



Top: Young ice skaters show off their skills.

Ice Skating

THE TEMPERATURE'S DROPPING THIS MONTH AS WE KICK, TURN AND SKATE OUR WAY INTO WINTER WITH SOME ICE SPORTS.



SOMETHING FANCY We spun into the rink with figure skater **Melina Simjanovic.**

DMAG: What do you love about figure skating?

Melina: That feeling when you're flowing on the ice. You don't actually need to move much but yet you're moving! And being free to jump in and interpret music how you want.

DMAG: What's the hardest move you've ever had to learn?

Melina: Probably a double axel, back in the day. So that's taking off forwards and rotating two and a half times in the air.

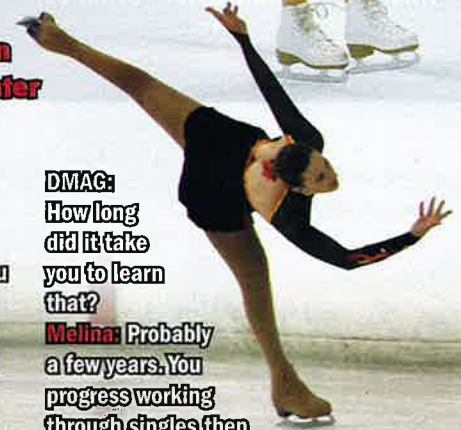
Bottom: Melina in action.

DMAG: How long did it take you to learn that?

Melina: Probably a few years. You progress working through singles then doubles then triples.

DMAG: What does it take to be a professional figure skater?

Melina: Commitment, dedication and a lot of patience. In figure skating, one day you seem to be able to do something and the next day you can't, so just having the patience to continue through and hang in there even through your tough days.



SOMETHING FAST Speed skater **Toby Dite** feels a need for speed.

DMAG: Are you a sprint or long distance speed skater?

Toby: I train for long distances, but sometimes it happens that I get better at the short ones! I think because there's less to the short ones. You get to the front and it's over really quickly, I don't like it as much as taking your time and positioning yourself. Usually there are more tactics in the long one.

DMAG: What kind of tactics?

Toby: It's like a derby out there. Four or five of us are racing at the same time and once you get put to the back it's hard to get back to the front because everybody's going so quick and there's not much space to manoeuvre. So generally you want to sit at the front and dictate how fast everyone's going. But when everyone's trying to do that it gets messy and you have to be careful not to get an ice skate stuck in your leg - which has happened.

DMAG: Really? What happened?

Toby: I cut my leg open when I was 14. I was at a training camp in Queensland and I went too close to the skater in front of me and he kicked back and cut me open while I was skating.

A style for all seasons Skating is more than moving one foot in front of the other! You can speed skate (which is like running, but with skates on), figure skate (which is like dancing on ice), synchronise skate (a whole heap of people skating in exactly the same way) and skate as part of a sport like ice hockey.

GET YOUR SKATES ON ...

IN MELBOURNE: Dock your ship (or your car) into Melbourne's Docklands and chill out at the Icehouse! What's more, from 26 June to 11 July Icehouse will be snowed in with stacks of on-ice entertainment and yummy snow cones.

IN SYDNEY: Sydney's Winterland will be working CarriageWorks in Eveleigh like a snow blizzard 5-31 July with its ice-skating rink and Finders Keepers market.

IN AUSTRALIA: Learn to skate with Ice Skating Australia's Aussie Skate program. Head to your local rink to sign up!



FUN FACT: SOME OF THE EARLIEST ICE SKATES

WERE MADE FROM SHARPENED HORSE BONE!