

MEDIA RELEASE

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Stations to host Wheelie Amazing Race

Central and Newcastle Stations will be hosting the 'Wheels for a Day – Wheelie Amazing Race' to help ParaQuad NSW highlight some of the obstacles facing people in wheelchairs during Spinal Injuries Awareness Week.

The race at Central will begin at 7.30am on Monday 7 November at the Central Station country concourse.

A similar event – also supported by RailCorp - will be held at Newcastle Station from 10.30am to 12pm on 11 November where participants will take part in a challenge that involves travelling between Newcastle and Civic stations. Participants will meet at Wheeler Place at Civic Station at 10.30am.

Teams will consist of four participants – including at least one who will use a wheelchair - to navigate a race route and complete in challenges.

Spinal Injuries Awareness Week runs from 6-12 November 2011.

RailCorp Acting Chief Operating Officer Tony Eid said one of the key aspects of the ParaQuad NSW event is to give able-bodied people the opportunity to experience wheelchair use.

"Many able-bodied people would struggle to understand what it is like for those in a wheelchair and while this event provides only a fraction of the experience – it is about the community acknowledging that access is an issue that needs to be addressed.

"We are proud to be able to provide the Central Station concourse and Newcastle Station for those participating in this event and to support the great work of ParaQuad NSW.

"We do our best to ensure that travelling on public transport is as easy as possible for those with a disability through programs such as Easy Access and other wheelchair accessible facilities available across the transport network."

"This event sends an important message about accessibility issues, but it's also about having a bit of fun.

"There will also be teams from the state's transport agencies participating in the Central event."

More information about the events - including how to enter - is available by visiting www.paraquad.org.au and clicking on latest news.

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