

# AQA NEWS LINK

The Official Newsletter of AQA Victoria Ltd., & AQA Tasmania

FEBRUARY 2008



## AQA Team Targa 2008

Going for Gold this time

## Snorkelling Aquability - Snorkelling in Melbourne



## F1 Australian Grand Prix

13 - 16 March

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A.Q.A. NEWS LINK is the official newsletter of A.Q.A. Victoria Limited, and is published bimonthly. NEWS LINK seeks to publish material of interest to people with physical disabilities and their families, professional workers and other individuals and organisations concerned with the welfare of those who are physically disabled.

A.Q.A. Victoria Limited always welcomes articles for News Link. Please feel free to send in your contribution. Articles will be published at the discretion of the Editor who also has the right to edit all submissions as it sees fit.

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## Volume 22, Number 1

## From the CEO



Welcome to this the first issue of NewsLink for 2008.

This issue sees us launch what will be a regular feature of the newsletter called *Board Focus*. Each issue we will introduce you to a member of the AQA Board

who will provide some information about AQA Board and governance issues. The idea behind this feature came out of discussions with members, who wanted to know more about the Board, and with the Board who wanted to find new ways to communicate with members and other stakeholders.

As many of you will now know, one of the issues dealt with by AQA's new constitution, adopted at the AGM in November 07, was to clearly define who was a member. AQA's old constitution referred to various categories of membership including honorary, subscription, voting members and a reference to something called ordinary members. This was confusing and did not clearly communicate the various entitlements and obligations of a member.

Our new constitution has cleared all this up and as a result we now have a single category called 'member'.

I want to thank all those who have renewed their membership with AQA in the last couple of months.

The other important relationship we have is with our subscribers to NewsLink. For those of you who are subscribers - we have enclosed a redesigned NewsLink subscription form for 2008.

We look forward to supplying members and subscribers with interesting and informative NewsLinks in 2008.

**Peter Trethewey**

Chief Executive Officer

[petertrethewey@aqavic.org.au](mailto:petertrethewey@aqavic.org.au)

## From the Editor



Happy New Year to all our readers. Welcome to a new year of News Link. We hope that you all had a great holiday period and are rested. Hopefully some of you will be wanting to share your experiences or stories with other readers. I'd like to encourage you to contact me with the intention of publishing an article.

In this issue, you will find a few articles on sport and leisure. Stand out articles include the upcoming AQA Team Targa car rally entry and a report on snorkeling for people with a disability.

If we complete this year's Targa Tasmania without any incidents, we will receive a Gold Trophy this time around – something only a small number of participants ever achieve.

On page 7, member Anthony Bartl writes about the "International Day of Disabled Persons" and how it has been renamed "International Day of People with a DisAbility" in Australia. This new title gives more emphasis to ability as opposed to disability.

We hope you enjoy all of the articles.

Finally we look forward to hearing your stories from your holidays.

**Simon Damevski**

News Link Editor

[simondamevski@aqavic.org.au](mailto:simondamevski@aqavic.org.au)

**Have you done anything exciting over the Christmas holiday period? Then please don't keep it to yourself. Tell us so we can share it with other readers!**



## Access in Reservoir

My name is Abraham Wannouche. I am a Quadriplegic with a level of C5 incomplete and complete at C6. I want to write about accessibility in the suburb in which I live, Reservoir, 13 kilometers north of Melbourne. Reservoir is an established northern suburb with standard elegant brick and weatherboard homes. It has become a young family hot spot because of its close proximity to the city so there are a lot of new developments in the area. It has a population of close to 46,000 who enjoy the popular recreation areas and facilities. There is an abundance of shopping areas, including the Broadway and Edwards St strips. The area is serviced by three railway stations: Reservoir, Regent and Ruthven.

My home is situated off High St, between Ruthven and Reservoir train stations. I often go to the shopping strip on Spring St and Edward St, directly opposite Reservoir station which is pretty wheelchair friendly. I use my power chair because I have trouble getting up and down the curbs in my push chair. The streets are mainly flat around the strip apart from a few curbs, but I regularly see a paraplegic shopper make his way fairly easily around the streets.



Many of the stores have good access such as Coles, IGA, the Banks, Post office, Hairdressers, Chemists, Bakeries, Doctors clinics, smoke stores, jewelers, video stores, clothing stores and Take away shops. Reservoir Police station is also situated on Edward St, opposite the Commonwealth Bank. Some of the shops have difficult or no accessibility whatsoever, but in my experience the staff and many locals have been very friendly if you need any assistance. On a day when I went to my local hairdresser on Edward St, called All About Hair, which has great wheelchair access, and great staff, I wanted to have a look at some clothes in the men's clothing store on the corner of Edward and Spring St. All I was doing was having a look inside to see the range of clothes and within 15 seconds I had the staff wanting to lift me inside the shop, and I was in my power

chair. My power chair would have been that heavy it probably would have put them in a wheelchair, but they were still willing to help.

Parking is available at the rear of Coles Supermarket. Edward St has a couple of spaces in front of the Commonwealth Bank opposite the police station, but the street camber is very severe, so I don't find them practical to use.



Edwards Lake is about 1 kilometer from the shopping strip and the paths around the lake are very wheelchair friendly and if you are keen enough you could get a quite good cardio work out pushing around the lake. The lake has great barbeque and play areas for the kids and is a very popular place to go in summer.

## Stop Press

Wheelchair Sports Victoria held their Presentation Night at the MCG on the 15th of February. It was a great night for all with special guest and AFL legend Kevin Sheedy keeping guests amused.

The shock of the night was when Max Kelleher emotionally announced that he was retiring as CEO of the organisation.

Awards and winners for the night were;

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Most Supportive Parent     | Lorraine Harrison      |
| • Outstanding Regional Vic.  | Terry & Greg Hart      |
| • Volunteer of Year          | Marilyn & Garre Carman |
| • Coach of Year              | Brendan Stroud         |
| • Outstanding Senior Club    | Garry Conner           |
| • Junior Develop. Award      | Patrick McKay          |
| • Doug Sandell Perpetual     | Hayden Farley          |
| • Outs. Athlete Junior Natls | Esther Overton         |
| • Joann Dolan Perpetual      | Mattew Ingram          |
| • Most Improved Athlete      | Antonio Vecchio        |
| • Athlete of year            | Jason Maroney          |



## Multi Purpose Taxi Program (MPTP)

### Part 2 - Correct charging of fares for MPTP passengers.

This is a guide to charging correct fares under the MPTP.

#### Procedures on MPTP

**Editors Note: This information is a follow on from the last issue of News Link.**

#### Multiple hire

Multiple hire trips are those trips where there is MORE THAN ONE hirer, and each hirer separately engages the driver for the trip. Each hirer (regardless of the number of passengers accompanying the hirer) is charged a maximum of 75 per cent of the metered fare for the trip.

An MPTP subsidy must NOT be claimed for fares charged as multiple hire trips.

#### Shared rides

Shared rides are those trips where there is ONE hirer (for example; a school, disability organisation or organised group) who requests that a driver pick up individuals from one or more different locations and drop off those individuals at one or more destinations.

At least one MPTP member must be a passenger in the taxi-cab at all times during the shared ride.

The hirer for the trip may choose between the following two payment options:

For ALL shared rides:

. a booking fee, if applicable, must only be charged once; and

. one lifting fee may be claimed per MPTP member who uses a wheelchair and is present during the trip, and

. where more than one MPTP member using a wheelchair is dropped off at the same location, the driver may collect unclaimed lifting fees within 10 minutes of completing the trip and before a new trip is commenced. This is done by starting and immediately stopping the taximeter without moving the taxi and then processing the MPTP member's card belonging to the wheelchair member in order to claim the lifting fee.

#### **OPTION 1**

. The taximeter is started at the first pick up location and stopped at the final destination.

. The MPTP member's card used for the trip is the card belonging to any person who leaves the taxi-cab at the final destination.

. One metered fare applies and the taximeter must not be restarted to avoid the maximum subsidy payable of \$30 for the trip.

. Option 1 must not be used where one or more MPTP members using wheelchairs are dropped off at any point during the trip before the final destination.

#### **OPTION 2**

. The taximeter is started at the first pick up location and stopped at the first drop off location (that is, the first leg of the trip). The MPTP member's card used for that leg of the trip is the card belonging to any MPTP member who has been a passenger for that leg of the trip and whose card has not been used for any previous leg of the trip. The taximeter is started when the next leg of the trip begins.

. The same process is followed for each subsequent leg of the trip. One metered fare applies to each leg of the trip, regardless of the number of passengers leaving the taxi-cab at anyone drop off location.

. The taximeter must not be stopped and restarted during one individual leg of the trip in order to avoid the maximum MPTP subsidy of \$30 payable for each leg of the trip.

## Vehicle Modification Subsidy Scheme

### From Disabled Motorists Association

Members will recall the announcement by the Victorian State government for its May 2007 budget that for the first time the Aids and Equipment Program (A&EP) would be extended to include modifications to vehicles for people with disabilities.

This initiative was welcomed as a timely recognition of the extra costs in motoring that people with disabilities have to meet. The subsidy scheme will go some way towards helping motorists with disabilities with these costs.

DMA has been receiving calls from motorists with disabilities enquiring about the scheme. Some callers have already purchased vehicle modifications and are asking about how to apply to the scheme. We understand that there is no process operating as yet to access the subsidy. It may be in members' interests to hold off buying any vehicle modification equipment if possible until further details are known. The scheme is scheduled to commence early in 2008.



## VicRoads Nightmare

**Below is a letter written by Roly Timms which describes the frustrations he had in dealing with VicRoads in regards to his Ross hand controls fitted to another car.**

### CEO VICROADS

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter after advice from The State Government Ombudsmen. My name is Roland Timms, I am a C5/6 Quadriplegic after a sports accident in Oct. 1977. I have been driving with ROSS Hand Controls since 1983 (in two different cars). I am now 53 years old and want to drive my next car, an XC Ford 1979 P/Van- the same as my first car, because it has nice big doors to get into and out of.

I feel that I have been VERY unfairly treated by VicRoads. About a month ago I contacted VicRoads to find out information about fitting hand controls to my next car. I have received a letter from VicRoads telling me that my license is suspended from 5 April. I value my license far more than most people because I can drive to places I can't push my wheelchair. It is my independence.

I wanted to know if the information given to me by an engineer who fits these controls was correct. I wanted to use the controls I have used for 23+ years. I was put through to The Medical Review Dept. where my license number and address were noted and I was told that if I got my Doctor to fill out a medical review form, they would consider allowing me to continue using these controls. I got this form filled out by my Doctor, read it, and then posted it to VicRoads.

They sent me a letter back stating that I had to send in my license before April 5th. I have again contacted VicRoads and told Sue at Medical Review Dept that I thought there had been a big misunderstanding. She told me to contact my Doctor. He was very surprised and faxed a letter to the Medical Review Dept, stating that as far as he was concerned there was no reason why I should not continue to drive safely. I rang the Dept. and they said they received the fax and were processing it. That was a week ago and I haven't heard any more. I would rather have my license reinstated and keep driving my present car, a FX Ford S/Wagon 87.

This has been a nightmare for me and I will be glad when this whole business is over. To re-sit my license will cost me \$427 - Plus \$1000 for fitting hand controls - Too expensive for a disability pensioner.

Am I guilty until proven innocent???  
Roly Timms.

P.S. Does this mean that all disabled motorists who ring VicRoads for advice will find themselves with a Medical Review Form & loss of licence???

***Editors Note:** Roly reported that a week after sending the above letter, he rang VicRoads again, and had to explain his situation again. He was told that they had sent a reply to his letter. Finally the person got permission from her supervisor to tell him what the letter said. The letter stated that his license had been reinstated after being reviewed, again. No further medical review was needed, but he was told he could no longer use the Hand Controls as they were now illegal. He had to use Monarch hand controls.*

*Roly says that if he had his time again, and he had a question about hand controls, his advice would be to ring AQA or Disabled Motorists - he wouldn't ring VicRoads first.*

*AQA have contacted VicRoads, who have sent us a list of engineers throughout the state of Victoria. These engineers are able to certify any modifications made to a vehicle. They can also answer any queries you may have. If you have any queries in regards to this or similar matters, please don't hesitate to contact us.*

## Melbourne CBD Mobility Map

The latest version of the CBD Mobility Map has just been released. It contains a lot of useful information including accessible toilets, accessible parking and other information.

If you'd like a copy, you can contact the Melbourne City Council directly on (03) 9658 9658 and ask for a copy to be sent out.



### Is disability really a disability?

**Written by Anthony Bartl**

In October 1992 the United Nations declared December 3 as the International Day of Disabled Persons. In Australia it has since been renamed International Day of People with a DisAbility. This new title gives greater emphasis to the abilities of people living with disabilities. I prefer to think of my disability in this way.

According to a 2003 release by the Australian Bureau of Statistics nearly four million Australians have a disability. Of these people I personally know several who are depressed. They cannot do what they once could and so feel they have been robbed of their lives. But, as I have discovered, life with a disability, can still be a quality one. There is still a lot I can do!

In November 1986 at age six I was hit by a speeding car leaving me with a spinal injury and quadriplegia. After acquiring my disability I soon found I couldn't do what I used to and the bodily functions I once took for granted no longer worked. I was shocked! I couldn't breath, move or feel anything below my neck...leaving me with only head movement, brain function and speech.

In the 21 years following my accident I have learnt strategies to help me better cope with such a disability.

Initially, if I was to overcome it, I realised I needed to quickly accept my new self if I was to feel just as good about myself as I did before. There was no benefit in telling myself I didn't have a disability as that made me further depressed and served only to dig myself into a bigger hole that would be harder to get out of. I needed to think positively and think of what I could do, not what I couldn't.

It is common, as I have discovered, to be alarmed by a newly acquired disability and not be able to cope. After all, a decrease in bodily function takes some getting used to – it can be a huge adjustment. An analogy could be, learning how to walk for the first time all over again and, eventually getting back on your feet once more. It is vital to think positively and maybe treat disability as a new ability that the majority of others do not have.

As I have discovered, with reduced ability I need not think my handicap is an impairment but rather a new way of living that I needed to master – something like a challenge where I would gain the upper hand and overcome it. If I could do this, I used to think, I would be able to make the huge adjustment...and I have.

I have learned to not let my injury get in the way of living as normal a life as possible. I am now in my final year of a Bachelor of Media Studies at Latrobe University. I hope to be a journalist.

I currently give disability education talks to schools as I have realised being positive and empowering, rather than being begrudgingly negative, helps not only myself, but many other people.

### Winter Warmth

#### What Are Your Tips?

We have had a few inquiries recently regarding keeping extremities (mainly legs and feet) warmer through the coming winter months. What are your tips, I know I really struggle through winter with my feet and legs, especially when going to the footy, no matter what I still come home with cold feet and legs.

Is it mainly an issue for older quads (in my case 30+ years in a wheelchair) or is it a general problem? Please let us know your thoughts.

Any information we receive will be passed on to our members.

**Thank you**

**Mark Waterman**

### Advertise in News Link!

Got anything to sell?  
Advertise here and get rid  
of things that are lying around!

## Board Focus (February 2008)

*Welcome to the first in a series of articles that will introduce you to AQA board members and provide members and readers with some information about AQA board and governance related items. This will be a regular item in editions of News Link that we hope will provide a useful addition to what is a great newsletter and source of information to AQA readers.*

### Jane Polglase

Jane is a Senior Associate with Maddocks Lawyers and works in the areas of commercial law, administrative law, and corporate governance for not-for-profit organisations. Jane has been with Maddocks since 2005. Prior to this Jane served as Legal Policy Officer with Department of Justice in Consumer Affairs Victoria. Jane is also concurrently serving as a member of the Social Security Tribunal. Her work on this tribunal involves hearing appeal cases that come before the tribunal from child support appeals and social security appeals and making decisions on the merits of each case.



Jane is well travelled, especially to South America. In 1999 Jane undertook a study exchange program with the University of New Mexico Graduate Law School. Here she expanded her legal knowledge as an advanced research assistant whilst completing her legal studies. When not working Jane enjoys all water sports, bushwalking (when some-one else puts up the tent that is!) and music, having been a teacher and assessor/examiner for seven years.

Jane currently serves AQA as a Director and office bearer (Company Secretary) and is a member of the Risk and Compliance Sub-committee.

Joining AQA was Jane's first board appointment. Jane had been looking to join a board of a not-for-profit organisation given her legal background in advising not-for-profit organisations. AQA was particularly appealing because she is interested in understanding the practical difficulties of people with disabilities. She has worked with clients in the mental health field and wanted to further

her knowledge in relation to people with physical disabilities.

### Introduction

Hi, my name is Jane Polglase. I have been a board director of AQA Victoria Ltd for just over fourteen (14) months. The topic for discussion in this edition of News Link is about a very important legal basis for any company that seeks to be 'incorporated'. The topic is very timely as the organisation has recently reviewed the constitution having passed a range of amendments at the November 2007 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Many of you were involved in the AGM, either attending in person or voting through proxies. I thought it might be helpful to outline some information about AQA's constitution and constitutions more generally, for the benefit of members and readers.

### Question 1 What is a Constitution?

**Answer:** All incorporated companies are required to have a constitution or articles of association (i.e. a written document) that sets out a range of important aspects to how the organisation will operate. Incorporation is the means by which an organisation is given status as a legal entity. This means that it has its own legal rights and obligations separate from those of its members. Nearly all not-for-profit organisations such as AQA are incorporated as one of the main benefits of incorporation is that the organisation can enter into contracts and provide services with proper protections in place. The constitution includes the function and purpose of the organisation, how the organisation will be managed (ie board operations and their terms of appointment) and also the role of members and directors.

### Question 2 Why was the Constitution being reviewed?

**Answer:** A full review of AQA's constitution had not been undertaken for some 20 years. There were a number of things in the constitution that did not reflect the AQA business operations or best practice and the constitution did not comply with all legal requirements. We also used the review to update the language to be more reader friendly.

*Continued on next page...*



## Disability Employment Falls Further in the Public Service

Sourced from National Disability Services (NDS) January 2008

The employment of people with disability in the Australian Public Service (APS) continues to decline, despite a report in 2006 which committed government agencies to reversing this trend. The APS employs 155,000 people. At June 2007, employees with disability represented 3.3% of staff, down from 3.6% the preceding year. The proportion of people with disability has fallen in eight of the past 10 years.

Performance across government agencies is variable. As revealed in the APS Commission's State of the Service 2006-07, FaCSIA and Centrelink achieve employment rates well above the average. On the other hand, DEWR - the department with lead responsibility for increasing the general employment rate of people with disability - was below average, with fewer than 3% of its employees having a disability.

In its 2006 report, Employment of People with Disability in the APS, the high-level Management Advisory Committee (MAC) outlined eight objectives to promote

the employment of people with disability in the APS and identified strategies to meet those objectives. The MAC consists of the heads of Commonwealth Government agencies and is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. NDS provided input to the MAC report.

The report highlighted the importance of creating a culture that values diversity and actively promotes the employment of people with disability. But in its recent review of progress, the APS Commission found widespread misconceptions across agencies about people with disability. "Changing culture is not easy," it laments.

Fewer than a third of government agencies work with organisations that have specialist expertise in placing people with disability in employment. Only 7% use external organisations to assist in designing appropriate positions and selection criteria and identifying suitable applicants for positions to be filled by people with intellectual disability.

While the Government has been promoting the business case for employing people with disability through public advertising, the message is not yet being heard by most of its own agencies. Only 15% of agencies highlight the business case for employing people with disability in their own recruitment and retention policies.

While the low employment rate of people with disability is evident at all levels of the APS, the reduction of positions at the lowest rungs has had a particularly marked impact. Some of the work performed at these levels has been outsourced. NDS recommended to the MAC that Government compensate for this trend by procuring goods and services directly from organisations that employ people with disability. In 2007, only 16% of government agencies used contractors that specifically employ people with an intellectual disability. Although this is a slight increase on the previous year, it is still far too low.

***Editors Note:** AQA is a member of the National Disability Services organisation. NDS advocates for disability organisations and liaises closely with government.*

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### Question 3 What were the key amendments?

**Answer:** The key amendments included the following:

- The objects of AQA were updated to reflect current operational practice and allow greater flexibility. For example, allow AQA to receive interest from any monies invested;
- The term for directors is now capped at 9 years to ensure that other potential directors can join the board and provide fresh input;
- Specific legal provisions have been incorporated to comply with legal requirements under specific acts including the Corporations Act. For example, new provisions requiring AQA to set up a separate account for certain funds to comply with legal taxation requirements; and
- The Proxy Form has been updated.

To have a closer look at AQA's Constitution <http://www.aqavic.org.au/constitution.html>



## International Day of People with Disability

### Celebrating the achievements of people with disability!

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is part of a worldwide celebration that occurs on 3 December each year.



The aims of the Day are:

- To showcase the skills, abilities, contributions and achievements of people with disability
- To promote a positive image of people with disability
- To involve people with disability and the broader community in activities to celebrate and raise awareness of the Day

### National Disability Awards Recipients Announced!

The Awards celebrate and acknowledge the achievements and contributions that individuals with disability make to our community, as well as recognise individuals within our community who have contributed to the disability sector. The Awards are a part of the Australian Government's celebration of International Day of People with Disability, and 2007 is the first year the awards have been open.

The recipients of the inaugural National Disability Awards 2007 were announced by IDPwD Patron Paula Duncan at a gala awards ceremony at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra on Monday 3 December. The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP and Parliamentary Secretary, The Hon Bill Shorten MP, presented the Awards and congratulated and thanked the recipients and finalists of the Awards, who were selected from over 290 outstanding applications. The 2007 recipients are:

- Mr Keith Hayes - Community Contribution Award (Person with disability who has made a significant contribution to their community)
- Mr Michael Curran - Young Community Contribution Award (Young person with disability who has made a

significant contribution to their community, aged between 12 and 25 years)

- Mrs Dawn Brooks - Inclusion Award (Person who has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of people with disability)
- Mr Darren Lomman - Go Getter Award (Young person who has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of people with disability, aged between 12 and 25 years)
- Mr Joel Satherley - Personal Achievement Award (Person, either with disability or caring for someone with disability, who has overcome adversity to achieve personal goals)

There are many ways to get involved in IDPwD. To see types of events registered in previous years or find out more information, take a look at their website [www.idpwd.com.au](http://www.idpwd.com.au)

## The Other Film Festival 2008

Entries are now being accepted for The Other Film Festival 2008, Australia's only disability film festival.

The Other Film Festival is a biennial event and the 2008 festival will be held at Melbourne Museum in September.

The festival showcases a great range of films and documentaries, both from Australia and around the world, made by and starring people with disabilities.

It also promotes accessible cinema (such as captioning, audio description and sign interpreting) and features interviews, forums and professional development opportunities for filmmakers.

Entries for the 2008 festival can be of any length or genre, but they must be made by, with or about people with a disability.

All of the selected films will automatically enter the running for the best film prize of \$5,000, with other prizes yet to be announced.

Entries cost \$30 (\$25 for students) and close on Monday 3 March 2008. For more information and to enter, visit <http://www.otherfilmfestival.com/>



## Landmark decision in Canada:

**Australia now needs some action?**

**Sourced from Infoxchange**

### *Reaction to Landmark Canadian Transportation Agency Decision: Disabled Canadians Jubilant to Have Transport Barrier Removed*

Winnipeg, January 10, 2008 - Today the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) released a landmark decision concerning the right of individuals with disabilities to travel by air without having to pay for a second seat, for an attendant or other use, to accommodate their disability.

In a historic decision in the 'One Person, One Fare' case, the agency has recognised the right of these individuals to have access to a second seat when traveling by air in Canada without having to pay a second fare.

"Canadians with disabilities are celebrating today," said Pat Danforth, Chairperson of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities Transportation Committee. Joanne Neubauer, one of the principal complainants in the case, agreed. "We hope that this decision sends a strong message to all transportation carriers," she said. "Access is the rule."

The CTA decision acknowledged the importance of a number of established human rights principles underlying the arguments of the complainants in the Case, noting that these principles dictate that persons with disabilities have the same rights as others to full participation in all aspects of society and that equal access to transportation is critical to their exercise of that right.

"The Canadian Transportation Agency recognized the fundamental soundness of our arguments, which have a strong foundation in existing human rights jurisprudence," said David Baker of bakerlaw, legal counsel for the complainants in the case.

"While the number of people who will benefit and the actual cost to the airlines are larger than in any previous case, the principles applied by the Agency in its decision were clearly established by the Supreme Court of Canada in its March 2007 CCD v. VIA Rail decision."

Disabled Canadians said the decision had the potential to make an enormous difference in their lives. "This is about independence," said Sandra Carpenter of the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto. "It's about our ability to be part of Canadian society and to have barriers to our participation removed."

The decision was many years in coming - the late Eric Norman, Joanne Neubauer, and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities filed the original complaint with the CTA in 2002, seeking to establish a situation of equality for passengers with disabilities who travel with attendants.

For many years, Canadians with disabilities travelling by train, bus or marine service have been permitted to use a second seat without cost when one was required. But airlines such as Air Canada, Westjet, and Jazz have not been bound to obey this policy, meaning that many Canadians with disabilities have been forced to effectively pay double what others pay to fly.

Now that all seems set to change.

"We have been looking for some good news in the transport industry for some time," said Claredon Robicheau, a member of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) Transport Committee. "This decision gives us enormous hope that we are once again moving to build an accessible and inclusive Canada."

**Editors Note:** To find out more about air travel regulations in Australia, you can have a look at the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) website. CASA is a statutory authority, independent from the Commonwealth of Australia. Their website is <http://www.casa.gov.au>.



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## Australian Rugby Team off to Beijing

**Written by Jen Hodge from the Australian Paralympic Committee**

The Australian Wheelchair Rugby team, the Steelers, secured its place at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games in the final of the Oceania Wheelchair Rugby Championships.

In a hard-hitting game, Australia not only defeated Canada 47-41, but also lifted its world ranking from sixth to second.

Head Coach Brad Dubberley said: "This was a great result from a fantastic tournament. There is still more that we can do to improve towards Beijing but I'm very proud of the team and everything they have achieved this week."

In the bronze medal game, New Zealand defeated Japan 41-37.

The Arrive Alive Oceania Wheelchair Rugby Championships at Sydney Olympic Park were the qualification event for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. Seven countries (Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Canada, South Africa and Korea) took part in the competition, with only one team from our region guaranteed qualification.

The Australian team is: Bryce Alman (VIC), Ryley Batt (NSW), Grant Boxall (WA), Shane Brand (VIC), Cameron Carr (QLD), Nazim Erdem (VIC), Steve Porter (SA), Ryan Scott (SA), Greg Smith (VIC), and Scott Vitale (QLD). Head Coach Brad Dubberley (NSW), Team Manager Kim Ellwood (WA).



## Companion Card

*We have recently had some enquiries from members about what they can use their Companion Card on, and the conditions of use? It was a bit of a surprise that some readers were still unsure, so we thought we'd clear a few things up.*

The Companion Card is not a new responsibility, nor is it a benefit or a discount scheme. It simply ensures that people with disabilities who are unable to attend venues and events (eg cinema, concerts, MCG) without a companion to provide attendant care support, are not charged two admission fees. Responsible use of your Companion Card will ensure that organisations continue to participate in the program.

You must only use your Companion Card if you are unable to participate at a particular venue or event without attendant care support. If you have previously attended an activity independently, this arrangement should continue.

Present your Companion Card when you are booking or purchasing your ticket. Organisations that accept the Companion Card will require you to pay only for your own ticket. A second ticket will be issued for your companion at no charge.

If you are not sure if a venue or activity accepts the Companion Card, check with them in advance. If they have not heard of the program, show them the back of your card. It lists a telephone number and website that can provide further information for them.

If you book your ticket over the telephone, you must tell the operator that you require a Companion Ticket. You may need to provide your name, your Companion Card number and the expiry date.

Companion Card can now be used on all Victorian public transport services. Cardholders can have their companions travel without charge, on all train and tram services, and all metropolitan bus services, country trains, coach and town bus services.

### Where you can use your Companion Card

Already, many organisations, both big and small, have formally affiliated to accept the Companion Card. To find out which organisations accept the card, go to <http://www.vic.companioncard.org.au/cc/index.htm> or call Companion Card Information Line on: 1800 650 611.



## AQA Team Targa 2008

AQA Victoria acknowledges that Spinal Cord Injury awareness is a very important issue. Participating in the Targa Tasmania event to create awareness and raise AQA's profile is a great opportunity.

For the uninitiated, Targa Tasmania is an exciting International Classic Car Race / Rally Drive held annually in and around the picturesque roads and landscape of Tasmania. It is a tarmac rally with competitive stages on closed roads for the best touring, sports and GT cars in the world.

Targa Tasmania is conducted over six days (including a Prologue) on over 2,000 kilometres of tarmac roads during April of each year. Cars entered for the event range from Lamborghini's to Porsche's to Holden's and more.

This year the event will be held from the 15th until the 20th of April. Alan Stevenson and Nazim Erdem were the first ever "Disabled Team" to compete in such an event, surprising many doubters and encouraging others to seek their dreams.

This year will see the team potentially receive a Gold trophy for completing 3 consecutive Targa's successfully, something less than 20% of all entries will ever achieve. All stages must be completed without any incidents to gain this.

In a lead up to the event, the "Disabled Kids Drive", which was initiated by Alan in 2006, brings the event to the kids themselves, and has become an official part of the Targa Tasmania event. This event is again expected to have a high interest from the media.

We will also take part in the "Track Day" at Symons Plains Raceway, organised by the RedBack Racing team to thank their sponsors and to raise funds for AQA. Competitor's cars will be on display, including our entry. The guests will get an opportunity to do "hot laps" in one of the many competition cars that will be there.

We will again have Jason and Helen as part of our support crew. We also have a few supporters and sponsors but could do with more. If you have any leads for us to follow up on, please let us know.

Alan and Naz will also visit a few schools to talk to the kids and tell them our story.

Keep yourself up-to-date and show your support of "SCI Team Targa" by reading or making comments on AQA's forum at [www.aqavic.org.au](http://www.aqavic.org.au).



## F1 Australian Grand Prix

Ok rev heads, time to dust off those Ferrari and BMW jackets. The 2008 Formula One Australian Grand Prix is just around the corner. The event starts on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March and race day is Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March

AQA has the information required for the 4 day event including the official F1 access brochure. Also, all the relevant information can be downloaded from the Australian Grand Prix website at <http://www.grandprix.com.au>.

The brochure includes all the information regarding ticket pricing, Companion Card, gate opening and closing times, toilets, transport, circuit transport, circuit wheelchairs, wheelchair accessible buses and parking.

For any queries relating to circuit access and ticketing for people with a disability and their companions, please contact AGPC (03) 9258 7100.

A free Wheelchair Accessible bus will operate from Southern Cross Station (Collins Street extension entrance) to gates 1, 2, 4, 9 and 10. For further details phone Melbourne Bus Link on (03) 9689 8355

Wheelchair accessible vehicles will operate inside the circuit for the duration of the event to transport people with disabilities around the track. Priority will be given to patrons who pre-book the service by calling AGPC on (03) 9258 7138.



## Snorkelling – Aquability

### Snorkelling at Ricketts

Written by Adrian Kellett

Well as usual Letchy went on a briefing frenzy before we headed down to the water. He designated roles and introduced us all before we headed off to the beach.

Sam, Ben, Letchy and I all headed off into different directions in the water, well almost different directions. Ben headed out to little Lombok. Pushing pinkies aside they managed to get a glimpse of small stingaree and hoards of leatherjackets weaving in and out of the 'labyrinth'.

Sam saw tons of P.J.'s. He headed out with his group to the "Trench 2". He met up with Steelo's group, who Steelo thought he was taking to the "Trench". They both met and there formed the most beautiful sight one has ever seen in the waters, schooling snorkellers! It was gorgeous.

Regardless there were plenty of big fish out there. The fish have been more plentiful and noticeably bigger than in the start of the season. There are however fewer Port Jackson sharks than there has been in the past.

All the groups eventually met up around the back fence which was riddled with fish. There were pike fish, old wives, and scalyfins. Some massive dusky morwongs were out swimming on there own. There weather was good to us for one more dive.

### Snorkelling at Rye Pier

The weather wasn't very inviting for snorkelling Saturday morning. We decided to head down to Rye pier in hopes of finding clear water. A quick hop skip and a jump and we were there.

The "getting into your wetsuit" gods smiled on us and provided a beautiful pocket of weather for everybody to get into there gear and head down the pier. For about an hour we had nice weather and most of us headed to a small wreck about a hundred metres away from the pier.

After a bit of survey we slowly made our way back to Rye pier. It was a fantastic day with all kinds of neat sea life, including hundreds of SCUBA divers.

Thanks to everyone who came out!

To everyone else there is no point dreaming about days like this you can come out with us. The more the merrier!



Join The Aquability Team's Summer Snorkelling Holiday Departs Fri 28th March Returns Sun 6th April

Join the summer snorkelling crew from Aquability on their summer snorkelling end of season trip in beautiful Padang Bai . 8 days of snorkelling, sun and drink-ing cocktails by the pool.

The Indonesian waters offer some of the world's best snorkelling and diving due to the amazing diversity of marine life. See pygmy seahorses, manta rays, mola-mola (sun fish), frog fish and even whale sharks if you are lucky! The snorkelling and diving is easy with warm 30 degree waters which are crystal clear and shallow reefs. And when you are ready for a break from the action you can relax at the pool bar!

Includes:

- 8 Nights accommodation
- Breakfast included
- Return Flight
- Room upgrades available

WANT TO KNOW MORE? Contact the team at  
AQUABILITY 16 Balcombe Road, Mentone VIC 3194  
Ph: (03) 9585 7277 Email: [info@aquability.com.au](mailto:info@aquability.com.au)



## From a Women's Point of View

Welcome back to another year of information "From a Woman's Point of View". We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Our member Katie from Montrose Tasmania emailed us to advise us on comfortable shoes. She buys "Colorado" shoes because they are usually wide fitting. To allow for swelling, she tends to buy one size bigger than she used to. She mentions that 'they are not likely to fall off and she won't trip over them if they are slightly longer'.

Thank you Katie for your input to assist other members.

If you have experiences you'd like to share, please drop us an email. Our NewsLink readers tell us this is one of the things they really appreciate from our newsletter.

Cheers,

Debbie

[debbiegavodas@aqavic.org.au](mailto:debbiegavodas@aqavic.org.au)

### Tip received from C.A.A.S.

As some of you may know, 'Skin Bond Adhesive' has been discontinued. The new replacement glue 'Torbot' has resulted in many complaints about its adhesive qualities (or lack thereof). Recommendation from CAAS when ordering Torbot is to also order a pack of 'skin preps'. This has been recommended by the manufacturer of Torbot. Feedback from people using Torbot together with skin preps reports a marked improvement in the glue's adhesive qualities.

Call CAAS if you have any queries on 1300 366 455.

## For Sale

### "Stannah" Seated Stair Lift:

Model 230 Stannah, There are 2 Stair Lifts for sale #1. Length is 3.2m - #2. Length is 2.7m

Both lifts are in very good condition, Color of chair is beige & lime green. **Price: \$2,500**

**Phone:** (03) 9307 8913 or 0417 505 803 (09/07/#a)

### Basketball wheelchair

Mobility Plus, brand new, 26 inch Spinergy wheels, Supercore sports cushion, 16 inch wide seat, black in colour.

**Price:** \$2,500

**Phone:** (03) 5020 0310 or 0433 216 823 (Chris)

### Glide Series 2 Wheelchair

Lambswool footpads, ROHO cushion (quadro select with pump), OBUS backrest support with lumbar pad, will deliver Melbourne area. Paid \$2240 (minus cushions),

**Price** \$300 ono

**Phone:** Helen (03) 9509 2947

### Wheelchair - MAGIC MOBILITY

Model - JEWEL: tilt-in-space - Attendant Propelled, 10 months old, includes "superb supported seating system" (MPS) with adjustable supports options incl. DG backrest, Y-Type Headrest, Elevating leg rests. Cost \$2602.

**Price: \$1400 ono**

**Phone:** Jason 0410 300 431

**Email:** [Jason.buck@tenix.com](mailto:Jason.buck@tenix.com)

### Spectre Magic Mobility wheelchair

Rear wheel drive, alarm, left hand operated joystick, very compact, contoured seat.

**Price:** \$2000

**Phone:** Fairlee (03) 8417 8000, 0409 768 434,

**Email:** [fairlee.lincoln@kodak.com](mailto:fairlee.lincoln@kodak.com)

## Wanted

Set of "Monarch" vehicle hand controls. Second hand set would suit.

**Phone:** (03) 5756 2300Roly

(07/09#a)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## For Sale

### Pride Jet Electric Wheelchair

Powerful 2 motor mid wheel drive with adjustable speed up to 7.25 km/hour. Joystick right hand control. Adjustable rest back (angle) with head rest and seat belt. On board battery charger, cost \$4,200.

**Price:** \$3,000 (1/07/#a)

**Phone:** (03) 9585 0931

**Mobile:** 0438 055 949

### Tilt Table

Excellent condition, Rarely used. AC/ power with battery back-up

**Price:** \$1500 ono (6/07/#a)

**Phone:** (03) 9702 5102 (Michael)

### Electric Hoist

Promed elf, 127 kg lifting, very good condition, ideal for quads, new battery, cost \$2,500

**Price:** \$700 (8/06/#a)

**Phone:** 9774 2017 (Jerry)

### Tilt Table

Electric powered, adjustable feet + height, like new, comes complete with all necessary straps, cost \$3,800.

**Price:** \$1,500 (8/06/#a)

**Phone:** 9774 2017(Jerry)

### Water Sit - Ski

The ski is 2100 mm long, wide 350 mm, and made of three layers of 6 mm marine plywood glued together with special marine epoxy. Incredibly strong and not too buoyant, with easy start system. Seat frame and handles to suit 17" seat with quad skier.

**Price:** \$700 ONO

**Phone:** Colin (03) 9399 8000

**Email:** [colin@gizbytes.com](mailto:colin@gizbytes.com)

### Exercise Machine

Hand pedal exercise machine tension adjustable.

**Price:** \$350 ono

**Phone:** Frank (03) 5243 9679 Geelong

*... More Classifieds on page 15*

You can also find the most up to date classifieds on our forum page [www.aqavic.org.au/forum](http://www.aqavic.org.au/forum)

## For Sale

### Monaro CV8 Series 111

5.7ltr , 71,000kms, 4 spd Auto, Holden Assist, Sat/ Nav, Tinted Windows, Alarm, Tow Bar – only used as safety feature – no towing, Reverse sensors, Boot and Bonnet Protector, Factory fitted Hand Controls, Stretchmarks on take off are free.

**Price:** \$36,000 (2/07/#an)

**Phone:** 0419 871 576 (Emilio)

### 1995 VW Transporter Van

Excellent condition, in floor quick attach/release tie downs, seating set-up three seats + wheelchair, Rego, 2.5lt engine, auto. Spent over \$6000 in the last twelve months on tyres, windscreen, auto recon. etc. Recent service with VW dealer, currently located Seymour.

**Price:** \$12,000 ono (7/07/#a)

**Phone:** (03) 5033 1214

**Email:** [Emailshs@aonet.com.au](mailto:Emailshs@aonet.com.au)

### Invalid Comfort Wheelchair Recliner

Food tray sits on front.

**Price:** \$500 ono (11/07/#a)

**Phone:** 0408 739164 (Pauline)

### Lift & Recliner Massage Chair

wheelchair accessible, Navy blue, corduroy velvet. Fully electronic. Back & foot rest raise & lower. Lift & tilt mechanism. Head to toe massage system. Arm rest on a hinge to allow slide across access from wheelchair. Excellent Condition.

**Price:** \$2000 (10/07/#a)

**Phone:** 0410 741 955

### Mediquip Queen size double bed

½ hour variable massage, head, leg, & foot raise functions, but not height adjustable.

**Price:** \$550 ono

**Phone:** Frank (03) 5243 9679 Geelong

### Wheeler Walker

Wheeler Walker as new

**Price:** \$80

**Phone:** Kathleen (03) 9870 4502 (Ringwood)

### Ramp

1200 long Ramp, very good condition.

**Price:** \$100

**Phone:** Kathleen (03) 9870 4502 (Ringwood)