

INSIDEEDGE

THE MAGAZINE OF CANTERBURY OLYMPIC ICE RINK

ISSUE 01 · AUGUST 2026 · THE REOPENING EDITION



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Four years is a long time to wait for a rink.

This is the first edition of *Inside Edge*, and it arrives at the best possible moment. After four years closed, Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink will reopen in 2026 — and for the first time, the end of the road is something you can see on a calendar rather than a hope for someday.

This magazine is part of a wider commitment to communicate more openly than has been the case in the past. Members deserve to understand what is happening at their rink, why decisions are being made, and how those decisions serve the future of the facility. *Inside Edge* is one way we will do that — alongside the Round Table Forums, Town Hall Meetings and member surveys described in the pages that follow.

Canterbury has always been more than a building. It is where thousands of people took their first steps on ice, where more than twenty Olympians began, and where generations of families have spent their Saturday nights. That community kept faith through four quiet years of approvals, consultants and construction.

Thank you for your patience. The wait is nearly over.

In this edition

- **Chairman's Message** — Alexander Allan on reopening, and on the governance work behind it.
- **You Can See It From Here** — where the redevelopment stands, with photographs taken on site in recent days, and what is left to do.
- **Building the Future** — General Manager Brett Bevan on culture, fairness, accountability and what happens next.
- **Meet Our Treasurer** — Channa Wong on the co-operative, the finances and why volunteers matter.
- **A New Look for Canterbury** — the new logo, the member vote, and a founder's endorsement.

Chairman's Message

Four years ago we closed the doors of Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink without knowing exactly when we would open them again. Today, we can see the end of the road on a calendar.

That sentence has been a long time coming, and I want to begin by thanking you. Members, athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers have stayed with this rink through years that offered very little to look at — approvals, consultants, tenders and a construction site behind a fence. Your patience is the reason there is still a community here to reopen for.



Alexander Allan, Chair.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a full update on the redevelopment, and I would encourage you to look closely at the photographs. The barrier system is installed. The grandstand is poured. The roof and lighting are complete. After years of describing this project in words, we can finally show it to you.

You will also hear from our General Manager, Brett Bevan, who joined us in July. The Board appointed Brett to lead the rink through reopening and into the era that follows, and the priorities he sets out in this issue — culture, operational excellence, governance, participation and an outstanding public skating experience — carry the Board's full support.

You will meet our Treasurer, Channa Wong, who explains something every member should understand: the grant builds the rink, but keeping it running is up to us. Canterbury is a co-operative, owned by its members, and it will always depend on the people who give it their time.

And you will see our new identity, adopted following a member vote, together with the thinking behind it and an endorsement from one of our founders.

Strengthening the organisation behind the rink

A great facility is not enough on its own. The building will be new, and the organisation running it needs to be equally fit for purpose.

Over recent months your Board has adopted a comprehensive suite of new and updated policies, developed in line with good governance practice and our obligations under the Co-operatives National Law:

- **Child Safety Policy** — the standards, screening and reporting obligations that keep children safe at our rink, binding on everyone who works or volunteers here.
- **Code of Conduct, and Anti-Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination** — the behaviour expected of every person at Canterbury, and how bullying, harassment and discrimination are dealt with.
- **Complaints and Grievance Handling Policy** — a clear, fair process for raising a concern and having it properly resolved, rather than leaving issues to fester.
- **Work Health and Safety Policy** — how we keep staff, contractors, members and visitors safe in a building full of ice, plant and machinery.
- **Board of Directors Code of Conduct** — the standards directors hold themselves to, including confidentiality, and how a complaint about a director is handled.
- **Board Conflict of Interest Policy and Register** — requires directors to declare any interest that could influence a decision, and records it, so decisions can be trusted.
- **Delegation of Authority Policy** — the line between governance and operations. It sets out what the Board decides, what management decides, and the financial and operational limits on each. That separation is fundamental to how a well-run organisation works, and it is now embedded in policy rather than left to custom or personality.
- **Membership Policy and Application Form** — who can join, how to apply, and the rights and obligations that come with membership of the Co-operative.
- **Expenses Reimbursement Policy** — what may be claimed, what evidence is required and who approves it, so that members' money is spent transparently.
- **Staff Entitlement Policy** — the entitlements and benefits that apply to our people, including controls where someone is both an employee and a member or director.
- **Privacy Policy** — how we collect, use, store and protect the personal information of members, participants and their families.
- **Social Media and Communications Policy** — who speaks for Canterbury, and the standards expected on our official channels.

These are not documents written for a shelf. Together they set out how decisions are made and who may make them, how money is spent and accounted for, how complaints are raised and resolved, how our people are treated, and — most importantly — how children are kept safe at our rink.

The Board is also working on a five-year strategic plan to guide Canterbury through to 2031, so that the decisions we take after reopening are measured against a clear, agreed direction rather than made one at a time. We will begin consulting with members on that plan shortly, because a direction set for this community should be shaped by it. When that consultation opens, I would encourage you to take part.

Good governance rarely makes for exciting reading. But it is what turns a \$17.9 million building into an organisation that can still be serving this community in fifty years.

What comes next

We will confirm our reopening date and opening program as soon as we can commit to them with confidence. In the meantime there is work to be done, and there are plenty of ways to be part of it — on a committee, at a working bee, or at the events that will fill this building once the doors open.

I would encourage you to take part. There is a particular energy about an organisation that is starting something rather than maintaining it, and that is exactly where Canterbury finds itself. Whatever you can offer — an hour at a working bee, a seat on a committee, or simply turning up on opening day with your family — will help set the tone for everything that follows.

The long view

The Board's role is deliberately different from management's. Our General Manager and his team run the rink day to day, and you will read his plans for that later in this issue. The Board's job is to make sure there is still a rink to run in twenty years, and that it is governed properly in the meantime.

That is the lens we apply to almost everything. This facility has to serve people who have not been born yet. The decisions taken over the next twelve months — on financial sustainability, on governance, on the strategic direction we will consult you about — will be judged in decades rather than seasons.

You should expect the Board to report on progress, to measure itself against the strategic plan once it is settled, and to explain its decisions rather than simply announce them.

What excites me most is not opening day itself. It is that this Board is not handing back a repaired building — we are handing over a platform. Fifty-five years ago, three people decided this community should have an ice rink. What we are doing now is giving the next fifty years somewhere to happen.

Canterbury has produced Olympians and champions and, far more often, ordinary Saturday afternoons that families still talk about years later. All of that is about to start again, in a facility worthy of it.

Thank you for standing by your rink. I look forward to seeing you back on the ice.

Alexander Allan

CHAIR • THE ICE SKATING CLUB OF NSW CO-OPERATIVE LTD

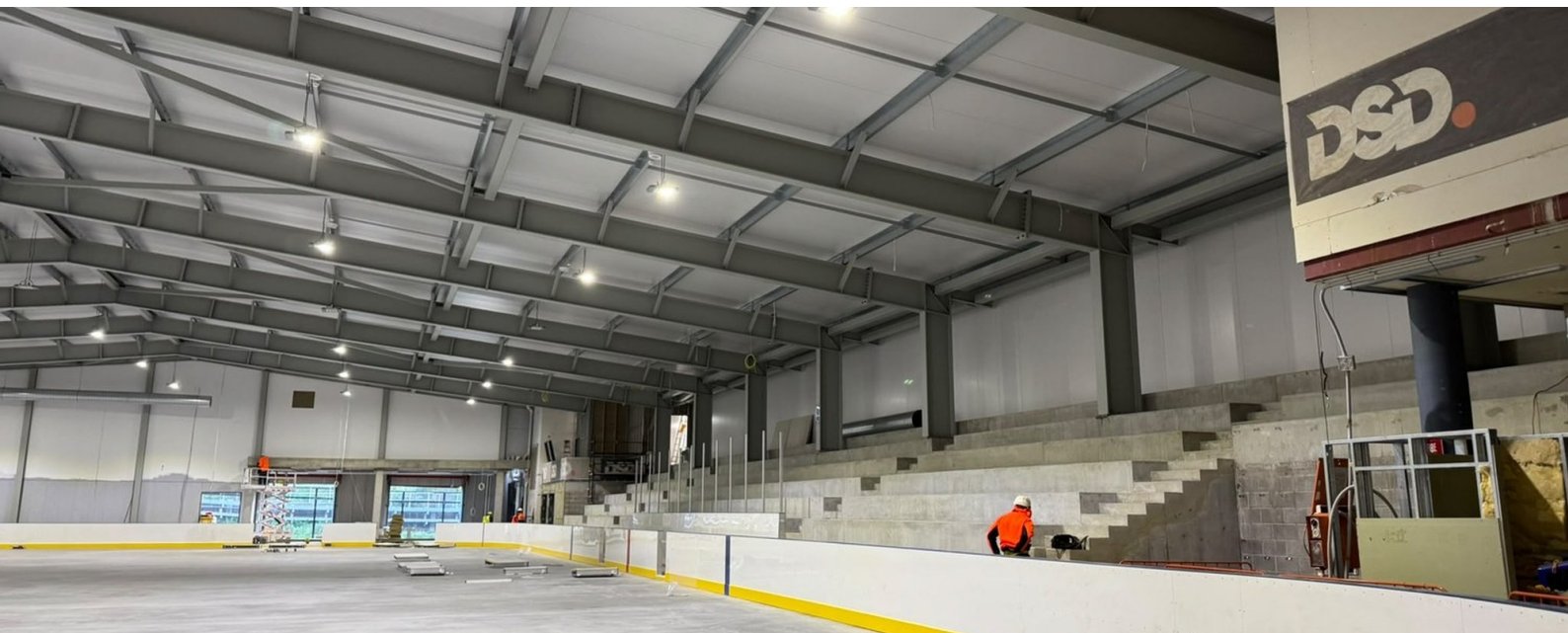
You Can See It From Here

After four years of stages and milestones, Canterbury's reopening is finally something you can mark on a calendar.

For four years, the answer to “when does the rink reopen?” has been measured in stages. Approvals. Consultants. A development application. Structural steel. Then concrete, then a roof.

That has changed. Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink reopens in 2026, and for the first time the end of the road is on a calendar rather than somewhere over the horizon.

Walk into the rink today and it no longer looks like a construction site with a sheet of ice somewhere in its future. It looks like a rink with some construction still going on around it. The barrier system is in. The grandstand is poured. The lights are up and burning. The slab that will carry the ice is down and waiting.



The new rink: barrier system installed, grandstand poured, and the new roof and lighting complete.

How we got here

It is worth remembering how long this road has been, because the scale of what has been delivered is easy to lose in the day-to-day frustration of a closed rink.

Canterbury opened in 1971 in a converted aircraft hangar and served this community for more than five decades before structural issues forced its closure in mid-2022. What followed

were the quiet years — the ones with nothing to photograph. A 21-year lease. A development application lodged in late 2024 and approved by the Sydney South Planning Panel the following year. Consultant packages tendered and awarded. A Project Control Group established to keep the whole thing honest.

The result of that unglamorous work was \$17.9 million in funding — \$17.7 million from the NSW Government through the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants program, plus co-contributions — and a build that started in 2025.

The last twelve months

By April this year, the concrete pours were complete across the grandstand, plant room, change rooms, multipurpose room and balcony. All structural steel was on site and going up, with the building reaching weather-tight not long after — the milestone that took rain delays off the table and let the builder work to a program.

The refrigeration plant shipped from Canada and landed in Sydney. Ausgrid approved the power reconnection. And with the shell closed in, the project moved from structure to fitout — which is the phase where a building starts looking like the thing it is meant to be.



Looking down the pad from the sideline, with the grandstand beyond.

What is happening right now

The photographs in this update were taken on site in recent days, and they show a rink taking its final shape.



The curve of the new dasher boards, with the balcony level above.

The dasher boards are installed around the pad, complete with kickplate and cap rail. The spectator glass is going up along the sideline above them. The grandstand steps are formed and waiting on their finishes. Overhead, the new roof and lighting are complete — and anyone who remembers the old shed will notice the difference in the room immediately.

Look down the grandstand side and you can see how different the spectator experience will be. Clear glass the length of the rink, new concrete terracing, and a clean sightline to the ice from every seat.

Protective netting is also being installed above the boards at the ends of the rink — the last of the safety systems that have to be signed off before anyone steps onto the ice.

There is still plenty of work in front of the builder, and plenty in front of us. But the sequence from here is short, and every item on it points at the same thing.



New spectator glass installed along the grandstand side.



Protective netting going up above the boards at the end of the rink.

It no longer looks like a construction site with a rink in its future. It looks like a rink.

What you will find when the doors open

The rebuild has not simply restored what was here before. When Canterbury reopens, the facility will include:

- A new Olympic-sized ice pad with a new concrete floor and barrier system.
- Five multipurpose and change rooms.
- New skate hire facilities, with storage for 600 pairs of skates, plus seating and lockers.
- Upgraded spectator seating and a new grandstand.
- A new roof structure over the entire rink.

Canterbury will be one of only two Olympic-sized rinks in Sydney — and the only one run by a not-for-profit co-operative, owned by its members.

Why it matters

More than twenty Olympians have come through this rink, among them short-track gold medallist Steven Bradbury, 2014 ice dance Olympians Danielle O'Brien and Greg Merriman, and Harley Windsor — Australia's first Indigenous Winter Olympian.

That is not just history. Earlier this year our community watched Holly Harris, Jason Chan, Anastasia Golubeva and Hektor Giotopoulos-Moore compete at the Winter Olympic Games in Milano — athletes connected to grassroots programs like the ones that will restart here.

Every one of them began the same way: a first lesson, on public ice, at a local rink. That is what has been missing from Canterbury for four years, and that is what is about to come back.

The road so far

1971	Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink opens in a converted aircraft hangar.
Mid-2022	The rink closes due to structural issues.
Late 2024	21-year lease secured and the development application lodged.
2025	DA approved by the Sydney South Planning Panel; construction begins.
April 2026	Concrete pours complete, structural steel up, building weather-tight; refrigeration plant arrives from Canada.
May 2026	Annual General Meeting.
July 2026	New General Manager commences.
Now	Fitout underway — barriers installed, grandstand formed, roof and lighting complete.
2026	Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink reopens.

The final stretch

The remaining work is the least visible and the most important — fitout, commissioning, testing the plant, and then making ice. None of it photographs well. All of it has to be right before a single skater steps on.

We will confirm our reopening date and our opening program as soon as we are in a position to commit to them, and we would rather give you a date we can keep than a date that slips. What we can say is that we are reopening this year, and that everything now in front of us is finishing work rather than building work.

After four years, that is worth saying plainly: we are almost home.

Building the Future

Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink is preparing to reopen — and it will not be the rink we closed.

A CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL MANAGER BRETT BEVAN

The redevelopment has given us the opportunity to deliver a facility this community can be genuinely proud of. It has also given us something rarer: the chance to rebuild how the organisation itself operates, from the ground up.

Since commencing as General Manager, Brett Bevan has been working closely with the Board, staff, contractors, user groups and stakeholders to prepare for reopening. In this special feature, he sets out his vision for Canterbury, the priorities that will guide the organisation over the coming years, and why he believes the best days of this rink are still ahead of it.



Brett Bevan, General Manager.

01 What attracted you to the role of General Manager at Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink?

Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink has a remarkable history spanning more than 50 years. It has produced champions, introduced thousands of people to skating and given generations of families memories they still talk about.

That history is earned. It doesn't guarantee anything about the future.

What attracted me was the opportunity to help write the next chapter. The redevelopment is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build something extraordinary — not simply a beautiful facility, but a professionally managed organisation that is financially sustainable, community focused and recognised as one of Australia's leading ice sports venues.

Reopening the doors is only the beginning. Success is creating an organisation our members, coaches, athletes, volunteers, staff and visitors are proud to belong to — where people feel welcomed, feel respected, and want to come back.

02 What are your highest priorities over the next 12 months?

There are five: strengthening our culture, delivering operational excellence, embedding best-practice governance, growing participation, and delivering an outstanding public skating experience.

Operationally, we are modernising our systems, lifting customer service, strengthening financial sustainability and introducing consistent processes. None of that is glamorous work. All of it is the difference between a rink that survives and a rink that thrives.

A clear separation between governance and operations is fundamental. The Board is focused on governance, strategic direction, oversight and accountability. Management and staff are focused on operational excellence, implementing the Board's strategy and delivering outstanding experiences for our community. Everyone knows their lane, and everyone is accountable within it.

The priority I am most focused on is our public sessions and learn to skate programming. Public skating is the front door to this rink. It is where the overwhelming majority of people meet Canterbury for the first time, it is what introduces new families to the sport, and it is central to our financial sustainability. Get the welcome right, get the ice right, get the atmosphere and the value right for a family on a Saturday night, and everything else in this organisation becomes easier — including every discipline that relies on the pathway public skating and learn to skate programming feeds.

Returning competitions to Canterbury also matters and we will actively pursue it. During the redevelopment, events naturally moved elsewhere, and we want Canterbury hosting local, state and national competitions again across figure skating, synchronised skating, speed skating and ice hockey. Events support our athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers, and they bring visitors and trade to local businesses. But competitions sit alongside our other priorities, not ahead of them.

Public skating is the front door to this rink. It is where the overwhelming majority of people meet Canterbury for the first time.

03 Transparency has been a common topic among members. How will communication improve?

Transparency builds trust, and trust is what this organisation needs most.

We will introduce Quarterly Round Table Forums with representatives from every discipline and sport using the rink — a genuine forum to raise ideas, identify challenges and work through solutions together.

We will hold regular Member Town Hall Meetings, where members can hear directly from management, ask questions and get straight answers on projects, priorities and progress.

And we will survey members, customers, coaches and user groups on a regular basis. Those surveys aren't a box-ticking exercise. They are how we measure whether we are actually delivering, and they are how you hold us to account. We will publish what we hear and report back on what we have done about it.

Communication should be continuous, honest, respectful and two-way. Asking the question is easy. Acting on the answer is the part that counts.

04 Canterbury is home to many different sports and disciplines. How will you support everyone fairly?

Every discipline matters. Figure skating, synchronised skating, speed skating, ice hockey, Learn to Skate, recreational skating and public skating all contribute to the success of Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink. There is no ranking, and no group is more important than another.

Let me be clear about what fairness means here. Fairness doesn't mean every group receives exactly the same thing — different disciplines have genuinely different needs. Fairness means every decision is made on its merits, applied consistently, and can be explained openly to anyone who asks.

One of our biggest priorities is building an outstanding Learn to Skate program, because it is the pathway into every discipline we offer. Today's Learn to Skate participant is tomorrow's hockey player, figure skater, speed skater, synchronised skater or lifelong recreational skater. Grow the base and every discipline benefits.

We will also work closely with clubs and governing bodies so that competitions return to Canterbury and every discipline has room to grow.

Fairness means every decision is made on its merits, applied consistently, and can be explained openly to anyone who asks.

05 What role do coaches play in that vision?

Our coaches are central to Canterbury's future. They build confidence, develop athletes and introduce people to a sport many will stay connected to for life.

We are currently progressing an Expression of Interest process for our in-house coaching team, and I have been genuinely delighted by both the quality and the quantity of applications. It says a great deal about where people believe this rink is heading.

Appointments are being made on merit. Coaching ability matters, but it is one part of the assessment. We are also weighing professionalism, behaviour, values, willingness to collaborate,

participant development, alignment with the vision for Canterbury and a demonstrated commitment to continual improvement.

I want to be direct about one point, because members deserve honesty rather than hints. There is no automatic entitlement to an in-house coaching position based on previous involvement with the rink. Not every applicant will be successful. These decisions are never easy and they are not taken lightly, but they are being made against one objective — building the strongest possible coaching team for the long-term success of Canterbury.

Once appointments are finalised, we will introduce six-monthly Coach Forums, where our coaches can collaborate, share ideas, discuss participant development and keep improving together. I want Canterbury to be a rink coaches are proud to work at.

There is no automatic entitlement to a position based on previous involvement with the rink. Appointments are earned.

06 Public skating has always been important to the community. What can people expect?

Public skating is one of our biggest strategic priorities, and this is where things get exciting.

Canterbury has a proud history as a sporting venue. We also intend to make it one of Sydney's premier family entertainment destinations. Those two ambitions are not in conflict — the second is what funds the first.

Our public sessions will be refreshed with a sharp focus on customer experience, accessibility and fun. Friday and Saturday Night Disco sessions are coming back, and we are developing themed events across the year for families, schools, community groups and first-time skaters.

We also have announcements about the public skating program that we are looking forward to sharing very soon. I won't spoil them here — but I think this community is going to love what we have planned.

07 You've spoken a lot about culture. What changes would you like to see?

I'll be completely honest. One of the biggest surprises since starting has been how often people in this community tear each other down.

What I am talking about is the way people here talk about one another. Rumours about families. Attacks on someone's character. Conspiracy theories that take hold simply because nobody stops to ask whether they are true. Sides being taken in disputes that have nothing to do with the people being dragged into them.

I've had people tell me who I should and shouldn't speak to. If I listened to everyone who encouraged me not to speak to someone, I simply wouldn't be talking to anybody.

That isn't the culture I want, and it isn't the culture this rink is going to have.

Healthy debate is welcome. Different opinions make organisations stronger, and nobody should feel they need to agree with everyone else in order to belong here. Argue about a decision as hard as you like. What is not acceptable is turning it on the person — attacking someone's character, spreading rumours about them, or letting a personal grievance matter more than the future of the rink.

Every person who walks through our doors is somebody's child, somebody's parent, somebody's teammate or somebody's coach. They deserve better than to be talked about behind their back at their own rink. And the people most often caught in the middle of it are the young athletes we are all supposed to be here for.

If you have a concern about someone, take it up with them, or bring it through the proper channels and it will be dealt with properly. My door is always open.

There will be a strong focus on accountability, and it applies to everyone at this rink without exception. Where behaviour falls below the standard we expect, it will be addressed. That is not about being heavy-handed; it is the basic obligation any organisation owes to the people who trust it.

At the end of the day, my expectation is simple:



Be a decent human being.

08 Finally, what message would you like to leave with the Canterbury community?

That the future of Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink is genuinely exciting.

We are investing in our facilities, strengthening governance, improving operations, supporting our coaches, growing participation, rebuilding our culture, enhancing public skating and bringing competitions home.

This isn't about one person, one discipline or one group. It is about building an organisation every member can be proud of.

And success won't be measured on reopening day. It will be measured by where Canterbury stands in five, ten and twenty years. If we have grown participation, supported every discipline, built a financially sustainable organisation and created a culture people are proud to be part of, then we will know we got it right.

The redevelopment has given us an incredible building. Together, we will build an incredible organisation. The best is yet to come.

Our Key Commitments

Measurable, public and open to challenge. These are the commitments Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink is making to its members, and the standards we expect to be held to.

Enhancing Public Skating

- Expand public skating opportunities across the week.
- Bring back Friday and Saturday Night Disco sessions.
- Introduce themed public skating events throughout the year.
- Deliver new initiatives that attract families and first-time skaters.

Returning Competitions to Canterbury

- Work proactively with Ice Skating Australia, Ice Hockey NSW, speed skating bodies and other governing organisations.
- Position Canterbury as a preferred venue for local, state and national events.
- Support clubs, officials, volunteers and athletes by creating opportunities to compete at home.
- Use events to increase visitation and strengthen long-term sustainability.

Growing Participation Through Learn to Skate

- Deliver a modern Learn to Skate program that welcomes participants of every age and ability.
- Create clear, published pathways into every skating discipline.
- Support coaches with quality programming and structured participant development.
- Introduce new families to the rink and grow community participation.

Supporting Our Coaches

- Complete a merit-based Expression of Interest process.
- Appoint coaches who demonstrate professionalism, values and a commitment to improvement.
- Provide six-monthly Coach Forums for collaboration and shared development.
- Encourage collaboration between coaches rather than competition.

Communication and Engagement

- Quarterly Round Table Forums with representatives from every discipline.
- Regular Member Town Hall Meetings.
- Routine updates on projects and organisational progress.
- Open, respectful, two-way communication as the standard — not the exception.

Listening and Measuring Performance

- Regular member, customer, coach and user group surveys.
- Measure satisfaction and organisational performance honestly.
- Use the results to drive continual improvement.
- Report back publicly on the actions taken.

Governance and Operations

- Maintain a clear separation between governance and operations.
- Board focused on governance, strategy and oversight.
- Management focused on operational excellence and delivery.
- Strong accountability at every level of the organisation.

Culture

- Create a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone.
- Encourage robust debate about issues while rejecting gossip and attacks on individuals.
- Promote accountability, integrity and professionalism at every level.
- Hold one simple standard for all: be a decent human being.

Meet Our Treasurer

As Canterbury prepares to reopen, we're introducing the people helping to steer the organisation into its next chapter.

A CONVERSATION WITH BOARD TREASURER CHANNA WONG

In this edition we sat down with our Treasurer, Channa Wong — a finance professional, a skating parent, and one of the newest members of the Board.

01 Tell us a bit about yourself — who are you outside the boardroom, and what's your connection to Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink?

The snapshot version: I'm a mum of two teenage boys, we have two cavoodles, I work in finance in banking, and my hobbies are Pilates and playing the cello.



Channa Wong, Board Treasurer.

My youngest discovered ice skating about three years ago, when I took him to a rink with some family friends. He asked to learn, and we haven't looked back since.

By the time he started, Canterbury had already closed — but he was lucky enough to land in the orbit of the wonderful Canterbury coaches, skaters and their beautiful families. We've been so fortunate to be welcomed into this community with open arms, and that welcome is a big part of why I'm here.

02 What made you put your hand up to join the Board at this particular point in the rink's history?

I'll start with the selfish reason. I recently completed my Australian Institute of Company Directors course and I wanted to put it to use and keep developing. Board work is quite different to my day job, so I feel very fortunate to be learning and growing in this role.

But why Canterbury in particular? After the course, I joined a seminar about how to secure board positions, and the speaker suggested looking for a board where you have a close personal connection. When the Canterbury opportunity came up, it felt like the stars had aligned.

This community has done so much to include us in the world of skating — what a fantastic opportunity to give something back.

The rink is also at a genuinely exciting point: completely new infrastructure, new management and a very bright future. Getting it going again after being closed for so long is an enormous task, but I believe we have the right ingredients — a purposeful and driven Board, a forward-thinking GM, and most importantly a tight-knit, supportive community.

Together, we can do this.

03 You've taken on the Treasurer role. What experience are you bringing, and how would you describe the job to a member who has never thought about the rink's finances?

My day job is in finance and my university qualifications are in accounting, finance and law. At work I oversee financial reporting and forecasting — in a very different field, admittedly, so I'll be bringing a slightly different lens to the Board.

As for the job itself, I'd describe it as poking my nose into how the rink makes its money and where it spends it, and being satisfied that we can operate sustainably.

The point of all that is simple. We want the rink open and available to our community for the long term, and ideally we want to run it in a way that lets us keep enhancing what we offer over time.

04 What's one thing you'd like members to understand better about how the rink is funded and run?

We have been very fortunate to be awarded the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grant to build the rink. But once the rink is built, the rest is up to us.

The Co-operative is on the hook for making sure the rink can wash its face — that we have sufficient funding to keep it running on an ongoing basis. And as a co-operative, we rely heavily on our members volunteering their time and energy.

That might mean representing the Board, joining a working committee to help apply for grants, or lending a hand at a working bee. All of it matters, and all of it is vital to keeping this rink open and thriving.

If you can help us, we'd love to hear from you.

We have been very fortunate to be awarded the grant to build the rink. But once the rink is built, the rest is up to us.

05 What are you most looking forward to seeing at Canterbury over the next couple of years?

Hopefully sooner than a couple of years — I'd love to see the Canterbury community back together on home turf.

And I cannot wait to sit in the stands screaming my lungs out for our clubs at a competition at the new Canterbury rink.

06 The rink has been through a significant period of change. What does success look like three years from now?

An active, connected community, with multiple disciplines using the rink and developing their athletes to the highest levels.

I'd also love Canterbury to be seen as a destination by the general public — a welcoming place where adults and kids alike can learn to skate.

And longer term? Wouldn't it be cool if we could host international-level competitions here. It would also be fantastic to see our multi-purpose rooms fully kitted out and well used, both by the Canterbury community and by the wider public.

07 Finally, something members might not guess about you — a hidden talent, a favourite skater, or the first time you stepped onto the ice?

I have tried ice skating, and I hit my ceiling pretty quickly! But I absolutely love the environment and the encouragement at the adult Learn to Skate sessions.

I also thoroughly enjoyed watching the Milano Olympics earlier this year. Holly Harris and Jason Chan in the ice dance were so much fun to watch, and I'm loving seeing Hana Bath doing so well on the junior circuit.

Aussie Aussie Aussie! Oi Oi Oi!

A New Look for Canterbury

Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink is reopening with a new identity.



The new Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink logo.

Following a member poll, the Board has confirmed the adoption of a new logo and brand for the organisation — the first significant change to Canterbury's visual identity in decades, and one that will carry the rink into its next era.

Why now

The rebrand forms part of the Board's broader vision for the future of Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink.

Following the NSW Government's \$17.7 million investment in the redevelopment of the facility, the Board believes the reopening presents an opportunity to modernise the organisation's identity so that it better reflects the quality of the new venue — and our ambition to establish Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink as a contemporary, professional centre of excellence.

A new building deserves an identity to match it. Rather than reopening under a mark designed for a facility that no longer exists, we are reopening as the organisation we intend to be.

The design

At the centre of the new logo is the ice surface itself.

Its clean, open form reflects the shared place that brings every part of our community together — regardless of sport, discipline, age or experience. Rather than representing any one activity, the logo focuses on the rink as our common ground.

The surrounding bands create a sense of movement, continuity and connection. They represent the many individuals, clubs, volunteers and members who come together around the facility, while also acknowledging the co-operative structure at the heart of Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink.

The circular form speaks to unity and longevity, while the layered design gives the identity strength and a sense of forward momentum.

The deep navy reflects the rink's history, stability and resilience, complemented by lighter blues that evoke ice, energy and renewal.

The refreshed typography is clear, confident and enduring. "Canterbury" remains prominent, preserving the strong connection to place, while "Olympic Ice Rink" clearly identifies the facility and its purpose.

Rather than representing any one activity, the logo focuses on the rink as our common ground.

The community decided

A change like this belongs to the community, so the proposed identity went to a member vote.

The response was remarkable. Eighty-three per cent of our members took part in the consultation poll — a level of participation most organisations would envy, and a reminder of just how much this rink means to the people who grew up in it, coached in it, competed in it and skated their first laps in it.

The result: 68 votes for the new logo, and 44 for the existing one.

We know the current logo carries real memories for a great many people, and we thank every member who took the time to vote and to tell us what they thought. Those views were read, considered and genuinely valued.

With a clear majority in favour, the Board has confirmed the new identity — and we could not be more pleased to share it with you.

Seeing it for the first time above the ice at a reopened Canterbury, in a building this community has waited four years for, is going to be a moment worth the wait.

A founder's endorsement

Among those supporting the change is John Coulthard — the last living member of the three founders of Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink, and the designer of the logo the organisation is now retiring.

John has publicly backed the move away from the old identity and, in particular, away from red. As he points out, red was never Canterbury's original colour. He has commended the Board for its vision in taking the step.

The history of our co-operative is not in its logo.

JOHN COULTHARD, FOUNDER

Having the endorsement of the person who designed the mark we are replacing — and who helped establish this rink in the first place — means a great deal to the Board.

Honouring our history

John's point deserves repeating, because it goes to the heart of what this change is and is not. Canterbury's history does not live in a logo. It lives in the founders who built this place, the champions who came through it, the coaches who gave decades to it, and the tens of thousands of families whose first time on ice happened here. None of that is being retired, and none of it could be.

In fact, the opposite is true. The Board and management have some exciting announcements to come about how the reopened Canterbury will pay homage to its proud legacy and history — recognising the people and the moments that made this rink what it is, permanently and prominently, inside the new building.

We are not leaving our history behind. We are giving it a better home.

What happens next

The new identity will be rolled out progressively in the lead-up to reopening. You will see it appear across:

- Signage and wayfinding throughout the redeveloped facility.
- Our website, social media and member communications.
- Staff and coach uniforms.
- Organisational documents, policies and forms.
- Programs, events and merchandise.

A full brand and style guide is being prepared so that the identity is applied consistently wherever it appears.

More than fifty years of champions, first lessons and Saturday nights on the ice belong to this community and always will. What changes is how we present ourselves to the next fifty.

Same rink. Same community. A new era.

Want to get involved?

Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink is a co-operative, and it runs on the time its members give it. The grant builds the rink — running it is up to us. There are plenty of ways to contribute:

- Nominate for a committee or working group when nominations open.
- Help with grant applications, events and fundraising.
- Lend a hand at a working bee.
- Volunteer at competitions and community events.

If you can help, get in touch with the rink — we would love to hear from you.

“The redevelopment has given us an incredible building. Together, we will build an incredible organisation.”

BRETT BEVAN, GENERAL MANAGER

INSIDEEDGE

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