



PARALYMPICS NEW ZEALAND - COUNTDOWN TO BEIJING -

April 2008



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The Beijing Paralympic Games are now less than five months away and the PNZ team's preparations are progressing well. The National Sports Organisations Sports Specific Selectors are in the process of nominating athletes to the PNZ Beijing Team Selection Panel. The New Zealand Paralympic team will be announced on Tuesday 6th May.

The ParaFed Revitalisation Project is funded through SPARC as part of the No Exceptions implementation plan of increasing participation of people with disabilities within New Zealand. An independent review is currently taking place and recommendations will be given to Paralympics New Zealand by the end of April.

Paralympics New Zealand welcomes *John Hawkins* and *Hadleigh Pierson* into their roles as Finance & Administration Manager and Athlete Development Manager respectively. At the same time, we farewell *Wade Chang*, Operations Officer from the organisation.

BEIJING UPDATE

Preparations are well on track for the New Zealand team leading into the Beijing Paralympic Games. In early March, Chef de Mission *Duane Kale*, and Operations Manager *Ken Sowden* visited Beijing with the New Zealand Olympic Committee to do their final site visit prior to the games.

This was a great opportunity for the games team to evaluate a number of developments since their last visit in September 2007 and to finalise some aspects in relation to our planning.

These included:

- Visiting the team accommodation in the Paralympic village
- Visiting the sports venues
- Collecting video footage of the venues and facilities
- Meeting with the Beijing Organising Committee

On the 23rd & 24th May, Paralympics New Zealand will be holding a full Paralympic team gathering for the selected athletes and staff. This will be an opportunity for the team members to come together and receive more detailed information on the teams preparation, including information on specific sports, security, protocols, flight plans and uniforms.

Should you have any questions regarding the Beijing Paralympic Games, please contact Deb Shattock by email dshattock@paralympics.org.nz or phone (09) 526 0767.



Paralympic Games
Athletics Stadium



Paralympic Games
Swimming Complex



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ATHLETICS – TRACK & FIELD

Australian Track & Field Nationals

A total of eight medals were won by the PNZ athletics team that competed at the Australian Track & Field Nationals in Brisbane in early March. *Terry Faleva'ai (Waikato)*, *Jessica Hamill (Southland)* and *Matt Slade (Auckland)* were in medal winning form as they aim for selection in the team for the Beijing Paralympic Games.

Results

Terry Faleva'ai 2nd Discus, 3rd Javelin, 3rd Shot Put
Jessica Hamill 2nd Discus (PNZ record), 2nd Javelin (PNZ record), 2nd Shot Put
Matt Slade 2nd 100 metres, 2nd 200 metres

New Zealand Track & Field Nationals

The New Zealand Track & Field Nationals were held in Auckland on the 28th – 30th March. This is the pinnacle domestic event for track & field athletes in New Zealand and provides athletes with the opportunity to compete against the best disabled athletes, and alongside some of the best able-bodied athletes in New Zealand.

Some of the athletes in action were *Matt Slade*, *Jessica Hamill* and *Terry Faleva'ai*, along with promising junior athletes *Matthew Lack (Bay of Plenty)* and *Allistair Johnston (Waikato)*.

A full set of results can be found by visiting www.athletics.org.nz

CYCLING

Australian Road Cycling Championships

Northland cyclist *Fiona Southorn* travels to Sydney this week to compete in the Australian AWD Road Cycling Championships. Southorn will compete in the road race and time trial events as part of her build up to her goal of selection in the team for the Beijing Paralympic Games.

SHOOTING

New Zealand Shooting Nationals

The New Zealand Target Shooting Nationals were held in Palmerston North on the 16th – 20th February. A strong field of seven shooters competed at the Nationals, making it one of the largest New Zealand competitions for disabled shooters in recent times.

Results

10m Air Rifle Standing	10m Air Rifle Prone
1 st Mike Johnson (Auckland)	1 st Mike Johnson (Auckland)
2 nd Robert Berger (Auckland)	2 nd Ross Mason (Wellington)
3 rd Andy Blay (Canterbury)	3 rd Andy Blay (Canterbury)
4 th Grant Philip (Canterbury)	4 th Robert Berger (Auckland)
5 th Peter Hastie (Canterbury)	5 th Bradley Mark (Auckland)
6 th Bradley Mark (Auckland)	6 th Peter Hastie (Canterbury)
	7 th Grant Philip (Canterbury)

Australian Shooting Nationals

Auckland shooters *Mike Johnson* and *Bradley Mark* competed at the Australian Shooting Nationals held in Perth on the 17th – 25th March. In hot temperatures, both shooters performed well against some top Australian competition, with Johnson winning gold in the prone and standing events, and Mark winning bronze in the same events.



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SNOWSPORTS

Success on the Snow

Otago skier, *Adam Hall*, has finished his season at the top of the podium winning gold at the prestigious Wells Fargo World Disabled Invitational at Winter Peak in Colorado, USA. His victory marks the third time he has held the title and also marks the end of a highly successful season that has seen him constantly dominate the world rankings. Hall's final overall ranking was 2nd in slalom and 7th in the giant slalom.

During his time overseas, he won seven gold medals at the North American Series, gold at the World Cup in France, along with silver and bronze medals at other World Cup events on the circuit.



Adam Hall in Action

SWIMMING

New Zealand Disabled Swimming Championships

The New Zealand Disabled Swimming Championships were held in Christchurch on the 4th – 8th April. There were many outstanding performances from the seven swimmers who competed, including 13 new PNZ records and other personal best times. This competition was an important event for those swimmers aiming for selection in the PNZ team for the Beijing Paralympic Games and was also the final opportunity for swimmers to qualify for the PNZ team to compete at the British Swimming Nationals in late April.

A full set of results can be found by visiting www.swimmingnz.org.nz

British Swimming Nationals

The PNZ swim team depart on the 18th April to compete in the British Swimming Nationals. The event, which will be held in Sheffield, England on the 25th – 27th April, is one of the largest disabled swimming competitions behind the Paralympic Games and World Championships, and will be the final opportunity for swimmers to qualify for the team for the Beijing Paralympic Games.



Team

Swimmers: *Michael Ardern (Waikato), Rebecca Dubber (Auckland), Cameron Leslie (Auckland), Sophie Pascoe (Canterbury), Daniel Sharp (Auckland).*

Manager: *Clive Power (Bay of Plenty).* Coaches: *Roly Crichton (Canterbury), Simon Mayne (Auckland), Graham Smith (Waikato).* Support Staff: *Gail Cross (Hawkes Bay)*

Development Swim Clinic

Paralympics New Zealand will be holding a development swim clinic at the Millennium Institute, Auckland on the 16th – 18th May. The clinic is for developing swimmers who are already involved in regular training programmes and are keen on finding out what training and competition opportunities are available in the future.

For those developing swimmers who are interested in attending, please contact Hadleigh Pierson by email hpieron@paralympics.org.nz, or by phone on (03) 373 5102.



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WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Waikato Wheelchair Tennis Championships

The Waikato Wheelchair Tennis Championships were held in Hamilton on the 13th – 16th March. This being a Paralympic year, players were chasing international ranking points, which saw an increase from 25 players in 2007, to more than 50 players this year. Countries represented included France, Japan, South Africa, Malaysia, Australia, United States and of course New Zealand.

While all three singles titles were won by international players, local player *Jacque Courtier* made it through to the women's final, defeating the tournament #1 and #3 seeds along the way.

Winners - Singles

Mens	Frederic Cazeaudumec (France)
Womens	Daniela Di Toro (Australia)
Quad	Sadahiro Kimura (Japan)

OTHER NEWS

CCS Independence Games

The annual North Island and South Island Independence Games are to be held in Hamilton and Christchurch respectively over the next two weekends. The event is for people between the ages of 8 – 17 years and is great way for young athletes to get started in disability sport. The games include athletics, boccia and swimming events.

Paralympics New Zealand Website

Unfortunately there has been a delay in the launch of the new Paralympics New Zealand website. We thank you for your patience and look forward to this being up and running in the coming weeks.

PARALYMPICS NEW ZEALAND STAFF

Since the start of the year, Paralympics New Zealand have had a number of staff changes. To keep everyone up to date with the changes, below is a list of our staff and their contact details.

We will look to profile each staff member and their particular roles in future editions of Countdown to Beijing.

POSITION	STAFF	PHONE	EMAIL
Auckland Based Staff			
Chief Executive	Fiona Allan	09 526 0761	fallan@paralympics.org.nz
Project Manager	Deb Shattock	09 526 0767	dshattock@paralympics.org.nz
Coach Development	Dwayne Woolliams	09 526 0766	dwoolliams@paralympics.org.nz
Finance & Administration	John Hawkins	09 526 0765	jhawkins@paralympics.org.nz
Christchurch Based Staff			
Athlete Development	Hadleigh Pierson	03 373 5102	hpierson@paralympics.org.nz
Support Services	Malcolm Humm	03 373 5101	malcolm@asi.org.nz
Classification	Kerry Jenkinson	03 385 4449	classification@paralympics.org.nz



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UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
19 Apr – 20 Apr	Wheelchair Rugby Competition - Round 1	Christchurch
19 Apr – 20 Apr	ParaFed Canterbury Regional Games	Christchurch
19 Apr – 20 Apr	South Island Independence Games	Christchurch
22 Apr – 23 Apr	Australian Road Cycling Championships	Sydney, Australia
25 Apr – 27 Apr	British Swimming Nationals	Sheffield, England
26 Apr – 27 Apr	North Island Independence Games	Hamilton
01 May – 04 May	Defi Sportif Boccia Competition	Montreal, Canada

NEXT COUNTDOWN TO BEIJING NEWSLETTER

In the lead in to the Beijing Paralympic Games, the Countdown to Beijing newsletter will be sent out on a monthly basis. The next edition will be sent out in mid May, profiling some of our athletes achievements, upcoming events and the announcement of the New Zealand Paralympic team.

If you would like to make any contributions to the Countdown to Beijing newsletter, please feel free to contact Hadleigh Pierson.

Hadleigh Pierson

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Email hpierson@paralympics.org.nz

SPONSORS



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