



## THE ICE FACTOR PROGRAM – AN OVERVIEW

# The Ice Factor Program

by Marie Shaw QC

The SAISF Inc (a not for profit voluntary incorporated association) and the Ice Arena at Thebarton has developed a model working in partnership with high schools to successfully introduce the Ice Factor Program into the schools across the Adelaide metropolitan areas and as far south as Willunga.

## How It Started

The Ice Factor Program began in 2005 and developed to include 5 high schools with the assistance of Clubs SA. The Program was initiated in consultation with Mr Don Anderson, a youth worker who is responsible for the Alternative Education Program at Parafield Gardens High School, in Adelaide's northern suburbs. A group of 15 disengaged students, who were aged between 13 years and 18 years, had no access to team sport. A pilot project was set up to run for eight weeks commencing on Friday 21 October 2005 at the Ice Arena.

As a result of that pilot project and in consultation with other educators in the northern region, and with the advice of the District Manager of the Salisbury District for DECS at the time, the Ice Factor Program was formulated so that learning to play ice

hockey was used as a vehicle to develop a team and to cultivate long term life skills. The schools identify the youth at risk, whether because of absenteeism, behavioural issues or literacy problems.

Once established, the Program was developed by Christine Manning (a youth worker) who developed a life skills manual and a mentoring program that are both delivered in conjunction with ice hockey coaching.

Since that time, our life skills coaches have included Nick Gill (formerly of Adelaide Crows Football Club) and currently are Joel Scalzi and Sami Mantere. A Grade accredited ice hockey coaches support them.

## How It Works

This program targets youth at risk, disadvantaged youth and youth who would otherwise have no access to participation in team sport.

The program is centred on the development of an ice hockey team from learning to skate to competing as a team against other schools, with an end of term tournament.

The Ice Factor Program incorporates the development of life skills in the context of alternative education programs. Schools use the Program for their students to achieve a SACE Unit in Community Studies.

It also aims to foster the self-esteem of the youth at risk by requiring the students at particular schools who are disadvantaged to set up the team and learn team values with the goal of representing the school in a competition against other schools with teams of similarly disadvantaged youth. An average of 200 at risk youths participate in the Program weekly during the school term as well as in an end of term tournament.

The Program depends on the goodwill of sponsors in the community to fund equipment for the schools and to provide incentives to remain in the Program in the long term and to stay connected to school.

## High Schools Participating

There are 15 high schools currently participating. Our 15<sup>th</sup> school, namely Seaford High School, entered the Program as a result of a sponsorship from the SA Police Association. Two further schools are entering the Program in the second term this year as a result of further sponsorship from our major sponsor, Clubs SA, making a total of 17 high schools soon to be participating in the Program.

## Schools Participating

Our 17 schools, including the 2 new schools starting next term (and with 15 comprising up to 22 at-risk youth in each group) are:

- Aberfoyle Park High School
- Findon High School
- Fremont Elizabeth City High School
- Hamilton College
- Para Hills High School
- Para West Adult Campus
- Seaford High School
- Willunga High School
- LeFevre High School
- Windsor Gardens Vocational College
- Valley View High School
- Pasadena R-12 School
- Roma Mitchell Secondary College
- Bowden Brompton Community College
- Temple Christian College
- Wirreanda High School
- Thebarton Senior College



Windsor Warriors Ice Factor Team

Roseanna Mangiarelli of Channel 7 Today Tonight, presenting to all award winners. She is pictured here with Kane (Raiders) and Zac (Strikers) on a traditional face off and dropping of the puck.



## Ice Factor Spectacular

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ice Factor Spectacular was held in September 2014 at the Hilton Adelaide and had widespread support from the community.



The participants trained in modelling and grooming for a fashion parade. 500 guests supported our youth on the catwalk and over 40 community sponsors contributed to the life skills event.



Some of the girls on the catwalk at last year's Ice Factor Spectacular. All the participants had a fantastic night, modelling clothes and shoes from many leading brands, after learning to parade on the catwalk with the Tanya Powell Model Agency.



Joe Bugner, world heavyweight boxing champion, special guest at the 2014 Ice Factor Spectacular

## Celebrating



Some of the teams after celebrating their end of term tournament. Teams receive Leadership Awards and Encouragement Awards.



Temple Titans Ice Factor team – Winners, 2015 Division 1 Spirit Cup



One of the Ice Factor teams, Willunga Raiders, celebrating after their game



Findon Falcons Ice Factor team – Winners, 2015 Division 2 Spirit Cup



Marie Shaw QC with Josh Flintoft, Perpetual Trophy Winner, 2015 Ice Factor Program, Div 2 tournament opening ceremony.

## The Royal Visit

We have achieved major recognition, having been invited by the previous Governor and the South Australian Premier to have five leaders in the Ice Factor Program attend the State Reception held for HRH Prince William and Princess Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge when they visited Adelaide in 2014. We are very proud of this recognition of our Program and for those participants we selected to attend.

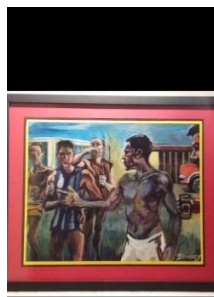


# Ice Factor Dedication to Reconciliation Event

The Dedication to Reconciliation Event *"We All Call Australia Home"* was held on 9 April 2015 at the Adelaide Festival Centre. The Ice Factor teams each gave a presentation to our sponsors and special guests.



Hon. Katrine Hildyard MP, Hon. Vickie Chapman MP, Retired Justice Michael David QC and Rocky Perrotta (President of the Law Society of SA) and special guests Mark Holden and Mick Ryan, speaking at the Dedication to Reconciliation Event.



Former barrister and artist Sophie Downey's painting "Not so recreational activity" – Vietnam War – 1970, which was presented at the 2015 Dedication to Reconciliation Event at the Adelaide Festival Centre, 9 April 2015

## Sponsorship

Our major sponsor, Clubs SA, regularly sends a representative to our Opening Ceremony to present awards.



Greg Fisher from Clubs SA with an award winner and other sponsors



LeFevre Lightning thanks Luke Broomhall for agreeing (on behalf of Broomhall Young - forensic psychologists) to sponsor their team.



Michelle Coonan, Ice Factor participant, represented Australia in Women's Ice Hockey in 2013



Hamilton Hornets Ice Factor ice hockey team

## Letter from Ashley Henson, Golden Key award winner at University of South Australia and previous Ice Factor participant, which he presented at the Ice Factor Spectacular, September 2014

Soon after moving into Don's Group, I was approached about being involved in an ice hockey program for students called the Ice Factor. I thought this was a fantastic idea as at the time my mind was not focused on education and this was an opportunity to learn new skills. Prior to starting the Ice Factor Program I had never been ice skating, but I had a lot of fun and the coach John Botterill made sure it was a good laugh. Eventually I could not only stand on two feet on the ice but I could play ice hockey.

As part of Ice Factor, I was involved in some awesome activities, one of which was walking down this runway for the very first Ice Factor Spectacular all those years ago.

I also won an ice hockey coaching clinic through the program, which was run by some of the Adelaide Adrenaline ice hockey players. This was a great experience which included 5 days of on and off ice training, and ice hockey strategy. One activity I particularly remember, and enjoyed was being attached to a parachute and having to run about 50 meters chasing everyone else.

The Ice Factor program gave me the knowledge and confidence to work with others in a team environment and it also taught me that no matter how difficult something is, I could achieve it if I focused, and put my mind to it.

After the Ice Factor Program, I put my resume in at the Ice Arena and was given a volunteer position there and I continued to play ice hockey. I eventually got to play in B Grade as a forward for the Redwings.

During this time, at about the age of 18 my life changed, I met a beautiful woman named Octavia, who was working with me at the Ice Arena, whom I married in 2011, and I'm proud to say we are expecting our first child early in the coming year.

I continued volunteering, while working various jobs until I got a job at the Coles Distribution Centre. Sadly at this point I had to give up ice hockey and volunteering due to

the heavy workload and time restrictions of my new job. I hope to soon get back into ice hockey.

A little after a year at Coles I received a permanent job position and that year my wife and I purchased our first home. I have continued to work at Coles but about 2 years ago I began to think about a better, brighter future. Before Ice Factor I did not set goals and did not think that I could be a high achiever.

From a young age I have been interested in computer programming, and especially video game production and design. So, with the encouragement of my wife, I applied to enrol at university, through entry by the Special Tertiary Admissions Test, and to my astonishment, I was accepted for a degree in Information Technology, Games and Entertainment Design.

Last year I completed my first year at UniSA. I finished in the top 15% of all information technology students and I received a UniSA Merit Award. As a result I was invited to join the Golden Key Honours Society. Completing my first year with such great results, I decided to transfer to a degree in Software Engineering, which I hope to complete by the end of 2016.

This program has changed my life, I met my wife and many friends at the Ice Arena and through the Ice Factor Program. It has taught me transferrable life skills such as;

- Discipline through team training and exercises;
- Efficient and effective team work through off ice coaching which helped the team and I to understand our role better within the team;
- Leadership, as I was the vice-captain of the Parafield gardens team, the Reapers;
- Being able to complete tasks outside of my comfort zone and think outside of the box.

I have done things I thought I'd never accomplish, such as getting married, travelling overseas, buying a home, and enrolling at university. I don't believe any of this would have been possible if I had not participated in such an amazing program, and for that I am very grateful.

In conclusion, I would like to thank;

- Mrs Marie Shaw for continuing to support such a brilliant program for disadvantaged youth.
- Don Anderson for always encouraging and believing in, not only me, but all of the students involved in the program.
- My parents and my family for supporting me throughout everything.
- My beautiful wife Octavia Henson for encouraging me to realise my potential.
- John Botterill and the Botterill family for teaching me the fine art of ice hockey and also for the good times on and off the ice.
- All of you for your support of the program; and
- Most of all I would like to thank the Ice Factor Program for everything it has offered and taught me throughout my time spent participating in the program.

Thank you all very much. Have a good night.



Mark Holden, lawyer and entertainer, congratulating Ashley Henson after giving his speech

## FUTURE

Many of our participants have chosen to continue with the sport as their self-belief, discipline and persistence has improved, and some have represented the State of South Australia in Ice Hockey.

Further, we are learning of longer term outcomes for our participants, including serving in the Armed Forces.

Details of the program and its achievements are available on the website:

[www.icefactor.net](http://www.icefactor.net)