

SAOC Executive Director's Report 2007

The beginning of each year at the SA Olympic Council is very busy preparing for the year's calendar of events and liaising with the Olympians Club and Athletes. 2007 was no different and being the year before the Olympic Games meant much focus on the Premier's Games Appeal Dinner which is the major fundraising event for the year.

The SA Olympic Council is most grateful to The State Government and in particular to the Department for Recreation and Sport who has allow them to operate from their premises at Valetta Road Kidman Park. It is a wonderful location where athletes are visible and SASI is just up the stairwell.

2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February	Pierre de Coubertin Launch
March	Lord Mayor's Luncheon – Quarter Club and Games Appeal Girls Who Brunch – Adelaide Appeals Committee
April	SAOC AGM
May	AOC AGM Olympians Club Annual Dinner
June	PA's Cocktail Party Olympic Day
August	Premier's Games Appeal Dinner Adelaide Appeals Committee Race Day
September	Pierre de Coubertin Awards presentations
November	Quarter Club Golf Day
December	Quarter Club Christmas Drinks

THE LORD MAYORS LUNCHEON

In March the Right Hon. The Lord Mayor Michael Harbison invited and entertained members of the Quarter Club and the Games Appeal Committee in the Queen Adelaide Room of the Adelaide Town Hall. This function was held to acknowledge the good work of the SA Business community who are members of the Quarter Club and underpin the Games Appeal who raise funds for SA Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games Athletes. 100 people attended this function and were welcomed by the Lord Mayor and Robert Gerard AO. Olympian Rachael Sporn launched the Robert Gerard AO Athlete Development Fund and Toyota announced their commitment to support the Premier's Games Appeal Dinner by donating 4 Yaris cars.

ROBERT GERARD AO ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT FUND

In 2007, the Games Appeal Committee decided to introduce a fund, in the name of their Chairman Robert Gerard AO, and to acknowledge his commitment of 12 years voluntary service, raising funds for Athletes. This fund will help to support young South Australian Athletes under 21 years who are selected in a world championship team. The aims of this fund are to alleviate some of the costs associated with attending a World Championships. An inaugural Games Appeal Lottery was launched at the Lord Mayor's Luncheon and approx. \$20,000 was raised for this cause.

THE GAMES APPEAL COMMITTEE

The Games Appeal Committee chaired by Robert Gerard AO is a group of 23 business people who met 4 times in 2007 and with the support of the Dinner Auction committee Chaired by Geoffrey Pitt help to organise the Premier's Games Appeal Dinner..

THE PREMIER'S GAMES APPEAL DINNER, 2007

This Dinner, organised by The Games Appeal Committee is the major fundraising function for the year and has raised over budget for the past 4 years. This could not have been achieved without the dedication, generosity and assistance of the following people

- Mr. Robert Gerard AO and Ms Gudrun Hanke from The Gerard Corporation who works tirelessly behind the scenes for our benefit.
- The Games Appeal Committee
- The Games Appeal Dinner Auction Committee
- The Quarter Club
- The Adelaide Entertainment Centre
- The Chinese Community of SA
- The Volunteers from Olympians Club of SA and the SAOC Executive.
- SAOC staff Cassie Llewellyn-Smith, Amelia Weston and Kelly Johncock.
- Games Appeal volunteers
- University SA students who did placements in the SAOC Office and contributed to the great success of the Event.
- The University of South Australia Mawson Lakes Campus IT students who gave up their time on the night to run the Electronic Silent Auction.
- BankSA who generously donated the Electronic Silent Auction and flew in Staff from Sydney to run it on the night.
- Toyota Motor Corporation of Australia who donated 5 Yaris cars
- A special "thank you" to our Olympic Sponsors Coca Cola, Fosters Group, Qantas, Mecure Hotels and Hamilton Laboratories (the only South Australian based AOC partner) whose support for the SAOC has been invaluable.
- The Dinner sponsors Yalumba Wine Company, Fosters Group, Geoff Hardy Wines, Petaluma Wines, Tapestry Wines

The theme for this function was "A Market in Shanghai". 1000 people hosted by The Premier of SA enjoyed a wonderful Chinese banquet style menu prepared by the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and were entertained by the String Divas, The Leading Men and Acoustic Juice. Olympian Kieren Perkins spoke about his Olympic memories and the vision of his awesome Gold Medal win in Atlanta enthralled the audience. Four Toyota cars were given away and one was donated back to the Live auction.

SOC WORKSHOP

In May, there was a trip to Sydney for the Annual General Meeting of the AOC. This provided an opportunity for the Executive Directors of the State Olympic Councils to get together to discuss fundraising ideas and plans for the remainder of the Quadrennium. Craig Phillips, Secretary General of the AOC presented a comprehensive presentation of the progress BOCOG is making for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. It was announced that the Australian Team in 2008 will be the largest ever to leave our shores and the 4th largest team who will participate at the Games, a wonderful achievement.

PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARDS

The Pierre de Coubertin Awards were presented to 13 Students in 2007. Special thanks must be attributed to The Olympians Club of SA who presented the awards at each recipient's school assembly. Also a special mention of thanks to Mrs. Penny Halliday who assisted in the preparation of the Pierre de Coubertin Awards information to schools and for the follow up calls she made to the schools encouraging participation. The end result was disappointing especially considering the efforts Penny put into the awareness of the awards and the importance of acknowledging a student who shows the qualities pertaining to the awards. I hope this will improve in future as awareness continues to grow.

AFFILIATIONS

The SAOC welcomes SA sports associations to subscribe to the SAOC through affiliation fees, these affiliation funds contribute and helps the SAOC to assist the Athletes who make the distinction of being chosen to represent Australia at the Olympic Games. We look forward to their continued support and contribution.

THE OLYMPIANS CLUB

In 2007 there has been a further strengthening of the relationship between the SA Olympians Club and the SAOC.

- 3 members of the SAOC Executive are Olympians
Barry Cheales OAM Olympian
Malcolm Heard Olympian
Brendan Todd Olympian
- In an initiative to further strengthen relationships between our Olympians and the corporate community in SA, Olympians were invited to be guests of Quarter Club Table Captains to attend the Premier's Games Appeal Dinner.
- Members of the Olympians Club Committee and in particular, Leon Gregory, Malcolm Heard and Marlene Chapman have been working from the SAOC Office to help with the organization of the Olympians Club Dinner and the updating of the SA Olympians Database. It has been wonderful to have an Olympian "presence" in the Office and helps keep on top of the ever-changing details of SA Olympians.
- John Heard and his team of Olympians have worked with the SAOC to carry out the presentations in Secondary Schools for the Pierre de Coubertin Awards. Thank you so much to all the Olympians who gave up their time to travel long distances and help promote the Olympic Movement to our young people.
- The SAOC website is now updated and full of interesting information. I encourage you to have a look at it and pass on any ideas you may have to amelia.weston@olympics.com.au Web: www.olympics.com.au
- Olympians continued to support the Premier's Games Appeal Dinner with Leon Gregory, Colin Burdett and Brenda spending the evening at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre assisting with the Electronic Silent Auction (ESA), the Raffle and general running of the Dinner and fundraising.
- Olympians Amber Halliday, Ryan Mitchell, Gillian Rolton, Wendy Schaeffer and Katrina Webb (Paralympian) who contributed items to the Electronic Silent Auction and we very much appreciate their efforts to increase our fundraising.

VOLUNTEERS

The SAOC Office relies on the assistance of volunteers and volunteers have been sought after and encouraged.

Thanks to the University of SA with whom we have developed a healthy relationship for the mutual benefit of the students and the SAOC.

ADELAIDE APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Adelaide Appeals Committee, chaired by Mrs Fay Gerard OAM is a group of dedicated ladies who raise and donate funds to the Games Appeal for the 2 years of a Quadrennium leading up to an Olympic Games. They organise 2 fundraising events each year being a Ladies Brunch and a Race Day. The SA Olympic Council would like to acknowledge and thank Fay Gerard OAM and her committee of hard working ladies for their support and commitment.

SUPPORT FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT - ORS & SASI

The Office for Recreation and Sport (ORS) continue to provide an excellent office facility from which the SAOC can operate.

Thank you to Doctor Phil Hamdorf, Executive Director, who has supported the activities of the SAOC Office throughout the year. Others in particular Wes Battams Executive Director of SASI who is always supportive, providing information about SASI athletes and South Australian registered Olympians.

The South Australian Olympic Council is most grateful to the Premier of SA, the Hon. Mike Rann MP and the State Government for the strong measure of support given.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

- Board Members, listed here, include four Olympians.

David Prince OAM	President
Paul Finn	Vice President
Alan Naylor	Vice President
Christine Mainprize	Executive Director
Malcolm Heard	Olympian
Brendan Todd	Olympian
Penny Halliday	

The SAOC Executive has been the foundation behind all the various activities of the Council and thanks must go to David Prince OAM, Paul Finn, Brendan Todd, Alan Naylor, Penny Halliday and Malcolm Heard for all their assistance during 2007. **A special mention should be made of the dedicated contribution of SAOC President David Prince OAM who has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Council, the Games Appeal Committee and our Athletes.**

THE OLYMPIANS

I would like to make mention of the wonderful assistance of Olympians Juliet Haslam, Amber Halliday, Rachel Sporn, Erin Phillips, Pat Mickan, Shane Kelly, John and Malcolm Heard, have made to the SAOC during 2007 and they are fine role models for our young people. By their involvement and commitment, they have helped to take the Olympic Movement into the community and to introduce future generations to Olympic ideals and the Olympic Movement.

I would like to thank them all for their willing involvement and contribution.

CONCLUSION

The SAOC Office looks forward to serving our Athletes in any way we can to assist them in achieving their goals. We value our close relationship with the Olympians Club and strive to promote Olympic ideals in our schools and in the wider Community.

It was my decision to stand down as Executive Director of the SA Olympic Council at the end of September 2007 and to take up the position of Event Manager of the 2008 Premier's Games Appeal Dinner in December 2007. It was my pleasure to hands the reigns over to Amelia Weston who has completed a Uni placement at the Olympic Council and has worked part time in the office in 2006 and 2007. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Amelia and I will look forward to working with her in 2008.

**Christine Mainprize
Executive Director**