

# 2013 A Year of Action



## January

We started with great enthusiasm as we joined the circus for the day. **Wellington Circus Trust** provided the venue and guidance on a range of circus apparatus, including the flying trapeze and we even got Parvesh Amwee waltzing for the first time.



CJ Walker



Parvesh Amwee



In January we purchased our new wheelchair trailer with the assistance of the Lion

Foundation. The trailer has been a great asset this year providing us not only with onsite storage for our chairs, but a fully sign written advert we can tow around the region.

## February

Many of us went **Round the Bays**. We entered a team in the event as a way to fundraise for our van project. Thanks to a lot of hard work from our athletes and members, and support from **Halberg Disability Sport Foundation** and **Westpac** bank we raised nearly \$2000.

**Alan Signal** was the first wheelie to finish in 41 minutes and **Paula Booth** was not far behind.



Alan Signal & Paula Booth



We also held our **Expo** at the ASB Sports Centre in February and got a good response from sporting organisations who provide inclusive opportunities and events.

A wide range of people came to the Expo and we even attracted a few new members who have been very active this year.

February also saw Parafed Wellington advise **Japanese researchers** from Junetendo University on disabled sport and policy in New Zealand.

## March

We held the AGM and had the pleasure of **Mary Fisher** and **Neelu Memon** as guest speakers. Our committee elected at the AGM were Colleen Dryden (President), Alan Signal (Treasurer), Paul Fallon, Gavin Rolton and Karl Hobman.

### Parafed Wellington AWARDS 2013

#### Parafed Wellington Wheelchair Basketball Cup

Most dedicated basketball player. This cup is awarded to the person who plays or helps at wheelchair basketball. This person goes that extra bit further for themselves and the team outside of normal training etc, but usually goes unrecognised

**Paula Booth**

#### Parafed Wellington Wheelchair Rugby Cup

Most dedicated rugby player. This cup is awarded to the person who plays or helps at wheelchair rugby. This person goes that extra bit further for themselves and the team outside of normal training etc, but usually goes unrecognised.

**Alan Signal**

#### Parafed Wellington Athletic Cup

For outstanding achievements in Athletic events

**Ashley Exeter**

#### Harold O'Callaghan Trophy

Awarded to the Sports person of the Year in the region served by Parafed Wellington

**Gavin Rolton**

#### Caltex Novice Trophy

Awarded to athlete from any sporting code

**CJ Walker**

#### Parafed Wellington Boccia Cup

Awarded for outstanding achievements in Boccia

**Hyran Daymond**

#### Parafed Wellington Swimming Cup

Awarded for outstanding achievements in Swimming

**Mary Fisher**

#### WPPDA President's Trophy

The Chairman of Parafed Wellington names the recipient for this award each year

**Paul Fallon**

#### Parafed Wellington Trophy

For outstanding sporting achievement and representing NZ internationally

**Mary Fisher**



Cuesports helped Parafed Wellington purchase replacement wheels for a tennis wheelchair.



The Rugby Foundation supported Wheelchair Rugby NZ's strategic planning processes and invited **Catriona McBean** to be part of this process. The process aims to result in a new strategic direction and plan for wheelchair rugby and will continue to be worked on during 2014.

### Choice R & R Trust

In March the Choice R & R Trust wound up and donated \$6,647 to Parafed Wellington. We are very grateful to them for selecting us as the worthy recipients for this donation. This donation has been added to the van fund.

## April

Our sports competitions in earnest with Parafed Wellington hosting the **Lower North Island Boccia Championships** at the ASB Sports Centre. Over 20 competitors from as far north as Whangarei took up the challenge.

Top finishers from our team were Hyran Daymond who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in BC3 class, and Nicola Dunleavy 4<sup>th</sup> in the BC1,2+4 combined class.



The other team players were Natalie Austing, David Harrison, Kathy Flanagan, Matthew Henderson, Dion Pere and Colin Frude.



Colin Frude



Kathy Flanagan

**Mary Fisher** was awarded a Prime Minister's Athlete Scholarship for 2013. The Prime Minister's Scholarship Programme helps athletes pursue tertiary study and sport at the same time. The programme also helps athletes gain educational qualifications to prepare them for their lives after sport.



Catriona McBean, John Key, Mary Fisher

In April we announced **Paul Curry** as our new **Patron**. Paul has had a long involvement in the disability sector both in a personal and professional capacity.



Paul is a past president of Parafed Wellington and is currently chair of the Wellington Paraplegic and Physically Disabled Trust Board. He has been an active member of the New Zealand Paraplegic Boat Team and has represented New Zealand at the Commonwealth Paraplegic Games.



Training for **Wheelchair Rugby** this year moved to **Te Rauparaha Arena** in Porirua, thanks to Mana Community Grants Foundation. This has seen our players training alongside The Pulse netballers and other sports team in this great sports venue.

Our Wheelchair Basketball team were Alan Signal, Slade O'rorke St John, Paula Booth, Kristine Grooby, Cody Vincent, Josh Anderson, Marcus Thompson, Karl Hobman, Paul Fallon, Willah Mawhinney, Rautini Thompson, Reo Lewis, Chris Barry, Michael Barry, and Julie Signal who acted as Manager for some of our trips.

## May

**The Bash** in Mt Maunganui saw most of the Wheelchair Rugby players descend on the Bay of Plenty for a fun weekend. The Bash is an opportunity for players from around the country to play in mixed teams. This competition was following closely by the WRC in Auckland where the Parafed Wellington team finished 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our wheelchair rugby players are Gavin Rolton, Catherine Gregory, Alan Signal, Paul Fallon, Cody Vincent, and Brandon Amey, with Yvonne Mackie team manager.



Steven Adams & Cody Vincent



Thanks to the Infinity Foundation who supported players in our rugby team with the purchase of some new wheels

Cody Vincent had the opportunity to compare notes with Steven Adams while training at the **ASB Sports Centre**, before Steven was drafted into the NBA in the United States.



Also in May we received support from the **Kilbirnie Z** petrol station as part of the **Z Good in the Hood** programme. This funding has been put towards our van fund which is slowing growing.



Pelorus Trust have also provided funding this year for a new basketball wheelchair which will be sent to the Nelson team to help them continue to develop the game and have a competitive team.

## June

A joint Parafed Wellington and Halberg Disability Sports Foundation **Lawn Bowls** afternoon at Wilton Bowling Club was attended by a few hardy souls. It was a very cold day but a number of visually impaired players attended and really showed their aptitude for the sport.

Our **Wheelchair Basketball** players compete for the first time in the season in Dunedin. Unfortunately the Nelson tournament scheduled for May was cancelled due to the stadium getting flooded in the Nelson storms that month.

**Evan Gray** was appointed **Sport Development Officer** in June. Evan's role has been to work alongside our members to develop a sports and activity programme which has expanded the opportunities we have been able to offer our members.



Sir Jerry Mateparae and Evan Gray



In late June we were invited to have a demonstration of Wheelchair Basketball during the **Olympic Sports Day**, held at the ASB Sports Centre.

## July

We celebrated with 3 **Parafed Wellington members** named as **Finalists in Sport Wellington Awards** **Mary Fisher** was named a finalist in Sportswomen of the Year, Disabled Sportsperson of the Year and Personality of the Year.

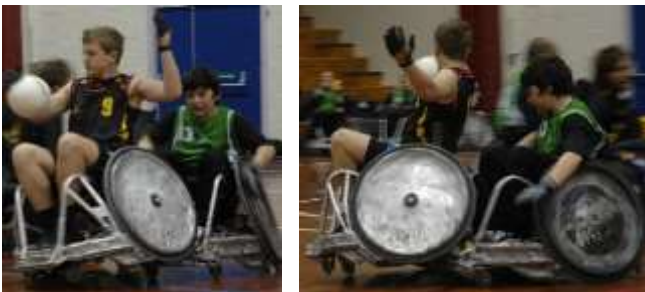
Also named in the Disabled Sportsperson of the Year category were **Gavin Rolton** (Wheelchair Rugby), and **Marcus Thompson** (Wheelchair Basketball).



Mary won the Disabled Sports Person of the Year and shared the evening with her mum Jenny and Parafed Wellington committee members.

Parafed Wellington also hosted the **Wheelchair Rugby WRC2** at Walter Nash Stadium. While Wellington didn't win, the team definitely gave it all despite some rough and tumble from the opposition. Canterbury took out the trophy.

Thanks to the team from Air NZ at Wellington Airport and the Aviation Security Service who helped us with the transporting of all the chairs from the planes to the truck.



Brandon Amej in action



We took a quick trip to the Wairarapa in July to hold an **Adaptive Sports** Demo day at the **Masterton YMCA**. We took a vanload of basketball wheelchairs over and had a few 3-on-3 games to keep us warm, even though it was a sunny winter's day.



The NZ Racing Board helped Parafed Wellington purchase a tandem recumbent cycle which was used by **Phil Thorn** and **Neil Davis** in the **Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge** in November.



Neil Davis & Phil Thorn



Neither Phil nor Neil have undertaken a ride like this Lake Taupo challenge before – all 160km of it, but they have been putting in long hours on the bike training around the Hutt Valley.

15 hours after starting, Phil and Neil crossed the line in Taupo to complete the Cycle Challenge.

Phil was also named a finalist in the Attitude Awards Courage in Sport Award.



**Greg Reid** represented New Zealand at the **IPC Shooting World Cup** in Great Britain. Greg finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the 10m Air Rifle Prone event.

According to Greg, in shooting you only ever get photos of peoples' backs as photographers are not too keen being used as targets!!

## August

Was **Goalball** at ASB Sports Centre. Goalball is a Paralympic Sport designed for visually impaired. It's much harder than it looks, and according to some of the players, the ball is much harder too .... especially if it hits you in the face! We are hoping to get a team up and running for 2014.



David Piper

**Mary Fisher** was in action at the **IPC World Swimming Championships** in Montreal. Mary finished the competition with 5 Gold Medals, 1 Silver Medal, and 2 Oceania Records.

Gold	200m Individual medley S11 100m freestyle (Oceania Record) S11 100m backstroke S11 100m butterfly S11 50m freestyle (Oceania Record)
Silver	S11 400m freestyle

Mary's swims helped the NZ team finish in 4th in the medal table, ahead of the United States and Australia.

## September

This was a busy month with three national tournaments and tournament teams away around the country.

For the second year Parafed Wellington hosted the **Wheelchair Basketball National Championships** at the ASB Sports Centre. 9 teams from around the country came to compete. Waikato are the 2013 National Champions.

Wellington had 2 teams, 1 in each division. While we finished last in both divisions, the Wellington Gold Division 2 team showed growth in skills and team work – having only been a team during this year.



**Slade O'rorke St John** has plenty to smile about as the winner of the Invacare personalised basketball wheelchair competition.

Next season Slade will be flying around the court in his own chair.



**Boccia National Championships** were held in Auckland at the Allan Brewster Recreation Centre in Papatoetoe. **Hyran Daymond** finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the BC3 category which has now placed him 2<sup>nd</sup> in the overall National Rankings.



Hyran Daymond



**Gavin Rolton** competed at the **Wheelchair Rugby National Championships** in Christchurch for Canterbury. Canterbury took out the title this year.

Gavin has also been busy with the **Te Waka Hou** on the international stage, competing at the Bernd Best tournament in Germany and the Tri-Series against Australia and USA in Sydney. Gavin was also named captain of Te Waka Hou for this season.



**Paul Fallon** designed a new logo for the Wheelchair Rugby team. It's currently being used on the Supporters Tees.



Have provided assistance for **coaching** for the 2014 wheelchair basketball season. We will be able to get some help for our wheelchair basketballers who this year have shown great commitment and teamwork.



**Andy Henderson** was appointed to the Boccia New Zealand board for a second term.

Andy currently runs the Parafed Wellington Boccia programme.

**Rachel Horwell**, another Parafed Wellington member, has nearly completed her international Boccia Classification qualification.



The Paralympics AGM held in Auckland in September provided an opportunity for Parafed Wellington to hear what their plans are for high performance Para-Sport in the coming years and celebrate the year's performances. Parafed Wellington has had a number of Paralympians as members, and currently has Mary Fisher.



The inaugural Anza Challenge was held in October and was launched in Wellington by the Prime Minister.

Two celebrity teams representing New Zealand and Australia raced over 1300km around New Zealand. Over five gruelling days they pushed their bodies to the limit as they run, rowed, cycled and sailed their way to victory. Fortunately New Zealand won!

## November

Has been a busy time for our international representatives with both the **Wheelchair Rugby** and **Wheelchair Basketball** teams competing in **Asia-Oceania Championships**.



**Gavin Rolton** joined the Wheelchair Rugby which competed in South Africa. The Wheel Blacks finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the tournament, and remain ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the world, and they have just been confirmed as having qualified for the IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championships in Denmark.



## October

The beginning of spring, so we took to the water with **Sailability** to try sailing at Evans Bay Yacht and Motor Boat Club. A dozen members and other potential sailors enjoyed a beautiful day on the water.



**Paul Fallon, Marcus Thompson and Murray Mackay** (current Parafed Members) and **Geoff Palmer** (previous member) were named as part of the Wheelchair Basketball team which competed in Thailand. The Roller Blacks finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the tournament.



Parafed Wellington was invited to review and critique the **Sport New Zealand - Accessibility Design Guide & Checklist**.

This guide is intended specifically for use on a variety of recreation facilities, such as pools, sports centres, stadia, waterways, cycle ways etc that the public are to be admitted either by payment or free of charge.



Provided funding for a new computer and software for the Parafed Wellington office. It's important we are able to keep our organisation running effectively.

The **Lord Nelson** visited Wellington in November. This Tall Ship was specially built in 1986 to enable sailors with disabilities to sail. The Lord Nelson was in Wellington only for a few days as part of her 2-year round-the-world voyage. The ship is outfitted with lifts to allow those in wheelchairs to fully participate in all parts of the voyage.



## December

Always a time to celebrate. This time it was **Catherine Pot** who was named the Winner in the Health and Wellbeing category of the **Pride Awards**.



Catherine with her sister Veronica and her parents.

Also in attendance was Paul Curry, our Patron, who came to support Catherine.

**End of Year BBQ** was held at the Evans Bay Yacht and Motorboat Club along with the sailors and volunteers from Sailability. Despite the high winds cancelling the sailing, everyone came and enjoyed the festive feast and catchup.

## Thanks

Thanks to a number of our members for their time and commitment this year.

**Yvonne Mackie** retired from managing the Wheelchair Rugby team after many years in the role. Yvonne had her last wheelchair rugby tournament as Wellington manager over the weekend.

Yvonne has been managing our team for about 5 years and has ensured our players, their gear and supporters all got to training and the games around the country. She was also on the NZ Wheelchair Rugby executive for a number of years.

**Alan Signal** was elected as Treasurer of Parafed Wellington this year, but has been kept busy, along with his wife **Julie**, with coaching and managing the Wheelchair Basketball teams.

**Andy Henderson** continues to run the Parafed Wellington Boccia programme. Andy got into the game through his son **Matthew**, and is now taking a lead both regionally and nationally in refereeing.

Also a **Special Thanks** to all the **spouses, partners, family and friends** of our members who regularly help not only their own family member with trainings, competitions, transport, encouragement and sometimes "tough-love" but also our other members. Without your ongoing support, our members sporting and recreational aspirations would not be so easily achieved.

## Condolences

This year saw a number of our members sadly pass away. We offer our condolences to family and friends of:

**Joyce Curry** (Parafed Life Member) passed away this year at the age of 88. Joyce and her husband, parents to our Patron Paul Curry, were both pioneers of Wellington Paraplegic and Physically Disabled Association, as it was known then.

Our Patron and Life Member **Phil Rangitaawa** passed away in March. Phil was a keen Wheelchair Rugby player for many years. Phil was Parafed's President from 2004 to 2009, then accepted the role of Patron.

**John Fitzgibbon** was a keen shooter.

**Fruena Egan** wife of Brendan (BJ). BJ and his family were some of the original wheelchair basketball players in Porirua during the "80's to 90's when a family actually composed a team.

We also sent our condolences to the family of **Sir Paul Holmes** who had been very influential and supportive of Paralympics New Zealand over many years, and was their Patron.



## Christmas Message from the Patron

Wow, what a tremendously busy year Parafed Wellington has had. There hasn't been a month go by when we have not organised an activity for our members. Whether it was the circus experience at the beginning of the year or any of our other regular or one-off events. It has been exciting to see the range of activities grow for people to choose from covering all abilities and skills. Whether it be rugby, Boccia, basketball, shooting, goalball, cycling, sailing or swimming our members have embraced and participated in the activities provided. Over and above these planned activities individuals have gone on to achieve scholarships and awards for their efforts. This is very encouraging for Parafed Wellington especially seeing the number of young people doing well. They are the future of our organisation and indeed Paralympics New Zealand.

I would like to congratulate all our athletes for an outstanding year. I would also like to thank our committee for all their work and dedication, with a special thanks to Colleen and Catriona for their commitment especially in bringing together the funding and the coordination required. And lastly but not least I'd like to thank our funders and our supporters for all their help during the year without your support we would not be able to provide the range of activities and opportunities that we have. In closing I would like to you wish you all the best for festive season.

Kind regards Paul Curry

Tena koutou

Looking back over 2013, it is clear that with the combined commitment of our members, funders and contract staff, those affiliated with Parafed Wellington have an environment within which to flourish.

Congratulations to those successful athletes and their coaches who have put in long hours of training to be the best they can be.

At Parafed Wellington, there has been a wealth of opportunities to be involved in whatever sport or activity members have wanted. By having an agreed direction and maintaining boundaries every member has benefited.

So, some well earned 'thank you's':

- Thank you to the funders mentioned throughout this newsletter. Without the support of you all, much of this would not have happened.
- Thank you to Catriona McBean for sharing her organizational skills and her tireless pursuit of funding – along with Evan Gray, she has made a difference.

- Finally thank you to those committed volunteers who make things happen. We are a better organization for your involvement.

Meri Kirimete ki a koe me to whanau, Merry Christmas to you and your families and I look forward to seeing you all around in 2014.

Colleen Dryden  
President

## Without our Funders

Parafed Wellington is very grateful and offer heartfelt thanks to all our funders this year. Our funders who supported some specific projects have been listed above. The following funders have helped us with general and non-project funding:



**Lottery Grants Board**  
Te Puna Tahua  
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Lottery Grants Board have come on board with Parafed Wellington this year supporting us with funding for salaries for our Manager and Sports Development Officer. This funding will help us continue to deliver sports, activities and other services to our members.

**Halberg  
Disability Sport  
Foundation**

Ongoing support of Parafed Wellington enables us to undertake a range of activities and opportunities around our region so our members and potential members can actively participate in sport and recreation.

**Absolutely  
POSITIVELY  
Wellington**  
By 2014 at Pōwhiri  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Provided support for Parafed Wellington this year through a number of its sports and community grants including the CH Izard Bequest.

**COGS**  
Community Organisation  
Grants Scheme

Assisted with general funding for Parafed Wellington to continue providing a range of activities and opportunities for our members.

**Wellington  
Community Trust**  
supporting community activities

Also assisted with general funding for Parafed Wellington to continue providing a range of activities and opportunities for our members.



The Foundation are committed to supporting the charitable causes and have helped us through their Givealittle fundraising website.