

# 2022 ISA AGM - Sport Development Report

## *Kim Wilson – Sport Development Chair*

Slowly the skating world appears to be getting back to normal. The Winter Olympics saw a renewed interest in rink learn to skate programs.

While many aspects of the sport were impacted by Covid-19, In the Sport Development space a number of positive initiatives for Aussie Skate reached fruition. There is still work being done on these and it is a gradual process. However this sets us up for future development and strategies.

## **Communications**

The Facebook Page appears to be working well. Angelique Clyde-Smith, Leslie Amacker and myself have been updating the content to keep skaters informed of international and national levels. There was great engagement during the Olympics and messages of support for our all our international competitors.

Moira Henningsen has been great with Instagram (I am a bit of luddite on this one) so her contributions during our international events has been fantastic. This is one part of the social media that was lacking attention so appreciated Moira stepping into take this on. Thanks Moira.

The [aussie.skate@isa.org.au](mailto:aussie.skate@isa.org.au) email address has been invaluable during the increased growth in Aussie Skate memberships and great enhances the ability to communicate directly and provide a quick service. Now having access to the Register Now database also means that I can manage membership queries myself.

There is also an ISA Youtube Channel that has been used to upload our app videos to. This is a resource that we could use more in future.

## **Website Refresh**

This should be a major priority going forward. It does need a full redesign. I have developed a scope for website redevelopment. I had received one quote by Dana Tang (our app developer). The Board wanted a couple of more quotes. This initiative stalled due to other commitments.

One of the things I want to see is a separate website for Aussie Skate to separate it from the main ISA website.

For future I would like to work with one or two Board members to progress this initiative.

## **Aussie Skate**

### **Memberships and Rinks**

At the time of this report there are approximately 1900 registered members. This is continuing to grow.

During the year we had 2 new rinks join up to the program, including Hunter Ice Skating Stadium and North Queensland Figure Skating Association.

IceHQ in Melbourne while running an abridged version of the program are now operating the full Aussie Skate program and registering their members with ISA.

Queensland rinks (Boondall and Acacia Ridge) are now directing all skaters participating in their classes to register for Aussie Skate through the Register Now portal.

During the year I have also held Zoom meetings with stakeholders such as rinks and APSA members. Ability to talk online has been invaluable to being accessible and to discuss various issues and ideas.

Happy to work with associations to ensure all skaters competing in Aussie Skate competitions are members of the program. Please contact me and I will assist.

One of the issue we currently have is knowing the registrations under the previous system. We assume there are not many, but when they do arise we are unable to verify these memberships.

Appendix A of this report has details of membership registrations.

### **Aussie Skate App**

The feedback about the app has been very positive. I get many emails from members asking for the passcode so as a marketing tool for the program it appears to have been a successful initiative.

Units downloaded from platforms since January 2021:

- Apple Units Downloaded – 1169
- Google Play Units Downloaded – 228

Recently the ice dance music was uploaded. This will help skaters, coaches and organisers of competitions to have the music on hand. It can be played directly from the app.

### **Judging System**

After the last 12 months I am considering some adjustments to the Aussie Skate judging for competitions.

Whilst we are using IJS principles for judging, I do think there could be some flexibility to allow competition organisers to run their competitions as it suits them. This may be giving states a choice to judge either just elements or just components.

This is a work in progress. Happy to receive feedback from the states on this.

### **Curriculum**

The main change was to the Adult Bridging Program. This is for rinks who run an adult specific program to provide more options in what was the free skating level. This now has two Edge classes and two Free Skate classes. The aim of the Edge classes is to provide a program for skating skills development which can assist skaters as they move into their choice of discipline. It also aims to help those competitive skaters move into the ISA competition stream.

### **Aussie Skate Program Handbook**

The Aussie Skate Program Handbook was updated and put on the ISA website. This has incorporated the curriculum changes as well as clarifying rules about competitions.

### **Promotions**

The Board did approve an amount to produce a promotional video. I had planned to use Sophia Bender who is a local filmmaker. She recently produced the film about the rink situation in Hobart.

Unfortunately there were more pressing issues in our local scene which meant this got put on hold. With the rink here closing until we get a new facility this will be on hold indefinitely.

### **Aussie Skate Testing under new Curriculum**

I can only speak to my experience in Hobart. The first Aussie Skate test session held under the new curriculum had 27 skaters who did 54 tests. Out of the 27 skaters, 10 skaters did just one test. This meant under the new curriculum, a majority of these skaters were completing what would have been half a test under the previous curriculum. They felt comfortable focussing on just a few elements rather than many. This appeared to be a positive step for skater progression through the program.

### **Adult**

The adult skating scene has been quiet over the last couple of years due to Covid. Recent events on the Australian Adult calendar have been ANZAS and the Masters Games in Perth. This year there are a handful of skaters who are planning on attending the Obertsdorf ISU Adult competition.

A change that I proposed to the Adult By-Law was to clarify about skaters being able to compete at a lower level than what they originally competed in as a competitive skater. I also clarified that skaters who have achieved a Preliminary test cannot compete in Copper which is there for skaters who have not undertaken a test. Also to state that if a skater competes at a higher level they cannot return down for the season.

This led to another problem in that there were not many options for Adults in Aussie Skate. This became the impetus for change to the Adult Bridging program which I noted above in my report.

The Adult Rulebook was updated in line with the ISU Adult Competition rules.

### **Theatre on Ice**

Covid has had a big impact on TOI programs and competitions, here and internationally. TOI teams are back working towards competitions which will be held in the second half of the year.

I participated in a Zoom Q&A session hosted by APSA with Jean-Christophe Berlot and Kate McSwain. Jean-Christophe is an international TOI referee and seminar presenter. Kate McSwain is the co-CEO of American Ice Theatre and a TOI choreographer. JC and Kate imparted their extensive knowledge about TOI to an enthusiastic group of coaches and officials.

Rules changes included clarification of Foreign Skater Rules (50%). This allows more flexibility with teams competing in Australia. This does not apply to teams competing overseas. Thanks to Angelique for assisting in the preparation of this rule change.

Thanks to Jan Gardner for keeping us up to date with the international TOI information during the year.

### **ISA Test App**

This is now complete and available for free to all. Thank you to Dana Tang for all her work, including skating in the demonstration videos. Also thanks to Angelique for providing feedback on the videos.

The demonstration videos provide clear examples of how the patterns should look. It also has all the ice dance music. There is now no further need for anyone to try and find the person who has the ice dance music at a competition or test sessions. Just use the app.

In future an enhancement for the app will be videos of all the steps and turns. This was something Dana used in her own Moves in the Field App in the US. This is currently in progress.

## **Northern Territory**

Over the past couple of years I had been liaising with Jeff Hunnam, the owner of the Darwin Ice Skating Rink. It has been a pleasure to deal with Jeff and his wife Amy. This year the Figure Skating Association of Northern Territory came to fruition which has also meant they are now a member of ISA. As part of this they are now able to hold competitions and tests.

In March Angelique, Jordan Dodds and myself headed to Darwin to judge their Aussie Skate competition and 3 Preliminary Pattern tests. We also met with the newly formed FSANT to provide some mentorship and relationship building. A very positive experience. Jeff Hunnam and his wife Amy were excellent hosts and have built a very lovely skating community.

The future of skating is very bright in Darwin. A good standard of the tests were presented and the competition ran well. Jordan gained a few new fans and ran a seminar as well as providing private lessons for the skaters while there. We look forward to skating development in the NT

## **Thank You**

Thank you to all those who have supported me over the year.

Particular mentions go to:

- Wendy Meik – Treasurer extraordinaire and always able to help when needed
- Angelique Clyde-Smith – appreciate you help with my projects
- Monica McDonald – thanks with helping from the coach's side
- Debbie Noyes – communications and other technical stuff
- Dana Tang – our app developer who has done a great job on both the Aussie Skate App and new ISA Test App
- Peter Lynch – available to discuss things at any time and I appreciate the support he has shown me in my role
- Board of ISA – getting my proposals over the line, reading my reports and supporting the initiatives. Thank you very much.

I particularly want to thank my state association FSAT who have been incredibly supportive. As many know the Glenorchy Ice Rink is due to close on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Ice Sports Tasmania are working hard to try and secure a future, if not with a new full sized rink, at least a temporary surface so that ice sports will be able to continue.

Apologies to anyone I might have missed.

## Appendix A – Aussie Skate Membership Statistics

### Rinks

Here is a summary of membership registrations through the ISA website as at 3/5/2022.

Row Labels	Count of RINK
Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink, Canterbury, NSW	37
Darwin Ice Skating Centre, Eaton NT	71
Erina Ice Arena, Erina NSW	1
Glenorchy Ice Skating Rink, Glenorchy TAS	57
Hunter Ice Skating Stadium, Warners Bay NSW	14
IceArena Thebarton SA	38
IceHQ, Reservoir, VIC	139
Iceworld, Acacia Ridge QLD	380
Iceworld, Boondall QLD	369
Liverpool Catholic Club, Liverpool West NSW	373
Macquarie Ice Rink, North Ryde NSW	9
O'Brien Icehouse, Docklands VIC	226
Olympic Ice Skating Centre, Oakleigh VIC	16
Penrith Ice Palace, Penrith, NSW	13
The Ice Zoo, Alexandria NSW	132
West Australian Rinks, WA	19
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1894</b>

### Gender of Members

As expected most members are female.

Gender	Total
Female	1506
Male	388

### Ages of Members

The largest group of skaters are those from 2 to 10 years old. The second largest are the 11 to 20 year olds. The skaters over 18 are our potential adult skaters.

- Skaters 14-17 - 229
- Skaters over 18 - 458

Age Group	Number of Skaters
2-10	810
11-20	684
21-30	208
31-40	93
41-50	68
51-60	22
61+	7