



## MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is long overdue and we can only apologise for the delay getting this newsletter out to you. Busy work and home lives do impact on the time we have available to do all the NZIFSA activities. These are all done on a voluntary basis and sometimes there just aren't enough hours in the day.

There has been quite a lot happening over the past four months and we've got a busy year ahead of us as you will see from the content of this newsletter. Lots of exciting things happening.

### JANUARY SKATE CAMPS IN AUCKLAND AND DUNEDIN

The North Island Ice Skating Sub Association (NIISSA) organised, for the second year running, for Igor Tchiniaev to come out and run a skate camp in January. NIISSA also worked with Dunedin Ice Skating Club (DISC) to get Igor to Dunedin to run a camp there too.

The NZIFSA provided some financial support to both NIISSA and DISC to help keep reduce the fees skaters needed to pay for these camps. Additional support was also provided to NZIFSA Development Squad members to attend one or other of these camps.



29 skaters and 7 coaches attended the NIISSA training camp with Igor Tchiniaev



28 skaters attended the main camp and 10 skaters the “junior” camp in Dunedin

***The following is a write up from Brooke Tamepo of the NIISSA camp with Igor in Auckland***

Igor came to NZ just in time to kick start the training season. We worked a lot on speed, edges, quickness, and presentation all which are very important aspects of improving our skating.

Igor never fails to lift our spirits and inspire us. His love and passion for skating is something I always admire. He manages to bring skaters out of their shells, gives us a newly found confidence, and pushes our skating to the absolute limit.



I love the positive energy Igor brings with him wherever he goes and look forward to his next visit!

**Rivers Richens sent us the following account of her experience at the Dunedin Camp**



The 5 day Igor camp in Dunedin was awesome. It was great having a coach that would demonstrate jumps and exercises on ice. Igor was always high energy and enthusiastic which passed on to students. He was so keen on teaching us that the classes ran over time and he has to be told to move on to the next group. Igor gave everyone individual attention and was really encouraging and got all the skaters to encourage each other. He also took some off-ice classes with exercises to help with jumps and we had a lot of fun practicing cartwheels. I would definitely attend his camp again.

## **A special 'Thank You' to Rosie Armstrong and her family**

Following the camps in Auckland and Dunedin, Igor and his wife, Varvara, had organised to do a little sightseeing. Unfortunately, they were involved in a car crash. While Igor wasn't badly hurt, Varvara did have to spend quite a bit of time in Waikato hospital undergoing surgery and treatment before she was well enough to be able to travel home. We are all very grateful to Rosie and her extended family for the huge amount of support provided to Igor and Varvara, and to all the others in our skating community who offered support where they could.

## **APRIL DEVELOPMENT CAMPS IN AUCKLAND AND DUNEDIN**

### **Development camp for Pre-Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile, Auckland, 16-18 April**

The Pre-Elementary to Juvenile level development camp was held in Auckland 16-18 April and moderated by Debbie Darvill, Stephanie Woodacre and Bess Cao. The camp was attended by 18 skaters and 3 coaches, and was a very worthwhile and successful camp



### **Development Camp for Basic Novice A to Senior Level skaters and Level 1 and higher coaches, Dunedin 23-27 April**

The Basic Novice A to Senior Level camp was held in Dunedin 23-27 April and moderated by Christy Krall. This camp was attended by 27 skaters and 7 coaches and was well received by all. This was a great opportunity for our skaters and coaches to work with a top level coach, and we are particularly grateful to Christy for making herself available at relatively short notice, when Manon Perron was unable to come.



"Group A" skaters with Cristy Krall



Christy Krall working with “Group B”



## DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the coach and skater development activities above, NZIFSA has been looking for other ways to support the development of our skaters and coaches. The introduction of a skater Development Scholarship this year is one such initiative. Skaters in the NZIFSA Development Squad were given the opportunity to apply for one of two \$4000 scholarships. One scholarship was for skaters who were Juvenile to Basic Novice B level and the other was for skaters who were Advanced Novice to Senior Level. We had a total of nine applications and these were assessed by the Skater Scholarship Review Committee. NZIFSA are very pleased to announce that the Skater Development scholarships have been awarded as follows:

Juvenile to Basic Novice B Scholarship – jointly awarded to Mirika Armstrong and Douglas Gerber



Advanced Novice to Senior Scholarship – Ella Smith

## **Creating a fund to support an ongoing scholarship programme**

NZIFSA are looking at how we might develop a fund to support an ongoing scholarship programme. We would welcome any donations, big or small. We would also welcome any suggestions members might have as to how we might support this programme.

Sandra Williamson-Leadley has already made a cash donation towards this fund and has also donated a few brand-new skating related items for sale with all profits going to the Skater Scholarship fund. These items are listed on the members Classified Forum and include:

- 1 x ceramic photo frame \$50.00 + \$5.00 postage
- 2 x silver blade keyring \$10.00 each - postage included
- 1 x acrylic and leather skate keyring \$10.00 - postage included
- 1 x pair of silver skate earrings (for pierced ears) \$25.00 - postage included
- 3 plastic folders (skate themed) \$7.50 - postage included

If you are interested in the above items, please contact Sandra Williamson-Leadley, [sleadley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sleadley@xtra.co.nz). Sandra will continue to donate skating themed items that she purchases when overseas and will advertise through the classified ads when these are available.

Thank you in advance for your support!

## **TC Registration Fee to increase next year**

The Test and Competition (TC) Registration fee is to increase next year for the first time in many years. All 2019 TC registration will be \$85 and the additional \$10 will be directed towards skater scholarships.

## **Coach Development Scholarships**

The NZIFSA also had some Olympic Solidarity Funding available, via the New Zealand Olympic Committee, for funding two coach scholarships. For a variety of reasons we did not receive any applications for these scholarships and so were not able to access the Olympic Solidarity funding. The Board are committed to exploring avenues to supporting coach development at a variety of levels and via a range of methods. We would welcome coach input as to how best we might frame future coach scholarship opportunities. Please forward any recommendations / suggestions to the General Secretary, [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz).

## **COACHING COURSES**

### **KiwiSkate Coaching Courses**

Three Introduction to Coaching courses have already been held this year – one in Christchurch 10 & 11 February (10 coaches), one in Auckland 17 & 18 February (20 coaches), and then one in Dunedin 17 & 18 March (21 coaches).

### **Upcoming Level 1 Coaching Course, Gore, 30 June and 1 July**

We are pleased to be able confirm that a Level 1 Coaching Course is to be held in Gore 30 June and 1 July. Online registrations are to be completed by 28 May. Attendees at this course must be current KiwiSkate Accredited coaches and hold Inter-Silver Level tests. Please

contact the Coaching Director at [coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz) if you have any questions regarding eligibility.

## OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

In preparation for the upcoming competition season our officials have been busy doing some training so that they are as prepared as possible.

A very successful training seminar was held in Christchurch on 5 & 6 May, for Singles Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists and for Data/Replay Operators. Clarence Ong, who is an international Tech Specialist from Australia, and Sandra Williamson-Leadley moderated the training for Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists, and Ina Paul moderated the training for the Data Operators/ Replay Operators. The training was attended by 3 Technical Controllers, 13 Technical Specialists, and 12 Data Operators/Replay Operators, including some who are completely new to the roles. As part of the seminar everyone took part in mock panels and received feedback on how they performed and what they did well or needed to work on.

A Program Components Seminar for Judges was run in Christchurch on 12 & 13 May. Sandra Williamson-Leadley was the moderator for this training. There were 19 judges, including probationary judges, who attended this training, which again was very well received and was a very valuable refresher for even our more experienced judges before the competition season gets underway.

## SABRINA SNOAD – COMPETING IN EUROPE WITH NOVA

For those who don't know Sabrina, she is extremely keen on synchronised skating, and this passion has taken her from Auckland to Australia, and most recently Europe, where she has been training and competing. We asked her to send in an account of her trip earlier this year to Europe with Nova.

Since late 2016 I have been lucky enough to skate with the Brisbane based senior synchronised ice skating team, Nova. I have travelled back and forth to train and this year was lucky enough to travel with the team to compete in Europe.

We left Brisbane on the 16<sup>th</sup> January, travelling as a team, with 17 skaters, our coach (Natalie Bartlett), two team managers and two chaperones, for my first international competition experience.

The first competition was in Salzburg Austria at the Mozart Cup, where we came 9<sup>th</sup> out of 13. The result was exactly what we wanted (aiming for top 10), and we skated quite well. Overall there was 90 teams at the competition through all the grades, so it was quite incredible to be at such an event. The atmosphere was very friendly and we got to interact with other teams like Les Supreme Junior and US Adrian College Senior Team, where the trading of small hair flags and badges was quite serious.



The second competition was the French Cup in Rouen France. There was a pool of 10 teams, the majority of which were amongst the top in the world, so we came 10th as expected. Our skates were a bit rough compared to Salzburg, as the arena was much larger, with a bigger crowd and many more experienced skaters watching us. This competition also had a parade



through the town and large draw/opening ceremony. There was a very intense and exciting atmosphere, as this competition has now been going for 24 years. The competition overall had a much more serious feel because it was a qualifier for the top 3 Finnish teams for the World Championships. But casually walking past the likes of

Nexxice, Paradise and Marigold Ice Unity was both terrifying and thrilling. I almost felt as though we should bow down to them.

Watching them compete live was incredible, as the speed of a performance isn't always portrayed that well through video. We did feel a bit out of depth, a bit like the little fish in the big sea, however one of the Finnish judges commended Nova by saying 'at least you are in the sea.'

The skating was truly amazing and I loved every minute of it. It felt surreal to be competing at these competitions when a year ago I was still watching them on the live stream from Auckland. It was certainly a real "pinch me" moment before stepping on the ice. I definitely came away from my first internationals eager to work hard and looking forward to what the 2018 season brings.

## **UPCOMING COMPETITIONS IN NZ**

A reminder to skaters, particularly those that are new to competing, that details of upcoming competitions can be found on the NZIFSA website <http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/>. Your Club's test/competition secretary or secretary will also have information available and should be able to assist with entries.

## **CHANGES TO GRADES NAMES IN NEW ZEALAND**

NZIFSA have recently made some changes to the names of grades to reflect the Basic Novice and Intermediate Novice grade names that the ISU have announced for Singles & Pairs. For Singles, Basic Novice A is now Basic Novice, and Basic Novice B is now Intermediate Novice. For Ice dance, Pre-Novice is now Basic Novice and what was Basic Novice is now Intermediate Novice.

## **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

### **Four Continents, Taipei 22-27 May 2018**

Sue Petricevic and Sandra Williamson-Leadley both judged at the ISU Four Continents Championships in Taipei earlier this year.

### **Enga, Italy - Italian Adult Competition (May 5 - 6)**

Sue Hoseit – Adult Silver Ladies Freeskate IV & V – 2/2

Sue Hoseit – Adult Silver Ladies Artistic IV & V – 2/3

### **ISU International Adult Competition, Obertsdorf, Germany (May 14- 19)**

Sue Hoseit is also competing this week in Obertsdorf, Germany at the ISU International Adult

### **Oceania International Novice Figure Skating Competition Melbourne 16-18 May**

We have a group of 10 skaters competing this week at the Oceania International Novice Competition in Melbourne. This competition is run by Ice Skating Australia in conjunction with NZIFSA, and with funding support from the International Skating Union Development Commission. This competition is the first of what we intend to be an annual competition to be hosted 2 years in Australia and then 1 year in NZ (2020).

Basic Novice A - Ladies

Mirika Armstrong  
Neske Groenewegen  
Lucienne Holtz  
Praewa Saguanwongse  
Emmanuel Tsang  
Natasha Woodacre

Basic Novice A - Men

Star Richens

Basic Novice B - Ladies

Claudia Clarke  
Jessica Hay  
Rivers Richens

### **Oceania Inter-Club Competition Melbourne 16 May**

There is also an interclub competition being held in conjunction with the International Novice Competition

Cubs - Girls

Christine Aixinjueluo  
Marina Chen  
Jazmyn Evangelou

Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader are Jeanette King and Nicki Holtz.

We have the following officials at this event: Sandra Williamson-Leadley (International Tech Controller), Kendra Street (National Judge), and Ina Paul (International Data/Replay).

We'll have the results for you from these two competitions in the next newsletter.

## UPCOMING INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Just a reminder that if you wish to compete in an interclub competition in Australia, you need to request permission from the NZIFSA via the Secretary [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz). This should be done in plenty of time and before you purchase your airfares. The NZIFSA encourage NZ skaters to compete in the following interclub competitions:

**Hollins Trophy** – Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink (Sydney) 8-11 June (this is also a competition where skaters can gain selection to be an A or B representative squad member).

NOTE TO SKATERS: the TES they are aiming to meet are the 17/18 TES that are in the current Selection Policy.

We have the following skaters that have requested and been granted permission to compete at Hollins Trophy:

Elementary Ladies (Juvenile equivalent)	Marina Chen Jazmyn Evangelou Cara Tang
Basic Novice A Ladies	Victoria Larsen Jenna Scholtz Rebekah Sime
Basic Novice A Mens	Stepan Kadlcik Dwayne Li
Advanced Novice Ladies	Hannah Sime
Advanced Novice Men	Douglas Gerber
Junior Ladies	Danielle Gebser Jojo Hong Katie Sewell Ella Smith Asia Tapealava
Junior Men	Harrison Bain Brian Lee
Senior Ladies	Sarah MacGibbon Brooke Tamepo

It's great to see so many skaters entered into this competition and we wish them all the best.

**Winter Sun Trophy** – Acacia Ridge Ice Rink (Brisbane) 11-15 July (tbc)

**Crystal Challenge** – O'Brien Arena (Melbourne) 10-13 August.

Note: Ice Skating Australia (ISA) has changed their age requirements for Basic Novice grades that has had an impact on eligibility for some of our skaters. This will have an impact on selections for the Australian Figure Skating Champs and that will be addressed when the Board reviews the NZIFSA Selection Policy.

## **JUNIOR GRAND PRIX ALLOCATIONS**

The ISU have allocated New Zealand the following Junior Grand Prix events for singles:

Linz, Austria 29 August–1 September

Harbin, China 19-22 September

We will be sending one Junior Lady and one Junior Man to the above two competitions. We expect to be able to confirm which skaters will be attending which event in the newsletter following the Hollins Trophy competition. NZ do not have any pairs or dance couples eligible to compete at the JGP events.

## **PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR OUR 2018 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The following is a provisional schedule for the 2018 New Zealand Figure Skating Championships to be held in Auckland 6-9 October. Every effort will be made to hold the events on the days listed below, the order of the events is however likely to change.

### **Friday 5 October**

Unofficial practices (Adults and Synchro)

### **Saturday 6 October**

All Adult grades

Basic Novice, Mixed Age, Advanced Novice and Adult Synchro FS

Junior & Senior Synchro SP

### **Sunday 7 October**

Basic Novice Ladies & Men

Junior Ladies & Men SP

Pairs

Dance PD & SD

Waltzing Trophies

Junior & Senior Synchro FS

### **Monday 8 October**

Juvenile Ladies & Men

Advanced Novice Ladies & Men SP

Junior Ladies & Men FS

Senior Ladies & Men SP

Dance FD

### **Tuesday 9 October**

Intermediate Novice Ladies & Men

Intermediate Ladies & Men

Advanced Novice Ladies & Men FS

Senior Ladies & Men FS

Official practices are expected to be held each morning with competition in the afternoon/evening. Ice time will be made available for unofficial practices. We'll have details for you closer to the time.

The Banquet will be held on the Tuesday evening, and if at all possible, we encourage you to make your travel plans so that you can attend this.

The qualifying TES for entry into our National Championships are included in the Technical Announcement which has been posted on the competitions section of the NZIFSA website.

### **Anti-doping seminar - Monday 8 October**

An anti-doping seminar is planned for Monday 8 October at 11.15am. Attendance at this seminar is compulsory for any skaters wanting to compete internationally. Selection to the International Squad will be contingent on attending this seminar, so travel plans should be made to accommodate this.

### **PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DETAILS ON NZIFSA WEBSITE**

We would like to ask that all skaters and club committee members please check to make sure their contact details are all correct on the NZIFSA website. Skaters, can you also please make sure that you have a recent "head and shoulders" photo loaded onto the NZIFSA website. If we need a photo of you for a newsletter for example, or for the Nationals programme, that is what we use. If you do not have a photo in there, we may just substitute a photo of an animal like a warthog!

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

We'd like to extend out congratulations to the following members of our skating family on the recent arrivals of their babies

Congratulations to Melissa Cummings, Senior level Judge and Figure Skating Exec of Ice Sports Southlands, on the birth of Melia Claire Cummings on 15 April



Congratulations also to Mathieu Wilson, Level 1 Coach in Auckland, on the arrival of Ellie Hazel Wilson on 29 April. A little sister for Micah.

## 2018 AGM OF THE NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION INC

The NZIFSA AGM was held on Saturday 7 April 2018 at Cockle Bay School in Auckland. Each year, at the AGM, elections are held for approximately half the positions that make up the NZIFSA. Which positions are elected each year is spelled out in the Constitution (which you can find on the NZIFSA website). In addition to the elected positions, the Board are responsible for the appointment of a small number of Operations Group roles. These appointments were considered at the Board meeting on the Sunday following the AGM.

In presenting the outcome of the elections we thought it might be useful to provide an outline again this year on the structure and functions of the various groups within the NZIFSA. Those that were elected at the 2018 AGM are indicated by an \* and those that were appointed by the Board are indicated by \*\*.

<b>Board</b>
Responsible for strategic planning, policy review and the prudent financial management of the Association.
President – Anita Tamepo Vice-President – Grant Howie* Board members - Keith Darvill, Sue Hoseit and Laura Thompson*
<b>Operations Group</b>
Responsible for the day to day operation of the Association. In addition to the more visible roles like the Secretary responding to communications, and the Treasurer keeping track of the finances, there are all sorts of other activities that take place in the background that make the organisation function. For example the police checking of all our coaches, the oversight of the test results, and the grant applications to mention just a few.
CEO – Jeanette King General Secretary – Bridget Danbrook* Treasurer – Arnold Schmidt Test & Competition Secretary – Ina Paul Anti-Doping Officer – Wendy Thompson Marketing & Promotions Officer – Vacancy to be filled by Board appointment Child Protection Officer – Rachel K Grants Officer – Sam Snoad Honorary Solicitor – Peter Woods**

<b>Development Group</b>
Responsible for coordinating the development of officials, skaters, coaches and the Rules and Regulations.
Skater Development Director – Sandra Williamson-Leadley Technical Director – Connor McIver* Officials Director – vacancy to be filled by Board appointment Coaching Director – Caitlyn Paul High Performance Director – this position is currently vacant, and the Board is not intending to appoint anyone to this role at the moment.

A special thank you to two of our Board members, Barbara Lindsay-Taylor and Wendy Gardiner, who stepped down from their roles this year. Barbara was elected as a Board member in 2012 and has been Vice President since 2014. Prior to that Barbara had contributed to the Technical Committee of the then NZFSA over a number of years. Her extensive knowledge and experience will be missed on the Board. Wendy Gardiner was elected as a Board member in 2014 and has been a very valuable member of the Board during that time. She's always been good at asking the difficult questions.

Special thanks also to Jeanne Begej (Officials Director – 2 years), Anna Douglas (ad hoc appointee to assist the Officials Director - 2 years) and Aleisha McCall (Marketing and Promotions Officer - 4 years), for their contributions via these roles. They have each signalled that they would be stepping back from their roles and have not sought nomination again this year. Jeanne and Aleisha have, however, offered their ongoing support until the Board can appoint someone to these roles. Barbara Lindsay-Taylor has also offered to assist Jeanne with the Officials Director role in the interim also.

## **MOVE TO USING ON-LINE REGISTRATIONS**

As many of you will have noticed, we have recently moved to using an online registration system for a number of activities, including development camps, officials training and the upcoming Level 1 Coaching course. We are still ironing out a few wrinkles in how we use this, so please bear with us. If you have any feedback on the use of these online forms, please send this to our General Secretary, Bridget Danbrook, at [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz), so that we can continue to try and improve the services we provide to you.

As part of the on-line registrations we can and will be applying close off dates. Late registrations will not be accepted for activities unless there are extenuating circumstances.

## **SPECIAL PLEA – PLEASE DON'T SEND PHOTOS OF DOCUMENTS**

As many of you will have noticed, we've recently moved to using online registration for camps. There are, however, still times that you will need to send a document to NZIFSA. Can you please scan and send this rather than taking a photo on your phone. It might be quick and easy for you, but it causes headaches for others. Quite often the photos are very difficult to read and there's quite a bit of messing round trying to print them if hard copy is needed.

## **REGISTRATION FOR TEST SESSIONS**

Getting ice time for tests is often very difficult and your judges give up their time to judge these tests, so we all need to do our bit to ensure we are not wasting their time by putting forward skaters when they are not ready to pass their tests. Test forms must be signed off by the skaters' coach to confirm that the skater is ready to do their test. Parents please do not try and pressure your coach to sign off on a test form before the skater is ready to take their test.

For our Auckland members, we would like to remind you that parents and coaches should not be swapping skaters in and out of tests without the consent of the home club TC Secretary in

conjunction with the hosting Test Co-ordinator. Parents and coaches **should not** double book tests. We also understand that some people are booking in tests in November "as they fill up and don't want to miss out". This is not helpful. Skaters should only be booked in when they are ready to test, and if they fail a test, only then do they submit a further test booking. When a test form is signed by a coach and submitted to the home club TC Secretary it is confirming that the skater is ready to sit that test now – not in six months' time.

## **START THINKING ABOUT NOMINATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AND SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS NOW.**

Nominations for Administrator and Sportsperson of the year are due by 1 September each year. We'd really like to see at least one nomination for each of these awards from each club. So now is the time to start thinking about nominating those outstanding administrators and the skaters who display the attributes of a great sportspersonship.

Nominations must be received by the General Secretary [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by **1 September**. Nominations can come from individuals or from Clubs. The Board will be the selectors for this award and will announce the recipients at the social function at the end of the 2018 NZ National Championships.

### **Criteria for the Administrator of the Year Award**

- Take on a leadership or integral role in their club / sub-association
- Take on administrative/organisational roles and perform their duties in a manner that progresses the sport or enhances the functioning of the club / sub-association.
- Positive role model for other administrators of our sport
- Possibly work in a mentoring role within the club / sub-association

### **Criteria for Nomination for Sportsperson of the Year Award**

- Positive role model for other skaters
- Demonstrate a 'fair play' attitude/good sportspersonship
- Positive and tangible contribution to their club and the sport in general
- Active role in the activities offered by the club and/or skate school, e.g. club nights, fundraising, KiwiSkate coaching sessions, etc.

NOTE: While skating achievement is considered, it is not the basis of this award

All the best in skating  
Anita Tamepo and Jeanette King