

# Olympic Figure & Dance Club Newsletter

August 2005

Associations Registered Number: A0012443U

## Welcome to the OFDC Newsletter!!!

*July has passed us by (ha ha that rhymes) and we are coming round the bend, heading towards the home straight of the skating year (don't you love a good cliché?). However we are not quite there yet – there is still plenty of year to go and lots of skating to go.*

*Again I have aimed to provide lots of information to keep you informed, up to date and also to help you plan your diary. August is the biggest month on the Australian skating calendar with Nationals taking place in Perth.*

## Annie's Edges – a Special Seminar for Skaters

Anne Shelter is a very well known choreographer who has developed a programme for skaters titled "Annie's Edges". She holds seminars which are widely used by the ISU in its training programs for developing athletes and has visited Australia previously (some people may remember her from a visit to our rink about 10 years ago).

Anne is a specialist in teaching edge control and movement. I didn't participate (I had only just started skating) but remember seeing the seminars take place. They definitely gave skaters a new perspective of using skates and movement over the ice.

She is coming to Australia in October and we are fortunate to have the opportunity of Anne coming to our rink to conduct seminars for our skaters.

I would strongly recommend coaches and skaters (particularly the more advanced level skaters) participate in these seminars. They will be held on Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup> from 12.30 - 2pm and 4.30 - 7.45pm. The seminars may need to be separated by skill level and this will be advised closer to the date.

There will be a cost for skaters to attend. It might be around \$20 as we are endeavouring to keep the cost down.

Please register your interest for the chance to learn from one of the most respected skating coaches and choreographers in skating by letting Wendy know if you intend to come along.



### Check out our Cheerleaders.

Some of our girls recently organized a cheersquad for the Melbourne Ice Hockey Team. Don't they look great? Thanks to Lee for putting the number together and Carmel for the costumes.

## Rink Rules and Etiquette

Please note that there are rules that are designed to help the smooth running of the figure sessions. Here are a couple of more reminders.

During the week leading up the National Championships, priority for music will be given to those competing at this event.

Another reminder is which parts of rink are allocated to practice elements. If you are practicing jumps, you should do them at the café end of the rink. Spins generally go in the middle section of the rink, and test patterns and slower practise towards the clock end. However do watch out for people practicing programmes – they can do their jumps and spins anyway.

In fact, if you hear music on the sound system, then keep a watch out for who might be doing that programme and keep out of the way. After a while you will get to know who uses which music so when you do know, look out for that person and give them the same courtesy you would expect when practicing your own programme.

For a full list of the rules and etiquette please ask Wendy Meik and she can give you a copy.

## Websites

I have done some re-design of my Ice Skating in Victoria website. Contact me (via the website) if you have any feedback or comments about it.

**[www.geocities.com/skate\\_victoria/index](http://www.geocities.com/skate_victoria/index)**

Also check out the Aussie Skates Website for Australian skating news.

**[www.aussieskates.com](http://www.aussieskates.com)**

Closer to home, for the latest competition results and other skating activities and links, check out the OFDC website.

**[www.geocities.com/ofdc\\_au](http://www.geocities.com/ofdc_au)**

If you are wanting to find out links to international sites for fans, clubs, pro shops, plus many more, then check out the Skate Web at **[www.frogsonice.com/skateweb](http://www.frogsonice.com/skateweb)**.

### Another website to check out

Ice Online is a website that aims to become the complete resource for skaters and skating parents. It has numerous sections, from describing particular jumps, a shop which is linked to Amazon and plenty of links to clubs and skating organisations. Every month a current world level skater is profiled and you can find links to skaters websites. There is also a "How To" section which has plenty of handy hints (it even tells you how to tie your hair in a bun).

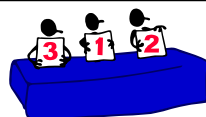
So why not check it out at **<http://iceonline.free.fr>**

(You will need to type in this exactly as written here)

### Test Results

Congratulations to the following Club Members on passing their tests.

- Iris Milligan - Preliminary
- Kelly Day - Elementary 1 Pattern and Elements
- Yvonne Shubart - Primary



### Have you thought about Judging?

Just another note to let you know that you can still register your interest to give trial judging a go.

If you are interested, please contact Mark Storton (ISV judging convenor) at [mstorton@inet.com.au](mailto:mstorton@inet.com.au)

## Skating on Thin Ice – The Verdict

Well the celebrity skating show has come and gone. Amongst the skating community there definitely was a mixed reaction. Some felt it was boring, others enjoyed it, some thought it only showed how hard the sport was and would turn people off. However we can all agree that it was probably the best publicity that skating has gained in years, and the recent numbers that have turned up to skating at the rink has evidenced this. Apparently this has also been the case for other rinks around Australia. At Oakleigh the group lessons on the weekends have had up to 70 people participating in the classes, and the rink has had to put on more coaches to cope with this. The Docklands Winter Wonderland also helped with this, but the show definitely inspired many to get some skates on and give it a go.

In fact the show rated 9<sup>th</sup> in Melbourne for the second episode, which means that Channel 9 are obviously on a winner with their reality shows of getting celebrities to do things that they have never done before.

As for the skating, well what can people achieve in 5 weeks? It did not break new ground in terms of skating, but I can say after watching the final episode that the whole concept was well worth it. The show raised \$50,000 for Canteen (children's cancer charity) and from my personal perspective I thoroughly enjoyed watching the celebrities take the ice in their costumes and put on performances that I think anyone of us would love to do. In fact I think some of our skaters here could learn a thing or two about presentation and putting on a smile when they skate! Skating should be fun and these celebrities obviously had a ball; I really enjoyed being taken on the ride with them.

As an adult skater myself, I remember what I went through as I started to learn the sport so I could empathise with what these people had to go through (as well as any others of us who took up skating well after their teen years had finished). But with the pressure of doing a performance with Disney on the line as well it would be doubly so.

So if anything, we should be most grateful to Channel 9 for putting on a show that many of us enjoyed and also for helping giving skating a profile that is long overdue.

When doing a search on the internet, I discovered that Imogen Bailey kept a blog about the show. You might like to check it out at:

<http://www.imogenbailey.com/blog/skating-on-thin-ice-blog.html>

### **Sergey Ryshkoff's Extraordinary Ice Circus**

Sunday 18th September 2005 at 2.30pm

at Vodafone Arena at Melbourne Park, Swan Street, Melbourne

The show is on during the September school holidays

Cost per ticket \$72.00 (same price for adults, concession and children)

*(retail price is \$79.50 per ticket saving of \$7.50)*

***The seats for the group booking are right next to the ice!***

**We would love to have you join us!**

Contact Wendy Meik

Home phone: 9530 5683

Bus phone: 9837 1618

Email: [meik@bigpond.com](mailto:meik@bigpond.com)

# Competition News and Calendar



There are only a few more chances to compete in Victoria this year. You have time to get your programmes together for these competitions.

*Please contact our Competition Convenor Wendy Meik on 9530 5683 or by email on [meik@bigpond.com](mailto:meik@bigpond.com) if you can assist our competitions.*

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	DIVISIONS/SPECIAL FEATURES
Sat, Oct 1	Skate Bendigo	Bendigo	Standard ISV Competition Format
Sat, Oct 8	Fun Skate, including OFDC Club Championships	Oakleigh	Standard ISV Competition Format
Sat, Oct 29	Adult Fun Skate	Oakleigh	Adult Competition Minimum Age 20
Sat, Nov 26	Fun Skate	Oakleigh	Standard ISV Competition Format

Just to let people know that memberships are due and payable on 1st October. It is still a couple of months before our next competition on 8th October - a Fun Skate and Club Championships. You should become a member before entering this competition as you will be covered by the club's insurance and club members get a discount on their entry fees for competitions. There will probably be lots of people looking to enter this one so let Wendy know early if you wish to compete.

However during the next couple of months, whilst there is a hiatus from competition, it would probably be a good time for skaters to start planning for next year. Think about your aims and goals - pick music, work on programmes, plan what competitions you might consider (next years calendar will be released in December), possible test levels you would like to achieve, and generally where do you want to go with your skating.

## National Championships

This year's National Championships will be held in Perth from August 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. We wish the following club members all the best for the competition.

Daniella Romeo - Junior  
Simone Sheehan - Junior  
Bethany MacLeod - Novice  
Debbie Ralston - Novice  
Yvonne Shubart - Intermediate  
Rachelle Williams - Intermediate  
Christie Johnson - Intermediate

Thank you to all that contributed to our fundraising efforts for our skaters to go to Nationals. We raised approximately \$1,000 which was used to pay part of the skaters' entry fees of \$1,575. The club has assisted with the balance of the entry fees.

## Interstate Competitions

There are a couple of interstate competitions coming up that you might want to consider entering

**Reg Park Artistic and National Aussie Skate** is on October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> in Canberra. Wendy already has information about this competition.

**Margaret Joynton Smith Trophy** which will be held in Newcastle is on October 29-30<sup>th</sup>. Contact Leanne Knight on [leanneknight486@hotmail.com](mailto:leanneknight486@hotmail.com) for information.

## **New Zealand Adult Competition Information**

I recently discovered that New Zealand has a very healthy adult skating scene (thanks to Amy Hodman from NSW). I have been in touch with Jeanne who is the contact person for the South Island Masters Games. She is also involved in the Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club. You can check out their website with this address.

<http://www.freewebs.com/cantmastersfigureskating/>.

Have a look at their rink – I am so envious.

In October this year and February next year there are two Masters Games in New Zealand, both of which have figure skating as events. The October event is being held on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> in Christchurch. This might not be enough notice for people this year, but this Masters Games alternate every two years with another place, so in two years we could get an Australian team together? The levels are similar to ours, but they also have solo dance and edges/stroking events, plus synchro teams. The highest level doesn't have double jumps so the standard is quite manageable for most of us adults. Their first year they had 22 skaters so it is quite a well supported event. Anyway you can check out the website for this event at [www.simasters.co.nz](http://www.simasters.co.nz)

The February competition is in Dunedin. I haven't been able to find out much skating information as yet. But you can check out their website at [www.nzmasters.co.nz](http://www.nzmasters.co.nz).

The other thing I discovered whilst reading their newsletter from their website was they organise trips to skate on open lakes during the winter. What lucky things. Sounds like a good idea to go for a holiday to New Zealand just to go skating.

## **Publicity Report**

Well as some of you know, there have been some incredibly positive things happening in our skating world.

The school holidays were the busiest ever. The rink had to turn people away because there were so many. Lesson numbers have increased. The Dockland Winter Wonderland was a great success, with over 30,000 people attending in the two weeks it was on and most of them wanting to go skating. In fact all their sessions were sold out and they had to take bookings. And Skating on Thin Ice has given skating a profile that it has not received from television for a very long time.

With publicity I send emails out about our events in the hope that people might show an interest. After sending out information about the Vics, I got a phone call from the 774 ABC asking if we could organise someone to do an interview on Richard Stubbs programme.

Well as you could imagine I was very excited and Wendy and I organized Mark Storton (one of our skating judges) if he could do it. Mark definitely gave a great performance and was a great representative for our skating community. I also got mentioned on the

Coodabeen Champions on Saturday afternoon (hoping that Ian Cover would remember the Groovy Hippy Chicks from the Masters Cup he attended whilst Shadow Spokesperson for Sport). Southern FM regularly mention us on the Sunday morning sports programme and I get rung up to be interviewed. And the Caulfield Leader had a featured article in their sports section.

You just send out things hoping that they might "bite". Well when you get one of the most listened to radio stations in Melbourne asking for interviews it is pretty exciting and a great promotional opportunity. So after Fox FM sending their Black Thunders on the Family Fun Day and then this, who cannot help but be pleased with the response we are receiving from the media.

# Skaters of the Newsletter

This newsletter we have a double act – Jacinta and Nicole Adams. Both girls are dipping their foot into two forms of skating – figure skating and ice hockey. So watch out for them on the ice because maybe one day they just might wear their hockey gear to the figure session! (Well if you want to go through your programme without people getting in your way a hockey stick wouldn't hurt.)

**What is your age?** Jacinta is 15 and Nicole is 12

**1) What got you into skating**

Our cousin Amber took us skating when we were age 6 and 9 at Ringwood. We attended a public session at Oakleigh in 2003 and fell in love with the sport.

**2) Who is your coach?** Amber Briant

**3) How long have you been skating?**

Both of us have skated for 2 years. We began figure skating at Oakleigh in 2003 and loved being in the 2003 OFDC Christmas Show. We were then taught by the Kornienko Ice Skating Club at Bayswater, as it was less travel time than going to Oakleigh. With the departure of the Kornienkos and the closure of Bayswater, it was like 'coming home' to Oakleigh.



**Nicole is on the left and Jacinta on the right**

**4) How many times do you train per week?**

Twice per week figure skating and competing in the Women's Ice Hockey League twice per week, after successfully obtaining their A & B hockey badges. Jacinta plays for Blaze Women's Team and Nicole plays for the Lightning Women's Team.

**5) What brand of boots and/or blades do you wear?**

Jacinta wears Risport with John Wilson blades. Nicole wears Risport with Sheffield Club 2000.

**6) Who makes your costumes?**

Luckily 'hand me downs' from Amber who has been competing for 12 years and our Mum puts together some costumes such as Jacinta's Kung Fu fighting outfit.

**7) Your favourite and LEAST favourite skating move?**

**Jacinta** - Most favourite move is sit spin and spirals, in particular the Biellmann. Least favourite move is loop loop. **Nicole** - Most favourite move is layback spin and the 3 jump-loop. Least favourite move is sit spin.

**8) Greatest achievement so far?**

Both of us received gold medals in last competition and doing demonstration skates at the Docklands.

**9) Do you spin clockwise or anticlockwise?** Both of us spin anticlockwise.

**10) Most painful or damaging fall (the more gruesome the better)**

Luckily we haven't had any major falls so far!

**11) Favourite music to skate to (or perform to) ?** Too many to list.

**12) Where do you want to go with your skating (your ambitions if you have any)?**

Both of us would like to check out the rinks in USA and Canada.

## A note about newsletter submissions

From the Editor

After the last newsletter, someone **anonymously** sent me an email correcting the "facts" about where Julie-Anne's injury happened. This person had only heard this information secondhand but insisted it was the truth (to the point of capitalizing certain words to emphasis the EXACT FACTS). They had also demanded an apology to someone because they were so adamant they were correct. In fact this person had no idea of the facts and Julie-Anne was quite upset by what this person had written.

Please remember that the skaters themselves write the answers to these questions. And before publishing any of this I will check with the person themselves to make sure the information is correct.

## Competition Results

### Southern Cross Trophy

#### Pre-Preliminary Ladies

1. Alysha Djuric KISS

#### Preliminary Ladies

1. Alexandra Shepherd ISCB  
2. Alana Vanderwert  
3. Jacinta Djuric KISS  
4. Stefanie Djuric KISS  
5. Rachel Wood KISS  
6. Sarah Norris ISCB

#### Elementary Ladies

1. Christine Joyce OFDC  
2. Alice Stephenson ISCB  
3. Julie Anne Taylor OFDC  
4. Kelly Day OFDC  
5. Kaitlin Taylor KISS  
6. Claire Hopgood KISS

#### Adult Pairs

1. Meik/Marshall OFDC

#### Adult Ladies

1. Jennifer Fowler  
2. Xenia Shaw  
3. Natalie Glatt  
4. Carol Rivoli  
5. Wendy Meik OFDC  
6. Julie Champion OFDC

#### Adult Mens

1. Henri Dupont KDISC  
2. Jason Yu KDISC  
3. Stewart Marshall OFDC

### Victorian Figure Skating Championships

#### Novice Ladies

1. Bethany Macleod OFDC  
2. Rachel Vermeulen KISS  
3. Debbie Ralston OFDC

#### Intermediate Ladies

1. Jane Collins KISS  
2. Claire Bryan ISCB  
3. Heidi Tucker ISCB  
4. Christie Johnson OFDC  
5. Casheena Delosa OFDC  
6. Yvonne Shubart OFDC  
WD Rachelle Williams OFDC

#### Primary Ladies

1. Chelsea Fitzpatrick ISCB

#### Pre-Primary Ladies

1. Cassidy Rae Browell ISCB  
2. Katherin Molnar OFDC  
3. Adele Morrison OFDC  
4. Katherine Firkin  
5. Jennifer Chiu

## Do you want feedback about your performances?

Skating is tough – we all know it. And for those skaters who are serious about their skating, then you will be aware that you need all the assistance you can get to help you improve and be the best skater you can.

Miranda Bourn is one of our more recently turned Victorian Judges who in the past has competed and represented Victoria nationally for over 10 years. She has been judging for 3 years and has recently been promoted to a national novice level judge.

Miranda is more than happy to help with any questions or queries regarding judging. So if you would like to gain some feedback about a particular performance or even talk about anything to do with skating at all she is more than happy to assist. Miranda's email address is [mirandabourn@hotmail.com](mailto:mirandabourn@hotmail.com)  
Otherwise please feel free to approach her anytime to arrange a chat.

## Australian Skating News

It is only a couple of months until the International Skating season starts again. Our top competitors will be competing in a variety of international events leading up to the Olympics and Worlds Championships next year.

The great news is that two of our ladies have been selected for Grand Prix assignments.

- Joanne Carter will be competing at Skate Canada and the NHK Trophy.
- Miriam Manzano has been selected to compete at Skate America.

We wish these skaters well. The Grand Prix series starts in October.

In future newsletters I will keep you informed of our other Australians as they compete in various international events.

*Carmel Morrison got a laugh out of this article she found on the internet – hope you enjoy it as well.*

## Ice Rink Zamboni Operator Charged With DUI

**NEWARK, N.J.** -- You can't drive with alcohol in your system, even if the vehicle is a four-ton ice-cleaning machine at a skating rink.

Zamboni operator John Peragallo was charged with drunken driving after a fellow employee at the Mennen Sports Arena in Morristown called police and reported that the machine was speeding (*Ed. - what can this be true?*) and nearly crashed into the boards.

Police arrived after Peragallo had parked the machine after grooming the ice during a break in a public skating session.

Police said Peragallo's blood alcohol level was 0.12 percent. Levels of 0.08 percent and above are considered legally drunk.

Zamboni privileges were revoked for Peragallo, 63, who has worked for the Morris County park system since 1994.