**2014 DISABILITY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS REPORT.**

Firstly I would personally like to thank the board and all involved in my nomination and inclusion into the hall of fame at last year’s AGM. The award was presented by Mr. Andrew Shinnie at the presentations at the state championships in September. I feel very honoured and humble to have been included in this, so thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Our state teams travelled to Canberra for the first amalgamated Disability nationals since 2005. Considering the treatment and the hurdles our bowlers had to contend with they acquitted themselves extremely well. Our open team came first and our restricted team came 3rd. Courtney Bucknell took out the sportsperson award for the open challenge. The Cole Cup team came first also, with Natalie McCarthy taking out the high game with handicap. In the participation section of the tournament Shane Hurst took out the high game male and Courtney Bucknell took out the high series female. Queensland bowlers also brought home a swag of medals from the tournament. The Open masters winner was Shane Hurst with Jason Bottomley runner up and the restricted masters Karnie Taylor was runner up with Katie McGannon 3rd. Overall a very successful tournament for our bowlers.

Over the last couple of years this committee has been endeavouring to bring all the groups in Queensland back under the one umbrella as required by TBA. We had hoped that we would have come back from Canberra further down the path, unfortunately that was not to be. The treatment that our bowlers, parents and officials received was horrendous, and sadly it is still not much better. We had been trying to get some common ground as to the selection of the state teams. Last year saw 3 challenges but from this year there is only the Open team and Cole Cup challenges, so we had to come together to ensure that all the bowlers from both groups had the chance to try out for a team. Sadly this was not happening, not for a lack of trying on our part. In the end we had to ask TBA to appoint a facilitator to oversee a meeting in November, this was well supported by the TBA affiliated groups but not so by the ADT groups. We eventually got a Joint Management committee together and we have just had our roll off in February with the 2 teams having their first training session on the 16th March. The numbers were down from our side as a lot of bowlers did not want to travel back to Tasmania as we had only been there in 2012. There were only 2 bowlers from the ADT groups, 1 in each section. Our teams are on the website and also on face book and total bowling. We wish this year’s teams the best of luck. I am going as the coach of the Cole Cup with Kym Mogg coaching the Open team, Bernie Madden is the manager of the Open and for the first time we have one of our disability bowlers who has completed his managers course, Mr. Ben Madden as the manager of the restricted team. Accredited officials for the teams was one area we had to really fight for.

There has been an inordinamate amount of compromise from TBA and now from our committee to get an amalgamated format across the board, sadly I do not think we have seen the last of the hurdles, as we seem to be taking 1 step forward and 3 back. We have had to fight tooth and nail for everything that we have got included, but we have also had to compromise on a lot of things. There a lot of unhappy bowlers and groups not just in our state but in all states.

Our State championships were held in Sunset Toowoomba in September last year, whilst numbers were down slightly, due to Special O holding their state championships at the same time, the number of games bowled was similar to past events. Shane Hurst was the Open master’s winner, with Lionel Kenyon runner up and Shane Agnew was the restricted master’s winner with Michael Boyd the runner up. Medals were spread across all the groups who attended. This year our state championships will be hosted by Bundaberg Bowl and leisure from the 10th to 14 September. We have never held the championships there and everyone is excited about going to a new centre, it should be a huge event.

In the middle of the state championships we received notification that a number of our bowlers had been successful in making the first Australian All Abilities teams to bowl in the Restricted challenge and Rachuig challenge at the adult Nationals in Townsville. In the restricted event we had Sarah Hartley, Liza Currie, Greg Mehonoshen and Michael Boyd. In the Rachuig Challenge we had Shane Hurst, Matthew Hurst, Heath Baker and Ben madden. Courtney Bucknell was asked to bowl with the defence force team. The restricted men’s team came 2nd in the teams’ component of the challenge. Matthew Hurst received the sportsperson award as voted by the bowlers in the Rachuig challenge. Congratulations to all our bowlers who competed you are an inspiration to us all.

I would like to thank all of our coordinators, carers, parents and bowlers for your assistance, courage and ongoing support for what has been a tumultuous couple of years, we will endeavour to be advocates for our bowlers, regardless of what the future holds. This year has to be better, one can only hope.

Thank you also to the board for all the support you give this committee, I know at time we have not always seen eye to eye, but please be reassured we will always endeavour to do what is right firstly for our bowlers but also for TBA and TBAQ.

Sadly no one from our committee can travel to Townsville for the AGM, so for the outgoing committee a huge thanks from us and for the new committee welcome aboard, I am sure someone will fill you in on us if you don’t already know us.

Beth Boyd.

Chairperson.

TBAQ Disability Committee.