

### **A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO A SPECIAL PERSON - BRIDGET DANBROOK**

This week we said farewell to a very special member of our skating community. Very sadly Bridget Danbrook passed away on 29 October 2020.

A very moving service was held at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Howick, Auckland on 3 November and attended by many people from the skating community. Husband Alan and daughters Tracy and Jess gave lovely tributes to Bridget as wife and mum. A strong, caring and generous spirit.

Bridget made a phenomenal contribution to the administration of our sport. She had been involved in administration at club level since 2008, with NISSA since 2011, and had been a Data/Replay operator since 2012. But it was in her role as Secretary of NZIFSA from 2013 – 2019 that her influence was felt most widely. Always there offering support and providing information and advice. So many people from around the country, including many who had never met her, but had communicated with her on numerous occasions, have felt the loss of her passing.

Bridget was diagnosed with cancer last December and stepped back from her role as Secretary of NZIFSA to focus her energy on recovering. She was so incredibly positive throughout her battle with cancer and until recently was still planning for her future involvement in skating when she was recovered. Bridget loved skating and volunteered many thousands of hours. But her family were her first love. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alan, Jess, Tracy and Chris and their extended family.

Bridget, you will be missed by so many.



## **NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS & NEW ZEALAND ADULT SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS, DUNEDIN 24-27 OCTOBER**

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the DISC organising committee, officials and volunteers for making this such a successful event. This year was even more challenging than most with the added uncertainty around whether we would be able to hold the event and the short lead time between the last qualifying competition and these championships.

Our National Championships are the pinnacle event of our skating calendar and we wish to congratulate all those who met the qualification criteria to be able to compete. We enjoyed some great skating over the four days of competition and all results can be found on the Competitions section of the NZIFSA website: <http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/>.

We would also like to mention those New Zealand skaters who live and train overseas who were unable to attend Nationals this year. The Board had specified a process in the event that NZ skaters living/training overseas were unable to attend Nationals, either due to travel restrictions or the 14 day quarantine requirement being in place, that they be given the opportunity to be selected to the respective grade for International selection and Australian Nationals. Selection will be subject to evidence of attaining the required TES for International A or B team or Australian Nationals as applicable. Any skaters that meet these selection criteria will be confirmed as last priority in that representative group (i.e. behind skaters who made selection at New Zealand Nationals). In the unlikely situation that we have more than one skater selected via this method, priority between those skaters will be determined by total score. We will notify members if any skaters do qualify via this method.

## **SELECTIONS FROM THE 2020 NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The provisional announcement of selection of representative skaters of those that had made the development squads was made at the banquet following the completion of the standard grades at the National Championships and the confirmed selections are listed below.

While the COVID-19 travel restrictions are likely to impact what competitions our skaters can attend, we still want to celebrate their success in meeting the selection criteria for the Development Squad or to represent New Zealand in International Competitions or at the Australian Figure Skating Championships.



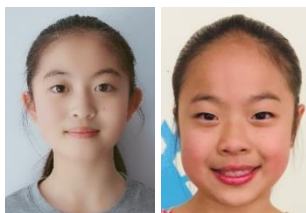
*Ruth Xu, Senior Ladies Champion, sharing the podium with past champions - our Patron Wendy Clucas (nee Grafton) 1962,63,65 & 66, Jeanne Begej (nee Wyatt) 1968 & 69, Sue Hoseit 1967, Rosie Armstrong (nee Blong) 1987, 89, 90 & 91*

## Selection of International A Team Representative Skaters

The following skaters have met the NZIFSA criteria to be eligible for selection to represent New Zealand at International Competitions and are in order of priority. Skaters marked with an \* are eligible for selection to a grade other than the one they competed in because of their age.

### Advanced Novice Ladies

Hope Zhang  
Marina Chen



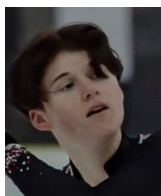
### Junior Ladies

Ruth Xu\*  
Dani Gebser  
Mirika Armstrong  
Ella Smith



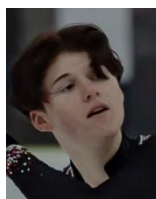
### Junior Men

Douglas Gerber\*



### Senior Ladies

Ruth Xu



### Senior Men

Douglas Gerber

\* Skaters are eligible for selection to a grade other than the one they competed in due to age

## Selection of International B Team Representative Skaters

The International B Team provides an opportunity for a further group of skaters to gain experience at international competitions. These skaters are eligible to attend any international competitions where the number of spaces available to New Zealand in any grade exceeds the number of selected International A Representatives, but they aren't eligible for any NZIFSA funding for this. These are listed in order of priority.

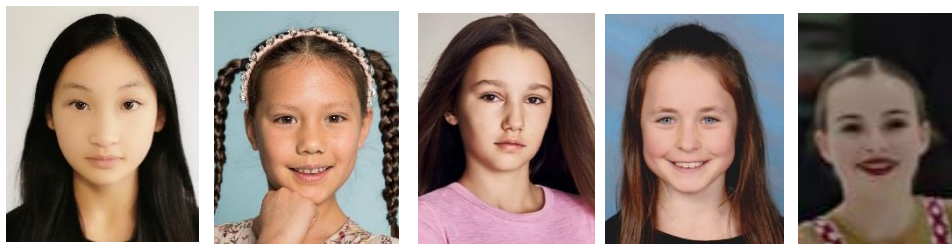
### Basic Novice Ladies

Christine Aixinjueluo  
Connie Yang\*\*  
Alethea Wong  
Maia Petterson\*\*  
Mya Jonker\*\*  
Tailah Adams\*\*



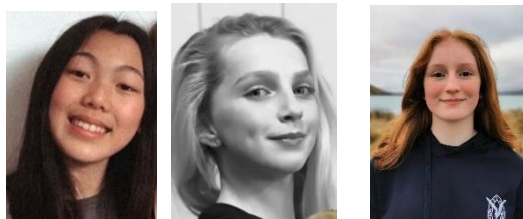
### Intermediate Novice Ladies

Cara Tang  
Ann Kyle  
Olivia Pokorny  
Jazmyn Evangelou  
Alex Hamilton



### Advanced Novice Ladies

Misaki Joe\* \*\*  
Brooke Cathro  
Rebekah Sime



### Junior Ladies

Asia Tapealava  
Misaki Joe  
Hannah Sime  
Jess Hay  
Natasha Woodacre



### Intermediate Novice Dance

Gemma Pickering & Benji Pickering



### Advanced Novice Dance

Ann Kyle & Blake Barraclough



### Mixed Age Synchro\*\*\*

Cutting Edge: Zara Anthony-Whigham  
Djuna Elkan  
Anya Gipp  
Abby Grimaldi  
Amelie Henderson  
Rachael Jannink  
Levi Keller  
Rosie Maley  
Jazelle McCormick  
Katie Sewell  
Briar Short  
Katie St Clair-Newman  
Paige Symister  
Tallulah Wilson-Brown



\* Skaters are eligible for selection to a grade other than the one they competed in due to age

\*\* Skaters will age out of the indicated grade at 1 July 2021

\*\*\* For a synchronized skating team to retain their selection, 75% of the team going to the international competition must have been listed as part of the team selected at the NZ national championships and must meet the requirements for that grade for that competition.

## NZIFSA Development Squad

Those marked with \* met the Development Squad selection criteria at either the North or South Island Championships. These are listed alphabetically by surname.

### Pre Elementary Under 12

Olivia Dickson\*



### Juvenile Under 12

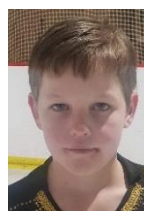
Kaci Jonker\*

Lilah Langi-Scott

Cooper Petterson\*

Mira Ren

Emily Yang\*



### Basic Novice Under 12

Christine Aixinjueluo\*

Alethea Wong\*

Kelly Zou\*



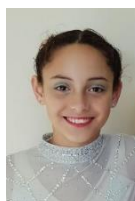
### Basic Novice Ladies

Tailah Adams

Mya Jonker\*

Maia Petterson\*

Connie Yang\*



### Intermediate Novice Under 12

Ann Kyle\*

Cara Tang\*



### Intermediate Novice Ladies

Jazmyn Evangelou\*

Alex Hamilton\*

Olivia Pokorny\*



### Advanced Novice Under 12

Brooke Cathro\*

Marina Chen\*



### Advanced Novice Ladies

Rebekah Sime\*

Hannah Sutton\*

Hope Zhang\*



**Junior Ladies**

Mirika Armstrong\*  
Dani Gebser\*  
Jess Hay\*  
Misaki Joe\*  
Hannah Sime\*  
Ella Smith\*  
Asia Tapealava\*  
Natasha Woodacre



**Senior Ladies**

Ruth Xu\*



**Senior Men**

Douglas Gerber\*



**Intermediate Novice Dance**

Gemma Pickering & Benji Pickering\*



**Advanced Novice Dance**

Ann Kyle & Blake Barraclough\*



**Selection of Skaters for the Australian Figure Skating Championships**

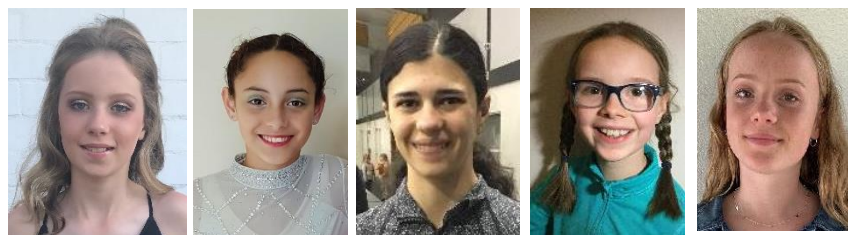
The following skaters have met our selection criteria for the 2020 Australian Figure Skating Championships. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, there won't be the opportunity for New Zealand skaters to take part in this competition, however, we would like to acknowledge their achievement in making the TES score.

**Basic Novice Ladies**

Christine Aixinjueluo  
Connie Yang  
Alethea Wong  
Maia Petterson  
Eva Howe  
Mya Jonker

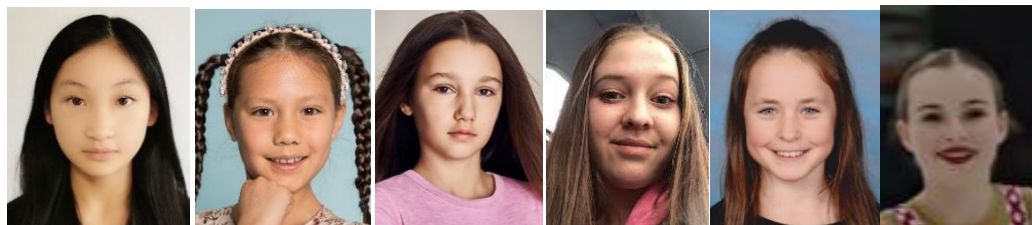


Brooke Stansfield  
 Tailah Adams  
 Maddi Dumble  
 Georgia Chinn  
 Hayley Douglas



**Intermediate Novice Ladies**

Cara Tang  
 Ann Kyle  
 Olivia Pokorny  
 Emilia Crooks  
 Jazmyn Evangelou  
 Alex Hamilton



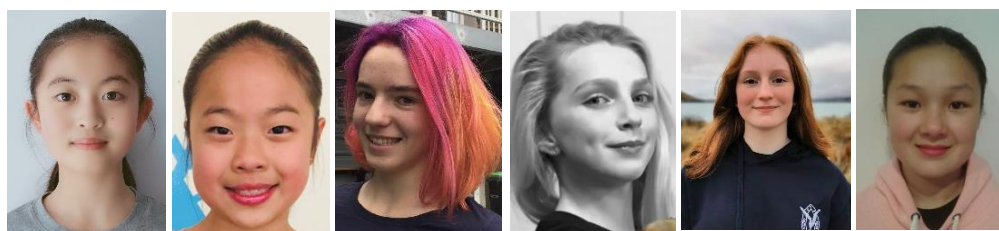
**Intermediate Novice Men**

Star Richens



**Advanced Novice Ladies**

Hope Zhang  
 Marina Chen  
 Grace Greenstreet  
 Brooke Cathro  
 Rebekah Sime  
 Hannah Sutton



**Junior Ladies**

Mirika Armstrong  
 Dani Gebser  
 Jess Hay  
 Misaki Joe  
 Hannah Sime  
 Ella Smith  
 Asia Tapealava  
 Natasha Woodacre



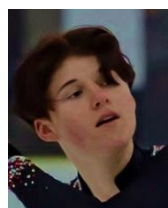
**Senior Ladies**

Ruth Xu



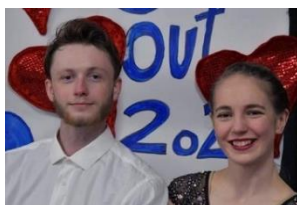
**Senior Men**

Douglas Gerber



**Basic Novice Dance**

Hannah Sime & Ezra Dalkie



**Intermediate Novice Dance**

Gemma Pickering & Benji Pickering



**Advanced Novice Dance**

Lucienne Holtz & Tim Bradfield

Ann Kyle & Blake Barraclough

**Basic Novice Synchro\*\***

- Ice Angels: Chloe Aitken
- Olivia Bates
- Maddison Blincoe
- Megan Briggs
- Alice Carvell
- Kate Carvell
- Sophie Jennings
- Alexis Laud
- Verity Neil
- Krishnaa Patel
- Charlotte Robinson
- Anah Tremain
- Gabriella Wooler
- Neske Groenewegen(alt)



**Mixed Age Synchro\*\***

- Cutting Edge: Zara Anthony-Whigham
- Djuna Elkan
- Anya Gipp
- Abby Grimaldi
- Amelie Henderson
- Rachael Jannink
- Levi Keller
- Rosie Maley
- Jazelle McCormick
- Katie Sewell
- Briar Short
- Katie St Clair-Newman
- Paige Symister
- Tallulah Wilson-Brown



\*\* For a synchronized skating team to retain their selection, 75% of the team going to the AFSC must have been listed as part of the team selected at the NZ national championships and must meet the requirements for that grade for that competition.



## **OTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE AT THE NATIONALS BANQUET**

### **Administrator of the Year**

There were four nominations for this award this year and each of the nominees have made a significant contribution to the administration of our sport. The nominees were Katherine Bennetts, Bridget Danbrook, Alan Greenstreet and Fiona Marsh. Fiona Marsh, by dint of her position as Secretary of NZIFSA is not eligible for this award.

### **Criteria:**

- Take on a leadership or integral role in their club/sub association
- Take on administrative/organizational roles and perform their duties in a manner that progresses the sport or enhances the functioning of the club/sub-association.
- Positive role model for other administrators of our sport.
- Possibly work in a mentoring role within the club/sub-association.

### **Katherine Bennetts – Centaurus Ice Skating Club**

Katherine joined the Centaurus committee several years ago and is currently president. She has shown dedication to fostering a positive club environment, continually searching for ways the club can improve and provide assistance for club skaters and promoting the sport through pursuing public recognition of skater achievements. Katherine is a positive role model for volunteers tirelessly contributing to all events regionally and nationally.

### **Bridget Danbrook – Allegro Ice Dance Club**

Bridget is an extremely passionate, dedicated and hardworking member and secretary of the Allegro committee. In the stressful Covid year Bridget has been a shining star, constantly updating members, and alleviating the inherent anxiety. This year, Bridget spearheaded fundraising, updating the constitution and the website. In addition, she spends many hours mentoring new committee members ensuring they are equipped to undertake their roles. Bridget works tirelessly for the club.

### **Alan Greenstreet – Centaurus Ice Skating Club**

Alan was responsible for setting up the Centaurus Clubs old IJS system, and over the years transported it to many South Island competitions. With the new IJS systems in operation, Alan has a well-tested, slick operation in place for the setting up the system, managing it seamlessly, and quietly training others to operate it. Alan, with the system, travels to most if not all of the Championships held in the South Island. He is usually first there, and last to leave. The South Island Clubs know they are blessed to have Alan as the IJS expert.

The Board are very pleased to award the Administrator of the Year award to Alan Greenstreet. The NZIFSA would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the other nominees for the huge contribution they make to our sport through their volunteer activities.

## **SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR**

Three people were nominated for this award. The nominees were Douglas Gerber, Grace Greenstreet, Neske Groenewegen and Caitlin Rae.

### **Criteria:**

- Positive role model for other skaters
- Demonstrate a “fair play” attitude/good sportsmanship
- Positive and tangible contribution to their club and the sport in general
- Active role in the activities offered by the club and/or skate school, e.g. club nights, fundraising, Kiwi Skate coaching sessions

### **Douglas Gerber - Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club**

Douglas shows great leadership skills and he is always giving advice to younger skaters to help them improve and during competitions is seen motivating other skaters to do their best. He is not only hard working, but also puts a smile on everyone’s faces; his happy personality brightens up the rink and practice sessions with him are never a bore

In every situation, Douglas strives for excellence in figure skating.

He shows great sportsmanship, and this has won him many friendships in Auckland, New Zealand and Australia

### **Grace Greenstreet - Centaurus Ice Skating Club**

Grace is kind, genuine, and positive. She is supportive of and respectful to all skaters in and out of competition.

Grace can often be seen volunteering to help at club competitions, after breaking her legs for two successive years, she remained undaunted, determined, and with her positive attitude intact. Most people wouldn’t have the grit to keep going - Grace has proven she is not like most people; she even came swinging in on crutches to volunteer.

She is now contributing more of her time and energy to the sport training as a judge. Approaching this with the same enthusiasm and effort she puts into her skating, she was so keen to get started, she arranged to probationary judge within weeks of her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Grace is a remarkable person, a committed athlete, and a fantastic sportsperson and serves as a brilliant role model and volunteer to other skaters.

### **Neske Groenewegen - Auckland Figure Skating Club**

Neske started skating at 6 years old and volunteering began early, when she assisted with skate school at just 13 and stepped into coaching position as soon as she could. She currently runs three skate school sessions, and has added in synchro, spending many hours assisting the younger teams.

She is always first to volunteer for anything that involves skating, be it fundraising, warm up sessions, off-ice zoom session of blinging dresses.

Nothing is too much for Neske her drive and commitment is something many of the younger skaters aspire to.

### **Caitlin Rae – Allegro Ice Dance Club**

Caitlin is extremely passionate about everything to do with skating, specifically Synchro. She is always one of the first to put her hand up to help, whether it is for fundraising, club promotion days, or helping the younger skaters and teams in the club on and off the ice. In the weekends she can be found cooking sausages for club fundraisers, always smiling and happy to know she is benefiting the skaters, the teams, and the club.

Caitlin is the perfect sports person role model for younger skaters.

The Board are very pleased to award the Sportsperson of the year award to Grace Greensteet. The NZIFSA also wish to acknowledge all the other nominees for this award and the valuable part they play in creating a positive environment for all our skaters.

The Board did have some discussion about both the Sportsperson of the Year and the Administrator of the Year awards being presented to members of the same family. The nominations for each of these were however considered independently.



*Grace & Alan Greenstreet with their awards*

### **The Allchurch Shield**

The Shield is named after Sandy Allchurch and is awarded to the club that gets the highest number of points, based on where their members place in the various grades, at our New Zealand National and Adult Skating Championships. Sandy Allchurch was actively involved in the Association for many years and was at the inaugural meeting in June 1937 of what was, until 2011, the New Zealand Ice Skating Association. Sandy was also Patron for our Association for many years and was very dedicated to supporting ice skating. Being able to present this award each year is a rather special acknowledgement to Sandy and the contribution that he, and others like him, have made to our sport.

The provisional announcement of the Allchurch Shield was made at the banquet. For the first time ever the Allchurch Shield was won by Allegro Ice Dance Club – congratulations.

Summary of the Allchurch Shield points:

Allegro Ice Dance Club (AIDC)	25
Glenburn Figure Skating Club (GFSC)	24
Dunedin Ice Skating Club (DISC)	22
Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club (AIFSC)	17
Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club (CMFSC)	14
Centaurus Ice Skating Club (CISC)	9
Ice Sports Southland (ISS)	9
West Auckland Ice Skating Club (WAISC)	9
Queenstown Ice Skating Club (QISC)	6
Alexandra Ice Skating Club (AISC)	0



*Marina Chen and Mira Ren accepting the Allchurch Shield on behalf of AIDC*

### **Norman Cameron Cup of Excellence**

The cup is awarded to the skater, couple, pair or team that has excelled in skating over the year, in international competitions (including Australia) or have had an outstanding year in skating. The trophy is only to be awarded if a skater deserves it and fits the above criteria. The Norman Cameron Cup was not awarded this year as the international competition season has been so disrupted that there simply haven't been the same opportunities for skaters to excel in competition.

### **Recognition of Jeanne Begej - Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit**

Flowers were presented to Jeanne Begej to celebrate her being recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2020 for her contribution to figure skating as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Jeanne spoke about her lifelong involvement in skating and how she started judging at age 16 so that she had a better understanding of what the judges were looking for when she was competing.

Jeanne has yet to receive her medal. There was an award ceremony last week, but Jeanne she chose to come and judge at Nationals, and so it may be next year before she gets the chance to be presented with her medal by the Governor General.



*Jeanette King, CEO, presenting flowers to Jeanne Begej*

### **MEMBER FORUMS AT NATIONALS**

Three member forums were held during our National Championships. A Coaches forum was held to discuss development opportunities and options for coaches to attain the points they need to maintain accreditation. Our Coaching Director, Simone Thornett will be sending out some notes for coaches soon regarding this.

As per usual, a forum to discuss the Rules and Regulations was held. The draft Rules & Regulations have been posted on the NZIFSA website for comment since 1 August. There had been no feedback received to date. The proposed changes to the 2021 Rules & Regulations were discussed, including some useful feedback around what might constitute a conflict of interest for coaches serving on technical panels. There are no changes proposed to sections 600, 700 or 800. The revised draft Rules and Regulations sections 100, 200 and 500 have been posted on the NZIFSA website Member Forums for a further 21 days for feedback.

The final member forum was “What can NZIFSA do for you”. The focus was primarily on what development opportunities we can offer for skaters, coaches and officials given that our borders are likely to stay “closed” for the foreseeable future. The USD10,000 exceptional grant from the ISU gives NZIFSA the opportunity to put some additional resources into development, but we need to make sure we invest it wisely. Based on the suggestions received, NZIFSA are looking to put together a series of camps for skaters that include remote input from high level international coaches. Earlier in the year is the preference as it sets skaters up well for the year and is less disruptive to programme preparation. There was support for “residential” style camps where skaters stay together and train together for 3 – 5 days. We will have more information for our skating community in our next newsletter regarding these camps.

All the best in skating,  
Anita Tamepo and Jeanette King