



# NEWSLETTER

## 2008 Skipping Highlights

### 2008 Australian Rope Skipping Championships

The 2008 Australian Rope Skipping Championships were held at the end of September, at the Tallebudgera Sports Complex on the Gold Coast. This was the biggest turnout of clubs and skippers to compete at a National Championship event. It was also host to 3 junior teams from Singapore.

The event ran over 2 days, and was a huge success, with teams booking out accommodation throughout the entire complex. 16 clubs from across the country entered skippers. Amien All Stars from Stanthorpe QLD, Wideview from Mount Colah NSW, Jumping Beans from Beenleigh QLD, and Singapore competed for the first time.

In team events, Cleveland's Sparkle Stars took gold in the 8 under, with Hotshot's Little Chillies taking silver, and Singapore taking bronze. In 9-10 Cleveland Air Magic took Gold with their Magic Star team, 11-2 division was won by Cleveland's Star Dust and in the 12-14 division, Cleveland's Opal Ropers won Gold. 12-17 division was won by Matilda Magic from Cleveland. The FISAC division was hotly contested, and taken out by the Southern Crosses from Cleveland.

In the Masters division, Lilly Barker from Cleveland took gold in 8 under, Maddy Barker from Cleveland won the 9-10 age division and Courtney Rixon from Roped into It took gold in the 12-14 division. 13+ was won by Molly Morris from Roped into it. The 12-14 division was won by Emily Edmunds from Cleveland and the FISAC girls was won by Jackie Robba. The boys competed in a junior and middle division. Sam Willmott from Hotshots won gold in the juniors, and Ben Copper from Tenterfield took the gold in the middle boys. The FISAC male was won by Luke Boon.

Each year this event gets bigger & bigger, which always requires the commitment of more judges, marshalls, runners, etc. A big thank you goes to Antony Doyle for spending many hours organizing this event to allow it to happen. We also would like to thank all the people who assisted in the running of this event over the 2 days. We have no doubt that in 2009 we will exceed these numbers, as we have done over the past few years.

### A Huge THANKYOU to Jan Somers

Jan Somers has been the President of Skipping Australia for many years. She has also been an active member of the FISAC Board, playing an integral part as spokesperson for skipping in Australia. Jan has spent many of those years dedicating her time to promoting and encouraging the sport of skipping in Australia. She has played an integral role in getting our sport to where it is today. We are continuously gaining more clubs, more skippers, and we are continuously gaining more recognition on the world stage, with numerous skippers having competed at the highest level internationally.

Jan has balanced this with her family life, and of course, followed this passion with her daughter Bonnie Somers and all of her success.

Jan announced at the 2008 National Championships, that she would be stepping down from her role as president.

Jan will certainly continue to play an active role within Skipping Australia, just not from the front.

We thank you Jan, for your drive & true passion, and your dedicated commitment to the sport of rope skipping in Australia over the past years.

We would also take this opportunity to congratulate Antony Doyle to the role of President of Skipping Australia. Antony was voted in by committee members at the Australian General Meeting held at the 2008 Nationals.

## Cleveland Air Magic reign supreme at the 2008 FISAC World Championships

The Cleveland Air Magic team are based in Brisbane, and made up the majority of the Australian team. They had 20 skippers who qualified to represent Australia at the World Championships in South Africa. 15 of those skippers were in the FISAC competition, and 5 qualified to compete in the South African International, which was an event to accommodate skippers who do not qualify as FISAC, including younger skippers.

In the South African Open, Cleveland's 14 & under team made up of Maddy Barker, Bridgette Logan, Shania Warrender, Monique Hay & Teegan Barrett placed first as overall champions of single rope & double dutch events. In individual events, Emma Pinto was crowned overall champion in 10–12, with Maddy Barker coming second in her freestyle. Emily Edmunds was crowned overall champion, and Caitlin Greenway got the bronze overall in the 13-14 age bracket. Elewys Gatehouse was overall champion for 15-17, and Naomi Devlin was overall champion in 18+, with Nicole Krause getting the bronze.

In the official FISAC Rope Skipping Championships where individuals & teams can claim world rankings, the club had tremendous success. In the 12-17 age group, the team of Emily Edmunds, Jenna Frampton, Elewys Gatehouse, Caitlin Greenway & Emma Pinto claimed Bronze overall in the single rope division, but did win gold in a speed relay, and silver in a pair routine.

In the 18+ age group, the team consisting of Naomi Devlin, Brittany Gardiner, Jackie Robba, Jodie Mulchany & Nicole Krause claimed the bronze medal in single rope events.

In 18+ Open Mixed division, the team of Kirsten Morris, Luke Boon, Jake Eve, Amiee Devlin & Bonnie Somers, **WON THE DIVISION OVERALL**, claiming gold against some very tough competition from Europe, United Kingdom and the USA. This team won the junior mixed division overall at the 2006 World Championships in Toronto, Canada. This is an outstanding achievement for these senior high school students.

In individual FISAC events, Luke Boon was bestowed with the title of **No 1 Male Skipper in the World**, when he became the overall winner in the men's open division. Luke now becomes a back to back World Champion, after winning this title at the World Rope Skipping Championships in Canada 2006. Not only did Luke win the pinnacle award in the sport, he also broke the world record for triple unders, and still holds the world record from 2006 in 3 min speed.

In the Ladies division overall, Amiee Devlin placed 4<sup>th</sup>, Brittany Gardiner 7<sup>th</sup>, Jacky Robba 16<sup>th</sup> and Kirsten Morris 18<sup>th</sup>. Kirstin also placed 4<sup>th</sup> in her freestyle event. What fantastic world rankings they have achieved. Well Done!!

Cleveland also competed in the World Cup event, where each country nominates its best team show as determined at the previous Nationals. It comprises of a 4-8min routine that must display all styles of skipping, be expertly choreographed. Belgium took the gold medal with Australia finishing a close 2<sup>nd</sup> only 4 points behind. Belgium had 2 teams competing due to winning the past 2 World Cups. Their second team took the Bronze.

Australia was also represented at the World Championships with skippers from Mount Cotton's Hotshots, Cowra's Rippa Skippaz, and Tenterfield's Tornado's. Many of these skippers were competing for the first time at an international event. Well done to all the skippers who got to represent Australia. You have all done us proud.



Cleveland's Medal Winners at the 2008 World Championships    Luke Boon leap frogs Jake Eve, Brittany Gardiner & Amiee Devlin

## Roped into It become AAU Junior Olympic Champions

In August 2008, Birkdale's Roped into It skipping club, attended its first international skipping event. The Sapphire Gems team comprising of Ebony Corbin, Ivy Doyle, Arna Stariha and Courtney Rixon competed as a 9-10 team at the AAU Junior Olympics in Detroit, Michigan. Samuel Corbin also competed as a master in 8 under male.

The AAU Junior Olympics is the largest Amateur sports competition held in the USA, with over 16,000 athletes competing in a large variety of sports. This event is held every year, with numbers growing year on year. The skippers went to the competition not knowing what to expect from such a large event, and with no expectations of winning. For the club and skippers it was to be a unique opportunity to experience competitive skipping in another country (and to holiday!!)

The competition was held over 4 days, with over 550 skippers competing in numerous events. The event was represented with clubs from all across America, Canada and Singapore.

The skippers brought home a total of 43 medals, 10 ribbons and three AAU Junior Olympic speed records.

Samuel Corbin came second overall in the Under 8 boys' division. In the 10 year-old girls division three competed with Arna Stariha finishing sixth overall, Ivy Doyle in fifth place overall and Ebony Corbin became the first place Junior Olympic Champion in this age division. She won two gold medals and one silver medal in her three events. Ebony broke the AAU one minute speed and one minute double under records in this age group. Courtney Rixon competed in the 12 year-old girls and came third overall. These results were achieved against more than 70 other competitors in both age divisions.

In 9 and 10 years pairs, Ebony Corbin and Ivy Doyle were placed first overall and broke the AAU 2x30 second speed record. In 11-12 pairs Arna Stariha and Courtney Rixon were placed second overall.

As a double dutch team these four girls were placed first overall, Roped Into it was also joined by two skippers from Cleveland Air Magic - Jake Eve and Brittany Gardiner, who also had success in the 15-17 age division where they were placed second overall in pairs and individually, Brittany placed second overall and Jake placed third overall.

Congratulations to Roped into It. Not bad for your first international event!



Samuel Corbin, Arna Stariha, Ebony Corbin, Ivy Doyle & Courtney Rixon



Ebony Corbin