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DISABLED WINTERSPORT AUSTRALIA

[www.disabledwintersport.com.au](http://www.disabledwintersport.com.au)

Email: [dwa3@bigpond.com](mailto:dwa3@bigpond.com)

Newsletter No. 9 – April 2008



## Adrienne Smith awarded OAM



It gives DWA the greatest of pleasure to advise that our President Adrienne was awarded the Order of Australia Medal at the January Australia Day Honours List.

Adrienne received her award in recognition of her extended involvement in sports for people with disabilities spanning almost thirty years. Highlights included her

invaluable help in establishing Disabled WinterSport Australia in 1979, her work with the Australian Bi-centennial Authority and her enormous input in having Sydney gain the rights to staging the Year 2000 Paralympic Games.

She was one of the founding members of the Australian Paralympic Committee, then known as the Australian Paralympic Federation.

I am sure all members would join me in congratulating a lady who has committed an immeasurable amount to all levels of sport for athletes with a disability.

## From the President's Desk

Welcome back to the ski world and a great season on the slopes.

DWA's two program managers, NSW's Paul Gardner and Victoria's Sven Erickson are hard at work planning their winter programs. This will be Paul's third action-packed season with us and Sven's first. Welcome on board, Sven. Paul recently made a successful public relations tour of NSW repeat centres that not only resulted in increased numbers for the winter program but a promise of future summer camps as well.

DWA's Board of Directors will be meeting in Melbourne on 3 May. The object of the meeting is to plan the future direction of DWA and to decide on policies that will enable us to go forward. A closer alignment with the Australian Paralympic Committee is an important issue being considered by both organisations.

Hats off to ABC's recent Australian Story that featured Mike Milton's courageous head-on tackle with his health problems. Mike is hard in training to score a place in the Paralympic Cycle Team for Beijing. If he manages it, he will be the second DWA member to have competed in both winter and summer Games. The first was Kyrra Grunnsund – amputee skier and runner.

Our sincere thanks to the Thyne Reid Foundation which has granted us the substantial amount of \$20,000 for the purchase of specialised equipment. An order has since been placed with the US distributors and we expect the new stock to arrive on our shores late in April or early May.

The Thyne Reid Foundation has an extended history of support for DWA which dates back to the eighties and nineties when they contributed to the building of Finsko's Lodge.

## PASSPORT RENEWALS



For those registered passport holders from 2007 please find enclosed your offer to renew your passport for the 2008 season together with a copy of the details we currently have on file. Could you kindly review those details and make changes where necessary and then return with your passport and remittance to DWA offices.

New members and those who did not renew in 2007 will be asked to complete the new membership forms and return with all necessary details including passport photos, medical certification and remittance. Membership Forms are available from our website at [www.disabledwintersport.com.au](http://www.disabledwintersport.com.au)

The address is: DWA, 15 Beverley Street, Merimbula NSW 2548.

## FINSKO'S LODGE JINDABYNE

Planning a snow holiday? Accommodation is currently available at Finsko's Lodge, however it is filling fast. Enclosed is a brochure of the lodge and what is on offer.

Located on the grounds of Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre in Jindabyne it is only an easy 30 minutes drive to either Thredbo or Perisher Blue.



For bookings please contact Karen White at the Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre on (02) 6450 0285 or 6450 0200.

# DWA VICTORIA UPDATE

## Programme Coordinator

We would firstly like to formally welcome Sven Erikson as our Program Coordinator, DWA Victoria, for 2008.

Sven has quickly connived his way up the ski guide ranks and last year was sponsored by DWA Vic to head to Breckinridge in the US and work with the Breckinridge Outdoor Education Centre in their adaptive ski/ride program.

Sven's appointment represents our first full time position for DWA Vic and he will be initially based at Falls Creek, available to members and camps, right across the season (no rest for the wicked!).

He will be responsible for overall management of our camps program and member services. Sven will also be involved in our training and development programs.

## DWA Victoria Trainers

In 2008 we are also proud to welcome back Tom Liolios and Rosie Thom, who together with Sven Erikson will be undertaking some really exciting training programs this year, as well as working with ski school instructors to deliver technical instruction on the hill.

They will be looking for ski guides and volunteers to get involved in a more structured training approach this year. The training will span from off-snow and on-snow volunteers, ski guides, senior guides, and budding trainers looking to join the team.

We hope that with some keen skiers and boarders who want to get more involved and adept at adaptive ski/ride techniques that this will be a great opportunity.

Tom, Rosie and Sven know their stuff and DWA Victoria are very fortunate to have them onboard.

## 2008 Camp Schedule

### • Preliminary dates, book them in your calendar!

Driven by the success of last year's programs, and increasing demand from community disability groups, we have expanded our camps program again for 2008. Noticeably we have added some mid-week camps to take advantage of Sven's position at Falls Creek. A number of ski guides have already organised to attend these mid-week camps and we hope to have a good response for new guides who live and work on the mountain.

The focus will be the same as 07, and that is to provide an exciting, professional service and introduce more new clients to the rewards of ski/riding in the mountains. The program is fairly well set, and as we confirm dates and client groups we will update you via the monthly news emails.

Camp #	Dates	Session	Activity/Client Group
Training 1	28th-29th June	Weekend	DWA Vic Volunteers & Ski Guide training
Camp 1	5th-6th July	Weekend	Variety Kids Camp 1
Camp 2	9th-11th July	Mid-Week	Variety Kids Camp 2
Camp 3	19th-20th July	Weekend	Spina Bifida Foundation Camp 1
Camp 4	26th-27th July	Weekend	Disabilities Opportunities Victoria Camp 1
Camp 5	4th-6th Aug	Mid-Week	Disabilities Opportunities Victoria Camp 2
Camp 6	9th-10th Aug	Weekend	Royal Talbot – Austin Health Camp 1
Camp 7	16th-17th Aug	Weekend	DWA Vic New Members Camp
Camp 8	21st-22nd Aug	Mid-Week	Respite Network Camp 1
Camp 9	30th-31st Aug	Weekend	Respite Network Camp 2
Camp 10	13th-14th Sept	Weekend	Spina Bifida Foundation Camp 2 Royal Talbot – Austin Health Camp 2
Training 2	6th-7th Sept	Weekend	DWA Vic Volunteers & Ski Guide training
Training 3	8th-12th Sept	Weekend	DWA Vic Volunteers & Ski Guide training



## National Team Update

The national team program had a big northern hemisphere season with two groups going away. The development group, consisting of seven athletes, went to Vail, Colorado, in December for an intense month of training and Nor Am racing.

The athletes who managed to qualify for the World Cup races were then joined by the program's four elite athletes. They spent another two weeks training in America before heading to Europe for the World Cup series in Austria and France. At the completion of these races the development athletes returned to Australia whilst the elite athletes headed to Korea and Japan for the Asian leg of the World Cup season.

With the 2010 Vancouver Winter Paralympics less than two years away the team is very much on course to continue the program's long term success at the Games.

## 2008 DWA (NSW) Camps

You are invited to apply for Disabled WinterSport Australia's Alpine Ski Camps:

- **Camp 1: 29 June-4 July 2008**  
Perisher Blue/Jindabyne
- **Camp 2: 13-18 July 2008**  
Thredbo/Jindabyne
- **Camp 3: 27 July-1 Aug 2008**  
Thredbo/Jindabyne
- **Camp 4: 24-29 August 2008**  
Thredbo/Jindabyne
- **Camp 5: 31 Aug-5 Sept 2008**  
Thredbo/Perisher Blue
- **Camp 6: 7-14 Sept 2008**  
Thredbo/Perisher Blue\*

\*DWA family ski camp (six families only) if interested please call Paul Gardner.

The cost of \$699 per person includes:

- 5 nights shared accommodation in Finsko's Lodge (linen hire included)
- 5 days breakfast & dinner, 4 days lunch
- 4 days ski hire (ski clothing not included)
- 4 days Lift and Lessons
- Transport to and from Thredbo/Perisher daily (car pooling)

### DWA Membership

If you are not a current member of Disabled WinterSport Australia you will need to apply for membership by downloading our membership application form from [www.disabledwintersport.com.au](http://www.disabledwintersport.com.au) Please contact Paul Gardner if you cannot download the application form.

If you are a past member of Disabled WinterSport Australia and you did not renew in 2007 you will need to apply as a new member and complete the new membership form and supply all supporting information. Details on [www.disabledwintersport.com.au](http://www.disabledwintersport.com.au) under membership.

### Staff

DWA does not provide personal care attendants or nursing staff on camp. If you require assistance with personal care or with administration of medication, please contact us to arrange for an application form for you to bring your personal carer, at your cost. DWA-trained ski guides will be present on camp.

### Transport

Transport to Jindabyne is not included in the camp costs. Greyhound Pioneer Ph 132 030 has buses that travel to Jindabyne and pick up from Jindabyne can be arranged. If you are interested in car pooling with other participants please contact Paul Gardner to see if arrangements can be made.

### Early Departure

If a participant departs early from the camp through illness or family emergency, a proportion of program costs will be refunded. Requests for refunds should

## A Short Note from the DWA (NSW) Program Manager

Thanks to all of you who made 2007 such an amazing year. I like the word "more" and that's what we got last year. DWA held **more** camps, we had **more** participants and we had **more** amazing success teaching people how to ski and snowboard.

DWA also purchased **more** equipment and trained **more** guides so we could take **more** of our members out on that white stuff called snow.

So how is 2008 looking? Well really good. This year DWA NSW will hold 6 camps for members. We will hold the second of our Special Olympic camps. We have ordered new skis and snowboard equipment. We have three guide training camps where we will continue to train **more** skiers to help in the mountains... all this and "more."

Because our camp schedule is huge we need all our members to be really organised. You can do this by:

- Sending in memberships early (it's cheaper and easier)
- If you're going to the snow this year

with friends or family book your private instructors at least one month before you travel.

- If you require a Volunteer Ski/Snowboard Guide or rental from DWA go onto our website [www.disabledwintersport.com.au](http://www.disabledwintersport.com.au) and fill out all the necessary forms: equipment rental, ski guide request. Attach the forms with payment for equipment and get them back to us at least one month before you travel.
- If you want to come on a DWA camp, get your forms in straight away. Last year we had a few people miss out and this year looks even busier. Again the forms for camp participation are available on the website.

To conclude, I'd just like for all of you to think about the activities you'll be doing up in the mountains: dress for cold weather; drive safely and start to get fit; you'll ski or board a lot better.

If you are not so mobile, dress really warmly and get ready for the rides of your life.

## 2008 NSW Participation Program

Your contact is: **Paul Gardner 0414 748 903**

	<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Venue:</b>
<b>Ski Guide Training</b>	14th-15th June	Thredbo
<b>Ski Guide Training</b>	21th-22th June	Perisher Blue
<b>Northcott Society Juniors</b>	22th-27th June	Perisher Blue
<b>Ski Guide Training</b>	28th-29th June	Thredbo
<b>DWA (Early Bird) Ski Camp 1</b>	29th-4th July	Thredbo
<b>Northcott Society Juniors</b>	6th-11th July	Thredbo
<b>DWA Ski Camp 2</b>	13th-18th July	Thredbo
<b>Manly CAS</b>	13th-18th July	Thredbo
<b>Northcott Society Senior</b>	20th-25th July	Perisher Blue
<b>DWA Ski Camp 3</b>	27th-1st August	Perisher Blue
<b>Tuggerah Lakes College</b>	3rd-8th August	Thredbo
<b>QLD Sporting Wheelies Camp</b>	17th-24th August	Perisher Blue
<b>DWA Ski Camp 4</b>	24th-29th August	Thredbo
<b>DWA Ski Camp 5</b>	31st-5th September	Thredbo
<b>Noosa Settlers Cove</b>	31st-5th September	Thredbo
<b>Special Olympics</b>	7th-12th September	Perisher Blue
<b>DWA Family Camp</b>	7th-12th September	Thredbo
<b>Sylvanvale Org</b>	14th-18th September	Thredbo

be forwarded in writing to DWA. Any participant displaying destructive or unsafe behaviour will be sent home at the cost of the participant and no refund will be issued.

### Application

Should you wish to attend a camp please complete the application forms located on our website and return to the address listed below, with your deposit of \$200.

The balance owing must be paid three (3) weeks prior to the start of the camp.

For further information or if you have any questions please feel free to contact the Program Manager on the contacts below.

**Disabled WinterSport Australia**  
**Paul Gardner, Program Manager**  
**PO Box 514, Jindabyne NSW 2627**  
**Email: [dwa3@bigpond.com](mailto:dwa3@bigpond.com)**

# Alpine Accessibility Tourism Project

# progress report

The good news is we have an extension of the project until December 31, 2008. This means we can include two launches of the DVD Toolkit and can spend longer evaluating the success of the project.

## Where we are up to:

1. Mobility Maps – Towns include Jindabyne, Cooma, Dalgety, Thredbo and the Jindabyne foreshore. We are currently printing 5000 copies. These will be distributed to Visitors' Centres in the Snowy River Shire.
2. DVD Toolkit. The Alpine Accessibility Toolkit is designed for tourism providers in the alpine region. Its aim is to support and encourage increased access to the region by all tourists including those with disabilities, seniors and families travelling with young children.

3. Ordered 500 copies of YCMAD – a training DVD on customer service which will be packaged with the toolkit to be sent out to tourism operators.
4. We are funding a training workshop by RDAV (now Riding Develops Ability Vic) for Horse Riding Operators in Mansfield. This is being held in conjunction with Rural Access Vic.

## Still to do:

1. The launch of the DVD toolkit at The Alpine Discovery Centre, Mount Beauty May 1, 2008. We are doing this in conjunction with the Alpine Shire Council. Michael Milton will be our guest speaker and we are looking to have the Federal Minister for Tourism in attendance as well.

2. Liaising with Tourism Australia regarding the uploading the Access reports on the Tourism Australia Data Warehouse site.
3. Further research by Canberra University evaluating the project's level of success.
4. Launch of the DVD toolkit on December 3, 2008 in combination with DWA's event: Disabled WinterSport Australia's "Summer" Kosciuszko Access to Acceptability event.
5. Planning to conduct a half day workshop following the DVD launch on December 4 inviting planners, researchers, tourism bodies to further develop strategies, discuss assessments, mobility maps etc.

– Margot Hurrell – 17th March 2008

## Volunteer Ski Guiding (NSW)



This year NSW DWA is running, in conjunction with Perisher Blue and Thredbo, three guide training weekends.

- June 14th-15th Thredbo
- June 21st-22nd Perisher Blue
- June 28th-29th Thredbo

If you're not sure what a DWA Volunteer Ski Guide does, they are the people helping sit skiers and people with a visual impairment into their equipment, and onto and around the mountain. They can be parents and friends helping their spouse. DWA Volunteer Ski/Snowboard Guides help out on camps and individual requests from some DWA members.

This year DWA is looking for more ski guides in NSW. You must be a confident skier or boarder, have passion and time. If this is you or you know of someone, please contact Paul Gardner, Program Manager on 0414 748 903 or email [dwa3@bigmail.com](mailto:dwa3@bigmail.com)



## Disabled Wintersport Australia

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