

## REPORT FROM APSA ISA AGM 2009

2009 is an important year for us as it marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginnings of the Australian Professional Skaters' Association.

It consisted of a handful of concerned NSW professionals who wanted to improve the standard of coaches and has now grown to cover all states with a membership of 147 Australia wide.

We are looking forward to celebrating this milestone at Nationals. More information closer to the time

Coach education continues to be the primary focus of this association, Our Level 1 course has been re-submitted and accepted and our Level 2 is currently under review. We intend to have a new Level 3 written to accommodate coaches who wish to study and move on to the highest level.

NSW continues to be the only state to hold an annual Level 1 for new coaches. The implementation of the courses has become the biggest commitment for us as all the Levels for accreditation have to be re-submitted to the Sports Commission every 4 years to ensure that they stay relevant with current information and training techniques.

Update still is a major concern for us as there are a handful of coaches who are jeopardising their accreditation and income by not keeping up their points.

We combined with NSWISA who provided funding, to once again bring out the very popular Kathy Casey. Her sessions were again of great benefit to both skaters and coaches. American coach Cristy Krall who demonstrated the "Dartfish" computer program to analyse and assess a skater's technique was a hit with both skaters and coaches.

One of our works in progress is the production of a DVD of the test patterns to assist coaches and students, as we are getting a variety of interpretations and feel that it would assist newer coaches and judges who have never experienced figures.

I, with several other coaches attended the ISA AGM on the Anzac weekend. ISA have developed a new Aussie Skate program - which looks fabulous. It was trialed in Queensland and was very, very well received. I sincerely hope the rinks will embrace it as it will certainly encourage new skaters.

Talks are still going on to bring APSA and ISA under the one banner but keeping us both as independent, autonomous bodies. They have to make major changes to their constitution. We hope we will see progress in this area soon.

Once again I must thank the committee and rink representatives who give their time to run this association. Forty years ago we could have never imagined an association as vibrant and strong as the one we have now.

My heartfelt thanks go to Gloria who is retiring as our state secretary. She has held this incredibly important role for over 20 years. I and our committee will miss her but am happy that she is staying on as National secretary.