

# FIGURE SKATING COACH PROFILES

All figure skating private lessons must be booked through the individual coaches. Please find their contact details and biographies spread across the following pages in this document. All coaches have a valid First Aid Certificate and Working with Children Check.

If you need an assessment prior to enrolling in the Skate School program or have any questions regarding private lessons, please contact:

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

HU HU CHEN

(03) 8631 3907

[PROGRAMS@OBRIENICEHOUSE.COM.AU](mailto:PROGRAMS@OBRIENICEHOUSE.COM.AU)



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# DOROTHY BISSET

SENIOR ICE SKATING COACH



CONTACT

[DOROTHY.BISSET@OBRIENICEHOUSE.COM.AU](mailto:DOROTHY.BISSET@OBRIENICEHOUSE.COM.AU)

Dorothy Bisset is one of Australia's highest credentialed and most experienced ice skating professionals, both in terms of her personal achievements as a skater, and as a professional ice skating coach and senior national judge. Dorothy's achievements as a skater include being two times Bronze Medallist at the World Professional ice dancing championships (the only Australian to do so), Australian Junior and Senior Ice Dance Champion, and Australian Professional ice dancing champion.

Dorothy is highly recognised for her expertise in technique and is an Ice Skating Australia National Technical Specialist for Competitions and Cham-

pionships. A real enjoyment for Dorothy is doing choreography for technical and artistic programs and she loves working with music and what can be achieved on the ice through it.

As a professional coach of young skaters, Dorothy's pupils have won an array of Australian and Victorian titles, from Primary through to Novice, Junior and Senior Levels, in both singles and ice dancing. She has also taken skaters to compete in international competitions. Many of these skaters have continued on to professional careers as ice skating coaches or principle skaters in ice shows around the world.



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# MARK HOCHMANN

SENIOR ICE SKATING COACH



## CONTACT

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[MARK.HOCHMANN@OBRIENICEHOUSE.COM.AU](mailto:MARK.HOCHMANN@OBRIENICEHOUSE.COM.AU)

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 also has a degree in applied science majoring in biophysics and instrumental science and Master of Applied Science in Research.

# ADELE MORRISON



## CONTACT

0439 331 119

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.

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 poten-

tial 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'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.



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# AMBER WILLIAMS

NO AVAILABLE COACH PHOTO

## CONTACT

0421 813 823

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 several times in 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 world's best coaches, Amber looks

forward to passing on her knowledge to her students. Ambers specializes in teaching Synchronized Skating and is working to develop Synchronized Skating in Victoria to provide teams suitable for all levels and age groups.

Amber is qualified with a degree in Sport and Exercise Science and is a Level 2 accredited skating coach with the Australian Sports Commission.



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# BRIAN DUCKWORTH



## CONTACT

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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).



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# CAMERON MEDHURST



## CONTACT

0404 168 560

COACHCAM10@GMAIL.COM

Cameron is one of the most successful skaters Australia has produced. He won a record 8 Australian Senior Men's Championships and represented Australia at 9 World Championships and 3 Olympic Winter Games (1984, 1988 and 1992 - where he was the flag bearer in the Closing Ceremonies). His highest placing was 10th in the World Championships and he won medals at other International competitions. He is one of the inaugural members of Ice Skating Australia's Hall of Fame (2004).

Cameron is a Level 2 coach who has been coaching at O'Brien Icehouse since 2011. He has been instrumental in developing Theatre on Ice teams in

Victoria, which is a skating discipline for all ages, and it encourages performance skills, individual confidence, character work and skating for the fun of it.

Previously Cameron coached in Canada (from 1992) and Sydney, training skaters from beginner level to preparing for International competition. He has extensive ice show experience having performed as a Principal soloist with major International touring ice show companies over 17 years (Ice Capades, Disney on Ice and Holiday on Ice). He has studied ballet, jazz ballet, drama, clowning and improvisation theatre, which all broaden his performance knowledge.

# ELLEN WALSH



## CONTACT

0409 150 032

[ELLENWALSH@OPTUSNET.COM.AU](mailto:ELLENWALSH@OPTUSNET.COM.AU)

Ellen is a Level 1 Accredited Coach with the Australian Sports Commission, who has been training at the O'Brien Group Arena since its opening in 2010, and involved with Skate School here for nearly as long.

Ellen loves coaching skaters of all ages and levels, from tots to adults, and beginners to skaters with competitive ambitions.

Ellen trained as a competitive Figure Skater for many years, feeling lucky to travel to many new places around Australia competing. She understands the hard work required to reach these levels, and instills a good work ethic in her skaters.

In her skaters Ellen encourages positivity, confidence and a love of the sport, while building strong relationships in order to help the skater reach their goals.



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# LANA VAZHENIN



## CONTACT

0418 552 292

[LANA.MISHA@BIGPOND.COM](mailto:LANA.MISHA@BIGPOND.COM)

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

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.



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# LEE CHAPLIN



## CONTACT

0458 364 717

LEE.CHAPLIN.ICEHOUSE@GMAIL.COM

If you are a skater that has a desire to work hard to achieve your goal, Lee can create a structured pathway to allow you to be your best.

Lee spent many years as a professional skater in National and International productions and brings a passion for the sport to her coaching.

Having a background in classical and jazz ballet Lee has developed a unique skill set to provide strong skating foundations to progress in both competitive and recreational skating.

As a regular attendant of international coaching workshops in Ontario Canada, under world class coaches, Lee has remained current with her techniques and teaching

This love of learning and desire to share her knowledge has enabled Lee to train students to elite levels of competitive skating in Australia.

Lee creates training programs for adults and children, at all levels of skating from beginners to elite, supported by structured off ice technique, dance, choreography, strength and conditioning. All of these components come together to provide a complete package to support your pathway in Figure Skating to share the vision to be your best.

# MELANIE CARRINGTON



## CONTACT

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.

After traveling the world Melanie is happy to call Melbourne her home and share her knowledge with the up and coming Australian talent.



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# MICHAEL KHO



## CONTACT

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[KHO.YOGA.ICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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.

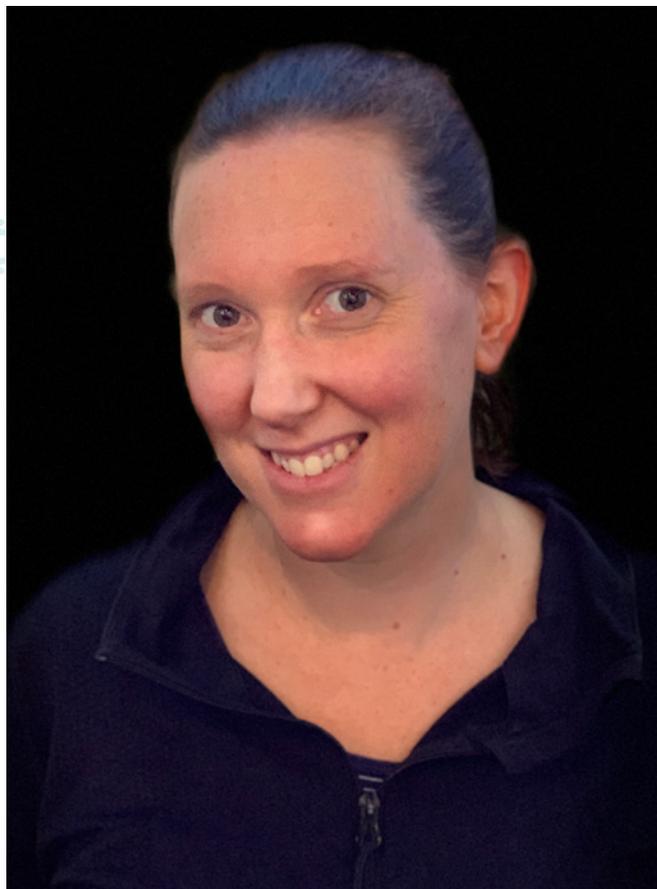
As a competitive skater, Michael competed at the Canadian National Championships several times. He trained at the Mariposa School of Skating under Olympic and World coaches Doug Leigh, Neil Carpenter and Michelle Leigh. Michael has taught skating extensively in Canada, Hong Kong and Thailand since 1999 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.

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."

# MICHELLE COETZEE



CONTACT

[COACH.COETZEE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:COACH.COETZEE@GMAIL.COM)

Michelle is a Level 2 APSA certified coach whose focus is in helping skaters to achieve excellent basic skating skills. She has been skating since the age of 9 and has represented Australia as the Team Captain at five World Synchronized Championships. She has also skated for France at International Synchronized events and on televised Christmas specials. Michelle has been coaching Ice Skating since the age of 14 and has taught in both Australia and France.

Her main area of expertise lies with Synchronized or Team skating which requires skaters to have a high level of skill in turns and stroking. Michelle enjoys coaching Adult skaters as well as Skate School students looking to start private coaching, as she believes it is important to focus on excellent basic technique from the start.



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# MIKHAIL VAZHENIN



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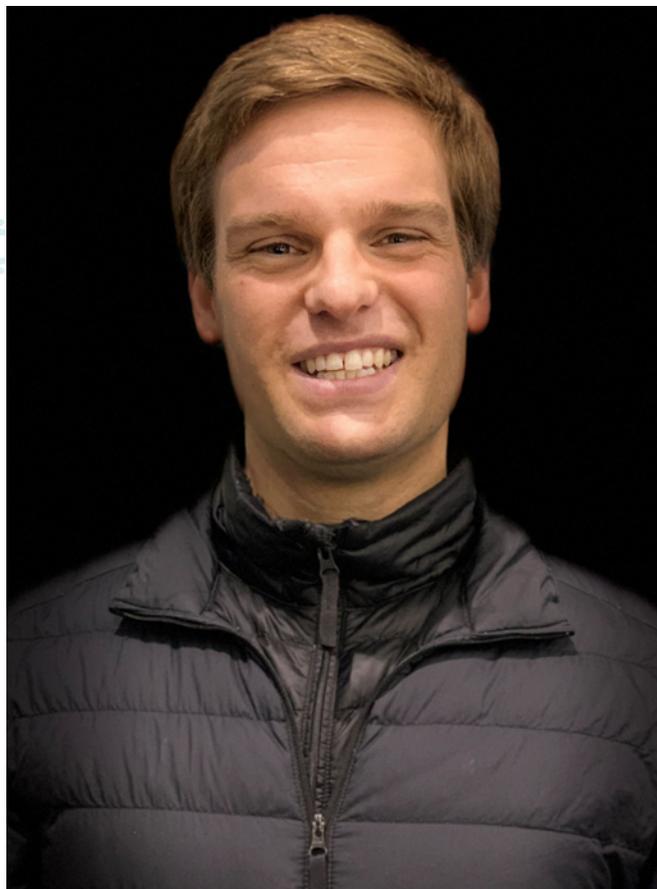
Mikhail has 38 years of coaching experience, 17 years of International coaching experience in Russia and Ukraine. He was a figure skating Junior Champion of USSR in 1977. In 1978, Mikhail graduated with a Masters of Sport in Figure Skating and also obtained a Bachelor of Human Development in 1981.

Mikhail specialises 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.

# OWEN MATTHEWS



## CONTACT

0468 783 701

[OWENSKATERCOACH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OWENSKATERCOACH@GMAIL.COM)

Owen holds a Level 1 Accreditation from the Australian Sports Commission and coach singles skating, jump harness training, ice dance partnering and beginner pairs.

Owen shares his love and passion for skating with all students, whether you wish to skate recreationally or competitively. A particular skill of his is working with skaters who are starting out on their journey, from toddlers to adults.

Owen works towards strong fundamental technique in order to help build confidence and create

foundations for later development. He is sensitive to the different methods and teaching approaches required by students of varying ages and skill levels.

Some of his achievements include: Australian Intermediate Men's Champion 2016, 2nd 2013 and 2015, Ice Skating Australia National Squad, 2016, 2016 and 2018, Victorian Intermediate Men's Champion 2013, 2016, Victorian State Squad 2016 and 2017 and Basic Novice B Ice Dance competitor.

For more info go to [owenskatercoach.com](http://owenskatercoach.com) and follow him at [@owenskatercoach](https://www.instagram.com/owenskatercoach) on Instagram.



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# ROBYN BURLEY



## CONTACT

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

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

Robyn is a Level 3 Accredited Coach and Ice Skating Union of the World Technical Specialist Judge. She has coached National Champions and World representatives. Academically Robyn has a Psychology (Sports Psychology) and Education Graduate Diploma (Senior School Teacher) & a Master's of Arts.

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



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