



RORY BROWN

Rory first learned to ski in 1969 at the Shoalhaven River at Nowra and under his father's guidance, he achieved 3 barefooting proficiencies before he turned 8 years old. Soon afterwards, Rory's family joined Shellharbour Ski Club, on Lake Illawarra and from then on, water skiing involved the whole family each weekend and often during the week.

In 1971, tournament skiing was in full swing at Broughton Creek, Berry. and Rory, with his sister Fiona, worked hard at tricks, slalom and jump so that in 1974, Rory represented N.S.W. in Tournament Skiing at the Nationals in South Australia. Also, in about 1973, Rory's father encouraged him to take up marathon skiing which covered double skis, a single ski, double and single finless skis, freeboard and paling. In 1974 Rory represented N.S.W. at the Australian Speed and Marathon Titles in the sub-junior section, gaining a first in marathon and second in speed.

Until 1976, the marathons were held over a 120 mile course and then were shortened to try to encourage a larger field of competitors. In this type of skiing, Rory was defeated only once until he entered the men's ranks in Queensland in 1981 where he was placed third. Rory has continually trained in extremely rough water at Lake Illawarra, near Wollongong, as well as in the ocean and this has assisted his skiing career, particularly when appointed venues are rough. His style in working the paling and finless skis have put Rory to the fore in marathon skiing.

In 1979/80, Rory was awarded the 'most improved' trophy for New South Wales, and was then awarded the 'Skier of the Year' trophy in 1982. For Rory much of 1981 was spent in the United States where he skied for Northern California and he also skied in the U.S. Open Men's Division at the Nationals just after his 19th birthday, taking out 5th place.

A fortnight after his return from the U.S. in November 1981, Rory partnered Singleton skier, Gary Hamilton behind Bevan Lindner's boat 'The Judge' to a good win in the superclass of the 21st International 'Bridge to Bridge' held on the Hawkesbury River. In April 1982, Rory started at the back of the field and went on to a good win in the Bill McLachlan Invitational — a prestige event on the N.S.W. Ski Racing Division calendar.

Rory capped a brilliant season by winning the Open Men's section of Region V, which is part of the U.S. National Power Boat and Ski Racing Association, then went to the U.S.A. where he became only the 2nd foreigner to win the U.S.A. Open Ski Racing Championships in the most brilliant style.