



WheelAction

Spring 2012

“Sport helped me get my life back on track”

Now it’s time to go for GOLD at the London Paralympic Games

*“My name is Nick Taylor. I am 32 years old and a member of the Australian Wheelchair Basketball team, the Rollers. I grew up in South Africa as a fairly fit and active able bodied kid from a very sporty family. As a kid I discovered my passion was playing basketball and it wasn’t long before I was representing South Africa. At 18yrs old I was captain of our team at the National Championships. Our team made it to the semi finals undefeated. The day before the finals and with my freshly acquired drivers licence my teammates and I headed out for McDonalds. With my naïve confidence and little to no driving experience, it was my own moment of stupidity playing silly buggers behind the wheel, along with the added weight of a carload of people, that caused me to **lose control of the car and ultimately crash into a tree** just off to the side of the road.*

*I was trying to digest the news from the doctors, that I had broken one of the very few parts of the human body that modern medicine doesn’t yet know how to heal, by severing my spinal cord. **Just like that, with one immature moment of stupidity I was now a paraplegic and there was nothing the doctors could do to change that.** I lay in the hospital while my mates forged ahead in my honour to play in the grand final and in the end win the National Championships in a thrilling overtime victory.*

*As I’m sure you can understand, there were some dark days after this for both my parents and myself while we came to terms with my situation. However it was my family who realised well before I did, that it was **sport that was going to help me get my life back on track**, and they soon begun encouraging me to get involved through wheelchair sports.*

*Wheelchair basketball was a natural choice given that I still loved the game of basketball and I had a head start on some of the other new guys, because I’d played basketball before my accident. I went on to make a whole new set of friends through wheelchair basketball. **It was a massive eye opener for me, as***

these guys drove their own cars and had successful careers and started their own families and even had hopes and dreams for the future.

*Since becoming an Australian citizen, I’ve had the privilege of representing my adopted country by playing for the Australian Rollers wheelchair basketball team. It’s been an absolute honour, but I’m truly hoping that the best is yet to come in my sporting career when we give it our all to try to win a medal (preferably a gold one) with the Australian Rollers at the Paralympics in London later this year. **That would undoubtedly be my proudest achievement in sport if that were to happen...***

*I feel like now I have that full and rewarding life that I thought had been taken away from me. I would now like to try and be the inspiration for the next generation of kids with a disability. This is only **possible though the help of Wheelchair Sports NSW and your support.**”*



Nick Taylor in action in Roller World Challenge against Great Britain.

Header photo: Nick Taylor far left (no.14)

2012 London Paralympic Games - NSW Athletes

We are excited to announce 24 of our Wheelchair Sports NSW athletes have been selected for the 2012 London Paralympic Games. The Games commence 29 August and conclude 9 September, keep an eye out on ABC for all footage and highlights of the Games. Congratulations to the following members:

Sailing - Liesl Tesch

Swimming - Michael Anderson, Michael Auprince, Matthew Levy, Sarah Rose and Reagan Wickens

Tennis - Ben Weekes, Adam Kellerman, Janel Manns

Wheelchair Basketball (Men) - Tristan Knowles, Bill Latham, Brett Stibners, Grant Mizens and Nick Taylor

Wheelchair Basketball (Women) - Kylie Gauci, Katie Hill, Tina McKenzie and Sarah Stewart

Wheelchair Rugby - Ryley Batt

Wheelchair Track & Road - Angela Ballard, Christie Dawes, Kurt Fearnley, Rosemary Little and Richard Nicholson

We are proud to have so many high profile athletes representing Australia, including the likes of Ryley Batt, Kurt Fearnley and Grant Mizens. As well we have with two of our NSW junior members whom will be competing for their first time at a Paralympic Games, Michael Auprince and Reagan Wickens. **We wish the team the best of luck as they go for GOLD. Go Aussies!**

Rollers & Gliders World Challenge

Basketball Australia and Wheelchair Sports NSW hosted a WORLD CHALLENGE for the Australian Wheelchair Basketball mens and womens teams. This was an exciting week of high performance wheelchair basketballers in action. Overseas teams were China, Japan, Great Britain and Germany.

The Finals were riveting, with the Gliders (Aussie women) narrowly defeating Germany 48-46 in a tightly-fought Final and remaining undefeated throughout the tournament. The men's match was also a nail biter however, the Rollers (Aussie men) proved too good and clenched victory over Great Britain, winning 70-64. Now it's time to cheer on our Aussies at the London Paralympics as both teams go for GOLD.



The Rollers



The Gliders in action against Germany



Glider and NSW's own Kylie Gauci on court against Germany

Local Clubs support our Wheelies

This year we have been successful in securing support from local Clubs where some of our wheelchair sports programs are located. Thank you to the following council areas; Bankstown, Canada Bay, Coffs Harbour, Hurstville, Mounties, Parramatta, Randwick, Ryde, Shoalhaven (Bomaderry Club), Sutherland,

Sydney, Warringah and Wyong. This support is vital to our local and regional members as it increases their development and progress within wheelchair sport. We look forward to developing our programs within these areas.

ClubsNSW

Corporate Fundraising Luncheon supported by ClubsNSW

The 2012 London Paralympic Games start this August. To celebrate our Wheelchair Sports NSW paralympic athletes and their results, we are hosting our annual Corporate Fundraising Luncheon at the Four Seasons Hotel upon their arrival home. What better way to meet and congratulate our NSW Paralympians after striving for GOLD in London. All monies raised will support our junior and emerging wheelchair stars of the future.

When: Friday 12 October

Where: Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney

Time: 12pm - 3pm

Cost: \$195pp or \$1,900 table

For tickets and further information visit www.wsnsw.org.au or call 9809 5260

Wheelchair Sports NSW is on Facebook, please visit and "like" our page! Join our group and have your say, you can check out our latest event photos, share stories and make comments. www.facebook.com/wsnsw



DID YOU KNOW?

Wheelchair rugby is a sport based on rules derived from ice hockey, grid iron and basketball!

Country Cup - Wheelchair Basketball

The 2012 Annual Regional Wheelchair Basketball festival the Country Cup, was held at Sydney Academy Sports & Recreation, Narrabeen 27-29 July. 58 members participated in teams representing a large chunk of NSW, including: Coffs Harbour, Illawarra, Wagga Wagga, ACT, Central Coast and Sutherland. These teams were made up of juniors/novice players paired with some regulars. It was fantastic to see so many new faces, who have recently joined our regional areas, participating for the first time in a wheelchair basketball tournament. The final was between reigning champions the Illawarra Eagles and Coffs Harbour A. The latter were undefeated coming into the final. The game was neck and neck until the final 5 minutes where the Eagles were able to score a few extra baskets and secure the tournament trophy for yet another year. The final score was 30-25.



Central Coast Waves v Coffs Harbour A



Dale Abbott - Wagga Wheelies



Craig Jarrett - Coffs Harbour A

2012 National Wheelchair Rugby Championships

Wheelchair Sports NSW and GIO were proud to be host the National Wheelchair Rugby Championships in Sydney on Thursday 2 - Saturday 4 August 2012; just prior to the Australian Steelers team leaving for the 2012 London Paralympics.

5 teams representing Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and of course NSW, battled it out over the 3 days at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre.

The GIO NSW Gladiators were attempting their 7th consecutive national titles without their most valued player, Ryley Batt, due to injury. Unfortunately the GIO NSW Gladiators did not make it through to the play offs. The Jetstar Gold Coast Titans dominated the weekend and defeated the SA Sharks in the Grand final (64-39).



The GIO NSW Gladiators



Gold medal match - Jetstar Gold Coast Titans (blue) defeated SA Sharks (black)



Bronze medal match - Victoria Coloplast Thunder (blue) defeated WA Enforcers (black)

Kevin Coombs Cup - Wheelchair Basketball

The Kevin Coombs Cup is a bi-annual basketball tournament which features some of Australia's most promising junior wheelchair basketballers. This year, Perth was host to the event and Wheelchair Sports NSW was fortunate to send a team to represent NSW.

The team always considered that this was going to be a tough tournament as not only



Wheelchair Sports NSW Juniors with the Kevin Coombs Cup

was our team a mixture of experience and abilities, but the other States would be showcasing their best talent. However despite this our NSW Junior team was victorious in winning the Kevin Coombs Cup, and was undefeated in its preliminary rounds.

Thanks to supporters like you we were able to send our NSW team to compete in this prestigious tournament.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wheelchair basketballers are classified according to their physical ability and are given a points rating between 1 and 4.5. 1-pointers being the most disabled and 4.5 the least disabled.

Surviving Heartbreak Hill in the 2012 City2Surf

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sun-Herald City2Surf on Sunday 12 August. Over 100 supporters participated for Wheelchair Sports NSW and raised \$30,000 for our wheelchair sports programs. For our first time participating in this community event, we are thrilled with the enthusiasm, commitment and fundraising efforts from our friends. Thank you for pushing past the pain and icy cold winds, through the tough 14km course in support of our wheelies. Check out our photos on our facebook page – www.facebook.com/wsnsww



Junior Takes on Archery

Luke Woodward recently competed at the National Archery Titles in Canberra. Luke, who is 12 years old and comes from Lake Wyangan near Griffith, certainly made his mark on the competition. Not only was Luke awarded the National-Archer Champion for his age division but is now the Australian record holder for his category. Congratulations Luke!



Stacks Goudkamp Charity Golf Day

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's golf day on Tuesday 29 May at Macquarie Links International Golf Course. We were lucky this year to have a dry golf course and perfect wind conditions. With a early morning start, everyone managed to get around the 18 holes of golf and collected a few tips from our pro golfers along the way and we finished with the always scrumptious buffet lunch. We enjoyed raffles, prizes and auctions along with an inspiring story shared by Nick Taylor our wheelchair basketballer (see front page). The day was a success as Wheelchair Sports NSW raised over \$10,000 to support our wheelchair sports programs. Thank you to all our golfers, sponsors, auction and raffle winners and Charity Challenge Fund - Gary and Matt for your hard work. A special thanks to Stacks Goudkamp for sponsoring the golf day, we look forward to next year!

THANK YOU! This tax time we asked you to be the key and help us build wheelchairs for our members. We are appreciative of everyone who donated this tax time to Luke's story. All this amazing support helped Wheelchair Sports NSW achieve almost \$50,000 in donations. On behalf of our members, thank you! This will allow us to build the costly sports wheelchairs for our members like 14yr old Luke.

Corporate Tennis Cup

Do you like playing tennis? Would you like help a great cause?

If you answered yes to these questions then you might be interested in Wheelchair Sports NSW Corporate Tennis Day. We are asking for expressions of interest from companies and individuals who would like to participate. Tickets will include lunch, tennis coaching, competition and drinks. All entries will support our NSW wheelchair tennis players. The event will be a doubles format on Friday 23 November 2012 at Sydney Olympic Park, Tennis Centre. Register your interest with Sarah Hozack sarahh@wsnsw.org.au



Come and See

South Pacific Wheelchair Tennis Open	14-16 September	Nowra
SLAM Down Under (Basketball)	20-21 October	Shellharbour
NSW Wheelchair Tennis Open	2-4 November	Wollongong
Metropolitan Open (Wheelchair Tennis)	30 Nov - 2 Dec	Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills
Junior Wheelie Christmas Camp	14-16 December	Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen
2013 APIA Wheelchair International Sydney (Tennis)	11-15 January 2013	Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre
2013 GIO Summer Down Under Series 2013 (Track and Road)	19-27 January 2013	Canberra and Sydney

Telemarketing Raffle Winners

Campaign 6, Push Start

1st Prize: T. Constantina, Lidcombe
2nd Prize: H. O'Neill, Balmain
3rd Prize: K. Young, Birchgrove

Campaign 7, Wheelchairs

1st Prize: J&V. McLeish, Seven Hills
2nd Prize: S. Boyer, Narrabeen
3rd Prize: L. Jacquot, Leichhardt

How you can help?

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