball League		Basketball Australia
4-8	National	Lawn Bowls	2012 WSA National Lawn Bowls Championships	Raymond Terrace Bowling Club	WS NSW - Will
9	State	Rugby	Sydney Slam Series	Ryde Community Sports Centre	WS NSW - Will

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Michael Auprince on his recent results in Adelaide at the Australian Swiming Trials. The Australian Paralympic Team will annouce the team travelling to London in June - stay tuned!!

For more information or enquiries call: 02 9809 5260 OR WE ARE LIVE @ www.wsnsw.org.au

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