



Kevin Murfitt was the first blind skier to call the Geelong Waterski Club home. A member through the 1990s and 2000s. Kevin's first contact with the club was very nearly his last, because one of the club coaches at the time George Lewis, on receiving a call from Kevin saying he was a blind person wanting to learn to ski, promptly hung up the phone thinking it was a practical joke. Kevin persisted and George relented and introduced Kevin to the club and Richard Crisp. Richard taught Kevin to trick and continued all through Kevin's water-skiing career helping him achieve a world trick record and a number of world championship medals.

Sue Crisp joined the crew a little while later and coached Kevin to slalom world champion in the early 2000s.

Kevin didn't learn to jump at Geelong, that task was taken up by Murray Pigdon and Ben Rintoule at Columbo Creek, and enabled Kevin to achieve world championships in jump and overall and a world record in 2005 that is still standing today.

The Geelong Waterski Club was a favourite training ground for Kevin, and many would remember his guide dog Johie who would sit on the dock waiting for Richard's boat to appear with Kevin in tow, and then when Kevin let go in front of the club Johie would swim out and guide Kevin back to the dock. Kevin says there are too many people to mention at the club who made him welcome and assisted him, but especially wanted to mention then President David Beretta, and Judges Joan Beretta, Di Jackson, and Joy Morris. Kevin also recalls a lot of fun skiing with the likes of Rod Bell, Austin Swain, Karen Jackson and Patrick Crisp.

**“The Geelong Waterski Club was the most important factor in my development and success as a water skier”.**

**Kevin’s career has culminated this year in his induction into the 2021 International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation’s Hall of Fame.**



A photograph of a Hall of Fame plaque for Kevin Murfitt. The plaque has a green background with a red and blue border. On the left is a black and white portrait of Kevin Murfitt, a man with glasses wearing a suit and tie. To the right of the portrait, the name "Kevin Murfitt" is written in a large, bold, green font. Below the name, the year "2021" and the country "AUS" are displayed in white. A paragraph of text in white font provides details about his 12-year international waterskiing career from 1993 to 2005, listing his achievements including nine individual world championships, three overall titles in the V1 (blind) category, and two world records in V1 Tricks and V1 Jump. It also mentions his contributions to the sport and the awards he received.

## Kevin Murfitt

2021 AUS

Over a 12-year International Waterskiing career, 1993-2005, Kevin achieved nine individual World Championships, 3 Overall Titles in the V1 (blind) category and two world records: V1 Tricks in 1993 (850 Points), and V1 Jump in 2005 (19 Metres). In the jump, Kevin broke the previous record by nearly 2 metres as he and his jump guide Andrew did a cut to the ramp, the first time this was done in the V1 Category. His record still stands 15 Years later. The first totally blind skier to compete in all three events and set records in those events at National and State level in Australia. Kevin achieved three awards during this time: Disabled Athlete of the Year, the Williams Angliss ACE (athlete career and education) award, and the Frank Pyke Award of Excellence. Contributed to waterskiing through his involvement on National and IWWF disabled committees throughout his career.