



2001 AIS Athlete Awards

2001 AIS Athlete of the Year

Swimmer **Petria Thomas** and gymnast **Philippe Rizzo** were jointly named *2001 AIS Athlete of the Year* at a ceremony held at the AIS on 27 February. It is the first time in the 19-year history of the award that two athletes have shared the honour.

Petria won three gold medals at the 2001 FINA World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. She won the 100m and 200m butterfly and was a member of the 4x100m medley relay team. Petria emerged in 2001 as the world's top butterfly swimmer. She is ranked world number 1 in both the 100m and 200m butterfly.

Philippe became Australia's first ever medallist in world championships competition, winning a silver medal on the high bar with a score of 9.725 at the 2001 World Gymnastics Championships in Ghent, Belgium. In an outstanding year, he also won gold medals on the high bar at the World Student Games and the Goodwill Games.

Other major awards announced for 2001 were:

2001 AIS Team of the Year

AIS scholarship holders *Vicky Roberts, Jo Lutz, Julia Wilson and Jane Robinson* won the gold medal for Australia in the women's four at the 2001 World Rowing Championships in Lucerne, Switzerland. They then backed up a day later to win the gold medal in the women's eight.



Left to right: AIS women's rowing four Jane Robinson, Julia Wilson, Joanne Lutz and Victoria Roberts and their coach Lyall McCarthy and ASC CEO, Mark Peters. Photo courtesy ASC.

AIS Junior Athlete of the Year

Luke Schenscher (Basketball) in 2001 became the first player since Mark Bradtke in 1987 to go directly from the AIS program into the Australian senior men's team, when he represented Australia at the East Asian Games in Japan.

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AIS staff honoured in 2002 Australia Day honours

AIS staff Dr Bruce Mason, Head of Biomechanics, Dr Allan Hahn, Head of Physiology, and Chris Nunn, Head Coach of Track and Field and formerly Head Coach in the Athletes with Disabilities program, were each awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day in recognition of their contribution to sport. The AIS Alumni Association would like to extend its congratulations to Bruce, Allan and Chris and thank them for the support they have given to AIS athletes over many years.

The Association also congratulates Petria Thomas who won the Australia Post award as Young Australian of the Year in the sports category, and was nominated for 2001 Young Australian of the Year.

AIS 21st birthday celebrations

The AIS is celebrating its 21st birthday this year. There will be a number of events and functions during the year, culminating in a gala dinner and open day on the weekend of 5–6 October (a long weekend in some parts of Australia). In addition, there will be an event conducted in each of the cities outside Canberra where AIS programs are located.

We are very keen to involve as many people as possible who have had an association with the AIS over the past 21 years — athletes, coaches, staff and families. We will be publicising details of the various activities in the Alumni News, through media advertising and releases, and also on the AIS website — www.ais.org.au.

A major objective of the year will be the further development of the AIS Alumni Association to ensure its future as a vibrant, ongoing entity providing a focus for the whole AIS family. To this end we are seeking information to expand the Alumni database and would welcome any information you are able to provide about former athletes, coaches and staff. The website has an online form for people to provide details and register their interest in the Alumni and the year's celebrations.

In order to streamline contact with AIS Alumni members we intend at some time in the future to do so in electronic format where possible, including distribution of this newsletter. We would, therefore, appreciate receiving advice of members' email addresses, and also advice if members do NOT wish to be contacted via email.



Left to right: AIS Director Michael Scott, Philippe Rizzo, Petria Thomas and Member for Eden Monaro Gary Nairn.

More 2001 AIS Athlete Awards



Luke Schenscher, Junior Athlete of the Year.

AIS Education Achievement Award

Joint winners were also announced for this award.

Rebecca Witham (Water Polo) is studying towards a Bachelor of Applied Science in Human Movement Studies at the University of Queensland. In 2001 she completed a full-time load in both semesters and achieved Class 2A honours.

At the same time she played a vital role in the Australian team's silver medal performance at the 2001 Water Polo Junior World Championships in Perth. She also found time to give back to her sport by coaching two Queensland Junior Water Polo League teams.

Matthew Engele (Soccer) completed his year 12 at Lake Ginninderra College in 2001 with an excellent University Admissions Index across four subjects, gaining entry to Commerce at Macquarie University. This result was achieved despite significant absences from school while on Australian Under 17 national team duties including Junior World Cup representation. Matthew also made himself available to speak to potential AIS scholarship holders and their families.



Rebecca Witham, Education Award winner.

AIS Vocation Award

Todd Pearson (Swimming) has managed to successfully balance the two major aspects of his life — a demanding career as a taxation accountant in the Canberra office of Ernst & Young and outstanding achievements in the pool. He is held in high regard by his colleagues at Ernst & Young and is considered a friendly and dedicated member of the Ernst and Young team.

In the pool he won gold medals in the 4x100m and 4x200m freestyle relays at the 2001 FINA World Swimming Championships, and a gold medal in the 4x100m freestyle relay at the Goodwill Games.

AIS Sport Achievement Awards

Other recipients of awards for sporting achievement in 2001 were:

Ryan Bayley (Track Cycling) at 19 years of age won the Keirin and finished second in the Olympic Sprint at the 2001 senior world championships in Antwerp, Belgium.

Darren Bundock and John Forbes (Sailing) won the 2001 Tornado world championship to add to their silver medal in this class at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. They had previously won the world championship in 1998. This was John's 4th time as world champion in the Tornado class.

Nathan Deakes (Athletics) won a gold medal in the 20km walk at the Goodwill Games in Brisbane against a world-class field. In doing so he set new Commonwealth and Australian records and beat a dual Olympic gold medallist.

Neil Fuller (Athletics) won the first-ever gold medal in the 200m for amputee athletes at the IAAF World Championships held in Edmonton, Canada.

Mathew Helm (Diving) won the bronze medal in the men's platform event at the 2001 world championships in Fukuoka, Japan.



Matthew Engele, Education Award winner.



Todd Pearson, Vocation Award winner.

Luke Hickmott (Golf) was a member of the Australian amateur golf team which won the Asia Pacific Teams Championship in China and the Southern Cross Cup in New Zealand. He also finished second in the Tasmanian Open.

With half of the Sydney Olympic team having retired, *Daniel Howard* captained a young and inexperienced AIS/Australian team to qualification for the 2002 World Volleyball Championships to be held in Argentina.

The team also finished 2nd in the Asian Championships. Dan won the individual award for the best blocker at the Asian Championships and has signed a professional contract with a leading Italian Serie A club.

Luke McKenzie (Triathlon) won the bronze medal in the junior male division at the Triathlon World Championships held in Canada. He also won the men's triathlon event at the Sydney Youth Olympics and two national selection events.

AIS Memorial Awards

Darren Smith Scholarship (Road Cycling)

Ashley Humbert

Nathan Meade Scholarship (Diving)

Mathew Helm

Brent Harding Scholarship (Swimming)

David Jenkins

Ross Herbert Scholarship (Golf)

Susie Mathews

Alumni working group

A small working group made up mainly of former scholarship holders has met previously to consider how best to progress the association. This group has not met for some time, but we plan to re-activate it in the near future. It will report back to members.

Coaching changes

Chris Kachel, who has been head coach of the AIS Tennis program since 1990, has resigned to take up private coaching. His successor is *John McCurdy*. Former scholarship holder and international player *Richard Fromberg* has also joined the tennis program as assistant coach.

Rod Marsh, head coach of the Cricket program since 1990, has been appointed Director of the England Cricket Board National Academy. The new AIS Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy head coach is current Queensland state coach *Bennett King*.

Swimming coach *Jim Fowlie* has returned to his native Canada to take up the position of head swimming coach of the National Sports Centre in Victoria, BC. His replacement is another Canadian, *Pierre Lafontaine*, who was appointed to the AIS Swimming program in March. Pierre's last position was as head coach of the Phoenix Swim Club in the US. Swimmers from the club won eight medals at the Sydney Olympics, including high-profile swimmers Gary Hall Jnr and Anthony Ervin who tied for first in the 50m freestyle. Pierre brings with him his wife, Alisa, and four children.

Former AIS Water Polo scholarship holder *Greg McFadden* has been appointed head coach of the men's Water Polo program. Greg comes from the NSW Institute of Sport and was assistant coach in the AIS men's program from 1992–96. His assistant is *Mark Hubbard*.

Other recent departures from the AIS coaching ranks are *Dee Jennings* (Strength and Conditioning), *Graeme Brimblecombe* and *Craig Morris* (Tennis), *Mikhail Barabach* (Gymnastics) and *Mark Lebedew* (Men's Volleyball). The Alumni Association thanks the departing coaches for their commitment to AIS athletes and wishes them every success in their future ventures.

Also on coaches, the foundation head coach of the AIS/AFL Academy scholarship program, *Kevin Morris*, was recently appointed as an assistant coach at Essendon Football Club.

Missing alumni

It appears that a number of athletes we sent the previous newsletter to have changed their addresses. Are you in contact with any of the following people? We would love them to send us a current address.

Basketball: Jenny Evans (Reisener), Valerie Ahwong, Leanne Strooper

Gymnastics: Leanne Rycroft, Rebecca Jackson, Jessica Ingersole, Catherine Frank, Guy Netterfield, Erin Larkin, Julie-Anne Monico, Kirsty Leigh Brown

Track and Field: Martin Dent, Helen Davey, Heath Fitzpatrick, Gerrard Keating, Gary Minihan

Golf: Tanya Holl, Jason Moon, Michael Craig

Cycling: Garry Madigan

Squash: Elizabeth Irving

Hockey: Baeden Choppy

Volleyball: Wade Willcocks

Swimming: Debby Wade

Athlete search

If you know the address, email address, telephone number or any other contact (such as a club the athlete is connected with) for any former AIS athletes, you could help us by asking them to send their contact information to Danielle Fornasiero at:

Danielle Fornasiero, AIS Alumni,
PO Box 176, Belconnen ACT 2616,
or www.ausport.gov.au/ais/alumni

If we have managed to reach you through your club, we would like to update our address listings with your personal mailing address. Why not send it to us? And please include your email address if you have one.

Did you miss out on the last edition of the *Alumni News*?

We may have added you to our database since the last edition of *Alumni News* was sent out.

If you would like a copy, please drop us a line either by post or email and we'll get one out to you. Please contact us at:

AIS Alumni Association
c/- Danielle Fornasiero
Australian Institute of Sport
PO Box 176 BELCONNEN ACT 2616
Email: www.ausport.gov.au/ais/alumni/newsletter.htm

Benita Johnson (Willis) beat a world-class field to win the Chiba International Cross Country race over 8km in Japan in January. Chiba is an IAAF World Cross Country Challenge Series race. Benita's win gained her selection for World Cross Country in Ireland in March, where she ran very well to finish 4th.

In a great performance, former scholarship holder *Alisa Camplin* (Skiing 1998–2001) won the freestyle skiing gold medal at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

In a feat never previously achieved, skiing scholarship holder *Michael Milton* won four gold medals, in the slalom, giant slalom, super G and the downhill, at the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Fellow AIS skier Bart Bunting won two gold medals and a silver medal.

The Australian women's rowing four, *Vicky Roberts, Jo Lutz, Julia Wilson, and Jane Robinson*, coached by *Lyall McCarthy*, already named 2001 AIS Team of the Year, was named 2001 International Team of the Year at the Australian Sports Awards in March. In an outstanding year, the crew won the fours and were part of the world champion eight at the World Rowing Championships. They join an elite group of rowers to have won two gold medals at one world championship. The crew also won the World Cup fours and finished second in the eight, as well as winning the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta in England.

AIS Tennis scholarship holders *Ryan Henry* and *Todd Reid* teamed together to win the Australian Open Junior Doubles.

There were some wonderful results by AIS swimmers at the World Short Course Swimming Championships in Moscow in April. *Petria Thomas* won the 200m butterfly in a new championships record time, and four silver medals. Butterfly swimmer *Adam Pine* won three silver medals. *Ray Haas* won a gold medal in the 4x200m freestyle relay, while *Justin Norris, Lori Munz, Antony Matkovich* and *Sarah Ryan* each won a silver medal.

The AIS 2002 Women's Road Cycling scholarship holders teamed brilliantly to win four of the five stages in the Tour de Snowy road event. *Alison Wright, Emma James, Liz Tadich* and *Rochelle Gilmore* each won a stage.

The International Archery Federation (FITA) has ratified the World Cadet (under 16) world record score of 331 at 70 metres shot by AIS scholarship holder *David Barnes* at the 2002 Australian Junior Championship.

Life after the AIS

What are you doing now? As a regular feature of *Alumni News*, we would like to profile some alumni members.

Why not write or email to the address below, telling us in a few lines what you're up to?

Danielle Fornasiero, AIS Alumni, PO Box 176, Belconnen ACT 2616, or www.ausport.gov.au/ais/alumni

Here's what some of our alumni are up to.

■ **Damien Fanning** (*Water Polo, 1988–94*) is employed as an accountant for a solicitor in Sydney. 'Nipper' is still heavily involved in water polo as head coach of the Sydney University club, a position he has held for the past seven years. In 1998 he married *Raelene Mullaney* (*Netball 1991–1992*). Rae works in sponsorship and advertising for Accenture in Sydney. Damien says these three commitments provide him with a very busy lifestyle, something he is used to since spending seven years on scholarship at the AIS.

■ **Kate Pratley** (*Swimming, 1990–91*) spent a year at the University of New Mexico in the USA on a swimming scholarship after her two years at the AIS. Deciding it was then time to hang up the swimmers and focus on a career, she returned to the AIS in Canberra to work as a sports administrator at the ASC while at the same time completing her degree in Sports Studies. After the Sydney Olympics it was time for a new challenge and Kate joined the WIN Television news team as a reporter. She works in the Canberra newsroom.

■ **Liz Ellis** (*Netball, 1991–92*) studied at ANU for two years while on scholarship and completed an Arts/Law degree at Macquarie University in 1996. Liz says, 'I practised property and infrastructure law, along with a little sports law, for nearly four years, finally making the decision to leave in 2000 when I could no longer combine training with a full time legal practice. I now run the Liz Ellis Netball Clinics, offering coaching to young players around NSW during the school holidays.'

Liz is vice-captain of the Australian netball team and captain of the Sydney TAB Swifts, 2001 Commonwealth Bank Trophy Champions. She also finds time to serve on the boards of the Australian Sports Drug Agency, the NSW State Sports Centre Trust, NSW Institute of Sport and the Institute of Sport Management. She is an established media personality, appearing on the *Breakfast Show* on Triple J and 2KY's

Big Sports Breakfast and making guest appearances on ABC television's *The Fat* and Channel 7's *Sportsworld*.

■ **Matthew Stocks** (*Rugby Union, 1989–91*) represented the NSW Waratahs in 1994 before his rugby career ended prematurely in 1995 when he underwent surgery to remove a shattered disc in his back. He remains involved in rugby as head coach of the Manly Rugby Union Club colts, who were minor premiers in Sydney club competition in 2001. Matthew is the Operations Manager for Total Landscape Care, a large commercial landscaping company in Sydney. As much as he hates to admit it, says his wife, he has also become a netball groupie since he married Liz Ellis in 1999.

■ **Tony Bond** (*Track and Field, 1986–87*) began training as a soft tissue therapist towards the end of his scholarship and moved to Adelaide to work for about two years. He came back to Canberra in 1991 and began work at the AIS, first as a locum, then part-time, before becoming full-time in 1996. In that time he has worked with all sports spending large amounts of time overseas with the AIS Cycling program. However he is now working predominantly with Track and Field. He has worked with Australian teams at many international competitions including two Olympic Games, two Commonwealth Games and four World Championships. Tony says the highlight of his life so far was getting married in 1994 and with his wife, recently designing their own home and building it with their own hands.

■ **Michael Murphy** (*Diving, 1990, 1992–97*) competed in both the 1992 and 1996 Olympics. His 4th place in the 3 metre at the 1992 Olympics is still Australia's highest individual Olympic diving result since 1924. He also competed at both the 1990 and 1994 Commonwealth Games and his two golds and one silver at the 1994 Games is the best result by a diver from any nation in the history of the Games. He was dual World Junior Champion in 1991.

Since retiring in 1998 Michael has remained closely involved with diving and is currently a Diving Australia board member. He is also an Australian selector and plans to remain involved in a voluntary capacity with diving and/or the Olympic movement for as long as possible.

He was a commentator on the 2000 Olympics for Radio 2UE and ABC and has also done commentary for Channel 9 and Fox Sports.

Michael recently graduated from Bond University with a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) specialising in commercial law, and started work as a management consultant with the firm Bain & Company in Sydney in April this year.

■ **Brian McFadyen** (*Cricket athlete, 1988–89, and scholarship coach, 1990–91*) writes to say that he and his wife *Fiona McLennan* (*Netball, 1991–92*) didn't meet until they both returned to Melbourne after completing their scholarships. Brian is now working for the Victorian Cricket Association as assistant coach with the Victorian cricket team. Fiona resigned her position as recreation officer at the North Melbourne Institute of TAFE to become a mother to Connor James, born in December 2000. She has recently accepted a coaching job at Palladians Netball Club in the Victorian State League. A number of other former AIS Netball scholars, including *Clare Smallacombe*, *Alex* and *Kirsten Wheeler* and *Wendy Fleming* (*O'Donnell*) also play for the club.

■ **Laura Pokorny** (*Basketball, 1991–92*) completed a Bachelor of Arts (Sports Studies) and a Graduate Diploma in Vocational Education and Training and this year will complete a Master of Education. For the past two years she has been employed as a project officer at Sport and Recreation Training Australia (SRTA), the national industry training advisory body for the sport and recreation industry. The primary roles of SRTA are as principal adviser to government and also assisting industry on vocational education and training matters for the sport and recreation industries. Laura says she still participates in basketball socially and as a statistician.

■ **Cathy Reardon** (*Road Cycling, 1992–96*) wrote to tell us that she is now the mother of three beautiful children — Renee 4 years old, Connor and Lachlan 2 years old — and is teaching maths and PE in a state high school in Queensland.

■ **Katie Gold** (*Netball, 1996–97*) has switched to triathlon. She is also a participant in the current Australian series of *Survivor*. Ever the fierce competitor, she might do pretty well.

■ **Karina Wieland** (*Rowing, 1993–2000*) completed a Bachelor of Science in Sports Administration at the University of Canberra and worked in the Australian Sports Commission's Media and Public Relations area before moving to Sydney. *Alison Davies* (*Rowing 1995–96, 1999–2000*) graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Health Science (Public Health) in 1998. After also moving to Sydney, she and Karina formed Xenergy, a company providing corporate health and team-building services. Karina now competes regularly in triathlons and plans to run in the New York City marathon later this year 'for fun'. Alison recently completed the Sydney marathon and also plans to do the New York marathon. She also is a volunteer for several charity organisations.