



NEWSLETTER 1/2007

Welcome to the first Abilympics newsletter for 2007.

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FROM THE CHAIR

Abilympics SA is alive and well ... gearing up for an exciting round of vocational skills competitions for people with a disability in October, Abilympics month.

On behalf of the Board of Abilympics SA, welcome to our 1st Newsletter for 2007. You might well wonder where we have been hiding over the past couple of years, but let us assure you that there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes.

We can now inform you that we are the beneficiary of a substantial grant from DFEEST as well as some administrative support. We thank the Department for this support, which is enabling us to establish a firm foundation and the momentum to move forward.

We have engaged Strategic Leverage to be the Project Manager under the guidance of Jack Wade. We are delighted to have him on board as he works with us to manage the implementation of our Strategic Plan. It is amazing once you take the first step and grasp the opportunities given to you how things quickly gather momentum and the jigsaw starts to come together.

This year we are delighted to welcome a number of new members to the Board with varying skills, expertise and experience which will be of inestimable value to us. In further editions we may profile them individually to highlight the evolving strength of our leadership team. For your information, Board members are listed below.

We have already held our first **Information Forum** at Balyana in February. A cross-section of people in the disability industry and elsewhere attended this successful event and were enthused and offered to be involved in various ways. It also enabled us to establish the development of our membership base.

Abilympics Month (October) will see the return to SA of vocational skill competitions for people with a disability. Details of the exciting range of events planned for Abilympics month is below. We are also please to announce that the SA Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, Ms Linda Matthews will formally launch the 2007 competitions on July 18. Further details about this important event are also below.



Throughout the year we will hold further **Seminars and Workshops** aimed at harnessing involvement and participation in Abilympics, understanding the needs and aspirations of our competitors; and encouraging employers to recognise the vocational skills of people with disabilities. We look forward to seeing you at these vitally important events during the year. In the meantime, watch for the **Abilympics** at the 2007 Disability Expo, and other public events around the state.

Although Abilympics SA has been working for a number of years in an embryonic form, it has been struggling to establish itself and perform the role it should. I believe that we are at that point now. We are moving forward quickly. It is exciting to be involved in a new organisation which has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of people with a disability. I invite you to become part of this.

Barbara Worley AM
Chairman

LAUNCH of the 2007 COMPETITIONS

The South Australian Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, Ms Linda Matthews will formally launch the 2007 Abilympics SA vocational Skill Competitions on Wednesday July 18 at 4:30pm at the Balyana Conference Centre, Panorama.

Look out for your invitation in the post or in your inbox.

If you would like to attend this important event and do not receive an invitation before July 6, please let us know via email – info@abilympicssa.org.au.



OCTOBER 2007 – ABILYMPICS MONTH

October 2007, just 4 short months away, will see the return to SA of vocational skill competitions for people with a disability during **Abilympics Month**.

A highlight of the month will be **Abilympics Landscape & Gardening** competition to be held in conjunction with the **Festival of Garden Living** to be held in Veale Gardens, Adelaide (October 19-21).

Information Technology will be a major focus of the 2007 competitions, with events planned in **Graphic Design** (Sir Mark Oliphant Science Park), **Web Design** and **Word Processing/Desktop Publishing** (Regency Park).

Hospitality competitions are also planned with events in both **Food Preparation** and **Table Service** scheduled for the first week of October.

The schedule of events planned for **Abilympics Month** includes:

Competition	Venue	Tentative Date
Food preparation & Table Service	Australian Hospitality Assoc Catering & Hospitality Expo	4 October
Word Processing & Desk Top Publishing	Regency Park	9 October
Web Design	Regency Park	9 October
Graphic Design	SA Group Enterprises Science Park	11 October
Garden Maintenance	Festival of Garden Living Veale Gdns	16-21 October
Timber Work	Orana Incorporated Minda Incorporated	23 October
Metal Fabrication	Orana Incorporated Minda Incorporated	24 October
Car Detailing	To be advised	30 October
Retail	To Be advised	To be advised

If you, your clients or your colleagues would like further information about the skill competitions, please email us at info@abilympicssa.org.au. Registration packs will be available in the first week of July.

OVERVIEW OF ABILYMPICS WORLDWIDE

Through the vision of Sir Harry Fang, Abilympics International was established in 1981 under the auspices of Rehabilitation International. Its aim is to showcase the vocational skills of people with a disability and its purpose is to hold international vocational skill competitions every four years. It is a worldwide organisation with a membership of 87 countries. Abilympics SA is affiliated through Abilympics Australia.

ABILYMPICS PEOPLE

Abilympics SA has been extremely fortunate this year in having 4 highly experienced people from both the commercial and disability sectors join its Board, with two new members joining in July.

Current membership of the Board includes:

Barbara Worley	Chairman
Leonie Challans	Secretary
Stan Kosmala	Treasurer
Max Magain	
Colin Harvey	
Wayne Crabb	
Brian Barker	
Trevor Rae	
Michael Harvey	
Ray Scott	
Debbie Reed	

The Competition Committee is the driving force behind the Vocational Skill Competitions to be held in October and includes:

Colin Harvey	Interwork Ltd
Leonie Challans	Regional Disability Liaison Officer
Max Magain	
Marie Hollard	SA Group Enterprises Inc
Jesse Doherty	Orana Inc
Kate Parker	Orana Inc
Ross Goldfinch	Minda Inc
Michael Harvey	Personnel Employment

The Marketing Committee is charged with the marketing and promotion of the 2007 Vocational Skills Competitions and Abilympics SA. Given that the organisation needs to be self sustaining by the middle of next year, it has a very significant task. Members include:

Trevor Rae	Chairman
Brian Barker	
Barbara Worley	
Debbie Reed	

CONTACTING ABILYMPICS

For further information about Abilympics, you can contact us via:

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Cheers

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