

OPENING OF PARAQUAD ‘Glenn Moore’ UNITS – 27-02-09
Scott Shaw, Chairperson’s Welcome

I would like to welcome today the Minister for Human Services - Lin Thorpe, the Hon.Duncan Kerr, Member for Denison, the Hon Michael Hodgman,Q.C Liberal Member For Denison, Cassie O’Connor, Tasmanian Greens Spokesperson for Health & Human Services, Glenorchy City Council Mayor Adriana Taylor, distinguished guests, Paraquad members, ladies & gentlemen, To the opening of the ‘Glenn Moore’ Units by Mr Peter Roche, Chief Executive Officer of the Motor Accidents Insurance Board.

We have had apologies for today – I will just mention a few:

Mr WILL HODGEMAN MP – LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
Mr NICK MCKIM – TASMANIAN GREENS
Ms ALLISON RITCHIE – MEMBER FOR PEMBROKE
Ms BEVERLEY FENNELL – DISABILITY BUREAU
Mr PAUL JACOBS – DEPT. PREMIER AND CABINET
Mr GREG GOODMAN – RACT

Before handing you over to Peter I would like to give you a brief summary on the formation and progress of the Association since 1990 which shows what **dedication to a ‘cause’, by a few people, can achieve.**

During November, 1989 the (then) Southern Spinal Sister, Ms Judith Jones and Glenn met with spinal doctor (Dr Cootes) along with lawyer (John Bennett) to look at re-forming the ParaQuad Association of Tasmania Inc. as she believed that if this re-formation took place it would be of great benefit to those people with spinal injuries. At the meeting on 25th February, 1990 it was a unanimous decision, by those in attendance, that the Association re-form.(Judith is here to celebrate with us today) After much discussion the Association's major objective was to raise \$100,000 in ten years for respite units – this was achieved. The Association became an incorporated body in November, 1990 with Glenn Moore as the President. In 1990 the Association’s audit showed **that ParaQuad Tas. had six financial members and \$261 in the bank!** From 1992 to 1993 ParaQuad office operated from Glenn Moore’ home and the Medical Equipment Supply Service operated from Val & Roger Brigg’s home. In 1993 they moved ‘the ParaQuad office’ and the Medical Equipment Supply Service from their homes to the (then) Rehabilitation Centre at Tower Road, NEW TOWN.

In 1998 the Rehab Centre at Tower Road was closing down and ParaQuad Tas. had to find new premises. This decision forced the Association, after much discussion with Glenorchy City Council, to purchase these premises, from the Education Department as the ParaQuad Tas. offices.

ParaQuas Tas. renovated the kindergarten premises and then built the new building as the Education & Training Centre and to house the (then) Medical Equipment Supply Service. The cost all up was \$180,000 - a mighty effort by Glenn Moore ParaQuad Tasmania members and volunteers who raised the monies. Within 2 years the business service Independence Solutions (formerly Medical Equipment Supply Service) outgrew the new premises and moved to larger more suitable premises in Albert Road Moonah – so ParaQuad Tas. seized the opportunity to modify the building and build the two spacious living respite units that we are proud to open today.

It was now time for Glenn Moore and his team to begin phase 2 of the Association's Strategic Plan. By raising the necessary funds to re-develop the premises, for short term respite accommodation, which had been vacated by Independence Solutions.

From 2003 until 2006 ParaQuad Tasmania sought funding from government, on three occasions, to assist with the modifications of the warehouse into 2 units - unfortunately we were unsuccessful on all 3 occasions. This proved to be extremely disappointing to all our members when the amount requested, from government, was only \$20k. Our only option then was to put the building 'on hold' for a short time. This also meant that we were unable to put a turntable for the ceiling hoist in unit 1 for use of the bath and we have no ceiling hoist in the unit 2 bathroom – total cost to install is \$20k. *(We are hoping that with the presence of the the politicians here today and the opportunity for them to see what ParaQuad Tas. has been able to achieve, it may spur them into finding the elusive 20k for ParaQuad Tasmania to complete the installation of the ceiling hoists.)*

All of us here today are only too aware that there are not many short term fully accessible respite accommodation places available across Tasmania. Fortunately, MAIB provided ParaQuad Tas. with a generous grant and for the past 4 years we have been raising funds so that the units could be built. ParaQuad Tas. members wish to publicly thank MAIB for their contribution to this very worthwhile project.

The units began in early March 2007 and although it has been a slower process than we anticipated it has allowed ParaQuad Tas. to make sure the units are 'state of the art' and built to AS1428. We realized that we could not build the units to everyone's needs so decided it was best to give people some ideas if they are modifying their own homes. The units will serve the people of Tasmania with a physical disability as well as people from other states / countries who require accessible accommodation for their respite or holiday. The units have been designed, by people in wheelchairs, for people who may be new to their wheelchairs. It is to give them ideas for their own homes and no doubt there will be minor improvements required, for the units, as more appropriate equipment and money becomes available.

ParaQuad Tas. Board Members congratulates Glenn Moore and his late wife Shirley for their vision back in 1990 and Glenn's continued dedication and commitment towards the unit development. Many other people would have said 'too hard let the government or someone else do it'! Glenn can now sit back knowing that his dream has become a reality – what a wonderful legacy he has given to people with physical disabilities who require short term respite accommodation!

As Erik Owen, Paraquad's auditor (who is unable to attend today) WROTE The Glenn Moore Units are a JUST RECOGNITION OF A TRUE STALWART OF THE ASSOCIATION

Glenn, you are a legend and we all admire your tenacity and commitment over the past 19 years.

I am proud to be able to represent all members of the Association and the volunteers who contributed in so many ways from selling raffle tickets having Button Days, 300 Clubs, Bingo, and Family Fun Days.

Many thanks also to the contractors, charitable organizations, business houses, and volunteers who gave us their valuable time, products and discounts to assist with the completion of the units.

The ParaQuad Tas. Board is pleased that you have all come today to celebrate our success today. The units are for people who need a 'home away from home' and we hope the units serve these people well.

I will now hand over to Peter Roche to officially open the ParaQuad Tas. 'Glenn Moore' Units.

‘Housekeeping information’ – Chris or Jen

Afternoon tea will be available after the Opening and if people would like to inspect the units then you are welcome to do so.

Afternoon Tea will be available in the main building.

After the opening people are welcome to view the units & offer any suggestions that would be beneficial.

Toilet is in the office building

After Peter speaks Glenn would like to say thanks and before everyone leaves Chris or Scott to thank people for coming & sharing today’s opening and again thanking Glenn.