

aussie SKATES

FIGURE SKATING DOWNUNDER

FEATURING

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Autumn 2006



MIRIAM MANZANO

EMMA BRIEN &
STUART BECKINGHAM

SEAN CARLOW

NATALIE BUCK &
TRENT NELSON-BOND

2006 WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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THE 2006 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Welcome

In March, **aussieSKATES** went to the 2006 World Figure Skating Championships in Alberta, Canada.

Almost 200 skaters from more than 40 nations were represented across all four disciplines. Held at the Pengrowth Saddledome in Calgary, this 17,000 seat arena was also home to the ice hockey & figure skating competitions from the 1988 Olympic Games.

Hosting this event for the ninth time, Canada always puts on a good show. Skating is huge in this country, second only in popularity to ice hockey. The crowds in attendance are always knowledgeable, and their enthusiasm can't help but inspire the skaters. It is not surprising that many, many personal bests were smashed.



While post Olympic Games fallout is common, this year was no exception. All four Torino gold medalists including

Russia's Irina Slutskaya (the 2005 ladies' champion and third in Italy) were noticeably absent.

That disappointment was quickly forgotten, however. Defending men's champion, Stephane Lambiel, freed from arch-rival, Evgeni Plushenko, had the skate of his life. China continued their dominance in the pairs event. Gold was taken by Qing Pang & Jian Tong with their compatriots,

Dan Zhang and Hao Zhang, snatching silver. Bulgaria won their first world gold medal ever. Dancers, Albena Denkova and Maxim Staviski, claimed a tight victory over home ice favourites, Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon.

The biggest surprise came from sixteen year old, Kimmie Meissner of the United States. She won the ladies' crown in her world competition debut, beating veterans, Fumie Suguri of Japan, and fellow team member, Sasha Cohen.

Australia fielded representatives in all four disciplines, a first since the 1998 world championships in Minneapolis, U.S.A.

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INTRODUCING

EMMA BRIEN & STUART BECKINGHAM

2005 NATIONAL PAIRS' CHAMPIONS



Aussie pair skate their way into World Championships

There's something special about pairs figure skating: its' symmetry, grace; speed, athleticism and sheer "wow" factor. Not only does each skater need to be a strong figure skater in their own right; but they also need to master technically distinct, and difficult, pairs elements; such as lifts, death spirals, twists and throw jumps. And all this whilst skating together in perfect unison?

This is the challenge Sydney skaters Emma Brien and Stuart Beckingham have taken upon themselves and are achieving with flair and a good dose of humour. Emma and Stuart have gone from strength to strength since first becoming a pair in March of this year. After passing their novice, junior and senior pair tests, they went on to claim the Macquarie Club and NSW State Senior Pair Titles. Currently Australia's Senior Pairs Champions, Emma and Stuart have taken everything they've learned from their respective singles careers; worked incredibly hard and embraced the world of "pairs" with increasingly positive results.

Theirs has been a massive learning curve; and their achievements reflect their talent and dedication. Their hard work, under the direction of coach Stephen Carr, three time Winter Olympian and 19 times National Champion in pairs figure skating, with his sister, Danielle McGrath, has seen Emma and Stuart improve meteorically during 2005; culminating in winning the Senior Pairs event at the 2005 Australian National Figure Skating Championships, held in August in Perth WA.

Greater still is their triumph that as National Champions, Emma and Stuart have qualified to represent Australia and compete at the 2006 World Figure Skating Championships in Calgary, Canada; during March; following competition in the prestigious ISU Four Continents Championships, to be held in

Colorado Springs, USA, in January. This championship is considered an important pre-cursor to Worlds.

Last year, 1998 Olympian and Senior Ladies Champion Joanne Carter gained the highest ever result for an Australian figure skater at the Four Continents Championships; setting a new benchmark and becoming the idol of young Aussie skaters everywhere.

Emma and Stuart recently returned from competing in their first international event together: the historic Karl Schafer Memorial Championship in Vienna, Austria; which doubled as the Qualification event for the 2006 Torino Winter Olympic Games. Prior to competition, they worked intensively on choreography, presentation and program performance with another three time Winter Olympian, Cameron Medhurst.

"Without a throw triple jump we needed to shift our "jump elements" to later in our program to maximise points" says Stuart. "The ISU Judging system marks both individual elements as they're skated in a program, as well as components, which include skating skills, transitions and choreography. Between Nationals and Vienna we looked to improve both our speed and these components to bolster our program score", he added.

Emma, acknowledging Medhurst's effort, added "To achieve this we worked closely with Cameron several times per week. His Olympic and show skating experience contributed to our improved performance in Vienna. Cameron helped us to focus on different facets of our skating; balancing artistry with the more technical aspects".

(continued next page)

The atmosphere in Vienna was tense and motivating. Being in such a high-level skating environment inspired the pair to skate the best they could to secure World Championship representation.

"Seeing the pairs in action on the first day of official practice was enough to lift our performance", says Emma. "In the day and a half before we competed, I noticed our speed into lifts and throws improve - and this was just from being on the ice with the other teams!", she added.

To meet changed technical requirements, a number of last minute changes were made to their short program, such as inclusion of the difficult star lift. Skating to "Mr Pinstripe Suit" by Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, day one of competition saw the pair deliver a solid short program, comfortably landing side-by-side double axel jumps; executing a throw double-salchow with good speed, height and flow; and a firm star lift. Overall, Emma and Stuart scored a total of 32.89 in the short program, placing them in 12th position and only 5.06 points behind closest competitors Uzbekistan; a team who have been skating together for over 5 years.

"Stephen felt we needed to master the star lift; another of the "hand-to-hip" type-lifts, which have been our nemesis from the start. Just prior to leaving for Vienna, the lift began to really work well, although it was still a challenge, as we had a few collapses until we perfected speed and timing. In Vienna, we got it right on the night and we're very pleased with the outcome", Stuart notes.

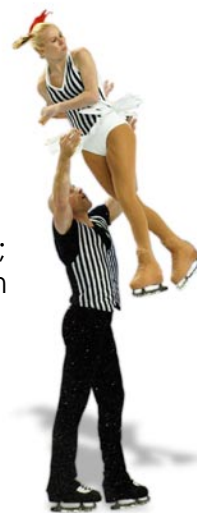
Competition in the pair's event resumed with the free program on day three. Emma and

Stuart, skating to various pieces including "Overture from Mask of Zorro"; had made significant changes to their free program since Nationals, increasing the difficulty of lifts and altering choreography; to include shifting the throw double loop and salchow; and jump sequence; to later in the program to maximise marks. This proved to be an astute decision; rewarded with higher marks than those received at Nationals, with a total score of 56.23. Combined with the short program results, the pair's overall score of 89.12 secured their qualification to compete at the 2006 World Championships. With the ISU Four Continents Championships and World Championships now cemented in their event calendar for this season, the pair and their support team have set new performance goals: a total performance mark above the score of the 20th qualifying team for the 2006 Olympics.

"Emma and Stuart know they've got a lot of work ahead: they're committed and have the talent and fitness to achieve their goals. Participating in pairs competition in Vienna has given them a new perspective and raised their enthusiasm leading into the Four Continents and Worlds Championships", says Stephen.

"Australia has a long and strong history in pairs figure skating. Our couples have consistently achieved good results in international competition, so it's exciting to see Emma and Stuart improve and progress. It won't be easy to achieve the high quality of elements and level of execution necessary to compete with the world's top 16 pairs; but it's a good goal for us to aim for", Stephen added.

article courtesy of Stephen Carr



Emma Brien & Stuart Beckingham

Dates of birth:	October 12 th , 1985 / May 26 th , 1981
Home town:	Sydney
Professions:	jeweller / research assistant
Hobbies:	fishing, crosswords / taekwondo, surfing
Coaches:	Stephen Carr Danielle McGrath
Started Skating:	1993 / 1988
Club:	Macquarie Ice Skating Club
Choreographer:	Maria Filipova
Personal Best Total Score:	
2006 Four Continents	101.51
Short Program:	
2006 Four Continents	34.94
Free Skating:	
2006 Four Continents	66.57

THE 2006 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAM PROFILES

Sean Carlow



Date of birth:	March 13 th , 1985
Home town:	Brisbane
Profession:	Full time athlete
Hobbies:	music, sport, family
Coaches:	Liz Cain Peter Cain Kathy Casey
Started Skating:	1985
Club:	Macquarie Ice Skating Club
Choreographers:	Liz Cain Tom Dickson
Personal Best Total Score:	
2006 Four Continents	136.68
Short Program:	
2006 Four Continents	48.70
Free Skating:	
2006 Four Continents	87.98

Date of birth:	February 14 th , 1975
Home town:	Canberra
Profession:	Full time athlete
Hobbies:	pilates, shopping
Coach:	Reg Park
Started Skating:	1986
Club:	Canberra Ice Skating Club

Choreographer:	Slav Baboshyn
Personal Best Total Score:	
2004 NHK Trophy	128.42
Short Program:	
2004 Skate America	44.06
Free Skating:	
2005 Four Continents	85.06

Miriam Manzano



Natalie Buck & Trent Nelson-Bond

Dates of birth:	July 5 th , 1980 / December 30 th , 1979
Home town:	Sydney
Professions:	Full time athletes
Hobbies:	pilates, shopping / cars, rockclimbing, outdoor sports
Coaches:	Natalia Dubova Anne-Zoe Heiss S. Belits Geiman
Started Skating:	1984 / 1987
Club:	Sydney Figure Skating Club
Choreographer:	Natalia Dubova
Personal Best Total Score:	
2006 Four Continents	121.78
Compulsory Dance:	
2006 Four Continents	23.85
Original Dance:	
2006 Four Continents	37.58
Free Dance:	
2006 Four Continents	60.35

THE 2006 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

HALL OF FAME



DANIELLE MCGRATH
& STEPHEN CARR

Anthony Liu

A formidable jumper, Anthony has landed quadruple combinations many times in international competition, attacking them with confidence and speed. Skating at two Olympic Games, in his last season he placed 7th at the 2002 World Championships in Nagano. Originally competing for China, Liu has trained with Carol Heiss-Jenkins, Evelyn Kramer, and Maria Kudriavtseva.

Competed in:	Men's singles
National Champion:	7 times
World Team Member:	1997-2002
Coaches:	Carol Heiss-Jenkins Colin Jackson Evelyn Kramer Maria Kudriavtseva
Best finish at Worlds:	7 th place, 2002

Danielle McGrath & Stephen Carr

Danielle and Stephen have trained with Tamara Moskvina, Kerry Leitch, Belinda Trussell, Kathy Casey and Sergei Shakrai. Their programs were choreographed by Tom Dickson and Jo Jo Starbuck. Diligent workers, the Carrs boosted the technical level of their performance to the point where by their final season, they could land both the throw triple toe-loop and throw triple salchow.

Competed in:	Pairs (Stephen also skated in Men's singles)
National Champions:	19 times
World Team Members:	1985-1998
Known for:	unison & mature presentation
Best finish at Worlds:	10 th place, 1989 & 1994

Cameron Medhurst

A 3-time Olympian, Cameron dominated the national scene for almost a decade. Known for his grace and poise, Medhurst studied with prima ballerina Kathleen Gorham. He also trained in Canada with World Champion, Kurt Browning, for several seasons. In 1989, he achieved a personal victory by placing 10th at the World Championships against strong competition.

Competed in:	Men's singles
National Champion:	8 times
World Team Member:	1983, 1985-1992
Coaches:	Belinda Trussell Magda Meyer Michael Jiranek
Known for:	style & flexibility
Best finish at Worlds:	10 th place, 1989

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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

01. She is the second skater after the 1997 world champion, Tara Lipinski (USA), to land this triple/triple combination.

For 1 point, who is she?
For 2 points, what jumps did she link?
For 3 points, in which world championship did she attempt them?

02. This brother and sister pair combination, representatives at the 1980 Olympic Games in Lake Placid, are our only world junior medalists.

For 1 point, who are they?
For 2 points, what colour medal did they win?
For 3 points, what year was it?
For a bonus 10 points, her son is also a competitive skater. What is his name, and what is his biggest win?

03. He is a 3-time Olympian and 9-time world championship team member in men's singles.

For 1 point, who is he?
For 2 points, what year did he make the top ten?
For a bonus 5 points, which ice dancing World and Olympic champion choreographed his free skating routine the same year?

04. These siblings are Australia's royal couple of pair skating.

For 1 point, who are they?
For 2 points, how many world championships have they entered?
For 3 points, name their first year in senior world competition?
For 4 points, in which year(s) did they place in the top ten in world competition?
For a bonus 10 points, at the 1993 worlds they had the distinction of beating this skater and her Russian partner, Dmitri Sukhanov. (Hint: She went on to win Olympic gold.)

Answers on page 7.



ANTHONY LIU

THE 2006 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPETITION ANALYSIS



Pairs' Short Program Winners

			Points
	D. Zhang & H. Zhang	CHN	65.58
20.	E. Brien & S. Beckingham	AUS	31.74

Pairs' Free Skating Winners

	Q. Pang / J. Tong	CHN	124.22
20.	E. Brien & S. Beckingham	AUS	55.10

Pairs' Final Medal Standings

01.	Q. Pang / J. Tong	CHN	189.20
02.	D. Zhang & H. Zhang	CHN	186.42
03.	M. Petrova / A. Tikhonov	RUS	186.22
20.	E. Brien & S. Beckingham	AUS	86.84

Ladies' Qualifying Round A Winner

			Points
	Fumie Suguri	JPN	113.88
16.	Miriam Manzano	AUS	63.52

Ladies' Qualifying Round B Winner

	Joannie Rochette	CAN	117.12
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Ladies' Short Program Winner

	Sasha Cohen	USA	66.62
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Ladies' Free Skating Winner

	Kimmie Meissner	USA	129.70
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Ladies' Final Medal Standings

01.	Kimmie Meissner	USA	218.33
02.	Fumie Suguri	JPN	209.74
03.	Sasha Cohen	USA	208.88

Men's Qualifying Round A Winner

	Stephane Lambiel	SWI	160.90
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Men's Qualifying Round B Winner

	Nobinari Oda	JPN	144.90
16.	Sean Carlow	AUS	85.38

Men's Short Program Winner

	Brian Joubert	FRA	80.31
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Men's Free Skating Winner

	Stephane Lambiel	SWI	156.58
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Men's Final Medal Standings

01.	Stephane Lambiel	SWI	274.22
02.	Brian Joubert	FRA	270.83
03.	Evan Lysacek	USA	255.22

Compulsory Dance Winners

			Points
	A. Denkova / M. Staviski	BUL	38.46
29.	N. Buck / T. Nelson-Bond	AUS	21.41

Original Dance Winners

	A. Denkova / M. Staviski	BUL	60.94
28.	N. Buck / T. Nelson-Bond	AUS	36.17

Free Dance Winners

	M-F Dubreuil / P. Lauzon	USA	100.57
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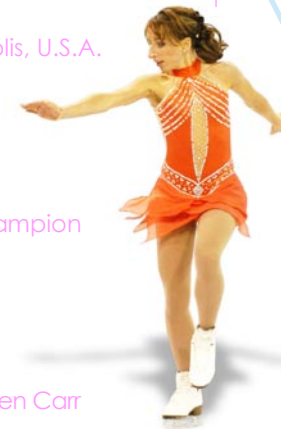
Dance Final Medal Standings

01.	A. Denkova / M. Staviski	BUL	199.14
02.	M-F Dubreuil / P. Lauzon	CAN	198.69
03.	T. Belbin / B. Agosto	USA	196.74

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ANSWERS

01. ▶ Joanne Carter
▶ triple loop/triple loop
▶ 1998 Worlds in Minneapolis, U.S.A.
02. ▶ Elizabeth & Peter Cain
▶ bronze
▶ 1976
▶ Sean Carlow /
2006 National Men's Champion
03. ▶ Cameron Medhurst
▶ 1989
▶ Christopher Dean
04. ▶ Danielle McGrath / Stephen Carr
▶ 14
▶ 1985
▶ 10th in 1989 & 1994
▶ Oksana Kazakova, who repartnered
with Artur Dmitriev to win
the 1998 Nagano Games.



Your Score:

Between 1 - 10
Between 11 - 20
Between 21 - 30
Between 31 - 40
Between 41 - 49
A Perfect 50

Your Ranking:

Club Champion
State Champion
National Champion
Four Continents Champion
World Champion
Did you cheat?

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS SINCE 1980

1980 Dortmund, Germany

L Belinda Coulthard
M Billy Schober
P Elizabeth Cain & Peter Cain

1981 Hartford, U.S.A.

L Vicki Holland
M Michael Pasfield

1982 Copenhagen, Denmark

L Vicki Holland
M Michael Pasfield

1983 Helsinki, Finland

L Vicki Holland
M Cameron Medhurst

1984 Ottawa, Canada

L Diana Zovko
M Perry Meek
D Leanne Telling & Michael Fisher

1985 Tokyo, Japan

L Amanda James
M Cameron Medhurst
P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
D Leanne Telling & Michael Fisher

1986 Geneva, Switzerland

M Cameron Medhurst
P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
D Monica MacDonald & Rodney Clarke

1987 Cincinnati, U.S.A.

L Tracy Brook
M Cameron Medhurst
P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
D Monica MacDonald & Rodney Clarke

Result 1988 Budapest, Hungary

24TH L Tracy Brook
27TH M Cameron Medhurst
24TH P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
D Monica MacDonald & Rodney Clarke

1989 Paris, France

24TH L Tracy Brook
28TH M Cameron Medhurst
27TH P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
26TH D Monica MacDonald & Duncan Smart
21ST

1990 Halifax, Canada

22ND L Natalie Crothers
22ND M Cameron Medhurst
21ST P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
D Monica MacDonald & Duncan Smart

1991 Munich, Germany

11TH L Tamara Heggen
19TH M Cameron Medhurst
19TH P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
D Monica MacDonald & Duncan Smart

1992 Oakland, U.S.A.

14TH L Tamara Heggen
19TH M Cameron Medhurst
18TH P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
22ND D Monica MacDonald & Duncan Smart

1993 Prague, Czech Republic

12TH L Tamara Heggen
19TH M Stephen Carr
P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr

Result 1994 Chiba, Japan

26TH L Miriam Manzano
21TH M Stephen Carr
25TH P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
D Christine Seydel & Duncan Smart

1995 Birmingham, England

22ND L Miriam Manzano
21ST M Stephen Carr
10TH P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
10TH D Christine Seydel & Duncan Smart

1996 Edmonton, Canada

21ST L Miriam Manzano
25TH M Stephen Carr
12TH P Danielle Carr & Stephen Carr
29TH D Chantelle Loyer & Justin Bell

1997 Lausanne, Switzerland

16TH L Joanne Carter
25TH M Anthony Liu
30TH P Danielle McGrath & Stephen Carr
17TH D Chantelle Loyer & Justin Bell

1998 Minneapolis, U.S.A.

23RD L Joanne Carter
23RD M Anthony Liu
18TH P Danielle McGrath & Stephen Carr
14TH D Margarita Fourer & Timothy Heineke

1999 Helsinki, Finland

24TH M Anthony Liu
27TH D Danielle Rigg-Smith & Trent Nelson-Bond
25TH
11TH

Result 2000 Nice, France

39TH L Sarah Yvonne-Prytula
22ND M Anthony Liu
10TH D Portia Duval & Francis Rigby

2001 Vancouver, Canada

34TH L Stephanie Zhang
32ND M Anthony Liu
37TH D Portia Duval & Francis Rigby

2002 Nagano, Japan

11TH L Miriam Manzano
31ST M Anthony Liu
D Natalie Buck & Trent Nelson-Bond

2003 Washington D.C., U.S.A.

39TH L Miriam Manzano
12TH M Bradley Santer
29TH D Sean Carlow
Natalie Buck & Trent Nelson-Bond

2004 Dortmund, Germany

11TH L Miriam Manzano
23ND M Bradley Santer
16TH D Natalie Buck & Trent Nelson-Bond

2005 Moscow, Russia

25TH L Joanne Carter
13TH M Bradley Santer
17TH D Natalie Buck & Trent Nelson-Bond

2006 Calgary, Canada

15TH L Miriam Manzano
30TH M Sean Carlow
10TH P Emma Brien & Stuart Beckingham
32ND D Natalie Buck & Trent Nelson-Bond

Result

37TH
12TH
37TH
32ND

37TH
14TH

32ND

16TH
7TH

28TH

26TH
37TH
39TH

25TH

20TH
35TH

26TH

16TH
31ST

28TH

31ST
31ST

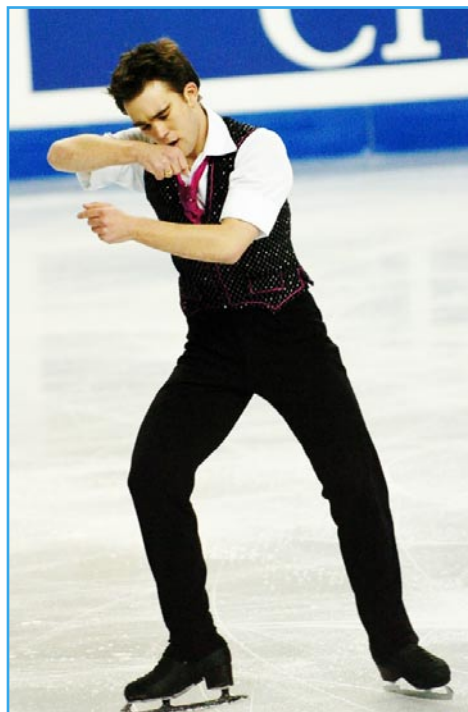
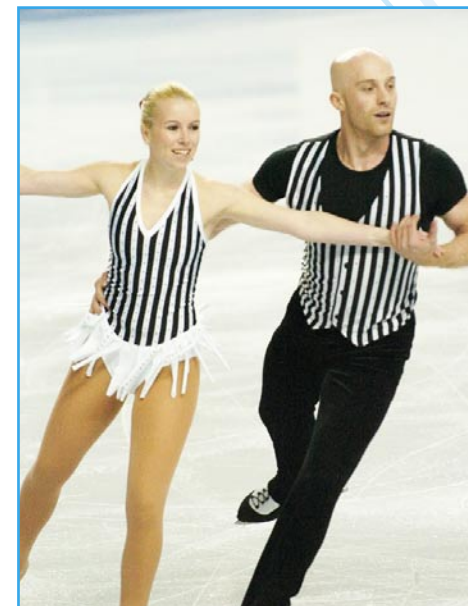
20TH

28TH

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COMPETITION IMAGES

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