

**Morley Panthers Roller Skating Club**  
**Artistic Representative's Report**  
**July 2017**

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Artistic Nationals for 2017 are now over. While there were some notable performances (Miles Vinar, Barbara Rye, Charli Nuttall and Calista Aliphon all ending up on the podium), the medal tally for Morley was not up to previous years, and I am led to consider why.

Clearly, the standard across Australia is improving, and there were few easy medals to pick up. But the club has also lost several top skaters in recent years, without their being replaced. Our lack of input of new skaters shows in the small numbers in Tiny Tot and Primary grades. This issue overlaps Star Class matters, following.

**STAR CLASSES**

Our lack of input of new skaters shows in these classes, where lately I have seen many promising skaters start, but fall away through somewhere through the levels. It is probably partly due to the current recession, with some parents finding it hard to cover regular participation in sport. However, we do need our coaches to help with the classes, and to encourage promising skaters to progress to higher levels.

In that line, it is pleasing to see both Tia Walker and Phoebe Nuttall helping with the classes. They both continue to mature as coaches.

**NEW GRADE CHANGES**

Commencing in the 2018 skating year, there is a large set of changes to the existing "A Grade" structure, all parts of which I see as positive. "A Grade" now becomes two streams, one "International" matching the European grades, encompassing Juvenile, Cadet, Youth and the existing Junior International and Senior International, the other "National" retaining the rest of the previous "A Grades". While the argument that the change permits our skaters to travel to Europe and compete may be largely academic, the International structure seems to be well thought out, and worth following.

Also, to me, the merging of Intermediate and Advanced grades has a lot in its favour, and the introduction of loops into Primary figures also seems a good step.

The WA Artistic committee will have to discuss how some of the changes can be implemented within our local competitions – particularly the joining to set dance and free dance elements into one event in the International grades – but such issues will not affect the benefits the changes will bring.

Peter Rye