



## MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Again, this newsletter is very much overdue and there has just been so much going on that we want to share with you. We have had a number of skater, coach and officials' development activities and we have hosted the Oceania International Competition and Coaches Seminar.

We do want to apologize to Jon Foote for missing his name off the list of people standing for the Board in the March newsletter.

### RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

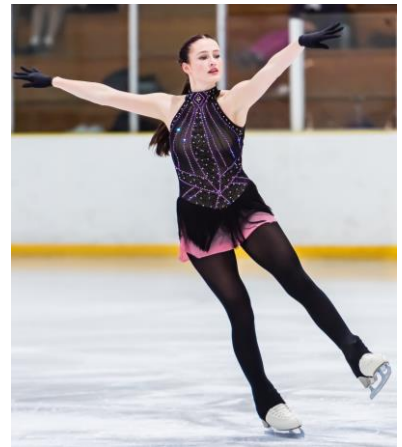
#### Oceania International Competition, Auckland, New Zealand 15-17 May

With the support of the ISU Development Commission, grant funding from Trillian Trust towards ice time and the support of our co-host Ice Skating Australia, NZIFSA held our first international competition since Skate Down Under in 2014. A huge thank you to the organising committee and the volunteers who pitched in to make this a very successful competition. We had entries from 44 skaters from Australia, 1 skater from Hong Kong and 14 skaters from New Zealand.



SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

Basic Novice Girls	Lilah Langi-Scott	Overall 11 <sup>th</sup> /15		
Basic Novice Girls	Yuhuan Ding	Overall 14 <sup>th</sup> /15		
Intermediate Novice Girls	Mira (Mei Jie) Ren	Overall 5 <sup>th</sup> /10		
Intermediate Novice Girls	Sophie Pokorny	Overall 6 <sup>th</sup> /10		
Intermediate Novice Girls	April Yao	Overall 8 <sup>th</sup> /10		
Intermediate Novice Girls	Selina Zeng	Overall 10 <sup>th</sup> /10		
Advanced Novice Girls	Jazmyn Evangelou	SP 5 <sup>th</sup> /11	FS 9 <sup>th</sup> /11	Overall 8 <sup>th</sup> /11
Advanced Novice Girls	Christine (Qiwen) Aixinjueluo	SP 9 <sup>th</sup> /11	FS 10 <sup>th</sup> /11	Overall 10 <sup>th</sup> /11
Junior Women	Cara Tang	SP 8 <sup>th</sup> /9	FS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /9	Overall 5 <sup>th</sup> /9
Junior Women	Misaki Joe	SP 9 <sup>th</sup> /9	FS 5 <sup>th</sup> /9	Overall 8 <sup>th</sup> /9
Junior Women	Mirika Armstrong	SP 6 <sup>th</sup> /9	FS 9 <sup>th</sup> /9	Overall 9 <sup>th</sup> /9
Junior Men	Dwyane (Yanhao) Li	SP 1 <sup>st</sup> /4	FS 1 <sup>st</sup> /4	Overall 1 <sup>st</sup> /4
Senior Women	Danielle Gebser	SP 1 <sup>st</sup> /2	FS 1 <sup>st</sup> /2	Overall 1 <sup>st</sup> /2
Senior Men	Douglas Gerber	SP 1 <sup>st</sup> /1	FS 1 <sup>st</sup> /1	Overall 1 <sup>st</sup> /1
Judge	Sue Petricevic			
Judge	Sandra Williamson-Leadley			



**ISU International Adult Competition, Oberstdorf, Germany, 15-20 May**

We had a big group of skaters at this competition this year.

Bronze Women II A Freeskate	Victoria Marinova	Overall 9 <sup>th</sup> /14
Bronze Men III + IV Freeskate	Alastair Christie	Overall 8 <sup>th</sup> /8
Bronze Women IV Freeskate	Trish Weir	Overall 4 <sup>th</sup> /15
Bronze Women IV Freeskate	Sally Garelja	Overall 15 <sup>th</sup> /15
Silver Women II Freeskate	Olga Levien	Overall 22 <sup>nd</sup> /24
Silver Women III Freeskate	Tammy Cowan	Overall 3 <sup>rd</sup> /20
Silver Women V Freeskate	Sue Hoseit	Overall 5 <sup>th</sup> /6
Bronze Women II A Artistic	Victoria Marinova	Overall 8 <sup>th</sup> /14
Bronze Men III Artistic	Alastair Christie	Overall 6 <sup>th</sup> /6
Bronze Women IV Artistic	Trish Weir	Overall 4 <sup>th</sup> /15
Bronze Women IV Artistic	Sally Garelja	Overall 9 <sup>th</sup> /15
Silver Women II Artistic	Olga Levien	Overall 10 <sup>th</sup> /19
Silver Women III Artistic	Tammy Cowan	Overall 11 <sup>th</sup> /23
Silver Women V Artistic	Sue Hoseit	Overall 4 <sup>th</sup> equal/5



Circled from L to R – Sue Hoseit, Sally Garelja, Olga Levien, Victoria Marinova, Tammy Cowan, Trish Weir and Alastair Christie with an assortment of other skaters they befriended.

**THANK YOU TO ICE DANCE PARTNERS**

Sadly the Senior Ice Dance partnerships of both Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam and Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday have split. Charlotte and Ethan have both requested release from New Zealand so that they can seek to represent Canada and the USA respectively after the required one year stand-down. We wish both Charlotte and Ethan all the very best and thank them for the manner in which they have represented New Zealand.

## **UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

### **Hollins Trophy International, Sydney Australia, 9-12 June 2023**

Intermediate Novice Girls	Mira (Mei Jie) Ren
Intermediate Novice Girls	Emily Yang
Advanced Novice Girls	Christine (Qiwen) Aixinjueluo
Advanced Novice Girls	Connie Yang
Junior Women	Cara Tang
Junior Men	Dwayne (Yanhao) Li
Senior Women	Danielle Gebser
Senior Men	Douglas Gerber
Judge	Sue Petricevic
Judge	Sandra Williamson-Leadley

We wish all these skaters the very best with this competition and look forward to reporting the results in the next newsletter.

## **JUNIOR GRAND PRIX ALLOCATIONS**

The ISU have advised which Junior Grand Prix competitions we have been allocated for the 2023/24 season:

1 <sup>st</sup> event Bangkok / THA 23 - 26 August	Men, Women, Ice Dance
2 <sup>nd</sup> event Linz / AUT 30 Aug – 2 September	Men
3 <sup>rd</sup> event Istanbul / TUR 6-9 September	Men
4 <sup>th</sup> event Osaka / JPN 13 - 16 September	Men, Women, Ice Dance

Dwyane Li has already confirmed that he wishes to attend the JGP in Bangkok and Osaka. The priority for the Women's places at the Bangkok and Osaka JGP will be determined after the Clucas Cup.

## **CLUCAS CUP SELECTION COMPETITION, AUCKLAND, 3 & 4 JUNE**

NZIFSA is hosting the Clucas Cup Selection Competition at Paradise Botany, with the support of NISSA. This competition is to establish the priority of assignment for International A and B skaters to competitions whose entries close between 7 July and 1 week after the completion of the 2023 New Zealand National Championships.

NZIFSA are also looking forward to the presentation of the Clucas Cup in memory of Wendy Clucas, and presented by her daughters Janine and Sonja. The cup will be awarded to the skater that gains the highest percentage above the A team Selection TES, with the highest unfactored programme component score as the deciding factor if there is a draw.

Provisional selections will be announced within 48 hours of the conclusion of the Selection Competition and will be confirmed within one week. Please see the NZIFSA Selection Policy for Opportunities for Selection and Prioritising of Skaters, Selection Criteria for International

Representatives and Selection of skaters for Novice (Basic, Intermediate and Advanced), Junior and Senior International events.

Our National Championships signal the reset of our international representative selections. Any skaters wishing to compete in international competitions whose entries close more than 1 week after the NZ National Championships, need to gain selection at our National Championships. Selection of International A and B Representatives will be announced within 48 hours of the conclusion of the 2023 NZIFSA National Championships or at the social function afterwards.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS OF THE CLUCAS CUP COMPETITION**

Thank you to our generous sponsor, Four Winds Foundation, for the \$3,000 grant towards the cost of ice time for the Clucas Cup Competition.



## **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR 2023/24**

We are waiting for the ISU to publish the list of International Single & Pair Skating, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Competitions for 2023/24. We will forward this on to coaches and International A & B Team members as soon as this is available. At this stage the only international competitions after 1 July that have been sanctioned are those that appear on the ISU events page <https://isu.org/events>.

Just a reminder that if you wish to compete in any competition outside New Zealand, you need to request permission from the NZIFSA via the General Secretary [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) before you enter the competition. For most international competitions the entries will need to be done through the ISU Online Registration System by the NZIFSA Test/Competition Secretary.

If you have any questions about selections or international competitions, please email the NZIFSA General Secretary, [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz).

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

Skaters, can you all please make sure you have an up-to-date portrait style photo loaded onto the NZIFSA website. We need a passport style photo (except you are allowed to smile) rather than an action photo. We use these photos for competition programmes and for the newsletter. Often we find they are four or five years out of date and we may have a skater aged fifteen with a photo of them at age ten. To update your photo please log into the mynzifsa area of the NZIFSA website <https://nzifsa.org.nz/members/mynzifsa/>

## OCEANIA COACHES SEMINAR, AUCKLAND 15-19 MAY 2023

What an amazing coach development seminar with international coach Lorenzo Magri. It was a very busy two days with the demonstrators and coaches challenged on and off the ice. It was also great to see the really positive interaction between all the participants from Australia and New Zealand. The seminar was attended by 8 coaches and 11 skaters from New Zealand and 8 coaches and 15 skaters from Australia. Two of the coaches could only attend part days but still got a huge amount out of the seminar.



## OTHER RECENT COACH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Kim Lewis has just finished running the first **Level 1** (previously Intro to Coaching) course using the ISU Global Coach Education Level 1 course materials. There were 13 coaches took part in this training course which included an on-ice session as well as a series of ten online modules.



## RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

### Singles Basic Novice to Senior camp, Auckland (Botany), 7-10 April

Peter Johansson led a very successful skater development camp that was attended by 25 skaters and 9 coaches.



Sophie and Olivia Pokorny provided this feedback on the camp. Over the Easter weekend, from the 7th to the 11th of April, skaters from all over New Zealand participated in the Basic Novice to Senior Development Camp. The international moderator during the camp was Peter Johansson. Peter guided and mentored us skaters over the course of 5 very intense and action packed days. We were all very receptive to the valuable knowledge that Peter offered us both on and off the ice. It was an exciting and rewarding experience for all involved and could not have been possible without the help and organisation of the amazing coordinator Brooke Tamepo.

### Synchronized Skating camp, Auckland (Botany), 21-23 April

There were 56 skaters from KiwiSkate to Senior level and 4 coaches attended an excellent development camp led by the very talented Heather Paige.

The skaters were divided into three different groups and Heather put together activities that focused on the basic skating skills and at the same time extended the members of each group.



From Jordon Etches

I am proud to say that I had the opportunity to attend the NZIFSA Synchronised Ice Skating development camp with Heather Paige. This experience was incredibly rewarding as it allowed me to develop and refine my skills in a new and challenging environment.



The camp was a three day training program where we were able to work closely with Heather. Throughout the camp, we participated in various training sessions both on and off the ice and a nutrition workshop with Brooke, all of which gave me valuable insights on how to improve my technique, style and performance.

During the camp, Heather emphasised the importance of mastering basic skating skills and using those skills to build strong team work and formations. She stressed the importance of practicing and perfecting individual skills, such as edges, spins, and turns and then applying those to a Synchro formation to ensure everything is in the right place.

Heather's focus on strong basic skating skills and team work was invaluable as it helped us to understand the importance of every skater's individual contribution to the team's success. Her guidance led us to work harder and more cohesively.

One of the most enriching aspects of attending the NZIFSA Synchronised Ice Skating development camp was the opportunity to skate and work alongside skaters we don't usually skate with. This allowed us to hone our communication skills and learn how to adapt to working alongside different team members.

Overall, attending the NZIFSA Synchronised Ice Skating development camp with Heather Paige was a memorable and fulfilling experience that challenged me to look at skating in a way I usually wouldn't and enabled me to take my skills to the next level both individually and as a team.

**Singles Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Auckland (Botany) and Gore 29 & 30 April.**

What a great way to start the skating season. Two skater Development camps were held over the weekend of 29 & 30 April. One camp was in Gore moderated by Sarah MacGibbon, and the other in Auckland with Mathieu Wilson as the moderator. There were 12 skaters and 3 coaches took part at the camp in Auckland, and 14 skaters and 1 coach at the camp in Gore.



Gore Pre Elem - Juvenile Camp



Auckland Pre Elem – Juvenile Camp



## ISU Junior Synchronized Development Seminar in Oberstdorf, Germany – 28 April – 4 May 2023

Coaches, Tracy Hipkiss and Preeya Laud, along with four Titanium Junior Synchro team members, Jenna Schultz, Caitlin Rae, Kelly Zou and Jasmine Hu were accepted to take part in the ISU Synchronized Skating Development Training Seminar for Junior Age Skaters and their Coaches.

From Jenna Scholtz

On the 26th of April we departed New Zealand and headed to Oberstdorf, Germany for the 2023 ISU development Synchronised Camp. The six day camp consisted of us learning/ recapping on a large range of new and old skills. The camp was moderated by Maurizio Margalio ex dance Olympian and Kaisa Arrateig the head coach of the Helsinki Rockettes (2<sup>nd</sup> placed at the 2023 ISU World SYS Champs)



Titanium team members with Helsinki Rockettes team members

The days at the camp were split into on ice trainings, dance sessions, acro yoga, and mental talks. Our favourite part of the training sessions was learning partner moves with Maurizio and the Helsinki Rockettes. It was super beneficial to have the opportunity to train with some of the worlds best synchronised skaters, as they are an inspiration to us.

Overall, the 2023 ISU synchronised camp was extremely motivational and opened our eyes to the standard of skating within the world of Synchronised Skating. We have met so many inspirational people during this trip including Skyliners USA senior head coach Pam May as well as all of the other amazing skaters.

We would like to say a massive thank you to NZIFSA for supplying Titanium with such a special opportunity. Titanium would like to also put out a massive thank you to ISU for planning an outstanding seminar for the developing synchronised countries. As well as the moderators Kaisa and Maurizio.

## **UPCOMING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA**

This July the O'Brien Icehouse in Melbourne will be hosting a camp coached by **4x World Champion Kurt Browning** and **Grand Prix Champion Alissa Czisny**.

This camp is open to figure skaters in levels Preliminary and above (Ice Skating Australia/Ice Skating Union standard level) and coaches.

The **three day camp** will run over the **4th-6th of July 05:30 to 14:00** and the cost is **AUD \$360 (Skaters)/ AUD \$110 (coaches)**.

Not only will you get to see and learn from these extraordinary coaches, but you will get over five hours of training each day consisting of three hours on ice and two hours off ice.

This is your chance to learn from the best. Don't miss out, limited spots available. Book now! Click [here](#) and select Term 3/2023/Holiday Camps – FSA/SS.

Accommodation is available at Quest Apartments, Docklands [www.questnewquay.com.au](http://www.questnewquay.com.au). Use Promo code ICE20 for a 20% discount off their lowest online rates for all room types.

Additional Freestyle sessions are available 0545-0845 Monday-Sunday for a AUD\$20 per hour drop in cost or you can take out a weekly Interstate Gold membership for AUD\$67 that covers unlimited freestyle and public sessions.

## **RECENT OFFICIALS TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

A Judge and a Technical Seminar for Singles were held in Christchurch on 29 & 30 April. The seminars were delivered by our own Sandra Williamson-Leadley and by Clarence Ong from Australia. The attendees comprised two coaches, eleven judges, three Technical Controllers and seven Technical Specialists. They were supported by IJS Technician, Alan Greenstreet, and three local Data Operator/ Replay Operators.

The following weekend, 6 & 7 May, a Judge and a Technical Seminar for Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating were held in Christchurch. A Data Operator/Replay Operator training session was run alongside this. The seminars were delivered by Sandra Williamson-Leadley and by Angelique Clyde-Smith from Australia, and Ina Paul and Jeanette King. The attendees comprised six judges, one Technical Controller, six Technical Specialists and seven Data Operator/Replay Operators. They were again supported by IJS Technician, Alan Greenstreet.

## **SITUATIONS VACANT – IJS TECHNICAN**

We are very fortunate to have two very dedicated people that have been absolutely critical to us being able to use the two computer systems we use for competitions. Alan Greenstreet, who currently manages the South Island system has, however, signalled that it is time he moved on. We are also interested in having a back-up for Mike Slater, who manages the North Island system. If you have the skill set and time, we would very much like to hear from interested people. Please email [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) in the first instance.

### **Job Description - IJS Technician**

The IJS Technician is responsible for the maintenance, setup, troubleshooting and teardown of the International Skating Union (ISU) [International Judging System \(IJS\)](#). The IJS system comprises the following equipment:

- 1 Network Switch
- 3 Tech Panel computers and an external screen
- 5 Judge tablets
- 1 Camera and video converter
- 1 Shared party-line headset system / headsets
- All the cables to connect everything together

The role can be broken down into two main parts:

- Computer and equipment maintenance - done prior to the start of, and throughout, the competition season
  - Windows OS and driver updates
  - ISU IJS software updates
  - Network configuration maintenance
  - General computer and equipment maintenance checks - best achieved by setting the system up and carrying out a test run
- IJS setup, troubleshooting and teardown - for each competition or training session
  - Travel to the competition
  - Layout and cabling of the IJS system
  - Testing the system is functioning correctly
  - Monitoring the system throughout the competition and troubleshooting as required
  - Teardown/packup of the system at the end of each day

### **Additional role**

In addition to the IJS Technician role, there is a desire to have competitions live streamed on the internet. This requires the scheduling of the competition in YouTube studio (or similar platform) and the setup & monitoring of a separate live streaming computer / camera system.

### **Skills / Experience**

These roles would suit someone with a good computer systems background that involves the configuration and setup of hardware as well as software. Industry roles might be someone who works in IS Helpdesk, Network Admin, Software / Hardware development, or Radio/Film/TV/Theatre.

Anyone with a job, hobby or strong interest in computer systems would find this a rewarding role and one that helps support the NZ figure skating community.

## **NZIFSA SKATER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2023**

The NZIFSA has two scholarships of NZ\$4000 to help support skaters to train overseas for a period in 2023. Four applications were received for the Basic Novice/Intermediate Novice scholarship and a further four applications for the Advanced Novice to Senior scholarship. The Scholarship Committee comprised Jeanette King (CEO), Sandra Williamson-Leadley (High Performance Officer, ISU Judge all disciplines, International Referee Singles & Pairs and Synchronized, International Technical Controller Singles and Synchronized), and Kelly Cruickshank (ISU Technical Specialist Singles from Canada).

Having assessed the applications the Skater Scholarship Selection Committee determined that Mira Ren be offered the Basic & Intermediate Novice Scholarship and Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam be offered the Advanced Novice to Senior Scholarship. Subsequently, Charlotte and Ricky have advised that they will not be skating together and the Scholarship Committee will reconvene to determine the awarding of the Advanced Novice to Senior scholarship. In the meantime we would like to congratulate Mira Ren.



## **NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Submissions on the **Selection Policy** and **Skater Development Policy** closed on 30 May. The Board will be reviewing the submissions at the next Board meeting. A draft of any proposed amendments will be prepared by the Board taking into consideration submissions received from members. The proposed changes will then be posted on the NZIFSA website calling for final submissions on the proposed amendments before the Board finalise and vote to adopt any amendments.

## **NZIFSA BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 13 June. 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 6 June. Any correspondence received after that date may be tabled at the July meeting.

All the best in skating,  
Robyn Morris and Jeanette King  
President and CEO  
NZIFSA