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2/7/14

Press Release:

State Of Origin On Ice

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It's State of Origin, but not as you know it. Australia's fastest speed skaters will be strapping on razor sharp blades and racing at speeds of up to 50 Km/h as they jostle for position around tight bends in ice speed skating's biggest team event, the Duke Trophy. Come and witness all of the action as New South Wales takes on Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia at Canterbury Ice Rink on July 26-27.

While at times short track speed skating can resemble a demolition derby on ice, New South Wales will be going into the competition as firm favourites, with the return of Olympian and local boy Pierre Boda (pictured above) to his first competition since the Sochi Games. The 21-year-old is already a national champion and record holder and he has competed on the international circuit since 2009. Pierre took up speed skating when he was seven years old, learning the sport at Canterbury Ice Rink.

Despite the strong New South Wales lineup, Queensland will not be taken lightly, as they boast teenage sensation Deanna Lockett. Officially Australia's fastest female skater, Deanna finished ninth in the 1000m event at the Sochi Olympics. She burst on to the world scene in 2013, winning Australia's first ever medal in the Junior World Championships, a bronze in the 1000m event.

The Duke Trophy is an annual race meet that has taken place for 62 years, with the first competition held in 1952. The host city alternates each year between Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and this year is Canterbury's turn.

So rug up in your winter woollies and come down to Canterbury Ice Rink on July 26 and 27 for this free spectator event. Hot chocolate, pies and snacks will be available for purchase from the kiosk.

Details

What: The Duke Trophy, an interstate short track speed skating competition

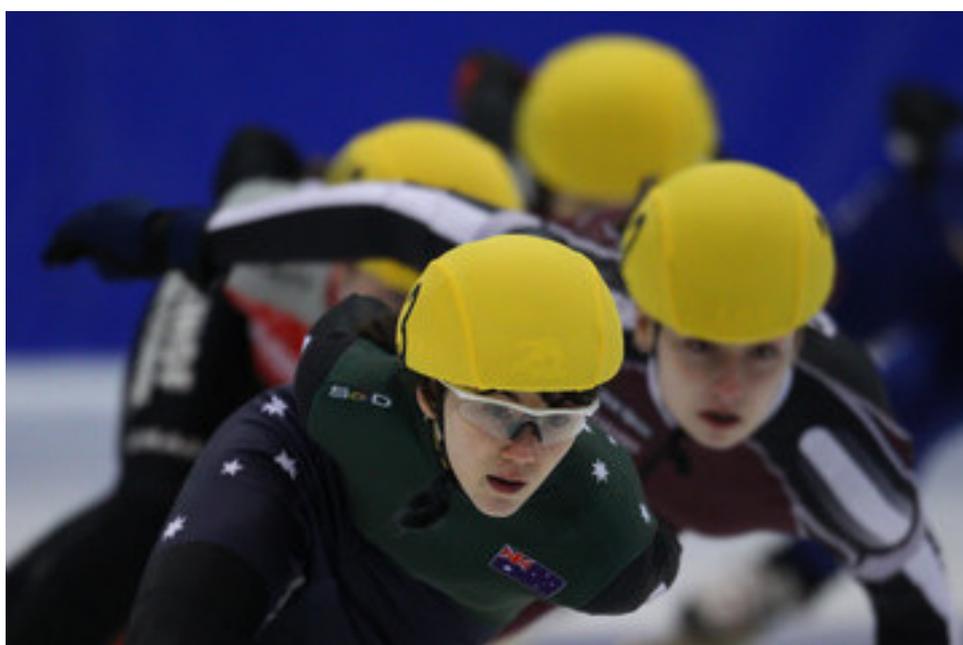
Where: Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink, Tasker Park, Canterbury

When: Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 July, 2014

Cost: Free for spectators.

For more information, including athlete interviews and photographs, contact:

Ice Racing NSW Publicity Officer at publicity@iceracingsw.org.au.



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