

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COUNCIL

INCORPORATED

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Executive Director's Report 2008

2008 was an exciting and challenging year for the South Australian Olympic Council. The build up towards the Beijing Olympic Games started early in the year and combined with the Premier's Games Appeal Dinner, made for a very full and rewarding final year of the 2005 to 2008 quadrennium.

The SA Olympic Council is most grateful to The State Government and in particular to the Department for Recreation and Sport who has allowed 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.

2008 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 Beijing Olympic Games 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. Toyota announced their generous contribution to the 2008 Games Appeal and Robert Gerard AO Athlete Development Fund by donating 3 fabulous 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.

In 2008, fundraising work continued with the aim of setting up a good base for the fund to support South Australia's young athletes in to the future.

THE GAMES APPEAL COMMITTEE

The Games Appeal Committee chaired by Robert Gerard AO met 4 times in 2008 and with the support of the Dinner Auction committee Chaired by Geoffrey Pitt helped to organise the 2008 Premier's Games Appeal Dinner.

THE PREMIER'S GAMES APPEAL DINNER, 2008

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 Annabel Moir and Kelly Johncock.
- Games Appeal volunteers
- 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 3 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 "Beijing Gold". 1000 people hosted by The Premier of SA enjoyed a wonderful Chinese/European inspired menu prepared by the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and were entertained by the David Campbell and Mowtown Connection. As the event was held exactly one week before the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games, most of our 2008 Olympians were already on their way to China. Great excitement about their moment on the Olympic stage was built upon even more as guests were captivated by a special message from Bruce McAvaney who spoke about the excitement of the Games and the Aussie Olympians to watch.

2008 Beijing Olympic Games

The Australian Olympic Team in 2008 was the largest ever to leave our shores and the 4th largest team to participate at the Games, a wonderful achievement. South Australia was strongly represented by 28 athletes, who went on to represent their country with great pride and distinction, bringing home 9 medals between 8 medalists. South Australian medalists in

2008 included Megan Jones, Hayden Stoeckel, Hannah Davis, Laura Summerton, Jenni Screen, Erin Phillips, Grant Schubert and Anna Meares.

PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARDS

The Pierre de Coubertin Awards were presented to 30 Students in 2008. 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. Brenda Pearl 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. This was a more than 50% increase in nomination numbers from 2007 and it is hoped that more schools will continue to support this award each year as the award is a fantastic way to recognize students who demonstrate the attributes held in such high regard by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Movement.

AFFILIATIONS

The SAOC welcomes SA sports associations to subscribe to the SAOC through affiliation fees. These affiliation funds help 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 2008 there has been a further strengthening of the relationship between the SA Olympians Club and the SAOC.

- 2 members of the SAOC Executive are Olympians

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 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

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 Paul Anderson, Executive Director, who has supported the activities of the SAOC Office throughout the year. Our thanks also goes to 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:

David Prince OAM	President
Alan Naylor	Vice President
Amelia Weston	Executive Director
Malcolm Heard	Olympian
Brendan Todd	Olympian
Penny Halliday	
Joe Stevens	

The SAOC Executive has been the foundation behind all the various activities of the Council and thanks must go to David Prince OAM, Brendan Todd, Joe Stevens, Alan Naylor, Penny Halliday and Malcolm Heard for all their assistance during 2008. **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, Hannah Davis, Pat Mickan, Wendy Schaeffer, John Heard, Steven Brown, Ben Wilden, Leon Gregory and Malcolm Heard, have made to the SAOC during 2008 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.

As we look back on Beijing 2008 with many amazing moments to remember, we now head in to the next quadrennium looking forward to what it will bring and to supporting our athletes on their journey to Vancouver 2010 and London 2012!

Amelia Weston
Executive Director