

ParaQuad Announces 2009 Scholarship Winners Adversity is no barrier to achievement

Research indicates that less than 35 per cent of people with a spinal cord injury are able to gain employment. Studies show that the chance of gaining employment with a spinal cord injury can be up to four times higher if that person has pursued further education, so the role of education is crucial!

At ParaQuad we are committed to encourage people with a spinal cord injury to pursue education as well as their personal goals to help set them on the path to a successful career and an independent life. With the help of generous donors such as The Golden Stave Foundation, the scholarships are initiated and administered by ParaQuad NSW to encourage NSW residents with a spinal cord injury to equip themselves with education and activities that will help them to secure their future employment.

ParaQuad NSW's chairman, Wendy Potter, announced the names of the **18** winners of the 2009 ParaQuad Scholarships, congratulating the 6 recipients of the ParaQuad – Golden Stave Foundation Scholarship and the 12 recipients of the ParaQuad Scholarships. 2009 Scholarship recipients are Daphne Wong from Kogarah; Toby Dawson from Pokolbin (winner of both scholarships); Yvonne Xu from Merrylands; Lucy Hutton from Armidale; Dylan Streller from Lavington; Benjamin Chalker, Melissa Toyne and Benjamin Harper from Wagga Wagga; Wolfgang Joester from Wyongah; Benaiah Newton from Coffs Harbour; Jarrad Langmead from Yarrawarrah; Christine Farrell from Sawtell; Tina McKenzie from St. Peters; Luke Bailey from Flynn- ACT; Donna Potts from Comboyne; John Green from Wingham; and Chad Graham from Winmalee.

Benaiah Newton, scholarship recipient since 2007, says, "The funds that ParaQuad have allocated to me over the past two consecutive years have provided me with tremendous support in my study at the Southern Cross University. I have been able to pay for my course fees, afford items such as textbooks and core readings that are critical to my learning and preparation for my entry into the final year of Bachelor of Psychology Honours program in 2009"

"We've received a lot of applications in response to the 2009 scholarships which were keenly contested", said Wendy Potter, "It is absolutely delightful to see such dedication and motivation exhibited by the applicants with a spinal cord injury who are looking forward to continue and complete their education, thereby creating a path to independent living for themselves".

ParaQuad NSW (the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of NSW) was founded over 47 years ago to empower people with spinal cord injury to be as independent as possible, and provides accommodation; personal care; nursing, occupational therapy and social work consultancy; education and training; information; and advocacy for people who have had a catastrophic spinal cord injury.

Media enquiries

For further information, or to interview **our Scholarship winners** for their inspirational stories, please contact Deborah Schofield, Public Relations Manager, on (02) 8741 5627 or 0448 018 439 or 0419 443 494, or by email at deborah.schofield@paraquad.org.au.

ParaQuad NSW
6 Holker St
Newington NSW 2127

www.paraquad.org.au