

Perry Cross

Perry Cross is a ventilator dependant person with quadriplegia and author of the book 'Still Standing'. Perry visited Sydney this May to promote the Sargood Centre and the benefits it will provide to people living with a spinal cord injury. Perry was interviewed by Alan Jones, a patron of the Sargood Centre, on 2GB and also appeared on Tim Bailey's Weather segment on Channel 10, The Today Show on Channel 9 and SKY NEWS. Perry is a truly inspirational person and helped a great deal in raising awareness and funds for the Sargood Centre.

Thank you, Perry!

Sargood Centre

After years of community effort, the Sargood Transitional Accommodation and Respite Centre is about to become a reality! (Read about our fundraising events at www.sargoodcentre.org.au)

Construction of Stage One, consisting of 14 units, should begin later this year with completion anticipated during 2008. The benefits of the centre for people with Spinal cord injuries and the community are enormous.

After almost 100 years as a place of healing, the site at Collaroy is on the verge of an exciting new chapter.



Collaroy site circa 1950



Perry Cross and Tim Bailey

SPINAL CORD INJURIES AUSTRALIA
impact

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends

In our new mission statement, SCI Australia has focused on three key areas where we aim 'To be Australia's leading charitable enterprise in the PREVENTION of spinal cord injuries, CARE for those who have a spinal cord injury and the support of research to find a CURE for spinal cord injury'.

"PREVENTION" is being approached from a grass roots level with the launch of two new injury prevention programs, Teamsafe and Wheelies Challenge. Teamsafe is a workplace injury prevention program designed to tackle worker complacency towards Occupational Health and Safety head on. The Wheelies Challenge is a school and community education program which helps young people to build resiliency, manage adversity and develop personal responsibility for safety.

"CARE" doesn't describe a passive, condescending or medical approach, but rather is a term that encompasses our traditional approach of caring for people by equipping them to achieve individual independence throughout our services. For many years, SCI Australia has been offering its consumers the CARE aspect

in the form of Accommodation, Advocacy, Information, Employment Services, Peer Support, Regional and other key services. Many of these services will be embedded within the Sargood Transitional Accommodation and Respite Centre at Collaroy Beach.

In the area of "CURE", SCI Australia endeavours to ensure that our members, and those who are interested, are kept abreast of the latest research from across the globe. We also aim to ensure that our rehabilitative practices at the Sargood Centre will allow people to be in the best possible situation to take advantage of any gains made in research that will maximise the prospects of recovery from spinal cord injury.

There are many challenges ahead for us. We look forward to sharing our progress with you and I thank you for your continued support.

Greg Bergan
Chief Executive Officer



Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

TeamSafe

You give your wife and kids a distracted kiss goodbye one morning as you hurry out the door to work. Now imagine you don't come home for three months. This is the kind of reality check Alex Traill is giving to hundreds of Australian workers through the Teamsafe initiative.

"I was just 23 years old with three children under the age of five. In just a few seconds my accident took away my ability to work and my chosen career path", Alex explains.

Teamsafe brings ambassadors into the work environment to challenge complacency. As part of the Teamsafe program, SCI Ambassadors give employees an opportunity to experience sitting and moving about in a wheelchair; they begin to think about the consequences of such an injury and how it would change their life. Recently Teamsafe Ambassador Alex Traill shared his experience with Qantas employees motivating them to take personal ownership of their safety and that of their workmates.

Wheelies Challenge

The Wheelies Challenge is a school and community education program which helps young people to build resiliency, manage adversity and develop personal responsibility for safety.



As part of their regular lessons, students hear real stories from people who have had a serious accident; take part in an activity which raises awareness of life with a disability; consider "what if this happened to me?" and take up the Challenge through a community action or fundraising project.

The program is currently available to High Schools in the Sydney Metropolitan area as well as Nationally through Challenges posed on SCI Australia's website.

Creative Giving

At a time when most people are thinking about their own future, a Sydney couple decided to use their decision to marry as a chance to raise awareness and funds for our Peer Support program. Giving to SCI Australia is important to Nirvan and Nelun Wijesekera as Nirvan's brother lived with quadriplegia following a rugby injury in high school.

"After the accident, [my brother] . . . completed a university degree, painted using a mouth-stick, was a keen sports fan and a constant source of good conversation and humour. Although he passed away last year, he will remain a huge inspiration to his family and many friends.

We wanted to donate to the peer support program in his memory, and we hope that the funds will help other people living with a spinal cord injury to make the most of their abilities."

Nirvan Wijesekera



We are happy to help in preparations for wedding or birthday celebrations. We can customise donation forms for you to mail or hand out which allow your guests to donate the amount they desire in the manner easiest for them. We can accept cash, cheque or credit cards using either our forms or online at our website: www.scia.org.au.

Yes, I'd like to help Spinal Cord Injuries Australia make an impact in our community.

Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and can be made using this coupon or calling (02) 9661 8855 or 1800 819 775. Thank you!

I would like to make a donation to Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

- OPTION 1:** I will give an amount of:
 \$100 \$60 \$40 \$30 \$_____
- BY Cheque / Money Order payable to Spinal Cord Injuries Australia
OR Credit card (details below)
- OPTION 2:** I'd like to be an **sci impact partner** and **give monthly** by credit card an amount of:
 \$40 \$35 \$30 \$25 \$_____

My credit card details are:

Card number

- _____
 Visa M/card D/Club
 Amex B/card

Name on card: _____

Exp: / Signature: _____

Details for my receipt:

Name: _____

Address: _____

P/Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail coupon to: SCI Australia Appeals
South Sydney Corporate Park, Reply Paid 6440
ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia ABN 93 001 263 734 CFN 12817 respects the privacy of its supporters and is committed to handling your personal information professionally and responsibly. The information you provide will be used only for receipting and to keep you informed about our work in the community.
 Please remove me from your mailing list

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

PO Box 6440
South Sydney Business Hub
Alexandria NSW 2015

Tax deductible donations can be made by

phone **02 9661 8855** or **1800 819 775** or by
fax **02 9661 9598** or
online at **www.scia.org.au**