



# **Presidents Report – 2019 Annual General Meeting**

**28 June, 2020**

Welcome skating family as we look back to a successful year of figure skating in Australia during 2019, and forward to the challenges of rebooting our sport in 2020 in light of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Ice Skating Australia is in the middle of our 4 year strategic plan (2018-2022), which is the guiding document to provide direction for your Board.

The Board has been busy and has overseen growth in the sport. Communication to Members has continued to be a strong focus with the circulation of Board Minutes and decisions. The process of consultation with our Members to help ensure the work and directions we take are helpful to Members. The discussions at Board level go well beyond the Minutes and the discussion sometimes becomes robust. This is seen as a positive as different views are important. My role as the Chair is to encourage this discussion so as to bring about the reaching of a consensus as this is critical to achieving outcomes.

Financially your Sporting Federation has a strong Balance sheet and has funds available for the coming year to help support our Members and to assist our athletes to get back to full training.

We are leading the way in developing strategies to align our athletes and coaches needs to return to training and competition, the driver of the sport.

Almost not a day goes by where I don't have the opportunity to assist the sport. Whether it is constructing an ISU application, assisting in the workload for Four Continents 2021, writing athletes letters to support their funding applications, making ISU athlete release requests, finalising Communications to the sport, assisting with budget deliberations, meetings with Oceania committee etc...

We continue to ensure and direction to have easily understood consistent policies and rules to deliver an even playing field, and make it easier to exist and flourish in the sport.

# ***ISA Board***

Ice Skating Australia conducts its meetings via tele-conference. During the year it has used this forum to discuss proposals & make decisions from Members, Operational Directors and Board members. The attendance by your Board Members of those meetings is noted below.

The Ice Skating Australia Board members for the 2019 year:

President & Chair Peter Lynch

Secretary Carole Ashworth

Treasurer Wendy Meik

Board Members Deborah Noyes, Peter Marcovich, Don Nicholls, Leah Bates

The ISA Board of 7 stands for two years who retire by rotation as a 3 and 4 split each AGM. This year, June 2020 meeting, three positions are open for election. The Operational Directors positions are two years tenure, and this year, only one position is open – High Performance, due to the early retirement of Clarence Ong. We extend the thanks of the Board and Members for his long service and incredible professionalism he brought to the role. One Board Position is currently vacant (Leah Bates retired March 25, 2020), and we extend the thanks of the Board and Members for her service to the sport.

## **Board meetings and attendance:**

28th May 2109 - all 7 present

16th July 2109 – 6 present – apology from Peter Marcovich

6th August 2109 - all 7 present

3rd September 2019 - all 7 present

1st October 2019 – 6 present – apology from Carole Ashworth

29th October 2019 – 5 present - apologies from Carole Ashworth & Don Nicholls

26th November 2019 - all 7 present

6th January 2020 - all 7 present

12th February 2020 - all 7 present

24th March 2020 - all 7 present

5th May - all 6 present

9th June - all 6 present.

# ***ISA Standing Committees***

The ISA Standing Committees are structured under the leadership of Operational Directors and they exist in the following areas. All positions are elected and 2021 is the election cycle.

Sport Development – Kim Wilson

High Performance – Clarence Ong (retired March 2020)

Judges & Officials – Susan Lynch

Technical Regulations – Deborah Noyes

Synchronised Skating – Angelique Clyde-Smith

Athlete Development – Mark Lynch

Coaches Commission – Monica MacDonald

All Directors will present their annual reports to you, including Clarence Ong – High Performance, who has retired from the role. We commend their reports to you and thank them for all the great work they have done. Their reports will speak for themselves.

Our administration officer, Jenny Houlahan, continues to provide an experienced and organised conduit for the Board, skaters and Members. We wholeheartedly thank her for her continued service to the sport, and to Ice Skating Queensland for their support and also allowing ISA to share their office.



During the year, Ice Skating Australia provided \$15,000 support to the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia (OWIA) who in turn provided financial support, uniforms and support services for our elite senior athletes. The support ISA provided in 2019 was matched by Ice Skating Queensland and further enhanced via the OWIA. The direct grants to our athletes via the OWIA were far greater than the contributions from our sporting bodies. In 2019 the funds contributed to the advancement of our athletes by the OWIA was \$154,267 – making this a great investment in our athletes.

Brendan Kerry - NSW

Ekaterina Alexandrovskya & Harley Windsor - NSW

Kailani Craine - NSW

Chantelle Kerry & Andrew Dodds – QLD



ISA is continuing its bid for the ISU Championships, and the report from the event manager Cheryl McKewen is provided for your consideration, and speaks for itself. This event, is a positive and significant event for Australian Ice Skating however the ultimate decision as to whether the event goes ahead rests solely with the International Skating Union. The site inspection was due to occur in April 2020 however the Covid 19 pandemic prevented this. The functions of the site inspection are being worked through with the ISU remotely. The Covid 19 travel restrictions present the greatest threat to the event.

## ***High Performance***

The high performance programme provided incentive and funding assistance to our athletes of \$46,816 which was primarily results based and through the payment of international competition entry fees.

The Board resolved to introduce qualifying scores for AFSC entry to help create a level playing field for skaters across Australia. However due to Covid 19 these will not be used until 2021.



The Aussie skate programme is present in approximately half of the Australian ice rinks and is the only authorised learn to skate programme in Australia. It helps provide funding for our sport and has grown significantly this year through the revamping of the programme. Further enhancements are underway with the New Aussie Skate app recently approved by the ISA board. Aussie Skate falls under the guidance of Kim Wilson who is doing a fine job of engaging and developing new strategies for the programme.

## ***International Competitions & Championships***

The energy, dedication and enthusiasm exhibited by all of our wonderful athletes is no better represented than in the extraordinary efforts of our international athletes. It takes tremendous dedication, courage and hard work to compete internationally. We applaud each and every one of them for their well deserved results.

As the 2019 calendar year got under way, we were in the middle of the ISU international skating season. As such, our resilient skaters burst into fully primed action. Mr entertainment, Olympian Brendan Kerry from NSW kicked off the year with no less than a Gold medal finish earned at the Mentor Cup in Torun. A sensational and well earned result. At the same event, ice dancers India Nette & Eron Westwood from SA competed in what was a tough field for this enthusiastic young couple.

January is a busy time with international synchronised skating events. Queensland's Senior Team – Nova, headed for the Mozart Cup in strudel heaven, Salzburg and placed 11<sup>th</sup> with great performances. They were joined in the mixed age division by NSW's team Ice Reflections who placed 9<sup>th</sup> in their division. Nova then moved onto Leon Lurjie Trophy in Sweden whilst Ice Reflections headed for the Hevelius Cup in Poland where they skated brilliantly and earned the Bronze medal against 9 teams.

Darian Kaptich from Queensland kept training hard after the AFSC and competed in the Reykjavik International Games in Iceland and magnificently blitzed the competition and brought home the Gold Medal in Junior whilst the lovely Emma Dobson competed in the Advanced Novice division.

The Australian skating year is different to other sports as the season is really all year when our skaters must compete to earn benchmark scores to improve their ranking and have the opportunity for international selection, and then run headlong into that international season. It is a tough road for the athletes but well worth the effort as they get to perform so brilliantly on the international stage.

The ISU Championships are the toughest arena for our elite athletes and their performances at the 2019 ISU Four Continents in Anaheim, California did not disappoint. Brendan Kerry delivered an outstanding performance with a Top 10 finish (9<sup>th</sup> overall). He was joined in his division by Andrew Dodds from Queensland with a 13<sup>th</sup>/24 great finish. Mark Webster from NSW rose to the challenge in what was his last ISU International Championship. A terrific finish to a great skating career. We will miss his skating, humour and brilliant choreography and hope to lure him back as a skating official. The power house Olympian Kailani Craine from NSW finished 15<sup>th</sup>/24 with strong performances on what is home soil for her for much of the year. Fellow Olympian Brooklee Han from Queensland completed the short program but then suffered a painful Achilles injury which forced her withdrawal from the Free program. Sadly this was Brooklee's final ISU Championship event. A stellar competitive career with many many outstanding performances exhibiting guts and determination overlaid with beautiful artistry. We will miss her enthusiasm, incredible

technical skill and positive attitude. Australian skating is a better place for having her in the elite field. We wish her well in her continuing skating endeavours - Brooklee now coaches in the powerhouse of skating – Dallas, Texas. The Ice Dance division featured two superlative couples – Chantelle Kerry & Andrew Dodds from Queensland and Matilda Friend & Willaim Badoui from NSW. Both couples put on strong highly technical performances in the Short Dance and Free Dance, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Arielle Jennings from South Australia took advantage of the closeness of event timing and competed back to back three ISU junior international events – the Bavarian Open in Oberstdorf, the Tallink Hotels Cup in Estonia and the Cup of Tyrol in Austria. Georgia Tongs from the Australian Capital Territory also shone in the Junior division at the Bavarian Open. Meanwhile, Shuri Tomihara from Queensland brilliantly seized the Silver medal in Basic Novice at the Challenge Cup in the Netherlands from a field of 16 athletes.

Our incredibly hard working and talented ice dancers Matilda Friend & William Badoui from NSW braved the cold at the 29th Winter Universiade in Russia whilst Jessica Palfreyman and Nicholas McCreary from Queensland were our representatives at the ISU Junior World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia. Their first ISU Championship event. Meanwhile, our team Ice Skateers Elite from Queensland represented us proudly in Neuchatel, Switzerland at the ISU Junior World Synchronised Championships. The tiny Grand Duchy of Luxembourg packs a powerful punch in world history and hosts the Coupe de Printemps where NSW skater Ariel Wang competed proudly in the Junior division.

The ISU World Championships in Saitama City Japan brought together the world's best before massive crowds in the always packed to the rafters massive arena. Our Olympian's from NSW Kailani Craine and Brendan Kerry together with beautiful ice dancers Chantelle Kerry & Andrew Dodds from Queensland all represented us proudly. Back in Europe at the ISU World Synchronised Championships, held in Helsinki, Finland – arguably the birthplace of skating, our wonderful Team Unity from NSW finished 15<sup>th</sup> of 24 teams. A magnificent result and the best ever in the ISU World Championships.



Oceania International Novice  
Figure Skating Competition



The Oceania Novice International competition and Coaches Seminar was held in Melbourne 14-19 May, 2019. The event was part of a three year series held annually as a joint project with our New Zealand Counterpart New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Association. The project was supported by the ISU Development Commission with

the aim of creating a Novice International Competition in the region together with an international Coaches seminar, that could become self funding in the future. The first two years were held in Melbourne and the third year is destined for Auckland New Zealand, however Covid 19 has at this point postponed the event until certainty of travel can be obtained.

The 2019 event saw 89 athletes from a total of 10 countries attend, and the coach seminar a total of 37 coaches with all coaches being from Australia or New Zealand. The coach seminar featured world renowned coach and former athlete Mischa Ge. The event was a great success, and plans are underway for the event to continue beyond 2020.

This brought the 2018-2019 ISU international season to an end for our international athletes, however their rest was short. Emily Peak from NSW and Darian Kaptich from Queensland competed at the Philadelphia Summer International in Philly., USA with Darian magnificently securing an impressive Bronze medal before he moved on to compete in the ISU Junior Grand Prix in Lake Placid, New York. Darian competed here alongside Victoria Alcantara from Victoria who put in an excellent performance to achieve 12<sup>th</sup> place among 31 skaters. The next in the ISU Junior Grand Prix series was held in the modest Russian city of Chelyabinsk and representing Australia was Amelie Tabor from NSW.

In Oakville, Ontario Canada, Olympian Kailani Craine together with ice dancers Matilda Friend & William Badoui competed in the Autumn Classic International with Kailani delivering strong performances to earn 5<sup>th</sup> place from a field of 16 skaters.

Fellow ice dancers India Nette & Eron Westwood from South Australia had a busy international season racking up no less than four competitions – Lombardia Trophy in Bergamo, Italy; Nebelhorn Trophy in Oberstdorf, Germany – where they were joined by magnificent pair skaters – Ekaterina Alexandrovskya & Harley Windsor from NSW; International Halloween Cup in Budapest, Hungary where they competed alongside Olympian Brendan Kerry who was placed 1<sup>st</sup>, receiving the Gold Medal against 16 skaters; and the Warsaw Cup in Poland.

The showing from Australian ice dancers has been impressive this year and the ISU Junior Grand Prix in Gdansk, Poland featured Australian Capital Territory skaters Alexandra & Christopher Fladun-Dorling.

The Shanghai Trophy Invitational in China saw Olympian Brendan Kerry together with synchronised Team Unity competing. The Grand Prix series – Skate America was held in Las Vegas USA and pair skaters Ekaterina Alexandrovskya & Harley Windsor competed. Although not known at the time, this was the last international event for the incredible partnership of Olympians Ekaterina Alexandrovskya & Harley Windsor from NSW. Their record in Australian figure skating is unlikely to be beaten for years to come. Together they earned the titles of ISU Junior World Champions and ISU Junior Grand Prix Champions. Their pairing was closely directed by coaches Galina and Andre Pachin who surely needs to be acknowledged for the tremendous work in creating this great pair. Ekaterina and Harley went onto compete in the 2018 Winter Olympics, and Harley as an indigenous athlete created another

first for Australia. We continue to hold them high for all they have achieved, and hope that in time and hopefully with new partners they can create new firsts for Australian skating.

Amelia Jackson from Queensland competed well in two international events – Golden Bear Zagreb, Croatia in senior and Tallinn Trophy, Estonia in the junior division.

Olympian Brendan Kerry was invited and competed in the ISU Grand Prix Series event – Skate Canada in the tiny but beautiful city of Kelowna, Canada. Shortly afterwards Australia fielded an impressive team at the Asian Open Figure Skating Classic in Dongguan, China. James Min from South Australia and Jordan Dodds from Queensland plus Olympian Kailani Craine from NSW with a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> place finish and the lovely Ashley Colliver from South Australia. This senior division included NSW ice dancers Matilda Friend & William Badoui. The junior division featured Amelie Tabor from NSW with a strong 6<sup>th</sup> place finish and Lucy Sori Yun from Queensland. The Advanced Novice division included Emily-Jean Kelly from Queensland with a top 10 finish (9<sup>th</sup> overall) and in the Basic novice division, skaters Ciana Tang-Edwards from South Australia and Sienna Kaczmarczyk from Queensland with Sienna finishing an impressive 6<sup>th</sup> place in a big field of 23 skaters.

The California Cup synchronised event held in Irvine California brought together teams from around the world including Queensland's Ice Storm in Senior and IceSkateers Elite in Junior. Olympian Brendan Kerry from NSW headed to his next ISU Grand Prix, Cup of China held in the huge manufacturing city of Chongqing where he delivered a strong 7<sup>th</sup> place finish.

Jordan Dodds from Queensland added a further 2 international competitions to his 2019 events with the Warsaw Cup in Poland and the Open d'Andorra in the magnificent mountains of Andorra. Chantelle Kerry and Andrew Dodds from Queensland competed in a further 2 international events and put on impressive performances at the Warsaw Cup and Open d'Andorra with a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> place finish. Continuing the strong ice dance presence in Australia, our newest international ice dancers, Holly Harris and partner Jason Chan from Victoria made their debut ISU international outing at the Warsaw Cup in Poland with a great top 10 finish (9<sup>th</sup> overall). Also competing at the Open d'Andorra were ice dancers Matilda Friend & William Badoui with Brittany Ross & Jake Meyer, both teams from NSW. Competing with them were junior skaters Amelie Tabor and Angela Wang from NSW.

At the final event for our international skaters for 2019 and prior to the Australian Championships, Olympian Kailani Craine from NSW competed in the famed ISU Grand Prix event, NHK Trophy held in the famed beer capital Sapporo, Japan.

All in all a total of 36 ISU International Events where Australian skaters participated. Congratulations to all the athletes, coaches and parents that made this possible.





Our AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (AFSC) were hosted by Ice Skating Victoria at the magnificent O'Brien Icehouse which early in 2020 celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Prior to the opening of Icehouse, the first twin ice surface facility in Australia, Victorian skating was in somewhat of a lull after the retirement in Victoria of the Burley families Iceland brand of ice rinks. However the sport is now flourishing and Victoria has even opened another great ice rink facility at Reservoir. Through all of this Olympic Ice Rink has remained open and a haven for ice sports, and is almost Australia's longest standing ice rink having opened in 1971.

The 2019 AFSC featured 800 athletes across all divisions and over 100 officials made Melbourne their temporary home to deliver a fabulous Championship. The constant education and re-education of our officials is a task taken on with great seriousness by the officials themselves and the ISA Director of Judging and Officials Susan Lynch. In a recent unofficial survey worldwide, Australian international officials were ranked with the highest integrity worldwide. Susan, in addition to being a member of the ISU Singles and pairs Technical committee, works closely with a team of high ranking Australian judges from each member State to deliver the training. Our international officials travelled to most of the 36 international events, and in a number of cases, the costs are only partially covered by travel subsidies. We thank them for their service and unwavering support for the ideals and ethos of Ice Skating Australia.

## ***Morgan Innes Foundation***



The Foundation was formed in 2007 after the untimely death of a promising young Queensland athlete Morgan Innes. The Innes family raised funds to establish the foundation and annually awards scholarships via Ice Skating Australia. In 2019 at the Australian Championships banquet, two talented young athletes were presented

their scholarships - Vlada Vasiliev from NSW and Amy Avtarovski from Victoria. We congratulate these athletes.



## ***Vale – Jacqueline Kendall-Baker***

In April 2020, Olympic & ISU judge and dual (1956 & 1960) pairs Olympian Jacqueline Kendall-Baker (nee Mason) passed away. In 1956 Jackie was half of the first Australian Pairs team with Mervyn Bower to compete at the Olympic Games. A huge contributor to the sport as a mentor to many skaters and judges, holding numerous official roles within the sport, and an inaugural member of the esteemed Ice Skating Australia Hall of Fame. Highly respected in international skating circles, Jackie paved the way for our international officials. We thank her and honour her for her service. The Olympic flag was presented to her family by the Australian Olympic Committee.

Thank you and warmest regards,

Peter Lynch

President