

# Figure Skating Coaches



O'BRIEN GROUP ARENA

All figure skating private lessons must be booked through the individual coaches. Please find their contact details and biographies below.

If you need an assessment prior to enrolling in the Skate School program or have any questions regarding private lessons, please contact Skate School and Figure Skating Academy Manager **Dorothy Bisset** on **(03) 8631 3907**



**Cameron Medhurst - 0404 168 560, skatecam10@hotmail.com**

Cameron is one of the most successful skaters this country has produced. He is an eight-time Australian Men's Champion who represented Australia at 9 World Championships and 3 Winter Olympic Games (84, 88 and 92). His highest place was 10th in the World Championships and he also won medals at International competitions.

He has been coaching for over 20 years in Canada and Australia, with skaters from beginner level to International competitors. He specializes in figure skating choreography and travels interstate to create programs for skaters up to senior International level. Cameron has extensive ice show experience having performed as a Principal soloist with all 3 major International touring ice show companies over 17 years (Ice Capades, Disney on Ice and Holiday on Ice). He has studied drama, clowning and improvisation theatre which broadens his performance knowledge.

Cameron is a Level II Certified Coach and is glad to be back in his hometown teaching local skaters and Theatre on Ice teams (junior and adult). He aims to share his vast knowledge and experience with the young talent here in Melbourne to help them realise their true potential.



**Svetlana Maskevich - 0400 263 330, smaskevich@bigpond.com**

Svetlana Maskevich has been in love with skating for nearly 30 years. Since she was 6 years old, the best coaches in Russia, including Alexei Mishin (coach of three Olympic Gold Medalists) and Tatyana Mishina, helped her to reach gold, silver and bronze medals in a wide variety of International and Russia-wide competitions.

At the age of 17 she found the other love of her career - live theatre - and decided to combine the two. Her extensive performing career took her around the Globe to countries like Australia, Korea, Japan, South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel, France, Spain, Germany, England and many others. Before settling in Australia Svetlana skated as a principal for the Imperial Ice Stars in their productions of Sleeping Beauty on Ice and Swan Lake on Ice. Many people around Australia and around the world enjoyed her performances and the many master classes she gave on behalf of the company.

Svetlana studied coaching at the Saint-Petersburg Academy of Physical Culture and Sport under professor Alexei Mishin. She graduated in 1999 as a Bachelor of Physical Culture and Sport, specializing in Figure Skating and has worked for a number of skating schools in Saint-Petersburg as a coach and choreographer. Svetlana is excited now to bring her vast skating experience and her academic training as a coach to Melbourne and looks forward to passing on her knowledge to Australian skaters.



## Brian Duckworth - 0427 687 277, brisscully1@gmail.com

Brian is a well known and internationally respected professional skater, one of the stars of the recent Disney on Ice production "Worlds of Fantasy", portraying the role of Simba from Lion King. Whether it be Singles or Adagio Brian has been skating solos all over the world for Disney for the last 16 years, which includes roles such as Simba, Woody, Mr. Incredible, Snow white Prince and Hades just to mention a few.

He has been a principal skater for the largest employer of professional figure skaters in the world for the last 12 years. Before his career with Disney on Ice, Brian had achieved ISU gold medal free style (Highest ISU level). Whilst he was concentrating on freestyle he was also intensely training in ice dancing, in which he became a successful competitor, earning 2 Australian titles as Junior Dance Champion and Senior Ice Dance Champion.

Whilst juggling singles and Dance at the same time, Brian competed for Australia internationally for 5 years along with extensive training in Czechoslovakia, England and the AIS (Australian Institute of sport).



## Melanie Carrington – 0434 797 207 mela.mela4@gmail.com

Melanie, originally from the Netherlands, has been skating since the age of 4. Being taught by her dad Paul Carrington, a professional figure skater himself, she achieved 2 National Championship titles and represented her country internationally. Melanie went on to have a very successful 15 year professional career in which she skated for the 3 main and biggest Ice show productions in the world; Holiday on Ice, Disney on Ice and the Willy Bietak Productions on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Even though Melanie was a successful single skater in her competitive years, in her professional career she branched out and acquired a new skill.

Teaming up with Melbourne born husband Brian Duckworth, they became successful pair skaters showcased in the main roles for Disney on Ice and Willy Bietak productions. In Disney on Ice they portrayed characters like "Ariel and Prince Eric" from the Little Mermaid and "Simba and Nala" from the Lion King just to name a few. Melanie has also been a performance director for one of the Disney on Ice show productions. Melanie skated in a well known TV program "Dancing on Ice" in the Netherlands, in which she partnered up with Dutch celebrity John Williams.

She also skated in several Christmas specials in America on the famous TV show Regis & Kelly. After traveling the world Melanie is happy to call Melbourne her home and share her knowledge with the up and coming Australian talent.



## Katherine Firkin 0425 774 743 firkink@gmail.com

Katherine is an ISA technical specialist in singles and ice dance, and specialises in developing high performance athletes.

She has coached skaters through local, national and international competitions, and her skaters have won major benchmark events and championship competitions. Katherine is the co-head coach of the O'Brien Group Arena's High Performance Program, and is on the board of the Australian Professional Skaters' Association. She also has a degree in Exercise Physiology and has written several non-fiction skating journals.

During her skating career Katherine was a multiple international competitor, representing Australia at major events, including the prestigious Cup Of Nice in France. She also performed in many shows and exhibitions, including the Andre Rieu World Stadium Tour, Stars On Ice, and in TV appearances.

After a successful career, Katherine is now focused on helping skaters to reach their potential, and develop our next generation of elite athletes.



### Lee Chaplin - 0458 364 717, [lee.chaplin.icehouse@gmail.com](mailto:lee.chaplin.icehouse@gmail.com)

Lee started her skating life at 9 years of age. Having a classical ballet background she adapted to the ice freely and began a professional career at age 17 in an International ice show at Her Majesty's Theatre in Melbourne. Lee progressed to a National and International Show Skating career spanning numerous years.

Becoming a coach, she has always had a passion for skating and a desire to share her love of ice skating with her students as a positive role model.

As a level 3 Professional coach with The Australian Sports Commission Lee has continued to learn and develop her coaching skills by attending and coaching in Canada at Mariposa International Training Centre regularly under the tutelage of world renowned coaches. This has allowed and enabled her to remain current and correct in her technique to develop her students. Lee has coached students to state and national competitions, with many of her students going on to become coaches themselves.

Lee has a current level first aid certificate and working with children check, coaching from beginner to elite, children and adults, including on ice, off ice, ice dance and choreography. Lee specialises in jumps and spins with an attention to detail and finish. Lee believes in having a positive and caring attitude to her students and her Philosophy is to "Create an Environment to 'Be Your Best and Achieve Your Goals'"



### Lana Vazhenin - 0418 552 292, [lane.misha@bigpond.com](mailto:lane.misha@bigpond.com)

Lana Vazhenin has 27 years of coaching experience, 10 years in Odessa Olympic Reserve Figure Skating School in Ukraine. In 1981 she achieved a Masters of Sport in Figure Skating in the USSR. She also graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Human Development specializing in ballet and figure skating.

Lana is a Level 2 Accredited Coach through the Australian Sports Commission and has extensive experience working with figure skaters coaching students from Beginners through to elite level skaters.

Her students have represented Victoria at National level and Australia at International competitions. She enjoys tutoring children and adults and specializes in program choreography, jump and spin technique and skating skills.



### Mikhail Vazhenin- 0407 689 130, [lane.misha@bigpond.com](mailto:lane.misha@bigpond.com)

Mikhail Vazhenin has 38 years of coaching experience, 17 years of International coaching experience in Russia and Ukraine. He was a figure skating Junior Champion of USSR in 1977 and 1978, and graduated with a Masters of Sport in Figure Skating in 1978 and a Bachelor of Human Development in 1981.

He is specializing in Single and Pair Figure Skating on Ice, Gymnastics, and Ballet. Mikhail is a Level 2 Accredited Coach through the Australian Sports Commission and has extensive experience working with children and adults.

His students have competed at National Championships and Represented Australian on International competitions, and are performing around the world in international ice shows.



## Mark Hochmann - 0435 312 431, [theskatingedge@gmail.com](mailto:theskatingedge@gmail.com)

Mark commenced his ice addiction at the age of 10. A skate with friends at Ringwood Iceland led to more sessions, lessons, joining the figure skating club and, finally, owning his very own skates! This consigned his mum to many early mornings, evenings after school and weekends at the ice rink.

Over a 10 year competitive career Mark and his partners won 3 championship medals, 4 state championships and 3 National Ice Dance Championships including the 1982 Australian Senior Ice Dance Championship. Mark has the Gold Medal (Test 6) in Compulsory Dance and the Silver Medal (Test 5) in Free Dance.

Mark has performed in many amateur and professional ice shows. Amongst these were performances on the Don Lane show, television commercials, touring in pantomimes and as a segment soloist with Torville and Dean.

Since turning professional in 1987 Mark has coached ice dance, pairs, freestyle and skating technique and partners his students in ice dance tests up to test 6. He has a Level 1 Australian Sports Commission Coaching Accreditation, is an Australian Professional Skating Association approved mentor coach in Ice Dance and coach assessor.

Mark has a degree in applied science majoring in biophysics and instrumental science and master of applied science in research. When not skating, Mark spends time with his wife and 2 children (both skaters), working at the Royal Children's Hospital and indulging in his other winter addiction of skiing.



## Adele Morrison - 0439 331 119, [adele.icedancer@gmail.com](mailto:adele.icedancer@gmail.com)

Adele has been skating since the age of 3. She is an experienced coach and a current competitive skater in international level senior ice dance. She has over 20 years' experience in competitive singles, ice dance and artistic skating and is herself a multiple state representative to Australian Nationals and has represented Australia in international competition. She continues to participate in her own active training with a view to reaching her own goals in the sport.

With her dance partner, she is the 2015 Hollins Trophy Gold medallist, the 2014 National Senior Ice Dance Champion, and 2014 NSW State Champion in ice dance. She also holds numerous titles and medals across many years in both disciplines. She is a multiple Hollins Trophy winner and placegetter in both disciplines and a highly experienced current competitive ice dancer who has trained in Russia, Italy, France, and Hungary under world renowned Russian, European and Australian coaches for both disciplines.

Adele performed in Andre Rieu's 2009 Australian Tour and has been seen in many exhibitions, ice shows and on television commercials for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

As a coach, Adele's strengths lie in singles and ice dance and edgework. She has the ability to break down skating technique so that the beginner and the most advanced skater can easily understand the movement to achieve maximum results and potential with a minimum of fuss. Most importantly, Adele encourages her skaters to reach beyond their potential with intense training where necessary but also with much encouragement, planning and organisation for her competitive skaters.

Adele is a very "technical" skater and coach who understands and emphasises the importance of off-ice training, strength and conditioning and overall fitness to enhance a skater's abilities and technique. She also has a strong dance background and she competed for many years in formal ballet, lyrical, contemporary, tap, jazz and hip hop. This has assisted her in developing her own method of choreography on the ice which emphasises expression and interpretation of different music styles which has allowed many of her students to excel in competitions.

Adele's students are among the current National Champions and podium finishers in many local, interstate and international competitions in both singles skating and ice-dance .

She believes that hard work gets results and that nothing is impossible if you really want it.



## Michael Kho - 0478 418 870, kho.yoga.ice@gmail.com

Born and raised in Canada, Michael was a principal skater with Disney On Ice and performed all over the world on international tours for 13 years. He performed a variety of different lead roles, including Mowgli, Young Simba and Peter Pan.

As a competitive skater, Michael competed at the Canadian national championships several times. He trained at the Mariposa School of Skating under Olympic and World coaches Doug Leigh, Neil Carpenter and Michelle Leigh. Michael has taught skating extensively in Canada, Hong Kong and Thailand since 1999 and has worked with skaters of all ages and levels: from 2 year old to Senior citizen; from beginner to Senior competitive. In Thailand, Michael devised and implemented a skating curriculum for a chain of skating rinks called "The Rink Ice Arena", and was also responsible for training their coaches.

Michael is an NCCP Level 2 Certified Skating Instructor in Canada. His experience and qualifications fast tracked him to attain the required credentials with the Australian Sports Commission.

In addition to skating, Michael is a fully qualified Yoga Teacher. He did his teacher training with Sri Dharma Mittra in New York City and has taught Yoga in Canada, Hong Kong, Thailand and Australia. He is currently working with the Victorian Figure Skating Development Squad. Michael's message to students: A wise teacher once said, "Practice, and all is coming."



## Owen Matthews - 0468 783 701, owen.james.matthews@gmail.com

My name is Owen Matthews and I have been an Ice-skating coach for over two years, with level 1 Accreditation from the Australian Sports Commission.

I want to share my love of skating with all my students, whether they are recreational (hobby) or competitive skaters.

A particular passion of mine is working with skaters who are starting out on their journey, whether they be tots to adults. I work on detailed techniques with skaters to give them solid fundamentals to help them build confidence and progress to their goals.

I am sensitive to the different methods and teaching approaches required by students of varying ages and skill levels. Prior to finding my love of skating, I was teaching classical music. I come from a family of professional teachers.

For Competitive-Level Singles Skaters, I coach from Aussie Skate (beginners) to a Pre-Primary level. I also coach in beginner's Dance, Pairs and Synchronised skating.

A currently competitive figure skater, I excelled in my development and was able to obtain a Primary Ice-Skating test level in under four years, and have represented Victoria at the Australian Figure Skating Championships in 2013 (2nd Place, Intermediate Men).

I look forward to helping you, or your child, achieve your skating aspirations.



## Robyn Burley - 0402 156 447 Robyn\_luvs\_life@hotmail.com

Robyn Burley is Australia's only World Professional Champion.

Robyn was honoured to be inducted into Australia's Ice Skating Hall of Fame & to be Victorian Sportswoman of the Year & Australian runner-up, on the list of 100 greatest ever Melbourne Sports Stars & Ambassador of the City of Melbourne.

Three times Australian Champion, World Representative & multiple International competitor, Robyn has worked & performed with Torvill & Dean, the Chinese Olympic Team, Canada's Stars on Ice & Channel 9.

She has featured in talent commercials for Rexona, Toshiba, Just Jeans & Fosters.

Robyn is a Level 3 Accredited Coach & Ice Skating Union of the World Technical Specialist Judge. She has coached National Champions & World representatives.

Academically Robyn has a Psychology (Sports Psychology) & Education Graduate Diploma (Senior School Teacher) & a Masters Degree.

Robyn specialises in strength of technique, muscle memory, creative & emotive skating & aiming to be your best. She believes in persistence, patience & passion & wishes to bring the joy she experienced throughout her life of skating to her students.



## Amber Williams - [amberbriant@hotmail.com](mailto:amberbriant@hotmail.com)

Amber has been involved with ice skating for most of her life both through competing herself and coaching. Her personal achievements include representing Australia and Germany at the world championships for synchronized skating and Australian Champion in pairs skating.

Amber is trained in classical ballet, tap and jazz and enjoys creating choreography for her students. Having spent much time travelling the globe training with some of the worlds best coaches, Amber looks forward to passing on her knowledge to her students. Ambers specializes in teaching Synchronized Skating and is head of the Icehouse Synchro teams. She looks forward to developing the sport of synchronized skating for Victoria and taking it to an international level.

Amber is qualified with a degree in Sport and Exercise Science and enjoys training skaters of all ages both on and off the ice for strength, flexibility, fitness and dance. Amber is a level 2 accredited skating coach with the Australian Sports Commission. Amber is keen to share her skills, knowledge and love of the sport while providing a fun and safe learning environment.