

PEOPLE & PLACES

It's cool to be put on ice

WITH the roaring 40s having hit, the Bendigo Ice Skating Stadium was one of the coolest places to be this week.

On Australia Day, more than 170 skaters and 200 spectators were at the Hattam Street rink for the Community Cool Sk8 Spectacular.

Ice Skating Club Bendigo spokesman Jenni Clohesy said the day drew visitors from Swan Hill, Horsham, Mildura, Seymour, Wallan and across Melbourne.

"It was a fantastic day," Mrs Clohesy said.

"All of the Scoutie (learner frames) were on the ice, and we had skaters from three-years-old up to 83-years young having a go."

The ice skating club ambassadors were on the ice passing on tips.

"The on-ice helpers ranged from newcomers to national championship skaters," Mrs Clohesy said.

The day included a figure skating exhibition by Melbourne-based Andrew Taylor.

Each Sunday, Taylor travels to Bendigo to train at the Golden Square rink.

Andrew performed on the Australia Day program alongside Bendigo skaters Cassidy-Rae Browell, Sarah Norris and Alice Stephenson.

"A goal of the day was to show the ice skating stadium is a cool place to be," said Mrs Clohesy.

"Bendigo has not had an ice-skating stadium for a couple of summers, but it's back and in a big way."

Mrs Clohesy said ice skating had been helped along by VicHealth funding to by the Scoutie learner frames, and RegionalOne Credit Union kicked in to help buy 20 new sets of safety equipment.

The skaters worked up a hunger and thirst.



IT'S OUR TURN: Cassidy-Rae Browell and Alice Stephenson glide across the ice. Picture: Akuna Digital Imaging Bendigo

"The sausage sizzle was a great success. There were 24 kilos of snags eaten up, along with 14 loaves of bread, and lots of tomato sauce."

Mrs Clohesy said the Community Cool Sk8 could not have been he success it was without the support of the volun-

teers at the barbecue and on the rink.

"The figure skaters, Aussie Skaters, Ice Hockey Development School, Bendigo Raiders, City of Greater Bendigo community grants program, and Bendigo Ice Skating Stadium all played a big part in making the skate a great day for all."