

## **PORTFOLIO: VIC SQUAD 2017**

The VIC Squad is comprised of an elite group of skaters who are striving for selection at the AFSC at year's end. ISV has made a substantial financial commitment to support our best competitive single skaters each year. Those skaters who are selected need to comprehend the privilege being bestowed upon them.

This was a most productive season, coming off the back of the 2016 AFSC, one of the most successful championships for Victoria for many years and the most successful since the opening of the rink in Docklands. All 32 Victorian AFSC competitors were invited to join the 2017 Squad and 25 skaters accepted, ranging from Basic Novice to Adult skaters.

Dorothy Bisset was selected as the coach of this year's squad and she was charged with conducting 3 skills sessions. The first of these sessions was also taken by Erin Reid, a highly credentialed USA coach who was visiting Australia during Term 1. Each skills session involved nearly 2 hours on ice training and a one hour off ice session and there were regularly 22 skaters in attendance, testimony to the 'buy-in' of this group of skaters.

Spread throughout the year were 3 Judges Feedback sessions and these were equally well attended. Each skater is invited to skate their program(s) in front of senior judges under competition conditions and we were most fortunate that Victoria's most senior judges supported each session.

The final session is a celebration of a skater's selection in the current year's AFSC and they each skated their programs in front of an appreciative audience. This was held mid-November in the week running up to ASFC. The success of the squad's skaters was testimony to each member's commitment and an endorsement of the program.

A highlight of each year is ISV's involvement with Disney each July. A smaller group of our squad skaters was selected to once again skate in a pre-show to one of the matinees at HiSense arena and the crowd showed their appreciation of our young skaters performing in front of a Melbourne audience of thousands of people.

My thanks to Dorothy Bisset, the judges led by Mark Storton and Lexi Wooderson and Wendy Meik for their assistance and support throughout the year.

Phil Bisset

ISV Councillor