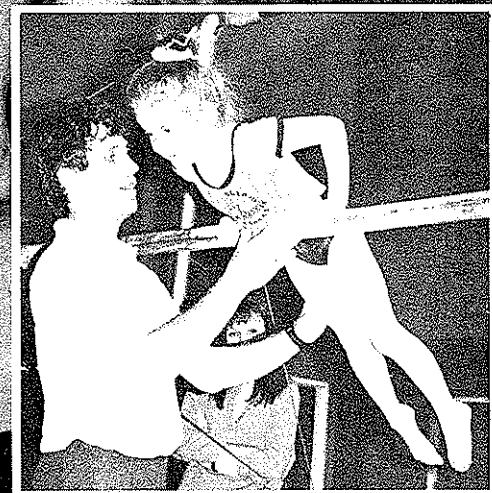
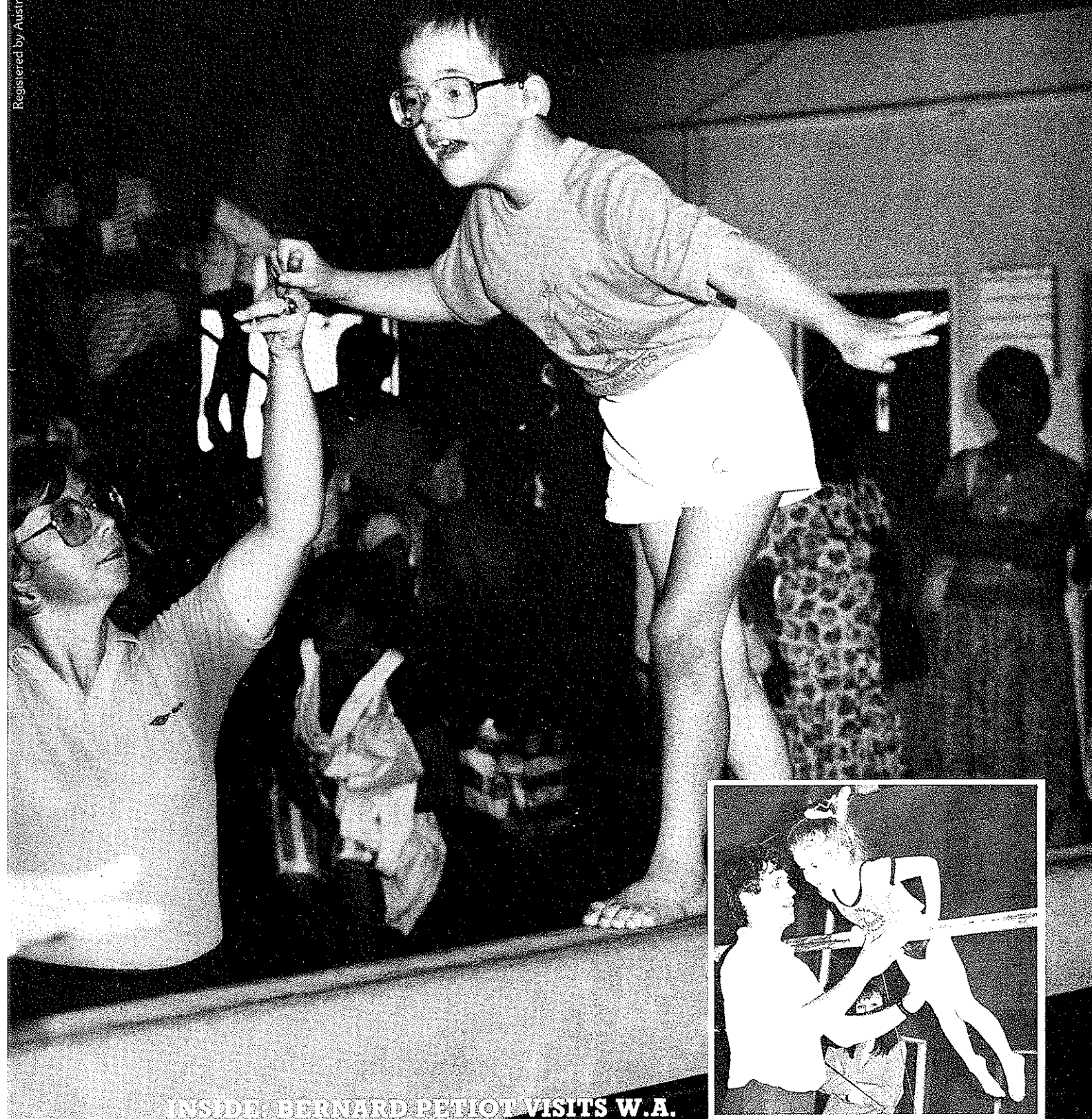


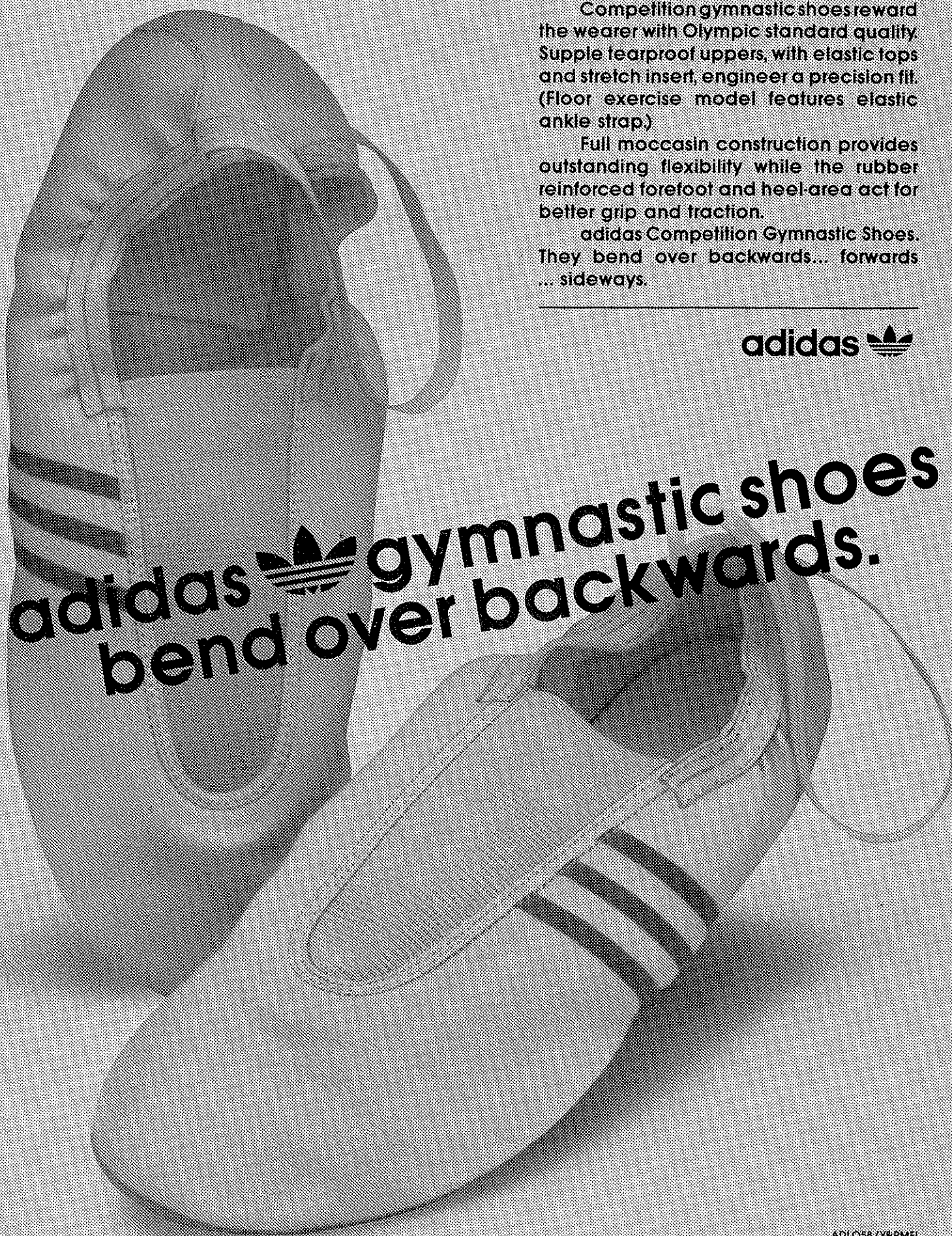
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INSIDE: BERNARD PETITOT VISITS W.A.



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AUTUMN 1989
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Peggy Browne



Catalyst, model, flagship. Words which aptly describe the Australian Institute of Sport—Gymnastics Program. On that January day in 1981 when then Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, officially opened the Australian Institute of Sport a few people in the gymnastic community had vision to see what would result from a dream of our patron Bob Ellicot.

To this end, I was fortunate to attend the official opening of the gymnastic training hall adjacent to the Chandler Complex in Brisbane. This magnificent venue is the result of co-operation between Federal Government Funding and the Brisbane City Council. The Queensland Gymnastic Association should be very proud of their part in achieving this end.

To have a dedicated gymnastic training venue with full time professional coaches has proven the standard of gymnastics in Australia will only improve.

Again I reflect on the Australian Institute of Sport Program which has indeed a proven track record in improving Australian gymnastics and has certainly been the catalyst, model and flagship for State Associations to utilise to bring to fruition a similar facility.

Facilities are the bricks and mortar and provide the permanent structure in which the program can take place. The next step is to develop and fund sufficient professional coaches so that the program becomes part of an overall system/network of Australian gymnastics.

The talent is there; the need is to identify how we fund sufficient coaches for the programs.

an associated Board Meeting and Conference.

The Annual Conference will take over from the successful Biennial Conference and allow for better debate on issues that the Federation must tackle for future development.

One other item I wish to report on was the second colloquium of the Australian Olympic Federation held in Canberra at the Australian Institute of Sport on 10/11th March 1989. The Federation was represented by the President and Executive Director and at times by the A.I.S. Gymnastics Co-ordinator and National Coaching Director.

It was good because the A.O.F. wanted to share its experience with the National Federations over the Seoul Olympic Games exercise and to prepare for the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games. The discussions were provocative and stimulating from which an A.O.F. Strategic Plan will be developed. I believe our forward planning for Barcelona will benefit greatly from this exercise.

The opening of the Queensland Gymnastic Association Training Centre on 21st March 1989 at Chandler is the subject of the Executive Director's Report as it finalises another facility in our Federation's Network. On behalf of the Federation I wish to congratulate the authorities especially the Department of Education Youth and Sport and the Brisbane City Council for their, and others' foresight is entrusting this facility to the Q.G.A. It is great news!

The facility will greatly assist the Konica Gymnastics Grand Prix event, which will also be staged at Chandler from 21st to 24th June 1989.

One other project of importance for the Federation is the staging of the I.O.C. Solidarity General Gymnastics Workshop from 26th-28th May 1989 in the Footscray Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

Most will recall the successful I.O.C. Solidarity seminar "Children in Gymnastics" held at the same venue in 1987. This was followed up by the National Coaching Director Gene Schembri attending the Austrian General Gymnastics Conference in August 1988 on "Apparatus gymnastics as a leisure-time activity".

The N.C.D. and General Gymnastics Development Director Peter Murden, again with the assistance of I.O.C. Solidarity, visited Fiji in December of last year to extend the work on "Children in Gymnastics". This current workshop will extend further the work of the General Gymnastics discipline and educate more support staff in each Association's jurisdiction and with particular emphasis on the education system.

We look forward to this and other projects with great interest.

MAX BANGERTER

*Secretary General of the FIG
1960—1988*

Awarded the IOC Silver Award for contribution to the Olympic Movement. Made Honorary Vice-President of FIG—1988.

Max Bangerter epitomized the type of administrator that should represent a disciplined sport.

He is extremely disciplined as a man, gracious and helpful to all new nations and in true Swiss style maintains neutrality on all political issues.

He is a gentleman extraordinaire and his kind efficient administrative manner will be missed on a daily basis. His elevation to Honorary Vice-President to the FIG is given in true recognition of his tremendous contribution to the development of gymnastics at the international level.

Max is considered the doyen of International Secretary-Generals; an accolade of note when one considers he worked in an honorary capacity.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

James E. Barry



In M.A.G.

Ken Williamson and Jeff Cheales qualified in the first quartile.

In W.A.G.

Kym Dowdell and Kim Morris placed officially 11th and 2nd for the Judges course while Anne Bigham was highly successful in the Scientific Technical Collaborators (STC) course that immediately followed the Judges course where she placed 10th.

In R.S.G.

Margaret Lanz, Maureen Vyse and Joan Duquemin successfully passed (no rankings were provided).

Appropriate Continental Courses are planned or have been conducted for all competitive disciplines and our experts are in demand for regional courses.

Our usual rash of clinics started in January and the feedback to me as President has been excellent. It would seem that we have our programme well balanced despite the financial constraints. The Federation appreciates the Technical committee's work in continuing these all important clinics. I also acknowledge the financial assistance given by the Rothmans Foundation—National Sports Division and ANZ through the National Training Centre programme.

From this quiet, but orderly start to the year the programme will now start to heat up with our change in format for the Senior National Championships and the separating away of the Annual General Meeting.

The Senior Nationals are going to be held earlier in the year, 17th-21st May 1989, in order to better coincide with the International Calendar. This decision has not been taken lightly and has taken some time to develop. It will greatly assist our International Stream athletes' programme and in fact should benefit our domestic programme when the associated competitions and championships settle down into a routine.

The other fundamental decision at the 1988 A.G.M. was that the Senior National Championships should be held in the one location and at the same time each year for three years to provide continuity for sponsorship and television coverage. They will therefore be held at the Melbourne Sport and Entertainment Centre to test this hypothesis re cost.

It was also acknowledged that better decisions would be made if separated away from the busy Championships week. The A.G.M. will now be held on 22nd July in Melbourne on a one delegate cost-share basis and will have

1989 has started off in gymnastic terms almost quietly. This feeling is because of the high profile of the XXIVth Olympic Games in Seoul and the success of our gymnasts. It was exacerbated with the fourth Pacific Alliance in December in the Peoples Republic of China as well as the flurry caused by our representation at the VII cycle intercontinental Judges courses for W.A.G. in Frankfurt in November, M.A.G. in Macolin, Switzerland in December, and R.S.G. in Rome in January.

We are all delighted with the excellent results and congratulate the following judging experts that we have for the VII cycle.



Peggy Browne, Executive Director of the AGF, presenting Max Bangerter, Secretary-General of the FIG, with a silver plate embossed with gum leaves and the Australian Olympic symbol. Plate donated by the AOF.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATES

TOP CANADIAN COACH VISITS W.A.



Gymnasts and their coach travelled to Albany from Melville YMCA Gymnastic School

Bernard Petiot, one of the world's top gymnastic coaches recently visited Western Australia as part of the "Bicentennial Coach in Residence Scheme". Petiot, one of Canada's Team Coaches at the 1988 Olympics, arrived in Perth direct from Seoul for a month long visit which saw him travel as far north as Port Hedland (1700 kms north of Perth) and as far south as Albany (500 kms south of Perth).

The major sponsors of the scheme, the WA Ministry for Sport and Recreation, the WA Council of the Australian Bicentennial Authority and Alcoa Australia officially welcomed Petiot to Australia at a cocktail party held in his honour.

Then it was on with the tour. Petiot's itinerary was such that the Minister for Sport and Recreation commented that "they've given you a day off for sight-seeing, but you've got to give a lecture that night".

Petiot, a lecturer at Montreal University, spoke on a variety of topics including; the Olympics, coaching and teaching methods, identification and development of young gymnasts, training intensity and volume and programming of gymnasts and clubs. Workshops were held in Perth for WAG coaches and gymnasts. The boys did not miss out



Bernard with Erica Lewis, age 6.

either, Petiot conducted workshops on vault, bars and tumbling, showing that there is much that the WAG and MAG disciplines can learn from each other in skill development.

As most of the workshops and lectures were conducted in the evening and weekends, Petiot never missed an opportunity to work with the WA Institute of Sport gymnasts and coaches.

One weekend Petiot travelled to the south coast of WA to Albany, where he visited the Albany Gymnastics Centre and gave a 3 hour workshop. From Albany Petiot travelled by four wheel drive, north to Busselton via a round-about route which included a visit to the Leeuwin Estate Winery and lunch in a giant Karri tree forest.

On arrival in Busselton, Petiot was the guest at an official function. The following day, coaches and their gymnasts from surrounding areas attended a lecture and workshop, where **Petiot displayed his remarkable talent for holding the attention of the highest level gymnast and coach at the same time as coaches and gymnasts at the other end of the scale.**

On another weekend, Petiot travelled to Port Hedland, where once again the gymnasts and coaches were grateful for his expertise, and earned their admiration for his physical stamina for a weekend of coaching and entertainment in 41 degree heat.

Petiot was most impressed with the indoor/outdoor Hedland Gymnastic Club, where gymnasts have a fenced off outdoor area for training under the stars, and which enables them for a full vault run-up—except of course when the crash mat gets too hot for landings!

Back in Perth, there was: a cruise up the Swan River to a local winery, where Petiot and South Australian Kim McMaster demonstrated their dancing ability down the aisle and won a bottle of Champagne for their efforts; a barbecue, where Petiot and WAIS coach Larry McDonough learnt to play cricket; a day trip to Rottnest Island and a send-off dinner at the Fremantle Sailing Club, overlooking the scene of the defence of the America's Cup.

Bernard Petiot's professionalism, his desire to return to WA and see the fruits born from his efforts and the overall dedication to the programme has left the WA gymnastic community looking forward to having this outstanding French Canadian return to WA as soon as possible.

The WAGA would sincerely like to thank the WA Ministry for Sport and Recreation, the WA Bicentennial Council and Alcoa Australia for their continued support in developing gymnastics throughout Western Australia.

Frances Giles

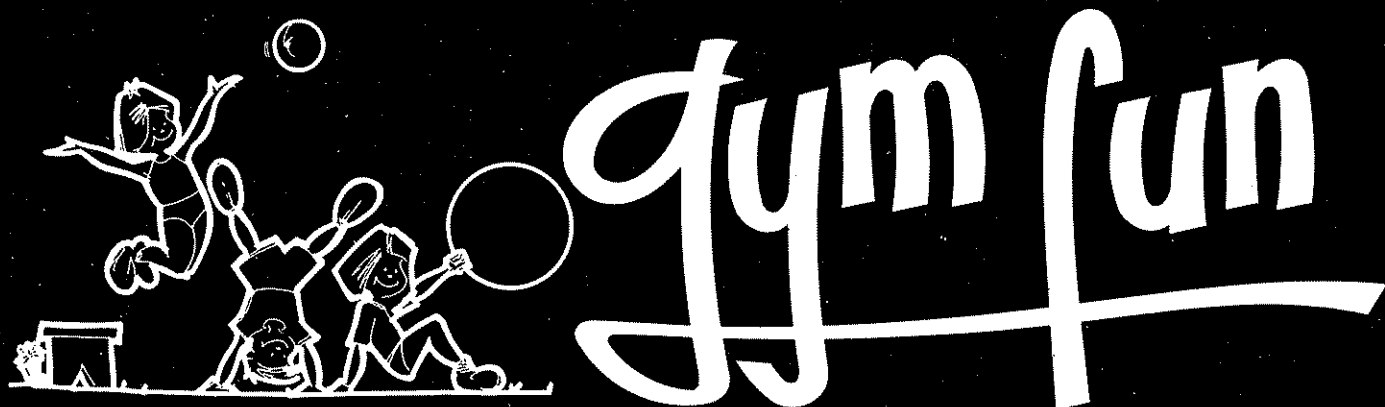


'Tiny Tumbling Troupe'

Photograph courtesy Delwyn Adkins

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"Official Airline"

WOW! What a great event to conclude a great year of celebration of N.S.W.'s 200th Birthday.

An event that covered the broad spectrum of participation from 4 years of age through to those in their 50's—all performing and having fun!

The N.S.W. Bicentennial Festival of Gymnastics on Saturday 26th November, 1988 was the culmination of nearly two years preparation and work.

Through the generosity of the NSW Bicentennial Council, NSWGA has been able to infiltrate the Primary School system with the excellent Gym-Fun Programme. This fundamental movement programme formed the basis of the Bicentennial Festival programme.

We estimate in excess of 50,000 children have been reached, and hundreds of Schools are now aware of the benefits of our fundamental movement programme, known as Gym-Fun, a basis for all other activities. This would not have been possible without the financial support of the NSW Bicentennial Council, who have certainly left a legacy of physically improved youth of the future.

The programme is also suitable for the handicapped, as is seen in the Festival video.

Freedom of expressive movement is also essential. As in all walks of life people first seek guidance, and then wish to explore. Gymnastics has overcome this problem by first teaching compulsory

linging. Divided into four sections for the varying ability groups.

The mass displays were lots of fun and in keeping with the Bicentennial Theme.

Special guests were the 'Leaping Loonies'—a professional comedy group working with a box and mini tramp, who provided plenty of laughs.

Highlight of the day was the display competition, divided into the following categories:

Kindies, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Recreational, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced.

The standard was very good in every section, showing great creativity and

NSW BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF GYMNASTICS

Numerous inservice courses, Aussie Sports programmes etc have been conducted throughout the State in '87 and '88. Every Education Department Region except the far north coast has been serviced.

The response has been overwhelming, which is evidenced by the in excess of 1000 sets of Gym Fun books sold during this time.

In keeping with the theme of the General Gymnastics area—ie participation, two simple, but effective mass display routines were choreographed and taught at '88 inservice courses. These were an opportunity for all to participate freely.

So appropriate were these routines for mass presentation, they were used for the opening ceremony of the Pacific School Games involving 3000 performers.

Videos, audios and texts were prepared of the mass display routines, together with circuits based on the Gym-Fun concepts, and distributed free to all NSWGA Regions.

It is particularly gratifying to know that other States are now following our lead, and adopting the Festival Programme. Perhaps in a few years the foundation for a National Festival of Gymnastics will emerge.

skills or routines, and then allowing for optionals. In the Festival of Gymnastics this has been covered thus:

- Circuits of simple movements based on Gym-Fun.
- Mass display routines.
- A display competition, in appropriate categories to encourage participation.

Special acknowledgements appear in the programme, but thanks must go to all Teachers and Coaches so dedicated and caring in their work with our future citizens.

Now to the day!

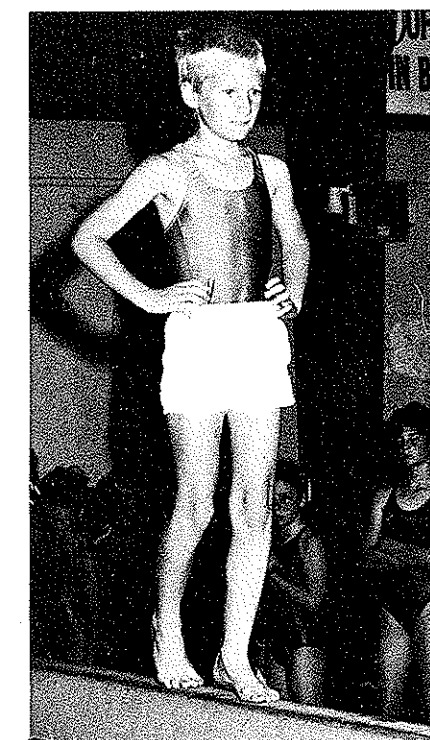
850 performers, plus judges—1988 State representatives looking very smart in their State Tracksuits and Bicentennial T Shirts, scorers, and other officials bringing the total to 1000 participants in one day! plus all the mums and dads and other supporters.

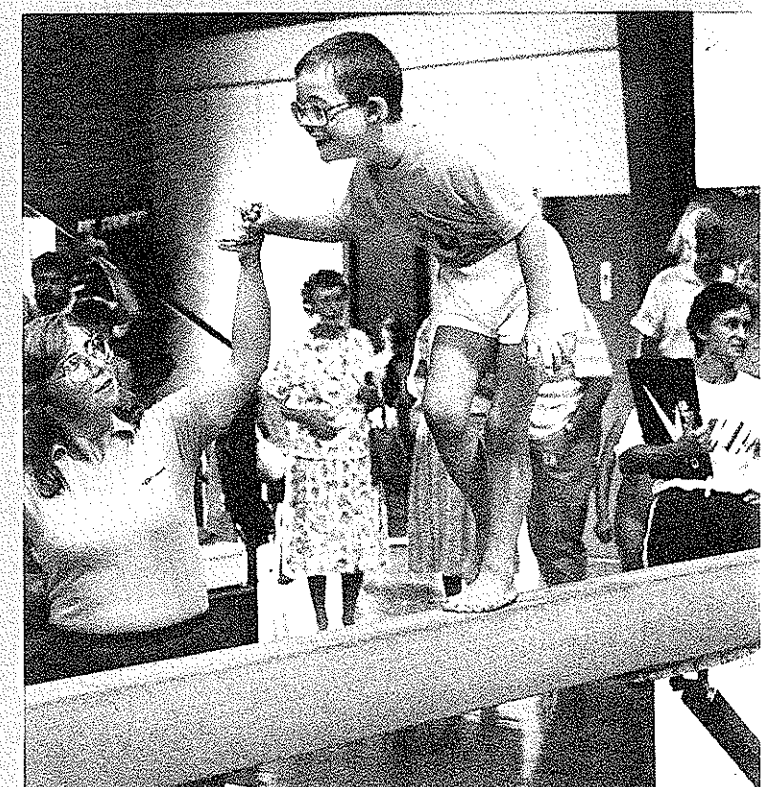
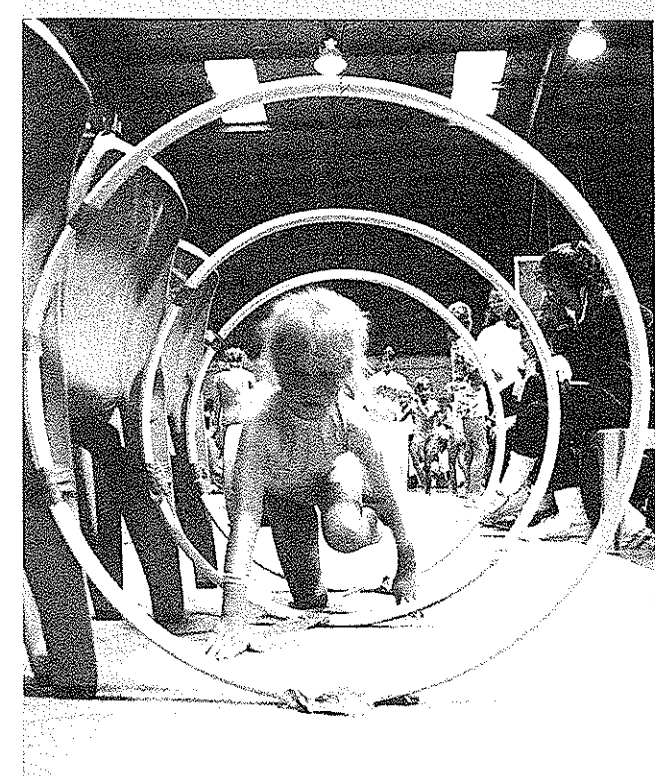
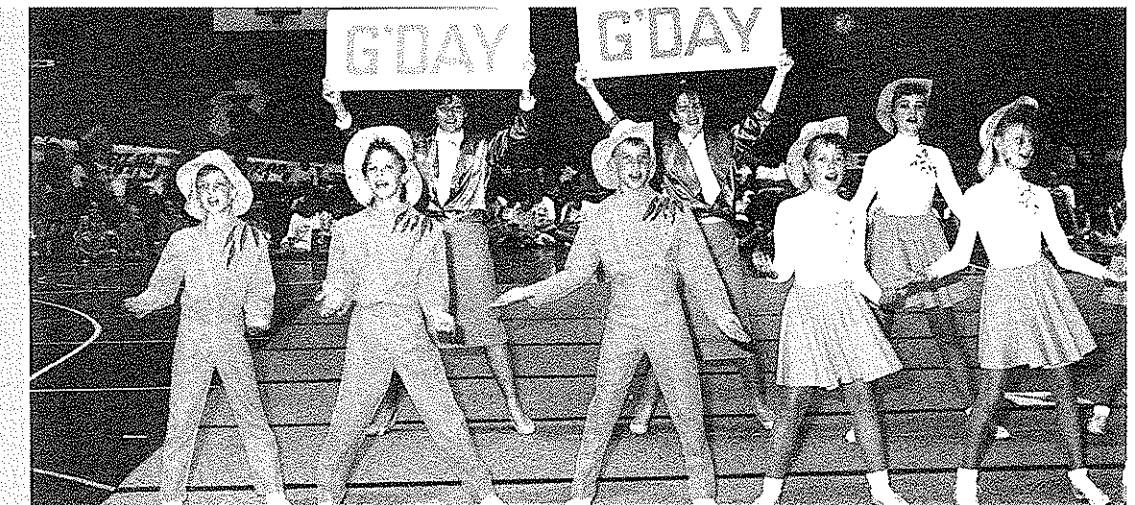
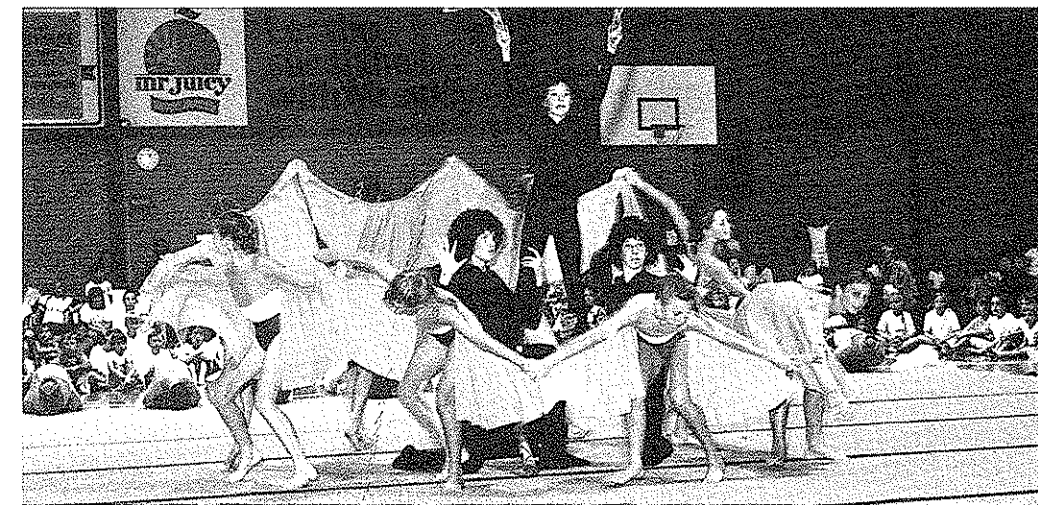
They came from all over the metropolitan area, the country and Interstate (Queensland "Deluxe Coachlines" Expo Display Team were a welcome inclusion in the display competition).

Bankstown Basketball Stadium was bursting at the seams.

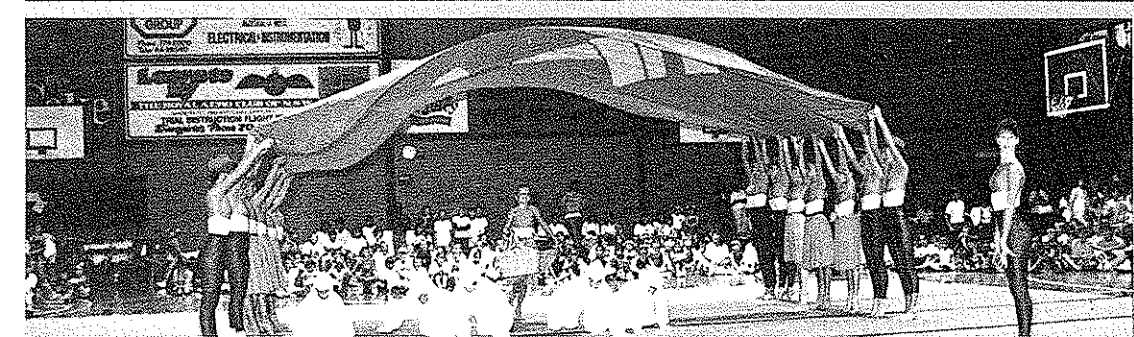
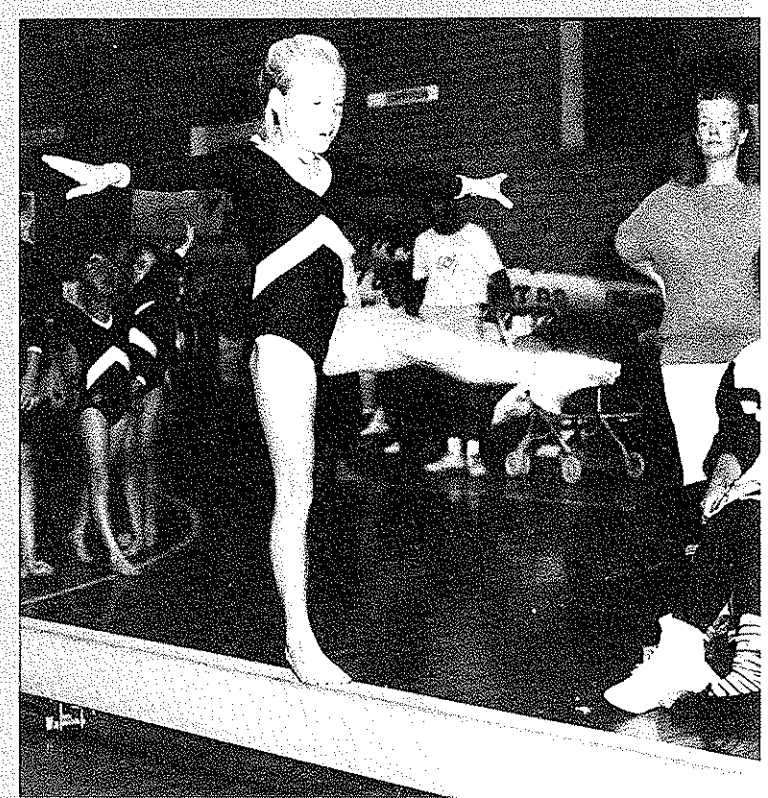
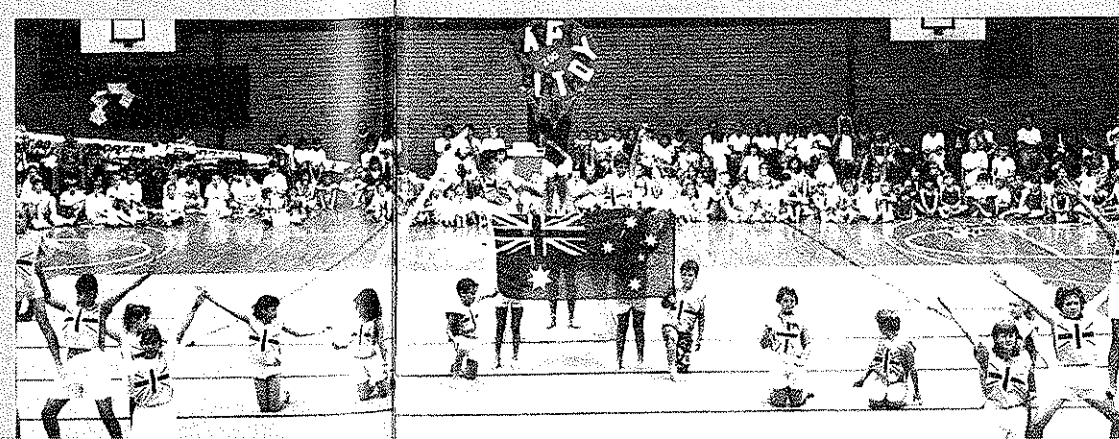
The Circuits of swinging over the crocodile pit, going over, under and through proved interesting and chal-

originality. Worthy of special mention were Regent's Park Primary School and Gladeville RSL who presented most interesting displays in the Bicentennial Theme. The outstanding performance of the day came from L'Elfin School of Gymnastics.





NSW BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF GYMNASTICS



Fijians are head over heels about 'Gym Fun'

Gym Fun, the Australian Gymnastic Federation's (AGF) national *fundamental* gymnastics program, could soon be introduced into all primary schools in Fiji. At least that is the hope of Fijian primary school teachers Wilfred Stephens and Jale Samuwai.

Mr Stephens and Mr Samuwai attended an International Solidarity **General Gymnastics** Course in Melbourne in May 1987.

Both teachers were impressed by the Federation's initiatives in the fundamental gymnastics area and were excited about the prospects of introducing similar basic movement programs to Fijian children.

Over 18 months of lobbying, planning and persistence paid off when in December 1988, the AGF's National Coaching Director, **Gene Schembri** and Development Director, **Peter Murden** made a brief visit to Suva, in Fiji.

The aim of the visit was to consult with various officials from within the Fijian Education Ministry and Fiji National Olympic Committee, in order to assist them with the introduction of fundamental gymnastics into their primary school curriculum.

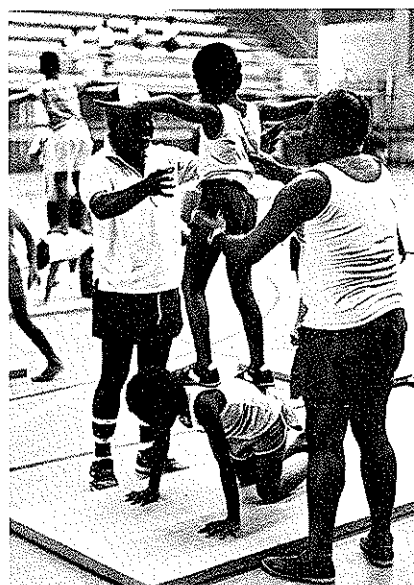
The visit commenced with a number of meetings with various people involved at different levels of the delivery of physical education and sport in Fiji. A number of typical Fijian schools were visited in order to gain a first hand understanding of schools in Fiji.

A two and a half day in-service workshop was conducted at the National Indoor Sports Stadium. The main aim of the workshop was to introduce the principles of the AGF's **Gym Fun** program to various teachers and school principals from primary schools around the Suva area.

Workshop participants varied in age, shape and size, but all threw themselves into the activities with great enthusiasm. Participants were principals and teachers, who were interested in introducing the programs into their specific schools as part of the pilot program.

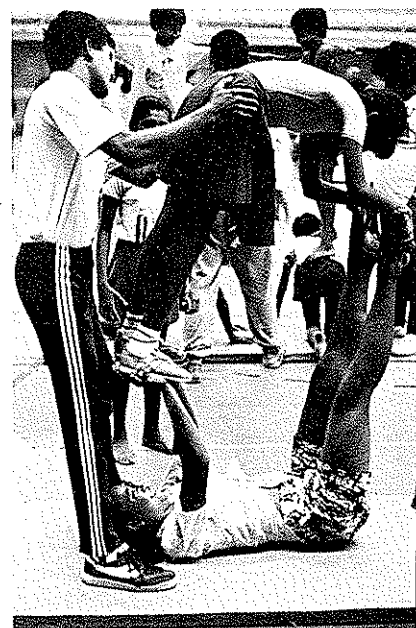
Gym Fun is ideally suited to the Fijian's needs as they are very much in need of a school based movement education program that requires minimal equipment, space and specialist PE teachers.

Fijian children participated in a morning session of the workshop and if their enthusiasm, energy and natural talent is anything to go by, the introduction of **Gym Fun** programs into the Fijian education system is likely to have a marked effect on the physical skill development of young Fijian boys and girls.



With the strong support of the Fijian National Olympic Committee, Mr Samuwai and Mr Stephens have formed a gymnastics association. With the continued support of Mr Judy Patching of the Oceania National Olympic Committees and countries such as Australia, a bright gymnastics future lies ahead for young Fijians.

Peter Murden



Photographs courtesy Peter Murden

Gym Skills

GYM SKILLS NATIONAL WORKSHOP 20-22 JANUARY 1989

Introduction:

The adoption by the International Gymnastic Federation (FIG) of **General Gymnastics** as its fourth discipline has provided the Australian Gymnastic Federation with a special charter to pursue with renewed vigour, programs aimed at taking gymnastics to a wider audience, regardless of age or ability level.

The **children in sport** initiatives have focused mainly on children of primary school years. For youth of secondary age, the traditional team sports maintain a prominent position in the school curriculum and in the community.

Gym fun, the modified gymnastics program for children of primary school age is widely used throughout Australia. **Gym Skills**, targeted towards the next higher age group is a logical extension.

The **Gym Skills** program is a self-contained resource designed for implementation in senior primary and junior secondary schools, recreational clubs and community facility programs. The resource is designed for teachers/coaches with little background in gymnastics and for participants who have done little or no gymnastics before.

Gym Skills has been developed by a team of experts from the gymnastic community, the editor and principal author being **Gene Schembri**, author of the very successful **Gym fun** program and **Introductory Gymnastics**.

In consultation with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), **Gym Skills** has been designed to be complementary to the future ASC **Youth Sports** initiatives.

Gym Skills will be launched nationally in April 1989 in conjunction with State Gymnastic Associations and Education Departments.

Gym Skills In-Service Workshops:

The **Gym Skills** program is supported by short introductory and in-service workshops, to assist practitioners utilise the program to the full.

In January 1989 in Melbourne, a national **Gym Skills** workshop was held to provide future workshop presenters with insights into the program and to impart the necessary skills and knowledge for conducting successful workshops in their respective States.

The **Gym Skills** national workshop was financially supported by the **Rothmans Foundation—National Sports Division** and the **Australian Sports Commission** and the Federation is extremely grateful for their continued support.

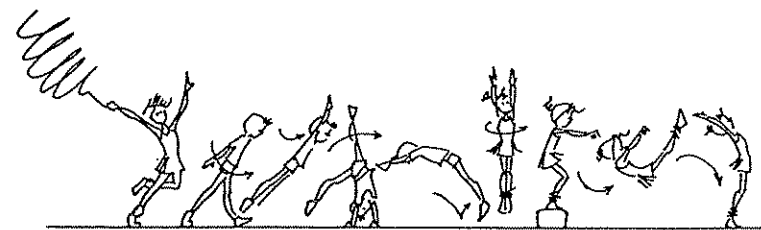


"Workshop Participants". (Missing Debra Tilley)

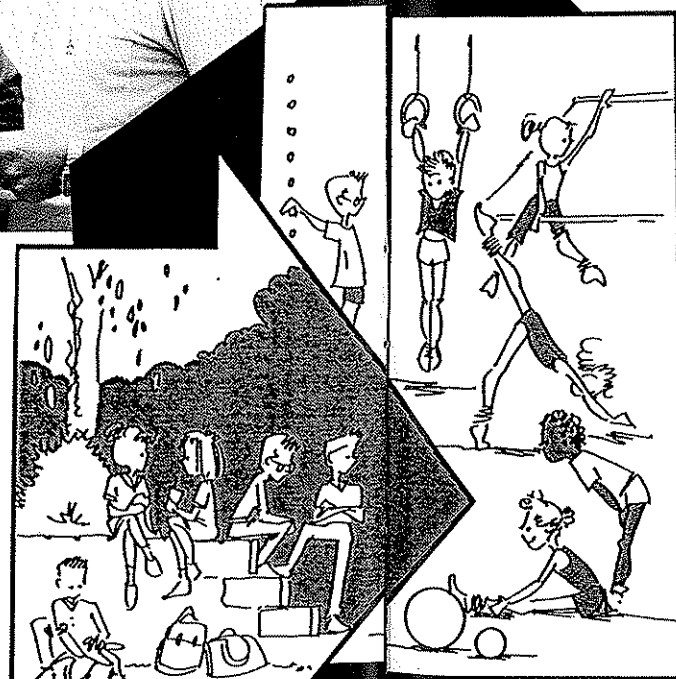
Photographs courtesy Georges Mitkail



"Ross Hutchison, Jan Murphy and Bob Murphy discussing the program."



"Peter Sharpe, Peter Murden, Gene Schembri and Robin Allen, members of the Gym Skills Design Committee".



The venue for the Workshop was Wesley College in Melbourne. The principal lecturer for the Workshop was Gene Schembri (National Coaching Director) and editor/principal author of **Gym Skills**. Other lecturers included: Peter Sharpe (MAG Coaching Director) and co-author of **Gym Skills**; Debra Tilley (RSG Coaching Co-ordinator) and co-author of **Gym Skills**; Robin Allen (Gymnastics Consultant) and co-author of **Gym Skills** and Jayne Robertson-Marr (Aerobics Consultant).

The objectives of the Workshop were to work through in a practical setting and evaluate workshop formats; to develop lesson planning and unit outlining suitable for future workshops; examine the best ways of introducing the **special** **Gym Skills** activities—displays, aerobics, rhythmic gym and partner/group work; seek common agreement on operation of **Gym Skills** gymnast assessment procedures and to share ideas related to **Gym Skills** content and to conducting future workshops.

Course participants are charged with the responsibility of promoting **Gym Skills** and co-ordinating and delivering in-service workshops in their respective States.

Sessions were conducted as near as possible to actual workshop situations. Exposure to and evaluation of activities and skills and so on was done in a practical setting.

Workshop participants experienced much of the content from the **Gym Skills** program first hand, when in many instances they played the part of gymnasts. This "participation" approach ensured that the interest and attention of participants was maintained at all times.

The majority of the sessions were conducted by Gene Schembri with ample opportunity for input and discussion from participants, some of whom have considerable expertise in certain areas related to **Gym Skills**. Peter Sharpe, Debra Tilley, Robin Allen and Jayne Robertson-Marr conducted sessions related to their specific area of expertise.

All participants should be congratulated for their contribution to the workshop. In particular the efforts of lecturers: Gene Schembri, Peter Sharpe, Debra Tilley, Robin Allen and Jayne Robertson-Marr were much appreciated. The support of the AGF Office staff ensured that the Workshop went without a hitch.

Our special thanks go to the following for their special contribution towards ensuring that the Workshop was a success:

Rothmans Foundation—National Sports Division.
Australian Sports Commission.
Ansett International Travel.
St. Kilda Road Travelodge.
Wesley Recreation Club.
AGF Office Staff.



KRAFT INTERNATIONAL

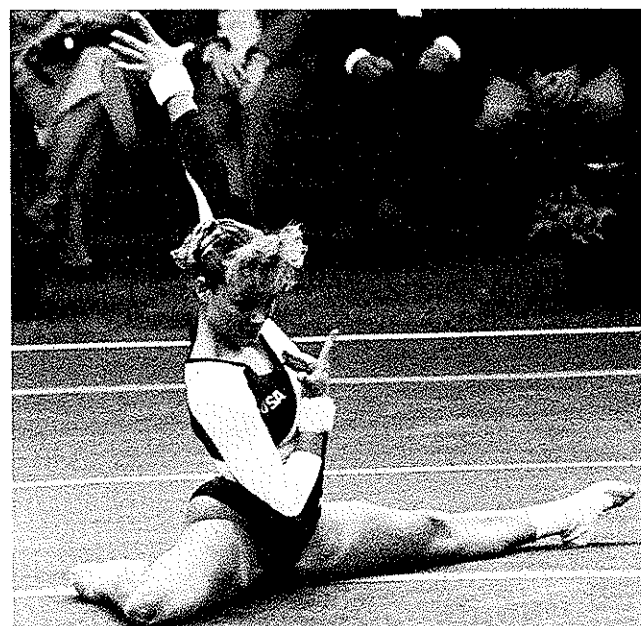
from Robert Kensit

Individual Overall Competition Men

The Soviet Union's Gennady Zadorozny proved his country is the undisputed leader in the sport by winning the overall title (57.50). China's Fang Min won silver (56.80), while the British men made the most of their home advantage, with James May and David Cox coming third (56.40) and fourth (56.35) respectively.

The talking point of the event was the presence of former Soviet World Champion, Oksana Omelianchik. Having been dropped from the Soviet Olympic team, was she now past her prime? Oksana certainly had a more mature figure, and no longer had her perpetual grin. She had a bad start, finishing both vaults by sitting on the landing mat. She fought back to finish in third place (38.15), scoring 9.60 on bars, and 9.80 on beam and floor. The latter contained all of Oksana's usual sparkle, and by the end of it she had won over the audience and found her smile again. The Bulgarian Guergana Peeva came second with

The surprise winner was the American Robin Richter (38.25) who, like several of the competitors had a floor routine which was not only technically good but well choreographed.



Photographs courtesy Robert Kensit

Robin Richter USA
1988 Floor

38.20. The surprise winner was the American Robin Richter (38.25) who, like several of the competitors had a floor routine which was not only technically good but well choreographed.

The floor routine of Britain's Lisa Greyson scored 9.70, and was a great improvement on her routine seen at last year's competition. Lisa finished in fifth place, and is the first British gymnast for some time who has a strong audience appeal.

Individual Apparatus Competition Men

Zadorozny collected a further five medals; gold on parallel bars (9.60); high bar (9.775) and rings (9.85) and silver on floor (9.70) and pommel horse (9.60).

The British men won four medals between them; James May winning silver on high bar (9.575) and bronze on vault (9.20), and David Cox gaining bronze medals on floor (9.45) and parallel bars (9.55).

The Bulgarian, Marian Penev won the pommel horse event (9.575), Fang Min winning vault (9.525) and Hungary's Csaba Hegyes won parallel bars (9.70).

Women

Oksana Omelianchik made up for errors on the previous day by winning silver on beam (9.55) and gold on floor (9.70). The overall champion, Robin Richter won gold on beam (9.70) and silver on bars (9.60). Lisa Greyson took away the bronze medal for her floor routine (9.70). The Czechoslovakian, Iveta Polokova won the gold medal on bars (9.80).

DAILY MIRROR INTERNATIONAL RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS Wembley Conference Centre, London

This competition was the first major international event to be judged under the new F.I.G. Code of Points, and it was interesting to see what changes this would bring about in the quality and marking of routines.

The highest mark of the day was 9.75 from the Bulgarian, Borianna Jineva. It seems that the bunching of scores between 9.70 and 10.00 has been stopped—for the time being at least. While this year neither Bulgaria or the U.S.S.R. sent their top gymnasts, the quality was still high. The winner was the Soviet newcomer, Larissa Medvedeva, who demonstrated a combination of expressiveness and superb flexibility. She was followed by the two Bulgarians, Borianna Jineva and Mila Marinova in second and third places respectively. While Larissa (16 years old) and Mila (15) had just come up to the national squad, and experiencing their first International, Borianna is 19 and originally retired three years ago, but is now back in the Bulgarian national squad.

The British girls, Alitia Sands and Gabrielle Yorath, finished in tenth and eighth positions respectively.

The most obvious change in the new Code of Points to the spectator was the permitting of two instruments instead of one in the routine's musical accompaniment. Several girls took advantage of this fact, and the result was quite pleasing, the second instrument usually serving as a background accompaniment to the first.

It was nice to see the Japanese girls and one of the Bulgarians use ethnic music, played on the appropriate instruments proper to their native country. It is a good thing that these countries are not blindly copying the West in terms of culture. Only a few years ago, every routine was accompanied by the piano, but now this was one of the least used of instruments! Most popular seemed to be a drum, although the overuse of this instrument was criticised at last year's Four Continents Meet. I suspect Torvill and Dean have something to answer for in rhythmic gymnastics—I heard Ravel's 'Bolero' used three times!

Robert Kensit



1. Larissa Medvedeva USSR, 2. Borianna Jineva BUL, 3. Mila Marinova BUL.



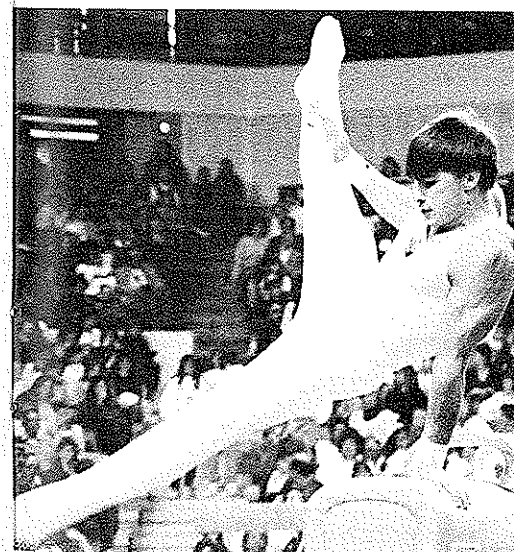
PROFILE

A correspondent for *The Australian Gymnast* since 1981, Mandi Shields resides in Massachusetts, U.S.A. and has been an enthusiastic fan of the sport of gymnastics since the 1976 Olympics.

Presently she is a Senior at Bradford College majoring in the Humanities, with an emphasis on non-fiction writing, and a minor in elementary education. Following graduation she hopes to enter the field of teaching. She is also an avid singer and has been studying voice for nine years.

The months following the Seoul Olympics were busy ones for the Soviet gold medalists, as it was noted that some gymnasts had not been home since the Games, and surely they were ready to return after three months on the road.

The 'Victory Tour' covering eight U.S. cities in ten days featured, as well as several members of the Soviet gold medal winning teams, all but one member of the U.S. men's and women's teams and the top two gymnasts from Canada, Monica Covacci and Curtis Hibbert. Perhaps in the future there can be a victory tour in which *all* the medalists can take part, but this is definitely a wonderful beginning.



Valentine Mogilny

The exhibition began with each performers introduction as he or she performed on a piece of equipment. It was immediately noticed that Bilozherchev simply stood and saluted the spectators here, and only later was it announced

PANASONIC GYMNASTICS '88 VICTORY TOUR Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. December 9th, 1988

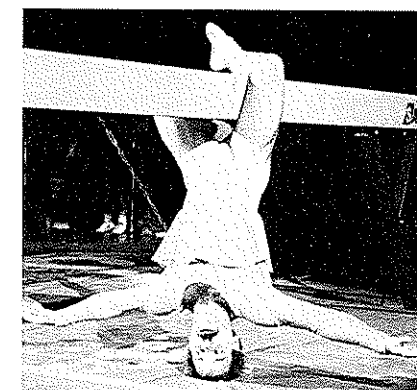
Photographs courtesy Suzanne Shields

that he had been injured in Venezuela and could not perform throughout the entire U.S. tour. What a shame he had not been sent home to see his newborn son Sasha.

The first championship performance of the evening came from Artemov on the high bar. He didn't seem to leave any moves out as his fantastic releases led to a double layout dismount.

Each of the Soviet girls (Gurova, Omelianchik, Shevchenko, Strazheva, Tujikova and Shoushounova) performed a group routine. It was a long exercise which started out slowly with synchronized movements and led to tumbling by the end and a nice segment in which each girl performed in the centre (Shevchenko did some break dancing) while the others danced around her. The end of this entertaining exercise must have been a relief to the girls who were huffing and puffing as they left the mat.

Comedy for the evening was taken care of by the gymnastics clown Paul Hunt, well-known to American (and Australian)



Paul Hunt/Paulina Huntenoma

audiences for his portrayal as a girl gymnast. His routines on bars, beam and floor exercises were certainly highlights of the evening. Introduced as Paulina Huntenoma, an Asian Olympian, Hunt seemed to be a particular favourite with the young Soviet girls who watched each routine, despite having toured with him for a week.

Individual exercises were fillers between group routines and comedy acts. Most had few mistakes even though many of the gymnasts performed difficult routines, and they must have been tired by this point in the tour. Shoushounova and Artemov were the stars with Artemov performing spectacularly on rings, parallel bars and high bar. Shoushounova performed on bars and beam, as well as in the group exercises.

The past World Champion Omelianchik, Shoushounova's best friend, looked wonderful in all her performances. She was always smiling—even more than the rest of them—and if she performed this well in competition she would be higher than alternate on the team.

Korobchiski, perhaps one of the number one hopes for the next Olympics, showed an amazing triple front tuck on vaulting and was just as showy on high bar. The style he now lacks will hopefully come with age, as his form seemed to be pushed away to favour the daring side of his routines. Mogilny had no such problems and displayed fabulous form in his three performances. It's hard to believe that he was the alternate in Seoul.

Some nice routines came from the American and Canadian gymnasts also. Bronze medalist on the balance beam, Phoebe Mills, proved her performance in Seoul had been no fluke, and did just as well on floor. Veteran Kelly Garrison-Steves displayed, as usual, her beautiful beam exercise, made all the more wonderful as she smiled throughout the entire routine.

It was nice to see Tim Daggett performing again after he was forced to withdraw from the Olympic Trial due to the injury he sustained at the Rotterdam World Championships. He worked only on the pommel horse, and yet drew more applause from the crowd than anyone else.

Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics was on display here also, as Diane Simpson and Michele Berube gave crowd-pleasing performances. As both girls train together they created a duet routine set to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller', in which their white leotards glowed beneath the fluorescent spotlights.

Whereas the Soviet girls had given their group routines at the beginning of the evening, three of them (Gurova, Shoushounova and Omelianchik) got together with Americans Stack, Mills and Johnson to give a group interpretation of the compulsory floor exercise. It was such a pretty rendition that perhaps the judges would prefer this to seeing six exercises per team!

The exhibition in Massachusetts drew a large crowd, as hopefully was the case in other cities. It was exciting to see the Soviet medalists from Seoul on American soil exchanging culture and gymnastics with the U.S. gymnasts. We should see this more often.

Mandi Shields

1988 KONICA CUP

International Rhythmic Gymnastics Invitational
Springfield, Massachusetts, USA.
October 28-29, 1988

The 1988 Konica Cup Rhythmic International was a tremendous success for all involved. There were over double the number of spectators from the first year of the event (1987) and the Bulgarians were happy to claim the individual honors in the absence of a Soviet Team.

This years competition boasted gymnasts from six nations, including Bulgaria, Canada, France, Hungary and Japan as well as the hosts. Each sent two individual competitors, with the U.S. entering four and Bulgaria and France not sending groups, thus being ineligible for the Konica Cup Trophy.

On both nights the first half of the competition was rope and hoop, alternating, followed by group routines and then clubs and ribbon.

The first day of the competition saw the two Bulgarian girls, Albenia Dimitrova and Elisabeth Koleva in first and second respectively (despite Koleva dropping her clubs) with Canada's Mary Fuzesi, the youngest competitor of the meet at fourteen, in third place.

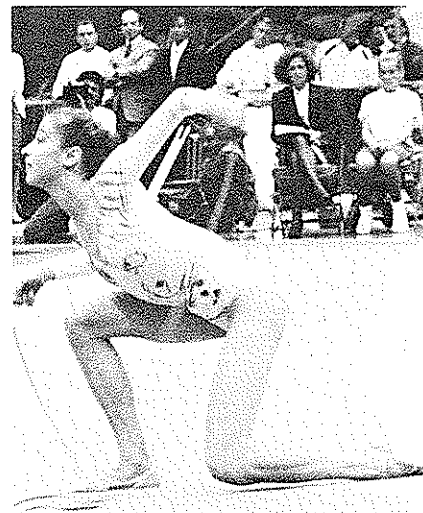
On Saturday the standings of the top three girls did not change, and all seemed happy during the medal ceremony with Koleva smiling and applauding every award.

The routines were all a pleasure to watch, the crowd particularly favouring Fuzesi and the American girls. There were few mistakes and yet it was refreshing after Seoul to see no 10.00's.

The group event, while being the highlight for many, was unfortunately seen as merely an intermission for others. Hungary's group was on the top both nights to take the gold medal and also capture the Konica Cup, which is awarded to the nation which possesses the highest combined score for individuals and group. All the groups were wonderful though, with all being cheered by the crowd.

Finally, Konica must be congratulated on a fine event. It was well organised and surely the athletes and other delegation members enjoyed their Konica cameras and stuffed mascot lions. The lions were smaller recreations of the huge Konica lion which sat outside the arena as Konica participants of the future posed to have their pictures taken by their parents.

Mandi Shields



Above L:
Dimitrova (Bul)

Above R:
Koleva (Bul)

Below: L-R:
Sinko (Hun), Fuzesi
(Can), Koleva (Bul),
Dimitrova (Bul)

KONICA CUP—INDIVIDUAL SCORES

Name	Cty	Rope	Hoop	Clubs	Ribbon	Total	Place
Albenia Dimitrova	BUL	9.800	9.900	9.800	9.900	39.400	1
Elisabeth Koleva	BUL	9.800	9.800	9.700	9.900	39.200	2
Mary Fuzesi	CAN	9.700	9.700	9.700	9.700	38.800	3
Michelle Berube	USA	9.600	9.600	9.600	9.650	38.450	4
Diane Simpson	USA	9.650	9.600	9.600	9.600	38.450	4
Andrea Sinko	HUN	9.600	9.650	9.600	9.600	38.450	4
Akemi Fujino	JPN	9.500	9.600	9.550	9.600	38.250	7
Yukari Kawamoto	JPN	9.550	9.600	9.450	9.600	38.200	8
Zsuzsa Muszil	HUN	9.500	9.500	9.550	9.600	38.150	9
Stephanie Cottel	FRA	9.550	9.500	9.500	9.100	37.650	10
Jennifer Hopkins	CAN	9.450	9.400	9.350	9.250	37.450	11
Claudia Bouabca	FRA	9.300	9.350	9.200	9.400	37.250	12

TEAM STANDINGS FOR KONICA TROPHY

Team	Group	Rope	Hoop	Clubs	Ribbon	Total	Place
HUN	38.550	19.100	19.150	19.150	19.200	114.150	1
JPN	38.450	19.050	19.200	19.000	19.200	114.900	2
USA	36.850	19.250	19.200	19.200	19.250	113.750	3
CAN	37.200	19.150	19.100	19.050	18.950	113.450	4
BUL	0.000	19.600	19.700	19.500	19.800	78.600	5
FRA	0.000	18.850	18.850	18.700	18.500	74.900	6

Photographs courtesy Mandi Shields



Deb Tilley is currently the
National RSG Coaching
Co-ordinator

The Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra was the scene for an intensive week long training camp for the country's top Rhythmic Gymnasts.

The objectives of the camp were:

1. To provide the National Squad gymnasts with one week's intensive training with the best coaches available in Australia.
2. To check the physical appearance and gymnastic development of all National Squad Members.
3. To provide gymnast's with knowledge of the "Provisional Code of Points" re requirements for their routines.
4. To provide feedback to the gymnast's personal coach.
5. To check National Stream gymnast's routine requirements—A Grade elements.

Twenty four Gold National Squad, Silver National Squad and National Stream gymnasts and 4 Malaysian gymnasts attended the camp under the expert guidance of top RSG coaches: Lu Ping Ding, Linda Douglas, Yvonne Bradley, Lisa Bradley and Debra Tilley.

SUMMARY

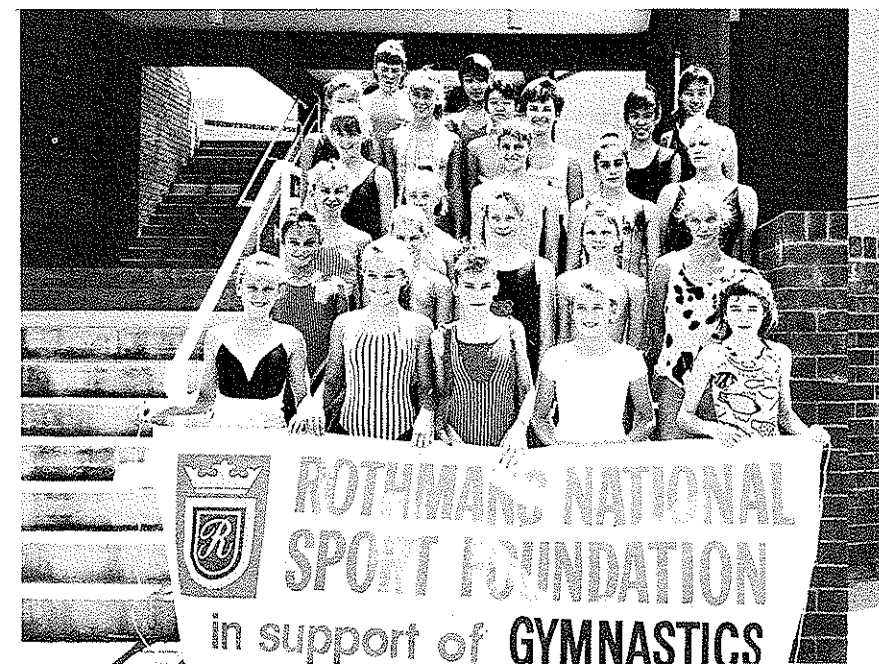
All girls trained for three hours each morning and afternoon, plus a light training after dinner where they prepared a free floor routine for the competition to be held Saturday evening. Gymnasts were divided into four groups according to their ability and experience.



Lisa Bradley with Heidi "stretching out"

Most of the morning sessions were spent on body preparation. The afternoon session commenced with ballet, followed by two apparatus. Elite gymnasts covered all five apparatus. National

"Intensive training for top RSG gymnasts"



Photographs courtesy Yvonne Bradley

Stream gymnasts concentrated on the apparatus they would be using in 1989.

With the new Code of Points coming into force from January 1989 much time was spent explaining to the gymnasts the new requirements, and experimenting to find their best body (fundamental) moves e.g. flexion, pivot. A notebook was kept by each gymnast and all information was recorded to take back to their personal coach.

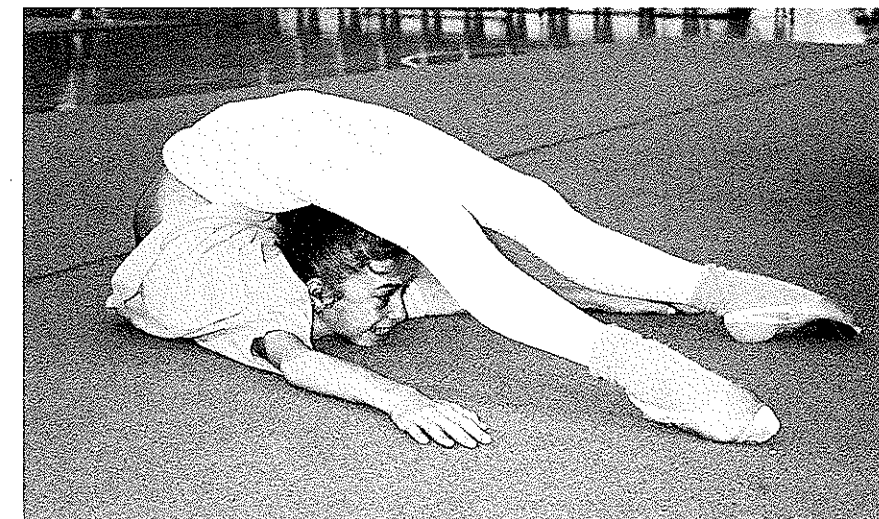
National Squad gymnasts were well prepared for the camp—injuries were minimal. National Stream gymnasts however had difficulty coping with the intense training over six days and some

injuries occurred. Although they had been told about their pre-camp preparation, they had never before been involved in such intense training. They left the camp with a much greater understanding of the physical preparation necessary to sustain a week's high level training.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Peter Topp—AIS National Sports Program
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AGF Office.

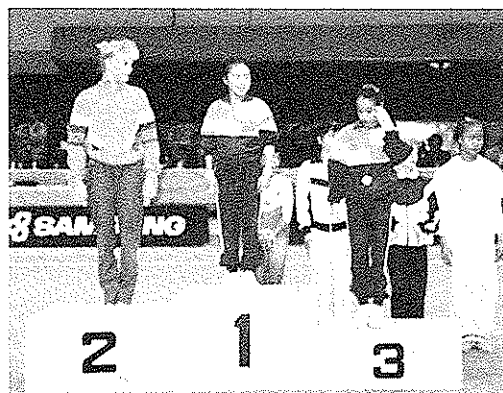


Stacey Wild "warming up"

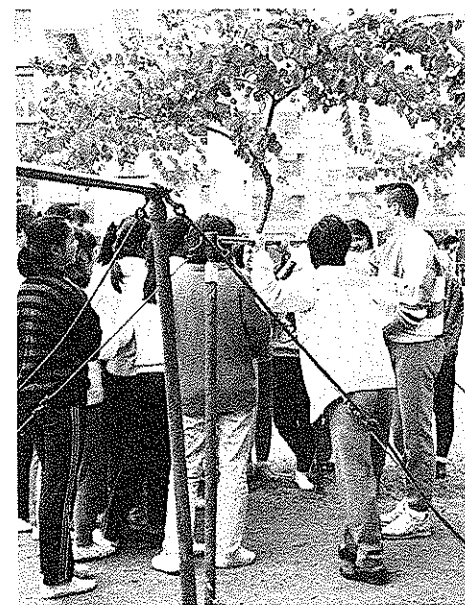
POPULAR AUSSIES AT



Photographs courtesy Warwick Forbes



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