

SAOC President's Report - 2007

2007 was a busy year for the South Australian Olympic Council. Although not an Olympic or Commonwealth Games year, 2007 still provided much excitement with many great sporting achievements by South Australian athletes! Amongst these successes was the World Rowing Championships victory of Lightweight Double Sculls duo Amber Halliday and Marguerite Houston. We also watched with great excitement as preparations for Beijing became more intense at the South Australian Sport's Institute and the Australian Institute of Sport. It would appear that South Australia will be very well represented in August 2008 and we look forward with great enthusiasm to seeing our Aussie athletes punch above their weight as they always do.

The South Australian Olympic Council (SAOC) has several annual responsibilities to ensure Olympians, across South Australia, remains a priority within the sporting, corporate, government and educational sectors of our community. It is pleasing to report to the Annual General Meeting, that the SAOC has delivered successfully, those programs designed to bring Olympism to the various community groups mentioned above. Especially, the SAOC has improved the Pierre de Coubertin Award Program to schools, opened discussions with the SA Government regarding Olympic education programs, increased relationships with the SA Sports Institute (SASI), expanded the successful fundraising program, supported the SA Olympians Club activities and managed to remain financially strong.

Our ongoing efforts to administer and deliver major financial support to the Australian Olympic Team Fund, as well as support both the Paralympic and Commonwealth Games Appeal need the highest praise. The SA Games Appeal model is the envy of all other States, and remains on target to deliver the agreed financial targets to all three national Appeals this Olympiad i.e. \$670,000 to AOC, \$210,000 to both of the other National Appeals run by their State organisations.

The 2007 Premier's Games Appeal Dinner, held at the Adelaide Entertainment centre on Friday 3rd August, was attended by 1000 corporate supporters, Craig Phillips – Secretary General of the Australian Olympic Committee, Olympic Gold medallist Kieren Perkins as well as many SA Olympians, politicians and industry leaders. The Dinner raised a record amount, and these funds were placed into the SA Games Appeal Fund. The theme of the Shanghai Markets was exciting and colourful, and guests were kept entertained by an array of performers including The Leading Men, Acoustic Juice and the String Divas. The highlight of the night was the Live Auction which included two packages to the Beijing Olympic Games.

We are fortunate that our SA Olympians Club continues to grow and special thanks are extended to those Olympians who assisted at the Premier's Games Appeal Dinner. The annual Olympians Club Dinner is the highlight of their year's calendar, with some 150 Olympians, partners and friends attending the Glenelg Golf Club to re-live their special memories. The guest speaker at this occasion was 1984

Olympian, Dr Bruce Frayne. The clubs members are great supporters of the SAOC's Olympic Education program and corporate functions.

The SAOC financial period is best measured across the 4 year Olympiad 2005-08. Reporting on the calendar year 2007, the small loss of \$14,395 needs to be reconciled against our 3 year surplus of \$48,976. (ie; 2005 surplus \$34,507; 2006 Surplus \$28,864; 2007 Loss of \$14,395). The accumulated funds recorded in the Audited SAOC Inc. balance sheet are \$46,491. We do not anticipate any significant changes to the Council's financial position through to 31st December 2008.

There have been changes within the SAOC Executive Board during 2007, with resignations from Vice President Paul Finn and Board member Barry Cheales. Busy agendas have placed much pressure on the Executive; however, the Council and SA Games Appeal are extremely fortunate to have Christine Mainprize and Robert Gerard AO to drive the two mainstream projects. The energy, enthusiasm and professionalism that Christine demonstrated with her heavy workload throughout 2007 was admired by all. Special thanks are extended to Robert Gerard AO, Chairman of the SA Games Appeal Committee, Geoffrey Pitt, Committee members and the Quarter Club members who volunteer their time to raise the necessary funds that send our young athletes to the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games. It is expected one million dollars will be raised this Olympiad (2005-2008).

Our affiliated Olympic State sporting associations need to continue to support the SAOC projects, and ensure their delegate contributes at council meetings. We should not take for granted, the contribution to our Olympic movement made by the State Government, or by the Quarter Club Corporates or by the Volunteers, who collectively underpin the Olympic ideals, and help to develop young Olympians of the future.

My sincere thanks are extended to our Executive Director, Christine Mainprize for her above the call of duty performance in 2007. The excellent work that Amelia Weston carried out as Assistant Executive Director during the last quarter of 2007, ensured our decision to appoint Amelia to be Christine's replacement an easy one. Amelia has fitted in well & continues to contribute to the Olympic Council with the same passion & drive that Marg Ralston OAM, Robbie Granger & Christine Mainprize before her. We were delighted that Craig Phillips (AOC Secretary General) attended the 2007 Premier's Dinner and I am certain that this year's dinner will be another outstanding success. Finally, thank you to the Executive members, who contributed so much to the SAOC throughout 2007. Many new projects are now underway for 2008! Beijing here we come!

David Prince OAM
President
SA Olympic Council