



WheelAction

Spring 2011

“Wheelchair Rugby changed my life”

“My name is Andrew Edmondson and I am 21 years old. Ever since I was able to walk I always played or was involved in sports and extremely competitive. As a kid I grew up playing all different sports like cricket, tennis, swimming and AFL, however my biggest passion was always rugby union.

My life took a major change when I was 14 and was involved in a surfing accident at Coogee beach in which I shattered C5 and C6 vertebra in my neck and became an incomplete quadriplegic.

During my time in rehab I was introduced to the game of Wheelchair Rugby (Murderball) and after first seeing the game on a video I straight away knew it was something I wanted to do. As much as the game is different from able bodied rugby, I was still able to pick up the way the game works quite quickly, and was comfortable with the full wheelchair contact aspect of the game.

Murderball is played on a regulation basketball court. The aim of the game is to score goals whilst having control of the ball and pushing your chair over the line at each end of the court. As much bash and crash as there is in wheelchair rugby, the game also involves a lot of tactics and rules that makes the game challenging for the players and coaches. Each player is given a points classification dependant on their level of function. I am a 2.5 which is considered a high pointer therefore I use what is called an offensive chair that cost me around \$8,000.

I have now been involved in wheelchair rugby for the past 6 years. It all started in 2005 when I played my first game at a Wheelchair Sports NSW Development Day and then shortly after purchased my first rugby chair. Also in 2005 I was selected to play in the NSW team and have been very lucky to be part of the team who have won the past 6 national titles. The National Wheelchair Rugby League is the top league in Australia and consists of 4 major State rounds a year.

The best part about being involved with the NSW team for me has been my fellow players. As one of the youngest on the team, the more experienced players have guided and provided me with great support.

Wheelchair rugby is and will now be a major part of my life going forward. Rugby provides a great incentive to stay fit and healthy so I can continue to achieve in my day to day life.
This currently involves working part time and studying a sports business degree at uni, and also to achieve my goal to one day represent Australia at the Paralympic Games.”



Andrew Edmondson
Photo courtesy of GIO

GIO joins the team - National Wheelchair Rugby League



2011 marks a turning point for Wheelchair Rugby in NSW. Wheelchair Sports NSW is proud to announce its continued partnership with GIO as the major sponsor of the GIO NSW Gladiators wheelchair rugby team. "GIO has nearly 90 years' experience in protecting and supporting the people and communities of NSW. We are delighted to assist and raise awareness of the talented wheelchair sportsmen and women in NSW," said Matt Kayrooz, NSW CTP Portfolio Manager for GIO.

The 2011 National Wheelchair Rugby League season began in Melbourne on 15-17 April at the Caroline Springs Leisure Centre. To the GIO NSW Gladiators this season meant more than continuing their hot streak of a hopeful sixth consecutive national title.

The GIO NSW Gladiators began their season without the influential Ryley Batt, regarded as the world's greatest player. They finished round one with a solitary win from five games. It was the dominance of the Victorian 'Coloplast' Thunder, who finished round one on top of the table with four wins.

Round two saw the return of Ryley Batt as the competition moved to the Brisbane Entertainment Centre on 13-15 May. The team bounced back to win their five games. Despite this turn around, the Victorian 'Coloplast' Thunder retained their first place with a 2 point margin over the GIO NSW Gladiators.



Round 2 Wheelchair Rugby action
Photos courtesy of GIO

On the Queen's Birthday long weekend, 11-13 June, round three was played at Bankstown Basketball Stadium in Sydney's West. The momentum of the GIO NSW Gladiators looked to gather pace especially on the opening day of the round as they defeated the Victorian 'Coloplast' Thunder 55-41.

Unfortunately an injury to Ryley Batt on the final day of round three meant they missed the opportunity to take first place, going down to the Jetstar Gold Coast Titans 61-38. However, the GIO NSW Gladiators were still well placed heading into the Finals weekend in Adelaide, 15-17 July.

In the Finals round in Adelaide, the GIO NSW Gladiators picked themselves back up by going through the weekend undefeated. This included rolling over the Victorian 'Coloplast' Thunder 57-39 in the grand final. With another dominant showing in 2011, Ryley Batt was named the 2011 NWRL Most Valued Player.

Women's U25 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships

Many of our supporters recently contributed to our Winter Appeal when we shared with you a story about one of our young female basketballers, Caitlin de Wit. Recently we sent three members (Caitlin de Wit, Jessica Pellow and Rachel Coady) to attend



Jessica Pellow on court in
Canada

the Women's U25 World Wheelchair Basketball Championships. The Championships took place at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. The tournament was the first-ever World Championship for women in the under-25 age category and represented a milestone in the ongoing growth of wheelchair basketball. This landmark event forged a legacy of opportunity for young female wheelchair basketball athletes around the world.

The seven-day competition showcased the elite talent of the top young female wheelchair basketball athletes from eight international teams. The young women from NSW played a major part in the Australian team finishing second overall. This was a huge achievement and Wheelchair Sports NSW is extremely grateful for our supporters' contributions to make this possible.

Photos courtesy of Wheelchair Basketball Canada



Caitlin de Wit takes a rebound

DID YOU KNOW?

15% of Australians of working age have a disability

Wheelchair Basketball - Country Cup



Play during the Illawarra and Coffs Harbour match at the Country Cup

The 2011 annual regional wheelchair basketball festival the Country Cup, was held at Sydney Academy Sports and Recreation, Narrabeen 29 – 31 July 2011. Teams were represented from all corners of NSW, including: Coffs Harbour, Illawarra, Wagga Wagga, ACT and Taree. We also had a young team from Sutherland enter who were made up of a new group of Junior members. Illawarra was unbeatable this year winning all their games and dominating the final by 58-17 against Coffs Harbour.

Photos courtesy of Chris Corboy



Sutherland Sharks in action at Country Cup

Swimming

Australian Swimming Championships 2011

Wheelchair Sports NSW had a number of members compete in the Australian Swimming Championships held at Sydney Olympic Park, earlier in the year. Congratulations to Matt Levy, winning gold in the SM7 200m individual medley, three and a half seconds faster than his time at the 2010 IPC Swimming World Championships (where he won the bronze medal).

Our members continue to achieve great results at the Multi-Class Swim Meets. Junior member Michael Auprince has dominated the swimming field this year and claimed a World Record for the S9 200m Backstroke with a time of 2:17.40. Michael attended the CAN/AM Para-swimming championships in July and collected five gold medals. All whilst studying for his Higher School Certificate. Congratulations Michael.

Stacks Goudkamp Golf Day 2011

On Wednesday 31 March, Wheelchair Sports NSW hosted the annual Charity Challenge Stacks Goudkamp Golf Day. The golfers had a great day at Macquarie Links Golf Course with an early morning hit off, a buffet lunch, auctions, raffles, prizes and special speakers. Despite the worst golf conditions with non stop rain, everyone managed to get around most of the course and arrive back to the club with smiles on their faces.



Stacks Goudkamp Team



The entire day was a success as Wheelchair Sports NSW raised over \$16,000. Thank you to all our golfers, sponsors, auction and raffle winners and Charity Challenge with Gary Dawson and Matt Laverty. A special thanks to Tom Goudkamp from Stacks Goudkamp Compensation Law Firm for sponsoring the golf day. We look forward to a sunny day next year!

Hiding in the Golf Buggy from the rain!

Wheelchair Sports NSW Race Day 2011

Wheelchair Sports NSW, as part of its 50th Anniversary celebrations, enjoyed a Winters Race Day at Royal Randwick on Saturday 9 July. It was a fantastic day had by all in the heated Oaks Lawn Marquee, with special guest Gai Waterhouse.

We enjoyed a lovely lunch, auctions, raffles and horse betting all in support of Wheelchair Sports NSW. Thank you to all of our table hosts and guests for attending and for your support as we raised almost \$14,000 for individuals with disabilities to have the opportunity to participate in sport.

Race Day photo courtesy of Serena Corporate Photography



Supporters of WS NSW at the Race Day

DID YOU KNOW?

One in five people (20%) in Australia have a disability

Wheelchair Sports NSW Fundraising Luncheon

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Junior Luncheon held at the Four Seasons on Wednesday 31 August. This was an outstanding event with amazing support, as we raised over \$70,000 for our junior members. This contribution was from supporters who pledged their support for an individual junior members. All money raised will benefit 50 junior members with their sport expenses and development. Thank you to everyone who pledged their support and made the day a huge success. A special thank you to CMAA for sponsoring the luncheon and their continued support.

Junior Basketballers

Wheelchair Basketball Trip - Dallas, Texas USA

Wheelchair Sports NSW is proud to announce that a selection of juniors have accepted the invitation to travel as part of the NSW Junior Team to Dallas, USA to compete in the Jim Hayes Memorial Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

Ten of our finest young juniors will be travelling to Texas USA in mid November to compete against some of the best American junior teams. This will be an amazing experience and opportunity for our juniors, allowing them the opportunity to experience quality competition and another culture. Congratulations to; Michael Auprince, Mikaela Dingley, Keegan Oh-Chee, Josh Meoli, Colin Smith, Brad Gilbert, David Moreira, Jessica Pellow, CJ Grogan and Tim Marckrow.

Wheelchair Sports NSW will be contributing 50% of the tour expenditure for each member to attend this international tournament. If you would like to support the team please visit <http://www.gofundraise.com.au/page/NSWJuniors>

Wheelchair Tennis

World Team Cup - Bronze medal for Australian Junior Wheelchair Team

Australia defeated Great Britain to finish third in the junior team event at the 2011 World Team Cup in Pretoria, South Africa. Keegan Oh-Chee and Stephan Rochecouste from NSW and Henry de Cure from SA made up the victorious side. The Australian senior team, Ben Weekes and Richard Engles from NSW and Michael Dobbie from VIC, finished in 12th position in the Men's World Group 1 division.

Photo courtesy of ITF



Stephan Rouchecouste, Keegan Oh-Chee and Henry De Cure, with coach.

Diary Dates

50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner – Friday 21 October 2011 - Waterview Conference Centre, Bicentennial Park

Time to turn back the clock and go through wheelchair sports journey over the past 50 years. Connecting with past and present members, volunteers and supporters.

Greenslip Cup – 28 October 2011 - Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre

Supporting the Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open. Insurers and law firms compete in a tennis event, raising funds for our tennis players.

Come and See

South Pacific Wheelchair Tennis Open	16-18 September	Nowra
Handcycling	16 October	Sydney Olympic Park
SLAM Down Under (Basketball)	22-23 October	Shellharbour
NSW Wheelchair Tennis Open	4-6 November	Wollongong
Metropolitan Open (Wheelchair Tennis)	2-5 December	Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills
Junior Wheelie Christmas Camp	9-11 December	Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen
GIO Summer Down Under Series 2012 (Track and Road)	18-27 January 2012	Canberra and Sydney
2012 Sydney International Wheelchair Tennis Open	20-24 January 2012	Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre

Telemarketing Raffle Winners

Campaign Two, Push Start

1st Prize: N White, Belrose.
2nd Prize: M Peers, Waitara.
3rd Prize: D Russell, Akolele.

Campaign Three, Wheelchairs

1st Prize: C Dawson, Rose Bay.
2nd Prize: J Cleland, Warrawee.
3rd Prize: I Lincoln, Wahroonga.

How you can help?

Visit www.wsnsw.org.au or phone **02 9809 5260** for fundraising ideas and volunteering opportunities

DID YOU KNOW?

179,000 of people with a disability use an electric wheelchair or a scooter for mobility