

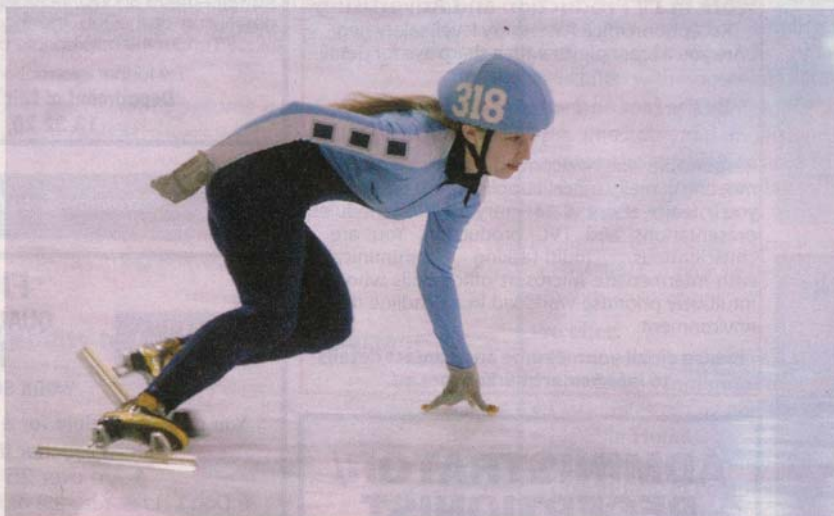
Skaters have edge in relay competition

Australia's fastest skaters recently lit up the ice at the 51st annual Duke Trophy at Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink.

Known as the state of origin of Australian skating, the Duke Trophy featured past and present Olympians from New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. The annual event commemorated the late Leonard Duke who set national records for three events during the 1950s.

This year's competition was a hard-fought battle with the 24-man Queensland squad taking out overall honours for the sixth year in a row.

However, the NSW relay teams recorded national records in both



Marissa Earle in action during the Duke Trophy. Photo: Wyatt Song

the men's and women's events. The men's team, which featured Pierre Boda, Ben Southee, Grant Hester and Inner West resident Noah Essaghir, took out the 3000m and 5000m relays following a strong push by the Queensland team.

The Women's 3000m team of

Dayoung Kwon, Alix-Myra Anderson, Sinead Fogarty and local skater Marissa Earle won the Teddy Jenkins memorial trophy in record time.

The two-day program also included events for juniors, sub juniors and veterans.

Peter Theodosiou