AUSTRALIAN GYMNAST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR GYMNASTIC FEDERATION

COMMONWEALTH GAMES EDMONTON 1978

NYLUND WINS SILVER

> **AUSTRALIAN MEN WIN BRONZE**

Vol. 8, No. 3

OCTOBER, 1978

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The Australian Gymnast

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FROM THE EDITOR

Congratulations to our men's team for winning the Bronze Medal at the Commonwealth Games and also to Lindsay Nylund for winning the Silver Medal in the individual competition. Our girls also did well and finished fourth narrowly behind New Zealand and we congratulate our neighbours for their success. A full report is given in this issue and we trust that you enjoy it.

Whilst on the subject of the Commonwealth Games it has been announced that Gymnastics will not be in the Brisbane programme for 1982. The Australian Gymnast, on behalf of its many keen supporters, deplores this decision and still hopes that it can be reversed. It seems absolutely ridiculous that one of the most popular spectator sports at Edmonton (on occasions crowds of around 17,000) should be overlooked and preference given to sports not nearly as popular with the general public. One would have thought that the economics of conducting these major sporting events would have been sufficient reason for retaining it in the Games. It should also be asked whether our Commonwealth Games Association made this decision without consideration to the other countries or before the sport really had been given its first full trial.

The Nationals have come and gone and the great progress which has been made in recent years appears to be continuing. Our teams are preparing for the World Championships and we wish them well in their endeavours.

Rod Sinclair

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Rod,

A petition requesting the inclusion of gymnastics in the 1982 Games as indicated in the July issue of the Australian Gymnast could be a fairly big thing to coordinate. I had intended to get something organized immediately in the Far North, but after talking to a couple of local legal eagles, I feel that the whole thing should be organized on a National basis directed at the Federal Government and given some publicity.

I also suggest that we should write to our counterparts in England, Canada and other countries involved in competitive gymnastics.

I am prepared to put every effort into co-ordinating the effort and would like your support in this endeavour.

Yours faithfully Dave McConaghy (President, Far North Queensland Zone Q.A.G.A.)

Editor — Yes, Dave, I fully support your efforts and would like to hand the whole petition over to you.

Readers should obtain petitioners on the forms enclosed with this issue and return them directly to Dave. P.O. Box 17, Stratford, Qld, 4872.

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

December Issue — November 15th, absolute deadline.

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Mr. Rod Sinclair, 11 Mignon Court, Armadale, W.A. 6112

LIST OF NEW EDITORS

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N.S.W.	Vacant	
W.A.	Miss Julie Harrison, 20 Baal Street, Palmyra 6157	(3393087)

APOLOGY

From the July issue — results of the Commonwealth Games trial Kerryn Bailey (S.A.), 63.60, should have been placed 4th with Sandra Jones in 5th place.

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11 Mignon Crt.,

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Limited back issues can also be obtained for 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977.

WOMEN'S TECHNICAL REPORT

Life has continued to be busy during the last quarter. The inaugural Pacific Rim competition and the exciting establishment of Gymnastics in the Commonwealth Games programme in Edmonton were the highlights at the elite level. Both these events were conducted magnificently by our now close friends, Canada, and brought credit to their administration and professional approach. We sincerely look forward to the continuance of Gymnastics in the Commonwealth Games and trust the powers that be in Australia can manage to reintroduce the sport for the Brisbane programme. There is no doubt that this simple measure would provide Australian Gymnastics with its greatest boost since Federation.

The Physical Ability Development seminar, held in Melbourne recently, confirmed the need and awareness of the value of this programme.

The recent National Championships, in Narrabeen, produced some interesting and promising results; both at competition and conference. I am pleased to announce that all States agreed unanimously to work on the National levels as from January 1st, 1979. These levels have been established for gymnasts, Judges and Coaches. This is a great step and one that has taken a long time, but one which will consolidate our work throughout Australia, and improve every aspect of our sport.

The R.S.G. branch of our sport has progressed rapidly, having recently participated in the inaugural Trans Tasman competition. They have also established National levels for gymnasts, Judges and Coaches, and will be sending representatives to the Pacific Rim competition in November.

The Gold Judges Course was cancelled in the knowledge that the 5th cycle, with more new rules, will be held early in '79 and the Gold course will need to be conducted prior to the Nationals next year.

Our greatest disappointment this year was the cancellation of the Russian Tour. It was a great pity that we, and the Australian Public at large, did not receive the many benefits this Tour would have provided. However, it is satisfying to know that our relationships with the Soviet Federation and F.I.G. have not been severely damaged and we have received an invitation to attend Moscow News and Riga Competitions next year. Also the U.S.S.R. sent the excellent coach Victor Khomuutov to help us. Our sincere appreciation must be recorded to the President for all his time and efforts in negotiations with the Russians.

From the National Championships congratulations to all the gymnasts, and in particular those selected in the National squads, and the Office Bearers elected to carry out their tasks for the next twelve months. Best wishes to the World Championship team. I trust you will have a successful tour and continue to maintain the good image set in China and Canada.

Frances Thompson Women's Technical Director

A.G.F. OFFICE BEARERS 1978/79

President — James Barry
Vice-President — Lance Otto
Secretary/Treasurer — Alastair Low
Women's Technical Director — Frances Thompson
Men's Technical Director — Ken Williamson
R.S.G. Director — Margaret Lanz
Women's Coaching Co-ordinator — Valerie Beitzel
Men's Coaching Co-ordinator — Barry Cheales
Women's Judging Co-ordinator — Anne Bigham
Men's Judging Co-ordinator — Jeff Cheales
R.S.G. Judging Co-ordinator — Yvonne Bradley
R.S.G. Coaching Co-ordinator — Dianne Dunlop



Jim Barry President

The Conference, associated with the 29th Annual Championships at Narrabean in Sydney, marked another milestone in the Australian Gymnastic Federation's history. The more important aspects of the Conference deliberations are commented on below —

- The unexpected resignation of Ellen Alston through illness, after only 5 months operating as our Executive Director, was most unfortunate and all her friends in gymnastics wish her a speedy recovery from her illness.
- This experience of a full time Administrator brought to the surface many problem areas and the Conference was an appropriate time to again review our organisation and structure. We have re-affirmed the need for a paid Administrator and applications are open for the position of "National Secretary". The specific functions of this person were reviewed and a new emphasis placed on the priorities.
- A new office bearer position was created at the Conference; that of Vice President who would act in a consultive role with the President, Honorary Secretary and the National Secretary, when appointed.

After assuring the "rights" of the Technical Directors and Office Bearers voting procedures were simplified so that only State Associations had a vote on both Conference and Executive. Another important innovation is that a second executive meeting will be held each year in March to consider:

- (i) Policy papers prior to the Conference
- (ii) Government and other grants
- (iii) and provide the management function between conferences.
- The elections for the Australian Gymnastic Federation were conducted under the new rules and the positions filled are given above.
- The progress of the "Australian Gymnast" was noted enthusiastically both for its increase in circulation, quality of content and contribution to our sport.
- In the review area consideration was given to our draft 5 year development plan covering the three sections of our sport. This plan provides a firm base for our development and will be continually monitored to ensure progressive development.
- The major problem with all voluntary sports is that of funding and the Federal Government has to be commended on its initiative in providing funds for the development of sport and whilst the contribution for 77/78 appears minor it provided us with the services of a full time Executive Director which was greatly appreciated. We, however, must not become dependent

on this funding and must develop our own sponsorship and

- In the sponsorship area we must also acknowledge the continuing assistance in providing International Coaches for our clinics by the Rothmans National Sports Foundation.
- The last gymnastic year resulted in some tremendous "firsts" for our sport —
- (i) The Peoples Republic of China Tour last December, by our women's team. This was a significant "cultural exchange" under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs.
 (ii) The inaugural Pacific Rim competition by men and women
- (ii) The inaugural Pacific Rim competition by men and women teams, during last May, is another step in the right direction. This event could become the "European Cup" of the Pacific and we specifically acknowledge the support of Government in funding this visit.

(iii) The visit by the U.S.S.R. coach Victor Khomuutov. This was another "cultural exchange" and of immense value to our Womens artistic Gymnastic section.

(iv) The recent Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, where gymnastics was on the programme for the first time and Australia substantially enhanced its international standing by: in the women's competition, coming 4th as a team, and in the men's competition obtaining a bronze medal.

Lindsay Nylund is to be congratulated on a tremendous

Lindsay Nylund is to be congratulated on a tremendous performance in taking out the individual silver medal and similarly Marina Sulicich's commendable effort in achieving equal 5th place in the individual competition.

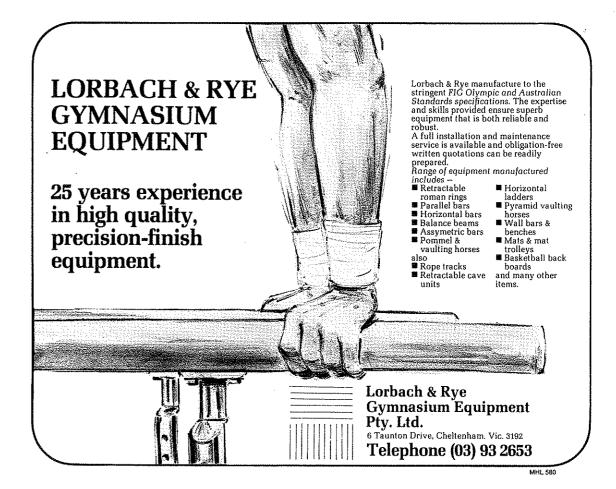
- The major disappointment of the year was the cancellation, by our sponsors Stadiums Pty. Ltd., of the Russian Gymnastic Tour.
 This was a bitter disappointment and has created problems for us. However, we trust that we will be able to re-establish this tour at a later date on more favourable grounds.
- Immediately before us is the tour of our mens and womens artistic teams to the World Championships in Strasbourg — 22/29 October and the small but equally important tour of two of our Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastic competitors to the Pan Pacific International to be held in Toronto — 6/7 November.
- It has been a difficult year involving many changes, new initiatives and the re-organisation of our structure. Experience is a great teacher and I look forward confidently to another interesting year in gymnastics.

Jim Barry President Australian Gymnast October 1978 Page 5

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM

Manager - Chris Timpson Manageress/Judge - Frances Thompson Women's Coach - Ollie Maywald Men's Coach - Helmut Geiblinger **Assistant Coach** - Keith Giddy Pianist - Dorothy Carroll - Peggy Browne Judges - Peter Sharpe Lance Otto Female Gymnasts - Kerry Bayliss Karen Edelsten Margaret Jack Sandra Jones Carole Marsh - Marina Sulicich - Kerryn Bailey Reserves - Debbie Connell - Phillip Cheetham Male Gymnasts - Warwick Forbes - Lambert Ariens - Shaw Byng - Mac Stirling Mike Moore Reserves — John Curtin - Colin Miller

The World Championships are to be contested in Strasbourg, France, from October 22nd-29th and The Australian Gymnast will be represented by former West Australian gymnast, Francis Gavet, who is a student in France. We look forward to a good showing by our gymnasts and a good coverage in the next issue.



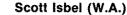
AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978

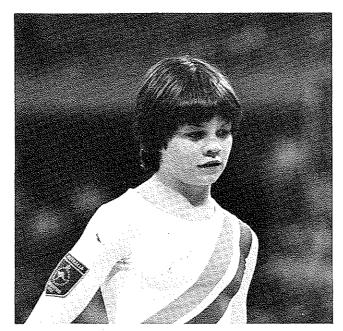
These were held at the Narrabeen National fitness camp from August 26th to September 2nd and proved to be very successful.

HIGHLIGHTS

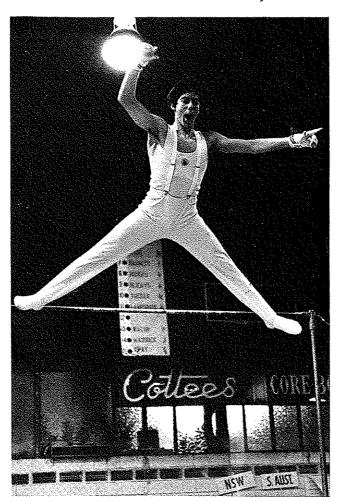
- A good atmosphere developed with all teams staying together at the camp. The organization was very good and our hosts were very friendly.
- The competition facilities were good with all equipment being new and donated by the N.S.W. Government.
- The womens gold team competition was very close with S.A. and Queensland fighting out a keen contest. S.A. won narrowly.
- The level 8 mens competition was dominated by W.A.
- Marina Sulicich and Taka Wakamatsu comfortably won the senior championships and are worthy Australian champions.
- Carole Marsh dominated the Silver women's competition and shows a lot of promise for the future.
- Moves of note for the men were
 - (i) Double back sault on floor by Mike Moore.
 - (ii) Double twists by Taka Wakamatsu and Phil Cheetham.
 - (iii) Full twisting double sault off rings by Phil Cheetham.
 - (iv) Honma on rings by Colin Miller.
 - (v) Handspring fronts and Tsukaharas vaults by many.
 - (vi) 1½ twisting front sault dismount off parallels by Taka Wakamatsu.
 - (vii) Diamodov and double back off parallels by Phil Cheetham.
 - (viii) Felge to handstand and full twisting back sault dismount off parallels by Lambert Ariens
 - (ix) A clear hip to handstand with hop and stoop in on high bar by Peter Sharpe as well as a high and long double back dismount.
 - (x) On side horse very good routines were performed by Mac Stirling, Wakamatsu and Ariens.
- In the women's competition Tsukahara vaults, full twist vaults, full twists on floor, back saults and aerials on beam were shown and many new elements on bars.

All in all a good National but we still have a long way to go.





Marina Sulicich retained the National Championship she won in 1977 with a clear and decisive victory.

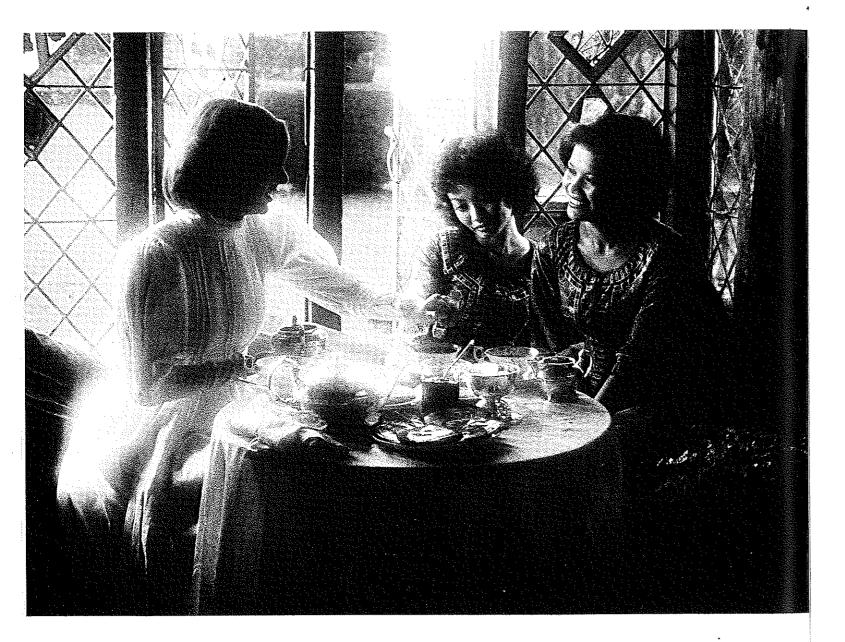


Neil Porter (Level 8 Champion) dismounting from the high bar.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RESULTS

Gold/\	Women		Side I	-lorse	
1st	Marina Sulicich (S.A.)	72.25	1st	Taka Wakamatsu	15.85
2nd	Karen Edelsten (Qld.)	70.15	2nd	MacStirling	15.50
3rd	Sandra Jones (N.S.W.)	66.95	3rd	Phillip Cheetham	15.225
4th	Kerry Bayliss (S.A.)	66.55	Oi G	1 mmp oncomain	10.220
5th	Margaret Jack (Qld.)	66.20			
6th =	Debbie Connell (Qld.)	63.45	Rings		
6th =		63.45	1st -	Taka Wakamatsu	17.225
	Kim McMaster (S.A.)		2nd	Lambert Ariens	16.75
8th	Kerryn Bailey (S.A.)	63.35	3rd	Phillip Cheetham	16.675
~	_				10.070
Teams		000 50			
1st	S.A.	203.50	Vault		
2nd	Qld.	199.80	1st	Phillip Cheetham	17.35
			2nd =	Lambert Ariens	17.05
Finals	— Vault		2nd =	Taka Wakamatsu	17.05
1st	Karen Edelsten	17.925			
2nd	Marina Sulicich	17.900	Doroll	ol Dava	
3rd	Margaret Jack	17.525		el Bars	
Bars	3		1st	Taka Wakamatsu	17.50
1st	Marina Sulicich	18.475	2nd	Phillip Cheetham	16.975
2nd	Karen Edelsten	17.325	3rd	Lambert Ariens	16.525
3rd	Kerry Bayliss	16.825			
JIG	Kerry Dayriss	10.023	High I	Ror	
Beam			1st	Taka Wakamatsu	17 100
	Marina Sulich	17.90			17.125
1st			2nd	Phillip Cheetham	17.10
2nd	Kim McMaster	17.25	3rd	Peter Sharpe	16.225
3rd	Karen Edelsten	16.925			
			Lovel	9 — Men	
Floor					07.40
1st	Marina Sulicich	18.20	1st	John Curtin (N.S.W.)	97.40
2nd	Sandra Jones	17.20	2nd	Colin Miller (Qld.)	97.35
3rd	Kerry Bayliss	17.15	3rd	Trevor Dowdell (Qld.)	93.50
	15				
0:1	AM				
Sliver	/Women		Laural	0 35	,
1st	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.)	68.20		8 — Men	
		68.20 64.85	1st	Neil Porter (W.A.)	98.55
1st	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.)		1st 2nd	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.)	96.85
1st 2nd	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.) Lisa Wallace (Vic.) Julie Nimmo (W.A.)	64.85 63.40	1st 2nd 3rd =	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.) Kurt Zink (W.A.)	96.85 94.35
1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.) Lisa Wallace (Vic.) Julie Nimmo (W.A.) Bronwyn Wright (S.A.)	64.85 63.40 63.30	1st 2nd	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.) Kurt Zink (W.A.) Michael Shorthose (S.A.)	96.85 94.35 94.35
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.) Lisa Wallace (Vic.) Julie Nimmo (W.A.) Bronwyn Wright (S.A.) Leanne Stevens (S.A.)	64.85 63.40 63.30 63.10	1st 2nd 3rd =	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.) Kurt Zink (W.A.)	96.85 94.35
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.) Lisa Wallace (Vic.) Julie Nimmo (W.A.) Bronwyn Wright (S.A.) Leanne Stevens (S.A.) Jan Edelsten (Qld.)	64.85 63.40 63.30 63.10 63.075	1st 2nd 3rd = 3rd =	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.) Kurt Zink (W.A.) Michael Shorthose (S.A.)	96.85 94.35 94.35
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.) Lisa Wallace (Vic.) Julie Nimmo (W.A.) Bronwyn Wright (S.A.) Leanne Stevens (S.A.) Jan Edelsten (Qld.) Sharon Clues (Vic.)	64.85 63.40 63.30 63.10 63.075 62.95	1st 2nd 3rd = 3rd = 5th	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.) Kurt Zink (W.A.) Michael Shorthose (S.A.) Andrew Ross (Vic.)	96.85 94.35 94.35 91.30
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.) Lisa Wallace (Vic.) Julie Nimmo (W.A.) Bronwyn Wright (S.A.) Leanne Stevens (S.A.) Jan Edelsten (Qld.)	64.85 63.40 63.30 63.10 63.075	1st 2nd 3rd = 3rd = 5th	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.) Kurt Zink (W.A.) Michael Shorthose (S.A.) Andrew Ross (Vic.)	96.85 94.35 94.35 91.30
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1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th Teams 1st 2nd 3rd Level 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.) Lisa Wallace (Vic.) Julie Nimmo (W.A.) Bronwyn Wright (S.A.) Leanne Stevens (S.A.) Jan Edelsten (Qld.) Sharon Clues (Vic.) Diana Zema (S.A.) s S.A. Vic. N.S.W. 10 — Men Taka Wakamatsu (W.A.) Phillip Cheetham (N.S.W.) Mac Stirling (Qld.) Lambert Ariens (S.A.) Mike Moore (Qld.) Peter Sharpe (S.A.)	64.85 63.40 63.30 63.10 63.075 62.95 62.25 313.00 311.00 306.55	1st 2nd 3rd = 3rd = 5th 6th Team: 1st 2nd 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.) Kurt Zink (W.A.) Michael Shorthose (S.A.) Andrew Ross (Vic.) Adam Simmonds (Vic.) W.A. Victoria 7 — Men Glen Miller (Qld.) Rob Edmonds (Qld.) Michael Hurst (N.S.W.) Chris Francois (Qld.) David McKillop (A.C.T.)	96.85 94.35 94.35 91.30 90.95 374.10 358.75 99.20 97.55 95.95 94.70 93.95
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th Teams 1st 2nd 3rd Level 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th Finals	Carole Marsh (N.S.W.) Lisa Wallace (Vic.) Julie Nimmo (W.A.) Bronwyn Wright (S.A.) Leanne Stevens (S.A.) Jan Edelsten (Qld.) Sharon Clues (Vic.) Diana Zema (S.A.) s S.A. Vic. N.S.W. 10 — Men Taka Wakamatsu (W.A.) Phillip Cheetham (N.S.W.) Mac Stirling (Qld.) Lambert Ariens (S.A.) Mike Moore (Qld.) Peter Sharpe (S.A.)	64.85 63.40 63.30 63.10 63.075 62.95 62.25 313.00 311.00 306.55	1st 2nd 3rd = 3rd = 5th 6th Team: 1st 2nd 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th	Neil Porter (W.A.) Scott Isbel (W.A.) Kurt Zink (W.A.) Michael Shorthose (S.A.) Andrew Ross (Vic.) Adam Simmonds (Vic.) W.A. Victoria 7 — Men Glen Miller (Qld.) Rob Edmonds (Qld.) Michael Hurst (N.S.W.) Chris Francois (Qld.) David McKillop (A.C.T.) Chris Harper (N.S.W.)	96.85 94.35 94.35 91.30 90.95 374.10 358.75 99.20 97.55 95.95 94.70 93.95 93.45
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"Singapore Airlines is honoured to have been appointed Official Airline for the Australian Gymnastics Federation for the 1978 World Championships, Strasbourg, France"



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COMMONWEALTH GAMES

by Dr. Graham Bond, Sectional Manager

This was the first time gymnastics had been included in a Commonwealth Games. The conduct of the competition, both for the participants and for the viewing public, justified its inclusion in these games and the Australian gymnasts were a credit to the total Australian team.

We look forward to continued participation in these friendly games.

VICTORY HONOURS

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTA
Canada	4	2	1	7
England		2		2
Australia		1	1	2
New Zealand			1	1
	4	5	3	12

competition. This is a common mistake which is being corrected as we gain more international experience.

I would like to thank Jeff Cheales, Peter Sharpe, Frances Thompson, Anne Bigham and Peggy Browne, the Australian judges, who although not part of the team were a great help throughout our stay and added to Australia's stature as a gymnastic nation.

COMPETITORS BY COUNTRY

	Men	Women
Australia	4	4
Bangladesh	1	
Canada	4	4
Cyprus	1	2
England	4	4
Hong Kong		4
India	4	
New Zealand	4	4
Scotland		4
Wales	4	4
10 Countries	26	30

AUSTRALIAN COMPETITORS AND OFFICIALS

Men

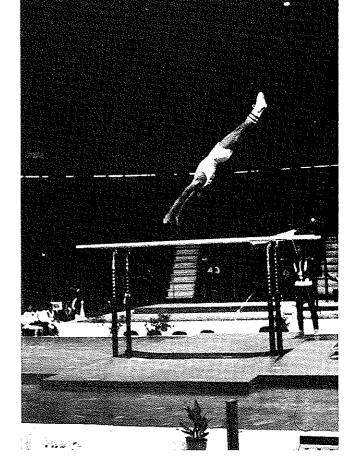
L. Ariens, W. Forbes, L. Nyland, R. Starosta (Captain).

Women:

K. Edelsten, M. Jack, K. McMaster, M. Sulicich.

Barry Cheales was an ideal coach for the men. His breadth of international competitive experience and his position as Australian Coaching Co-ordinator enabled him to help each of the individuals to perform at his best. His help with the women in training and during the individual competition was appreciated.

Ollie Maywald did an excellent job of welding the women into a strong team and my only criticism is that they all worked too hard, too close to the first



Phillip De la Salle (Canada) was the Individual Champion in the men's competition.

PRE-GAMES EXPERIENCE

The Australian Government assisted our gymnasts to compete in the first Pacific Rim competition in May of 1978, to provide international experience for potential Commonwealth Games competitors. Half of this competition was held in Edmonton so that the experience was doubly useful to Australian gymnasts. This year has been our busiest ever with gymnasts on tour in North America, China, South Africa and later in the year France for the World Championships.

ASSEMBLY, OUTFITTING AND TRAVEL

The assembly for outfitting in Sydney went reasonably smoothly although a hectic business at the time. Extreme sizes were sometimes a problem, especially where a standard range of fittings was made available rather than individually requested sizes. It would be useful to know for the future what the range of fittings actually was. Some of the team brought too much personal gear because we had not been able to inform them what they would be receiving.

The flight to Edmonton via Honolulu, San Francisco and Vancouver was tiring and involved considerable time changes. The team needed all of the precompetition period to acclimatise and prepare physically and mentally for the competition.

Competition gear was obtained both from Japan (via USA) and Australia. Personal fittings were not possible and, with such garments as leotards, difficulties were experienced. This is a perennial problem for Australian teams and, where clothing does not fit well, one which can affect the performance of the gymnasts.

TRAINING

Excellent training venues for men and women were provided in adjacent gymnasiums. It was a pleasure to work with full sets of apparatus (and more) without having to move it around, set it up and then dismantle it. The men's gym was much hotter than the women's which was somewhat airconditioned but, since the Australians preferred warm conditions, this did not inconvenience us as it did other countries. A physiotherapist was always on duty and cool drinks were available to make up for fluid losses.

The local service clubs had sponsored tours to the Rocky Mountains and these were carefully organised to enable a two day trip to cover only a single lost day of training. The men's team took advantage of this and, although the trip was tiring, the benefits of such a well-used lay-day were obvious.

THE COMPETITION

For the first time in a major international team competition, Australians were up amongst the medallists. Lyndsay Nylund won a silver medal in the individual competition and was a member of the team which won the bronze medal. The women were not far behind — fourth for the team, with Marina Sulicich fifth in the individual competition.

Other individual results were:

Karen Edelsten 12th out of 30 Margaret Jack 14th Kim McMaster 23rd

and

Warwick Forbes 10th out of 26

Lambert Ariens 12th Rudy Starosta 15th



Coach Ollie Maywald with Margaret Jack.

Ariens was first on the vault and Nyland first on pommel horse and second on parallel bars and horizontal bar. If there had been apparatus medals as in the other major competitions, we would have won two gold and two silver!

The Canadian teams were very impressive and showed what can be done with a strong national programme and plenty of international experience.

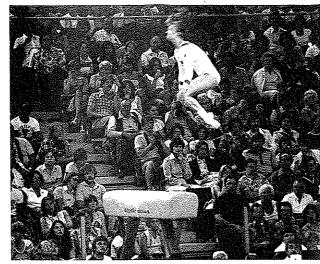
TECHNICAL MEETINGS

The gymnastic technical committee met to ratify the competition rules. The following improvements were made to the normal international rules:

- Male coach allowed on the floor with female teams.
- Two coaches allowed on the floor during individual competition when countries were split into random groups.

After the competition rehearsal we protested about unnecessary delays in the men's team event. These were due to the single men teams being allotted full time in the rotation and the absence of the Scottish team. We suggested including the single men with one or other of the full teams. Our suggestion was agreed with but not used.

A foundation committee was set up to prepare for the formation of a Commonwealth Gymnastic Federation.



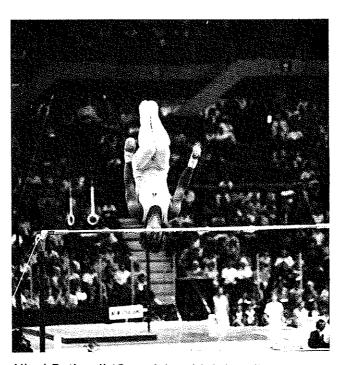
Lisa Jackman (England) performing a Tsuhahara vault — quite high!

MEDICAL

Apart from Kim McMaster's foot, which always hampered her running, there were no serious injuries. Minor aches and pains were dealt with by the masseur and physios and the doctor was kept informed.

SOCIAL

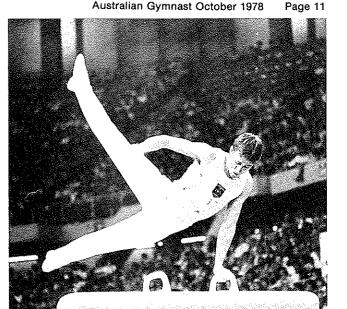
The Canadian gymnasts held a magnificent dinner dance after the competition for all competitors, officials and assistants. I am pleased to report that Australia won the challenge race for mat shifting which had been inspired by our good work during the competition. We were delighted to welcome Prince Andrew who had previously enjoyed watching the gymnastic competition. The final farewell disco at the Fieldhouse will evoke nostalgic memories for a long time.



Nigel Rothwell (Canada) — high bar dismount.

THE FUTURE

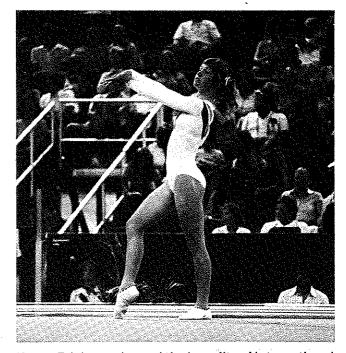
We could not explain to the many enquirers why gymnastics will not be in Brisbane 1982. We wish it were or at least as a demonstration. We proudly wore the 1982 T-shirt when they finally appeared and wish all sports success — it was nice being with you in Edmonton.



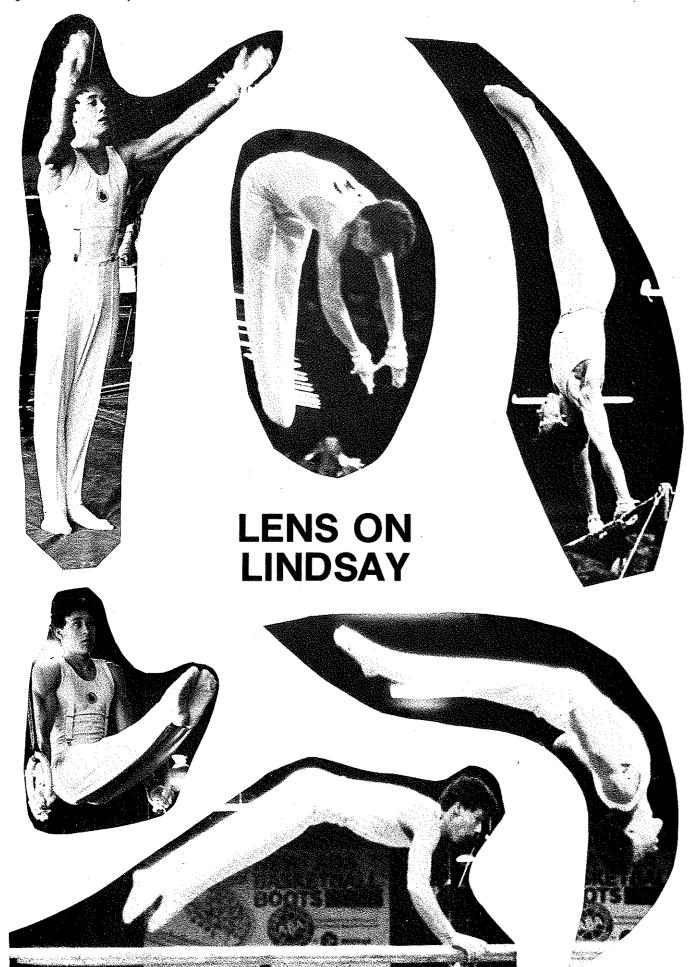
LYNDSAY NYLUND, pictured above, was the undoubted favourite of the large crowds in the men's competition outside of the Canadians. His performance, despite the obvious pain he was enduring, was a credit to Australian gymnastics and typical of the man. Coming to the last event Lindsay 'the cool kid' Nylund put together an impeccable routine to cement the silver medal and Australia's first individual medal for gymnastics.

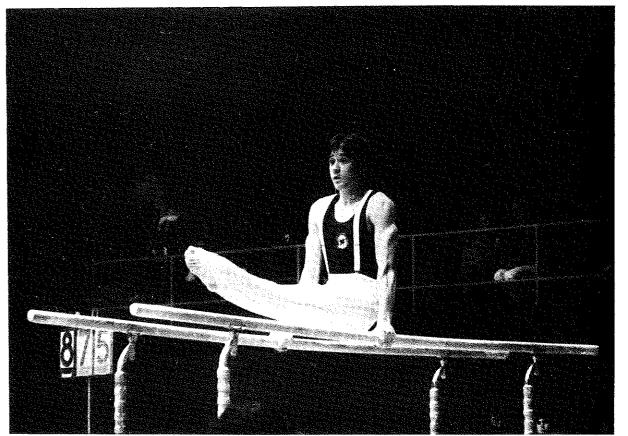
His performances were an inspiration to the team and he helped other team members — Warwick Forbes, Rudy Starosta and Lambert Ariens — win the Bronze medal for Australia, our first team medal in gymnastics.

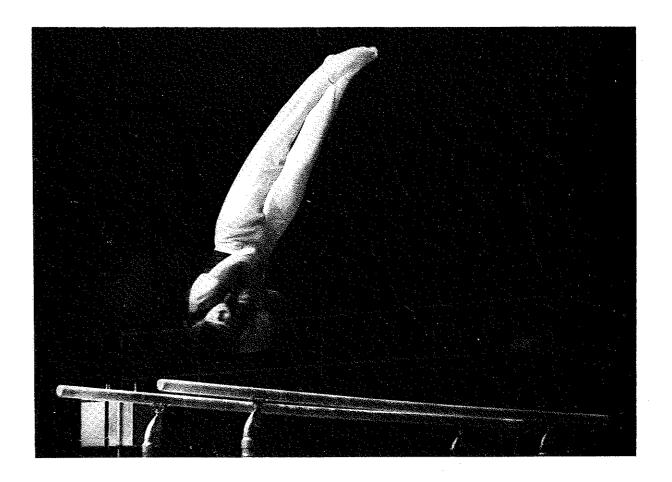
Congratulations men and especially to Lindsay — your efforts will provide the inspiration for all of us in gymnastics in Australia. We can succeed!



Karen Edelsten showed the benefits of International competition with a fine all-round performance.







LINDSAY COMPETING FOR ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

COMMONWEALTH GAMES RESULTS

WOMEN'S TEAM COMPETITION

	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor	Total
CANADA	28.05	28.75	28.45	28.00	113.25
ENGLAND	28.25	26.85	25.35	26.95	107.40
NEW ZEALAND	27.00	26.80	25. 9 5	26.60	106.35
AUSTRALIA	25.85	26.35	25.60	25.65	103.45
WALES	26.55	25.65	23.65	25.35	101.20
SCOTLAND	25.85	24.70	24.75	25.25	100.55

MEN'S TEAM COMPETITION

	Floor	S. Horse	Rings	Vault	P-Bars	H-Bar	Total
CANADA	27.35	26.85	27.75	27.90	27.85	27.85	165.55
ENGLAND	27.75	25.20	27.10	28.00	26.45	27.45	161.95
AUSTRALIA	26.25	25.10	26.15	27.35	26.80	26.85	158.50
NEW ZEALAND	24.85	24.90	26.00	27.55	25.45	25.25	154.00
WALES	23.85	20.95	21.45	26.80	22.15	22.95	138.15
INDIA	22.00	18.90	19.35	24.30	21.45	21.75	127.70

WOMEN'S FINALS

	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor	Total	Place
Elfi Schlegel (Can.)	9.70	9.75	9.20	9.60	38.25	1
Sherry Hawco (Can.)	9.50	9.50	9.40	9.25	37.65	2 =
Monica Goermann (Can.)	9.50	9.15	9.55	9.45	37.65	2 =
Karen Kelsall (Can.)	9.45	9.70	9.50	8.90	37.55	4
Marina Sulicich (Aust.)	9.10	9.05	9.00	8.95	36.00	5 =
Karen Robb (Eng.)	9.50	9.00	8.60	8.90	36.00	5 =
Susan Cheeseborough (Eng.)	9.10	8.90	9.00	9.00	36.00	5 =
Karen Edelsten (Aust.)	8.55	8.95	8.60	8.25	34.35	12
Margaret Jack (Aust.)	9.10	8.45	7.85	8.40	33.80	14 =

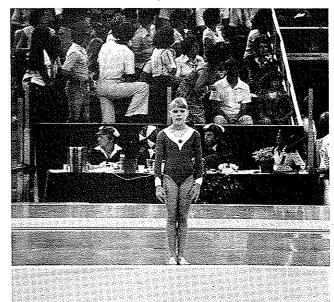
MEN'S FINALS

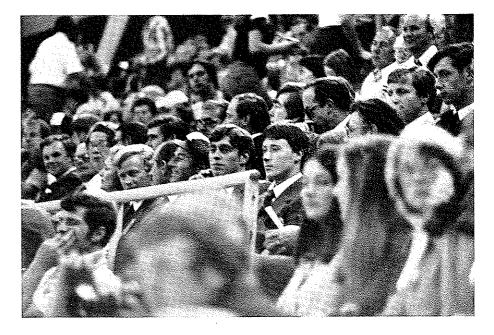
	Floor	S. Horse	Rings	Vault	P-Bars	H-Bar	Total	Place
Phillip De La Salle (Can.)	9.60	8.75	9.50	9.40	9.40	9.75	56.40	1
Lyndsay Nylund (Aust.)	9.10	9.00	9.00	9.25	9.20	9.40	54.95	2
Jean Choquette (Can.)	9.10	8.65	9.00	9.50	8.65	9.35	54.25	3
Owen Walstrom (Can.)	9.05	8.60	9.20	8.80	9.05	9.20	53.90	4
Thomas Wilson (Eng.)	9.00	8.60	9.05	8.80	9.00	9.25	53.70	5
Terry Sale (N.Z.)	9.00	8.60	8.90	9.20	8.90	8.85	53.45	6
Nigel Rothwell (Can.)	9.25	8.05	9.10	9.35	9.20	8.30	53.25	7
Warwick Forbes (Aust.)	8.90	8.50	8.80	9.00	8.55	8.70	52.45	10
Lambert Ariens (Aust.)	8.85	7.85	7.95	9.50	8.60	8.85	51.60	12
Rudy Starosta (Aust.)	8.40	7.40	8.20	9.00	7.05	8.35	48.40	15

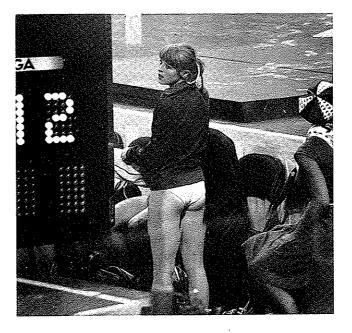
AT THE GAMES

At right: Elfi Schlegel (Canada) was the sensation of the Games and produced some exciting, explosive work. She typifies the overall development of Canadian gymnastics.

Below: Recognise the faces pictured in this crowd scene? A famous Australian gymnast was given the honour to sit with the young Prince and explain the finer details of the sport to him. Who else do you recognise?







At left: Joanna Syme (England) definitely did not vie for the individual honours in the gymnastic competition. However, she certainly attracted the attention of one admiring photographer. "Eat your heart our Cheales".

REPORT ON TOUR

By Victor Seyeevich Khomuutov—U.S.S.R. National Coach

The Itinerary followed by Victor, and excellent Interpreter Yelena Chkerbator provided all states with an opportunity to enrich their knowledge in girls gymnastics.

Our heartfelt thanks must go to E.H.C.D. and Foreign Affairs for providing the greatest impetus to Women's Gymnastics that Australia has ever had, in bringing Victor to Australia.

This delightful, comprehensive expert, with his warm empathy has given Australia the boost of knowledge we so desperately needed. Due to the nature of the Tour, which enabled Victor to visit all states of Australia, and talk to the many enthusiastic Coaches, and gain a total overall picture, the visit has been an outstanding success.

We sincerely hope we may be able to have Victor Khomuutov visit Australia again, as he now has a clear understanding of our needs and efforts. He has given us much "FOOD FOR THOUGHT" and work to do, and the continuity of a future visit, could only strengthen our progress.

The U.S.S.R. and F.I.G. must also be given extreme credit for their excellent selection of the most suitable Coach for our needs.

VICTOR'S COMMENTS ON AUSTRALIAN GYMNASTICS

- 1. Most impressed with the large number of keen Coaches, anxious to learn, especially as coaching is not their profession. All must be praised for their great interest and enthusiasm.
- 2. More work with Coaches must be organised. More training for Coaches on a National Level. Clinics must be organised with "EXPERTS" like Victor.
- 3. State Associations are only working for themselves, and not for the Federation. Too much is decided within the States and not at the Federation Level. If we wish to progress all Australians must work for Australia completely, from the very beginning levels to the top. All direction must come from the Federation, and all must work to the National Compulsory Programme. (I explained that we had agreed on this principal at our May Conference). We must work on one idea throughout Australia. At present States are "BOILING IN THEIR OWN JUICE".
- A compulsory programme must be established from the very Basic Level to the Top (i.e. 1-10). Everyone must work through the levels, which will be a progressive step programme, ensuring perfect achievement of all necessary movements. All must work through these National Levels, no-one may miss a level. Only Compulsories until the top levels. The programme is reviewed approximately every 4 years, with F.I.G. Cycle. Badges are awarded to each level, and standards are set, which must be passed, e.g. for Candidate for Master of Sports, and Master of Sports - Gymnast is required to achieve a minimum of 72-00 pts.

- 5. Gymnastics is generally weak and too many people in Australia want to attempt high level work, without fully covering the basics. In most cases, if we would properly cover, and prepare the basics the high level work would be easy.
- 6. The same faults are occuring throughout Australia, but Victor corrected and repeated the same things in every State, which he hoped would give us a good start towards commonology in Australia.
- 7. Judges must also understand all the points Victor raised, in order to appreciate the goals and desired technique.
- 8. We need to acquire Vault Run Up Paths, to alleviate leg problems for Gymnasts (of approximately 24 m).
- 9. Gymnasts should always work in shoes, and most times with ankle and wrist warmers and
- 10. Coaches should teach quietly, patiently and NOT SHOUT!
- 11. Coaches must realise the Women CANNOT perform like a man. Females are not as strong as males, therefore, technicalities must be investigated for girls to achieve movements. Frequent reference was made to differences between men's and women's styles - e.g. men have to bend arms in Flic-Flacs because they do not have the flexibility in the shoulders girls do not have the same physical strength as a man.
- 12. In all movements, look where you are going to put your hands.

- 13. Average back flexibility is better for todays gymnastics, than extreme flexibility, as the gymnast has a stronger back - necessary for todays work.
- 14. Presentation is always important and gymnasts must be deducted right from the beginning if they do not present themselves correctly - i.e. before and after the exercise.
- 15. Gymnasts in Australia tend to put their "HEAD ON THEIR CHEST". This must NOT occur!
- 16. Back flexibility cannot be improved, but shoulder and hip stretch can be achieved.
- 17. Specific movements which should be eliminated from any programme, as they serve no progressive purpose.

Vault — any non inverted vault (e.g. Bucks and Straddles).

Bar — movements which serve no purpose particularly mill circles and drop glides, from kip to catch.

Beam — side cart wheels.

Floor - again, any movements which lead nowhere.

In general, all moves must be leading to something else.

- 18. Competition results are not always indicative of a good gymnast. A coach must be able to recognise talent, and potential for the future. You cannot always be guided by the results.
- 19. The problems we are experiencing, are the same all over the world.
- 20. The school of economy, knowledge and understanding is vital.

OTHER COMMENTS OF CONDITIONS ETC. SPECIFIC TO U.S.S.R.

1. Most Clubs or Gym Halls — The Soviet have men as the Head Coach or Director, supported by numerous women Coaches.

This is generally because:

- (a) Women's work is now very complicated, and requires the technique understanding of men's work.
- (b) Spotting is physically difficult, and requires the strength of a man.
- (c) Girls in the teen years, relate better to a man and work harder.

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- (d) Men have no other say in Women's Gymnastics, due to F.I.G. Rulings.
- (e) In all top countries, the top coaches are men.
- 2. U.S.S.R. Clubs have competitors at all levels once a month. Parents are invited to attend and encourage children, and become involved. 'Inter-State' Competitions for little girls are held at the same time as the major championships. 'State' Teams must always bring 2 little gymnasts with them to National Championships, where the competition is organised at the same time.
- 3. Russia has 8 levels of gymnastics, with a pre-gymnastic phase. Approximately 6-8 years the child plays with dance and movement on the floor, while personal data was attained. Children are invited to attend Clubs. At the beginning of each school year -September 1st, Coaches visit local schools searching for talent. Two years seems to be sufficient for assessment, and possible child interest to ware. At 8 years of age, the child goes on to apparatus.

The levels follow thus:-

3 Junior levels for u/12 girls. 3 Senior levels for o/12 girls.

Candidate for Master of Sports — Gymnast must receive an average of 9-00 pts on each apparatus.

Vault is a handspring. Bars as for movements outlined in Bar lecture by Victor (except for clear hip circle to handstand). Beam and floor - * †Gymnast must gain 72-00 pts in an International Competition, or place 1-6 in U.S.S.R., or 1-3 on individual apparatus.

On average — low level, little gymnasts train 1 hour per day, 6 days per week. This increases as the gymnast improves, working up to 4 hours per day, 6 days per week for the top levels. Everyone has one day off per week.

Victor Khomuutov came to Australia, not just to work with Coaches, but to conduct an analysis study of Gymnastics in Australia, requested by F.I.G. Let us not disappoint him or the F.I.G. If we can prove we are prepared to accept and work on advice received we may find ourselves with more willing help, greater understanding of our sport, overall enjoyment and the ever sought after results.

> Frances Thomspon **WOMEN'S TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** A.G.F.

* F.I.G. Compulsories

† Master of Sports

RHYTHMIC CORNER

FROM THE R.S.G. DIRECTOR

Report on the 29th Australian Gymnastic Championships.

We wish to congratulate James Barry who was re-elected as President, Lance Otto as Vice President, and Alistair Low as Secretary/ Treasurer.

Many major structural changes were voted on at Conference that over the next 12 months, we will come to light as the R.S.G. program continues to be implemented. One of the major differences is that the Mens, Womens & R.S.G. Technical Committees have decided to join together in a National Coaching Accreditation Course, more details will be published at a later date.

All R.S.G. recommendations were passed at Conference which helps us approach the coming year with enthusiasm. Due to the friendly and informal atmosphere at Narrabeen many old friendships were renewed and valuable new acquaintances were made. Congratulations go to the N.S.W.A.G.A. who made these Championships a success.

New Zealand Tour of the East Coast

After tanning and sight-seeing in Surfers Paradise, the girls were welcomed on their official tour of Brisbane by Pam Armstrong. During their stay in Brisbane, a competition was held, displays were also included in their itinerary. Trips to a pineapple plantation and sight-seeing was enjoyed by all. Next stop was Sydney, where the team was officially welcomed by Maureen Vyse, and a very heavy schedule was planned. Trip to Woollongong and Woy-Woy, a competition and displays at the University and the National Artistic Championships, was enjoyed by all.

Arrival in Melbourne to the official welcome by Maureen Gage, saw 20 girls and officials a little overladen with various new acquisitions, but little did we know what was in store for the Melbourne shops. Official training commenced on Wednesday afternoon, with an invasion of the Press and T.V. stations which was very welcome, for the Trans Tasman International Competition. Thursday a trip to Healesville, to capture the antics of our koalas and kangaroos. Friday, back to serious training and any last minute alteration needed for the staging of our first R.S.G. International Competition to be held in Australia.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all the girls participating both in International and Junior Sections.

New Zealand: Under 16 — Jackie Kindly, Lesley Orr, Julie Thomson, Sonia Stariha, Linda Whittle, Joanne Dougherty.

Australia: Under 16 — Alison Luscombe, Danielle Cairis, Stacey Locke, Karen Baines.

New Zealand: International Class — Sharon Donaldson, Michelle Duncan, Penelope Duncan, Vicki Forrester, Suzanne Ludlow, Donna Maxwell, Janette Ralph and Joanne Woodall.

Australia: International Class — Maureen Gage, Barbara Langford, Jeanette Marshall, Kaye Woods, Ann Dearing and Bronwen Bassi. Team Leader: Joan Drew.

I would like to express my thanks to the Victorian R.S.G. Committee for their devotion in the organization of this International Competition. To the Judges, Scorers, Averagers, Runners, Officials and mums. I know it was a successful Competition, which I hope will be repeated. Our Judges gained valuable knowledge, which will be passed back to all States. Also thanks go to the N.S.W., Victorian and S.A. Committees who supplied Gymnasts, Judges & Officials to enable this Competition to be a success. Mrs. Bellwood, for her cooperation in the organizing of the Trans Tasman, was greatly appreciated. The presence of James Barry, Alistair Low, who presented the trophies, and Frances Thompson, was appreciated by the R.S.G. Director.

In finishing this report, I would like to express my appreciation to all the billets throughout Australia, who made this trip a most successful tour for the New Zealand girls, and hope some day we may travel to New Zealand.

The results of the Trans Tasman Competition were as follows:-

International Class:

Rope — M. Duncan, N.Z. 8.80 2nd — J. Woodall, N.Z. 8.70 Ball — J. Ralph, N.Z. 9.05 2nd — M. Duncan, N.Z. 8.90 Equal 2nd — J. Woodall N.Z. 8.90 Ribbon — M. Duncan, N.Z. 9.00 2nd — J. Woodall, N.Z. 8.95 Overall Winner — M. Duncan, N.Z. 26.70

2nd — J. Woodall, N.Z. 26.55

Junior Class:

Overall Winner — J. Dougherty, N.Z. 17.25 2nd — S. Starina, N.Z. 17.20

> Margaret Lanz R.S.G. DIRECTOR

IN VICTORIA

Victoria's third Stage 1 Clinic in Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics was held over 2 weekends in June this year, at Burwood S.C.V. Gymnasium.

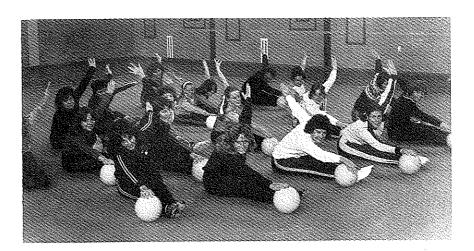
The Clinic was well attended and participants spent many hours flexing backs, splitting legs, body waving and circumducting apparata: several complaints of old age and stiff bodies were heard but by the second weekend, all girls were back with renewed vigour. In the practical testing, some very original movements came to light, during the composition of exercises; and many girls experienced the maddening dilemma of apparatus leaving the floor area, somewhat out of control. We all realised very clearly, that although the manual skills look to be effortless, they require the coordination of a juggling genius and the flexibility of a super-mobile gymnast. . . especially the Medium and Superior difficulties.

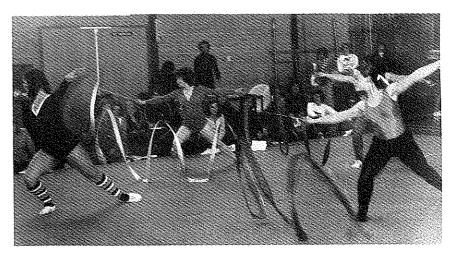
Photographed is the Stage 1 Clinic group:

Learning the Ball exercise.

analysing a group Ribbon exercise.

3 successful participants being presented with their certificates by Mrs. Yvonne Marriott, of the V.A.G.A.







REPORT FROM WANITA LYNCH — JAPAN, March — August, 1978

Most of my time in Japan was spent in Tokyo training at Nataidal College but I also had the chance to visit about nine other gymnasiums around the country. A few gymnasts were overweight but all showed commendable fitness. The greatest attribute shown by the majority of gymnasts however was their flexibility.

The warm up prior to training was normally of a vigorous half hour duration. During this period, ten minutes was devoted to skipping (including many double skips for arm strengthening and co-ordination). The remainder of the time was spent on flexibility. Each gymnast began with passive flexibility and then moved into partners or with coach and used an active flexibility programme, which involved strong steady pressure.

Hands resting on the beam, with hands close together. Pressure applied directly over the shoulders. Also on upper back (head up).

With any exercises involving the legs they always used over extension, i.e. Legs right or left resting on crash mat in splits position, bouncing in front, side and back splits position then change legs. Back against wall, pushing leg vertically forward and past the head. Also pushing leg across the body to opposite shoulder, pushing with one hand on the hip.

Sitting in straddle position on the floor, coaches or other gymnasts would sit on each other with their full body weight pushing the chest and lower back flat.

Back Flexibility

Very limited work was done in this area. Usually done in conjunction with shoulder stretching.

Kneeling on ground with hands forward, pressure applied to shoulders, middle and upper back.

BEAM

The Japanese Association have recently bought all the equipment that will be used in the World Games this year. The equipment is directly from France and is for the benefit of the Japanese mens and womens gymnastics teams. Even to the extent of having the same colour mats under the equipment.

The beam was quite different from any other I've worked on. It appeared to be thinner and the sides slightly rounder and is definitely more springy. It gives a quick vibrating action which made my balance feel insecure. I feel the Australian girls may be at a disadvantage if they are not given time to accustom themselves to this new type beam prior to the competition.

An important part of the Japanese beam training is counting. The beam in comparison with the floor exercise which uses the music tempo to create variety is made more interesting by a counting method.

e.g. The coach counts out aloud to the gymnast, perhaps a waltz time followed by a quick 1, 2, 1, 2, depending on the rythmn needed for the routine. This can be done with both set and voluntary routines. I found this most helpful and recommend its use.

The Japanese girls are very graceful and incorporate many supple movements due to their superior flexibility and time that they spend on the apparatus.

Interesting tumbling elements I saw: a very popular bent leg aerial walkover, gainer split leg back saulto, two girls performed flip saulto, one cartwheel backsault. The present era of gymnasts on this apparatus will soon give way to a younger group of gymnasts that I saw at high schools. The reason for their superior ability is that some of these schools have no bars and/or vaulting horses.

VAULT

I wasn't impressed with the womens vault but the men were fantastic. The men devote much more time than women to vaulting and they all try a great variety of vaults to see which suits the individual gymnast. In the mens team, each team member has a different vault. Also the men made much greater use of the facilities in the gym, designed to increase their spring. i.e. These were small boxes hanging from the ceiling at varying levels, some quite high up. The gymnasts attempted to jump up and touch them as a part of their warm up. Some of the men were able to reach phenomenal heights.

BARS

A private gymnastic club for girls in Kyoto proved to be one of the best gymnastic clubs I have seen. Coached and directed by two former Olympians, Mr. Hironaka and his wife. This is what the "American Gymnast" had to say about the club after an invitation meet in Kawaii. 'Most impressive was the discipline and control of the Switopia Club, the youngest club on the floor. In them it is obvious that the Japanese Clubs will be producing their country's future Olympians. Their routines were not at a high degree of risk but they were well executed with a minimum of flaws'. The oldest girl in the club is about 13 years old.

About 50% of their bar work was done on a single bar supplement (set up like a low horizontal bar). I feel the standard of their bar work could be attributed to their strength training and amount of time spent on the apparatus. The gymnasts also had a number of set elements, i.e. cast handstand; clear circle handstand. Although the girls are technically excellent they are still well behind the Chinese and Russians in originality of composition and tend to follow as we do.

FLOOR

In the national trials for the World Games I was only impressed by two women on floor. I feel Japanese women show weakness in tumbling in contrast to their balletic movements, which are very beautiful, graceful and feminine. This may be as a result of their culture. The women are considered inferior and consider themselves inferior to the men. In two areas I can see this shows in their gymnastics.

- (a) The women only strive to a certain level and are not expected to go beyond this.
- (b) A woman's duties are in the home.

In an interview I had with Rod O'Brien, an Australian journalist in Tokyo, Mr. Kenmotsu said he thought that cultural differences were one of the reasons for the low world ranking that the Japanese women have in

During the five months I spent in Japan and a previous 7 months in Switzerland, I feel the knowledge I have gained from both these countries has helped my gymnastics greatly. In Japan it was mostly a change in my attitude towards gymnastics.

Also I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Yoshitera Matsuzaki, who was a personal friend, coach and advisor and my friends at Nitaidai College, Mr. Kenmotsu and Mr. Yamashita, who made my training and stay in Japan very much easier.

Wanita Lynch

AROUND THE STATES

VICTORIAN NEWS

The Victorian Championships were held on July 9th, 15th

RESULTS

Level 9: 1st - L. Wallace (Rusden); 2nd - P. Ray (Olympia); 3rd — K. Gray (Chelt.). Level 8: 1st — M. Bird (Olympia); 2nd — K. Graham (Olympia); 3rd — V. Bognar (Chelt.). Level 7: 1st — F. Bird (Olympia); 2nd — H. Amundsen (Olympia); 3rd — S. Mason (Chelt.). Level 6: 1st — S. Orchard (Worana); 2nd — L. Prosser (Worana); 3rd — L. Markham (Chelt.).

Men's:

Level 8: 1st - A. Stewart (Trinity); 2nd - A. Simmonds (Collegians); 3rd — A. Stewart (Trinity); 2nd — A. Simmonds (Collegians); 3rd — A. Ross (N/Hill).

Level 7: 1st — S. Richards (Wesley); 2nd — G. Kolt (Wes.);

3rd — G. Wittick (Wes.).

Level 7: Reserve: 1st — D. Prewett (Haileybury); 2nd — P.

Cray (Wes.); 3rd — G. Austin (Hail.);

Level 6: 1st — D. Austin (Hail.);

Level 6: 1st — D. Austin (Hail.);

2rd — G. Harking (Thorny College) 3rd - G. Harkins (Therry College).

Congratulations to our representatives at the National Championships — to Lisa Wallace for a good performance in Silver and to Lisa and Sharon Clues for their selection to the Silver Squad.

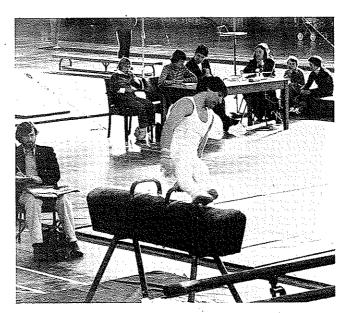
A good performance by our boys too, most of them were placed in the apparatus finals. Congratulations to Lloyd Hollenberg on his selection in the Talent Squad.

Two more Victorian judges have gained their national accreditation. Helen Quinn (Silver) and Craig Mahony.

Alistair Low has been appointed as Secretary-Treasurer to the A.G.F. so congratulations are in order.

The Victorian Rhythmic Gymnastics Committee excellently conducted the Trans. Tasman Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics International Invitational Competition and are to be thanked for their efforts.

Geraldine Mahony



John Curtin (N.S.W.) competing on Side Horse.



Shaw Byng (N.S.W.) — Handspring Front.

IN NEW SOUTH WALES

- The State Championships were held in July at the Narrabeen National Fitness Council venue as a forerunner to the National Championships.
- Congratulations to John Curtin (Level 9 Champion), Carole Marsh (Silver Champion), Sandra Jones, Shaw Byng and coaches Keith Giddy and Helmut Geiblinger on being selected in the World Championships teams.

QUEENSLAND REPORT

The last few months have been very busy with competition involvement from club to international levels. Competitors at all levels have gained a tremendous amount of experience because of it. In brief:—

- Brisbane Y.M.C.A. conducted its annual club championships with 120 gymnasts from nine metropolitan branches competing. It was both a day of fun for the youngsters and a chance for competition training for the seniors. The organisers, Vicki Still, Peter Gallege and Frank and Robyn Beecher did an excellent job and are to be commended. It was good to see Neil Stuart (ex Victorian, ex West Australian, ex South Australian, ex. . .), attempting level 7 routines. Perhaps he could make the State team next
- The State titles were a great success, being conducted at the Queensland University gymnasium. They attracted a crowd of approximately 500 for the senior levels competition. The organizers, particularly Peter Huff, are to be commended for their efforts. The individual champions were as follows:-

Mac Stirling Level 10

Barry Cheales Phil Ward

Rob Edmonds

Women Karen Edelsten Bronwyn Zalweski Kathy Wilson

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It was good to see the "old guys" still in there. Barry Cheales total of 102 points was the highest in the men's competition.

Debbie Connell unfortunately injured her ankle during the optional competition and had to withdraw.

- The State Level 5 & 6 competitions were conducted the following weekend with representation from Cairns, Innisfail and the Gold Coast as well as Brisbane in a very keen contest. Les Liversy and Ken Meredith became the Level 5 & 6 winners respectively.
- 4. The University of Queensland was host to yet another exciting gymnastic event — the intervarsity competition. With thrills and spills and plenty of enthusiasm the event lived up to its reputation of providing many surprises, both inside and outside the gym. Mac Stirling and Debbie Gillies became the two senior champions with the University of Queensland winning the team competition.
- The women's judges committee conducted a successful Stage 1 course in Toowoomba recently despite problems of transport. I believe Tracey Gould will be taking the bus next time and leaving her car at home.
- In May, Karen Edelsten and the writer travelled to Edmonton and Vancouver for the inaugural Pacific Rim Competition, Canada, U.S.A. and the relatively unknown China, as well as Australia, competed. The competition was a great success and should provide Australia with an opportunity to compete regularly at International levels in the future.
- 7. The gymnastic event of the year was, of course, the Commonwealth Games. Queensland was strongly represented by Graham Bond, Barry & Jeff Cheales, Margaret Jack and Karen Edelsten. The Australians enjoyed some success and the event provided our gymnastics with a great stimulus. The formation of the Commonwealth Gymnastic Federation in Edmonton should providé benefits in cementing ties between the gymnastic nations of Commonwealth.

Jeff Cheales

W.A. REPORT

W.A. is lucky to have a publicity officer such as Mrs Biltoft who managed to gain us a one-hour television programme, titled "Only One Can Win", based on our Silver championships. This show was broadcast on a Saturday night at 7.30 p.m. and provided good publicity for the sport.

Special congratulations are to be extended to Lindsay Nylund on gaining 2nd place in the recent Commonwealth Games in Edmonton. We in the West are all very proud of Australia's best ever gymnast.

Results of the National Championships in Sydney were also very pleasing and congratulations to our team and in particular:-

Julie Nimmo — 3rd

Level 8:

Neil Porter - 1st Scott Isbel - 2nd Kurt Zinc - 3rd

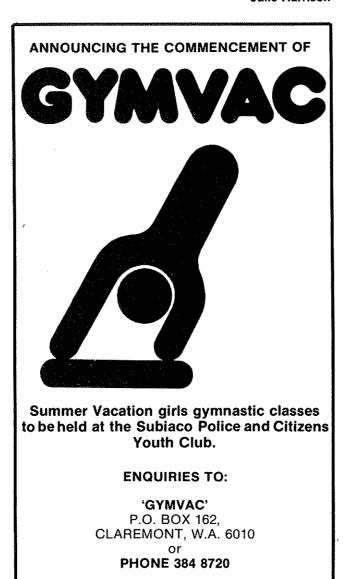
Team 1st

Level 10:

Taka Wakamutsu --- 1st

Since the last issue the W.A.G.A. has conducted championships for girls in Level 5 and 6 and for boys in Level 4 and 6. Girls Level 7 and boys Level 5 championships are scheduled for October.

Julie Harrison



S.A. NEWS

- · Congratulations to Marina Sulicich on winning her second successive National championship. Also to Kerry Bayliss (4th) and Kerry Bailey (8th) who were selected in World Championships Team. Our team also won the team competition - well done girls.
- · Michael Shorthose did well in Level 8 in finishing 3rd and Lambert Ariens although unable to compete on floor, finished 4th in Level 10 and has been selected in the World Championships team.
- At the time of writing, The Broken Hill Eisteddfod gymnastic competition was being conducted and we trust this will be successful.
- · All the best to all our selected representatives for the World Games team including judges and coaches as well. We are well represented.

Peter Sharpe

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The Australian Gymnast has secured reciprocal rights with the New Zealand Gymnast publication as a distributing agent. We can now offer a yearly subscription to both magazines at a greatly reduced

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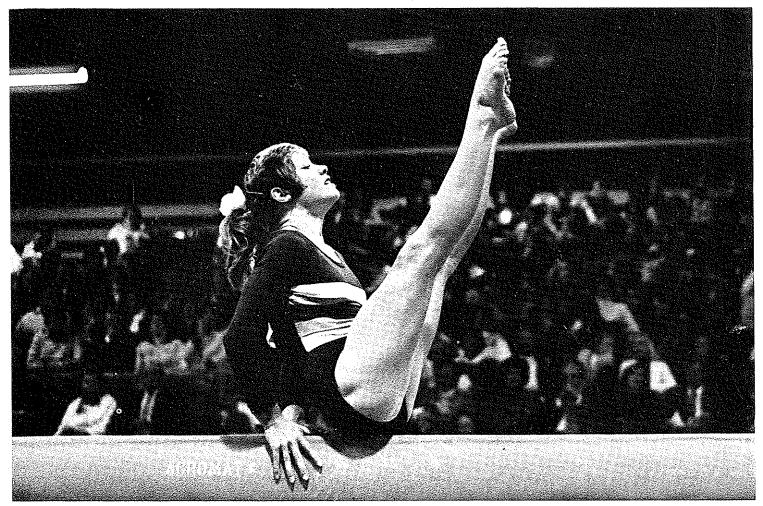
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