

NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION

January 2015 NEWSLETTER

PREEYA LAUD SKATED AT THE INDIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Preeya travelled to India with her father over the summer holidays and was invited to skate as a guest at the Indian National Championships while there. The Championships were originally scheduled to be held in Shimla. However, heavy snow fall blocked all routes to Shimla, so it was rescheduled to New Delhi. As a guest, Preeya wasn't marked, but, by all accounts, she had a great skate.

As you may know, Ice figure skating in India is a very new sport, however, the young Indian skaters are described as very enthusiastic and keen learners.

Pictured from left to right are Nishchay Luthra, Aashu Singh, Aldrin Mathew, Manal Kanojia, Preeya Laud and Shreya Dalal.



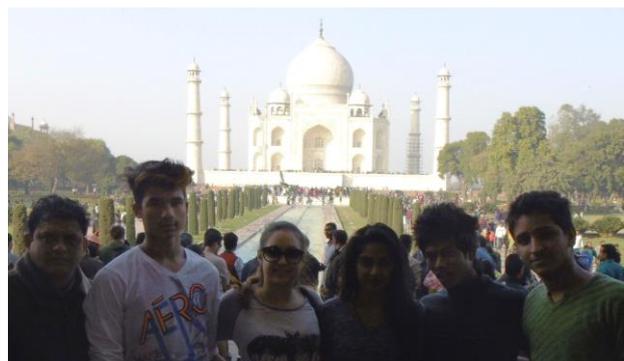
Preeya wrote the following about her experience

India was a complete culture shock to me. It was the first third world country I had been to, although not long in to my trip I was back in my natural habitat at the rink - a small indoor rink called "Iskate" on the sixth floor of the Ambinence Mall New Delhi. This was where I spent most of my time and effort. I arrived expecting to find a few people around the highest skate school level, although I was quite shocked to find they have some very promising skaters amongst them. Some travelled from wide and far to compete at nationals - America, China, Russia and the UK.

Before the 11th Indian Nationals they held a camp for all Indian skaters to attend. As Shreya (one of the Americans) and I had slightly higher skills than the others we ended up helping assist with this camp, which was a new experience for me, as I helped with not only solo skating but also pairs. Although challenging this was a great learning curve. This was then followed by their 11th Annual Nationals where everyone put their best foot forward and upped their game from the camp; trying harder and newer things. Although India has a long way to come as most of the skater transitioned from roller skating, they show a lot of potential in their skating as a nation and I hope to help them develop it in the future.

In addition to skating, Preeya managed to see a bit of India. Pictured is Preeya with some of her fellow skaters who travelled with Preeya and her father to visit the Taj Mahal.

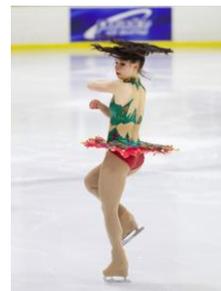
It sounds like a really interesting and eventful trip.



ALLIE ROUT WILL BE COMPETING AT THE WINTER UNIVERSITY GAMES IN SPAIN

Allie Rout will be competing at the 27th Winter Universiade 2015 to be held in Granada, Spain, 3-8 February.

We wish Allie all the very best for this competition.

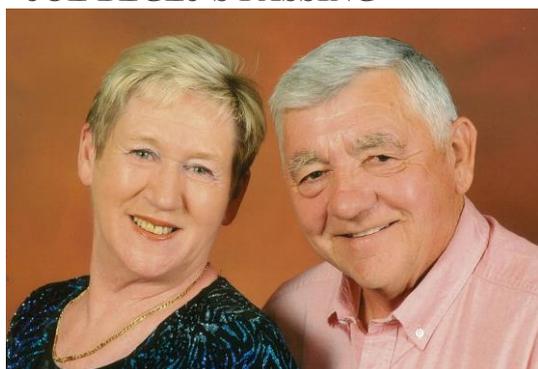


SUE PETRICEVIC AND SANDRA WILLIAMSON LEADLEY TO JUDGE AT 4C'S

Sue and Sandra will both be judging at the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships to be held in Seoul, Korea, 10 – 15 February.

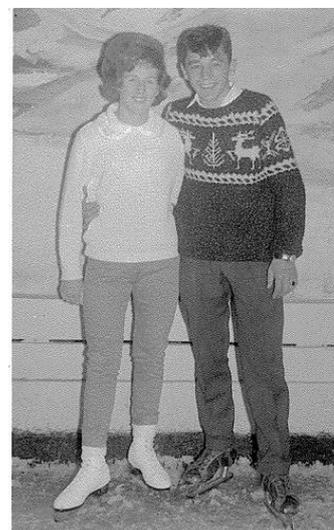
Prior to the Four Continents competition, Sandra will also be returning to Dumfries, Scotland again this year to judge at the Trophy D'Ecosse 2015, which is a synchronized skating competition to be held 6-8 February.

JOE BEGEJ'S PASSING



Jeanne Begej is well known to most of our members as, among other things, one of our senior judges and a life member of the NZIFSA. Very sadly, Jeanne's husband Joe died on Wednesday 7 January after a short battle with cancer.

Jeanne and Joe met at the Centaurus Road Ice Rink in Christchurch in 1962 when they were both teenagers. Joe played ice hockey and Jeanne was figure skating. They got engaged 5 years later and married in 1969. As well as the ice hockey, Joe was also a very good cricketer, but, his passion was golf, which is where he directed a lot of his energies, particularly in recent years. Joe continued to support all Jeanne's skating endeavours over the years, and has been a valued member of the Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club. His passing leaves a big gap.



Our thoughts are with Jeanne and her extended family.

TOUGH NEW ANTI-DOPING LAWS COME IN FORCE IN 2015

New Zealand ice figure skaters are warned that tough new anti-doping rules came into force from January 1, 2015.

The rules will see those who intentionally cheat by using performance enhancing drugs or methods face longer bans from all sport.

New Zealand's Sports Anti-Doping Rules have been updated to bring them into line with the World Anti-Doping Agency's 2015 World Anti-Doping Code.

The chief executive of Drug Free Sport New Zealand, Graeme Steel, says the rules will help to better protect clean skaters.

“These new rules are powerful and far-reaching and will enable anti-doping organisations to more easily catch those who intend to cheat.

“New Zealand has proud tradition of clean sport and Drug Free Sport NZ works hard to ensure that tradition is maintained and continued. We believe these updated rules are a significant step forward in the fight against doping in sport,” Mr Steel says.

Key changes introduced as a result of the revised World Anti-Doping Code include:

- longer bans of up to four years for those who dope intentionally
- penalties for athletes who associate with anyone who has previously committed a doping offence
- sanctions for those who help to cover-up doping
- an extension of the anti-doping rules to cover athlete support personnel.

“The introduction of longer bans sends a clear message to skaters that intentional doping will not be tolerated. Bans of this length could effectively end an athlete's sporting career so they are taking a huge risk if they choose to dope,” Mr Steel says.

He adds that those who support athletes will also need to be aware of the changes because they are now bound by the anti-doping rules and can also face penalties.

“It's vital that everyone involved in ice figure skating is committed to being drug free and this includes those supporting athletes like coaches and trainers. There's no level playing field if we don't have everyone on board and following the rules,” Mr Steel says.

Other changes that have been introduced include a greater focus on investigations and intelligence to identify doping and target testing.

“In the future, the fight against doping will increasingly be about intelligence gathering, investigation and targeted testing. This intelligence-led approach will make it easier to catch the real cheats and protect all those competing cleanly and fairly,” Mr Steel says.

Drug Free Sport NZ has produced a factsheet on key changes introduced as part of the new code. Download one from the website <http://www.drugfreesport.org.nz> or request one via info@drugfreesport.org.nz

You can find out more about the revised Code and the new rules at Drug Free Sport New Zealand's website: www.drugfreesportnz.org.nz

Wendy has available some pocket guides to the new laws with lists of commonly used medications and cards to show your doctor or pharmacist. Those skaters who will be competing nationally or internationally should be familiar with the anti-doping laws and should have these cards.

All other skaters (and their parents/coaches) should be aware of these laws.

Contact Wendy on antidoping@nzifsa.org.nz if you would like cards sent to you or if you have any other queries.

INTRO TO COACHING AND LEVEL 1 COACHING COURSES IN 2015

There are a number of coaching courses planned for 2015.

- Intro to Coaching Course – Auckland: February 14th & 15th. **Note - registrations and course fees are due by 31 January.**
- Level 1 – Coaching Course – Auckland: March 7th & 8th
The course will start Saturday morning and not finish until approximately 7pm on the Sunday. Anyone attending from South Island will need to fly in Friday evening and leave Monday morning.
- Intro to Coaching Course – Christchurch: April 17th & 18th
The course will start Friday afternoon and finish Saturday midday.
- A Level 2 course is in the works and more details will be sent out as soon as we have them from the Australian Professional Skaters Association. It is expected that there will be a series of modules to be completed, starting in Feb, with a seminar held after the 2015 Australian Figure Skating Champs.

If you have questions about any of the above courses, please contact the NZIFSA Coaching Director, Kim Lewis (coachingdirectornz@gmail.com).

SKATER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CAMPS

A keen group of skaters have just completed the first of our two Skater Development Camps for the year. This camp was held in Auckland Friday 23 - Sunday 25 January and was attended by skaters from around the country.



A second Development Camp will be held in Queenstown Friday 10 - Sunday 12.

All International and Talent/Age ID Development Squad skaters are expected to attend this if at all possible. Other skaters who would like to take part are most welcome to attend, but will be required to pay a fee of \$200 each for the camp as well as cover all their own travel and accommodation costs.

An email will be sent out to all TC registered skaters in the near future with details about this camp and how to register. In the interim, please contact the NZIFSA Skater Development Director (liudmila.sk8coach@me.com) for more information.

OFFICIALS' TRAINING FOR ICE DANCE

There will be a seminar for ice dance judges and technical panel officials in Christchurch in early May. Details will be sent out to all ice dance judges and officials and will also be in February's newsletter.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR OUR 2015 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nationals this year will be held at Paradise Ice Skating, Botany, Auckland from Thursday 24 to Sunday 27 September, with unofficial practices being held on the afternoon of Wednesday 23 September.

The North Islands Ice Skating Sub Association, who are hosting the event, have been able to get some good blocks of ice time on the Thursday and Friday, but there were a few challenges with ice time over the weekend that has dictated how we organise the events. The proposed schedule is as follows with the official practices scheduled on the same day as the competition, except for the adults

Thursday 24 Sept		Juvenile Freeskate Pre-Primary Freeskate Novice Short Program All Pattern or Short Dance Synchronised Short Program
Friday 25 Sept		Primary Freeskate Intermediate Freeskate Novice Freeskate Junior Short Program Senior Short Program All Free Dance Synchronised Freeskate
Saturday 26 Sept	a.m.	Junior Freeskate Senior Freeskate
	p.m.	All adult official practices (including syncho)
Sunday 27 Sept	a.m.	All adult competition

The competition is scheduled to finish at 12.15pm on the Sunday, and at this stage the banquet is planned for the Saturday night.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board is on Monday 2 February and the March meeting is scheduled for 10 March. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by Tuesday 3 March for the March meeting.

2015 AGM OF THE NZ ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION, INC

The AGM will be held in Queenstown on Saturday 11 April at the Queenstown Primary School. Delegates that are flying in should plan to arrive before 9.45 and depart any time after 4pm on the Saturday. The AGM will start at 10.30am, with forums to be held 12.45pm till 3pm approximately. One of the big forum discussion items will be the Selection and Skater Development Policies that are currently up for review. We would like to encourage members to get involved in any discussions their clubs have in preparation for this forum, so that your club delegates are as well informed as possible as to their members views. All members are most welcome to attend the forums, and for that matter the AGM (though they won't have speaking rights at the AGM unless they are a delegate).

A call for nominations for the positions that are up for election this year will be sent out to members very soon along with additional information about the forums. Please give some thought to whether you are in a position to put your hand up for one of the positions on the Board, Operations Group or Development Group.

All the best in skating,
Sandra Williamson-Leadley and Jeanette King