

Bronze for Australia at U17 World Championships in Argentina!



The Australian Under 17 team has delivered an outstanding performance at the recent Under 17 World Championships, held at Ahumada Esqui Nautico, Argentina.

Competing against the world's best junior athletes, the Australian squad showcased both depth and determination, highlighted by a well-earned bronze podium finish.

Leading the charge was Zarhli Reeves, who put together a remarkable performance. Reeves claimed 3rd place in Jump and equal 4th in Slalom to secure 3rd overall, underlining her status as one of the rising stars of the sport.

In Tricks, Daisy Green delivered when it mattered most, producing a strong finals performance with 5,040 points to finish 4th just off the podium.

The Australian girls were a standout across the board, with every athlete progressing through to the finals—a fantastic achievement and a clear sign of the junior program's strength and consistency.

There were also impressive performances from across the squad. Jagger King produced a personal best jump of 42.1 metres, earning a place in the Jump final, while wildcard entrant Ellouise Fletcher made a significant impact in Slalom. Fletcher finished as the top Australian female slalom skier, scoring 3 buoys on the 12m line to claim equal 4th—a superb result under pressure.

Looking ahead, the future is bright for Australian junior waterskiing. With Taj Reeves, Selina Appleton, Emma Wright, and Ellouise Fletcher all still eligible for the next U17 World Championships, the pipeline of talent remains strong.

This campaign has not only delivered results but also reinforced the depth, resilience and promise within the Australian junior ranks, exciting sign for the years ahead.



Support the Olympic Games Bid!

Mark Beretta is chair of the national committee leading the bid for inclusion of Waterski and Wakeboard in the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games. A key factor in the Olympic selection process is the level of community engagement and participation. To strengthen our bid, we are asking everyone in our community - skiers - riders - families - supporters - friends, to join our FREE WAWA Community Membership. It's quick, it's free, and it demonstrates the size and passion of our sport across Australia. The more people who join, the stronger our position when presenting to the Brisbane 2032 committee.



2026 Malibu Australian National Water Ski Championships



Sade & Archie Win Again!

The 2026 Malibu Australian National Water Ski Championships wrapped up in style at the Max Kirwan Waterski Park in Mulwala after a week of thrilling competition over the Easter long weekend.

Sade Ferguson stole the show, winning the overall women's title for the 5th time and making history as the only woman in 28 years to claim the gold Oscar by winning slalom, trick, and jump - a clean sweep that cemented her legacy as one of the sport's greats.

On the men's side, **Archie Davis** continued his dominance, securing his 10th overall open men's title in a row surpassing the great Bruce Cockburn with eight overall wins but still trailing Ryan Green with 13 open men's overall titles.

Corey Saddington took out men's slalom after a three-way run-off with Nick Adams and Jack Christie. All three started the runoff on the very short 11m line with Saddington the eventual winner with 4 buoys at 10.75m.





CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS

This vital checklist keeps athletes safe and can be carried on a boat card or accessed via the Concussion Ed app. Next time you're on the water, ask your crew if they have it. Remember, concussion doesn't require loss of consciousness.

3 CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS

National Volunteer Week 2026







Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Waterski and Wakeboard Australia would like to sincerely thank the Australian Sports Commission for their ongoing support and participation funding. Their contribution helps us continue to provide programs and opportunities for our members, and we greatly appreciate their commitment to the growth and development of our sport.



2026 Australian Ski Show Nationals

Show Ski Australia are proud to reflect on the success of the 2026 Australian Ski Show Nationals, held in Mulwala, NSW, from 20–22 March. Set against the backdrop of the Max Kirwan Waterski Park, the event delivered an outstanding weekend of competition, showcasing the strength, skill and spirit of the Australian show skiing community.

Three teams took to the water across the weekend, with Mulwala Waterski Show Team claiming first place on home waters, followed by Beverley Ski Club in second and Southern Waters Ski Show Team in third. The results reflected not only the high standard of performance across all teams, but also how closely contested the competition was, with each club delivering polished, energetic and crowd-pleasing shows.

The Individual Events Day on Friday proved to be a standout success, with strong participation and excitement surrounding both traditional favourites and the introduction of new events. The addition of Swivel Pairs and Women's Freestyle Jump brought fresh energy to the program and highlighted the continued growth and evolution of the sport in Australia.

As hosts, Southern Waters Ski Show Team played a significant role in delivering a well-run and highly successful event. Staging the Nationals several hours from their home base was no small task, and it would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of their club members and family members, whose time, energy and commitment ensured everything ran smoothly both on and off the water.

Special thanks must also go to the Show Ski Australia Board for their guidance and support, as well as local legends Pete O'Neill and Brutis Ryan, whose contributions were invaluable throughout the event. The broader Mulwala community also played a key role, with their support and hospitality helping create a welcoming and memorable experience for all involved. The 2026 Nationals will be remembered not only for the results, but for the atmosphere, camaraderie and shared passion that defined the weekend – a true celebration of Australian show skiing at its very best.



Above: Mulwala Waterski Club | First place



Above: Beverley Waterski Club | Second place

Below: Southern Waters Ski Show Team | Third place



Western Australian Water Ski Association Hall of Fame Evening of Champions



The 75th Anniversary Hall of Fame Evening of Champions, celebrated the achievements, history, and community spirit of waterskiing in Western Australia. Held at the Burswood Water Sports Centre, the event brought together athletes, officials, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters to honour the people who have shaped the sport over the past 75 years.

The evening recognised the important role waterskiing has played within the WA sporting community, celebrating not only competitive success but also the commitment of volunteers, administrators, officials, and families whose support has sustained the sport across generations.

A key highlight of the evening was the induction of four exceptional individuals into the WAWSA Hall of Fame.

Symonne Kennedy (Wakeboard)

- Recognised for her sustained success at State, National and international level, along with her leadership within Wakeboard WA.

Steven Moss (Tournament)

- Celebrated for his outstanding all-round career, including 39 Australian Championship medals and international representation.

Vennesa Leopold (Tournament)

- Honoured for a career spanning decades, highlighted by national podiums and international success including the Moomba Masters title.

Trevor 'Tad' Davies (Ski Racing)

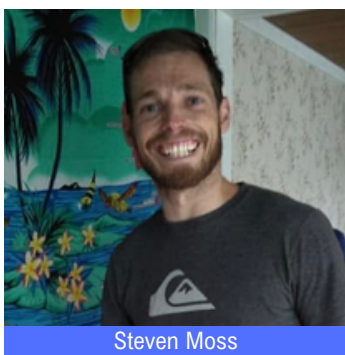
- Inducted posthumously for his exceptional contribution as a driver, representing Australia at six World Championships.

The event also acknowledged long-serving members whose volunteer service and dedication have significantly contributed to the growth and success of waterskiing in WA. Life Member recognition was given to **Karen Anderson, Ted Anderson, Brett Andrew, Neal Coles, Keith Florence, Chas Hewson, Ramon Horton, Michael Kealley, Peter Knaggs, and David Whitehead** for their ongoing commitment across clubs, events, administration, and athlete support. WAWSA also celebrated member excellence through the presentation of annual Association Trophies. **Richard West** received the Most Outstanding Athlete award. **Daisy Green** earned both the Runner-Up Award and the Frank Bonney Jr All Star Award for her achievements throughout the year. **Boston Brown** received the Encouragement Award, while **Kynan Spencer** was presented with the Cory Peach Award, and **Bec Benzie** received the prestigious Peter Thorne Award.

Overall, the 75th Anniversary Hall of Fame Evening of Champions was a sell-out event and a memorable celebration recognising generations of achievement, service, and community spirit while acknowledging the strong future of waterskiing in Western Australia. [READ FULL REPORT HERE](#)



Symonne Kennedy



Steven Moss



Vennesa Leopold



Trevor 'Tad' Davies

YOUR EXCLUSIVE WAWA MEMBER BENEFITS



Up to 10% off in-store for WAWA members. Don't forget to mention WAWA to their friendly staff, so they can apply your discount!



10% discount storewide for WAWA members
Discount Code: PROWAKE10 - Click here > prowake.com.au



10% off Waterski Equipment
Discount Code: WAWA10 - Instore or online click here > macs.com.au



10% off anything and everything in our ONLINE store
Discount Code: WAWA2024 - Click here > yarraskinski.com.au



Show Ski Australia Worlds squad 2027



WORLD SQUAD 2027

TEAM MANAGER
RAMON HORTON

SHOW DIRECTORS
BRUTIS RYAN | PETER O'NEILL

★ CALLAN ASHCROFT	★ BAYLEE HOWARD	★ CRAIG STEWART
★ BEAU BAILEY	★ SUZY LEVESQUE	★ BODEN STRAWHORN
★ KATE BAILEY	★ ASH MILNER	★ BREANNA STRAWHORN
★ LAYLA BAILEY	★ DELAYNEE MOON	★ BOBBIE TAYLER
★ BRADLEY DARE	★ CHELSEA PATON	★ SAM TAYLER
★ HOLLY DOWLING	★ JEMMAH PATON	★ TAYHA THOMAS
★ RHYS DRISCOLL	★ MACY PEEBLES	★ DAMIAN VERAZZI
★ ABBEY ELLIS	★ AYDEN PEEBLES	★ ZOE VERAZZI
★ BRADEN ELLIS	★ LUKE PETLEY	
★ KYLIE HALL	★ HANNAH PRIDDIS	
★ GERRY HANCKEL	★ IZABELL RYAN	
★ KYLE HICKS	★ TESSA RYAN	
★ MACEY HICKS	★ SAM OLPHERT	
★ ELLA HOBBS	★ BRETT SANDS	
★ HARRY HOGAN	★ ALISHA STEWART	
★ JAKOB HORTON	★ DAVID STEWART	
★ ADELA HOWARD	★ MADELINE STEWART	

TEAM AUSSIE
ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL.




VICTORIA NEWS

Victoria Wins Beynon Shield

The 2026 Malibu Australian National Waterski Championships, held in Mulwala, proved to be one of the biggest and most successful events in recent years. Across five action-packed days, a total of 209 skiers from every state and territory came together, creating a vibrant, competitive, and community driven atmosphere both on and off the water.

Led by Patrick Crisp, Victoria took on the role of the organising state and delivered an exceptional championship. From smooth logistics to well-run events and a welcoming environment for competitors and families alike, the effort behind the scenes was evident throughout the week. Conditions held up well, allowing for strong performances across all divisions.

Victoria capped off a dominant week by taking home the prestigious Beynon Shield, recognising them as the leading state across the championships. It was a fitting reward for both their organisational efforts and on-water success.

Waterski Australia would like to thank Victoria on their efforts organising the National championships and congratulate them on their team win.



QUEENSLAND NEWS

This year was a quieter one for the QLD team attending the 2026 Nationals at Max Kirwan Ski Lakes in Mulwala. Victoria had a hard act to follow as the host state, but they provided a perfect weekend of competition and weather. There was great skiing from everyone! QLD had 39 skiers qualify to attend this year, including 5 first time attendees. 27 were from Southern Region, 2 from Central Region and 10 from Northern Region. A total of 40 medals were won by QLD'ers across all ages and disciplines, and 15 PB's were matched or equalled over the 5 days of tournament. For the second year in a row, Sade Ferguson won gold in the Open Women in all three disciplines, earning her the golden Oscar. See all the results on the IWWF event page here.

The Beynon Shield was won by Victoria this year, with NSW coming a close second and QLD coming 3rd this time. We'll have to fix that next year! Our Team Captains - Dianne Elliott and Callum O'Connor - provided great leadership for the team while Greg Cooper and Susann Sutherland held things together in the background as Team Managers to keep the team running smoothly. The skier 'swag bags' were a sight to behold this year, jammed with all sorts of goodies ...Smith & Son pens and inflatable hammers, Bunnings Trade caps, Bunnings Trade socks, Mulwala postcards, Waterskiers World stickers, 43-Off keychains, maroon beanies, hair ties, snacks, lollies and of course some easter eggs.

QLD would like to thank this year's Bib Sponsors: Excel Elevators, OzSki Resort, Gold Coast Waterski Club, Townsville Waterski Club and Ski North Babinda ... your support for the team is greatly appreciated. A huge shout out to everyone on the team who contributed to the event in any way - drivers, judges, scorers, dockies, pick up boat crews, and especially to Belinda Derrick and John Weeks who were front and centre as Chief Judge and Chief Driver this year, and dedicate so much of their time to the sport. Our Charcuterie Table (yes, it was huge!), lakeside on Sunday night, was the envy of all the other skiers who walked past ... we may have tempted a few to cross the border to join the QLD team!

Congratulations to Kristy Appleton who was awarded the WSA Open Skier of the Year. So well deserved! The U17's World team competed in Argentina over Easter at the same time as the Nationals, with QLD well represented by: Selina Appleton, Taj Reeves, Zarhli Reeves (3rd in Jump and 3rd Overall), Dylan Wright and Emma Wright - all contributing to an overall bronze medal for Australia.

The O35's World participants were announced and included 7 Queenslanders: Mel Collins, Pete Cornale, Peter Dietze, Fred Douglas, Ken Ito, Katie Pickford and Scott Reeves who are all heading to Predator Bay in Calgary, Canada on the 25th July - 2nd August, 2026. The Open & O35's Oceania's teams were selected, with Queenslanders chosen: Ruby Di Salvo, Tayla Simmons and Mel Ward. This is being held at the end of November this year in Mulwala. Sienna McCarthy was selected for the Junior Worlds Squad, and Jacob Lukin was selected for the 2030 Junior Worlds Development Squad. Congratulations and Good Luck to all those skiers on their selection and their recent representation! Next year the Nationals are being hosted by WA and will be held at Bonney's Water Ski Park WA, on 25th-29th March, 2027.



ACT NEWS

At the time of writing a very balmy Canberra autumn has meant a number of (somewhat barmy) skiers and riders have continued their activities right through until the middle of May. Who knows what the next weeks will bring, but any season when you can jump in the Molonglo from September right through to May has to be a good one!

The past month or so has been a very significant period for our Ski and Wakeboard clubs. As reported previously, our facilities modernisation project has been completed, apart from a few odds and ends. During a visit to "the shed" the ACT Minister for Sport and Recreation, Yvette Berry, was particularly impressed with not only the standard of work done but also the timeliness with which the project was concluded. The accompanying photo shows Minister Berry (centre) with Waterski Club President & Association Grants Officer Maria Cowan and Wakeboard President/Project Manager Peter Cheng. Without Maria's ongoing efforts we would never have received the Sport and Rec grant that funded the upgrades needed, and without Peter's huge input as Project Manager works would not have been designed and completed so effectively; nor would they have rated so highly from a value-for-money perspective.

Special mention this month goes to Leigh Southwell, who was awarded Waterski and Wakeboard Australia Life Membership in March. Leigh has been a stalwart of Canberra waterskiing since the early 1970s, being an active competitor (still!), driver (including Moomba for 15 years), coach, course setter and administrator—amongst every other role around the place! Congratulations, Leigh, and thank you Sue for putting up with all Leigh's water ski responsibilities over the years.



Archie Davis | First Overall | Waterski Nationals 2026



Oscar Cowan | World Juniors Argentina

On matters competitive, our Wakeboard team performed very creditably at their recent Malibu-sponsored Nationals event at Yarrowonga - all six ACT riders entered made their finals, with five "medalling". This was the largest number of riders ACT have had in Nationals for eight years. The ACT was named "Loudest and Proudest" at the presentation dinner and was the talk of the town for being the fastest-growing grassroots club in the past year. Great to see mums and dads competing in the same events and representing a club striving to uphold the values of family sport.

The Territory's top water skiers have also been in action recently, with 15-year-old Oscar Cowan (seen leaving the water after his Tricks event) performing incredibly well at the U17 Junior World's in Argentina. Oscar scored some 4,800 points in his Tricks runs and missed the final by only 50-odd points—so close! Oscar reckons he "should have gone a bit harder" but what a great effort from a young man from little old ACT!

Our ex-dual Moomba Overall champion Archie Davis (pictured during Slalom) also pulled out all stops to take out Open Overall at the recent Waterski Nationals at Mulwala, including first place in Tricks and second in Jump. Trent Nelson-Cranfield starred in Slalom, taking out fourth place, while Mack Davis took out second in Tricks and third in Slalom in Over 21 Men. Pavo Soldo also did well in the Over 45 Men, taking out eighth place in Slalom.

In summary, the Association as a whole and individual performers have had a great 2025-26 season and we'll all look forward to a terrific 2026-27 as well. Good luck to all those skiing through winter!

MAJOR EVENTS REMINDER ★ ★ ★

- 2026 IWWF World Over 35 Waterski Championships | 19-26 July at Predator Bay, Canada
- 2026 IWWF World Wakeboard Championships | 3-8 August at Rieti, Italy
- 2026 IWWF World Cableski Championships | 10-13 September | Weert, Netherlands
- 2026 IWWF World Open, Junior & U23 Barefoot Championships | 17-24 October, Auburndale, USA
- 2026 IWWF Oceania Ultimate Championships | 26-29 November
- 2027 IWWF World Under 21 Waterski Championships | 10-16 January | Mala, Peru
- 2027 Moomba Masters | 4-8 March | Yarra River, Melbourne
- 2027 IWWF World Ski Show Championships | 15-19 September | Warsaw Lake, USA