

aussie SKATES

FIGURE SKATING DOWNUNDER

FEATURING

- ATHLETE PROFILES
- BLADES OF GLORY
- CAMERON MEDHURST
- THE HALL OF FAME
- JAYSON SUTCLIFFE
- PAST STATE RESULTS
- PHOTO GALLERIES
- ROLLER SKATING WORLDS
- TOKYO WORLDS
- 2007 NATIONALS RESULTS

Spring 2007

BILLY SCHOBER
1976 OLYMPIC
TEAM MEMBER



**BILL CHERRELL
& AILEEN SHAW**
1960 OLYMPIC
TEAM MEMBERS
'MEN'S AND LADIES'
SINGLES



SHARON BURLEY
1976 OLYMPIC
TEAM MEMBER



VICTORIA TURNS 100

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF FIGURE SKATING

aussieSKATES

100 YEARS OF SKATING IN VICTORIA



Cameron Medhurst in 1974

aussieSKATES begins with Victoria.

Victoria has produced many champions, national, international, World and Olympic representatives. Athletes making this elite list include sisters, Robyn & Sharon Burley, Cameron Medhurst, Reg Park, Aileen Shaw, Billy Schober, and Diana Zovko. The list goes on. Historian, Beryl Black, retraces the history of figure skating in Victoria. Beryl has kindly allowed **aussieSKATES** to feature rare photos from her vast collection.

As part of this special anniversary issue, we interview champion men's skater and three - time Olympian, Cameron Medhurst.

Welcome

As a question mark hangs over construction of Melbourne's proposed Docklands Arena, in the first of a three part series looking at the history of each

state and territory,

aussieSKATES also profiles Jayson Sutcliffe, the 1995 world artistic roller, 2002 and 2005 in-line figure skating champion. Author of his life story, an award-winning documentary, and producer of the upcoming *Inline TV*, Jayson is one very busy individual.

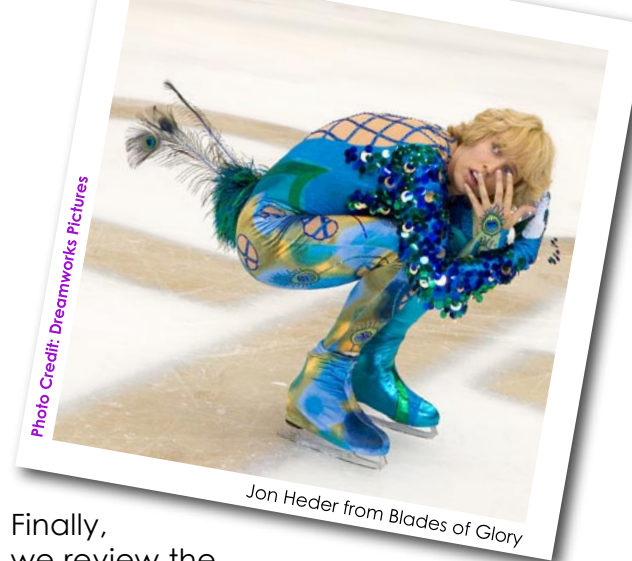
In November, the Gold Coast will be hosting the World Roller Skating Championships.

aussieSKATES looks at the differences and similarities between competitive ice and roller skating, and most importantly, which stars to watch out for.

Synchronised skating is also featured.

Wendy Meik of *Dynamix* (an adult masters team) writes about her experiences preparing for the National Championships. We also interview Andrew Taylor, team member for *Ice Baci*.

State selection is complete, as are the national titles. Recently held in New South Wales, skaters vying for international berths were chosen from our Australian medalists. With the 2007 / 08 competition season under way (and encouraging international results already from Cheltzie Lee and New Zealand's Allie Rout), **aussieSKATES** looks back at the 2007 World Championships from Tokyo.



Jon Heder from *Blades of Glory*

Finally, we review the knockabout comedy, *Blades of Glory*, soon to be released on DVD. Starring Jon Heder (of *Napoleon Dynamite* fame) and the irrepressible Will Ferrell, the storyline has to be seen to be believed. Skating fans will especially enjoy the hilarious attention to detail.

welcome	02
aussieskates profile: jayson sutcliffe	03
world roller skating championships	06
blades of glory dvd review	07
the tokyo world championship	08
national championships results	10
catching up with cameron medhurst	11
introducing ice baci	16
team dynamix - the road to nationals	18
victoria celebrates a century of skating	21
the victorian skating hall of fame	25
state championship results since 1985	26

aussieSKATES welcomes your feedback.
Contact us at: aussieskates@yahoo.com.au

JAYSON SUTCLIFFE

WORLD ROLLER SKATING CHAMPION

From October 28th to November 10th 2007, the Gold Coast in Queensland is hosting the 52nd World Roller Skating Championships. Australia has already staged the event three times, in 1975, 1991 and 1999. Elite athletes from across the globe will be competing for top honours in junior and senior men's and ladies singles, dance, pairs and precision. To celebrate this prestigious gathering, **aussieSKATES** profiles one of the world's most accomplished artistic roller skaters, Victoria's own Jayson Sutcliffe.



Photo Credit: Raniero Corbellelli

Jayson, along with fellow athlete Tammy Bryant, holds the rare distinction for winning world singles titles, firstly on traditional (or quad) roller skates, then inline blades.

In fact, Sutcliffe and Bryant won their respective titles exactly one decade apart, both in 1995 and 2005. As a side note, Tammy's younger sibling, Amanda, has made a spectacular return to competition this year, and will be competing in Queensland at the World Championships. Introduced to the sport through his sister (and the accidental discovery of some rusty skates in a relative's garage), Jayson was ten when he started to skate. Immediately attracted to roller skating's performance component, a fascination with jumping, spinning and complex footwork simply added to that interest.

Adapting a classical style, it is astonishing to learn that time constraints prevented Sutcliffe from studying dance seriously.

However, Jayson freely admits that had he not become a skater, he'd have leaned towards a career in ballet instead.

Always his own choreographer, from the time he was nineteen, Sutcliffe made the decision to self-coach. In competition, Jayson was also very particular about what music to use. With his choices running from *Edward Scissorhands* to *Schindler's List*, often these pieces reflected what state of mind, mood or direction he was heading in at the time.

With all-consuming focus in his drive to improve and be the best, work was intense. Year after year, Jayson would clock up endless hours on wheels, keeping a strict diet and strength training five times a week with rigorous sessions in the gym. Skaters need extraordinary stamina to complete a four minute competitive performance. When comparing boots to their ice skating counterparts, the added weight from the wheels is like tying a brick to each foot. Thus, a single program alone has been compared to sixty minutes of Australian Rules Football non-stop.

Twice, Jayson toyed with the idea of switching to ice. The first time in 1991, his love of wheels kept drawing him back. But in 1998, semi-retired from roller skating, ice skating's pedantic testing system frustrated Jayson, preventing him from progressing quickly.

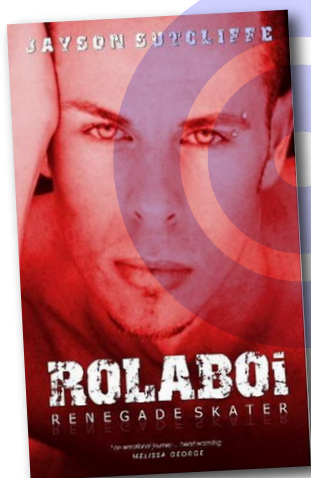
However, when inline was introduced to world competition, Jayson made the transition to blades out of curiosity and the need to challenge himself in a different discipline. As described in his autobiography, *Rolaboi: Renegade Skater*, jumping and spinning consistency is much harder to achieve. This is because each boot's four wheels are positioned in a single row instead of two side by side pairs.

Like most elite sport, the possibility of injury was very real. Throughout his twenty year career, Jayson has broken his left wrist three times. A true indication of his grit, Jayson even competed while wearing a cast, and ended up winning silver at the 2003 World Inline Championships!

continued next page

In 2005, after retiring from inline, Jayson concentrated his energy on creating the documentary, *Jesus Can't Skate*. Ironically, it is this film's powerful influence which led to Amanda Bryant's competitive comeback. Later this year in the lead up to the world titles, Sutcliffe is also contributing to the community television program, *Inline TV*. In a fitting tribute to his dedication, promotion, and devotion to skating, Jayson is the honorary ambassador for the Queensland event.

How nice to see his life come full circle.



Rolaboi: Renegade Skater

**First reviewed,
September 2004**

For those of you familiar with *Strictly Ballroom*, Jayson Sutcliffe is the embodiment of that hit film's main character. Like dancer, Paul Mercurio

in the movie, both men are equal parts rebel and artist, daring to break conventions not only to push themselves, but unafraid to stretch their respective sports in ways no one else could possibly have imagined. The only difference is, Jayson Sutcliffe did it for real. His tale unfolds simply enough.

A ten year old boy finds a pair of skates rusting in a relative's shed. Who would guess from this accidental discovery, as Jayson Sutcliffe himself surmises several decades later, they would be "the magic shoes". Spanning 25 years, his career is impressive. Not only has competition taken Sutcliffe around the world, he has mastered both traditional quad and in-line skating. In addition to his victories on wheels, Jayson trained briefly as an ice skater.

His international success however, is tinged with a certain irony. Capable of creating mob scenes in Germany and South America, this unassuming young man can walk through the streets of Melbourne almost unnoticed.

One of the aims of Jayson's book, I am sure, is to push roller skating closer to Olympic eligibility. These dedicated athletes deserve recognition equal to their counterparts on ice.

Sutcliffe writes like he performs, combining the charismatic wit and adventure of a Toller Cranston with the humility and courage of a Rudy Galindo. Now, the long-anticipated autobiography from Australia's own world champion has finally landed on international bookshelves. This is one story worth the wait.

Rolaboi has a real streak of electricity running through it. It is one of those books you can't put down. We are taken on Jayson's rite of passage, tasting the highs and lows of competition with him as he tells it.

Funnily enough, you get the feeling

other people around him recognise his tremendous gift almost before he does. When Jayson describes the gleeful satisfaction of learning a new jump or finding the perfect piece of music, we're there too. Even the stress of competition is recounted in vivid detail.

It would be enough if this is where his story ended, about what it takes to be the best and win. However, Jayson Sutcliffe is a man of many colours.

continued next page



Photo Credit: Renio Corbelli

Elite athletes may make the sport look effortless. But here is a brave young man who has had to struggle with peer pressure, schoolyard bullying, family trauma, and his own sexuality on top of the rigors of training. A lesser person would have collapsed.

Particularly moving is a conversation Jayson has with his Dad, where his father plainly says, "You know who you are and what you aren't. You don't have to prove yourself to anyone else."

Without giving too much away, I defy anyone not to be inspired by this tremendous work. If the name Jayson Sutcliffe was unfamiliar before, after reading Rolabo: Renegade Skater, I guarantee you'll never forget it.



Jesus Can't Skate

**First reviewed,
October 2006**

"Skating saved me." Athlete. Author. Auteur. World roller skating champion, Jayson Sutcliffe, has triumphed again with his latest endeavour, the obliquely-named

documentary, Jesus Can't Skate.

One could offer the alternative, "Full Circle", as it maps Jayson's quarter-century love for this most fascinating of sports, and that passionate enthusiasm he is

passing onto the next generation.

At 90 minutes in length, the story's main focus tells of Jayson's and fellow Australian champion, Tammy Bryant's, final fling at a world title. Having both conquered traditional quad skating (each won the world artistic crown in the same year, 1995), they arrive in Rome with a new mission, to take the individual men's and ladies' in-line championships.

Along the way Jayson reveals why a sport with little national support or recognition, has kept him hooked. It's not about gaining Olympic inclusion (although this film will surely create waves to change that), money or fame.

What drives Sutcliffe is the process.

To be the best you can; to push yourself as far as your mind and body will allow. Jayson highlights this message with a brilliantly conceived parallel.

We watch, enthralled as superstar risk-takers from Italy, Japan, the United States and Argentina fearlessly fly-high (and I might add, tumble with the best of them!)

Their achievements are underscored by the inclusion of local siblings, Eden and Tienelle Jury. It's almost like seeing a child take its first steps, seeing both in joyous shock as they each land the difficult axel jump. Tienelle's reaction is worth the price of admission alone.

Jesus Can't Skate contains so many stories, the movie is about much more than roller skating.

It is a language that crosses social and cultural barriers, celebrating

the people, personal sacrifices and love shared on wheels.

For more information about Jayson Sutcliffe and his various projects, click on the following websites:

www.jaysonsutcliffe.com

www.jesuscantskate.com

www.rolabo.com

www.inlineplus.tv



Photo Credit: Roniero Corbelletti

WORLD ROLLER SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND

If their podium placements from Murcia, Spain in 2006 are any indication, Team Italy looks set to again sweep the senior ladies', men's, pairs' and dance events on the Gold Coast.

Defending ladies' champion, Tanya Romero, is the Katarina Witt on wheels. Tall, athletic and flirtatious, her rendition of Carmen last year was the talk of the event.

The big news on the home front, is Amanda Bryant's return to international senior ladies' competition. Ranked as high as fourth in the world in 1999, Amanda reclaimed the national title earlier this year and is in serious contention for a top ten finish.

Other skaters fighting for the podium include Melisa Linsalata from Argentina, Laura Sanchez Garcia from Spain, and Sarah Jane Jones from New Zealand.

Roberto Riva, champion in 2005 and runner-up in 2006, will be hungry to win back the men's crown he lost to (now-retired) showman, Luca D'Alisera. Himself a commanding performer, watch as he attempts the rare and difficult triple axel. Riva, however, will be strongly challenged by team members, Andrea Barbieri and Pierluca Tocca, (who has been landing the quadruple toe loop in practice), and Brazil's Marcel Sturmer, recent winner of the Pan American Games.

With the 2006 champions Federico Degli Espoti & Marika Zanforlin of Italy trading in their wheels for ice skates, pairs' gold will likely be contested between their teammates, 2006 runners-up Enrico Fabbri & Laura Marzocchi and bronze medalists, Emanuele Ciofetti & Debora Sbei.

The dance team of Mirko Pontello & Melissa Comin De Candido will hold off strong competition from two couples from the United States, Logan Boggs & Julie Locke, and Kyle Turley & Heather Menard.

Australia and New Zealand have strong representation in inline. Kristen Slade and Sarah Jane Jones are the respective silver and bronze medalists from 2006. Former ice skater Andrew Bassi will be contesting the men's competition.

Some of the differences between artistic ice and roller skating

- Apart from the obvious, roller skaters perform on a treated wooden floor. Wax polished, this allows greater grip when attempting jumps like the lutz, flip or mape that require a top stop take off.
- Each skater or team is awarded two sets of scores, the first for technique and the second for artistry, both marked out of ten.
- Roller skaters also compete in compulsory figures, following tracings marked on the floor. Titles are awarded in figures, free skating and combined (compulsory figures and free skating).
- Spins, particularly parallel camels, are rotated on the ball of the skate. Some jumps such as the toe-loop are approached backwards. In roller skating, however, it is more commonly referred to as the mape.

- Combination jumps are rarely performed back to back, but in a three to five jump sequence. Double and triple jumps are linked by half loop or loop jumps, allowing the skater greater momentum leading from one jump to the next. The combination jump sequence is also a required element in the short program. In senior competition for example, skaters may take advantage of landing up to three triple jumps in a sequence.

For more information about roller skating and the upcoming world championships, click on the following websites:

www.2007worldartchampionships.org.au

www.ranierocorbelletti.com

www.skatelog.com



Photo Credit: Raniero Corbelletti

BLADES OF GLORY

DREAMWORKS PICTURES (2007)



They have played everything from a sports-crazy soccer dad in *Kicking and Screaming*, a dim-witted stock car driver in *Talledega Nights*, and a clumsy baseball player in *The Benchwarmers*.

Put together, Will Ferrell and Jon Heder take on the sequinned, high drama, cheese-tastic world of competitive figure skating.

In *Blades of Glory*, Ferrell is Chaz Michael Michaels, a beer guzzling, womanising slob who happens to be a world class figure skater. His arch rival and artistic antithesis, Jimmy MacElroy (played by Heder) was discovered as a child prodigy, then groomed by a team of experts to be the best.

When both skaters tie for first at the world championships, a punch-up on the podium merits them each a lifetime ban from the sport.

This is where the nuttiness begins.

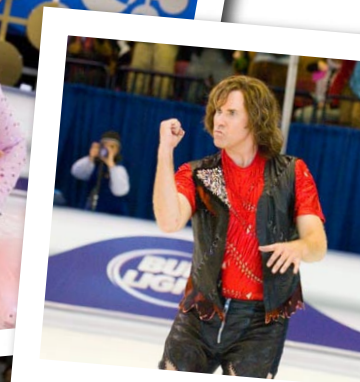
Cut to three years later and triggered by an obsessive fan's push for Jimmy return to the sport, MacElroy and his former coach stumble upon a loophole. He may not be able to perform as a men's singles skater, but that doesn't mean Jimmy can't compete in pairs. How they decide on teaming him with arrogant, burned-out Chaz has hilarious consequences.

Surprisingly, Chaz and Jimmy work well together, making it back to the world championships. But, like any comedy, there is a catch to their success.

The brother and sister coupling of Stranz and Fairchild Van Waldenberg (played by real life husband and wife, Will Arnett from *Arrested Development*, and Amy Poehler from *Mean Girls*) go to great lengths to stop Jimmy and Chaz from taking away their title. If that weren't enough, with sly reference to the 1992 film, *The Cutting Edge*, will MacElroy and Michaels consider trying the dangerous Iron Lotus in their quest for victory?

Blades of Glory doesn't pretend to be anything but pure entertainment. Where it stands out from previous films with figure skating as a central theme, is its astonishing attention to detail.

Photo Credit: Dreamworks Pictures

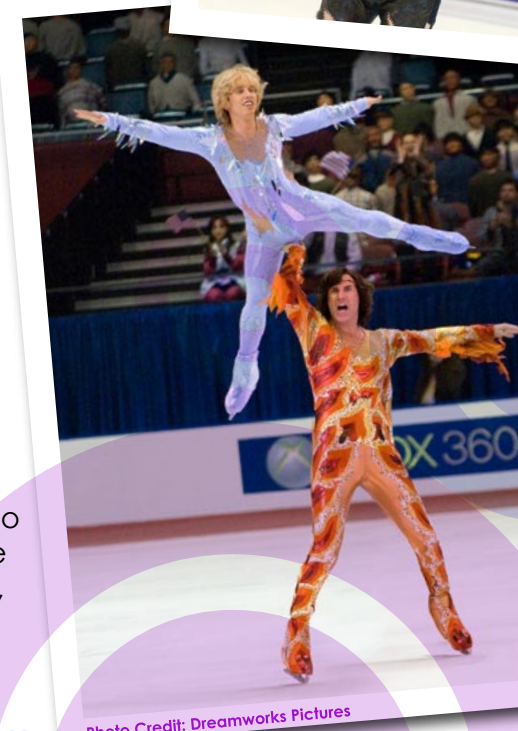


Skating fans will especially appreciate the many in-jokes (and guest appearances by actual skaters) scattered throughout this film.

As a bonus, the DVD includes deleted scenes and outtakes. So get it and as the tagline screams, Kick Some Ice!

**For more about
BLADES OF GLORY,
click on the
official websites:**

www.bladesofglorymovie.com



THE 2007 WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAM PROFILES & RESULTS

Sean Carlow



Date of birth:	March 13 th , 1985
Home town:	Sydney
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:	
2007 Worlds	49.73
Free Skating:	
2006 Four Continents	87.98

Date of birth:	April 17 th , 1980
Home town:	Sydney
Profession:	Physiotherapist Athlete
Hobbies:	keeping fit
Coach:	Galina Pachin
Started Skating:	1984
Club:	Macquarie Ice Skating Club
Choreographers:	Jojo Starbuck Tom Dickson

Personal Best Total Score:	
2005 Worlds	142.97
Short Program:	
2005 Four Continents	49.63
Free Skating:	
2005 Worlds	95.60

Joanne Carter



Pairs' Short Program Winners			Points
	X. Shen & H. Zhao	CHN	71.07
Pairs' Free Skating Winners			
	X. Shen & H. Zhao	CHN	132.43
Pairs' Final Medal Standings			
01.	X. Shen & H. Zhao	CHN	203.50
02.	Q. Pang / J. Tong	CHN	188.46
03.	A. Savchenko / R. Szolkowy	GER	187.39

Men's Short Program Winner			Points
	Brian Joubert	FRA	83.64
28.	Sean Carlow	AUS	49.73
42.	Joel Watson	NZL	30.09

Men's Free Skating Winner			
	Daisuke Takahashi	JPN	163.44
Men's Final Medal Standings			
01.	Brian Joubert	FRA	240.85
02.	Daisuke Takahashi	JPN	237.95
03.	Stephane Lambiel	SWI	233.35

Compulsory Dance Winners			Points
	M-F Dubreuil / P. Lauzon	CAN	38.96

Original Dance Winners			
	A. Denkova / M. Staviski	BUL	62.10

Free Dance Winners			
	A. Denkova / M. Staviski	BUL	102.09

Dance Final Medal Standings			
01.	A. Denkova / M. Staviski	BUL	201.61
02.	M-F Dubreuil / P. Lauzon	CAN	200.46
03.	T. Belbin / B. Agosto	USA	195.43

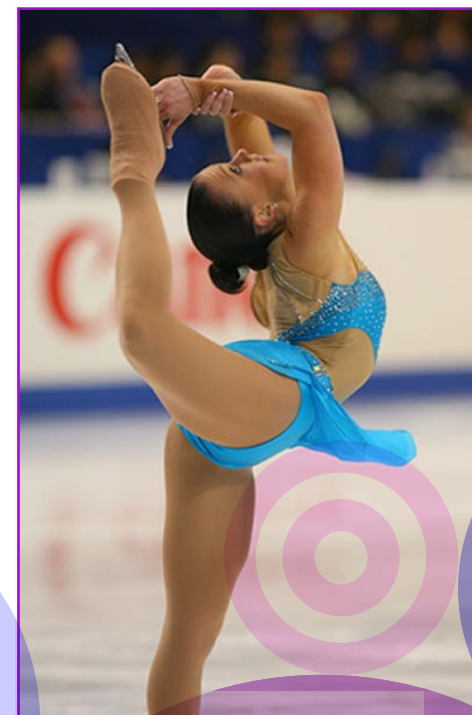
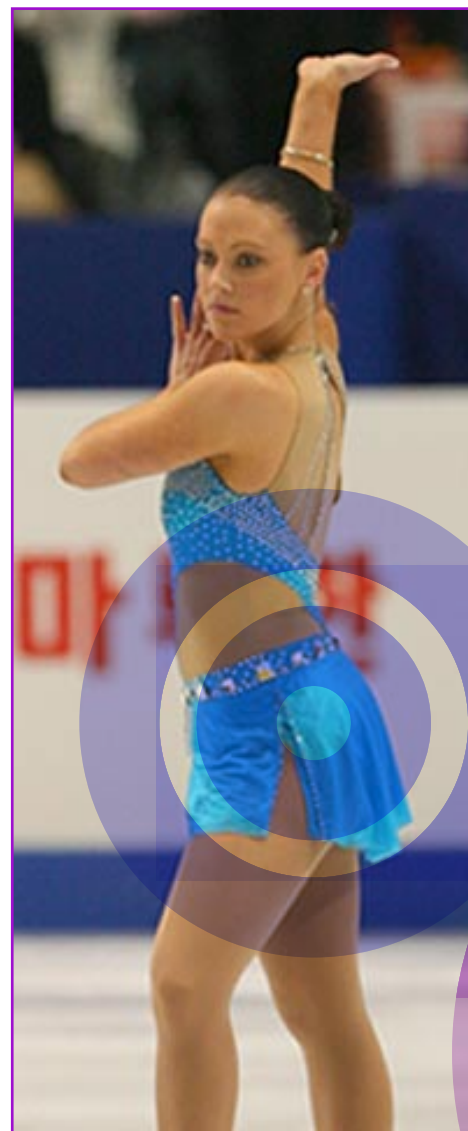
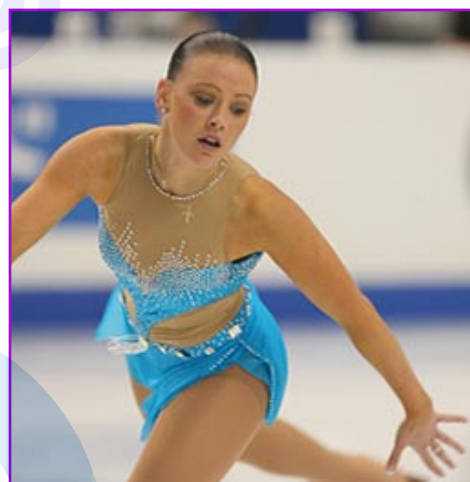
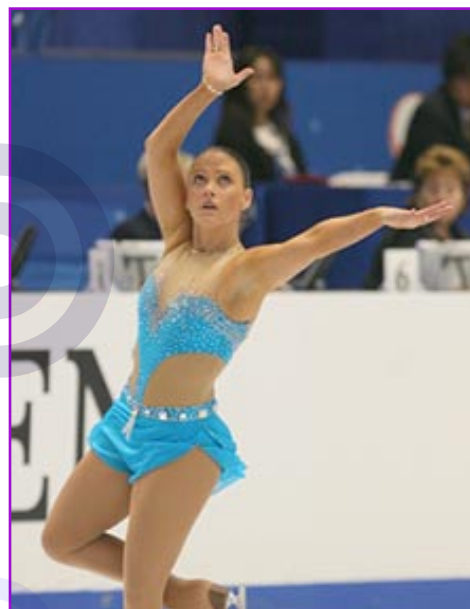
Ladies' Short Program Winner			Points
	Yuna Kim	KOR	71.95
19.	Joanne Carter	AUS	48.46

Ladies' Free Skating Winner			
	Mao Asada	JPN	133.13
21.	Joanne Carter	AUS	78.71

Ladies' Final Medal Standings			
01.	Miki Ando	JPN	195.09
02.	Mao Asada	JPN	194.45
03.	Yuna Kim	KOR	186.14
20.	Joanne Carter	AUS	127.17

THE 2007 WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPETITION AND BACKSTAGE IMAGES



01	Joanne Carter
02	Tina Wang
03	Allie Rout
04	Phoebe Di Tommaso
05	Fei Fei Hardy
06	Daniella Romeo
07	Caitlin Haynes
08	Cajaceline Baranikova
WD	Morgan Figgins

01	Sean Carlow
02	Tristan Thode
03	Nicholas Fernandez
04	Robert McNamara
05	Dean Timmins
06	Mark Webster
07	Mitchell Chapman
08	Mathieu Wilson
09	Nicholas Menzies

01	Danielle O'Brien / Greg Merriman
02	Katrina Reyes / Spencer Barnes
WD	Maria Borounov / Evgeni Borounov

01 Fire on Ice
02 Adelaide Ice Magic

01 Cheltzie Lee
02 Allie Rout
03 Lauren Hansom
04 Albrina Lee
05 Kyle Betteridge
06 Claudia Domingues
07 Jessica Kurzawski
08 Jacqueline Baranikova
09 Kelly Adler
10 Rebecca Hering
11 Essex Reid
12 Lowanna Gibson
13 Laura Mills
14 Elizabeth O'Neill
WD Morgan Figgins
WD Simone Sheehan

NSW	01	Matthew Precious
QLD	02	Mark Webster
NZL	03	Mathew Tinson
NSW	04	Simon Hardy
NSW	05	Cameron Hems
VIC	06	Andrew Dodds
NZL	07	Grant Howie
SA		Junior Synchronised
NZL	01	Fire on Ice Junior
State	02	Iceskateers Elite
NSW	03	Macquarie Illusions
NZL	04	Adelaide Ice Mystique
NSW	05	Nova
QLD	06	Infusion

NSW	01	Jamiee Nobbs
QLD	02	Kristin Secola
NZL	03	Sydnee Knight
NSW	04	Kayla Doig

	06	Casey Neal
NSW	07	Saara Shephard
	08	April Hering
CAN	09	Danielle Bartels
	10	Clair McGillan
WA	11	Tiffany Zadow
State	12	Kara Johnson
NSW	13	Jessinta Martin
SA	14	Alicia Kijak
State	15	Caitlyn Paul
NSW	16	Juliette O'Neill
NZL	17	Deborah Effenne-Ward
NSW	18	Millie Campbel
NSW	19	Samantha Faircloth
QLD	20	Danielle Baret
NSW	WD	Emelia Ash
NSW	WD	Heidi Freeman
SA	WD	Rachelle Williams

QLD	01	Brendan Kerry
ACT	02	Brendan Schloss
NSW	03	Matthew Dodds
NZL		
NZL		
NZL		
VIC		

WA	01	iceskateers
NSW	02	Jitterbugs
WA	03	Adelaide Icicle Magic
NSW	04	Macquarie Mice
NZL	05	Synchronicity
QLD	06	Ice Hoppers
NZL		Intermediate Ladies

NSW	02	Victoria Cini
QLD	03	Hayley Van Der Zanee
NSW	04	Liesda Marsdon
SA	05	Elise Vayne
QLD	06	Natalia Gimenez
WA	07	Sheridan Leghorn
State	08	Annika Matravers
WA	09	Peta Chien
WA	10	Chelsea Fitzpatrick
NSW	11	Ashlee King
QLD	12	Rebecca Seymour-Bernard
QLD	13	Christine Joyce
NSW	14	Josephine Kooyman
NSW	15	Alanna Pollock
QLD	16	Claire Bryan
NSW	17	Courtney Bettink

SA	19	Paige Brownsey
NSW	20	Adele Morrison
SA	21	Madeline Cootes
WA	22	Melissa Morris
NZL	23	Alice Jarvis
NZ	24	Denise Maniatis
NSW	25	Victoria Jackson
NZ	26	Felicity McIvor
QLD	27	Allanah Meriman
NSW	28	Charli Kesteven

ACT	01	Lochran Doherty
VIC	02	Jordan Dodds
	03	Russell Ngan
NSW	04	Brad McLachlan
QLD	05	Christopher Boyd
QLD	06	Storm Schrimmager
	07	Alexander Jackson
	08	Andrew Taylor

QLD	01	Chantell Kerry
WA	02	Taylor Dean
SA	03	Moho Fujita
NSW	04	Claudia Dong
NSW	05	Zara Pasfield
QLD	06	Ella Buys
State	07	Samantha Waugh
NSW	08	Kassidy-Rae Browell
QLD	09	Terry Berardone
QLD	10	Jessie Park
QLD	11	Sarah Buys
NSW	12	Alexis Kooyman
NSW	13	Bethany McMahon
NSW	14	Rhiane Cook
NZL	15	Ariel Nadas
WA	16	Elizabeth Mayers
VIC	17	Karuna herdson
NSW	18	Katie Whitten
QLD	19	Tayla Kearns
WA	20	Ayla Kauschke
ACT	21	Celina Meyer
NZL	22	Stephanie Miles
VIC	23	Samantha Zerella
NZL	24	Maja Czajkowski

NZL	01	Oliver Porter
VIC	02	Joshua Broad
NSW	03	Cameron Hemmert
NZL	04	Callum Bullard

SA	01	Team Renaissance
ACT	02	Dynamix
QLD	03	Chill Factor



CAMERON MEDHURST

8-TIME MEN'S CHAMPION OF AUSTRALIA

He has eight National titles, nine World and three Olympic Winter Games appearances to his credit. From 1982 for a full decade, Cameron Medhurst dominated men's figure skating in Australia.

As a professional, Cameron has toured around the world in shows from Disney On Ice to The National Ice Theatre of Canada. Currently, he is in Europe rehearsing with Holiday On Ice.

aussieSKATES catches up with him here.

aussieSKATES: When did you first discover skating?

In 1973 at Iceland Ringwood, I was eating in the Wintergarten Restaurant with my family. I watched a public session through the glass overlooking the rink and was mesmerized and wanted to try it.

aussieSKATES: How old were you when you began taking lessons?

Eight years old. I started with a visiting Canadian coach, who was in Australia for six months. After that, my Australian coaches were Aileen Nash (for ten years), Magda Mayer (for five years) and Belinda Trussell (four years).

aussieSKATES: Did you have any idols growing up?

There wasn't much skating on TV back then. But, I remember on Saturdays there was

an American program, *Wide World of Sports*. Sometimes, there was a skating segment showing a couple of overseas competition programs.

Or, I would just watch the opening introduction with about ten seconds of Dorothy Hamill, and copy her doing a Wally at the '76 Olympics!

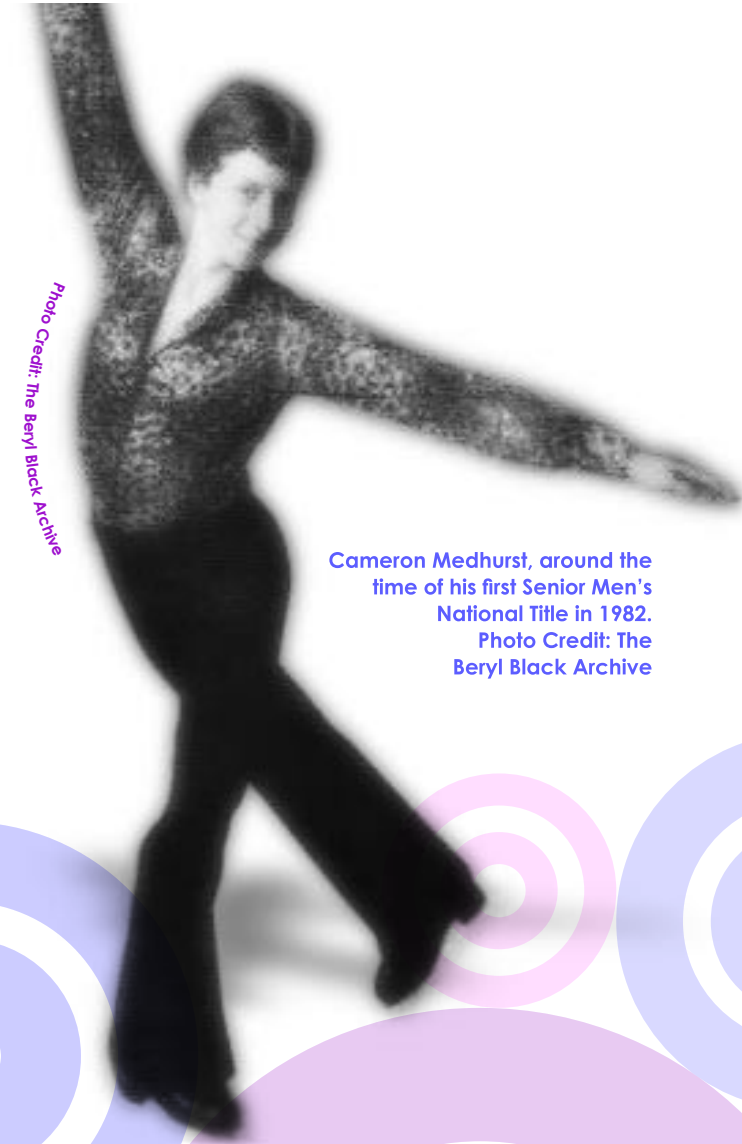
Later, I saw Robin Cousins on TV at the 1980 Olympics, and then he visited Australia after that. I was skating in the shows in Melbourne as the Junior Australian Men's Champion. He was a fast and exciting skater, who could do some spins and jumps both in both directions.

I got to know him better when he was commentating for the BBC when I was at Worlds. Later I worked with him when he choreographed *Starlight Express on Ice* (FELD ENTERTAINMENT, 1997) and he is one of my favourite choreographers.

He has incredible musicality and a talent for finding steps or movements for every beat and syncopated rhythm. It is wonderful to watch him create. He is the choreographer and artistic director for *Peter Pan on Ice* (HOLIDAY ON ICE, 2005) which I am touring with in Europe at the moment. He has been creatively involved with about eight of the last HOLIDAY ON ICE shows!

My favourite skater when I was competing at the world level was Kurt Browning (Canada). He was very quick on his feet for step sequences and was a great jumper. He had

Photo Credit: The Beryl Black Archive



Cameron Medhurst, around the time of his first Senior Men's National Title in 1982.
Photo Credit: The Beryl Black Archive

a special showmanship and a performance energy that was very entertaining.

aussieSKATES: Your ballet training is notable in your presentation. What was it like learning ballet with Kathleen Gorham?

I first took ballet when I was on a training trip to Santa Monica, California in 1978. All the skaters took ballet and I was in a class with

US Pair Champions, Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner. I was 12 and was very stiff.

When we returned to Iceland, the club organized ballet classes twice a week with Miss. Gorham. The restaurant where I discovered skating was now managed by the rink and we had portable walls to wheel into place for ballet on the carpet. You had to be careful when your socked feet got onto the wooden dance floor!

Miss. Gorham was more strict than what we were used to and gave us traditional classical training. We learnt words in French along the way, and she would get very frustrated with our clumsiness and yell at us sometimes. She was about 60 years old and was a tiny looking lady who wore platform heels, and she had a slightly hoarse smoker's voice. She was a generous and wonderful lady who became good friends with my coach (Aileen). She taught me some valuable lessons about performance and she gave advice on how to be gracious and respectful to your audience.

I remember the struggle to stop my bum from sticking out when I bent my knees, and the ongoing battle to do the splits. I used to dream I could do it and wake up disappointed when I tried again and was still not touching the floor. The flexibility I eventually achieved was very helpful to my skating after that, but more importantly I gained posture, control and style.

aussieSKATES: Do you take on a particular character when skating?

In professional shows it became necessary to perform a certain role and be "in character". Before that I had only played in the Xmas shows and done some exhibition numbers

where I explored my own acting ability. The biggest change came in Sydney when I was asked to be "Fagin" in the Canterbury Xmas show (1989). This transformation into character work was more dramatic with the make-up and costume, plus I had other scenes and not just the solo to perform. I could get absorbed into someone so far removed from myself and I felt an internal energy like when I was performing in high school drama class.

I was lucky in the early years to have a talent to "fire up on the night". There were some times when this did not work, but mostly the excitement to perform helped me to rise to the occasion successfully.

I later used that program (from the musical *Oliver!*) to win a bronze medal in the Skate Canada Artistic competition (1990). I was even in character throughout the warm-up and was pretending to pick pocket people near the barrier. Many friends and judges did not even recognize me.

When I joined DISNEY ON ICE in 1995 I was performing in *The Jungle Book* as Mowgli. This was a child character that required a lot of

energy and he spent lots of playful fun-time with his best friend *Baloo*.

This was a challenge to skate in a very un-classical way with loose arms, and a running style. I had to be floppy and quick on my feet, rather than using elegant upper body posture and long edges. I stayed in that role for about 635 performances throughout USA and Mexico. I was glad to move on and stand up again in my stroking!

aussieSKATES: How many hours a week did you train preparing for competition?

In the senior years of my career (1980 - 1992), I was training on the ice up to 25 hours a week (we still had compulsory figures until 1990), around my work hours and studying. When I was living in Melbourne, I was sometimes driving nearly three hours a day between the rink, work and college. Then on weekends I drove to Bendigo to train.

I also did jazz ballet classes for co-ordination, flexibility, choreography and fun. I was training at the gym about three times a week for strength, and I tried some aerobics classes and cycling also.

aussieSKATES: What sort of mental preparation did you do?

I was lucky in the early years to have a talent to "fire up on the night". There were some times when this did not work, but mostly the excitement to perform helped me to rise to the occasion successfully.

It was not until 1985 and our first trip to the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) that we learned about structured mental preparation. These camps gave us so much information on training, diet, psychology and we got some personal results in sports testing.

I took in as much information as possible and incorporated it into my weekly training program. It helped me formulate a very specific training routine to maximize my results. Through trial and error I found what worked for me, so then I could schedule mental preparation into my training day or competition routine.

But sometimes that did not guarantee my best performance and that would be very frustrating and disappointing. Being physically ready and confident in the training work you have done before-hand is the best way. You can't rely on something magically bringing it all together just when you want it.

aussieSKATES: Having attended three Olympic Games and nine World Championships, what personal goals did you set yourself for each competition?

Usually, it was the same as in any other sport with a goal of a "personal best". I had to focus on what I could do and not what others were doing. I had to think of the process and not the result.

Even if I wanted to win a medal, beat someone new, or move up a place during the event, it could not happen unless I could ensure I skated well in the first instance. The result was out of my control, but my skating was within my control.

Sometimes I would aim to land a certain new jump in the competition.

It was hard in the early years of my international competing to watch skaters from other countries who were often older and more physically mature than me, when they were so much faster and stronger. They would speed past me in practice doing

triples I had not yet learnt or even seen anyone do in Australia.

Later my goal was to win a medal at an International event, which I did in a couple of competitions.

My childhood goal was to compete in the Olympic Games which I achieved when I was 18 (1984 in Sarajevo). After that I aimed for a top ten place at Worlds, which I achieved in Paris in 1989. After that I wanted

In the old system I used to always get a higher mark in the "artistic impression" but I think the new system would have given it much more credit. I would have enjoyed the challenge of trying more spin positions and getting extra levels for them.

to try for top seven so I could go on the *I.S.U. tour of Champions*, but injuries started to occur more seriously in the last two years of my amateur career and I did not place high enough to be asked onto that tour.

aussieSKATES: With your attention to detail, I'm sure your skating style would take great advantage of the Code of Points. What are your thoughts about the current judging system?

I think it would have been a huge advantage for me because my strengths were in spins, choreography, presentation and musicality. Now these are recognized more specifically in the new judging system.

In the old system I used to always get a higher mark in the "artistic impression" but I think the new system would have given it much more credit. I would have enjoyed the challenge of trying more spin positions and getting extra levels for them. When I skated it was considered a flaw to do a back sit spin on a forward inside edge!

Now I see that that the spins are a lot longer and more varied, and the step sequences more intricate and difficult, which is good for skating. But as a choreographer I find there is not much time left in the program to try and use the components to gain points in between these elements.

Everyone is seeking higher levels in everything to try for higher points. Sometimes it would be better to have one level lower but a higher "grade of execution" (G.O.E.)

aussieSKATES: What was it like training with Kurt Browning and Michael Jiranek in Edmonton?

This was the ideal training location with so much ice time available; you did not have to split your sessions with early mornings and after school times. I was away from my work commitments and could focus on skating, as well as get used to winter and/or the time change from Australia.

There was a gym at the *Royal Glenora Club* (RGC) plus a sauna/steam area, massage therapist, physiotherapist, cafeteria and bar/recreation area. At that time Kurt was training at the RGC along with Michael

Slipchuck, Kristi Yamaguchi and Rudy Galindo. Many Canadian international team members trained there, quite a few of them male, which were unusual for me to see and a great asset for me to skate with them.

Plus, there were visiting world competitors from other countries that came to train with Michael Jiranek, Jan Ullmark or Christy Ness. Michael was a calm and quiet man who I enjoyed working with.

Kurt was an inspiration because of his natural talent, energy and spontaneity in all aspects of his life. He worked hard and made it fun on the ice, whereas I was always quite focused when training. Outside of training he was a wonderful friend and we shared great experiences in Canada and overseas.

aussieSKATES: What are your favourite competitive moments?

1988 Budapest Worlds: when I placed 11th. Now I was finally getting closer to 10th.

1990 Halifax Worlds: Compulsory Figures were performed for the last time so afterwards I ran around the hotel car park in my skates without guards on. My best friend, Stephen Carr video taped this and I also tap-danced on the rocks in the garden!

I performed a personal best in the Short Program and skated after Elvis Stojko (CAN) in the long, when the ice was littered with flowers and the crowd would not settle. I skated better than the year before but placed 12th. Kurt won and when the Canadian national anthem was played you could hear everyone singing in a sold-out arena.

1992 Albertville Olympics: when I carried the Australian flag in the closing ceremonies.

aussieSKATES: How difficult was it to come back from arthroscopic surgery?

I had two arthroscopic surgeries in 1991, for my left knee and right ankle. This delayed my preparation for that season quite significantly and I did not compete in what should have been my final Nationals that August.

Because the ankle did not heal when I was off the ice for eight weeks recovering from the knee surgery, they then had to go in and

Kurt (Browning) was an inspiration because of his natural talent, energy and spontaneity in all aspects of his life. He worked hard and made it fun on the ice... Outside of training he was a wonderful friend and we shared great experiences in Canada and overseas.

check the ankle. (It never was 100% and I used preventative strapping on that ankle for the next ten years).

I missed overseas competitions in 1991, and I was not skating pain-free until November that year and the Olympics were coming in February! I could only try and get back to where I was the year before but I did not have a season to work on new skills.

aussieSKATES: As a professional you have toured the world over. Share with us your favourite performances/ memories.

1992 – Performing the lead role of *Puck* in *A Midsummer Night's Ice Dream*, by *The National Ice Theatre of Canada*. I had to skate, act and speak Shakespeare live! I had a hidden microphone in my costume and I had to slow my heart rate to speak my lines after skating. This was later made into a TV show and I was delighted to re-create that role again.

1994 Performing as a Principal in my first touring show *Cinderella...Frozen in Time* (as the character, *Buttons*), by DOROTHY HAMILL'S ICE CAPADES.

1999 Performing the lead role in *Xotika*, by HOLIDAY ON ICE. My parents came to watch me in Paris, and this was the first time they had seen me in a professional show. I continued in the role until that show closed in 2001. It was a beautiful show choreographed by Kevin Cottam and Simone Gregorescu.

aussieSKATES: For our readers out there planning to audition for professional tours such as Disney on Ice, what advice do you have to help them prepare?

For chorus work make sure you have good basic skating skills, with varied turns in all directions, edge control and able to stop on both feet.

Prepare a program if possible showing your best skills in a performance. Present it live when DISNEY are in town or send a DVD to the casting director of all the shows you are interested in.

If you can't get a program done then make a DVD or video showing all the skills you can do with as much variety as possible for spins, jumps field moves, step sequences.

aussieSKATES: What is life on the road like?

Varied! I am doing this questionnaire on my laptop on a bus travel day in Holland. I like the idea of moving every Monday to a new city and the chance to explore new places. You will generally get a day or two each week to yourself, so you can look around and enjoy foreign countries. In Europe, they have an excellent train system so you can easily see nearby cities and other sights.

The show opens each Tuesday or Wednesday, and then you have one, two or three shows per day through to Sunday. With *Disney* it's normally 12 shows per week, and with *Holiday* it's ten shows per week.

So, it is normal to perform three on Saturday and three on Sunday. Usually, *Disney* just has earlier matinees.

(Another difference is) *Disney* travel on a night bus on Sunday after the last show, whereas *Holiday* travel during the day on Monday.

I don't mind hotel living, where someone else makes your bed, brings you clean towels and cleans the bathroom for you. It is not five star living but you get a variety of hotel standards, sometimes in the city centre, or sometimes out by the building you perform in.

If you are lucky you get a small fridge to use, but otherwise the challenge is to not spend too much money on eating out, while still eating healthily and regularly within the show schedule. This was much harder as a principal when I wanted my carbohydrates during the day like a pre-competition meal. Sometimes when you are done at night and hungry, it is harder to find places open.

Most people are surprised to know that you pay for your own hotel. You get a very good

group rate and occasionally a four star hotel. The company provides tour transport between the cities and usually from the hotel to the building. (We don't call it a rink.)

You will get to make some amazing friendships that will last for years. I can now stop-off in more than a dozen different countries if I wanted to visit good friends during my breaks.

You can hopefully work up to eight or nine months of the year, depending on which company and which tour you are on. (Check out their websites for more details at the end of this article.)

The down-side of touring life is looking for laundromats, hauling supermarket bags on public transport or in taxis, and having flying travel days when there are luggage weight restrictions! Also, smaller European hotels don't always have elevators!!

But, if you can hop on the Metro that afternoon and climb the Eiffel Tower, you will soon get over it.

aussieSKATES: You mentioned working on several projects at the moment. Could we learn more about them?

"Peter Pan on Ice" is part of the Kids Show market by *Holiday On Ice*. I am the Performance Supervisor (also called performance Director, or Show Director) and I am in charge of the quality of the show while it is on tour.

I make the adjustments to choreography and props and lights for the different buildings we play. The ice size can change in length by up to 20 meters!

I also have to train the new people, understudies, and makes notes for each

show on good points and where there are errors in choreography, acting scenes, or performance; these notes and for the skaters, lighting, props and sound departments.

I audition new skaters and am the middle management on tour between the skaters and the Company Manager.

We have just started our third year (of touring), and will visit Holland, Hungary, Slovakia, Greece, Turkey and Serbia. We opened in 2005 and have been to more than 20 countries!

Just before this tour started I was in Antwerp working with the Belgian TV show "Sterren op het Ijs" ("Stars on Ice"). I was training the celebrities in basic skating skills before the choreographers came in and before they met their partners. There are two Australians still there; Emma Brien and Trent Nelson-Bond.

When I am in Australia on a break, I am often coaching in Sydney at Canterbury and doing freelance choreography.

For articles about Cameron Medhurst, check out our Hall of Fame section. Video clips of his various eligible performances can be found in our Clip of the Month archive.

Cameron's own site can be located at:

www.users.bigpond.net.au/apsa/pr_cameron.htm

Information about Holiday On Ice and Disney on ice can be found by clicking on the web links below:

www.holidayonice.com

www.disney.go.com/disneyonice/

INTRODUCING ICE BACI

Q & A WITH ANDREW TAYLOR



Photo Credit: Margaret Taylor

Andrew Taylor is a member of Victoria's Synchronised skating outfit, *Ice Baci*.

This year he competed in the intermediate men's event at the national championships in NSW.

As fate would have it, Andrew's introduction to skating began when his mum happened to have a discount admission coupon for a rink in Ringwood. Skating for over nine years, originally he did it just for fun. Also, being able to glide around with hardly any effort was, in his own words, 'really cool'.

aussieSKATES: How did you become involved with synchronised skating?

It was my then coach that created the team one year after I started skating, as a fun thing to do on Saturday mornings. At that stage, I had not even seen a synch team skate. This team I was in was called *Frozen Lips*. Two years later the team folded and *Ice Baci* was formed.

aussieSKATES: How did the name *ICE BACI* evolve?

The team all sat around a table writing names on pieces of paper. There were many suggestions. In the end we came up with *Ice Baci*. Baci in Italian means kiss or kisses.

(At the time, the club was called the *Kornienko Ice Skating School* or *K.I.S.S.* for short. The team's coach also had some Italian heritage. It has since changed its name to *Knox Ice Skaters*.)

aussieSKATES: Given Victoria's rink situation, how difficult is it to schedule ice time?

Very. You contact the rink before Hockey finishes and book as much ice as you can.

Due to lack of ice in Victoria, and no sign of a new rink any time soon, the team decided to stop competing.

(*Ice Baci*, however, still train in Hockey's off-season, doing exhibition and other non-competitive performances.)

aussieSKATES: What is the age range of group members?

The last time we competed, *Ice Baci* had an age range between 13 to over 30. (The majority of group members were 16 to 17.)

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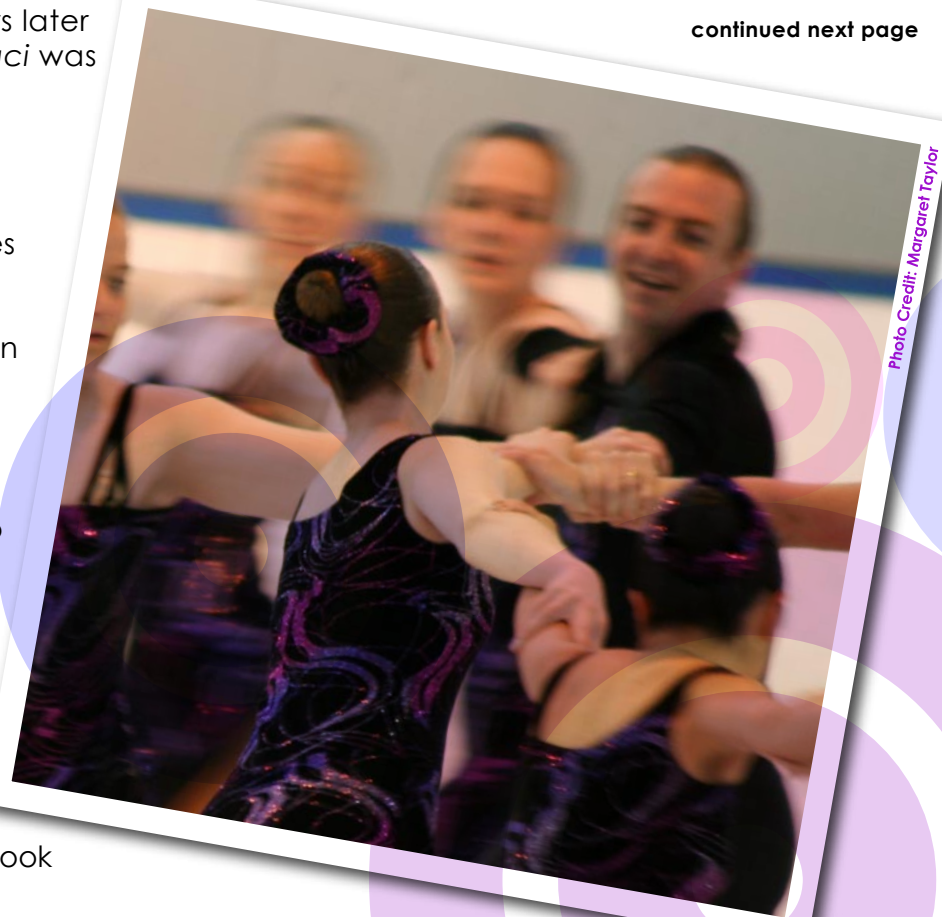


Photo Credit: Margaret Taylor



Photo Credit: Margaret Taylor

aussieSKATES: How many hours a week does the group train?

Last year (we trained) three hours on-ice and one-and-a-half hours off-ice a week. Now we do an hour a week in the off-season.

aussieSKATES: What on ice and off ice training does the group do?

Last year we trained from 6 - 7am every Friday morning, on Saturday mornings from 8 - 9:30am off ice, and each Sunday in Bendigo (at a rink in country Victoria two hours from Melbourne) for two hours.

aussieSKATES: Thanks to the likes of online media services like **YOUTUBE**, accessing competition performances makes studying and enjoying the sport easier than it's ever been. With this in mind, does the group have any synchronised or figure skating idols?

No not that I'm aware of. Most of the team was in it for the fun.

aussieSKATES: What minimum standard is required for someone to join or audition? Do you need to have competed previously as a single or pair?

(To join *Ice Baci*) you must have passed your elementary one test.

aussieSKATES: For our readers not familiar with synchronised skating, what are some of the elements the group does that singles, pairs and dance couples can't do?

A very popular move at this year's national championships, was two lines passing through doing spread eagles. Another great move is when the team goes down as a line in a hydro blade (a tea-pot backwards on a outside edge).

To learn more about **ICE BACI**, click on their official websites:

www.icebaci.com/zone

Photo Credit: Margaret Taylor



THE ROAD TO NATIONALS

BY WENDY MEIK

As we drove into the car park at Hunter Rink in Newcastle, the dream of competing at the 2007 National Figure Skating Championships was almost a reality.

The idea that we could field an adult synchronised skating team was a first for Victoria. It happened gradually over the past year. There were a number of Adult skaters with varying skill levels who were interested in trying synchronised skating at the Olympic Ice Skating Rink in Melbourne. We were lucky to find Julie-Anne Oaten who was an ex-synchronised skater, both on ice and roller, to be our amateur coach.

Synchronised skating consists of team of athletes skating on the ice at one time, creating geometric formations to music. The synchronised skating events are run over the first weekend of the National Championships.

In synchronised skating there are four levels of competition: Adult, Novice, Junior, and Senior. Adult and Novice Divisions skate a Free Skating program and compete on Saturday only, whilst Junior and Senior Divisions skate a

Short Program on Saturday and a Free Skating Program on Sunday.

An Adult team requires 9 to 16 team members and 75% of the team must be over 19 years of age. There are no test requirements for this division but skaters must not compete at a higher level (Junior or Senior) in the same competition.

The other divisions require 12 to 16 skaters for their teams. The other divisions are split by age and skill level. For example, a Novice team must be under the age of 15 and 75% of the team must have passed their Preliminary test.

The 2006 Olympic Figure & Dance Club 2006 Christmas Show was our first goal. We skated a very simple but effective program to *Fever* by Peggy Lee. The audience loved us! Flushed with the success of a clean performance when we regrouped in February, we decided that our next goal would be Masters' Cup competition in June in Melbourne. As June got closer we realised that we were not quite ready enough for that competition and that the team would focus on the Victorian Championships.

The training regime accelerated as the Victorian Championships got closer. Ice time at our home rink is very hard to get during the hockey season, from April to end of September, the team only have 30 minutes dedicated synchronised skating ice time and we share that with our Open team, Kinetix. Extra training was sought – both off-ice and on-ice. Ice-time was found in Bendigo in rural Victoria (a 2½ hour drive from Melbourne) and we found a great off-ice venue in a belly-dancing studio. (Off-ice time is used to practice moves to music, to help with learning the steps, and get body positions correct as a compliment to on-ice time).

Dynamix was the only entrant in the Adult Synchronised Skating event, so we wanted

continued next page



ADULT SYNCHRONISED SKATERS: TEAM DYNAMIX (VICTORIA)

Front row: Julie-Anne Taylor, Wendy Meik, Meredith Masterman (absent Katherin Molnar)

Back row: Daisy Masterman, Julie-Anne Oaten (Coach), Stewart Marshall, Rhonda Le Nevez, Xenia Shaw, Simone Lee, Justine Browne

to win our first place. To our delight, we skated a good program. As the Victorian Championship medals were hung around our necks, our coach said, "well of course we have to go to Nationals now!"

The training really started in earnest!

We had 6 weeks to prepare! There were changes to the program to learn. Early mornings – on the ice at 5.45am on Tuesday mornings, Friday nights regular ice time, off-ice after that. Small groups of skaters practicing the steps were seen in most of the figure sessions and general sessions. Costumes were covered with more sequins (to make us skate better). Travel arrangements were made.

Ice time was booked in the Hunter and Erina rinks for practice time in Newcastle. Then the team started to get sick; there was a particularly nasty strain of flu running around Melbourne. One team member was in hospital with an unknown complaint two weeks before the competition, three others were coughing and feeling awful. But the team kept going – the goal was in sight!

The team headed north to Newcastle on the Thursday afternoon prior to competition on Saturday, 17th August. We rented two Taragos to move the team around in convoy. The plan was to get settled in Newcastle before the training started in earnest on Friday. It was so nice to feel the warmth of the sun on Friday morning, as we travelled to Erina rink for our training session at 12 noon. Erina is approximately halfway between Newcastle and Sydney.

It is a beautiful rink attached to the Erina Fair Shopping Centre - very white and

clean looking with a lot of natural light.

The team put on our skates and took to the ice. The nerves appeared as the reality hit that we were actually going to compete in the National Championships. We were in a strange rink; the ice felt different. The music couldn't be played as we didn't have an extra person to put the music on for us, plus the music box was at the top of a metal ladder which couldn't be climbed in skates. So our coach focussed on doing the elements, whilst the team adjusted to the new surroundings. The 45 minute training session was up before knew it, and the next team was marching in to use the ice. Lunch was the next order of the day and it was decided to head for *La Porchetta* in Gosford. It is amazing that two vehicles travelling in convoy can end up in such different places – thank goodness for mobile phones!

Our next training session was at Hunter rink at 5pm – the last of the unofficial practice sessions. The convoy drove into the carpark to see other teams grouped, and practising to music in the car park. Buses were lined up in the driveway. This is it! We are here!

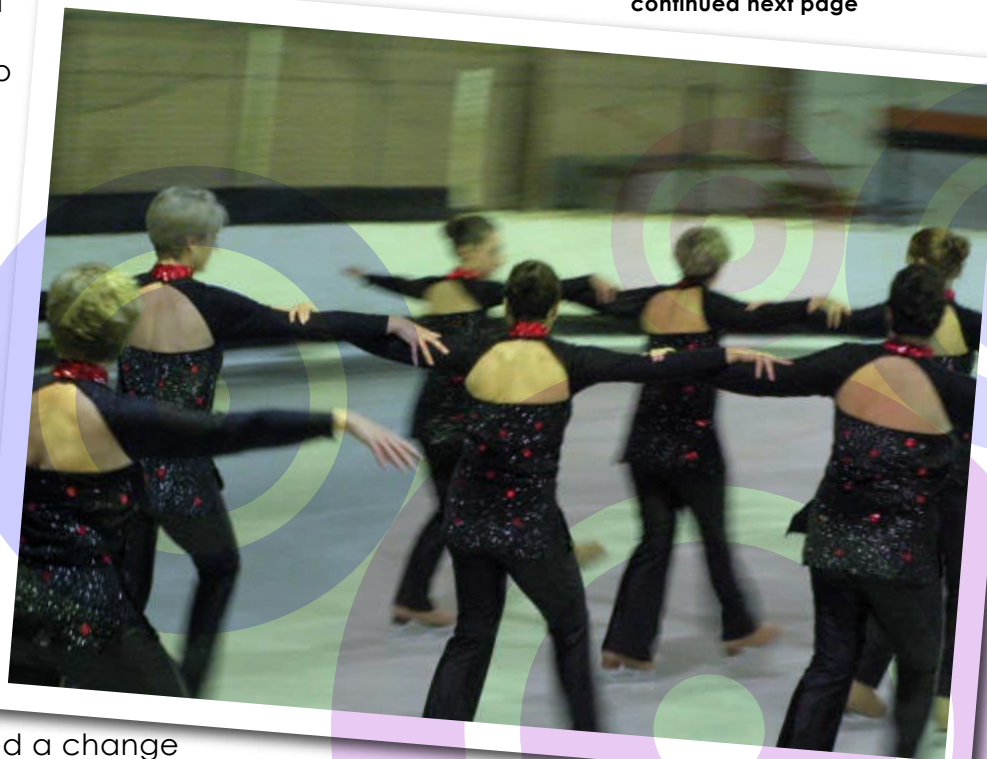
Dynamix spent time in the car park warming up, listening to our music and practising some moves. In the rink we had been allocated a change room, and we headed in there to boot up

and listen to the music. The team was pleased that we had had the practice at Erina, it relaxed us for our next new rink – Hunter. Hunter felt a bit more like our home rink, and it was easier to orient ourselves.

The draw for the order of skating had happened, and we were skating third out of the three adult teams – that was the best position we could have wished for.

Our competition was *Team Renaissance* from Sydney and *Chill Factor* from Brisbane. The team registered and received a big bag with gifts for the team – back packs and drink mugs – very nice!

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Medal presentation at the Victorian Championships.
(Champions: Adult Synchronised Skating)

From Left to Right: Julie-Anne Oaten, Katherin Molnar, Justine Browne, Simone Lee, Wendy Meik, Meredith Masterman, Rhonda Le Nevez, Nicole Bateson, Stewart Marshall

The merchandise was set up – everyone had to take home some items to show we had been to Nationals: t-shirts, jackets, badges! Competition day dawned.

Official practice in the morning was 20 minutes – enough time to have two run-throughs of the program, and practice some elements. The team was happy! Then, back to the motel to get ready for the competition.

A production line was set up for make-up and hair, where we were coiffed and

made-up ready to go. The car park was full when we arrived back at the rink. The team found a quiet spot to one side and our coach led us through some Tai Chi to focus our energy. Inside the rink the atmosphere was electric. The stands were full; teams of skaters were moving around.

Settling into our allocated change room, we put our skates, costumes and lipstick on. It was also a chance to listen to the music again, and think the program through in our heads.

Soon, it was time to line up to get on the ice. The program was over before we knew it, and it had been

a clean skate with no incidents. We were so pleased! The team had wanted to win our placing whether it be a first, second, or third, and third place with a clean program would have been quite acceptable.

Standing in the *Kiss and Cry* waiting for the marks, the lights flashed up and we came second! WOW! Now we could really enjoy the competition.

Presentations for our event were made on Saturday, and with the second place medals around our necks and still in costume, we went to the Cardiff RSL for dinner to celebrate. Messages of congratulations were coming in from the coaches and skaters from our home rink, which made us feel so proud!

It was a relaxed *Team Dynamix* that came to watch the Junior and Senior Free Skating events on Sunday. Our focus had been solely on our event until it was over, and now we could really enjoy watching the other teams. It was time to catch up with friends, acquaintances, and other skaters, buy merchandise, and enjoy the food from the café.

What next?

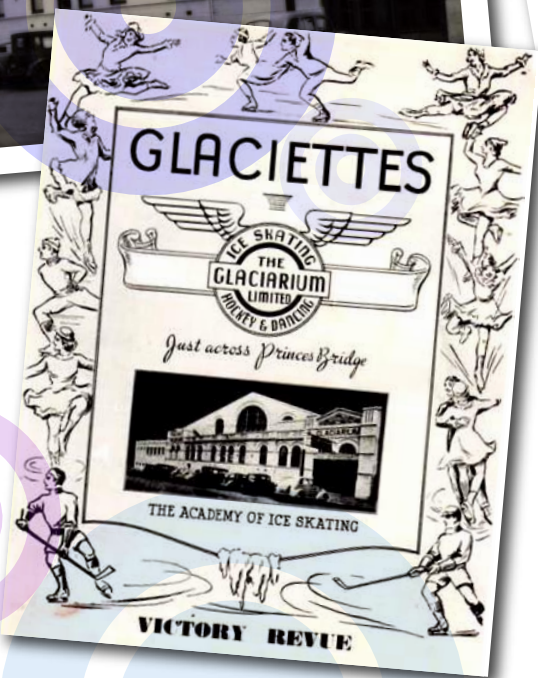
Our coach rang on the way back from Nationals. "I have a really cool idea. Why don't we go international next year? The New Zealand championships would be on just after our Nationals next year!"

Wendy Meik is an adult-level skater who has been skating for nine years. She competes in solo events (both technical and artistic divisions at the elementary level), and adult synchronised skating. Wendy is also active in skating administration. She is the treasurer and competition convenor for the Olympic Figure & Dance Club at the Olympic Rink in Melbourne, Victoria. Wendy is also a councillor with Ice Skating Victoria, and the team manager for *Dynamix*.

VICTORIA TURNS 100

SELECTED IMAGES FROM THE BERYL BLACK ARCHIVE

1906 Situated where the Arts Centre complex stands today, Melbourne opens the Glaciarium, its first indoor ice stadium. For many years, the arena produces a magazine called *Glaciettes*, covering figure skating, hockey, speed skating and sometimes even skiing news.



1939 Previously a dance business called Palais de Dance, the St. Moritz Ice Skating Rink opens on the Upper Esplanade in St. Kilda. Closer in style to a lavish ballroom than a sporting arena, the St. Moritz even had its own orchestra. The rink hosted weekly social dances, and would often produce elaborate skating spectacles.



1947 With competition open to athletes from North America and Australia, Patricia Molony places 16th at the European Championships in Davos, Switzerland. She goes on to finish 12th at the World Championships in Stockholm, Sweden.

1950 A regular entrant in the British Championships, Reg Park skates to 7th place at the World Championships in London, England.

1952 Nancy Burley (nee Hallam) and Gwenneth Molony skate at both the Olympic Winter Games in Oslo Norway (where they finish 15th and 19th) and the World Championships in Paris, France (placing 14th and 21st respectively).

1953 Reg Park wins the World Professional Championship in Blackpool, England.

1955 Dawn Hunter places 12th at the World Championships in Vienna, Austria.

1956 At both the Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy and the World Championships in Garmish Partenkirchen, Germany, Charles Keeble places 16th.



1960 Olympic Winter Games team

1957 At the World Championships in Colorado Springs, U.S.A, Charles Keeble and Bill Cherrell finish 16th and 17th respectively.

1958 Bill Cherrell places 22nd and Charles Keeble is 23rd at the World Championships in Paris, France. Lois Thompson finishes 25th in the ladies' event.

1960 Aileen Shaw is Australia's youngest team member at the Olympic Winter Games in Squaw Valley, U.S.A. She places 24th. Tim Spencer and William Cherrell are 17th and 18th respectively.

At the World Championships in Vancouver, Canada, Spencer and Cherrell each move up one place. Ladies entrant, Beverly Helmore finishes 23rd.

1969 Janet Schwarz places 17th at the World Championships in Colorado Springs, U.S.A.

1972 At the World Championships in Calgary, Canada, Sharon Burley finishes in 19th spot.

1973 Sharon Burley places 21st at the World Championships in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. The *International Ice Follies* tour Australia, skating their Melbourne leg at Her Majesty's Theatre. Former National junior men's champion, Trevor Bussey, partners the American star, Marilyn Wright.

1974 In Munich, Germany at the World Championships, Sharon Burley places 26th in the ladies' event. Billy Schober is 25th in the men's competition.

1975 Sharon Burley finishes 25th at the World Championships in Colorado Springs, USA. Billy Schober is 21st.



Aileen Shaw



Janet Schwarz & Janet McKinnon



Trevor Bussey



Trevor Bussey & Marilyn Wright



Billy Schober

- 1976** The I.S.U. introduces a World Junior Figure Skating Championship to its schedule. For the first time, ice dancing is included at the Olympic Winter Games. Sharon Burley and Billy Schober attend the Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria. Sharon places 20th but due to injury, Billy Schober is forced to withdraw from the men's competition. At the World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, Sharon Burley places 22nd.
- 1977** Asia hosts the World Championships for the first time. In Tokyo, Japan, Sharon's younger sister, Robyn places 17th in the ladies' competition. Billy Schober is 16th in the men's event.
- 1978** Robyn Burley finishes 21st at the World Championships in Ottawa, Canada. At the World Junior Championships in Megeve, France, in the men's event, Glenn Neate and Mark Basto place 14th and 18th, while in pairs, Fabian and Fabian are 9th.

- 1979** Robyn Burley is the surprise winner of the World Professional Championship in Jaca, Spain. At the World Championships in Vienna, Austria, Billy Schober places 21st. Mark Basto and Cameron Medhurst are 20th and 23rd respectively at the World Junior Championships in Augsburg, Germany.
- 1980** In Dortmund, Germany, Billy Schober finishes 17th at the World Championships. At the World Junior Championships in Megeve, France, Amanda James is 18th in the ladies' event. Cameron Medhurst is 16th in the men's event.
- 1981** This year the World Junior Championships are held in Oberstdorf, Germany. Natasha Viel is 21st in the ladies' event. Cameron Medhurst places 7th in the men's competition.
- 1982** Held in Oberstdorf, Germany, Natasha Viel is 21st in the ladies event, while Nicole and Rodney Baurycza are 14th in pairs at the World Junior Championships.
- 1983** Seventeen year old Cameron Medhurst places 21st in the men's event at the World Championships in Helsinki, Finland.
- 1984** Cameron Medhurst places 19th at the Olympic Winter Games in Sarejevo, Yugoslavia. Diana Zovko finishes 22nd at the World championships in Ottawa, Canada. Zovko also places 19th at the World Junior Championships in Sapporo, Japan. Newly-crowned Olympic dance champions, Jayne Torvill & Christopher Dean and Team Russia, skate to sell out audiences in Melbourne and around the country. Their extensive tour generates frenzied interest in the sport.
- 1985** National Ladies' Champion, Amanda James, places 22nd at the World Figure Skating Championships in Tokyo, Japan. Cameron Medhurst places 18th in the men's division. Popi Geros is 21st at the World Junior Championships in Colorado Springs, U.S.A.

- 1986** Cameron Medhurst places 19th in the men's division at the World Championships in Geneva, Switzerland. At the World Junior Championships in Sarejevo, Yugoslavia, dancers Lynne Webb and Duncan Smart are 15th. In pairs, Fleur Armstrong and Mark Edney place 10th.

In a surprise upset at the Victorian State Championships, former Queenslander, Popi Geros, defeats the current National champion, Diana Zovko. Later that year, Geros goes on to win the National Junior crown and the prestigious Piruetten Trophy in Trondheim, Norway.



Lynn Webb & Duncan Smart

- 1987** Cameron Medhurst places 22nd in the men's division at the World Championships in Cincinnati, U.S.A.
At the World Junior Championships in Kitchener, Canada, Lynne Webb and Duncan Smart are 15th in the dance event.
- 1988** Skating in his second Olympic Games, Cameron Medhurst places 19th. At the World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Medhurst finishes just outside the top ten, placing eleventh.
- 1989** Cameron Medhurst breaks into the top ten at the World Championships in Paris, France. Duncan Smart teams with Monica MacDonald from NSW, placing 21st in dance.
- 1990** Cameron Medhurst places 12th at the World Championships in Halifax, Canada. In dance, Monica MacDonald and Duncan Smart place 25th.
- 1991** Cameron Medhurst places 17th at the World Championships in Munich, Germany. Dancers Monica MacDonald and Duncan Smart are 23rd.
- 1992** Cameron Medhurst attends his third Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, France, placing 16th. He wraps up his eligible career at the World Championships in Oakland, California, finishing 18th. In dance, Monica MacDonald and Duncan Smart place 23th. Louise Carreher and Brian Duckworth win the National Dance Championship.
- 1994** At the World Championships in Chiba, Japan, Duncan Smart teams with Christine Seydel from NSW. They are 34th in dance.
- 1995** Christine Seydel and Duncan Smart place 31st in dance at the World Championships in Birmingham, England.
- 2000** Former Victorian Junior men's champion, Peter Nicholas, earns a trip to the Four Continents championship in Osaka, Japan.
Now training in Queensland, he places 19th.
- 2002** Plans are announced for a two rink complex at Melbourne's Docklands Complex.



Norma Barrett, Coral Stubor, Charles Keeble, Beryl Moore, Frank Parsons

Beryl Black is a historian, with a personal interest in skating. Introducing Beryl to the sport, her sister, Babs Cunningham, was a national speed skating champion. For two years while her husband coached ice hockey, Beryl moved to Switzerland with him where she ran group skating classes for children.

In 2006, she organised the 100th anniversary of Skating in Victoria. Currently, Beryl is in the process of writing a book about Victoria's skating history.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SKATING

VICTORIA'S HALL OF FAME

Diana Zovko

Packing her programs with difficult technical content, Diana Zovko skated with speed, attack and confidence. She was also one of the first Australian ladies to join the international triple jump race.

Using long leg lines to advantage, her style was reminiscent of Yugoslavia's Sanda Dubravac and the precocious Russian, Yelena Vodoretzova.

A strong competitor, as the 2-time National Junior Champion, in 1983 Zovko closely challenged New South Wales' Vicki Holland for the National title (and a place on the Olympic Team). In 1984, she was runner-up at the National Titles to the Victorian State Champion, Amanda James.

Competed in:	Ladies' singles
Victorian Champion:	1985
National Champion:	Senior (1985) Junior (1982, 1983)
World Team Member:	1984 (Senior) 1983, 1984 (Junior)
Coach	Magda Meyer
Known for:	speed & jumping ability



Reg Park

A well-known and universally respected skating coach, who was recently honoured with The Australian Sports Medal for his contribution to the development and advancement of ice skating in Australia.

Skating since age 9, he appeared in ice shows as a child in Melbourne. In 1949 he was the Victorian and Australian Champion. In 1953 he became the World Open Professional Champion, following which he skated professionally in Europe in ice shows. He was also a choreographer at the Wembley Empire Pool in the UK for many years.

Moving to Canberra to coach in 1981, he created the Christmas Ice Follies Show, which he has directed annually since then. He is the coach of the 2001 Ladies Champion, the most gracious Miriam Manzano.

An accredited Professional Ice-skating Judge he still judges the Professional World Championships. In his spare time he paints, speaks 5 languages and in 1999 was the recipient of the Australian Year of the Elderly Persons Achievement Award.

Article from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, June 2002

Competed in:	Men's singles
State Champion:	1949
National Champion:	1949
World Team Member:	1950
Coach to:	Jacqui Bird Miriam Manzano Essex Reid Kacie Shelley

Sharon & Robyn Burley

Dominating the sport in the early to mid 70s, sisters Robyn and Sharon were multiple Victorian and National champions. Known for their showmanship and strong athleticism,

Sharon, after competing at the 1976 Olympic Games, went on to become a star of the Ice Capades. In 1979, Robyn caused a major upset when she won the World Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain.

Competed in:	Ladies' singles
National Champions:	Sharon was 4-time champion (1972-1975) Robyn was 3-time champion (1976-78)
World Team Members:	Sharon was a 5-time team member (1972-76) Robyn was a 2-time team member (1977-78)



ROBYN BURLEY

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS SINCE 1985

1985

Diana Zovko
Cameron Medhurst
Laura Petrie
Webb / Smart
Sharon Visser
Mark Edney
Ajani / Merritt
Heidi Beyer
Dandenong Ice Cadettes

Event

SL
SM
JL
JD
NL
NM
ND
PL
OP

1986

Popi Geros
Cameron Medhurst
Williams / Hochmann
Popi Geros
Peter Cramer
Webb / Smart
Beth Forder
Mark Edney
Trewren / Storton
Emma Sutherland
Robert Shilland
Dandenong Ice Cadettes

SL
SM
SD
JL
JM
JD
NL
NM
ND
PL
PM
OP

1987

Andrea Mahl
Cameron Medhurst
Kerry / Smart
Mandi Gibbs
Trewren / Storton
Katerina Liszka
Kylie Turner
Ice Cadettes

SL
SM
SD
JL
JD
NL
PL
OP

1988

Andrea Mahl
Cameron Medhurst
Coulston / Duckworth
Heidi Beyer
Petrie / Storton
Chantelle Howarth
Welsh / Storton
Louise Carracher
Warren Ashby
Michelle Wilson
Fanoula Galanakis
Ice Cadettes

SL
SM
SD
JL
JD
NL
NP
IL
IM
PL
JVL
OP

1989

Andrea Mahl
Peter Cramer
Coulston / Duckworth
Heidi Beyer
Carracher / Lee
Emma Sutherland
Warren Ashby
Niv / Storton
Rene Perrin
Andrew Palermo
Chantelle Dowler
Matthew Buck
Katie Murphy
Peter Nicholas
Ice Cadettes

SL
SM
SD
JL
JD
NL
NM
ND
IL
IM
PL
PM
JVL
JVM
OP

1990

Heidi Beyer
Peter Cramer
Carracher / Duckworth
Emma Sutherland
Warren Ashby
Niv / Storton
Rene Perrin
Welsh / Storton
Chantelle Dowler
Andrew Palermo

1991

Siohban Halliwell
Matthew Buck
Sandra Wilson
Terrence Clarke
Ice Cadettes
Lisa Wright
Carracher / Duckworth
Emma Sutherland
Warren Ashby
Chantelle Dowler
Lucy Pilsbury
Terrence Clarke
Katie Murphy
Peter Nicholas
Kimberley Barson
Ice Cadettes
Olympic Silhouettes

1992

Heidi Beyer
Carracher / Duckworth
Emma Sutherland
Warren Ashby
Taya Sedgman
Matthew Buck
Renee Stein
Peter Nicholas
Cherry Lau
Kimberley Barson
Shaun Shields
Ice Cadettes
Olympic Silhouettes

1993

Lisa Wright
Taya Sedgman
Warren Ashby
Cherry Lau
Kruppa / Toyne
Martine Alpini
Peter Nicholas
Kirsten Daley
Miranda Bourn
Regan Orr
Ice Cadettes
Olympic Silhouettes

Event

SL
SM
SD
JL
JM
JD
NL
NP
IL
IM
PL
JVL
JVM
OP

1994

Emma Sutherland
Katie Murphy
Andrew Palermo
Wilson / Toyne
Cherry Lau
Becky Coleman
Kirsten Daley
Andrea Balstrup
Timothy James
Ice Cadettes

1995

Katie Murphy
Katie Murphy
Andrew Palermo
Kirsten Daley
Peter Nicholas
Larissa Prior
Andrea Balstrup
Bethany Davis
Timothy James
Ice Cadettes

1996

Katie Murphy
Katie Murphy
Peter Nicholas
Kirsten Daley
Emma Graham
Andrea Balstrup
Diva Santos
David McAuley
ice cadettes
olympic blades

1997

Katie Murphy
Katie Murphy
Peter Nicholas
Andrea Balstrup
Diva Santos
David McAuley
Peta Godfrey
Tyler Mow
Ice Cadettes

1998

No Award
Miranda Bourn
Andrea Balstrup
Diva Santos
Tyler Mow
Kelly Allen
Patrick Palermo
Ice Cadettes
Katie Murphy
Andrea Balstrup
Diva Santos
Hayley Botheras
Gemma Welch
Tyler Mow
Daniella Romeo

Event

SL
JL
JM
JD
NL
IL
PL
JVL
JVM
SP

2000

Cherry Lau
Silvia Luis
Tyler Mow
Kelly Allen
Daniella Romeo
Heather Holloway
Christopher Trembath

2001

Miranda Bourn
Hayley Botheras
Tyler Mow
Kelly Allen
Jayden Peacock
Daniella Romeo
Simone Sheehan

2002

Miranda Bourn
Tyler Mow
Kelly Allen
Daniella Romeo
Jayden Peacock
Ellie Atkin
Rachelle Williams

2003

Tyler Mow
Simone Sheehan
Ellie Atkin
Chelsea Fitzpatrick
KISST

2004

Daniella Romeo
Tyler Mow
Simone Sheehan
Ellie Atkin
Chelsea Fitzpatrick
Briant & Choi
Emma-Claire Dilly
Bethany MacLeod
Jane Collins
Chelsea Fitzpatrick
Kassidy-Rae Browell

2006

Daniella Romeo
Rachel Vermulen
Claire Bryan
Kassidy-Rae Browell
Katherin Molnar
Andrew Taylor
Ice Baci

2007

Daniella Romeo
Simone Sheehan
Bethany MacLeod
Claire Bryan
Andrew Taylor
Kassidy-Rae Browell
Katherin Molnar
Dynamix

Event

JL
NL
NM
IL
PL
JVL
JVM

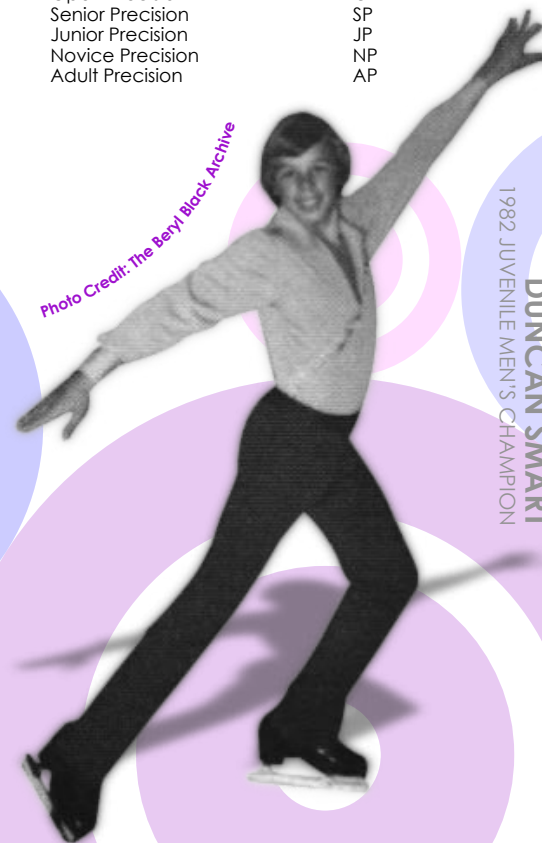
Category

Senior Ladies
Senior Men
Senior Dance
Junior Ladies
Junior Men
Junior Dance
Novice Ladies
Novice Men
Novice Dance
Novice Pairs
Intermediate Ladies
Intermediate Men
Primary Ladies
Primary Men
Primary Pairs
Juvenile Ladies
Juvenile Men
Pre-Primary Ladies
Pre-Primary Men
Open Precision
Senior Precision
Junior Precision
Novice Precision
Adult Precision

Key

SL
SM
SD
JL
JM
JD
NL
NM
ND
NP
IL
IM
PL
PM
PP
JVL
JVM
PPL
PPM
OP
SP
JP
NP
AP

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1982 JUVENILE MEN'S CHAMPION
DUNCAN SMART