



# OLYMPIC WINTER INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT  
30th June 2006





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# 1. Overview

The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), the founding organisation of the Olympic Winter Institute, continues to provide major financial and in-kind support to the OWI.

The OWI operates Winter Sport Programs with the support of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). The coaching staff work closely with the AIS sport science and physiology teams, aiming for the optimum preparation of Australia's winter athletes for competition on the international stage.

The 2006 Torino Olympic Winter Games closed another chapter in Australian sporting history, highlighted by Dale Begg-Smith's gold medal and Alisa Camplin's bronze.

In addition to the two podium results, Australia fielded its largest ever Winter Olympic Team, totalling 40 athletes, led by Chef de Mission Ian Chesterman.

The OWI's clear objective for the quadrennium leading up to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games was for its scholarship athletes to achieve two medals.

Dale won Australia's first Olympic medal in the sport of Mogul Skiing, taking gold and Alisa Camplin recovered from serious injury to produce an outstanding bronze medal in Aerial Skiing.

The OWI operated elite winter sport programs on behalf of the National Federations in the sports of Aerial Skiing, Alpine Skiing, Figure Skating, Mogul Skiing, Short Track Speed Skating and Snowboard Halfpipe.

The programs are operated with support and funding from the AOC and the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

The clear objective of the OWI is focusing resources on the areas where the best results and possible medal outcomes are likely to be achieved at the Olympic Winter Games.

The objectives of the Olympic Winter Institute continue to be:

- To develop and prepare elite Australian athletes for their participation in Olympic Winter Games, World Championships and World Cup events in Olympic Winter Program and World Championship sports.
- To assist with the development and funding of high performance coaches with expertise in the Olympic winter sports programs.
- To assist the AOC in the attainment of its objectives through encouragement of elite performance by Australian athletes in winter sports.
- To successfully operate the AIS Winter Sport Program.





## 2. Message from the Chairman

Congratulations to all the OWI athletes who contributed to the success of the Australian Olympic Team in Torino, Italy, in February 2006.

Twenty-one year-old Dale Begg-Smith performed faultlessly in both the qualifying round and the final to take the men's Mogul Skiing gold medal at the Torino Olympic Games.

Alisa Camplin had a challenging lead-up to the Games when she sustained a second knee injury in October 2005. She underwent surgery and committed to an intensive rehabilitation regime which enabled her to defy the odds and take the Aerial Skiing bronze medal.

In total, 24 of our winter sports scholarship athletes were selected to the Olympic Winter Team, with every member of the Aerial Skiing, Mogul Skiing, Snowboard Halfpipe, Alpine Skiing and Figure Skating programs making the team.

Maximum participation under Olympic rules were also achieved in Men's Mogul Skiing, Women's Aerial Skiing and Men's Short Track Speed Skating.

In addition to the medal performances, Jacqui Cooper finished in eighth place in Aerial Skiing after breaking the world record points score during the qualifying round and Torah Bright narrowly missed the podium in Snowboard Halfpipe, finishing in fifth place. The Short Track Speed Skating team represented Australia well, finishing in sixth place in the relay for the second consecutive Games.

While preparing for the Games, the OWI has also continued to focus on achieving world class results in international competition across all disciplines.

I am delighted to report that Jacqui Cooper, Lydia Ierodiaconou, Michael Robertson, Holly Crawford and Dale Begg-Smith all achieved podium results at World Cup level, with Dale also finishing the season ranked number 1 in the world and claiming the World Cup Globe.

As the Torino Olympic Games marks the end of our Olympic quadrennium, we have also seen some changes to our Board of Directors. Inaugural board member and former Alpine World Champion and Olympic medallist Zali Steggall will be retiring after eight years of service, to concentrate on her young family and career. I would like to thank Zali for her generous contribution and wish her much success in her chosen career as a lawyer.

I am pleased to report that the National Ice Sport Training Centre, the Melbourne Ice House, is progressing in its development with 2008 proposed for the opening. The AOC has recently announced the new facility will be the likely venue for the figure skating and short track events at the 2009 Olympic Youth Festival.

Of course the success of our athletes during the past year could not have been achieved without the crucial support of our stakeholders, partners, sponsors and suppliers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the AOC for its ongoing support, and President John Coates and Secretary General Craig Phillips for their strong commitment to the OWI.





Our partnership with the AIS, the contribution of the Institute's sport science experts and the funding support of the ASC has been vital to the success achieved in winter sports.

The Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) and the New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS) also continue to provide valuable partnership programs, and considerable planning has already commenced on the underpinning programs in the lead-up to Vancouver 2010.

Thank you also to the Australian ski resorts who provide access to training for our teams during our domestic snow season. The support of the resorts is crucial to the programs and provides not only a training base but a home for our athletes during the domestic season.

The OWI teams are proud to wear Karbon, the official race and outerwear supplier, and XTM, the official glove supplier of the OWI. The apparel is of excellent quality and both XTM and Karbon work closely with the teams to continually evolve and supply the best product suited to athletes' specific needs.

The lead-up to the Olympic Games was challenging and rewarding and I congratulate Geoff Lipshut and his administration staff, coaching staff, and support staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to winter sports in Australia.

Finally and most importantly I would like to thank every winter sport athlete who represented Australia at the international level during this past season.

Geoffrey J Henke AO

Chairman





## 3. OWI Board of Directors

### Directors

Geoffrey Henke AO	Chairman
Craig Phillips	Secretary General AOC
Steven Bradbury	Athlete Representative
Ian Chesterman	Chef de Mission — Winter Olympic Team 2006
Rino Grollo	Buller Ski Lifts
Michael Harms	George Patterson Partners (resigned June 19, 2006)
Kerry Stokes	Seven Network (resigned June 7, 2006)
Peter Fricker OAM	Director AIS
Zali Steggall	Athlete Representative (resigned June 14, 2006)

### Alternates

Monica Grollo	Alternate for Mr Grollo
Steven Lee	Alternate for Mr Stokes

### Company Secretary

Michael Mercer	AOC Director — Corporate Services
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## 4. OWI Management, Staff and Consultants

### Administration

Geoff Lipshut	Chief Executive Officer
Alex Bunting	Administration, Office & Accounts Manager
Alana Monk	Administration Officer & Program Coordinator
Andrew Pattison	IT & Communications Officer — Part-time

### Coaching & Sport Program Staff

Steve Desovich	Mogul Skiing — Head Coach
Todd Ossian	Aerial Skiing — Head Coach
Daniel Murphy	Aerial Skiing — Assistant Coach
Ben Wordsworth	Snowboard — Head Coach
Ann Zhang	Short Track Speed Skating — Head Coach
Helmut Spiegl	Alpine Skiing — Technical Director

### SIS/SAS Partnership Programs: Coaching and Sport Program Personnel

Andrew Logan	NSWIS/SSA Alpine Skiing — Program Manager
Michael Branch	NSWIS/SSA Alpine Skiing — Technical Coach

### Consultants

Barry White	Media Manager
Peter Hogg	Physiotherapy & Athlete Services





## 5a. Sport program review: Aerial Skiing

**Head Coach: Todd Ossian**

**Assistant Coach: Daniel Murphy**

The OWI Flying Kangaroos Aerial program operates as a medal potential program focusing on talent transfer of elite ex gymnastic athletes. The program competes on the FIS World Cup circuit with the first two events held in September at the home resort, Mt Buller. The aerial skiing program works closely with the underpinning program based at the VIS.

### AIS

The AIS has played a significant role in the Aerial Skiing program with the performance analysis unit developing specialist tools for video training and feedback.

### Scholarship Athletes

Alisa Camplin  
Jacqui Cooper  
Lainie Cole  
Elizabeth Gardner  
Lydia Ierodiaconou  
Bree Munro

### Training venues

- Australian Water Jump Park
- Utah Olympic Park
- Mt Buller
- Snow Basin

### World Cup Highlights

Lydia Ierodiaconou recovered from a knee injury to win gold at the Deer Valley World Cup in January.

Jacqui Cooper won the World Cup in Davos, Switzerland, in March, beating the reigning Olympic Champion.

### Torino Winter Olympic Games

Olympic Team Athletes

- **Athletes**

Alisa Camplin  
Jacqui Cooper  
Elizabeth Gardner  
Lydia Ierodiaconou

- Alisa Camplin claimed the bronze medal in a remarkable recovery from knee surgery just five months earlier. Jacqui Cooper qualified in first place and broke the world record with a score of 213.36 points.
- Lydia Ierodiaconou was in great form prior to the Games but unfortunately sustained a knee injury during the qualifying event.

### Sponsors

Qantas Airways, a valuable long-term sponsor, contributes cash support in addition to assisting with the transportation of the Aerial Skiing team.

Buller Ski Lifts, the operators of Mt Buller, the home of the Australian Aerial Skiing Team, continued to be a valuable sponsor of the OWI, providing cash sponsorship as well as training facilities at the resort. Mt Buller was again host to the first two rounds of the FIS World Cup in 2005.

The OWI would like to thank Rino Grollo and family for their continued personal support.

### Underpinning Program

The Aerial Skiing underpinning program is operated in partnership with Ski and Snowboard Australia (SSA) and the VIS.





## 5b. Sport program review: Alpine Skiing

**Program Coordinator: Andrew Logan**

**Technical Director: Helmut Spiegl**

**Head Coach: Michael Branch**

The Alpine Skiing program is operated in conjunction with SSA and operated by the New South Wales Institute of Sport. The program, based in Jindabyne, provides the best possible opportunity for the leading athletes in Australia to progress at World Cup level by coordinated joint training programs between the Australian, Great Britain and US Alpine teams.

The State Institute takes on the program development role for the Alpine program, coordinated from the Department of Sport and Recreation in Jindabyne. The program is jointly funded by the national federation, SSA, and the OWI.

### Scholarship Athletes

AJ Bear  
Jono Brauer  
Craig Branch  
Luke Deane  
Bradley Wall

### Training Venues

Thredbo Ski Resort and Perisher Blue combine to provide excellent and best possible training options for the Alpine Skiing program.

### World Cup Highlights

- Jono Brauer placed 14th in the World Cup Super combined in Chamonix, France, in February 2006.
- AJ Bear placed 17th in the World Cup in Val Gardena, Italy, in December 2005.

### Torino Winter Olympic Games

- **Athletes**  
AJ Bear  
Jono Brauer  
Craig Branch  
Bradley Wall
- Five athletes qualified for selection to the Torino Olympic Games, but unfortunately Luke Deane was injured in January and unable to take his place in the team.
- Craig Branch finished 32nd in the Downhill.

### Underpinning Program

The Alpine Skiing underpinning program is operated by the National Federation, SSA.





## 5c. Sport program review: Figure Skating

The OWI operates an individual scholarship figure skating program. Scholarships are issued annually to leading Australian athletes, divided into levels based on likely selection to the Olympic team.

Additional grants were also made to athletes to attend the Karl Schaefer Memorial Trophy in Vienna as they attempted to secure spots for their country in the Torino Olympic Games. Those attending were Sean Carlow in the men's competition, and Natalie Buck and Trent Nelson-Bond in ice dancing.

### Scholarship Athletes

Joanne Carter

### Training Venues

Canterbury Ice Rink

### International Highlights

- Joanne Carter 8th Place Four Continents Colorado, USA January 2006

### Torino Winter Olympic Games

- **Athletes**  
Joanne Carter
- Joanne represented Australia in her second Winter Olympic Games. Joanne had skated for Australia in the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics, finishing in 12th place, but in Torino she was unfortunately unable to repeat that form, finishing in 25th place.





## 5d. Sport program review: Mogul Skiing

### Head Coach: Steve Desovich

The OWI Mogul Skiing program operates a combined women and men's medal-potential program for the senior World Cup athletes. The program is based in Jindabyne and trains at the world class mogul course at Perisher Blue during the domestic season. The program works closely with the NSWIS underpinning program. The program competes on the FIS World Cup Circuit and is committed to ensuring best practice service delivery to scholarship holders.

### AIS

The AIS has played a key role in the training and strength and conditioning development for the Mogul Skiing athletes. The team has utilised the facilities most effectively, with camps conducted five times a year.

PhD student Jason Harding, based at the AIS, worked with the mogul program in the assessment of a number of physiological parameters and collecting data pertaining to key performance variables.

The program also utilised nutrition and psychology services during the lead-up to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

### Scholarship Athletes

Manuela Berchtold  
Dale Begg-Smith  
Jason Begg-Smith  
Nick Fisher  
Michael Robertson

### Training Venues

- Perisher Blue world class mogul course 'Toppa's Dream'
- AIS
- Zermatt, Switzerland

### World Cup Highlights

- First double podium result in Australian World Cup Mogul Skiing history.
- Michael Robertson qualified for the Olympic Games and claimed his first World Cup medal when he finished third at the World Cup in Oberstdorf, Germany, in December.
- Dale Begg-Smith had the most successful season of his career, achieving Australia's best results in Mogul Skiing, claiming eight World Cup medals (including six gold) and finishing the season ranked number one overall.

### Torino Winter Olympic Games

- **Athletes**  
Manuela Berchtold  
Dale Begg-Smith  
Jason Begg-Smith  
Nick Fisher  
Michael Robertson
- All athletes in the program qualified for Olympic selection.
- Manuela Berchtold had the Olympic Games as her stage for the final competition of her career. Manuela performed strongly, qualifying for the final in 16th place and finishing 14th overall.
- Nick Fisher had a personal best result, finishing a very impressive 12th place at the Games.
- Dale Begg-Smith was a medal favourite at the Olympic Games and the 21-year-old did not disappoint, qualifying in first place and then performing the final run with perfect precision to take the gold medal.

### Underpinning Program

The Mogul Skiing underpinning program is operated in conjunction with the NSWIS.





## 5e. Sport program review: Short Track Speed Skating

### Head Coach: Ann Zhang

The OWI Short Track Speed skating program operates a combined women and men's program for the senior World Cup athletes. The program is based in Brisbane and trains at Acacia Ridge. The program aims at ensuring best practice service delivery to scholarship holders to best prepare them for World Cup Competition.

### AIS

The AIS physiological department plays a crucial role in the development of the strength and conditioning and dry land programs of the Short Track Speed Skating Team.

Leading sports scientist Dave Martin provides major assistance to Ann Zhang, utilising the body of knowledge he has developed in working with Australian cycling, a sport with significant physiological parallels with Short Track.

The program also utilised nutrition and psychology services during AIS camps in the lead-up to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

### Scholarship Athletes

Lachlan Hay  
Stephen Lee  
Alex Merriman  
Alex McEwan  
Mark McNee  
Andrew McNee  
Elliott Shriane  
Emily Rosemond

### Training Venues

- Acacia Ridge, Qld
- Castle Hill, NSW
- Bormio, Italy

### World Cup Highlights

The results achieved at the World Cup in Bormio, Italy, and The Hague, Netherlands, qualified Australia as one of only eight nations to gain a place in the relay event at the Olympic Winter Games.

The team skated superbly under immense pressure to finish in fifth and sixth place respectively at the two qualifying events in November.

### Torino Winter Olympic Games

- **Athletes**  
Lachlan Hay  
Stephen Lee  
Elliott Shriane  
Alex McEwan  
Mark McNee  
Emily Rosemond
- The relay team skated strongly in the elimination round against Germany to finish in 6th place at the Olympic Winter Games.
- Emily Rosemond competed in the individual 1000m and 1500m events, with her best result a 13th place in the 1000m.





## 5f. Sport program review: Snowboard Halfpipe

### Head Coach: Ben Wordsworth

The OWI Snowboard Halfpipe program operates a combined women and men's medal-potential program for senior World Cup athletes. It is based in Jindabyne and trains at Perisher Blue during the domestic season. The squad works closely with the NSWIS underpinning program during the domestic season. Athletes compete on the FIS World Cup Circuit and the program is committed to ensuring best practice service delivery to scholarship holders.

### AIS

The AIS has played a key role in the strength and conditioning and testing program for the snowboard halfpipe athletes. The team has utilised the facilities strongly with camps conducted four times a year.

PhD Student Jason Harding based at the AIS has been working with the snowboard program to assess key performance variables and their impact on scores.

The program also utilised nutrition and psychology services during AIS camps in the lead-up to the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

### Scholarship Athletes

Mitchell Allan  
Andrew Burton  
Holly Crawford  
Ben Mates

### Training Venues

- Perisher Blue
- Mammoth Mountain, California
- Snowpark, New Zealand

### World Cup Highlights

Holly Crawford won a bronze medal at the opening World Cup of the season in Valle Nevado, Chile, a performance that also qualified her for selection to the Olympic Games.

Andrew Burton had his best result at the Lake Placid World Cup, finishing in fourth place. Andrew finished the season ranked 12th in the World.

### Torino Winter Olympic Games

- **Athletes**  
Mitchell Allan  
Andrew Burton  
Holly Crawford  
Ben Mates  
Torah Bright
- All four OWI scholarship athletes plus NSWIS athlete Torah Bright represented Australia at the Olympic Winter Games in Torino.
- Torah Bright narrowly missed a medal, finishing in fifth place.
- Mitchell Allan was the youngest member of the team and displayed great potential for the future.

### Underpinning Program

#### NSWIS

The Snowboard Halfpipe underpinning program is operated by the NSWIS.





## 6. Medal results

Since the formation of the AIWS/OWI in July 1998, Australian and OWI scholarship athletes have achieved the following international medal performances:

SEASON: 2005/2006		
	World Cup	Olympic Games
Aerial Skiing	2 (2 Gold)	1
Mogul Skiing	9 (6 Gold)	1 (1 Gold)
Snowboarding	1	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12 (8 Gold)</b>	<b>2 (1 Gold)</b>

SEASON: 2004/2005		
	World Cup	World Championship
Aerial Skiing	8 (3 Gold)	
Mogul Skiing	3	1
Snowboarding	2	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13 (3 Gold)</b>	<b>1</b>

SEASON: 2003/2004		
	World Cup	World Championship
Aerial Skiing	19 (9 Gold)	
Snowboarding	4 (1 Gold)	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>23 (10 Gold)</b>	

SEASON: 2002/2003		
	World Cup	World Championship
Aerial Skiing	10 (4 Gold)	1 (1 Gold)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10 (4 Gold)</b>	<b>1 (1 Gold)</b>

SEASON: 2001/2002		
	World Cup	Olympic Games
Aerial Skiing	4 (2 Gold)	1 (1 Gold)
Snowboard	2 (1 Gold)	
Short Track Speed Skating		1 (1 Gold)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6 (3 Gold)</b>	<b>2 (2 Gold)</b>





### SEASON: 2000/2001

	World Cup	World Championship
Aerial Skiing	7 (3 Gold)	
Mogul Skiing		1
Snowboard	2	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>9 (3 Gold)</b>	<b>1</b>

### SEASON: 1999/2000

	World Cup	World Championship
Aerial Skiing	6 (4 Gold)	N/A
Snowboard	5 (2 Gold)	N/A
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11 (6 Gold)</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### SEASON: 1998/1999

	World Cup	World Championship
Aerial Skiing	4 (3 Gold)	1 (Gold)
Alpine Skiing	1	1 (Gold)
Snowboard	1 (Gold)	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6 (4 Gold)</b>	<b>2 (2 Gold)</b>





## 7. Program Partners

### AOC

The AOC is a major supporter of, and leader in the further development of, Australian winter sports, and is providing a record level of investment to strengthen the winter sports system for athletes competing at the highest international level.

In 2005-2006, a total of \$865,784 was allocated for program funding in the lead up to the Olympic Games.

The AOC has pledged to increase base funding to \$750,000 in 2006/07 and \$1 million per annum in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

### Torino Winter Olympic Games

The 2006 Australian Winter Olympic Team comprised 23 male and 17 females who recorded six top ten performances across three disciplines - Freestyle Skiing (Aerial Skiing and Mogul Skiing) Snowboarding and Short Track Speed Skating.

The Organising Committee for Torino 2006 (TOROC) was outstanding in the organisation of the Games. The competition venues were state of the art and events were conducted in the highest manner of professionalism. These factors enabled the athletes to compete to the best of their ability and provided spectators with a marvellous display of sport contents.





## 7. Program Partners (cont.)

### Australian Sports Commission

The Australian Government supports winter sports through High Performance Grants given to the national federations as follows.

- SSA
- Australian Amateur Ice Racing Council.
- Ice Skating Australia

In turn the national federations transfer to the OWI a large portion of this grant to assist in the funding of World Cup programs operated by the OWI.

During 2005-2006 the OWI received \$843,500 in high performance grants and targeted funds.



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**

### Australian Institute of Sport

The AIS program support forms a solid foundation upon which the high performance programs are operated.

The AIS also assisted with additional funding towards Olympic preparation for the following programs:

- Aerial Skiing Program
- Mogul Skiing Program
- Snowboard Skiing Program

In total the AIS provided \$468,700 during the financial year.



**Australian Institute of Sport**





## 8. Suppliers

### Karbon

Karbon supplies custom-made outer wear and technical race wear to the OWI teams. Karbon is committed to providing the very best competition apparel to meet the extreme conditions faced by winter sports.

### XTM

The athletes and coaches are proud to have Karbon and XTM as the exclusive outerwear, racewear and accessories supplier.





**Olympic Winter Institute of Australia Ltd**

**ABN: 97083236659**

**Registered Office:  
C/O**

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St Leonards NSW 2065





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