

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

A belated Happy New Year to you all. We hope you have all had a wonderful break and have come back refreshed and ready for a great year of skating. Our apologies with the delay getting this newsletter out to you. We had hoped to have had some of this information out to you back in December, but busy work and home lives have impacted on the time we have had to prepare this newsletter.

80 YEARS SINCE THE ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED

2017 marks 80 years since our Association was formed. Originally we were the New Zealand Ice Skating Association (NZISA) and included hockey, speed and figure skating. While hockey and speed split off and we changed our name in 2011, we still recognize 1937 as the beginning of our Association. We had a great get together in Tekapo to mark 75 years in May 2013 (for various reasons it was a year late, but better late than never), and interest was expressed at the time in having get-togethers every 5 years or so. We've canvassed our Life Members and the suggestion is we have an informal get-together associated with the NZIFSA AGM in Christchurch 29 April. Please mark this on your calendars now and we'll have more details for you all soon.

JANUARY SKATE CAMPS IN AUCKLAND AND CHRISTCHURCH

A significant number of our skaters have gotten their skating year off to a great start with their attendance at the skate camps organised by NISSA in Auckland and CISC in Christchurch. As noted in the November newsletter, the NZIFSA has provided some financial support 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.



24 skaters attended the CISC camp in Christchurch





38 skaters and 7 coaches attend the NISSA training camp with Igor Tchiniaev

The following is an extract from Tracy Danbrook's account of the NISSA camp



Four long hard days but filled with skill, performance, passion, motivation, perseverance and enjoyment. Igor is so inspirational and gave us 100% in each and every session we had with him, he pushed us to our limits all while keeping it fun and enjoyable for everyone. He taught us so much, not just on our technical elements but also in interpretation and performance. Each on ice session would either start or end with Igor selecting a piece of music which we all had to skate and perform to. At first most of the skaters were quite hesitant, shy and not too sure what to do. However, Igor never gave up! He kept pushing the boundaries and as the days went on each skater became more and more confident in themselves. Many of the

Auckland coaches were there to learn from Igor as well, all whom were very willing to help out all skaters when they were stuck or did not understand. I know that all skaters who attended the North Island training camp were overjoyed with the success of the camp, everyone learnt so much and I am sure that each skater has taken away at least one new thing they did not know before. Igor is very inspirational and knows how to keep the love for the sport alive!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CORRECTIONS TO THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

The **2017 AGM** will be in Christchurch on **Saturday 29 April** (not 22 April as noted in the November newsletter). There is more information about this towards the end of this newsletter.

Coaching courses – a Kiwiskate coaching course was held 11&12 February in Auckland, the second one will be held in Dunedin (not Christchurch), with the date to be confirmed in the near future. The level 1 coaching course that was planned for February in Auckland has had to be postponed. Once details of the Kiwiskate coaching course in Dunedin and the alternative date for the Level 1 course are confirmed, these will be forwarded to coaches.

The **synchronised skating development camp** was booked in for 15th and 16th of April (Easter weekend) as the moderator wasn't available in May or June. The moderator is now available in June and AIFSC Synchro has asked for the camp to be run in June. The Board are looking at this request and will provide an update as soon as possible. The camp will be open to all synchronized skaters and coaches from around the country. Additional training opportunities will be offered, as part of this camp, to the Botany Blades Juvenile synchronized skating team in recognition of their selection to the Development Squad. Registration forms for this camp will be sent out when the arrangements for this camp have been resolved.

The Pre-Elementary to Juvenile level development camp in Auckland is on track for 21-23 April, as is the Juvenile to Senior development camp with Manon Perron in Dunedin on 24-28 April. The first information about the camp with Manon Perron was sent out earlier this month. Registration for both these singles development camps will be sent out by the end of February.

Official's development – we are pleased to be able to confirm that the Singles and Pairs seminar for judges and technical specialists will be 27 & 28 May in Christchurch. The Synchronised Skating seminar for judges and technical officials is to be held 7-9 July in Christchurch. The Officials Director will be sending information out about this to those on the Officials mailing list in the very near future.

IN MEMORY OF OUR PATRON ALLAN WEEDS

Many thanks to Life Members Jeanne Begej, Wendy Clucas, Pam Gray, and John Harrington for sending in contributions to this tribute to Allan.

Allan's involvement in figure skating in New Zealand was recognised when he was made a Life Member in 1984 and was elected Patron 27 May 1990. He remained our Patron till the time of his death on Friday 25th November 2016. He was the longest serving member in the history of the NZIFSA, having first being elected to Council in 1963 or 1964 and missed serving only one year during the 1960,s. Allan served as a senior judge and referee, was President of the then NZISA 1978-83. Over 50 yrs. A pretty impressive record.



Allan was also heavily involved in the Otago Southland Ice Skating Sub Association, and was President from 1971-1979, and Patron from 1993.

Allan Weeds & Jessica Read cutting the cake at the OSISSA 50th Jubilee



Past and present Secretaries and Presidents at the 75th Jubilee – Allan Weeds, Jeanne Begej, Pam Gray, Wendy Clucas, Jeanette King, Rosemarie Nye, and Trevor Lewis

Allan was a respected Judge and Referee, although he never competed as a figure skater. It was through the hours he spent watching his three girls Carol, Dianne Shelly and son Kevin skate that he got into this role. Wendy Clucas notes that judging back then was not nearly as sophisticated then as it is now, in fact Allan had a system of 'clicks', when an element was performed he would click this gadget and at the end of the performance would assess the number of clicks and give a score which was up to six, with six being perfect.

Pam Gray recalls that when "open marking" was first brought in during the 1960's, the judges had to hold up cards with the skaters' mark after each compulsory figure and freeskating routine. For the compulsory figures the judges were required to carry a wooden box hanging around their neck which contained the cards, as they walked around the ice assessing the tracings of the figures. These boxes were quite heavy and after an hour or so became a real problem for those of small stature! Allan at that time became Pam's "caddie" at most championships and carried the box for her. This was his first introduction to judging, as he would record his mark on the back of a cigarette packet and compare it with Pam's after the event.

His commitment to skating is hard to question. Wendy Clucas has vivid memories of him travelling up to Christchurch from Invercargill for Council Meetings on a Friday night with the family in the car in order that they could have a skate and tuition at the Centaurus Ice Rink in Cashmere. Living in Invercargill and only having ice at Arrowtown in the winter this was an ideal opportunity for the girls to find their 'ice feet' again. Allan would attend the Council Meeting at Wendy's parents place and return home on the Sunday. This was great dedication. Apart from the travel time Council Members were never recompensed for travel or accommodation, it was for the true love of the sport.

When the children were younger Allan and his first wife, Lavine, used to travel to Christchurch so their children could take lessons in the school holidays as there was no ice rink in Invercargill. Close friendships were developed between skaters and families, often staying at each other's places. Allan's daughter Carol boarded with Jeanne's family so she could train regularly and skate for the winter season. When May became Mrs Weeds the extended skating family welcomed her into their homes as well. Allan's family had a crib (a bach for those who aren't from down south) in Arrowtown which overlooked the outdoor rink, and skaters and their families were made to feel most welcome there.



Family at Allan's 90th Birthday

Allan was also a very successful lawn bowler and played in many National Championships with his brothers. Bowls did not conflict with ice skating duties because their Nationals were held over the Summer period.

A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO CHAR PAWSON

Very sadly Char Pawson, a treasured member of Spectrum, the adult synchronised skating team, lost her battle with cancer on Friday 13 January. Our beautiful Char leaves behind husband Liam, and children Cam (15) and Annabelle (12). Despite her battle with cancer she was still planning for the future and had her music sorted and her coach had choreographed her programme for 2017. Her wonderful warm positive attitude is missed hugely by Christchurch skaters and coaches alike.



PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR OUR 2017 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Note the following is a provisional schedule for the 2017 New Zealand Figure Skating Championships to be held in Dunedin 5-8 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.

Wednesday 4 October Unofficial practices

Thursday 5 October

- Juvenile Ladies & Men
- Basic Novice A Ladies & Men
- Basic Novice B Ladies & Men
- Intermediate Ladies & Men
- Dance PD & SD
- Waltzing Trophies

Friday 6 October

- Advanced Novice Ladies & Men SP
- Junior Ladies & Men SP
- Senior Ladies & Men SP
- Pairs
- Dance FD
- Synchro FS

Saturday 7 October

- Advanced Novice Ladies & Men FS
- Junior Ladies & Men FS
- Senior Ladies & Men FS

Sunday 8 October

- All adult grades (including synchro)

Official practices are expected to be held between 8.00am and 12.00noon each day and the competition between 3.00pm and 7.00pm on Thursday and Friday, between 3pm and 5.30pm on Saturday, and between 12.30pm and 4.30pm on Sunday.

Unofficial practices are planned for 3.00pm - 7.00pm on the Wednesday and 12.15pm - 2.45pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday. An additional unofficial practice for Adults is expected to be held on Saturday evening from 5.45pm - 7.00pm.

The Banquet will be on Saturday 7 October following the completion of the standard grade competitions.

2017 AGM OF THE NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION INC

The AGM will be held in Christchurch on Saturday 29 April at Riccarton High School, 31 Vicki Street, Christchurch

Delegates that are flying in should plan to arrive before 12.30pm. The AGM will start at 1.15pm, followed by the member forums (approximately 2.15pm–3.30pm), and finishing up with a social get together to celebrate 80 years since the association was formed. All members are most welcome to attend the forums and the 80th celebration, and for that matter the AGM (though they won't have speaking rights at the AGM unless they are a delegate). We expect to wrap up the evening by around 6.00pm.

A call for nominations for the positions that are up for election this year will be sent out to clubs, life members, coaches and officials in the next week. Nominations, including a CV, need to be submitted via your home club to the General Secretary, secretary@nzifsa.org.nz no later than **Wednesday 29 March**.

The following positions are up for election at the AGM this year and we want to encourage you to consider putting your name forward, via your club, for these roles.

- President
- Board members x 2
- Treasurer
- Skater Development Director
- Coaching Director
- Test & Competition Secretary

There are 4 positions on the NZIFSA that have limitations around how many times they can be re-elected to the same role. The President, CEO, General Secretary and Treasurer can't be elected to the same position if they have held the position for the previous six years. Both Jeanette King and Tracy McGuigan will have been in their roles as President and Treasurer respectively for six years this year, and so cannot be appointed to these roles again at this election. It is absolutely critical that we have people prepared to take on these roles. Please give this serious consideration and feel free to make contact with Jeanette president@nzifsa.org.nz, or Tracy treasurer@nzifsa.org.nz to discuss these roles.

In addition, Sandra Williamson-Leadley, who is currently the CEO, has indicated that she would like to step down from the role of CEO so that she can be considered for election to

one of the roles in the Development Group. We will therefore be seeking nominations for the position of CEO.

As you are aware, the role of Patron is currently vacant, and nominations will be called for election to this role as well.

Following the AGM the Board also need to appoint people to the following roles and are seeking nominations for these roles as well.

- Anti-Doping Officer
- Grants Officer
- Child Protection Officer

If you would like to talk to someone about any of these roles, please contact the General Secretary at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz or the President at president@nzifsa.org.nz. We would also like to encourage anyone interested in standing for the President or one of the Board Member roles to be an observer at the March video conference meeting of the Board on 14 March. Please make contact with the President at president@nzifsa.org.nz by Tuesday 7 March to arrange this.

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