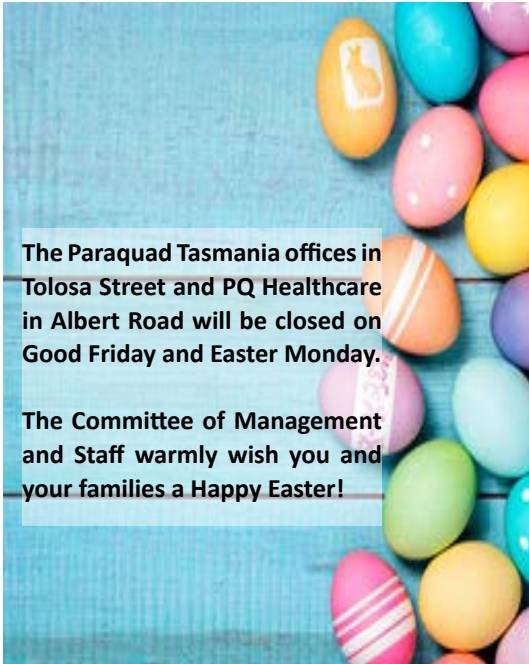




February/March 2018

PARAVIEW

ParaQuad Association of Tasmania Inc.



The Paraquad Tasmania offices in Tolosa Street and PQ Healthcare in Albert Road will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

The Committee of Management and Staff warmly wish you and your families a Happy Easter!

IN THIS ISSUE

The Association's members and volunteers have had a busy start to 2018. This issue is packed with the exploits of our activities state-wide.

Its that time of year again when the Entertainment Book hits the shelves, this is a valuable fundraising opportunity for the Association and fantastic way to save money on meals, entertainment and much more! Please consider purchasing a 2018 book and supporting the great work of ParaQuad.

As we approach Easter, the Committee of Management wish all members and friends of ParaQuad a happy and safe holiday.

We welcome your ideas for ParaView in 2018, submissions for the bumper April issue of ParaView close on Friday the 6th of April. Please email your stories to Georgia at admin@paraquadtas.org.au or phone (03) 6272 8816.

SCI RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH

Scientists involved in a breakthrough research study have found that half of all patients suffering from a major spinal cord injury still have surviving nerve connections.

Dr Sylvia Gustin from Neuroscience Research Australia used cutting edge magnetic resonance imaging known as fMRI scans to record how 23 people living with spinal injuries responded to touch. The surprising results identified that many people were unable to feel the stimulation, however they were registering the touch within their brains.

Dr Gustin said "We found using fMRI, activity in the brain was detected in 48 percent of people with clinically complete spinal cord injury".

"We found using functional MRI, activity in the brain was detected in 48 per cent of people with clinically complete spinal cord injury," Dr Gustin said, "This means despite previously believing the communication to the brain had been severed in the injury, the messages are still being recieved by the brain... so this is a very exciting discovery".

Dr Gustin said the discovery offers cautious new hope to patients whom have been told that they will never walk again. "This basic research breakthrough is very important to develop novel therapies which are targeting the sensory network connections which we found have actually survived," she said.

The next step for Dr Gustin and her team is to develop treatments which enhance the surviving sensory never connections. These could be brain computer interface techniques or brain stimulation at the level of the spinal cord.

Researchers would all like to see all new future cases of spinal cord injury to be offered similar MRI scans of the brain to determine which areas remain active.

The research is a collaboration between Neuroscience Research Australia, the Pain Management Research Institute, and the University of Sydney and was published in the journal Human Brain Mapping.

CADBURY MARATHON

On Sunday the 14th of January, members of 'Team Paraquad' entered the Cadbury Marathon. The weather was lovely and clear, each team member had a great time and all made good time in the race.

Finishing times for each team member are below. Congratulations to all on a fabulous achievement!

Joe Chivers: 56.19
Kevin Faulkner: 1.15.41
Richard Jones: 1.18.07
Meg Kliver-Jones: 1.18.10
Izzy King: 1.28.11



NDCO

The National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program seeks to address barriers to participation in tertiary education and subsequent employment by improving the coordination and collaboration among service providers and building their capability to support people with disability. The Program also seeks to increase the knowledge and awareness of people with disability about their post-school options and supports to enable them to participate in education and subsequent employment to the same extent as people without disabilities.

NDCOs undertake a range of activities, which may include:

- Establishing or supporting local networks to strengthen linkages between schools, tertiary education institutions, and employment services in order to improve coordination across the sectors and facilitate smooth transitions.
- Working collaboratively with education professionals, employers and the community to identify and address systemic barriers/gaps.
- Working with local stakeholders to implement changes to policy and institutional practices to enhance inclusive practices and increase accessibility for people with disability
- Raising awareness and educating local stakeholders, including people with disability, about their responsibilities and rights, education and employment options, and services and support available.

Who NDCOs work with:

National Disability Coordination Officers (NDCOs) work at the strategic level with a range of stakeholders. They aim to assist working age people with disability to be better supported to successfully transition to, and participate fully in, tertiary education and subsequent employment. NDCOs have developed effective relationships with stakeholders who operate across the school to work continuum in order to identify local barriers and to develop collaborative responses to local needs. The key stakeholders NDCOs work with include:

- schools, including Government, Catholic and Independent;
 - tertiary education institutions, including universities, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes, community colleges, Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), Group Training Organisations (GTOs) and alternative education Programme providers;
 - employment agencies, including Disability Employment Service (DES) providers, Jobactive providers, the National Disability Recruitment Coordinator (NDRC), employer groups and peak bodies;
 - disability services and community agencies that support people with disability;
- mainstream government Programmes which operate in the education, training and employment sectors, particularly those focused on transitions; and,
- stakeholders that provide relevant services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

For more information about the NDCO Program, or to locate your local officer, please contact us at:

Telephone: 133873

Email: ndco@education.gov.au

www.education.gov.au/ndcoprogram



TABLE TENNIS NEWS



One of our K Sports participants Lucas Peters recently had success in taking out the Division 3 pennant in the Northern Suburbs Table Tennis Roster. Lucas teamed up with his friend Luke Moore and the pair played extremely well on the night by winning the 3 matches required over their more experienced opponents.

Lucas began playing table tennis about 3 years ago after attending a PDST Boccia and Table Tennis come and try day. Despite a few interruptions through illness and trips to the Royal Childrens in Melbourne Lucas has been a regular and enthusiastic participant at both training and competition nights.

Congratulations to Luke and Lucas. The Northern Suburbs Table Tennis League welcome all players with a disability and have specialist coaches available to assist. There is free coaching for on Tuesdays at the club from 5.30pm to 7pm. Contact Kevin Faulkner for further details on (03) 6272 7513.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES - CLEAR PROOF OF EFFECTIVENESS.

Evidence confirms what AT practitioners and AT users have long known. Assistive products and services, or soft technologies which match and deliver them, are effective solutions to daily living problems. They enable people living with disability and people ageing into disability, to achieve their participation-based goals.

Advertisement

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently adopted a resolution intended to make AT more accessible worldwide, and called for six key actions to improve availability, standards, collaborations, R&D and more. WHO has also established the Global Access to AT (GATE) initiative to deliver AT to those who need it.

Swinburne University lecturer and occupational therapist Dr Natasha Layton (pictured) recently joined global researchers and educators at the Global Research, Innovation and Education in Assistive Technology (GREAT) Summit at WHO headquarters in Geneva, where discussion focused on service provision, research, education and training relating to AT policy, products, personnel, provision and use.

“Although participants work in different parts of AT development, supply, research and education chain, with very different AT products, there was a great sense of unity of purpose at the Summit”, Layton told F2L.

“All pieces of the AT puzzle are needed for AT to be appropriately delivered to those who need it. This guiding principle is evident across the 92 snapshots of scalable AT innovations which were shared at the summit,” she said.

The World Health Assembly (WHA) Draft Resolution on Improving Access to Assistive Technology, takes global co-operation on AT to a new level. Resolutions are proposed by member countries and become a powerful directive to governments and

WHO to enact the Resolution objectives. The Draft Resolution was accepted on January 22, 2018 and the Final Resolution will be forward to the next WHA.

The Resolution called for WHO action at two levels. Firstly, it sets an agenda for member states to strengthen their AT policies and programs and to ensure trained AT practitioners and technical staff are available. Also, to secure AT access, consider a national AT list and promote research and cooperation across national borders, pursue barrier free environments and collect data on the need and benefit of AT.

Secondly, to develop a world report on AT; technical and capacity-building support to assist nations develop AT policies and programs; technical and capacity-building support: establishing regional / sub-regional manufacturing, procurement and supply networks for AT; develop minimum standards for AT and regular review and reporting on progress until 2030 to ensure enactment.

The ‘mainstreaming’ of assistive features within information and communication-based technologies, the rapid evolution of materials such as carbon fibre, and production methods such as 3D printing, has provided opportunities to address the under-realised potential of AT. “The last decades of AT research gave a good practice blueprint – the ‘technology chain’ of inclusive and accessible environments, a skilled AT workforce, and consumer-focussed policies – as necessary ingredients for great outcomes,” Layton said.

Australia is one of 175 Member States who have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with Articles 4, 20, 26 and 32 setting forth the obligation to ensure access to AT for an affordable cost and to foster international cooperation in order to achieve this.

Layton said from an Australian perspective it was clear that AT innovation does not rely on established R&D centres. Many examples of affordable and scalable technologies came from countries without manufacturing infrastructures, making AT products ‘in the field’ with sustainable materials, she said, supported by technologies such as the internet, CAD design and 3D printers attached to portable batteries. “From an AT design and deployment view, Australia has much in common with countries such as Africa, where AT products and services must serve sparse populations in similar physical conditions.” According to Layton this is a call to arms to fully realise the potential of AT for all. Peak bodies such as ARATA are working with AT professional organisations globally to inform, support and contribute to these global endeavours, and to keep Australian stakeholders informed. ARATA stand ready to support the implementation of the Resolution should it be accepted by the WHA in late May this year.

Layton is one of the presenters for the education program at the ATSA Expo in Melbourne in May. Responding to the WHO resolution, ATSA executive officer, David Sinclair told F2L it was pleasing that the provision of AT is receiving the focus and interest it deserves. “ATSA welcomes the recent statement from the WHO recognising the importance and impact to lives that AT has. This supports the changes implemented by Australian Governments to meet the United Nations Convention on Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities, following the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, MyAgeCare and the National Injury Insurance Scheme.”

He said the WHO has demonstrated its holistic understanding of the supply of AT, by ‘emphasizing the need for a comprehensive, sustainable and multisector approach to improving access to assistive technology that fulfills the safety and quality standards’, which is endorsed by ATSA. Sinclair believed that although some may think a statement from a world based organisation will have little or no effect here it would be a missed opportunity, “as Australia is a signatory to and contributor to the WHO.” According to Sinclair the WHO statement gives an insight of what over time will most likely become the policy and approach of Australian Government. He encouraged AT providers to take the time to read the statement and consider how they may need to shape their business for the future.

To add your voice and stand with global colleagues connect with GATE on: <https://mednet-communities.net/gate/> and ARATA on: <https://www.arata.org.au/>

Article: Martin, K. (2018). Assistive technologies - clear proof of effectiveness. *Freedom to live*. Retrieved from <https://www.freedom2live.com.au/assistive-technologies-clear-proof-of-effectiveness/>

The NDIS website has more information on Assistive Technology and types of support- <https://www.ndis.gov.au/qanda/at-and-types-of-support.html>

BREAKING THE BOUNDARY

Break The Boundary advocates for accessibility and inclusion of people with physical and neurological disabilities in Mountain Biking (recreational and sports), and acts as a central hub for people seeking information about Adaptive Mountain Biking around Australia.

Adaptive MTB (Mountain Biking) encompasses a broad range of events and riders who typically cannot ride a standard mountain bike and require adapted equipment and trails to suit their physical, intellectual, neurological and sensory abilities.

There are varying adaptive mountain bikes available around the world, each designed to meet a riders specific need. Readily established adaptive equipment includes: handcycles, recumbent leg-cycles, and tandem bikes.



**AUSTRALIAN
ADAPTIVE
MOUNTAIN BIKING**
EXPRESSIONS
OF INTEREST

Have you thought
about exploring
the great outdoors?

Interested in
cycling off-road?

Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club
and Break the Boundary want to
determine the local appetite in
Tasmania by adaptive riders to help
make future trail projects accessible to all!

Interested?
Contact: andrew@breaktheboundary.com



2018 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

We are raising funds for our fundraising and you can help. Order the NEW 2018 | 2019 Entertainment Book or Entertainment Digital Membership and you will receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and you will also be supporting our fundraising. PLUS, order now to receive over \$150 of bonus Early Bird Offers (hurry, these sell out quickly). Click the link below to support us now: <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/24047k0>



RUGBY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Disability Sports Australia is incredibly proud to be hosting the GIO 2018 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby World Championship. The event will be held from the 5th-10th of August 2018 in Sydney.

You can keep up to date with announcements, teams and ticketing sales via the website www.2018wrwc.com.





ParaQuad Association of Tasmania Inc.

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