

## NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

### AUSTRALIAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS – SYDNEY

The following skaters will be representing New Zealand at the Australian Figure Skating Championships to be held at Penrith Ice Palace, Sydney 27 November – 4 December 2015.

<i>Primary Ladies</i>	Pei Lin Lee Ella Smith
<i>Intermediate Ladies</i>	Emma Taggart
<i>Novice Ladies</i>	Anastasia Kuznetsova Zara Anthony-Whigham
<i>Novice Men</i>	Harrison Bain
<i>Junior Ladies</i>	Brooke Tamepo Tracy Danbrook Christina Floka Preeya Laud
<i>Junior Men</i>	Michael Durham Brian Lee
<i>Novice Dance</i>	Emma Cunningham and Jake Meyer

We wish them all the very best for this competition and look forward to being able to bring you their results in the December newsletter.

### RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

#### Junior Grand Prix, Zagreb, Croatia, 7-11 October

The second of the two Junior Grand Prix competitions we were allocated by the ISU was held in Zagreb, Croatia. The following two skaters represented us at this event and both can be very proud of their performance:

Brooke Tamepo	26 <sup>th</sup> / 28
Michael Durham	18 <sup>th</sup> / 24

Brooke sent us the following note on her Junior Grand Prix experience.



My first Junior Grand Prix experience was amazing. After our long journey we finally made it to Zagreb to find that our luggage hadn't followed us all the way there! Unfortunately I missed one of my unofficial practices but I made it to my second where I was on the ice with some of the top skaters including the champion Marin Honda. Being on the ice with these skaters was both frightening and motivating. Athletes jumping 3Lz+3T at high speed all around me was not something that regularly happens at home! I was very happy with the performance of my programs on competition and felt satisfied coming off of the ice however knowing that I could have done much better technically. Being able to watch some of the best Junior skaters in the world not only perform at competition but also train at practice has made me more determined than ever to come back and train even harder so that maybe one day I too can reach that level.

This was Michael's second JGP and he made the qualifying points in his short program needed for the Junior World Championships, which is a great accomplishment.

### **Cup of Nice, Nice, France 15-18 October**

Michael Durham also competed in Junior Mens at this event. He was hoping to make the qualifying score in the Freeskate that he needed to be able to qualify to compete at the Junior World Championships. Unfortunately this didn't happen, however, he can still be very proud of his achievements. If you have a hunt through the ISU statistics Michael has highest score for any New Zealand skater in the Short Program and is 2<sup>nd</sup> only to Ricky Cockerill in the Freeskate and in the Total Score. Well done Michael.



### **STROKING SEMINARS FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS**

The new stroking tests come in to effect on 1 January 2016. We wish to acknowledge again the US Figure Skating Association for allowing us to adapt their test patterns to meet our needs. We would also like to thank all those skaters, coaches and officials who have provided feedback on the proposed changes to these tests.

The new stroking patterns will be posted on the NZIFSA website at the end of December once all the test sessions for 2015 have been completed. This is to try and avoid creating any confusion about which test patterns are being used.

The first of a series of seminars to work with coaches and officials on the new stroking tests will take place in Auckland on Sunday 13 December. All Auckland coaches and officials have been invited to attend, and a small number of skaters will be invited to act as demonstrators for this session. The aim is to provide the coaches with the teaching points for each of these tests and for both the coaches and officials to be aware of what the focus is for each test and what the common errors are. This seminar will be run by Sandra Williamson-Leadley, Caitlyn Paul and Connor McIver.

Further seminars will be held in January in Christchurch and in Dunedin for coaches and Officials in those areas. The dates for these will be in the next newsletter

### **SKATER DEVELOPMENT CAMPS IN 2016**

#### **January Development Camps**

NZIFSA will be running a skater development camp in Auckland in January, and will be providing support for South Island Skaters for outside Christchurch to attend a skater development camp in Christchurch. We will have more details for skaters about these opportunities soon.

#### **Development Camps in April for the NZIFSA Development Squads**

The NZIFSA have been granted Olympic Solidarity funding via the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) to run development camps for our Development Squad skaters and for coaches in April next year. We are very excited to have secured Manon Perron as moderator

for these camps. Manon Perron is probably best known as coach of the 2010 Olympic silver medalist Joannie Rochette. There will be one camp in Dunedin (26-28 April) for the South Island based Development Squad members, and one in Auckland (29 April - 1 May), for the Auckland based Development Squad Members.

At this point in time we can only offer these camps to our Development Squads, as that was one of the requirements of the funding we have gotten from NZOC. However, we are looking at how we can maximise the benefit of having Manon here, so that as many of our skaters benefit as possible. We hope to have more information about this in the near future.

### **ISU Development Trophy - Poland**

The ISU Development Trophy that was to be held in Capetown, South Africa has been cancelled. In its place, our eligible Development Squad skaters will have the opportunity to attend the ISU World Development Trophy to be held in Gdansk, Poland 11 - 17 Apr 2016. Information about this event will be sent to the Development Squad members when it becomes available.

### **DEMONSTRATION SKATE IN WELLINGTON ON LABOUR WEEKEND**

The NZIFSA was invited by the Hutt City Council to send some skaters to do a demonstration at a temporary rink in Lower Hutt, and they provided a small amount of funding to support those that attended.

The following skaters all participated in this event: Stepan Kadlcik, Brooke Cathro, Sarah McGibbon, Karl Hewitt, and Anja Noetzel-Hayward & Connor McIver. Unfortunately Georgia Hessell was all set to be part of this, but unfortunately broke her leg at training a couple of weeks prior. We wish her a very speedy recovery.



The demonstration was on the Sunday morning following the Rugby World Cup win, so we expected it to be a little quite to start with, and it was to start with. But there were actually quite a number of people turned up during the morning, both to watch the two demonstrations the skaters gave, and to have a go. A really successful event, and hopefully all helping to raise the profile of figure skating and lending support to the drive to get a permanent rink in the Wellington region.



Our skaters doing their thing and some of the participants in one of the have-a-go sessions



Photos by Masanori Udagawa, Photowellington.

## **NZIFSA BOARD MEETING**

The NZIFSA held their annual 2 day planning meeting in Christchurch over the weekend 7 & 8 November. This meeting is a combined meeting of the Board, Operations Group and Development Group members, and is primarily focused on putting together our plans and budgets for the 2016 skating year. A special thank you to all the members of these groups for giving up their weekends for this meeting.

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board is on Tuesday 15 December. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary ([secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz)) by Tuesday 8 December at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the following meeting.

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