



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Christmas is here and there's still lots happening in the skating world. If you have Sky Sport you will no doubt have been spending a bit of time watching the Grand Prix competitions and most recently the Grand Prix Finals. There has been some amazing skating at these events, which is all very exciting as part of the build-up to the Winter Olympics to be held 9 to 25 February 2018 in Pyeongchang, South Korea. In case you are wondering why we are seeing skating on Sky Sport it's all because of an agreement that the International Skating Union signed with Sky Sport covering transmission in Australia and New Zealand.

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Junior Grand Prix, Bolzano, Italy 11-14 October

The second of the two Junior Grand Prix competitions we were allocated by the ISU was held in Bolzano, Italy. The following two skaters represented us at this event:

Nicola Korck	SP 29th	FS 29th	Overall 29th/32
Brian Lee	SP 26 th	FS 25 th	Overall 25 th /27

2017 Golden Spin of Zagreb, Croatia 6-9 December

We also had one of our senior ladies attend the Golden Spin competition in Zagreb.

Isabella Bardua – Senior Ladies	SP 16th	FS 15th	Overall 16th/18
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RESULTS FROM THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

We had a large team of skaters compete at the 2017 Australian Figure Skating Championships in Brisbane 2 – 8 December 2017. Congratulations to all our skaters for a really great effort. All of our skaters should be very proud of how they performed. Even if they didn't have a great skate or an element or two didn't work as it usually does, they were all great sports ambassadors for NZ. It was also really great to see our skaters there supporting their NZ team mates when they were able. We were very fortunate to see some really great skating over the week and the NZ team were all very ready to claim Kailani Crane as one of ours when she was accidentally announced as representing New Zealand. The event was live streamed and you can see all our skaters on <https://www.facebook.com/iceskatingqld/>

Basic Novice A Ladies	Ally Landon-Lane	Overall 2 nd /39
	Rebekah Sime	Overall 10 th /39
	Cordelia Shi	Overall 11 th /39
	Lucie Holtz	Overall 13 th /39
	Natasha Woodacre	Overall 17 th /39
	Avon Agsornwong	Overall 18 th /39
Basic Novice A Men	Stepan Kadlcik	Overall 2 nd /3

Basic Novice B Ladies	Emmanuel Tsang	Overall 7 th /30		
	Mirika Armstrong	Overall 15 th /30		
	Jessica Hay	Overall 20 th /30		
	Hannah Sime	Overall 24 th /30		
	Claudia Clarke	Overall 28 th /30		
Basic Novice B Men	Douglas Gerber	Overall 1 st /8		
	Tama Anthony-Whigham	Overall 6 th /8		
Basic Novice Pairs	Hannah Sime & Reuben Dougherty	Overall 2 nd /3		
Advanced Novice Ladies	Ella Smith	SP 22 nd	FS 18 th	Overall 19 th /30
	Katie Sewell	SP 28 th	FS 29 th	Overall 29 th /30
Advanced Novice Men	Reuben Dougherty	SP 9 th	FS 6 th	Overall 8 th /10
Junior Ladies	Asia Tapelava	SP 14 th	FS 14 th	Overall 14 th /14
Junior Men	Harrison Bain	SP 1 st	FS 2 nd	Overall 2 nd /6
	Brian Lee	SP 5 th	FS 3 rd	Overall 3 rd /6
Junior Dance	Varshana Schelling & Liam Mclver	SD 2 nd	FD 2 nd	Overall 2 nd /2
Senior Ladies	Brooke Tamepo	SP 5 th	FS 4 th	Overall 5 th /6
Mixed Age Synch	Kia Kaha	Overall 3 th /11		
Adult Silver Ladies	Clare Wu	Overall 6 th /12		



Kia Kaha



Our Basic Novice A & B skaters at Mondays' Victory Ceremony. Rebekah Sime, Hannah Sime, Stepan Kadlcik, Cordelia Chi, Emmanuel Tsang, Natasha Woodacre, Douglas Gerber, Ally Landon-Lane, Avon Aagsornwong, Jessica Hay, Lucie Holtz and Mirika Armstrong. Claudia Clarke and Tama Anthony-Whigham were unfortunately unable to stay for the ceremony so absent from this photo.



Hannah Sime & Reuben Dougherty. Katie Sewell and Ella Smith were unable to stay for ceremony



Clare Wu (Silver I Ladies) on the left.



Varshana Schelling & Liam Mclver, Harrison Bain and Brian Lee. Asia Tapelava was unable to stay for ceremony.



Brooke Tamepo on the left with four of the other Senior ladies – Cierra Nelson (USA), Katie Pasfield, Jennifer Toms and Kailani Crane

REVISED INTERNATIONAL SELECTIONS FOLLOWING THE AFSC

As per our Selection Policy, the Australian Figure Skating Championships offer another opportunity for our skaters to be selected to the International A and B Representative Teams. There were no changes to the international selections announced in the October newsletter.

2018 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2018 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships are to be held in Auckland 6-9 October 2018. A provisional schedule will be communicated in the January newsletter.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL NOVICE COMPETITION IN AUSTRALIA IN 2018

Ice Skating Australia (ISA) and the NZIFSA are working together to organise an International Novice Competition that we intend will be the first in an ongoing series. ISA have put in an application, on behalf of ISA and NZIFSA, to the International Skating Union Development Commission for funding to support this initiative and we hope to know the outcome of this soon. The aim of this competition is to provide Novice level skaters in New Zealand, Australia, along with other Pacific Rim and Asian Members an opportunity to compete internationally. The competition will be for Basic Novice (A & B) and Advanced Novice Grades and will include Singles, Dance and Pairs. Provided we are able to get the support from the ISU Development Commission the 2018 competition will be held in Brisbane in April or May. Exact dates and details are being worked on at present and we hope to have more details and an announcement for you very soon.

The plan is to hold a coach development workshop in conjunction with this international competition. We're still working on the details of this, and again, we will get back to you on this as soon as we can.

ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION

As some of our current and past international skaters will be able to tell you, anyone can be tested at random at an international competition. NZIFSA is committed to ensuring we keep our sport clean, and this includes educating our skaters, parents and coaches to prevent inadvertent doping. Each year at Nationals we run an anti-doping forum which is most often presented by someone from Drug Free Sport NZ. This forum includes lots of information about the drug testing process itself as well as information on doping, the risks of supplements and the penalties for doping offences. All skaters that expect to represent New Zealand internationally have been expected to attend these forums. The Board have recently decided that it will be mandatory for skaters to attend the anti-doping forum if they want to compete internationally.

Our Anti-Doping Officer, Wendy Thomson, set up a closed Facebook page earlier this year to which our international representatives and their coaches have been invited. Wendy shares various articles there, that are likely to be of interest to our athletes. Most recently this includes the suspension for 2 years of ice hockey brothers Lachlan and Mitchell Frear for buying banned steroids. Even associating with someone who is flouting the anti-doping rules can see you banned from all sport for a specified period.

UPCOMING NZIFSA SKATER AND COACH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

We've got lots planned for 2018. We'll have more details and confirmation of dates for you soon, but so that you can start planning your year we have included as much information as we can at this stage.

Regional Development Camps in January

NZIFSA will be providing some support for two regional camps to be held in January with international coach Igor Tchiriaev. NISSA are holding a camp in Auckland (18-21 January) and DISC are holding a camp in Dunedin (22-26 January). Additional support will be provided for Development Squad skaters. Skaters who have been selected to the NZIFSA Development Squad will be entitled to claim up to \$150 towards the costs of the camp registration fees for one of these camps, and those in the Development Squad who live outside either of the two centres where the camps are being held will be able claim up to 50% of the reimbursement amount specified in the NZIFSA travel and reimbursement policy towards the costs of travel to attend one camp (provided these costs aren't being reimbursed from another source of funding). **Please note:** Contrary to what we had been advised earlier NZIFSA will only be reimbursing for travel and not for accommodation as well. We apologise if this change in funding creates difficulties for anyone. Any claims with NZIFSA can only be made after the event.

April 2018 Development Camp with Manon Perron

A development camp with Manon Perron will be held in Dunedin in the April holidays. Exact dates to be confirmed. This camp will be for coaches who are Level 1 and up, and skaters who are Basic Novice A and up. For our Development Squad skaters we will again be offering additional opportunities for training with Manon, over and above the opportunities offered to our other skaters.

Again, we are very aware that a significant number of our Development Squad skaters are in Auckland, however, we can't get sufficient continuous ice time in Auckland during the school holidays to accommodate the camp.

It's going to be an amazing camp again and to make this as workable as possible for parents, so they don't all have to take time off work and pay for travel and accommodation for themselves as well, we are planning to run this along the same lines as the camp last year and arrange for skaters stay in hostel style accommodation with 4-5 parents looking after them. We will have more information for you about this very soon.

Pre-Elementary to Juvenile level Development Camp in Auckland, April 2018

A special camp is planned for our Pre-Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile skaters in Auckland during the April School holidays. Again we will have more information for you about this very soon.

Coaching courses

At this stage NZIFSA are planning to run Introduction to Coaching / KiwiSkate courses in Auckland 17 & 18 February and in Dunedin or Christchurch early in the year (dates to be confirmed soon), as well as in either Queenstown or Alexandra in Term 2. A Level 1 course is to be held in Dunedin early in the year.

It would be helpful to have an indication from coaches and prospective coaches whether they are planning to do one of these coaching courses so that we can determine what the demand is for these courses in each location. Please email our Coaching Director, Caitlyn Paul at coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz by **5 January** if you are interested in attending one of these courses.

OFFICIALS TRAINING FOR 2018

A singles and pairs workshop for technical specialists and technical controllers is planned for May 2018 with Clarence Ong and Sandra Williamson-Leadley as moderators. The intention is to hold some Data / Replay, Calc Operator training in conjunction with this training, but the details of this are still being worked out. A Programme Components seminar is also planned for another weekend in May. Both workshops will be held in Christchurch, as this is logistically much easier than getting officials from one end of the country to the other. We'll have details on these soon.

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH MANON

Many of you will know Manon Perron from the coach and skater development camps held over the last couple of years. Our thoughts are with Manon and her family after the recent passing of her mother.

NZIFSA AGM AUCKLAND 7 APRIL 2018

The 2017 AGM will be held in Auckland 7 April 2018. Please put this in your diaries now. It is important we have representatives from each club at the AGM. We would also like to encourage people to think about putting their hand up for the positions that are up for election this year. We'll have more information about this in the January newsletter.

NZIFSA POLICIES UP FOR REVIEW AT PRESENT

We are seeking feedback on the proposed changes to the Officials' Appointment, Promotion and Training Policy. This is currently on the Members Policy forum with feedback required by 28 December 2017.

The call is also out for submissions on the Coaches' Accreditation Policy. The existing version has been posted on the Members Policy forum with submissions required by 16 January 2018. Any submissions made here will be added to the feedback provided at the coaches forum at Nationals and will be used by the Board to prepare a revised draft that will be posted for a further round of feedback.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA meeting is Tuesday 16 January. If you have any items of correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, they will need to be sent to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by Tuesday 9 January at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the following meeting.

VIDEO RESOURCES ABOUT SKATE BLADES

NZIFSA were recently sent the following information from Precision Blade Honing Enterprises Inc. which we have included here for members information if they are interested at all.

Precision Blade Honing Enterprises Inc. (PBHE) is a figure skating equipment and consulting company that has been servicing and advising National and International skaters for over 15 years. We recently decided to focus on increasing awareness of figure skating equipment and ice conditions globally. We believe sharing knowledge is the key to progressing the sport and helping each skater reach their full potential! We have worked and collaborated with all of the main boot and blade manufacturers (Edea, Graf, Jackson, Riedell, Risport, MK and John Wilson), international champions and coaches, as well as different skating federations to improve skating equipment and ice conditions. We provide a very detailed educational website, have produced two educational videos, and have conducted a number of educational seminars and learning center booths at National and International competitions.

Our goal is to ensure that our knowledge is made available to all ISU Figure Skating Member Federations so that they can share it with their coaches, competitive skaters, and representatives. You will find information on the following on our website:

- Root radius recommendations
- How to test your blades
- Blade comparisons
- How to mount blades
- Guidelines for blade position
- Blade Curvature Gauge
- The technical side of ice
- and much more!

Educational website and videos: www.precisionblade.com

The Blade Curvature Gauge video, featuring Patrick Chan, explains how the gauge creates a standard for sharpening blades. The gauge identifies how well blades have been sharpened and provides information on what factors affect the perceived sharpness of a blade. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6p8RVltmbw>

The second video, featuring Jeremy Abbott, depicts PBHE's unique mounting procedure. The video identifies common mounting issues and how to correct them. We are aware that this technique requires more time; however, we strongly believe mounting blades correctly is extremely important. The time is definitely worthwhile, especially since competitive figure skates cost over ~\$1300 USD and are used the entire season!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gPsT_BK3EU&t=1s

It is our intention to produce additional educational videos that address technical matters and in the process set standards for the industry.

We encourage feedback and collaboration to continue improving our sport's equipment. We are willing to work directly with any Nation on a one on one bases to make a difference in the sport by thoroughly reviewing equipment issues, ideas, and solutions. Our focus is not on sales, but we offer certain products to help ensure all individuals have access to proper equipment and tools.

This email supports PBHE's commitment to spread our knowledge by notifying all ISU Figure Skating Member Federations.

ISU 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – A REPORT FROM JEANETTE KING

The International Skating Union (ISU) celebrated 125 years since it was formed earlier this year. There is a great article about the history of the ISU on their website

<http://www.isu.org/news/65-isu-news/11547-isu-125-anniversary?templateParam=15>

To mark the event the ISU provided funding for one representative from each Member Federation to travel to Lausanne, Switzerland, to be part of the anniversary celebrations. I was very fortunate to represent the NZIFSA at this event and Sue Petricevic attended as a member of the ISU Disciplinary Commission. The events started with an open invitation to visit the ISU offices on the Friday followed by a formal reception dinner on that night, and a cruise down Lake Geneva to the historic Chateau de Chillon Castle. The ISU were the most wonderful hosts at each event, but as well as being wined and dined, the weekend was a great opportunity for networking - sharing information and developing plans for collaborative activities. These networking opportunities are few and far between for us when we are at this end of the world, and so all the more valuable for that.

The formal reception on the Friday night was held at the Olympic Museum. If you are interested at all there us a great article on the ISU website about this event.

<http://www.isu.org/news/65-isu-news/11639-a-dazzling-night-marks-the-125th-anniversary-of-the-international-skating-union?templateParam=15>

Even the best laid plans can go a little wrong it seems, and Bridget Danbrook and Anita Tamepo thought I should share this with you all to bring you a smile hopefully. The anniversary reception was quite a formal event with cocktail dress specified for ladies. In recognition of this I had, quite out of character, had my hair styled (an activity that in itself was very funny when my French is limited to what I did in school 40 years ago) and was wearing make-up and a suitable cocktail dress. Rather than the more practical shoes I usually favour I had chosen to wear a pair of expensive dressy heels that I had for a while but only worn once previously. It was a bit of a walk from the funicular to the Olympic Museum, but that was all fine. The main entertainment for the evening started in the lower levels of the museum. Unfortunately part way up the stairs as everyone headed up to the dinner I noticed something a bit odd happening with one of my shoes. A bit of surreptitious checking and it turned out the front part of sole of the shoe had become detached and was flapping dangerously. The friends I was with, assured me that no one would notice in the tightly packed crowd if I slipped off my shoe. So that's what I had to do as we went up the multiple flights of stairs to the reception. At the top of each set of stairs I was able slip my shoe on and sort of slide it across the carpet to the next lot of stairs. Once seated safely at a table, with the encouragement of friends, I got a helpful waiter to bring me some sellotape tape with which to wrap my shoe up so that I could move around OK. We are talking all class here 😊

But that's not the end of it. Aware that I might need to reinforce my shoe for the walk back to the funicular, I hung on to the sellotape dispenser and tucked it tidily under my seat. All was going well until I saw Peter Lynch, the President of Ice Skating Australia, approaching and I went to stand up to greet him and to introduce him to those I was seated with. Unfortunately as I was about to stand up I managed to stand on the tape dispenser and the heel of my shoe

got stuck in it. Trying not to laugh out loud and draw attention to this, I was able to stop, remove said tape dispenser and then finish standing up. You really can't take some people anywhere can you! Surprisingly this whole manoeuvre appears to have been un-noticed, though I had to tell the various parties the next day so they could share a bit of a laugh too.

THANK YOU

We would like to say a special thank you to all those who have contributed to making 2017 what it was. Our skaters for all the effort they put in and their parents for the support they provide. The judges and other officials for volunteering their time for competitions and tests, and last, but by no means least, all those involved in the administration at club, regional and NZIFSA level that make it all possible. We hope you get to have a well-earned break over Christmas and New Year.

All the very best for Christmas and New Year
Anita Tamepo (President) and Jeanette King (CEO)