

A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO KIRSTY COX (19 NOV 1976 TO 19 MAY 2026)



On Thursday 28 May a large number of people, including skaters from around the country, gathered to celebrate the life of Kirsty Cox (nee. Macdonald). A very special individual within our skating community as well as a wonderful mum, wife, daughter and sister and friend to many. Tragically Kirsty lost her battle with cancer on Tuesday 19 May.

Kirsty started skating with family at age four. She first competed as a Single skater for CISC in Pre Novice Ladies in 1986 but later also competed Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating (originally Precision). She went on to be Senior Dance Champion in 1997 with her dance partner Chris Street.

Kirsty has continued to skate whenever she had the opportunity, competing as an adult skater in Single, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating disciplines. A highlight being competing at the ISU Adult International Competition in Oberstdorf, Germany in May 2024. Most recently Kirsty competed at Masters Games in Dunedin and then ANZAS competition in Melbourne in February this year in spite of learning that her cancer had returned and the prognosis was very poor.

As well as being an active skater Kirsty was an NZIFSA judge from 2015 for Singles, Dance and Synchronized Skating. She has also been an active member of Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club (CMFSC) since 2010, a CMFSC Committee member since March 2013, Vice President from March 2016 to March 2022 and Treasurer since March 2024. Kirsty was also Treasurer of the South Islands Ice Skating Sub Association from Sept 2012 to August 2021 and CMFSC Club representative on that committee since August 2024.



But it's not just about these achievements, it's the amazing attitude that Kirsty had, the joy and kindness she shared with those around her, her positivity and tenacity. For those that had the privilege of knowing Kirsty, they know what a wonderful person she was. She will be missed by many.

Our thoughts are with her husband Jono and children Mark and Emma, her mum Joan and sisters Kim and Sharyn and their extended families.

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Thailand Open Figure Skating Trophy, Bangkok Thailand 1-4 May 2026

Basic Novice Girls	Nicole Xiao		FS 3 rd /40	Overall 3 rd /40
	Hua (Judy) Tong		FS 6 th /40	Overall 6 th /40
Advanced Novice Girls	Luna Wu	SP 12 th /16	FS 14 th /16	Overall 13 th /16
Junior Women	Ziyao (Nicca) Wu	SP 10 th /22	FS 6 th /22	Overall 6 th /22
Coach	Rosie Armstrong			
	Tracy Hipkiss			

Adult Figure Skating Competition in Oberstdorf, Germany, 17 May to 23 May 2026:

Bronze V Women's Artistic	Eleanor Stanbury		FS 7 th /8	Overall 7 th /8
Gold IV Women's Artistic	Tammy Cowan		FS 6 th /17	Overall 6 th /17
Bronze V Women's Free	Eleanor Stanbury		FS 4 th /5	Overall 4 th /5
Silver IV Women's Free	Tammy Cowan		FS 4 th /11	Overall 4 th /11

OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, AUCKLAND 19 – 21 MAY 2026

Basic Novice Girls	Nicole Xiao		FS 1 st /10	Overall 1 st /10
	Emma Thein-Xie		FS 2 nd /10	Overall 2 nd /10
	Lilian Peng		FS 4 th /10	Overall 4 th /10
	Mihiata Parkinson		FS 5 th /10	Overall 5 th /10
	Aeryl Zhang		FS 6 th /10	Overall 6 th /10
	Alva Zhang		FS 9 th /10	Overall 9 th /10
	Anna-Bella Levien		FS 10 th /10	Overall 10 th /10
Intermediate Novice Girls	Olivia Dickson		FS 3 rd /3	Overall 3 rd /3
Advanced Novice Girls	Luna Wu	SP 4 th /6	FS 4 th /6	Overall 4 th /6
	Lilah Langi-Scott	SP 6 th /6	FS 6 th /6	Overall 6 th /6
Junior Women	Ziyao (Nicca) Wu	SP 1 st /7	FS 1 st /6	Overall 1 st /6
	Cara Tang	SP 2 nd /7	FS 2 nd /6	Overall 2 nd /6
	Alethea Wong	SP 3 rd /7	FS 3 rd /6	Overall 3 rd /6
	Brooke Cathro (tbc)	SP 6 th /7	FS 4 th /6	Overall 4 th /6
	Sophie Pokorny	SP 7 th /7	WD	



Junior Women - Cara Tang (NZL), Nicca Wu (NZL) and Alethea Wong (NZL)

Senior Women, Dimitra Korri (GRE), Josefin Taljegard (SWE), Skye Frances Patenia (PHI)



Basic Novice Girls with Emma Thien-Xie (NZL), Nicole Xiao (NZL) and Phoebe Hadisurja (AUS) on the podium

Photos by Olga Levien, Levien & Lens Photography

www.levienphotography.com/figure-skating

A huge thank you to ISU Development for the grant supporting this competition and the Oceania Coach Seminar. Also, thanks to East Tamaki Snap Printing for support with programme printing and certificates.



This competition would not have been possible without the international officials and local support team volunteering their time to make an international competition available to our skaters in their own backyard.



Back Row (L to R) Alan Greenstreet, Anna Ho, Brooke Crawford, Jeanette King, Joanna Miller, Ina Paul, Chihee Rhee, Laura Thompson
Front Row (L to R) Mike Slater, Dian Ma Hassan, Susan Morriss, Sue Petricevic, Rebecca Andrew, Yoko Ando, Masako Kawai, Debbie Noyes.

ONGOING LACK OF VOLUNTEERS IN AUCKLAND

Volunteers are critical to the success of running any competition and sadly, running competitions in Auckland is particularly challenging and has been for years for Club, Regional, National and International competitions. Helpers are always needed for the various jobs at any competition including music playing, announcing, ice marshal, entry door, hot water bottles and blankets for officials, looking after food for officials, camera operator, timer for referee.

For the Oceania International competition a huge shoutout to the following people (in addition to those named above) who took time off work and/or made themselves available at some point across the five days we needed help with this competition - Rosie Armstrong, Virginia Cathro, Jenny Chen, Lantian Cui, Ash Hrstich, Victoria Larsen, Anita Leng, EJ Liang, Hayley Nelson, Sam Snode, Anthony Spencer, Caisheng Yang and Zhengxiu Xie.

Also, a big thank you to Maureen Forester, Sally Garelja and Caisheng Yang for their assistance with airport transfers of our international officials.

That is a very small number of volunteers for an event of this nature and meant that both Anna Ho and Jeanette King had to fill multiple gaps in the volunteer schedule, leaving them very stretched to cover the tasks they already needed to do as members of the Organising Committee for this competition.

If your child is competing you need to think seriously about putting your hand up to help and ensure we can continue to run NZIFSA competitions in Auckland.

UPCOMING INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

All skaters, not just the International A & B team representatives, can seek permission to attend interclub competitions outside New Zealand by emailing secretary@nzifsa.org.nz and specifying what competition and what grade they would like to compete.

Ice Skating Australia's Champ Series events listed below are interclub competitions that are open to skaters from other member federations. Please note, until we have announcements, we can't confirm permission but hopefully the following information will help with your planning.

- Crystal Challenge, Melbourne, VIC 6-9 August.
- WinterSun, Brisbane, QLD – 2-6 September
- Sydney Synch Festival, Erina, NSW, 12-13 September. Entries close 14 August.
- Swan Trophy, Perth, WA – 27-30 September. Note that Western Australian Ice Skating Associations plan to run this interclub competition alongside the Swan Trophy international competition

To date approval has been granted for:

Hollins Trophy, Erina, NSW, 6-8 June

Advanced Novice Girls Emma Thein-Xie

RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Singles Pre Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Dunedin 2 & 3 May and Auckland 9 & 10 May

Two very successful camps for Pre Elementary to Juvenile level skaters were held in May. These camps ran over two days each and had skaters work on a variety of different skills on and off the ice.



Mathieu Wilson led a camp in Dunedin on 2 & 3 May that was attended by 11 skaters and 2 coaches



Sarah Urieli led a camp at Botany rink in Auckland on 9 & 10 May that was attended by 12 skaters and 4 coaches.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Pub Charity Limited for their grant funding towards the cost of ice time for the KiwiSkate and Level 1 Coaching Course in Dunedin and the Pre Elementary to Juvenile Development Camps in Dunedin and Auckland.

The support from sponsors makes a huge difference to the development opportunities that we can offer to our skaters and coaches.



OCEANIA COACH DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR WITH SEAN RABBITT, 22 & 23 MAY

Although registrations were much lower than anticipated, largely because NSWPSA held a coach seminar on dates that clashed with this, the feedback we have had on this seminar with Sean Rabbitt has been very positive and from the smiles on people's faces, a whole lot of fun. The Coach Development Seminar was attended by eight coaches and supported by a group of demonstrators from Australia and New Zealand.



Photos by – Olga Levien,
Levien & Lens Photography

www.levienphotography.com/figure-skating

RECENT OFFICIALS TRAINING

Referees Roles

An Ice Skating Australia Referee Roles and Responsibilities online seminar was held on 28 April and any Tier 2 NZIFSA judges interested in becoming a referee were invited to attend. Presenter – Joanna Miller. This was attended by 1 New Zealand official.

Programme Components Seminar

An online seminar presented by Sandra Williamson-Leadley (ISU Judge, TC, Int Ref) was held on Saturday 2nd May and attended by 11 judges. Five judges put in their apologies and consideration is being given to running a further session.

Pair Skating – Judges training

Online sessions were held on 10 and 16 May and presented by Debbie Noyes (ISU Pairs TC, Judge, Int Ref) from Australia. Seven judges attended 10 May and four judges on 16 May. The sessions were also open to any Australian judges interested in upskilling in pairs judging.

UPCOMING OFFICIALS TRAINING

- Referee Refresher – online session 20 June
- Initial Judges and Initial Tech Panel Meetings – online sessions 27 June

In addition to the above there will be online sessions to cover season updates.

If you have any questions about training as an official, please contact our Officials Director, Melissa Cummings, at officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz

CLUCAS CUP SELECTION COMPETITION, CHRISTCHURCH 13 & 14 JUNE 2026

In recognition of the contribution made to figure skating this competition is named after our late Patron, Wendy Clucas (nee Grafton). The Clucas Cup will be awarded to the skater/ couple / or team that gains the highest percentage above the A team Selection TES, with the highest unfactored programme component score as the deciding factor if more than 1 skater is on a par.

As per the NZIFSA Selection Policy, this competition is to determine selection and priority order for international competitions with a closing date between 7 July 2026 and one week after our National Championships. The competition will be open to skaters in Basic Novice to Senior grades in all disciplines, plus Mixed Age Synchronized skating, who competed at the 2025 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2026. Entries for this competition have already closed.

Note, the technical requirements for this event are as per the ISU Regulations and relevant ISU Communications for the current 2025/2026 season.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Aotearoa Gaming Trust for their grant funding towards the cost of ice time for the Clucas Cup Selection Competition.



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MUSIC DETAILS REQUIRED FOR MUSIC LICENSING

In preparation for the 2026 competition season we need everyone to provide or update your music details to help ensure we can meet our music licensing requirements.

For all club and regional competitions in the South Island and for the Clucas Cup and our National Championships, please use the NZIFSA form.

NOTE: The North Island Ice Skating Sub Association (NISSA) has chosen to manage the music information using a separate system for Auckland club and North Island regional competitions that better meets their needs.

What information do you need to provide?

1 General

Skater name(s), email address(s), grade, coach name, coach email address. Please update coach contact details if this has changed.

Note, only one form needs to be completed for ice dance couples and pairs teams. For synchro teams we ask for the team manager and coach contact details.

2 What competitions and grade are you entering?

Please mark which competitions you are entering and pick the correct grade from the drop down menu. This helps the competition organisers when checking that they have your music details. You can come back and update this again later with any additional competitions you enter, or if you move up grades during the year.

3 The music details.

For each programme you skate you will need to provide the following for each piece of music used

- Title of Music
- Recording Artist(s)
- Composer(s)
- Publisher / Record Label
- Duration of cut (min:sec – e.g. 1:40)
- Whether vocal or non-vocal (instrumental)

We suggest you collect this information for each piece music before you start filling in the form. If you are trying to find the details, we recommend you find your piece of music in Spotify, click on the 3 dots ... for extra information and choose "Show credits".

Saving and updating the form

You need to click the save button at the bottom right of the form before you exit. The skater and coach will both be sent an email called "2026 Music details Save & Resume Link". With this link you will be able to go back and update details, including entry to additional competitions or changes to the music details recorded.

Separate forms for different events

If a skater is competing more than one event, e.g. Dance and Singles, or Interpretive and Singles, then separate forms need to be completed. This is so that we can check that we have the required music details for any given competition. But if you compete in an event that has more than one part to it – e.g. a Short Programme and a Freeskate, you can enter this information in the one form.

Please use this link for all NZIFSA or South Island competitions

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2026MusicDetails>



For **North Island Club or Regional competitions** please use the following link and have your music files ready to submit when you complete the online form:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NorthIslandIceSkatingSubAssociation/NorthIslandsCompetitorsMusic2026>

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/>

ANTI-DOPING / CLEAN SPORT INFORMATION

The commencement of competition season is getting closer and winter will be upon us before we know it. It's timely to share some more information around where clubs, athletes, coaches and supporters can find information about what medications are banned, what to do if you need to apply for a TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemption) and how we can educate ourselves in clean sport. Drug testing doesn't only occur off-shore, the Sport Integrity Commission also undertakes drug testing both outside and inside of competition in sports throughout New Zealand.

Below are the links to some valuable information. As well as running webinars several times per year (which will be emailed out to you when they are coming up), you can also complete e-learning. This month we highlight the **banned medications list/how to check your medication** - please do check this carefully as this does include a cold and flu medication. And the **supplements** information - there are no supplements approved to be taken in sport due to the risk of contamination. If you are keen to learn more please follow the links below.

[Medications | Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui](#)

[Supplements | Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui](#)

More information will be shared next month. If you have any questions, please do get in touch with Anna Smith, our Anti-Doping Officer, at antidoping@nzifsa.org.nz

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX ALLOCATIONS

The ISU have advised which Junior Grand Prix competitions we have been allocated for the 2026/27 season:

1 st event Xi'An City / China, 19-22 August	Men, Women
2 nd event Riga / Latvia, 26-29 August	Men
3 rd event Bangkok / Thailand, 2-5 September	Men, Women
4 th event Ankara /Turkey, 16-19 September	Men
5 th event Batumi / Georgia, 23-26th September	Men
6 th event Ljubljana / Slovenia 30 Sept – 3 October	Men, Women
7 th event Gdansk / Poland, 7-10 October	Men

Dwayne Li has his choice of two of the seven events we have been allocated for Men. The priority for the Women's places will be determined after the Clucas Cup.

CALL FOR TEAM LEADERS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced individuals to fulfil the Team Leader role at the following International Competitions:

- Junior Grand Prix – Xi'An City / China, 19-22 August
- Junior Grand Prix – Bangkok / Thailand, 2-5 September
- Junior Grand Prix – Ljubljana / Slovenia 30 Sept – 3 October

We will only be appointing a team leader for the JGP events if we have more than two skaters at these events. For all events with two or more skaters a skater's coach or parent will not normally be named as Team Leader.

We are also likely to be seeking a Team Leader for the following competition

- Asian Open Figure Skating Trophy – location and dates yet to be formally confirmed but usually early August

We are looking for team leaders who have enough experience of international competitions, ideally either as an official or coach, to be able to coordinate the activities of our team members. As outlined in the position description, they need to be able to handle crisis situations as well as routine administrative tasks; be team players who can work with all athletes, coaches, judges, parents, and administrators; have knowledge of the NZIFSA rules and agreements surrounding international participation; and, have local knowledge that will assist them in carrying out their role.

The Team Leader position description can be found on page 10 of the Job Descriptions for Appointed Positions on the NZIFSA website

<https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Job%20Descriptions%20for%20Appointed%20Positions%20V9.0.pdf>

The NZIFSA Funding Policy <https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Funding%20Policy%20%20V11.0.pdf> section 10, outlines two different maximum funding criteria based on the location of each ISU Championship or International as indicated below:

- For events in North/South America, Asia and Oceania, \$1,650 plus cost of official accommodation if not provided by ISU for official days of competition
- For events in Europe and South Africa, \$2,750 plus cost of official accommodation if not provided by ISU for official days of competition

Normally a person may be selected for a team leader position only once per funding season, however if circumstances require an individual to serve as team leader at more than one competition, funding will be provided in all cases.

Please submit your EOI and any supporting documentation via the Cognito form link below by **5pm on Sunday 28 June**.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/TeamLeaderEOIForInternationalComps2026>



If you have any questions, please email the General Secretary at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz.

NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Submissions on the **Skater Development Policy** and **Selection Policy** closed on **30 May**. Your submissions will be considered by the Board when they review the policy and any proposed amendments will be put back out for member feedback along with the calculated TES for 2026/27.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 9 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). Any correspondence received after the 2nd of June will go to the next meeting.

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