Australian Paralympic Committee (APC)

2010 PARALYMPIC GAMES MEDIA CONTACTS

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WEB RESOURCES

Australian Paralympic Committee (APC)
APC Games website: www.vancouver2010.paralympic.org.au
Corporate website: www.paralympic.com.au
Paralympic Education Program website: www.paralympiceducation.org.au

International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
IPC website: www.paralympic.org
IPC alpine skiing website: www.ipc-alpineskiing.org
IPC Nordic skiing website: www.paralympic.org/Sport/IPC_Sports/Nordic_Skiing

Vancouver Organising Committee (VANOC)
www.vancouver2010.com/paralympic-games
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MESSAGE FROM THE APC PRESIDENT

There is no greater incentive for an elite athlete than to take on the best in the world in the pinnacle event for their sport.

The level of dedication and commitment required to be successful at the Paralympics has seen our athletes training and competing away from home for much of the past 15 months. Now, after the sacrifice, planning and years spent refining their skills for those precious minutes of truth, Australia’s winter Paralympians are ready to take on the challenge of the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

I have followed their progress with great interest and am confident that this is one of best prepared teams selected to represent Australia.

And when each of those athletes stands at the starting line in Vancouver, standing behind them will be a large group who helped them get there.

Family and friends have often ridden every peak and trough of the journey with the athletes and their contribution, though occasionally taken for granted, is immeasurable.

For our head coach, Steve Graham, the Games are the culmination of another four years in which he and his performance staff have dedicated uncountable hours to the performance of their athletes.

In Vancouver, Chef de Mission Michael Hartung and his team of support staff will continue to work behind the scenes to make this the best possible team, from their travel and outfitting, to the telling of their stories through the Australian media. The Games are the culmination of four years of work for the APC and its staff who manage the winter Paralympic program.

The Australian Institute of Sport is one of the world’s pre-eminent sports performance organisations and is the APC’s partner in its Paralympic winter program. The support of the AIS in all areas of sport performance has helped take the program to new heights.

Despite its small base of athletes, much of Australia’s enviable record of success at the Paralympic Winter Games can be traced to the development and talent identification programs of Disabled WinterSport Australia, which continues to draw on a very supportive winter sport community in this country.

The Australian Government’s financial support to the APC’s sport programs between Games is acknowledged internationally as a model structure for Paralympic sport.

Over the years the Australian Paralympic Winter Team has been one of the success stories of Australian sport, carving out a unique reputation for its professionalism and achievements.

The Australian Paralympic Committee is proud to be entrusted with the responsibility for managing the winter program. We are proud to be part of the team that stands with Australia’s athletes on the starting line and we wish them every success.

Greg Hartung
President
Australian Paralympic Committee
MESSAGE FROM THE CHEF DE MISSION

Every four years since the first Winter Games in 1976, Australia has sent a team to the Paralympic Winter Games. Their successes over the years have been in contrast to their small number and Australia’s reputation as an exclusively summer sport nation. Since Michael Milton won Australia’s first ever medal in Paralympic or Olympic competition, in 1992, our winter Paralympians have amassed 24 Paralympic Games medals, including 11 gold medals.

While the bulk of Australia’s success – and its reputation – has come in the men’s standing classes, the past 8 years have seen a concerted effort to expand the pool of Australia’s winter Paralympic athletes. The result is that the 2010 Australian Paralympic Team is the largest ever, with 14 athletes and guides, including our second and third ever female winter Paralympians. Our two Nordic skiers also create history, the first time since 1980 that we have had more than a single Nordic skier at the Games.

In 2010, Australian athletes will be in action on every day of the Games.

And there is no doubt that their performances will be of interest in Australia – independent research has shown that 64 percent of Australians followed the Beijing Paralympics, 96 percent say they are inspired by Australia’s Paralympic athletes and 72 percent believe there should be greater media coverage and recognition of Paralympic athletes.

To ensure that Australians can learn their stories and follow their achievements in Vancouver, the Australian Paralympic Committee has put in place its most comprehensive media program ever at a winter Games.

Our media team in Vancouver is led by the APC’s Communications Manager, Tim Mannion, who handled the flood of media inquiries during the Beijing Games in 2008 and will work tirelessly to meet your needs in 2010.

Tim and his team in Vancouver will provide stories, photos, video and radio interviews. They will be supported through our media hub in the APC office in Australia, the first point of contact for Australian media. The APC’s Games website (www.vancouver2010.paralympic.org.au) and AAP – through its results, news, image and video services – will serve as resource centres for media during the Games.

These services will be enhanced by the daily television broadcast coverage being provided by ABC TV, the Australian television rightsholder.

This guide describes the services that are available to print and electronic media. I urge you to use it to ensure that you and your audience are up to date with the achievements of this remarkable group of Australians – our winter Paralympians.

I hope that you enjoy following and covering the Australian Team at the Vancouver Paralympic Winter Games. They are an unbelievable group of Australians who will represent their country with the pride, good sportsmanship and skill that Australians love and respect about their Paralympians.

Michael Hartung
Chef de Mission
“WORLD CLASS SPORTS PERFORMANCE”

The Australian Paralympic Committee is the principal sporting organisation in Australia for elite athletes with a physical disability. The APC is recognised by governments, national and international sports organisations and other bodies as the authority for Paralympic sport in Australia. It seeks to produce world class sports performance through excellence in the delivery of its business and the development of its people. It aims to be the leading National Paralympic Committee in the world and one of Australia’s leading sport administration organisations.

The APC was established in 1990 to identify, select and manage Australian teams for Paralympic summer and winter Games and other international sporting competitions and to increase awareness of and support for Paralympic sports and Paralympians. The APC is a registered charity governed by an independent national board.

The APC is located in Sydney Olympic Park, with branch offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Perth.

With the announcement of Sydney as the venue of the 2000 Paralympic Games, the newly formed APC rose to the challenge of preparing Australia’s largest ever Paralympic team for a home Games. Australia finished on top of the medal table in Sydney, and the APC continued to evolve to meet the heightened expectations of its athletes and the general public in the lead-up to Salt Lake City, Athens, Torino, Beijing and now Vancouver.

To fulfil its charter, the APC has developed successful partnerships with a range of commercial organisations and works closely with the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission, and with State governments, especially through the State and Territory institutes and academies of sport.

In addition to the Paralympic Team itself, the APC’s key programs are:

The **Paralympic Preparation Program** has been the basis of Australia’s Paralympic success since 1994 through the provision of high level coaching, athlete support and targetted competition. In September 2009, the program involved 374 athletes, 64 professional and honorary coaches and expert support staff in 16 sports.

The **mainstreaming** of Paralympic programs with generic national sports federations has integrated sporting opportunities and pathways for people with a disability within the “mainstream” sport environment and normalised Paralympic sport for sport participants at all levels, as well as administrators, coaches and officials. Currently, the Paralympic Preparation Programs in 11 sports are mainstreamed.

The **Toyota Talent Search** program is the APC’s program to identify potential Paralympians. It has tested 1,363 people since its inception in March 2005. The program placed 27 athletes on the Beijing Team, with 15 of those athletes winning at least one medal.
The Paralympic Education Program, powered by Telstra, is an online program to enhance students’ knowledge and understanding of Paralympic athletes and all people with disabilities, while inspiring students to be the best they can be. By 1 February 2010, 2,141 Australian teachers had registered for the program, covering 374,891 students from more than 2,000 Australian primary schools (almost 25 percent of all primary schools).

Classification is the basis of Paralympic sport and ensures that athletes compete against others with a similar level of impairment. The new APC classification program increased the numbers of classifiers in Australia by 93 percent between January 2007 and September 2009. There are currently 129 Australian classifiers – 89 at national and 40 at international level.

The APC is developing a world class, multi-disciplinary sports science and sports medicine program which covers the major medical and applied sports science disciplines relevant to Paralympic sport and has a strong focus on recovery, hydration and athlete-specific performance preparation. At the Beijing Paralympic Games, the Australian Team successfully pioneered the use of a recovery and nutrition centre within the Team Headquarters.

Awareness of Paralympic sport has been enhanced by communications programs which delivered 117 hours of TV coverage during the Beijing Paralympics and 31,986 media stories. The APC website delivered 1.3 million pageviews in the month of the Beijing Games.

Sponsor and fundraising programs have enabled the APC to extend its ability to fund the Australian Paralympic Team (which is estimated to cost $1.25 million in 2010, $9 million in 2012 and $1.6 million in 2014), meet administration costs and support sport programs.
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Board
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Paul Bird Vice President
Nick Dean Vice President
John Croll Director
Doug Denby Director
Steve Loader Director
Joyce Parszos Director
Troy Sachs OAM Director
Glenn Tasker Director
Jason Hellwig Chief Executive Officer/Non-voting Director

Member Organisations
Athletics Australia
Australian Shooting International Ltd
Australian Sport and Recreation Association for Persons with Integration Difficulties (AUSRAPID)
Australian Sports Organisation for the Disabled
Basketball Australia
Blind Sports Australia
Cerebral Palsy – Australian Sport and Recreation Federation
Cycling Australia
Disabled WinterSport Australia
Football Federation of Australia
Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia
Rowing Australia
Swimming Australia
Table Tennis Australia
Tennis Australia
Wheelchair Sports Australia
Yachting Australia
01 APC GAMES MEDIA SERVICES
APC SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN MEDIA

The Australian Paralympic Committee is committed to assisting the Australian media to provide the best possible coverage of the Vancouver Paralympic Games and, in particular, the performances of Australian athletes.

The APC Games Media Liaison Officer in Sydney, Judy Goldman, is the first point of contact for all Australian-based media. Judy will issue the APC media releases throughout the day and liaise with the team in Vancouver for interviews.

Results
The APC will enhance the official Vancouver results services with information that is comprehensive, relevant and up-to-date.

The APC will work with AAP to provide a comprehensive results service for every event for every Australian competitor. These results will be available daily through AAP and also on the APC Games website.

Stories
The APC Games media team in Vancouver will file stories, including athlete quotes and highlights of the action, after every Australian event in Vancouver. These will be available on the APC website.

Regular media releases will cover the events of each morning and afternoon, as well as the day’s summary.

AAP will produce regular stories from Vancouver for its subscribers.

Direct Interviews
Australian athletes and Team staff will be available for interviews during the Games.

Interviews should be arranged through the APC Games Media Liaison Officer in Sydney, Judy Goldman, who will liaise with the APC media team in Vancouver for interviews. All athlete interviews must be managed through the APC’s media representatives.

Photos
The APC will provide high quality images taken by its official photographer at the Games – Sport the Library – through the AAP image site. New images will be uploaded throughout every day of the Games for use by any Australian media outlet at no cost.

Photos of specific athletes can be requested a minimum of 48 hours in advance but cannot be guaranteed.

To use the photo service, AAP subscribers should go to www.aapphoto.com.au. Non-subscribers can contact Dan Peled at AAP on (02) 9322 8707 or dpeled@aap.com.au to arrange access.

Low resolution images will also be loaded several times a day to the APC Games website. Media representatives may order high resolution copies of these photos, free of charge, by contacting Judy Goldman in the APC office on 0407 235 104 or by email to judy.goldman@paralympic.org.au.
Broadcast quality video interviews
The APC will provide broadcast quality interviews with athletes from Vancouver through the AAP video site. New images will be uploaded every day from approximately 10 March for use by any Australian media outlet at no cost.

To use the video interview service, AAP subscribers should go to www.aapvideo.com.au. Non-subscribers can contact Miguel D’Souza at AAP on (02) 9322 8707 or dsouzam@aap.com.au for access.

Audio interviews for radio
The APC will provide broadcast quality audio interviews with athletes from Vancouver through AAP and through the APC’s Games website. Where possible, interviews will be conducted immediately after events and will be available within 60 minutes of the completion of an event. These interviews are available free to all Australian media outlets.

To use the audio interview service, contact Miguel D’Souza at AAP on (02) 9322 8707 or dsouzam@aap.com.au for access details.

Video for TV news reportage
The ABC has confirmed that it will make its highlights package available to other networks for the purposes of news reportage as the satellite delivers it to ABC Ultimo between 4 PM and 4:45 PM (Sydney time) daily during the Games.

Background information
This Media Guide provides basic information on the sports and brief profiles of the Australian athletes. It is also a guide to facts about the Games’ history and Australia’s results, information about the classification systems in each sport and Australia’s performances at the Games.

Further information is available on the APC Games website (www.vancouver2010.paralympic.org.au), which contains more detailed profiles and background information. During the Games, the APC Games website will be updated constantly with results of every event featuring Australians and stories about our Team.

Australian Team Members are instructed not to respond to direct contact from journalists. All interviews are to be managed through the APC media team. Journalists are asked not to contact athletes or Team staff (other than the media team) directly.
PARALYMPIC VILLAGE, WHISTLER

Tim Mannion

Tim Mannion is the Australian Paralympic Committee’s Communications Manager. With a double degree in Human Movement and Communications/Journalism, Tim worked as a sports journalist before joining the APC in March 2008. During the 2008 Paralympic Games, Tim managed the APC’s Sydney media hub.

In Vancouver, Tim will oversee the APC’s communications and media operations, manage enquiries from Australian media, coordinate interviews and manage any issues which may arise during the Games.

Margie McDonald

Margie is a sports journalist with The Australian newspaper, based in Sydney. She was the Media Manager for SPOC (Sydney Paralympic Organising Committee) for the 2000 Paralympic Games. Margie covered the 1992 Barcelona and 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games as a journalist with AAP. She was a Media Liaison Officer for the Australian Paralympic Teams at the 1998 Nagano, 2002 Salt Lake City and 2006 Torino winter Paralympics and the 2004 Athens and 2008 Beijing summer Games.

AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE, SYDNEY

Judy Goldman

Judy was corporate affairs and communications manager at Australia Post, Corrs Chambers Westgarth and the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. She is currently the director of Mediaways, a media consultancy focussing on media, crisis and presentation skills training. Prior to moving into the corporate world, Judy was the chief of staff on Channel Nine’s A Current Affair. She has also worked as an executive producer on a number of programs at 2GB, 2UE and 702 and was a reporter for Fairfax Media.

During the Games, Judy will be based in the APC’s Sydney office and will be responsible for managing and distributing communications from Vancouver to the Australian broadcast, print and online media. Judy and her team will work to distribute the Games’ stories and satisfy all enquiries from the Australian media.
VANCOUVER ACCREDITED MEDIA FOR APC

Jeff Crow
Jeff is the founder and chief photographer in Vancouver for Sport the Library, the official photographer for the 2010 Australian Paralympic Team. Jeff has more than 20 years experience of sport photography and was the official Australian Team photographer at the 2000 Paralympic Games. Images from Sport the Library will be available to all Australian media outlets during the Games.

Courtney Crow
Courtney is Director and Editor of Explorer Media. She has extensive experience in photojournalism and sports photography for major Australian and international sports publications.
In Vancouver, Courtney will photograph the Australian Team in action for Sport the Library.

Peter Maberly
Peter Maberly is Station Manager of Snowy Mountains Television, and the official videographer for the 2010 Australian Paralympic Team. Peter has a very extensive background in television production and worked with the APC and the Australian Paralympic Winter Team during the 2009 National Alpine Skiing Championships in Thredbo.
During the Games, Peter will produce daily edited video and online content packages from Vancouver for use by Australian media.
When speaking to, interviewing or socialising with an athlete with a disability, here are a few common courtesies, or general rules to remember:

- When greeting a person, if you normally shake hands, then offer the same gesture, even if the person has limited use of his/her hands or wears an artificial limb. The person will let you know if a certain action is appropriate or not.
- When talking with a person who has a disability, speak directly to that person rather than to a companion or interpreter.
- Act naturally and don’t monitor your every word and action. Don’t be embarrassed if you use common expressions like “see you later” (to a person with a vision impairment) or “I’d better run along” (to someone who uses a wheelchair).
- Do not assume that a person with a physical disability also has a hearing disability or that his/her intellect is diminished in any way. Speak in a normal tone and do not use language that is condescending.
- Do not worry about asking specific details about the persons’ disability where it is relevant. They are usually comfortable with who they are and have no problems discussing it. Don’t act like it doesn’t exist, relax and be as open and honest as you can. When you are that way, the person you are interviewing will be responsive in the same manner.
- Always ask a person with a disability if he/she would like assistance before rushing in. Your help may not be needed. However, it is quite all right to offer help. If your assistance is needed then listen or ask for instructions.
- People do not want to be recipients of charity or pity. Remember that a person with a disability isn’t necessarily chronically sick or unhealthy.
- Don’t forget that people with a disability may need your patience and sufficient time to act independently.

**Person who uses a wheelchair**

- When talking to a person who uses a wheelchair and the conversation lasts for more than a few minutes, place yourself at eye-level with them, for example by pulling up a chair next to them.
- Do not push anyone who uses a wheelchair unless you are asked. Do not lean against his/her chair or hang from it in any way. The chair is part of the person’s personal space and allows him/her to be mobile and independent.
- Do not patronise a person who uses a wheelchair by patting him/her on the head or shoulders. Simply share the same social courtesies that you would share with anyone else.

**Person with a vision impairment**

- When talking to a person who has a vision impairment, always identify yourself and others in your group. For example, say “I am Jane Smith and on my right is John Anderson”. It is very important to provide verbal descriptions of visual things that are happening.
- Never pat or touch a guide dog while it is in the harness – just ignore it. The animal is working when it is in the harness. It has a very important job to do and distracting it may harm its owner.
• Announce both your entrance and departure or exit from a room.
• Let the person know if an obstacle is present that cannot be detected with their stick.
• On a stairway warn the person on the first and last step.
• When you offer to guide a person with a vision impairment allow him/her to take your arm.
• If you assist a person to find a seat, guide him/her there and place the person’s hand on the back or arm of the chair.

These are a few things to be mindful of. But if you can remember only one of them, remember this: ACT NATURALLY AT ALL TIMES. The person will tell you if they require any assistance. Otherwise just carry on and enjoy their conversation and company.

In your stories or articles:
• Always identify the person first and then the disability. Sometimes it may not be necessary or relevant to the article to mention the disability, so don’t feel obliged to do so. When it is relevant, just mention what the disability is and then move on.
• Portray the person as he/she is in their day-to-day life. For example, a person with a disability might be an athlete but he/she may also be a parent, a civil engineer, a doctor, a business manager or a reporter.
• Avoid using emotional wording like “tragic”, “afflicted”, “victim”, or “confined to a wheelchair”. Emphasise the ability and not the limitation, i.e. by saying that someone “uses a wheelchair” rather than “is confined” or “is wheelchair-bound”.
• Avoid portraying people with a disability who succeed as “extraordinary” or “superhuman”. For example, overstating the achievements of athletes with a disability inadvertently suggests the original expectations were not high.
• Do not sensationalise the accomplishments of people with a disability. While these accomplishments should be recognised and applauded, people in the disability rights movement have tried to make the public aware of the negative impact of referring to the achievements of people with a physical or mental disability in hyperbolic language.
The 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Winter Games will be broadcast by ABC Television, which is the Australian Broadcast rightsholder for the Games.

ABC TV will broadcast highlight coverage on ABC1 during the 10 days of the Games:

**DAILY HIGHLIGHTS ON ABC1**

Nightly highlights from Vancouver will appear on ABC1 from Saturday 13 March to Monday 22 March at 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM and also from 11:30 PM to midnight.

The ABC has confirmed that it will make its highlights package available to other networks for the purposes of news reportage as the satellite delivers it to ABC Ultimo in Sydney between 4 PM and 4:45 PM (Sydney time) daily during the Games.
Following the end of the Second World War there were many athletic young men who suffered wounds such as limb amputations and paralysis in the fighting. Many were good skiers before they went to war and were not prepared to give up their winter sports once they returned from battle, despite their acquired disabilities.

The end of the Second World War saw the first systematic development of sport for people with disabilities. In 1948, English neurologist Sir Ludwig Guttmann organised the first Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Games at the same time as the 1948 London Olympic Games. Those Games were the forerunner of the summer Paralympics.

In the same year, the first events were offered for skiers with disabilities. The first documented Winter Championships for the Disabled were held in Badgastein, Austria, in 1948. Seventeen athletes – mainly from Austria, Germany and Switzerland – took part.

Although the first official Paralympic Summer Games were held in Rome in 1960, it was not until 1976 that the first Paralympic Winter Games were held, in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden.

It was another 16 years – Albertville, France, in 1992 – before the Winter Paralympics were hosted by the same city as the Winter Olympics. Since that time, the Olympic and the Paralympic Winter Games have shared the same location, facilities and infrastructure, with the Paralympics commencing about two weeks after the end of the Olympics.

The number of sports and athletes at each Paralympic Games varies according to the agreement reached between the host city and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). There were five sports at the 1998 Paralympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, three at the 2002 Salt Lake City Paralympics, four in Torino in 2006 and there will be four in Vancouver – Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing (including Biathlon), Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling.

The number of participating countries has grown steadily since the first Games in 1976, with more than 40 countries expected to participate in Vancouver.

The following table summarises the participation history of the Paralympic Winter Games.

**Participation at the Paralympic Winter Games**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of countries</th>
<th>Number of athletes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Örnsköldsvik, Sweden</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Geilo, Norway</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Innsbruck, Austria</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Innsbruck, Austria</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Albertville, France</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Lillehammer, Norway</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Nagano, Japan</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, USA</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Torino, Italy</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
02 GAMES HISTORY AND FACTS
AUSTRALIA’S HISTORY AT THE WINTER GAMES

Australia has participated at every Paralympic Winter Games since they began in 1976 and in official competition since the second Games in 1980. In 1992 in Albertville, Michael Milton, a leg amputee, won Australia’s first medal, a gold, in either Olympic or Paralympic winter competition.

Australia’s strength in the Paralympic Winter Games lies in Alpine Skiing and all of Australia’s medal successes have come in the Alpine Skiing events.

Australia picked up four medals in Albertville in 1992, but its most successful Games remain Lillehammer in 1994, when four of the team of six athletes won a total of nine medals among them.

In 1998 in Nagano, Japan, two medals were added to the overall tally. Four years later in Salt Lake City, Australian athletes had a great Games, with Michael Milton becoming the first athlete in his class to claim a clean sweep of gold medals across the four alpine disciplines. His extraordinary performance was backed up by vision impaired athlete Bart Bunting, who won two gold medals and one silver, Australia’s highest gold and second highest overall medal tally at a winter Games.

At the 2006 Games in Torino, a new competition class structure came into force for Alpine Skiing. The 14 classes which had existed were combined into three classes – one for standing skiers, one for vision impaired skiers and one for seated skiers. While athletes were still classified into the 14 classes according to their disability, a factoring system – based on the times skied by the best performers in each class – was used to adjust raw times to compare athletes in each of the three combined classes.

The new system reduced the number of potential medals in Paralympic Alpine Skiing from 128 to 36 and created a fierce level of competition for every medal.

In Torino, Michael Milton won his eleventh Paralympic winter medal, a silver in the Downhill, and rising star Toby Kane picked up his first Games medal, a bronze in the Super-G event.

Bart Bunting (right) with sighted guide Nathan Chivers.
02 GAMES HISTORY AND FACTS
AUSTRALIA’S HISTORY AT THE WINTER GAMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Team size</th>
<th>Medallists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976 Örnsköldsvik</td>
<td>0¹</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980 Geilo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984 Innsbruck</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988 Innsbruck</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992 Albertville</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gold: Michael Milton (amputee, standing skier, LW2 class) Slalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver: Michael Milton Super-G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze: David Munk (paraplegic sit-skier, LW12 class) Super-G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze: Michael Norton, (paraplegic, sit-skier, LW12 class) Downhill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 Lillehammer</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gold: Michael Milton Giant Slalom</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gold: Michael Norton Slalom</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gold: Michael Norton Super-G</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver: Michael Milton Slalom</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver: James Paterson, (cerebral palsy, standing skier, LW9 class) Downhill</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze: Michael Milton Downhill</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze: Michael Milton Super-G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze: Michael Milton Giant Slalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998 Nagano</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gold: James Paterson Downhill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze: James Paterson Slalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002 Salt Lake City</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gold: Michael Milton Downhill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gold: Michael Milton Giant Slalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gold: Michael Milton Slalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gold: Michael Milton Super-G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gold: Bart Bunting (vision impaired skier LW class), guide Nathan Chivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Downhill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gold: Bart Bunting, guide Nathan Chivers Super-G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver: Bart Bunting, guide Nathan Chivers Giant Slalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Torino</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Silver: Michael Milton Downhill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze: Toby Kane Super-G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ One Australian skier attended the Games but did not compete as there were no events for his classification.
VENUES
Australian athletes will compete in Alpine Skiing and Nordic Skiing events at the Vancouver Games. The venues for these events are at Whistler, about 120 kilometres from Vancouver. At 33 square kilometres, Whistler is the largest ski area in North America.

Alpine Skiing
All Alpine Skiing events will be held at the Whistler Creekside venue, a short drive from Whistler. The competition venue contains seating for 5,000 spectators.

20 grooming machines will be used for Alpine Skiing and at Games time approximately 30 full-time operations staff will assist with snowmobile transport, water injection, safety net hanging and general race operations.

For both the men’s and women’s courses, “Hot Air” is a spectacular jump into the finish – a great spectator thrill.

While World Cup events can contain fields of more than 60 athletes in a class, the field size in some events in Vancouver is limited and athletes will be offered places based on their rankings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Downhill</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision impaired</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Super Combined</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision impaired</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no restrictions in the other events, with up to 140 skiers expected to compete in the three men’s classes and as many as 100 in the women’s classes.

The sit skiing classes are expected to be the largest classes in Vancouver.

Nordic Skiing
Cross Country Skiing and Biathlon will be held at Whistler Paralympic Park. The compact, one-square-kilometre Games venue core area includes three separate venue stadiums (for Cross Country Skiing, Olympic Biathlon, Olympic Ski Jumping) located about 400 metres apart. All the events for Paralympic Cross Country Skiing and Biathlon will start from the Cross Country stadium. Competition courses include a five-kilometre course for the standing classes and a specially designed 3.75-kilometre course for the sit-ski classes. The Paralympic Winter Games venue capacity is 6,000 people per day.
Media Centre

The Whistler Media Centre (WMC) will be located in the Whistler Conference Centre, in the heart of Whistler’s town centre. Located within 17 kilometres of all Whistler competition venues, the WMC will be the hub of the media transportation system in the mountains, and the connection point for transportation between Whistler and the Main Media Centre in Vancouver. The WMC’s primary function is as the Whistler base for the official host broadcaster, and will also offer some services for the written and photographic press, including:

- Limited workspaces for press and photographers
- INFO2010 terminals and print distribution of results
- Help desks for transportation, technology and Rate Card
- A photo services desk offering camera servicing

A press and photo work area will be available in the WMC, in conjunction with the nightly Paralympic victory ceremonies, to provide journalists and photographers with opportunities to file stories and photos from a location close to site of the ceremonies.

Current plans for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games include an enhanced Venue Media Centre at Whistler Creekside (site of Alpine Skiing) that will provide extended hours of service to the press. A venue Media Centre will also operate at Whistler Paralympic Park (site of Cross Country Skiing and Biathlon).

**Whistler weather and snow**

Average historic weather data for March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average valley daily minimum temperature</td>
<td>-3°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average valley daily maximum temperature</td>
<td>8°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average alpine daily minimum temperature</td>
<td>-8°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average alpine daily maximum temperature</td>
<td>5°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average March snowfall last 5 years</td>
<td>1.98 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual total snowfall</td>
<td>10.22 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALPINE SKIING

Twelve of the fourteen Australian athletes in Vancouver will compete in Alpine Skiing.

Alpine Skiing history

Two Alpine Skiing events (Slalom and Giant Slalom) were introduced at the first Paralympic Winter Games in 1976. Downhill was added in 1984, and Super-G was added in 1994.

Until 1998, alpine events were only for standing classes – vision impaired, amputees, cerebral palsy, etc. Mono-skiing, for seated skiers, became a medal event at the Nagano 1998 Paralympic Games.

As the sport grew, so did the number of classes for skiers, reaching 14 classes in total. At the 2006 Games in Torino, a new three class system was introduced. Since then, athletes from the 14 classes are allocated to one of three categories based on their functional ability – standing, sitting and vision impaired. A results “factor system” (see p25), which calculates times for each of the 14 classification classes based on the historical best performances for that class, allows athletes with different disabilities to compete against each other in the same event.

In 2010, the five competition events are the same as those in the Olympics – Downhill, Super-G, Giant Slalom, Slalom and Super Combined (one run of Downhill and one run of Slalom).

The Alpine Skiing events

Downhill and Super-G are known as the “speed” events. The skiers start higher on the mountain and the gates are well spaced, resulting in speeds that often exceed 100 kmh. Downhill is the longest and fastest event on the program.

In the “technical” events of the Giant Slalom (GS) and the Slalom, the course is shorter and the gates closer together, emphasising the turning skills of the skiers. Slalom is the shortest course, generally on a very steep course, with the gates closest together and the quickest turns.
### The Sports Explained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Downhill</strong></td>
<td>Skiers are timed as they race down a long, steep course that may include turns and jumps. They must pass through a relatively few number of gates that are used as checkpoints. The penalty for missing a gate is disqualification. One run determines the finishing order – the shortest time wins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Super-G</strong></td>
<td>The course is shorter than Downhill but longer than Giant Slalom and Slalom. The number of gates is determined by the vertical drop, with a minimum of 35 direction changes for men and 30 for women. Gates are set at least 25m apart and the penalty for missing a gate is disqualification. One run determines the finishing order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Giant Slalom</strong></td>
<td>The course is longer, there are fewer turns, and the turns are wider and smoother than the Slalom. The number of gates is determined by the vertical drop and the penalty for missing a gate is disqualification. Each athlete completes two runs on the same day on different courses. Times from the two courses are added to determine order of finish. (The ranking in the first run is the basis for the starting order in the second run, with the fastest skiing last.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slalom</strong></td>
<td>The course is shorter than other Alpine Skiing events with a high number of gates (55-75 gates on a men’s course and 40-60 on a women’s course) that the athletes must negotiate. The penalty for missing a gate is disqualification. Each athlete completes two runs on the same day on different courses. Times from the two courses are added to determine order of finish. (The ranking in the first run is the basis for the starting order in the second run, with the fastest skiing last.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Super Combined</strong></td>
<td>This event combines two disciplines, such as one Downhill and one Slalom run, or a Super-G and a Slalom run. In Vancouver, a Downhill run in the morning will be followed by a Slalom run in the afternoon. The lowest total time wins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rules of the International Ski Federation (FIS) are used with only a few modifications.

Skiers who have a vision impairment use the same equipment as able-bodied skiers. They follow sighted guides, who use voice signals to indicate the course to follow.

Skiers with locomotive disabilities may either use the same equipment as able-bodied skiers, or a prosthesis (an artificial arm or leg), or “outriggers” in place of ski poles (outriggers are a type of crutch with a very small ski at the end to help the skier with balance), or cut-down poles, or other orthopaedic aids.

Sitting skiers use a mono-ski – affectionately known as “tubs” or “buckets” – with a molded seat, seat belts and a suspension system, sitting on a single ski. This allows for great maneuverability. Sit-skiers use outrigger poles for balance.
Alpine Skiing Classification

Classification is the process of allocating athletes in Paralympic sport to classes, based on their functional disability.

Athletes at the Paralympic Winter Games come from 5 disability categories:

- **Amputee**: Partial or total loss of at least one limb;
- **Cerebral Palsy**: Athletes who have non-progressive brain damage, such as cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke or similar condition affecting muscle control, balance and/or co-ordination;
- **Wheelchair**: For all spinal cord injuries and other disabilities which require athletes to compete sitting down. In the case of Alpine Skiing, athletes ski using a sit-ski.
- **Vision-Impaired**: Athletes who have a vision impairment ranging from partial vision to total blindness; and
- **Les Autres**: French for “the others”. This category contains athletes with a mobility impairment or other loss of physical function that does not fall strictly under one of the other 4 categories. For example, dwarfism, multiple sclerosis or congenital limb deficiencies.

To be eligible to compete in a sport as an athlete with a disability, it is not sufficient simply to have a disability. Specific testing is used to determine whether a person’s disability results in sufficient limitation of their capacity to perform the core elements of the relevant sport. This is different for each sport and is termed the minimal disability criteria. Trained classifiers determine whether a person meets the minimal disability criteria for a particular sport.

Here is how the assessments are made for each disability category, together with the sport-specific requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability group</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision Impaired</td>
<td>Amount of visual acuity or field. Assessment by an ophthalmologist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral Palsy</td>
<td>A series of neurological tests, amount of spasticity, coordination testing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amputees</td>
<td>Level and location of amputation, stump length.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair</td>
<td>Level of spinal cord injury, residual muscle strength.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Autres</td>
<td>Joint range of motion, muscle strength, other tests as appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Specific</td>
<td>Position when skiing and use of equipment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The list below contains examples of the type of disabilities found in each class for Alpine Skiing, current at the date of publication. It is intended as a guide only and is not exhaustive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision impaired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LW1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW5/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sitting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LW10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LW12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alpine Skiing Factor System
The fourteen different functional classifications are now combined within the above three classes using a “factor system” to create one result list for each class.

For instance, the standing class includes athletes from the disability classifications LW1-LW9. With a wide range of disability levels included in one class and competing for one set of medals, the factor system is utilised in order to eliminate, as far as possible, the effect of performance differences due to the functional effects of an athlete’s disability.

A ‘factor’ for each classification is calculated by dividing the fastest time achieved in the fastest classification by the fastest time achieved in each of the other classifications, over several seasons of predetermined events.

These “factors” are adjusted annually based on results from the year’s major competitions including: Alpine Cup; North American Races; European Cup; World Cups; World Championships; and Paralympic Winter Games.

During competition, the racing time of an athlete is multiplied by the factor of his/her respective classification. This results in a ‘Scoring Time’ for each athlete within their class. In races with two runs the scoring times of both races are added.

All times and results displayed during events at the Paralympic Games will already include the factor adjustments. This means that the skier with the fastest time “on the scoreboard” will be the event leader.

NORDIC SKIING
The Nordic competition disciplines are Biathlon and Cross Country.

Nordic history
Paralympic Cross Country Skiing was included as an event at the first Paralympic Winter Games in 1976, at Örnsköldsvik, with classical technique events only. Men and women used the classical technique in all Cross Country distances until skating was introduced by athletes at the Innsbruck 1984 Paralympic Winter Games. Since then, Cross Country Skiing events have been split into two separate races: classical and free technique. The new technique, however, was not officially used in a medal race until 1992 in Albertville, France.

Biathlon was first introduced in the 1988 Paralympic Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria and it became a medal event for both men and women at the Lillehammer 1994 Paralympic Winter Games. Lillehammer was also the first time Nordic skiers competed at the same venue used for the Olympic Winter Games.

The Nordic events
In both Biathlon and Cross Country Skiing, athletes are categorised as standing, sitting or vision impaired and compete against athletes with similar disabilities. Vision impaired skiers use the same equipment as able-bodied skiers but ski with a guide. Standing skiers are skiers with a locomotive disability and are able to use the same equipment as able-bodied skiers. Sit-skiers usually have no use of their legs and use a sit-ski – a specially built chair attached to a pair of skis.
Biathlon combines Cross Country Skiing and air-rifle shooting. The most important success factor lies in the ability to alternate the skills of physical endurance and shooting accuracy during the competition. Unlike able-bodied competitions, Paralympic athletes always shoot in a prone position.

Biathlon uses metal drop-down targets which consist of a white target face plate with five target apertures, behind which are five independently operating knock-down, falling plate scoring targets. The scoring plates are black. A hit is indicated by the black target circle being replaced by a white indicator disc. The target size has a diameter of 30mm for vision impaired athletes and 20mm for other classes.

In the short distance Biathlon, skiers race a 2.5 km loop three times, stopping twice at the shooting range where they take five shots at the target 10 metres away. If a competitor misses a plate, they must ski a 150 m penalty loop for each missed shot.

Vision impaired athletes shoot with an electronic rifle that allows aiming by hearing. The closer the rifle points to the centre of the target the higher the tone is. The different tones that occur when the rifle is moved allow the shooter to find the exact centre of the target and help tell them when to fire.

In long-distance Biathlon, competitors ski the loop five times and stop four times at the shooting range. Missing a target plate can be costly: for every miss, a competitor receives a one minute time penalty that is added to their overall skiing time.

There are two competition days for Biathlon – one for long distance and the second day for short distance.

Cross Country Skiing includes freestyle and classic events for individuals, and relays.

The classic technique, as the name suggests, is the traditional one: the skis are kept parallel and never leave or deviate from two tracks, or grooves, marked on the course.

The freestyle technique uses shorter skis and is slightly faster than classical – on average about 8% faster over an entire race distance. Sit-skiers are unable to alter their technique and use their arms and poles to propel themselves along the parallel tracks in which their skis sit.

The freestyle technique allows the skier to choose the moves and the type of pace. Since the majority of skiers choose a style similar to skating, pushing the skis from both legs, the skating technique has become synonymous with freestyle technique.

Paralympic Cross Country skiers compete in men’s and women’s individual events over short, middle and long distances ranging from 2.5 km to 20 km. Each race has an interval start, with skiers starting every 30 seconds. The Nordic Percentage System (p28) is used to equalise the disability time handicap for skiers within each category. The percentage is applied to each skier’s final time and the skier with the lowest calculated time is the winner.

The ranking in all Cross Country Skiing events is based on the fastest competitor’s times. The starting order is designed to avoid overtaking as much as possible (sit-ski, vision impaired and standing is the normal start order). Each class of competitors is divided into two equal-sized subgroups by seeding. Within the subgroup the start order is decided by draw.
In the relay event, each team member skis one leg. Teams are made up of skiers from different categories but with the total percentage for each team being equal. This means that no time calculation is required and the first team across the finish line wins.

**Nordic Classification**

At the Vancouver Paralympic Games athletes in Nordic skiing events will compete in the following 3 disability classes.

Athletes with a **vision impairment** use the same equipment as an able-bodied competitor and are accompanied by a guide who skis ahead of them on the course.

**Standing** skiers may ski on one ski or two, with or without “outriggers”, depending on their disability. This may include amputation of the lower or upper limbs, cerebral palsy or any other classifiable disability which allows them to ski “standing”.

**Sitting** skiers have disabilities affecting one or both of their lower limbs. All competitors ski in a specially designed seat which is mounted on a pair of Cross Country skis. For all sitting classes, athletes are not permitted to use their legs, or have their legs outside of the sit-ski at any time during competition.

The list below contains examples of the type of disabilities found in each class for Biathlon and Cross Country Skiing, current at the date of publication. It is intended as a guide only and is not exhaustive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Vision impaired</strong></th>
<th><strong>Standing</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>LW2: Athletes with impairment in one entire lower limb such as amputation, paralysis, or an immovable joint. Athletes ski using two skis and two ski poles. Single leg athletes who are amputees ski with a prosthesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LW3: Athletes with impairment in both legs, such as amputation, spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy which includes whole and/or partial limb dysfunction. Athletes ski using two skis and two ski poles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LW4: Skiers with below knee amputation who ski wearing a prosthesis or have an equivalent disability. Athletes ski with two skis and two poles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LW5/7: Skiers with both hands or arms amputated or an equivalent disability which means they are unable to use poles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LW6: Skiers with a disability in one arm equivalent to amputation through or above the elbow or similar disability meaning they can only use one pole.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
02 GAMES HISTORY AND FACTS
THE SPORTS EXPLAINED

| LW8 | Athletes with impairment in one upper limb below the elbow, such as an amputation below the elbow or fixed elbow joint. Athletes ski with one pole. |
| LW9 | Athletes with a combination of impairments in both arms and legs such as amputation or hemiplegic cerebral palsy. |

**Sitting**

| LW10 | Sit-skiers who have impairments in their trunk and leg(s), such as a high level spinal cord injury. Athlete is unable to sit without trunk or arm support. |
| LW10.5 | Sit-skiers with impairments in their trunk and leg(s). Athletes have some trunk and abdominal strength. These athletes are able to sit statically without trunk support. |
| LW11 | Sit-skiers with impairments in their trunk and leg(s). Athletes are unable to stand, but are able to sit and move without support. |
| LW11.5 | Athletes with impairments in their trunk and leg(s). Athletes have near to normal trunk muscles and may be able to stand or walk. |
| LW12 | Athletes with impairments in one or both legs with normal trunk movement. The athlete may be able to walk with or without aids. |

**Nordic Percentage System**

The place of competitors from different classifications within each of the three classes is determined by an adjusted time formula, called the percentage system. This formula adjusts the real finishing time of each athlete according to a percentage factor based on their functional classification. The athlete’s actual time is then converted to an “adjusted finishing time” which enables a direct comparison between athletes in a class. The percentage system is similar to the “factor system” used in Alpine Skiing.

Each disability classification has a different percentage for the different techniques - classic and freestyle. Percentages are evaluated after every season and changes are made as necessary.
03 THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM
The retirement of Michael Milton from Alpine Skiing after the 2006 Torino Paralympic Winter Games marked the final transfer from Australia’s winter “pioneers” to its young guns. Milton had won Australia’s first ever winter Paralympic or Olympic medal in 1992, but the new generation has entered the sport with expectations that they would match it with the best in the world. And they have, even as the competition has moved forward.

The Australian Team went to Torino with few seasoned athletes and big expectations. Three of its main medal contenders were competing at their first Games.

Four years on, those same athletes have a Games, plus considerable world championship and world cup experience behind them.

According to head coach Steve Graham: “We feel that our athletes and coaching staff have a good understanding of how they each perform under pressure – what are the important things to focus on.”

“Our build-up has been good. The challenge is to maintain the level of performance.”

**Year one – 2006/07**

While Australia’s program was one of the best in the world leading up to Torino, it was obvious that greater success required greater depth in the team, which had been very much dominated by athletes in the men’s standing class in Alpine Skiing. A key goal was to increase the numbers of female athletes overall, and athletes in the vision impaired and sitting classes, as well as Nordic skiers.

In the 2006/07 season, the program had five male representatives competing in the world cup circuit – one sit skier and four standing skiers. Four of the five achieved top ten end of season rankings in at least one event, with outstanding results coming from standing skier Marty Mayberry (3rd overall in Slalom), Toby Kane (3rd in Giant Slalom), sit-skier Shannon Dallas (2nd in Super-G), and Cameron Rahles-Rahbula (4th in Super-G). In the season’s combined tallies, Toby Kane and Shannon Dallas finished 6th overall in their respective classes, closely followed by Cameron Rahles-Rahbula, 7th overall in the standing class.

These results ranked Australia as the 9th overall nation in Alpine Skiing.

In the 2006/07 season James Millar was the only Australian Cross Country skier to contest the IPC Nordic world cup series, attending meets in Finland and Germany and ranking 24th overall at the end of the season.

**Year two – 2007/08**

Skiing is an incredibly demanding sport – elite Paralympic skiers spend many months away from home each year, pursuing a sport where there is no prizemoney and finite program support.

Head coach Steve Graham is well aware of the need to create a balance in the lives of the program’s athletes as well as the staff. A number of the athletes are undertaking, or have completed, university studies, four in demanding medical-related areas. Training is always high quality and high intensity and the program’s elite athletes focus on the world cup races. Graham is also very careful to balance the athletes’ time when they are not skiing. This can be achieved because the athletes are very well organised in fulfilling their conditioning programs at home and turn up to skiing activities physically and mentally prepared.
2007/08 saw Australia expand its participation at Alpine Skiing world cup level by one female standing skier, Louise Williams, and another young and talented standing male skier, Mitchell Gourley.

The world cup circuit also expanded, with the introduction of the Super Combined event, which combines two events, one speed and one technical, over one day in two or three runs. That year, the two Super Combined events were Super-G and Slalom. Cameron Rahles-Rahbula finished 5th overall, with Marty Mayberry and Shannon Dallas both 9th overall in their classes.

Across the other three world cup events (Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G – there were no Downhill events held), the Australian team recorded 8 top 10 rankings, through Cameron Rahles-Rahbula, Marty Mayberry, Shannon Dallas and Louise Williams, whose 9th overall placing in the Super-G was Australia’s first ever top 10 world cup ranking by a female athlete.

As a nation, Australia was ranked 9th again in Alpine Skiing in the second year of the four year Paralympic winter cycle.

In Nordic events, James Millar doubled the number of world cup events he contested, moving up to 16th overall in the men’s standing class.

Year three – 2008/09

A key focus in the preparation for Vancouver has been to experiment with equipment so that athletes and staff are comfortable on the race day that they have appropriate options to choose from to meet the conditions and to assist them to ski at their best.

According to Coach Graham: “It gives them a broader range of tools to minimise the variables. That means that they don’t think about whether they are making the right adjustments, they just go. They know they’re on the right equipment.”

In 2008/09, blind male skier and dual Salt Lake gold medallist Bart Bunting returned after a 6 year retirement. Downhill skiing events were also included in the world cup circuit for the first time since the 2004-05 season. The focus of the season was the world championships, in Korea, in February 2009.

Australians had great world cup success in Downhill. Five Australians achieved a top 10 ranking – Cameron Rahles-Rahbula (4th), Toby Kane (5th), Bart Bunting (8th), Marty Mayberry (9th) and Shannon Dallas (9th).

Shannon Dallas confirmed his place as one of the world’s best sit-skiers, finishing 3rd in both the overall Giant Slalom and Super-G rankings and seventh in the season’s overall sitting class rankings. Toby Kane showed his consistency, finishing 5th in the overall combined rankings for standing skiers with a 6th ranking in the Giant Slalom, 7th in the Super-G and 4th in the Super Combined. Mitchell Gourley reinforced his potential in just his second year on the circuit, with an overall 8th ranking in the Giant Slalom. Marty Mayberry finished 6th in the Super-G and the Super Combined and 10th in overall class rankings.

In limited starts and his first year back, Bart Bunting achieved a respectable 14th overall ranking. Cameron Rahles-Rahbula rounded out a great season for the Aussies with his 3rd in the Super-G, 3rd in the Super Combined and 4th in overall standing class rankings.
At the Alpine Skiing World Championships, Australia’s team of 5 athletes picked up two gold medals, a bronze, and a further 9 top 10 finishes, the team’s best results since the introduction of the three class system. Cameron Rahles-Rahbula won gold in the Slalom and bronze in the Giant Slalom and Shannon Dallas won gold in the Super-G, before a season-ending crash in the Downhill event. Toby Kane and Marty Mayberry displayed great consistency – both had 3 top 10 finishes – and Mitchell Gourley gained invaluable experience from his first exposure at this level.

In Nordic skiing, Australia had two representatives, as sit-skier Dominic Monypenny joined James Millar on the circuit. Dominic finished 28th overall as James continued to move up the rankings, a further two spots to 14th overall.

The only downside to the season was the injury to Shannon Dallas, who returned early to Australia for a shoulder reconstruction and eight months off the snow.

**Year four – 2009/10**

Over the first three years of the Games cycle, the Australian program had successfully introduced new skiers to international competition, strengthened the team’s performance culture and steadily improved the consistency and range of results. The 2009/10 season would see the focus sharpen as the countdown to the Games began.

In 2009 the alpine team went to New Zealand twice for training and competition, including training with athletes from other nations, especially Germany. This international exposure during the southern winter was a big change and enabled the athletes and staff to gain valuable insights into their progress in an almost ideal training environment.

The injury to Shannon Dallas was a major setback to the program. Research has shown that, while standing skiers can gain significant benefits from off-snow training, for sit-skiers such as Shannon, there is no substitute for time on the snow. The injury, which prevented Dallas from skiing until December, means that he has had to work very hard in the Northern winter to regain his form in the top echelon of sit skiers.

In 2009/10 the full cohort of athletes for the Games has competed on the world cup circuit, with vision impaired female alpine skiers Jessica Gallagher and Melissa Perrine joining the group. Perrine is currently 4th in the vision impaired class in the Downhill rankings, but suffered a setback when she fractured her hip in a race fall in Italy in January. After returning to Australia for treatment, she will be back on the snow in North America four weeks out from the Games. At the time of writing, Gallagher is ranked third on current season points in the Slalom.

Cameron Rahles-Rahbula has had a great start to the season, currently sitting second in the Slalom rankings for standing skiers, 6th in Giant Slalom and Super-G, 4th in Downhill and 5th in Super Combined rankings.

Toby Kane is also going well – he is currently 5th overall in Slalom, 3rd in Super-G and Downhill and 4th in the Super Combined rankings in the standing class.

Young Mitchell Gourley is working his way up the rankings, currently 8th overall in the men’s standing class for Giant Slalom and 10th in the Downhill. His results are already showing the benefits of an extra year of experience.
Shannon Dallas has made an amazing return from his shoulder reconstruction, working his way to a current ranking of 10th in the men’s sitting class in the Giant Slalom, 5th in the Super-G and 9th in the Downhill.

Marty Mayberry has also had a great start to the season of the Games, currently lying in 8th in the Super Combined rankings for standing skiers and 10th in Super-G.

Australia currently has 6 skiers ranked in the top 12 for the season, helping Australia to a ranking of 8th as a nation in Alpine Skiing for the current season. Taken with Australia’s 6th place finish at the 2009 World Championships, the signs are good for consistent results in Vancouver.

In the Nordic skiing program, James Millar and Dominic Monypenny have competed in all three meets in the recently concluded season world cup series in Norway, France and Germany, with Monypenny ranked 20th in the sitting class and Millar moving up to 13th in the standing class overall.

**And so to Vancouver**

Whatever the results in Vancouver, head coach Steve Graham feels that huge progress has been made since Torino.

Graham believes that the level of administrative and high performance support the program receives from the APC and the Australian Institute of Sport assists the athletes and staff to produce performances which reflect the overall professionalism of the program. According to Graham, the AIS has been crucial to the development of the program and has been the perfect program partner, with its strong high performance culture.

“Actions speak louder than words. When you have good results, then you have a product to promote. It doesn’t go the other way around! Results also give program sustainability.”

According to Graham, the team is better positioned now than this time last year going into the world cup finals on the same mountain at Whistler – the athletes are skiing better and are better prepared.

In 2010, Australia will compete in four of the six Alpine Skiing classes and has genuine medal contenders in each of those.

The men’s standing class is still Australia’s strength and at present is dominated by Australia and France, each of which has 3 athletes in the top 10 rankings. However, the biggest challenge to the Australian athletes for gold medals will come from Germany’s Gerd Schoenfelder.

Graham says that the hill in Whistler is good for the Australians. It is fast and technical. The start is steep, which helps the Australian men’s standing skiers in particular.

Meanwhile, the Nordic program has made significant progress. While medals may be difficult to achieve in Vancouver, the Australian athletes are expected to continue their progress up the rankings.

Let the Games begin!
Australians have participated in every Paralympic Winter Games since they began in 1976, but did not compete in the very first Games. Ron Finneran, one of the founders of Disabled WinterSport Australia, attended the first Games, carrying the Australian flag and skiing as a forerunner for the alpine events. However, there were no competition events for athletes with Ron’s disability.

The record for the number of countries competing at a Paralympic Winter Games is expected to be smashed in Vancouver. At the Torino winter Paralympics in 2006 athletes from 39 countries competed.

Australia won its first medal in 1992 in Albertville when Michael Milton, a leg amputee, won Australia’s first winter medal, a gold, in either Olympic or Paralympic competition.

Before Vancouver, the Australian Paralympic Winter Team had won 24 medals compared to the six Olympic medals won by the Australian Olympic Winter Team.

At Salt Lake City in 2002, Michael Milton became the first leg amputee to claim a clean sweep of gold medals across the four alpine disciplines. His extraordinary performances were backed up by vision-impaired athlete Bart Bunting, who won two gold medals and one silver to give Australia six gold medals at one Games, its best gold medal haul at a winter Games.

At the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games in Torino, Milton brought his career to an end by winning a bronze medal, and taking his career tally to six Paralympic gold, three silver and two bronze, almost half of Australia’s total winter tally of 24.

Despite Milton’s retirement, the 2010 Australian Team boasts two current World Champions and another four athletes currently ranked in the top 12 in their class.

Australia finished sixth on the medal tally at the 2009 IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships in Korea in February 2009.

Jessica Gallagher won a gold medal in Slalom at the NZ Winter Games in her first International event. Born with a degenerative eye disease, Jessica was formerly a state netball player in Victoria and an outstanding track and field athlete.

In Vancouver, Australia will be represented in 4 of the total 6 Alpine Skiing classes available for males and females, the widest representation ever by Australia.

Of Australia’s 11 athletes, 9 have recorded top 10 finishes in Paralympic, world cup or world championship competition in their class, in the lead-up to the Games.

Vancouver Paralympian Mitchell Gourley is a product of the APC’s successful Toyota Talent Search program. The involvement of Jessica Gallagher and Dominic Monypenny in the winter Paralympic program was the result of discussions between the APC Toyota Talent Search coordinator, summer Paralympian Tim Matthews, and the winter program head coach, Steve Graham, based on their previous experience and potential to compete at the elite level.

Both Gallagher and Monypenny were selected for the Beijing Paralympic Games. Monypenny finished 4th in the single sculls rowing event but Gallagher was found ineligible to compete in athletics – her degenerative eye condition had not degenerated sufficiently at that time.
• Before the Vancouver Games, 887 athletes, guides and pilots have represented Australia at the Paralympic Games. 806 athletes have competed at the summer Games only, 23 athletes have competed at the winter Games only and 4 Australians have competed at both the summer and winter Paralympics. A further 54 guides and pilots for athletes with a vision impairment have also competed. The 2010 Paralympic Winter Team adds another 3 “winter only” athletes, two guides and Dominic Moneypenny gains status as the fifth summer/winter athlete.

• The APC’s Paralympic Education Program (PEP) has developed a winter specific activity for primary school students. Within the first week of the 2010 school year, 277 schools had signed up for the winter activity. By 15 February 2010, the total number of registered classes in the Telstra-powered PEP was 2,159, reaching a potential 377,827 students (as reported by the teachers).
From 1960 to 2010 just five athletes will have represented Australia at both a winter and summer Paralympic Games.

**Peter Richards**

Peter Richards was the first Australian to compete in both a summer and winter Paralympic Games. In 1972, he represented Australia in athletics and the now discontinued snooker, where he picked up a silver medal. He missed the 1976 summer Games and then competed in Cross Country Skiing at the 1980 winter Games.

**Kyrra Grunnsund**

Kyrra Grunnsund’s Paralympic career spanned more than a decade through the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1980, Kyrra represented Australia in Cross Country and Alpine Skiing. He continued Alpine Skiing at the 1984, 1988 and 1992 Games but did not medal. Not only has Kyrra represented Australia in both summer and winter Games but, in 1992, he did it in the same year, travelling to France for the winter Games and then to Spain to compete in athletics in the summer Games.

**Anthony Bonaccurso**


**Michael Milton**

Michael Milton is one of Australia’s most successful athletes, and in Beijing became the fourth athlete to represent Australia at both the summer and winter Paralympic Games.

When he was nine years old and learned that his left leg was to be amputated as the result of cancer, Michael’s greatest concern was that we would not be able to ski, an activity he had done with his family since the age of three. After watching footage of a one-legged skier, Michael was inspired to continue to hit the slopes and five years later debuted at the 1988 Winter Paralympics in Austria at the age of 14.

Since then, Michael competed in four Paralympic Winter Games, one Olympic Games and many international skiing competitions. He won a total of 11 Paralympic medals, including six gold medals. Michael’s finest Paralympics were in Salt Lake City, 2002, where he recaptured his gold medal in the Giant Slalom from the 1994 Games, and won each of the three other alpine events (Slalom, Super-G, Downhill).

Michael retired from ski racing after the 2006 winter Paralympics with a silver medal performance in the Downhill. That same year, Michael bettered his own previous speed world record for a skier with a disability, reaching 213.65 km/h, also a record for any Australian skier.

In 2008 Michael represented Australia in cycling at the Beijing Games, after having undergone treatment for esophageal cancer less than 12 months before the Games.
Dominic Monypenny

When rowing was introduced into the Paralympic Games in 2008, Dominic was a natural selection, having already won world championships gold in 2005 and 2006, silver in 2007 and been awarded the 2005 prestigious “rowers’ rower” award from his peers at the annual Australian rowing awards. In Beijing, Dominic finished 6th in a quality field and retired from competitive rowing to take up a new passion – Cross Country Skiing.

Dominic has approached skiing with the same determination and intensity that brought him success on the water and has devoted himself completely to learning the craft of Cross Country Skiing, as well as building on his already prodigious endurance.
Andrew Bor

**Born:** 17 April 1963  
**Resides:** Tugun, Queensland  
**Occupation:** Alpine Skiing coach  
**Club/Institute:** Nil  
**Career highlights:** Australian Assistant Coach at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games  
**Best international results:** 4th guiding Melissa Perrine, IPC World Cup Downhill, Austria, January 2010  
**Paralympic Games experience:** Torino 2006  
**Discipline:** Alpine Skiing  
**Classification:** Ski Guide  
**Disability:** Nil

Andy Bor was an assistant coach on the Australian team at the 2006 Paralympic Games in Torino, and thought he would again fill the same role for Australia at the 2010 Paralympics in Vancouver. That is, until he met Melissa Perrine.

A highly talented vision-impaired skier who has enjoyed a rapid rise in the sport, Melissa was in need of an equally skilled sighted guide to assist in achieving her goal of competing at the 2010 Paralympic Games, a role Andy readily accepted.

Although he still acts as a mentor to Australia’s Paralympic Winter Team, his major focus has shifted to strengthening his partnership with Melissa, a combination he hopes can win Australia a Paralympic winter medal.

As sighted guide for a vision-impaired athlete, it is Andy’s job to ski just a few metres in front of Melissa and issue voice instructions and directions while completing the course as fast as possible. It is certainly not a sport for the faint hearted.

At their first IPC World Cup event as a partnership in January 2010, Melissa finished fourth in the Downhill event, confirming their position as genuine medal contenders in Vancouver.
Eric Bickerton

**Born:** 24 April 1962  
**Resides:** Gold Coast, Queensland  
**Occupation:** Self Employed  
**Club/Institute:** Nil  
**Career highlights:** Representing Australia internationally in Sailing, Rugby League and Rugby Union and the Australian Military internationally in Alpine Skiing and Rugby Union as well as national level competitions in Yachting.  
**Best international results:** 7th place International Military Championships for Downhill Alpine Skiing.  
**Paralympic Games experience:** Nil  
**Discipline:** Alpine Skiing  
**Classification:** Ski Guide  
**Disability:** Nil  
**Favourite quote:** Where there is a will there is a way.

Eric Bickerton is a volunteer ski guide working with Jess Gallagher since November 2009 towards the goal of winning in the 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Games.

Eric first started skiing while in the Australian Navy in 1990 and enjoyed 6 years representing the Australian Military at the international level prior to his departure from the military to civilian life in 2000.

Before commencing his guiding role with Jess, Eric operated ski improvement and guided ski tours in areas around the world such as Canada, USA, Italy and Norway and plans to continue with world wide ski tours as his passion for skiing into the future.

Eric also assists the sport of Alpine Skiing in Australia through his position as National Technical Delegate Commissioner for Ski and Snowboard Australia and as a member of the Board for Disabled WinterSport Australia.
Bart Bunting

Born: 17 June 1976
Resides: Burwood, NSW
Occupation: IT specialist
Club/Institute: AIS

Career highlights: Salt Lake City 2002 and winning the 2000 World Cup
Best international results: Two gold and one silver at Salt Lake City 2002 Paralympic Games
Experience: Salt Lake City 2002
Discipline: Alpine Skiing
Classification: B1 (vision impaired class)
Disability: Vision impaired
How acquired: Congenital

Favourite quote: When times are tough, men have to love each other.

At the 2002 Salt Lake City Paralympic Winter Games, Bart Bunting won gold medals in the Downhill and Super-G and silver in the Giant Slalom. Bart then took a break and has now returned to skiing, keen for another medal in Vancouver.

Bart has been blind from birth and views his vision impairment as a natural part of his life rather than a disability. “For me, it’s just how it is, it’s not something that you worry about,” says Bart. All competitors in Bart’s B1 classification ski with blacked-out goggles and his guide Nathan Chivers tells Bart where to turn and advises him on snow conditions.

Bart and Nathan have been friends since high school and have developed a unique bond. It is actually due to Nathan’s sister that Bart began skiing. In 1998, she organised a tryout camp for people with disabilities and was low on numbers, forcing Bart to go along. Although he says he was bad at first, Bart persevered and gradually improved his skills.

On top of his skiing achievements, he has completed a degree in computer science and currently works in IT satellite networking. He loves eating cheese and aims to lead a happy and exciting life competing on the slopes.
### International results highlights and latest season

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Shannon Dallas

Born: 16 August 1977
Resides: Terrigal, NSW
Occupation: Public speaker
Club/Institute: AIS

Career highlights: Torino 2006 and the experience of being in a team, as captain of the 2006 Paralympic Team.


Paralympic Games experience: Torino 2006
Discipline: Alpine Skiing
Classification: LW11 (sitting class)
Disability: Paraplegia
How acquired: Workplace accident

Favourite quote: There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.

In 2000, Shannon Dallas was working as a carpenter when he fell through a roof and was paralysed. Less than two years later, Shannon took up alpine sit-skiing, and enjoyed a meteoric rise. He represented Australia for the first time in Canada in 2002 and will compete in his second winter Paralympics at the Vancouver Games in 2010.

Shannon describes his first winter Games in Torino as a disaster. In search of a gold medal in the Downhill, Shannon crashed heavily, ruling him out of the event in which he was expected to medal. Later that week, his grandmother passed away and he contracted a violent gastric virus which only added to his horrendous campaign.

While it was not the Paralympic debut he was hoping for, Shannon left the 2006 Games with important competition lessons learnt and is now aiming for a gold medal in the Downhill in Vancouver.

His preparation has been impressive, highlighted by his dazzling victory in the men’s Super-G at the 2009 IPC World Championships in Korea. Despite a dislocated shoulder hampering the end of his 08/09 Northern hemisphere season and keeping him from the snow during the Australian winter, Australia’s leading alpine sit-skier is confident that he will reach the start line in Vancouver ready to do his country proud.
When he’s not skiing, Shannon plays wheelchair basketball for the Wentworthville Wheelkings and also enjoys watching films. Shannon admires former skier Michael Milton, not only for his sporting achievements but also for being a husband, father and outstanding Australian sporting personality. After skiing, Shannon hopes to establish a Central Coast disabled sporting community centre.

**International results highlights and latest season**

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<td>2009/10 World Cup Series, Sestriere (ITA)</td>
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Jessica Gallagher

Born: 14 March 1986
Resides: Geelong, Victoria
Occupation: Osteopath
Club/Institute: AIS

Career highlights: Having the opportunity to be part of both a summer and a winter Games team.

Best international results: Yet to come.

Paralympic Games experience: Beijing 2008 (medical administrator)

Discipline: Alpine Skiing
Classification: B3 (vision impaired class)
Disability: Vision impaired
How acquired: Congenital

Favourite quote: Some people see things as they are and ask ‘why?’. I dream things that never were and ask ‘why not?’.

Jessica Gallagher previously competed in athletics and was due to compete at the Beijing Paralympic Games. When her degenerative vision impairment was determined not to be sufficiently impaired, she attended the Games as medical staff and set the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games as her new target.

Jessica describes herself as friendly, outgoing and focused firmly on success in Alpine Skiing. Although relatively new to winter sport, she won a gold medal at her first international event, the 2009 New Zealand Winter Games, and broke through for her first IPC World Cup medal in Austria in January, 2010.

She is now working towards the goal of winning in Vancouver.

She hates dishonesty, magpies and injuries and recently completed her masters in osteopathy. Successfully treating a wheelchair user suffering from chronic back pain was one of Jessica’s proudest moments as she was able to see the appreciation on the man’s face. Her happiness stands in contrast to her fear when she was stranded at the top of Vail Mountain in the USA one night, with no operating lifts and way of getting down.
Spending time with her friends and family and listening to music relaxes Jessica, who also competes in long jump, discus and shot put, sprints and plays able-bodied netball and basketball. She admires Japanese athlete Koji Murofushi for his timeless dedication and commitment to the hammer throw and seeks inspiration from 1984 Olympic Games long jump silver medallist Gary Honey for motivation to be the best athlete she can be.

International results highlights and latest season

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Mitchell Gourley
Born: 2 June 1991
Resides: Geelong, Victoria
Occupation: Student
Club/Institute: AIS
Career highlights: World Cup Super-G top 10 placing in first season on the circuit
Best international results: 1st Giant Slalom at Australian National Championships, 10th in Super-G at world cup, Austria, 3rd in Super-G at NorthAm Championships.
Paralympic Games experience: Nil
Discipline: Alpine Skiing
Classification: LW6/8 (standing class)
Disability: Below elbow amputee
How acquired: Congenital
Favourite quote: Time you enjoyed wasting is not wasted time.

Determined and confident, Mitchell Gourley is striving for a Paralympic medal in the Giant Slalom, Super-G and Downhill events. Although just 17, Mitchell began competing in winter sport at 11 years old and represented Australia for the first time at 15.

This up and comer has a long sporting career ahead of him and is eagerly anticipating his first winter Paralympics in Vancouver in 2010.

Mitchell believes his selection on the Australian team and qualifying for the world cup are some of his most treasured memories, and declares his Super-G top 10 finish during his debut skiing circuit season as his greatest sporting moment so far.

In addition to skiing, Mitchell plays basketball, Australian Rules football and cricket and wishes he could play these sports more often. Although Mitchell misses cricket in particular, he does not miss the panic that filled him when his older brother locked him in his cricket bag. Mitchell also does cycling and mountain-biking competitively and enjoys rock-climbing.

In his spare time, Mitchell likes to read and cites the character Atticus Finch, from To Kill a Mockingbird, as someone he admires. He also looks up to former skier turned cyclist Michael Milton for pushing the boundaries of sport and, with such inspiration, Mitchell is aiming to do his country proud in Vancouver.
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**Toby Kane**

**Born:** 30 December 1986  
**Resides:** Paddington, NSW  
**Occupation:** Student  
**Club/Institute:** AIS  

**Career highlights:** Joining two other Australians on the podium at the 2004 World Championships.  

**Best international results:** Bronze medal in Super-G at 2004 World Championships, again at 2006 Paralympic Games and also the 2009 World Cup, Canada.  

**Paralympic Games experience:** Torino 2006  
**Discipline:** Alpine Skiing  
**Classification:** LW2 (standing class)  
**Disability:** Below knee right leg amputee  
**How acquired:** Car accident

At age 19, Toby Kane was the youngest member of the Australian Paralympic Team when he won a bronze medal in the Super-G at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games in Torino.

While such a result came as a surprise to some of his more experienced rivals, there is no doubt that the Sydneysider has always been a star in the making.

After he was involved in a car accident at the age of two, which resulted in the amputation of his lower right leg, Toby was just 10 years old when identified by talent scouts while skiing with his family. By age 11, he had been invited to join the Australian Winter Development team, and at 17 was a regular member of the Australian Paralympic Squad.

Now with the 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Games firmly in his sights, the 23-year-old will be hoping to convert his strong recent form into a golden result on his sport’s biggest stage. He has already performed brilliantly on the Paralympic Super-G venue at Whistler in Canada, winning a bronze medal at the 2009 world cup. It was a performance he hopes is a sign of things to come.

Away from competition, Toby is studying medical science at university, and, when he finds some spare time, loves going to beach, and showing off his cooking skills in the kitchen.
## International results highlights and latest season

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Marty Mayberry

**Born:** 9 February 1986  
**Resides:** Camperdown, NSW  
**Occupation:** Student  
**Club/Institute:** AIS

### Career highlights:
Winning gold at the 2007 world cup and watching teammate Toby Kane win bronze in Torino 2006.

### Best international results:
2007 world cup gold in Slalom and 2008 world cup bronze.

### Paralympic Games experience:
Torino 2006

### Discipline:
Alpine Skiing

### Classification:
LW3 (standing class)

### Disability:
Double below knee amputee

### How acquired:
Meningococcal

### Favourite quote:
Be the change you want to see in the world.

Marty Mayberry loves travelling, his family and his mum’s cooking. He also loves skiing. Marty first represented Australia in 2005 at the European Cup finals and followed this up with the Torino winter Paralympics. He describes walking into the Opening Ceremony with the Australian team as his proudest moment and is looking forward to doing it again in Vancouver. In 2007 he won a gold medal in the Slalom at the world cup and in 2008 won a bronze medal in the same event.

After contracting meningococcal when he was 16, Marty fell into a coma for two weeks and had both his lower legs amputated. He lives by Ghandi’s quote “be the change you want to see in the world” and is currently completing a health science degree. He hopes to study medicine and become a doctor so he can make a positive contribution to society.

He believes his father has been the most influential person in his career and also admires Olympic diver Matthew Mitcham’s tenacity and Olympic cyclist Anna Meares for her courage in overcoming injury and returning to her sport.

Marty, who describes himself as driven and passionate, is now aiming for gold in all of his events in Vancouver.
### International results highlights and latest season

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James Millar

Born: 21 December 1985
Resides: Glen Iris, Victoria
Occupation: Student
Club/Institute: University Ski Club, Victoria
Career highlights: Finishing his first race at his first Paralympic Games.
Best international results: 8th place in sprint races in Finland 2007/08 season.
Paralympic Games experience: Torino 2006
Discipline: Nordic Skiing – Cross Country
Classification: LW8 (standing class)
Disability: Single arm amputee
How acquired: Congenital
Favourite quote: Never give up, never give up, never give up.

James Millar describes himself as determined, flippant and actual and believes this assortment of qualities will help him achieve his dream of a podium finish at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Winter Games.

As the only standing Cross Country skier on the Australian Paralympic Winter Team, James has also competed in the Biathlon event, which combines skiing and shooting. At the 2006 Torino winter Games, James finished 18th in the 7.5km Biathlon, 20th in the 12.5km Biathlon and 22nd, 25th and 24th in the Cross Country short, medium and long distances. But he believes just finishing his first ever race at these Games was his greatest sporting moment, as it was a huge achievement and weight off his shoulders.

James, who was born without a right forearm, was introduced to skiing by his father and fell in love with it from a young age. In 2002 he represented his school at the Interschools National Competition and was selected to meet the coach of the Junior Australian Ski Team. He is thankful for the support of his family and friends and sees them as the people he admires the most.

Ironically, James who follows winter around the world, loves summer and loves nothing more than sitting on his veranda soaking up the sun. He loves going to the beach, sleeping in and making music and also enjoys hiking and mountain running.
He has recently completed a degree in landscape architecture and believes breaking his back whilst back-country alpine skiing in 2007 was the scariest thing to have ever happened to him. James hates early mornings and burnt toast and sees running in the Sydney Olympic torch relay as one of his proudest moments.

**International results highlights and latest season**

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LD – Long Distance  
MD – Middle Distance  
SP – Sprint
Dominic Monypenny

Born: 9 October 1960
Resides: Launceston, Tasmania
Occupation: Industrial research chemist
Club/Institute: None
Best international results: 9th place Cross Country middle distance, January 2010 world cup, Bessans, France
Paralympic Games experience: Beijing 2008
Discipline: Nordic Skiing – Cross Country
Classification: LW12 (sitting class)
Disability: Paraplegic
How acquired: Fall
Favourite quote: The worst mistake you can make isn’t aiming too high and not achieving, it’s not aiming high enough and under achieving. (da Vinci)

After an outstanding rowing career that saw Dominic Monypenny represent Australia at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, the proud Tasmanian decided to set himself a whole new challenge.

That challenge was to become an elite Nordic sit-skier, and incredibly, his tireless training ethic and a complete dedication to his new sport has earned him a place in Australia’s Paralympic Winter Team for the 2010 Games in Vancouver.

It was soon after the Beijing Games that Dominic made the switch, and he competed at his first major Nordic Skiing event in January 2009, the US National Championships in Alaska.

While he admits his debut performance was modest, Dominic has since made immense progress and continues to strive towards his goal of winning a coveted Paralympic medal in Vancouver.

Always very physically active, Dominic fell 30 metres from a walking trail in the Launceston Cataract Gorge eleven years ago, resulting in paraplegia. After his accident he decided that using a wheelchair wasn’t going to stop his love of sports and became involved in rowing, gym climbing, hand cycling, wheelchair road racing, badminton, tennis, basketball and downhill skiing.
In January 2003, Dominic became the first person in a wheelchair to complete Australia’s hardest half marathon, up Mount Wellington on the outskirts of Hobart. Even more remarkably, he completed the challenge in a normal day chair instead of a specialised racing chair.

Away from the sport arena, Dominic holds a PhD in organic chemistry.

**International results highlights and latest season**

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LD – Long Distance
MD – Middle Distance
SP – Sprint
Melissa Perrine

Born: 21 February 1988
Resides: Welby, NSW
Occupation: Student
Club/Institute: None

Career Highlights: Being named in the 2010 Australian Paralympic Team
Best international results: Silver in Super-G at the 2009 IPC North America Cup.
Paralympic Games experience: Nil

Discipline: Alpine Skiing
Classification: B2 (vision impaired class)
Disability: Vision impaired
How acquired: Congenital

It takes immense ability, skill, dedication and courage to be an elite vision-impaired alpine skier – attributes that Melissa Perrine certainly does not lack.

From the Southern Highlands region of NSW, Melissa is the newest member of the Australian Paralympic Winter Team after earning national selection for the first time in 2009.

Melissa and fellow vision-impaired athlete Jessica Gallagher are the female representatives in the 2010 Australian Team, and join 2006 Paralympian Emily Jansen as the three women who have represented Australia at Paralympic Winter Games.

Melissa skis with the assistance of her sighted guide Andrew Bor, and is confident that their relatively new partnership is developing into one capable of Paralympic success.

In their very first international competition as skier and guide – the 2009 IPC North American Cup in Colorado – Melissa won a silver medal in the Super-G discipline in what was an outstanding performance.

With the Vancouver Paralympic Games opening ceremony now less than 100 days away, the pair will use the upcoming world cup circuit to fine-tune their preparations before putting themselves to the ultimate test against the best in the world on the slopes of Whistler.
### International results highlights and latest season

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Cameron Rahles-Rahbula
Born: 9 July 1983
Resides: Richmond, Victoria
Occupation: Physiotherapist
Club/Institute: AIS/VIS
Best international results: Two gold and one silver at 2004 World Championships, silver in 2007 world cup
Paralympic Games experience: Salt Lake City 2002, Torino 2006
Discipline: Alpine Skiing
Classification: LW2 (standing class)
Disability: Above knee amputee
How acquired: Cancer

Cameron Rahles-Rahbula’s interest in skiing began when he attended a Challenge weekend ski camp in Mt Buller.

Cameron’s first breakthrough performance came at the National Championships at Mt Hotham in 2001 when he came second to Paralympic gold medallist Michael Milton in the Slalom. Cameron was later named in the 2002 shadow Paralympic squad, and when he made international qualification at a European Cup in Austria, won a place in the 2002 Paralympic Team for the Salt Lake City Games.

Cameron’s greatest results came at the 2004 World Championships, where he won gold in the Downhill and Super-G events and silver in the Slalom. At the 2007 world cup, he won silver in the Super-G.

In 2009, Cameron showed why he is considered among Australia’s strongest medal hopes, when he became a World Champion again, with victory in the Slalom at the IPC World Championships in Korea. Less than a month later, he picked up gold medals in both the Super-G and Super Combined at the IPC world cup finals in Canada. He is now training hard for medals in all of his events in Vancouver.

Cameron is a physiotherapist and hopes to one day work at the AIS or the Geelong Football Club. He is a keen AFL supporter and sportsman and participates in cricket, tennis, table tennis, swimming, cycling and shooting.
## International results highlights and latest season

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<tr>
<td>2009/10 World Cup Series, Sestriere (ITA)</td>
<td>Super-G</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nicholas Watts

Born: 3 September 1986
Resides: West Pennant Hills, NSW
Occupation: Student
Club/Institute: AIS/NSWIS

Career Highlights: Crossing the finish line in the Downhill at Torino 2006.
Best international results: First in Super-G at the 2009 NorAm Championships in the USA.

Paralympic Games experience: Torino 2006
Discipline: Alpine Skiing
Classification: LW2 (standing class)
Disability: Below knee amputee

How acquired: Cancer

Favourite quote: I’m normally not a praying man, but if you’re up there, please save me Superman. (Homer Simpson)

In 2000, at just 14, Nick Watts was discovered at a ski camp held by Camp Quality (a not-for-profit organisation assisting children with cancer and their families), where his ski instructor introduced him to the organiser of the NSW Sports Council for the Disabled. Less than three years later, he was representing Australia in France.

When he was eight years old, Nick was diagnosed with bone cancer which resulted in him losing the lower part of his left leg. At his first Winter Paralympics in Torino, he competed in every event and is hoping to finish in the top 20 for two of his events in Vancouver. He describes crossing the finish line in the Downhill in Torino as one of his greatest achievements and sees merely competing for Australia as a great honour and privilege.

At the 2009 NorAm Championships in the United States, Nick showed that his Paralympic Games preparations were well on track, when he surged to an outstanding victory in the Super-G. He labels that one of the best of his career.

When he’s not skiing, Nick enjoys spear-fishing and eating salmon. He loves good food, good wine and good company and reserves artichokes as his only hate. He is currently studying biomedical engineering at the University of Sydney and uses Lance Armstrong as inspiration for success in his skiing career.
### International results highlights and latest season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004 World Championships, Wildschonau (AUT)</td>
<td>Downhill</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 World Championships, Wildschonau (AUT)</td>
<td>Giant Slalom</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 World Championships, Wildschonau (AUT)</td>
<td>Slalom</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 World Championships, Wildschonau (AUT)</td>
<td>Super-G</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Paralympic Games, Torino (ITA)</td>
<td>Downhill</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Paralympic Games, Torino (ITA)</td>
<td>Giant Slalom</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 Paralympic Games, Torino (ITA)</td>
<td>Slalom</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Paralympic Games, Torino (ITA)</td>
<td>Super-G</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08 World Cup Series, Abtenau (AUT)</td>
<td>Giant Slalom</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08 World Cup Series, Abtenau (AUT)</td>
<td>Super Combined (SG/SL)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08 World Cup Series, Abtenau (AUT)</td>
<td>Super Combined (SG/SL)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08 World Cup Series, Abtenau (AUT)</td>
<td>Super Combined (SG/SL)</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007/08 World Cup Series, Queyras (FRA)</td>
<td>Giant Slalom #1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08 World Cup Series, Queyras (FRA)</td>
<td>Giant Slalom #2</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Curtis Christian
Position: Ski Technician
Resides: Whistler, Canada
Occupation: Tour guide and ski technician
Previous Paralympic Games: Nil
Role: Monitor current and forecast snow and weather conditions and assist the athletes to optimise tuning and ski set-up.

Alan Dean
Position: Equipment Support
Resides: Crafers, SA
Occupation: Viticulturalist
Previous Paralympic Games: 2006 (Winter)
Role: Responsible for all equipment to be in working order and in place on and off the mountain.

Nick Dean
Position: Assistant Chef de Mission
Resides: Adelaide, SA
Occupation: Director/Wine Industry Consultant
Role: Assist the Chef de Mission and provide a practical leadership role within the Team.

Michael Gould
Position: Assistant Coach
Resides: Wodonga, NSW
Occupation: Ski coach
Previous Paralympic Games: Nil
Role: Assist Head Coach and Senior Coach in all aspects of training and competition.

Steve Graham
Position: Head Coach
Resides: Casuarina, NSW
Occupation: Head Coach
Previous Paralympic Games: 1994, 2006 (Winter)
Role: Responsible for athlete preparation and performance directly and through technical staff.

Michael Hartung
Position: Chef de Mission
Resides: Sydney, NSW
Occupation: General Manager, Sport Operations and Development, Australian Paralympic Committee
Previous Paralympic Games: 2008 (Summer)
Role: Management and control of the Australian Paralympic Team.

Matthew Lyons
Position: Senior Coach
Resides: St Kilda, Victoria
Occupation: Ski coach
Previous Paralympic Games: Nil
Role: Assist Head Coach in all aspects of training and competition.
Tim Mannion
Position: Media Manager
Resides: Sydney, NSW
Occupation: Communications Manager, Australian Paralympic Committee
Previous Paralympic Games: Nil
Role: Manage the APC’s media program before and during the Games.

Margie McDonald
Position: Media Liaison Officer
Resides: Sydney, NSW
Occupation: Journalist
Role: Promote the activities of the Team and the APC and service media needs during the Games.

Jason Patchell
Position: Psychologist
Resides: Paddington, Queensland
Occupation: Sports psychologist
Previous Paralympic Games: Nil
Role: Advise on appropriate psychological preparation and provide pre- and post-event advice and consultation as required.

Geoff Thompson
Position: Team Doctor
Resides: Darwin, Northern Territory
Occupation: Medical Practitioner
Previous Paralympic Games: 2008 (Summer)
Role: Oversee Team members’ health and medical progress to ensure optimal performance.

Caroline Walker
Position: Games Coordinator
Resides: Sydney, NSW
Occupation: Sport Operations Coordinator, Australian Paralympic Committee
Previous Paralympic Games: 2008 (Summer)
Role: Organising committee liaison, administration and logistics.

Brett Robinson
Position: Soft Tissue Therapist
Resides: Gold Coast, Queensland
Occupation: Soft Tissue Therapist and exercise science student
Previous Paralympic Games: 2008 (Summer) supernumerary
Role: Manage pre-event athlete physical preparation and post-event athlete physical recovery, including assessment and treatment of soft tissue injuries.

Daniel Weiland
Position: Nordic Coach
Resides: Colorado, USA
Occupation: Ski coach
Previous Paralympic Games: Nil
Role: Oversee the Nordic program and coach the athletes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date (Sydney)</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time (Sydney)</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Likely slots</th>
<th>Athletes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sunday 14/03/2010</td>
<td>Down Hill</td>
<td>06:30-09:00</td>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>2 or 3</td>
<td>TBC prior to event</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Impaired</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bunting/Chivers; Perrine/Bor</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Monday 15/03/2010</td>
<td>Super-G</td>
<td>05:30-07:30</td>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rahles-Rahbula; Kane; Mayberry; Gourley; Watts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>XC 15km</td>
<td>04:00-05:15</td>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monypenny</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday 16/03/2010</td>
<td>Super-G</td>
<td>05:30-07:30</td>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>XC 20km Free</td>
<td>04:00-06:00</td>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Millar</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wednesday 17/03/2010</td>
<td>Super Combined</td>
<td>03:30-05:30 (Qual) 07:00-09:00 (Medal)</td>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>TBC prior to event</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Impaired</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bunting/Chivers; Perrine/Bor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>REST DAY</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Friday 19/03/2010</td>
<td>Giant Slalom</td>
<td>04:00-06:00 (Qual) 07:00-09:00 (Medal)</td>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rahles-Rahbula; Kane; Mayberry; Gourley; Watts</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>XC Classic 10 km</td>
<td>04:00-05:00 06:00-07:00</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Millar</td>
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<td>Sitting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monypenny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Saturday 20/03/2010</td>
<td>Giant Slalom</td>
<td>04:00-06:00 (Qual) 07:00-09:00 (Medal)</td>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Impaired</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bunting/Chivers; Perrine/Bor; Gallagher/Bickerton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sunday 21/03/2010</td>
<td>Slalom</td>
<td>04:00-06:00 (Qual) 07:00-09:00 (Medal)</td>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rahles-Rahbula; Kane; Mayberry; Gourley; Watt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Monday 22/03/2010</td>
<td>Slalom</td>
<td>04:00-06:00 (Qual) 07:00-09:00 (Medal)</td>
<td>Sitting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>XC 1km Sprint</td>
<td>04:00-06:00 (Qual) 06:00-07:45 (Medal)</td>
<td>Standing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Millar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Sitting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monypenny</td>
</tr>
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