

Premiers Reception for Wheelchair Athletes



Premier Kristina Keneally addressing the audience from the steps of Government House on a delightful summers evening

Over 150 sponsors, supporters and friends of Wheelchair Sports NSW attended a reception hosted by the Premier of NSW Kristina Keneally at prestigious Government House in Sydney.

Over 50 Wheelchair Athletes from 14 countries were present as this annual reception is part of the lead up to the Australia Day (Oz Day) 10K road race around Sydney's Rocks.

Kurt Fearnley OAM, not so long back from his epic journey of the Kokoda trail, spoke on what this iconic Australia Day event, now in its 21st year, means to these wheelchair racers from home and abroad. Josh Cassidy from Canada and one of Kurt's main rivals, spoke on behalf of the overseas athletes.



Athlete Kurt Fearnley OAM, Ron Delezio (Day of Difference Foundation), Carmel Donnelly (GM of Motor Accidents Authority of NSW) and John Trevillian AM (Assistant Director General - Premiers Department)

In his speech, Wheelchair Sports CEO Jim O'Brien indicated, that a wheelchair race to launch Australia Day activities in Sydney, sends a very strong message to the people of NSW about social inclusion and the worth of all individuals.

The Premier proved a fine host and good sport, staying until the end of the reception, mingling with the majority of the wheelchair athletes and agreeing to a large number of photo opportunities with athletes and guests.



Jack Ball AM (Life Member ClubsNSW), Premier Kristina Keneally, Ellie Ball, David Costello (CEO ClubsNSW) and Raelene Breakwell (ClubsNSW)



Richard Lewis (Partner - Corrs Chambers Westgarth lawyers), Nigel Marsden (ANZ Trustees) and Steve Johns (Corrs, Chambers Westgarth)



Tom Goudkamp (Principal - Stacks Goudkamp Compensation Lawyers), Chris Nicholls (Board Members WS NSW, Jenny Nicholls and Ivan Dzajkovski (Stacks Goudkamp)

Yvonne Talbott recognised as Volunteer of the Year

Those who have a connection with Wheelchair Sports NSW know of the saintly person that is Yvonne Talbott OAM. Yvonne is a Life Member of Wheelchair Sports NSW after providing volunteer service for almost 30 years.

Recently in a very competitive field Yvonne was awarded NSW Volunteer of the Year at the annual NSW Sports Awards. She was up against quality shortlisted volunteers from basketball, dragon boats, equestrian and yachting. More nominations are received for this award than any of the other 16 award categories on the night.

Whilst Yvonne was recognised for her volunteer work in 2009 it is worth noting that Yvonne has not missed our annual Junior Wheelchair Christmas Camp in 27 years. Yvonne must be second in line to Sister Mary McKillop!



NSW Minister for Volunteering Peter Primrose presents Yvonne Talbott her award



2010 Summer Down Under Wheelchair Track and Road Racing Series

The 2010 Series included 3 days of a Training Camp and a Track Meet in Canberra followed by 6 days in Sydney with training, a Track Meet and the prestigious Oz Day 10K.

The roads around The Rocks precinct in Sydney were closed on Australia Day as over 50 wheelchair athletes from all over the world lined up to try and take the titles away from local athletes Kurt Fearnley and Christie Dawes in the 21st Oz Day 10K Road Race. Kurt was again too classy for the field and won his sixth

consecutive title. However, Christie Dawes was not so fortunate after taking a tumble the leading women's pack came into the final straight. Christie admitted to having a bruised shoulder and a bruised ego!

Kurt after his win commented, *"This event is one of my favorites in the world as my whole family travel in from the bush to support me and then we enjoy all the Australia Day festivities."*

A lot of work goes into running this event and a special thank you to all the 100+ volunteers who get up very early each year to ensure the race runs smoothly.



Start line for the 2010 Oz Day 10K in Alfred St.



Open Men's Champions Kurt Fearnley (AUS), David Weir (GBR) and Kota Hokinoue (JPN) with Michael Godfrey-Roberts (President WS NSW)



Open Women's Champions Edith Hunkeler (SUI), Amanda McGrory (USA) and Shelly Woods (GBR) with Michael Godfrey-Roberts (President WS NSW)



Kurt Fearnley leading the Men's pack before winning his 6th consecutive Oz Day 10K

2010 ClubsNSW Junior Wheelie Christmas Camp

Thank you to all those generous supporters who donated towards our annual ClubsNSW Junior Wheelies Christmas Camp for young "wheelies". During the three day camp the children enjoyed all aspects of wheelchair sports including tennis, basketball, archery, canoeing, rugby and cricket. It is also a great opportunity for children who are often isolated in their school or community to make new friends. It also gave some well earned respite for parents and careers. We greatly appreciate the contribution ClubNSW makes to our junior activities at WS NSW



Four of the WS NSW Juniors enjoying the Christmas Camp, including a Cricket NSW clinic, Lawn Bowls and Kayaking on Narrabeen Lakes



2010 Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open

The world's best wheelchair tennis athletes flew into Sydney in February to compete in the Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open. The tournament had its challenges this year with the heavy Sydney rain in early February interfering with play on every day. The Dutch players again featured strongly in all Main Draw finals. Robin Ammerlaan (NED) defeated Ronald Vink (NED) for the Men's title and Jiske Griffioen (NED) defeated Dani Di Toro (AUS) for the Women's final. Nick Taylor (USA) defeated Andy Laphorne (GBR) in the Quad Draw.



Left: Ronald Vink (NED)
 Above: 2010 Tournament Champions - Nick Taylor (USA), Jiske Griffioen (NED) and Robin Ammerlaan (NED)
 Right: Dani Di Toro (AUS)



CTP Tennis Cup

CTP insurers Allianz, NRMA Insurance, Suncorp joined the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW and compensation law firm Stacks Goudkamp for the inaugural CTP Tennis Cup to help raise funds for Wheelchair Sports NSW. \$45,000 was raised from the two day event and these funds went towards the 2010 Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open (SIWTO). This tournament has suffered significant financial losses over the past few years. Players from Allianz were too good on the day. A special thanks to **David Bowen from Life Time Care & Support** for inviting these companies to be involved prior to his departure from the Motor Accidents Authority. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.



Summer Event Recognition

These events would not have been possible without the support of our wonderful loyal group of **volunteers**. We have a committed group of over 200 volunteers who ensure these events run smoothly for all involved helping with areas such as transport, field of play, scoreboards, hospitality, course marshalling and medical.

WS NSW has many volunteering opportunities throughout the year, if you are interested contact reception at WS NSW on 9809 5260.

Further support for the events came from **Coca-Cola Amatil, Schweppes, Harbord Beach Hotel, Bankstown Sports Club and Dick Smith Foods**

Thank you for your support

Primary Club \$20,000 following the recent Sir Roden Cutler Award presented to Brad Dubberley (Australian Wheelchair Rugby Coach)

Gary Dawson and Matthew Laverty through the **Charity Challenge Golf Days** raising approximately \$15,000

McGrath Nicol Corporate Advisory staff \$5,000

WS NSW would like to thank and recognise the following trusts and foundations for their recent support:

Fairbridge Foundation

Roth Charitable Foundation

ANZ Trustees

Golden Stave Foundation

ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation

Thank you to all those who participated in our EveryDay Hero Christmas Camp campaign

Sponsors and supporters of our Summer Events



Harbour Foreshore Authority



Sydney Olympic Park



EveryDay Hero

It has never been easier to raise money for WS NSW using EveryDay Hero

www.everydayhero.com.au

You can be a hero for WNSW by building your own personal fundraising page. It only takes a few minutes to build and email to all of your contacts.

- Create a fundraising page with your own photo or video and tell your story about how and why you are trying to raise money.
- No hassles, collecting promised money or issuing receipts because EveryDayHero processes every donation from your supporters; issues the tax deductible receipt to the donor immediately by email; and pays the money directly into the Not for Profit organisation's bank account.
- Ask more people by email. Online fundraising lets you email people all over the world to show them what you are doing and why, and ask for donations. 30% of people you email WILL donate, so the more emails you send, the more money you will raise!
- Have more fun, by sending personal emails to your friends, family and colleagues and let them leave their message of support.

For more information contact Patrick Cameron on 9809 5260

Corporate Team Building with a Difference

The Corporate Wheelchair Basketball Challenge introduces the game of wheelchair basketball to staff as a team building exercise with a difference.



However, a game of wheelchair basketball is only a part of the challenge. We invite along one of our inspirational Paralympic athletes who will not only help with the game of wheelchair basketball but will also give a talk about their life, how they came to play wheelchair sport and how they overcame great challenges to achieve the pinnacle of their sport – through teamwork, passion, commitment and belief in their abilities.

During 2009 we held Team Building and Wheelchair Basketball days with the following companies:

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

ANZ Private Bank

McGrath Nicol

Yellow Brick Road Investments

National Australia Bank

Westpac

Booking enquiries contact Lisa Taylor on 9809 5260.

Bequests

Bequests from thoughtful, caring people will help us to continue, through sport to provide a more fulfilling and balanced life for people with disabilities in New South Wales.

"Sport has provided me with a career and experiences that I may never have had if it wasn't for those early days competing for my State Wheelchair Sports Association. I have travelled the world and established great friendships, many of which are still an integral part of my life today."

Louise Sauvage OAM
Patron, Wheelchair Sports NSW
Champion Paralympian



Upcoming events for Wheelchair Sports NSW

13 March 2010	Fundraising Race Day	Royal Randwick Race Course
3 June 2010	Fundraising Charity Challenge Golf Day	Macquarie Links International Golf Club
1 September 2010	Junior Wheelchair Fundraising Lunch	Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney



From the Mother of a
16 yr old Wheelchair
Sports NSW Member

"My 16 year old son was born with a disability (a form of spinal fusion) which meant he was to use a wheelchair from an early age.

He became involved in sport after Wheelchair Sports NSW came to his school to present a Wheelchair Sports Roadshow. He soon went along to wheelchair basketball coaching and found he had a natural talent.

We decided to hire a sports wheelchair through Wheelchair Sports NSW and after that my son became a sports nut. He also became a healthier person and in time developed more self confidence. This self confidence showed through in his schooling which was very pleasing.

It's been a bit of a whirlwind the last couple of years with my son playing national level wheelchair basketball and representing Australia in the Junior Wheelchair World Team Tennis Cup in Nottingham in the UK.

The opportunities that have been available to my son have been nothing short of a dream come true. I'm extremely proud of him and also extremely grateful to Wheelchair Sports NSW for all the support they have provided him during this time.

Without the financial and other support of this wonderful organisation myself as a single mum would have struggled to cope. It has given my son opportunities and experiences that would not have been possible. Thank you Wheelchair Sports NSW and its supporters".

Raffle Winners

Drawn
February 2010

1st Prize
Mrs P Bellette
Kanwal

2nd Prize
Mr M Kelly
Mosman

3rd Prize
Mrs K Johnston
Clifton Gardens

Wheelchair Sports NSW

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Photos courtesy Serena Corporate Photography