



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **WINTER PARALYMPIAN GIVES COMPETITORS A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY AT THE 2005 UNIVERSITY SNOW CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Australian Winter Paralympian, Cameron Rahles-Rahbula is giving his abled bodied competitors a run for their money at the The 2005 Australian University Championship – Snow Sports that kicked off yesterday on the slopes of Thredbo.

Competing in the Alpine Giant Slalom and the Alpine Slalom (an event he won last year) today, Rahles-Rahbula held the lead after the first run but fell in the second to finish third overall.

On hand to cheer their team mate on were members of the 2006 Australian Paralympic team who are currently in training at the Sport and Recreation Camp in Jindabyne.

Forerunning the course prior to the first day of competition for the Snow Sports event, Assistant coach Andrew Bor thought it was an excellent opportunity for his athletes to get on mountain in a competitive environment.

“Getting an opportunity to run races is always good to help with their training, especially with a competition on where conditions are conducive to good runs,” said Bor.

Excited to be amongst high profile skiers, Bor complimented the competitors in this years University competition as he witnessed Rahles-Rahbula’s feats on mountain.

“It is good to have the high profile athletes competing in the event as it gives other competitors more experience,” added Bor.

Toby Kane, Shannon Dallas (on the Sit Ski), and Marty Mayberry all foreran the Alpine Giant Slalom yesterday morning, which proved an exciting run with 88km/h winds at their back.

After competing in the World University Winter Games in Austria earlier this year, Sarah Sauvey and Patrick Auderer are carving up the course at Thredbo taking out the Alpine Giant Slalom for the women’s and men’s categories respectively.

Number one ranked Australian Female Open Cross Country Skier, Katie Calder from The University of New England will compete in the cross country event this evening after ferocious wins postponed the start earlier today.

The overall university champion is anyone's game at the moment with fierce competition from all.

**Top three results for competition held so far:**

Alpine Giant Slalom – Female Individual

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Sarah Sauvey, Swinburne University of Technology 34:36 Sec

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Candice Trevenna, Macquarie University 36:38Sec

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Emma Wilson, University of Sydney 36:63

Alpine Giant Slalom – Male Individual

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Patrick Auderer, Deakin University 35:81Sec

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Benjamin Skinner, Macquarie University 35:87Sec

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Richard Gannon, The University of Melbourne 36:73Sec

Snowboard Giant Slalom – Female Individual

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Whitney Campbell, The University of Melbourne 51:20sec

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Camilla Odlund, The University of Melbourne 56:29sec

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Fiona Sauer, The University of Canberra 59:37sec

Snowboard Giant Slalom – Male Individual

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Rick Wilkes, RMIT 48:18sec

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Nick Warren, Swinburne University of Technology 49:38sec

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ben Ahearne, The University of Canberra 49:98sec

Alpine Slalom – Female Individual

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Sarah Sauvey, Swinburne University of Technology 55:06sec

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Heidi Ainge, The University of Sydney 59:66sec

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Joanna Creeds, University of New South Wales 1:01.67

Alpine Slalom – Male Individual

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Richard Gannon, The University of Melbourne 55:86sec

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Benjamin Skinner, Macquarie University 56:52sec

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Cameron Rahles-Rahbula, Melbourne University 57:79sec

-Ends-

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