**Vale Dr Kevin Murfitt AM**

It is with great sadness that I write this. Kevin passed away on 6th December 2023

Kevin’s motto in life was ‘no task was too big, no challenge too hard and live life to the full.

We first met Kevin on 1st January 1993. He had skied a little before he lost his sight but he asked Richard to teach him how to trick ski as he wanted to compete in the World Disabled Championships – in July! It was a privilege to work with Kevin, he had such amazing balance, co-ordination, body awareness and determination to succeed and by the end of the summer he was tricking, slaloming, (wake crossing) and jumping with coaches Murray and Ben and was ready to compete. At the World Championships in Nice, France in July 1993 he became World Trick Champion and was placed 7th in slalom and 11th in Jump.

We skied with Kevin for many years and Kevin, Johie and then Traka, his wonderful seeing eye dogs, became our regular crew. When Kevin stopped in front of the club Johie would swim out offer his tail and guide Kevin back to the bank.

His tricking rapidly progressed to toe tricks, his slalom to wide course and unbelievably he started cutting to the jump ramp with his coach and guide, Drew. His World jump record of 19 metres in 2005 stood for 6 years.

Over a 12 year International Waterskiing career, 1993-2005, Kevin achieved 9 individual World Championships, 3 Overall Titles and 2 World records in the V1 (Blind) category.

Kevin was inducted into the IWWF Hall of Fame in 2021

His determination to succeed wasn’t restricted to skiing. He completed a degree, a PhD and became a lecturer at Deakin University. He was Chair of Vision Australia. He cycled through Russia, ran half marathons and travelled the world with his much loved partner, Francois.

Kevin you may have left us physically but spiritually you will always be with us and you have left our family with an unbelievable legacy of ‘Reach for the stars, they can be touched, follow your dreams, they do come true, no task is too big, no challenge too hard and live life to the full.

Our thoughts are with Francois and Kevin’s family at this very sad time.