



# PARALYMPICS NEW ZEALAND - COUNTDOWN TO BEIJING -

June 2008



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games are fast approaching. A very successful New Zealand Paralympic Team Camp was held in Auckland last month, whereby information on Beijing was presented by Orbit Corporate Travel, the team uniform was launched by Global Culture and the New Zealand Team were provided with detailed information on what to expect in Beijing from Chef De Mission, Duane Kale and Games Operations Manager, Ken Sowden.

Mitsubishi Motors announced that a New Zealand Paralympian will win an SUV Mitsubishi Outlander. A competition will run during the TVNZ coverage of the Paralympic Games whereby a viewer will have the chance to vote for their favourite Paralympian. The viewer that votes goes in the draw to win a Mitsubishi Outlander vehicle also. This further demonstrates the fantastic support that Mitsubishi Motors New Zealand extends to our New Zealand Paralympians. Details on the competition will follow shortly.

TVNZ will be bringing the coverage of the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games to your home or workplace from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September. Audiences will be able to view coverage of the New Zealand Paralympians across the seven sports.

In addition to the athletes, coaches and support staff that have been named in the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games Team, congratulations are extended to New Zealand officials, referees and classifiers that have been selected for the Beijing Paralympic Games.

Congratulations to Stan Battock (referee), Phil Washbourn (referee) and Binnie O'Dwyer (classifier) in wheelchair rugby, to Ross Bragg (official) in swimming and to Carol Armstrong (referee) in boccia.

A huge congratulations to all athletes that have competed over the last month in Beijing and Europe ... your results have been outstanding.



New Zealand Paralympic Team Uniform

## AWARD WINNERS

A number of Paralympics New Zealand athletes and coaches have been recognised for their achievements at various regional and national sports awards over the past few months.

### Snow Sports NZ Awards

Adam Hall (joint winner) - Snow Sports Athlete of the Year  
Adam Hall - Adaptive Snow Sports Athlete of the Year

### Wellington Sports Awards

Paula Tesoriero - Disabled Sportsperson of the Year

### Canterbury Sports Awards

Sophie Pascoe - Disabled Sportsperson of the Year



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## RESULTS

### ATHLETICS

#### **Good Luck Beijing Competition**

Invercargill's Jessica Hamill showed strong form in the shot put to win gold in an important warm-up event pre the Paralympic Games.

Hamill produced a New Zealand record throw of 7.12m. This was good enough to take gold at the Good Luck Games, which doubled as the China Athletics Open.

Jessica is one of the five members who will represent New Zealand in athletics at the Paralympic Games.



Jessica Hamill

#### **German & Dutch Nationals**

Wellington's Kate Horan won two gold medals at the German Nationals held in Berlin on the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June. Horan reproduced her form from the Dutch Nationals two weeks earlier, winning both the 100m and 200m, warding off competition from Japan's Maya Nakanishi.

In the 100m, Horan pulled back the Japanese runner, who was capitalising on the Kiwi's poor start to lead for the majority of the race. Horan in the end was too quick, winning by just two hundredths of a second. Horan dominated the 200m, winning by over a second. The time of 28.48 seconds ranked as her second fastest ever.

#### **Christchurch Marathon**

Canterbury's Alex McIntyre and Wellington's Chris Hickling competed in the wheelchair half marathon as part of the Christchurch Marathon event held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

McIntyre finished in a time of 1 hour 13 mins, and Hickling in a time of 1 hour 24 mins. ParaFed Canterbury also had a number of their junior members compete in the Kids MaraFun event over 2 km and 5 km.



Chris Hickling

### CYCLING

#### **European Cup**

The tandem pairing of Jayne Parsons and Annaliisa Farrell have ridden a strong race in the lead up to the Paralympic Games in Beijing to win the gold medal in the time trial at the European Cup race in Correze, France.

The New Zealand pair finished the time trial with a 15 second margin over the strong German tandem pairing with a further 30 seconds back to the Spanish team. The team were ranked in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the road race the day before.

The road race was held in atrocious conditions, so Parsons and Farrel took a cautious approach when it came to the downhill.

### POWERLIFTING

#### **French Nationals**

Auckland Powerlifter George Taamaru competed at the French Powerlifting Nationals held in mid June.

Taamaru, who was lifting in the 100kg plus class, lifted a credible push of 220kg to comfortably take the gold ahead of an international field.



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### SHOOTING

#### International Hessian Cup Victory

Auckland Shooter Michael Johnson was successful in winning the prestigious International Hessian Trophy in Germany last month. In his third attempt at winning this trophy, Johnson shot a round of 600, followed by a world record equalling 105.8 in the final of the prone event to claim victory.

Earlier in the competition, Johnson won bronze in the standing event, shooting a score of 597.

#### New Zealand Cup – Round 1

The first ever New Zealand Cup for disabled shooting was held in Christchurch on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June. Shooters from Auckland and Christchurch furiously contested SH1 and SH2 events for honours of being the inaugural champion. The winner of the New Zealand Cup will have attained the highest aggregate scores, both from Christchurch, and the second event to take place in Hamilton on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August.

There were many tight battles for placings throughout the weekend, however New Zealand's own world champion Michael Johnson demonstrated why he's representing New Zealand at this year's Beijing Paralympic Games. Johnson won both the standing and prone events with world class final scores. Second and third places were left up to Peter Hastie (Canterbury), Grant Philip (Canterbury) and Dwayne Woolliams (Auckland) to fight over for personal and regional pride.

Results for Standing (R4)	Score	Final	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> Michael Johnson	597	105.8	702.8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter Hastie	579	97.6	676.6
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grant Philip	573	100.2	673.2

Results for Prone (R5)	Score	Final	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> Michael Johnson	599	106.1	705.1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dwayne Woolliams	587	100.8	687.8
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grant Philip	570	100.2	670.2



Peter Hastie, Michael Johnson  
& Grant Philip

### WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

#### Southern League Competition

The first Wheelchair Basketball Southern League Competition was held in Nelson over the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May. With teams from Canterbury, Nelson, Wellington, Waikato and Auckland, the traditional southern competition had more of a national league flavour this year.

The final was a repeat of last years national championships final, with Canterbury taking on Waikato. The team from Canterbury upset the current National Champions 50 – 48 in a very close final

The next tournament will be held in Christchurch on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July.

#### Tournament Results

1 <sup>st</sup>	Canterbury
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Waikato
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Auckland
4 <sup>th</sup>	Nelson Rebels
5 <sup>th</sup>	Nelson Falcons
6 <sup>th</sup>	Wellington



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### WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

#### Wheelchair Rugby Competition

The second round of the domestic Wheelchair Rugby Competition was held in Auckland on the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May. The two Auckland teams continue to dominate the league, with Auckland White still undefeated after 8 games, and Auckland Blue with an equally impressive 7 wins and one 1 loss record.

The third and final round will be held in Palmerston North on the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July. The standings after the first two rounds are below.

#### Current Standings

1 <sup>st</sup>	Auckland White
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Auckland Blue
3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Canterbury Red
	Manawatu
5 <sup>th</sup>	Canterbury Black
6 <sup>th</sup>	Waikato Black
7 <sup>th</sup>	Waikato Red
8 <sup>th</sup>	Wellington

### WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

#### Junior World Team Cup

The New Zealand team achieved a 5<sup>th</sup> placing at the recent Wheelchair Tennis Junior World Team Cup held in Cremona, Italy this month.

The team of Tyler Belcher and Curtis Smith (both Canterbury) were drawn in a competitive pool and required a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> placing in their pool to advance to the semi finals.



After a close loss to Argentina (2 matches to 1 match), the New Zealanders bounced back to defeated Italy 3-0 which set up a final pool match against the Netherlands. The Netherlands, seeded second, won 3-0 which meant the New Zealand's did not advance to the finals.

The team then played Australia for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> placing. With one win each after the singles, it came down to the doubles match, with the New Zealanders eventually winning in a tight three set contest.

The Netherlands were the overall winners of the Junior Division, and also won the Women's and Quad Divisions. Sweden won the Men's Division, their first ever World Team Cup title.

#### New Zealand's Results

##### Pool Play

vs Argentina	1 – 2 (Lost)
vs Italy	3 – 0 (Won)
vs Netherlands	0 – 3 (Lost)

##### Playoff for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>

vs Australia	2 – 1 (Won)
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Tyler Belcher & Curtis Smith



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### ATHLETICS

##### **Winter Track & Field Series**

Athletes Matthew Slade and Terry Faleva'ai will be competing in series of track & field competitions in Australia over the next month. Both athletes will use these competitions as part of their preparations for the Beijing Paralympic Games.

##### **North American Racing Series**

Wheelchair racers Allistair Johnston and Matthew Lack depart shortly to compete in a series of wheelchair racing events in the United States. These two promising athletes will compete in the Cedartown Road Race and the Meet in the Heat in Atlanta, before travelling to New Jersey to compete in the IWAS World Junior Games.

#### BOCCIA

##### **New Zealand Boccia Nationals**

The New Zealand Boccia Nationals will be held in Christchurch on the 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July. The competition is expected to attract up to 50 players, including players from Australia.

For our Paralympic bound boccia players, this will be the final competition before leaving for Beijing and they will all be looking for some strong performances during the four day event.



#### SNOW SPORTS

##### **New Zealand Disabled Snow Sports Festival & Nationals**

The New Zealand Disabled Snow Sports Festival will be held in Wanaka on the 26<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August.



Included as part of the Festival is the annual National Championships, which will include events for both elite and social racers.

For more information on the Snow Sports Festival visit [www.disabledsnowsports.org.nz](http://www.disabledsnowsports.org.nz)

#### SWIMMING

##### **USA Blind Sports Nationals**

Auckland swimmer, Áine Kelly-Costello has been invited to attend the USA Blind Sports Nationals in Colorado, USA on the 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July. Kelly-Costello will attend a training camp run by the USA Blind Sports Association prior to the competition. The Blind Sport Nationals will be held alongside the able-bodied State Games of the West.

#### WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

##### **North American Cup**

The New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby Team is currently in North America preparing for two wheelchair rugby tournaments as part of their build up to the Beijing Paralympic Games.

The Wheel Blacks will compete in the North American Cup on the 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June in Alabama, USA against the United States and Canada. The team then travels to Vancouver, Canada to compete in the Canada Cup against the seven other nations who will be in Beijing.



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### REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Regions around New Zealand offer various development training programmes for people with physical disabilities. These are organised through ParaFed Associations or their affiliated sports groups.

Below is a list of programmes currently operating in the Auckland and Christchurch regions.

#### ParaFed Auckland

Contact: Loraine Archer  
 Phone: 09 270 2503  
 Email: [paraauckland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:paraauckland@xtra.co.nz)  
 Website: [www.parafedauckland.co.nz](http://www.parafedauckland.co.nz)

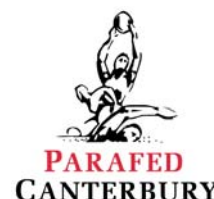
**PARAFEDAUCKLAND**



SPORT	DAY	VENUE	TIME
Archery	Wednesday	Auckland Spinal Unit, Otara	5:00pm – 6:00pm
Snow Sports	Tuesday	Snow Planet, Silverdale	6:00pm – 9:00pm
Table Tennis	Sunday	Table Tennis Centre, Northcote	10:30am – 12:30pm
Wheelchair Basketball	Tuesday & Friday	Auckland Spinal Unit, Otara	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Wheelchair Rugby	Monday & Thursday	Auckland Spinal Unit, Otara	5:30pm – 8:00pm

#### ParaFed Canterbury

Contact: Kerry Jenkinson  
 Phone: 03 385 4449  
 Email: [kjenkinson@parafedcanterbury.co.nz](mailto:kjenkinson@parafedcanterbury.co.nz)  
 Website: [www.parafedcanterbury.co.nz](http://www.parafedcanterbury.co.nz)



SPORT	DAY	VENUE	TIME
Boccia	Saturday	Burwood Hospital Gym, Burwood	10:00am – 11:30am
Shooting	Tuesday	ParaFed Hall, Burwood	5:00pm – 8:00pm
Swimming	Thursday	QEII Park, Parklands	6:00pm – 7:00pm
Table Tennis	Monday	Table Tennis Centre, Riccarton	6:00pm – 7:00pm
Wheelchair Basketball	Tuesday & Thursday	Aranui High School, Aranui	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Wheelchair Rugby	Monday & Thursday	Mairehau High School, Mairehau	5:30pm – 7:30pm

More information on programmes offered in other regions will be featured in future newsletters. A full list of ParaFed Associations can be found by visiting [www.paralympics.org.nz](http://www.paralympics.org.nz)

### 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 July.

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](mailto:hpierson@paralympics.org.nz)



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Below is a calendar of upcoming events that are being held in New Zealand for athletes with disabilities. Also included are targeted international competitions for some New Zealand athletes and teams.

For a more detailed list of international competitions visit [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
JUNE		
20 Jun – 22 Jun	Wheelchair Rugby North America Cup	Birmingham, USA
25 Jun – 29 Jun	Wheelchair Rugby Canada Cup	Vancouver, CAN
28 Jun	Shooting – Have A Go Day	Christchurch
28 Jun – 30 Jun	Wheelchair Tennis North Queensland Open	Townsville, AUS
28 Jun – 01 Jul	Gold Coast Winter Track Series	Gold Coast, AUS
JULY		
01 Jul	Wheelchair Racing Series – Cedartown Road Race	Atlanta, USA
04 Jul – 12 Jul	IFDS World Sailing Championships	Cascais, POR
05 Jul – 06 Jul	Wheelchair Racing Series – Meet in the Heat	Atlanta, USA
05 Jul – 06 Jul	Sailing – Have A Go Day (Walk on Water Weekend)	Auckland
07 Jul – 08 Jul	Wheelchair Tennis – Have A Go Day	Auckland
19 Jul – 20 Jul	Wheelchair Rugby Competition	Palmerston North
18 Jul – 26 Jul	IWAS Wheelchair & Amputee Junior Games	New Jersey, USA
22 Jul – 28 Jul	USA Blind Sports Nationals	Colorado, USA
25 Jul – 28 Jul	New Zealand Boccia Nationals	Christchurch
26 Jul – 27 Jul	Wheelchair Basketball Southern League	Christchurch
26 Jul – 01 Aug	New Zealand Snow Sports Festival & Nationals	Wanaka

## SPONSORS



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