

Olympic Figure & Dance Club Newsletter

October/November 2005

Associations Registered Number: A0012443U

Welcome to the OFDC Newsletter!!!

Sorry about the delays in bringing forth this newsletter. Oh so busy these past few weeks with lots of exciting things happening. Including yours truly heading off to Canberra for my first ever interstate competition along with 3 other gals from our rink. Check out the report and some photos. And I started a new job which has been incredibly busy (but means more money for skating!) There were a couple of Fun Skates and some tests. Daniella went overseas (see her report). Plus the Annie's Edges were very popular and successful. And the year isn't over yet, with more test dates and competitions to come. Read on to find out all that is happening.

The Club needs your help!

So you come along to competitions and wonder how it all runs. Or you find out an activity like Annie's Edges is organized and you think "Fantastic I will go along to that". But behind the scenes someone has organized these things and put in many hours of hard work to make it happen.

Over the past few years, the club has been very busy with competitions and other activities. But it needs some new blood to help the current committee. People like Wendy Meik spend many hours making things work, but she would like to maybe hand on some of the jobs to other enthusiastic people who could spare a bit of time. So please give some consideration to things that you can assist with. The main criteria is you need to be someone who can follow through (not just say you will do it but actually do it!).

There are small tasks that others can do, but if people can help, this will free people like Wendy up to maybe take on some other activities that have been put on hold because currently they do not have the time to pursue them.

Some of the tasks that need to be undertaken at **Competitions** include:

- Sale table
- Raffle co-ordinator
- Catering for judges
- Set up/pack up of podium, etc

Wendy would also like to hand over the area of **Memberships** to someone else. This involves recording the memberships in an Excell spreadsheet and keeping track of renewals.

The **Used Skates and Costumes** that the club has for sale in the club room. It would be great if someone could take care of these for the club. (In fact if you are looking for a pair of boots or a costume the club has plenty available.)

So that is just an idea of some of the jobs that need people to help. If you can help please contact Wendy on meik@bigpond.com.



SKATE SUMMER At Olympic ICE RINK

Rink Closure Dates: Saturday 24th December 2005 to Sunday 8th January 2006

Last skating day in 2005: Friday, 23rd December

First skating day in 2006: Monday, 9th January

Figure Skating Sessions for January 2006 (9th to 29th January)

Evening Sessions: Monday and Wednesday – 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Daytime sessions: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 10am to 12noon.

Weekend – Billy Schober Edges

Saturday and Sunday - 9.15am to 10am (Skaters must be at Preliminary level to attend)

Regular program commences from Monday, 30th January 2006

Figure Sessions resume at 4pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Aussie Skate group lessons on Saturday/Sunday resume on Saturday, 4th February.

Please note that Bendigo is closed from Monday 19th December and reopens on Friday 6th January at 7.30pm. It will be open on the weekend of the 7th & 8th January. So if you want to have a skate before Oakleigh re-opens then contact the rink on 5441 3000 for session details of that weekend.

Synchronised skating

There is a new Session aimed to help skaters either learn about Synchronized skating or if they already do it to keep up and learn new skills.

The time of this session is 6pm to 7.30 pm Friday nights. The cost is \$13.50 per session - it is on for another couple of weeks and will then be reviewed. This does depend on numbers attending so if you would like the session to continue then please come and support it.

Approximately 20 skaters attended the first session. There were a few of the young ones who went along and had a great time. It is a great opportunity to make friends and add another dimension to your skating skills, as well as being part of a team.

Test News

Congratulations to the following club members on passing their tests

Daniella Romeo - Senior

Jacinta Adams - Preliminary

Nicole Adams - Preliminary

Sheridan Hussein – Elementary 2 Programme and Elementary 1 Dance

Jennifer Chui – Primary

Further test sessions will be held on

Test days for the rest of the year are scheduled for

Saturday 19th November, and

Saturday and Sunday, 26th and 27th of November at 12.30.

Dance tests will take place on November 27th

Please advise Wendy as soon as possible of your intention to do a test.

nnie's Edges Seminar Report

On Sunday 16th October, Anne Schelter, a world renowned specialist in the training of edge control, acting and choreography for figure skaters came to help our skaters with their edge work and give a new perspective on skating and the use of the blade.

About 80 skaters and coaches took part over three sessions from Beginner to Advanced. One of the best thing about the seminar is it gave all skaters and coaches a chance to be on an equal footing. I am sure some of the skaters got particular delight in seeing coaches having trouble with some of the steps as well as themselves (but they are only human after all). But it was also a great bonding session for everyone and a chance to people to work together as a team.

It has been good to see skaters since the session practicing some of the moves that Anne showed us (particularly that Heel-Toe thing that the Advanced class learnt). It also showed that no matter what level of skating you are at, you can always learn something to enhance and develop your skating skills.

Thanks must be given to Wendy for organizing this session. We could have missed out when it was found out that Anne was coming to Australia, but with Wendy's persistence and her selfless attitude of doing what is best to help skaters develop, we have definitely proven the need for this kind of learning opportunity.

Wendy is hoping that we can get Anne back early next year to help consolidate what people learnt. So you had all better be practicing what you learnt so we can all impress her when she does come back.



The Beginners Group from the lunchtime session



Everyone paying attention!!!

Disappointing news for Australian Champion

Recently Miriam Manzano was due to represent Australia at Skate America. Unfortunately for Miriam there were visa problems, which meant that she didn't even get out of Australia. I have heard a couple of different versions as to what the visa problem was, but needless to say she was unable to compete at this very important international event. Miriam is selected for the World Championships next year and skaters need all the experience they can get. This must be very disappointing for her and not helpful to her international skating campaign.

For news and results about the Skating Season (which is very exciting heading into an Olympic year), check out www.frogsonice.com/skatweb.

Club Jackets

One of the mothers, *Kristina Erzetich* has kindly offered to organise club jackets for the female skaters (see picture). The club logo will be printed on one side of the front and the skaters name.

Please let Kristina know if you wish to order a jacket and/or pants. If you don't know her, then if you know Kayla, she is her mum.

Otherwise you can email her on

There are prototype tracksuits doing the rounds that you can check them out. Kayla has one and Wendy has gone from Super Treasurer to Super Model by wearing hers at practice. So you can see them for yourself.

And what is the cost you ask? I have an answer for that:

- \$65 for the child tracksuit top
- \$70 for the adult top
- \$35 for the matching pant



Christmas Show News

With all the action of competitions, tests and seminars, the show has kind of been put to the back of our minds. But it is time to bring it forward.

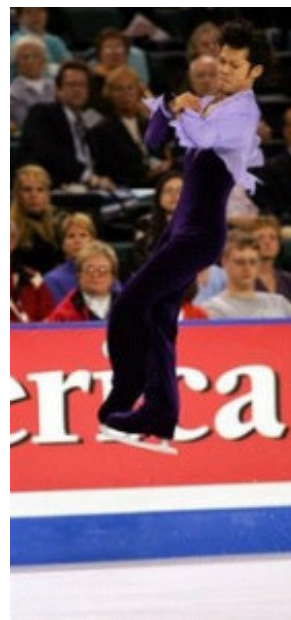
The show is on Saturday December 17th at 5pm.

Solo skaters have been invited from the ranks of State competitors.

Group numbers are being organized which skaters are encouraged to be part of.

The rink has kindly donated ice time for rehearsals on Saturday, October 29th, November 5th & 12th, December 3rd & 10th and there is a rehearsal on the day of the show. Rehearsal times are 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

We also need people to help behind the scenes. And there will be a party afterwards. Please let Wendy know as soon as possible if you want to be part of the show.



Japanese skater Daisuke Takahashi during the recent Skate America competition. I picked this photo to show how high he is off the ice!!!

Competition News and Calendar



Just another reminder about the competitions for the rest of the 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 if you can assist our competitions.

The final Fun Skate for the year is on Saturday November 26th. It is bound to be a big one so get yourself ready for it now.

You can start organizing your competition calendar for next year now. Below is a list of proposed competitions that OFDC are planning to run at this stage. The dates may be subject to change.

OFDC Calendar of Proposed Events

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday, March 6 th at 4.30pm	Fun Skate	Oakleigh
Saturday, April 15 th Sunday April 16 th Monday, April 17 th (Easter Long Weekend)	Olympic Trophy & Artistic Cup – National Competition Includes Short Programmes, Free Skating and Artistic Cup See Announcement	Oakleigh
Saturday, June 10 th at 4.30pm	Fun Skate	Oakleigh
Monday, June 12 th (Queens Birthday)	Masters Cup & Adult Interpretive Trophy – National Adult Competition (Minimum Age 20)	Oakleigh
Saturday, October 7 th	Fun Skate, including OFDC Club Championships	Oakleigh
Saturday, November 5 th	Adult Competition – Minimum Age 20	Oakleigh
Saturday, November 25 th	Fun Skate	Oakleigh

Memberships - OFDC and ISV

Okay it is that time of year again when memberships are due. Here are the details.

OFDC membership is \$30 for new members and \$20 for continuing members.

ISV membership is \$20 for associate members (Aussie Skate and casual Adult skaters) and \$50 for full members. A full member is anyone who is competing regularly and Preliminary level and above. You must also be a full member to do an ISV test.

Both memberships are renewable and due from October 1st.

As a reminder, when you become a full member of ISV, you have voting rights at the AGM.

Here are some recent results from competitions

Skate Bendigo - 1st October 2005

Primary Ladies - Short Program

1. Cassidy-Rae BROWELL

Elementary Ladies

1. Alice STEPHENSON

Preliminary Ladies

1. Sarah NORRIS
2. Jacqueline McLeod

Aussie Skate - Tiny Tots

1. Danielle PYATT
2. Jemimah BISH

Aussie Skate - Basic

1. Jemma FITZPATRICK
2. Brittni WEBB

Aussie Skate - Novice

1. Chelsea McARTHUR
2. Amy JOHNSTONE

Aussie Skate - Intermediate

1. Chloe FITZPATRICK
2. Rachel JAMES
3. Jordyn PEDRETTI

Aussie Skate Stroking

1. Nina ROBERTSON
2. Brianna McKNIGHT

Interpretive 2

1. Cassidy-Rae BROWELL
2. Alice STEPHENSON

Interpretive 1

1. Jacqueline McLEOD
2. Sarah NORRIS

Aussie Skate - Freeskating 1

1. Stephanie JAMES
2. Kayla ERZETIC

Aussie Skate - Freeskating 2

1. Morgan CLOHESY

Primary Ladies - Free Program

1. Cassidy-Rae BROWELL

OFDC - Fun Skate - 8th October 2005

Aussie Skate - Tiny Tots

1. Natasha Jeffries
2. Stephanie Orm
3. Brooklyn Smith

Aussie Skater - Basic Ladies

1. Tiffani Jeffries
2. Emma McCann

Aussie Skate - Novice Ladies

1. Kirsty Jakab
2. Taylah Smith
3. Jenni McLaren

Aussie Skate - Intermediate Ladies

1. Aimee Le Fevre
2. Erin Price

Aussie Skate - Freeskating 1 Ladies

1. Stephanie Cannalonga
2. Annabelle Freeman
3. Kayla Erzetic

Aussie Skate - Freeskating 2 Ladies

1. Sarah Pamment

Aussie Skate - Freeskating 2 Adults

1. Ellen Nase

Pre-Preliminary

1. Ana Mihaila
2. Hannah Stenton
3. Gabrielle Minnet
4. Amy Brunda
5. Jessica Du-Lake

Elementary

1. Julie-Anne Taylor
2. Kelly Day

Pre-Primary

1. Katherin Molnar

Intermediate

1. Christine Johnson
2. Yvonne Shubart

Novice

1. Debbie Ralston

Artistic Duo

1. Adams Family

Artistic 1

1. Annabelle Freeman
2. Amy Brunda
3. Ellen Nase

Artistic 2

1. Christine Joyce
2. Katherin Molnar

Skaters of the Newsletter

Our Skater of the Newsletter this edition is Amber Briant. Deborah Adams has kindly written an article about Amber for the newsletter – thanks Deb!! And Amber has answered some of my usual questions. But just to put this in context, Amber has been selected to train with a Synchronized team in Germany and leaves in November to join the team, which will be aiming to compete at next year's Synchronized World Championships.



Most athletes have a dream of one day representing their country at the elite world championship level. At the ripe old age of 22, Amber has achieved this seven times! Although Amber only began solo skating at age 9, she soon discovered synchronized skating and her skating career began.

Amber began dance classes at the age of 2, commencing with classical ballet and then tap and jazz. During 18 years of dancing she also studied other forms of dance including character, hip-hop and neo classical. For many years Amber was an assistant teacher and choreographer at the Cheryl Witchell School of Dance.

Although hard to believe, Amber began skating in Darwin! Whilst living in Darwin, Amber, aged 4, visited the Burley's Ice Skating Rink in a shopping centre. Her love of the sport began and on her return to Melbourne, she began at Olympic Ice Skating Centre. At age 11, Amber took a particular interest in synchronized skating, once called Precision Skating. The following year, she competed with Team Australia (the Ice Cadettes) and again in 1998. In 1999, she was selected for the Brisbane based team Synergy to represent Australia at the World Synchronized Championships. This took a great deal of dedication to the sport as Amber had to fly to Brisbane to train with the team and continued to do so for the following five years!

Between the years 1997 and 2004, Amber competed in 7 international championships: 1997 World Challenge Cup, Turku; 1998 World Challenge Cup, Bordeaux; 2000 World Championships, Minneapolis; 2001 World Championships, Helsinki; 2002 World Championships, Rouen; 2003 World Championships, Ottawa; and 2004 World Championships, Zagreb.

Amber was a member of the Kornienko Ice Skating School for eight years and voluntarily assisted with coaching over a large range of levels. In 2001, Amber was selected, as an upcoming coach and skater to attend a synchronized skating seminar in South Africa. This was organized by the International Skating Union and attended by some of the world's elite coaches. Only five skaters were selected Australia-wide. She has also attended many workshops with elite coaches in the field.

In 2004, as well as attending the Synchronized World Championships in Zagreb, Amber paired up with Norris Choi and won the 2004 Victorian and Australian Primary Pair Championships.

In 2005, Amber re-joined Oakleigh Figure and Dance Club and has been enjoying coaching at Oakleigh. However, in November 2005, Amber has been invited to skate with Team Berlin-1 for the coming 2005/2006 season. Team Berlin-1 is the 10 times German Synchronized Skating Champions. During the season, Amber will take part in national and international competitions, as well as several ice shows. Team Berlin-1 is aiming for a successful participation at the World Synchronized Skating Championships in Prague, Czech Republic, in 2006.

Deciding what Amber's greatest achievement so far is a very daunting a task. Representing

your country 7 times, winning an Australian title and performing in the Goodwill Games are obviously at the top of the list. However, skating in Berlin with the German team will extend Amber's skating achievements even further. She hopes to improve her own skating, to help the team achieve their goals and to learn as much as possible to bring back to OFDC to share her knowledge with other synchronized skaters.

Skating with Team Berlin-1 was Amber's ambition which is now coming to fruition. When asked what is the most challenging thing in skating, Amber replied " Everything in skating is challenging, you just have to push yourself. Even the simplest stroking can be challenging if you push yourself as far as you can go".

We wish Amber all the best with her time with Team Berlin-1. We hope she accepts the challenge and will spend a special and memorable time in Berlin. Fingers crossed, Germany doesn't work her too hard so she can return to Oakleigh and share her new skating knowledge. We will keep you up to date with Amber's progress. She will be returning home via Sweden and Canada, visiting skating friends! One thing is guaranteed, Amber will be having a white Christmas!

And from Amber herself (she kindly answered my usual questions)

What is your age? 22

What got you into skating? I first skated when i was 4 on one of the Burley rinks which was in a shopping centre in Darwin, but I had to wait until we moved from the NT to start skating so didn't end up starting till I was 9.

How long have you been skating? 13 years

How many times do you train per week? At the moment 3 days a week on ice and 4 days a week off ice. Once I am in Berlin I will be training 6 days a week on and off ice.

What brand of boots and/or blades do you wear? Jackson Synchro boots and Ultima Synchro blades

Your favourite and LEAST favourite skating move? Blocks in synchro because you can get up heaps of speed. I also like group lifts.

Greatest achievement so far? Representing Australia 7 times, skating in the Goodwill Games in Brisbane, taking part in the ISU skating seminar in South Africa and winning the pairs division at Nationals...

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

I hope to expand my knowledge to assist Australia in developing Synchro Skating and share my knowledge with experienced and new upcoming skaters of the OFDC..

So when will you be coming back to Australia?

I return on the 27th April next year. Worlds are on the 2nd and 3rd of April and live results will be posted on the Team Berlin website at <http://teamberlin-1.de/en/live>. After Worlds I will be spending a week training in Sweden followed by two weeks training in Canada before heading home.

The club and everyone wishes Amber the best for her forthcoming overseas endeavours. Good luck Amber!!!

Daniella has contributed a great article about her experience at her first ever international event. Please enjoy.

My Trip To Poland

By Daniella Romeo

After 30 hours of traveling, Svetlana and I finally arrived in Poland on Monday the 10th of October. A shuttle bus to take us to The Grand Hotel in Gdansk greeted us and we arrived at the hotel by 2.00pm. By 4.00pm I was on the ice training in a Polish figure session at the Olivia Ice Rink. As we were approaching the rink in the taxi I thought to myself "Is this a football stadium or an ice rink?" It was huge compared to our rinks, with stadium seating all around. We only have two rinks in the entire state, but the centre was a dual rink complex with practices on one rink and competitions on the other rink (although we did get to have one practice on the competition rink).

Since I was the first Grand Prix skater to arrive, I was the only non-Polish skater in the session. All the other skaters were really friendly and although there weren't many of us on the ice they still made an effort to get out of my way when my music was on. Trying to communicate was fun since they didn't speak much English and I didn't speak Polish. I couldn't even explain to them that I needed to use the bathroom! But Svetlana's Russian came in very handy. After the session, Svetlana and I decided to walk down to the supermarket. I couldn't believe it - they sold ice skates in a supermarket for \$20.00!

Early the next morning I was back at the Olivia rink training with the Polish skaters again. I had hoped to see a bit of Gdansk that afternoon but ended up spending 6 hours in the hospital waiting to get my legs checked out for Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) - my legs had swollen up due to the long flight. Thankfully though everything was okay and next time I will wear compression stockings on long flights.

By the next day most of the Grand Prix skaters had arrived including Dean Timmins from Queensland. We were all assigned practice groups and of course I was put with all the good skaters including the Americans and Canadians who were popping out triples like they were singles. Watching the other skaters and training with them was awesome. Being surrounded by such good skaters motivated me to work harder because I didn't want to look too much out of place, particularly since the judges were watching our practices. Practices were very formal compared to ours. After every practice you had to bow to the audience. Fortunately I had watched a practice session before mine and noticed what everyone was doing, otherwise I would have had no idea.

There were 35 skaters in my event so the competition went for hours (the free program alone took 7 ½ hrs). For the short program I had quite a good warm up and landed all my jumps. However it would have been nice if I had skated like that in my actual program. Unfortunately I didn't skate my best and was placed 33rd after the short program. Since I drew to skate in the second last group for the short program, I didn't get a chance to watch the earlier groups. But after watching the last two groups, I was amazed at how talented all these skaters were. The Chinese skater Bunshu Xu especially stood out for me. She was a little Energizer Bunny; she "popped out" a clean triple flip-double toe combination, a triple lutz and Level 4 layback spin. Just amazing!

The next day the girls got a sleep in and didn't have practice until 12.00pm. But Dean and the other junior men had practice for their short program early in the morning and were competing at 9.30am. The schedule for the free program was very tight. After my practice I had only one hour to rest before I was due at the rink to compete. Again during the warm-up I had good practice and landed everything, but I was annoyed with myself after the actual program because I didn't skate as well as I know I could. Nevertheless I did better than I expected - I didn't come last!

I found competing at an international competition was different to our competitions in Australia but it was an amazing experience. The Gdansk Junior Grand Prix was the largest of all the Junior Grand Prix events and attracted many of the top skaters from the participating countries. Although

I didn't skate my best it was even worth it just to be able to watch such fantastic skating. I learnt a lot from this experience and being surrounded by all this talent has motivated me to work harder.

The best part was meeting the skaters from all over the world. Everyone was really friendly and we had a great time together, especially at the Skaters Party on the last night. I'm going to miss all the great friends I made, although I'm catching up with some of them on the Internet. Svetlana was a great companion for the trip and we had a great time together. Her Russian proved to be very useful.

All in all it was a memorable experience and I'm very grateful for being given such a fantastic opportunity. I'd like to thank everyone who helped make this trip possible, especially my two great coaches Svetlana and Billy, ISV, OFDC, and all the parents and skaters for your tremendous support. I really appreciate it.

National Aussie Skate Competition and Reg Park Artistic Trophy by Kim Wilson

I get a chance to write a report about an interstate competition this time. Here goes!!

Over the first weekend of October, four of us headed up to Canberra for the Reg Park Artistic Trophy. The team comprised of Katherin Molnar, Adele Morrison, Julie-Anne Taylor and yours truly.

There were two competitions that took place over the weekend. On Saturday there was the National Aussie Skate competition where skaters from Tiny Tots through to Preliminary competed. The Sunday was the Reg Park Artistic Trophy where skaters had the opportunity to let loose and had a bit of fun.

As some of you know, I am learning to be a judge. I was fortunate enough to be able to do more trial judging whilst in Canberra, under the guidance of national judge Angelique Clyde-Smith. So it gave me an interesting perspective rather than just being a spectator. For the National Aussie Skate competition, I was impressed by the good overall standard. The skaters that stood out for me were a young pairs team (they must have been 9-10 years old) who did a great job, and the Preliminary Under 11 section was a very close contest. Most of the skaters came from NSW and ACT, with a couple of Queenslanders who had made the journey.

But on Sunday the action happened for us Victorians. Even though there were no formal practice sessions, it was good to skate in an uncrowded public session on great ice. (Did I say "great" ice?. The owner of the Canberra rink closed it for 5 weeks over the summer to put down a concrete base and after investing \$100,000 later, it definitely paid off in terms of a skating surface.) I found I was in skating heaven and probably got the best quality practice time I had in a long time. I stayed in Canberra until Monday just so I could more good skating in again before coming back here.

Onto the competition. I got a further chance to do more judging practice but this time the focus was more on the artistic aspect of the competition. What can you say about an artistic competition? Lots of animals took to the ice (however be careful when you tell a person who is dressed as a lion that they look like a meerkat or rat – they can get a bit offended!). One of the highlight programmes for myself from the younger skaters was a boy who did the Swans Theme song. Props are allowed in these competitions as long as they are appropriate. So the boy had a football that he kicked through the goals (well it was actually the gate) at the end of the programme. He got a fantastic cheer from the audience for that one. Plus there was Mary Poppins, Jesse the Cowgirl, Pinocchio and various 50's rockers.

As for some of the older skaters, again inventiveness was the key. Austin Powers appeared, as so did a guy who hated school and skated to Alice Cooper. I was particularly impressed to see some skaters selecting music that suited their level. They might not have been the best skaters, but the didn't try to do something they couldn't handle which makes the person watching feel comfortable.

Now for the Victorians. Adele Morrision skated in Division 6 (Elementary 2 level) and skated very well to place third. She looked fabulous in a green and white sequined dress (funny how when I skated on Monday I was still finding sequins from Adele's dress on the ice).

The Masters section (Division 7) had six skaters of varying abilities. Again I don't think anyone picked music that wasn't appropriate and really suited their skating abilities and styles. Katherin Molnar rocked!!! What is about when Katherin takes the ice that she just gets out there, moves and entertains everyone? Great quality skating and not an element missed. Julie-Anne did very well with her Olympic themed programme and put in a great effort. The highlight of our division for myself was seeing Frances McMahon's "The Magic Flute" programme, where she dressed like Marie Antoinette and used her fan so well. There were some great pictures of her taken by the competition photographer Michael Santer (you can view them on the Oz Skater Magazine website at www.ozskater.com).

And then there was me. Well I must have done something right because I placed second behind Katherin. My aim was to get funky and get down, but inside the nerves still get to you. Still I got my elements done and Katherin told me I did a really good sit spin. It was a shock to hear my name announced in second place but it was so nice and personally gave me a good boost to my skating confidence (the hard work must be paying off).

The evening was finished off by an exhibition from Miriam Manzano. What an amazing experience to see Miriam skate. She is beautiful and her jumps are so big. She is half way up the boards in the air on them. There is a maturity and polish about her skating that makes her as enjoyable to watch as anything I have seen in a professional competition. Let's hope she has a great forthcoming international season, with Worlds next year (she just withdrew from Skate America where she had been invited to compete).

So how to summarise my first interstate experience? Well it was extremely worthwhile and I had a great time. For myself personally, getting the extra judging practice was a bonus. But it was good to see kids and older skaters get out there and do really inventive and creative programmes, with lots of attention paid to music and costumes. I would highly recommend to our skaters, no matter how young, to seriously consider doing this competition next year. It doesn't matter how well you do; get some experience, see and meet skaters from interstate and you can make new friends. Skating should be fun and that is what a competition like this can really bring to someone's skating. Do like I do; include it as part of your holiday - go skating and then go walking the snow at Thredbo!!

I will be heading back to Canberra next year for another bash at the Reg Park Artistic. I am going to try something with a bit more costuming - maybe next time I will wear my red wig (to go one up on Francis in the wig stakes next year)!



The "lovely" Victorian Gals after their performances (thanks Katherin for the photo)



Thanks to Jacinata Adams for the cartoon.

Skating Book Reviews

By Deborah Adams

Deborah is a Librarian at Eastern Regional Libraries and has been reading some skating books. She has kindly submitted some book reviews for the newsletter.

Alina Adams has worked as a figure-skating researcher for ABC, NBC, ESPN and TNT's coverage of the 1998 Winter Olympics. She's written two non-fiction titles, as Alina Sivorinovsky, about the sport – 'Inside Figure Skating' and 'Sarah Hughes: Skating to the Stars'. Here Deborah has reviewed her fiction books, aimed at younger readers but for people of any age with an interest in skating.

**Murder on Ice, by Alina Adams. New York, Berkeley Prime Crime, 2003.
ISBN 0425193071**

This book is the first in a series titled 'Figure Skating Mystery' by Alina Adams. From the skate-sharpeners to the coaches, everyone's patience is wearing thin by the time the World Figure Skating Championships in San Francisco roll around. And on the final night of the Ladies' competition, Rebecca "Bex" Levy, a figure-skating researcher for the 24/7 network, learns that a triple-triple combination turning into triple-double isn't the only tragedy. The Russian skater wins the gold over America's sweetheart and everyone starts screaming fix. When the judge who cast the deciding vote is found dead the next day, Bex is hounded by her producer to get the scoop!

**On Thin Ice, by Alina Adams. New York, Berkeley Prime Crime, 2004.
ISBN 0425198847**

This book is the second in the 'Figure Skating Mystery' series. Thirteen year old Jeremy Hunt could be the future of figure skating. He's got a winning smile, flawless technique, and more talent than most skaters twice his age. So when his strangely protective father refuses to let him go to the Nationals, Rebecca "Bex" Levy, an up-and-coming figure-skating researcher for the 24/7 network, knows there is a story to be told. And just as she's uncovering a sordid scandal, a past champion is murdered.

Look out for the third book in the Figure Skating Mystery novels by Alina Adams. It is titled "Axel of Evil" and will be released January 2006 by Berkeley Prime Crime Books.

Websites to check out

I have set up a forum for Australian skaters, coaches, parents and fans to talk about Australian skating. It is at

<http://s2.excoboard.com/exco/index.php?boardid=14532>

You will need to type this in as written. Any problems please contact me.

There is also my Ice Skating in Victoria website. It has results of Vics.

www.geocities.com/skate_victoria/index

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

www.aussieskates.com

And the OFDC website is at

www.geocities.com/ofdc_au