



Canterbury Masters

Figure Skating Club Inc.

Newsletter August 2006

Outdoor Ice Trip to Naseby

Flying in the face of forecasts, Canterbury turned down the temperature this winter and produced some good outdoor ice. But there was no stopping the 35 club members and friends who headed down to 45 degrees south – the Maniototo – to be sure of a good freeze.

Tucked in between Ranfurley and Dansey's Pass, Naseby looked charming when we arrived – plenty of snow, cute little baches, golden needled larches!

But this was no time to be admiring the beauties of nature - most of us headed straight for the rink where we quickly worked up a sweat pushing across the rather rough ice. Some of our learners revelled in

it, reporting a new found sense of confidence and stability, while others enjoyed being pushed about on the cleverly adapted school chairs fitted with sled like runners.

As the sun set, the rink's coloured lights lent it a romantic look and feel, as did the retro music that was taking many a master down memory lane.



*Let the waltz begin...
Maniototo Ice Rink, Naseby*

Locals were amused when, at the first strains of the dreaded Dutch Waltz, all of our skaters, like automatons, stopped chatting or playing, assumed a crucifix like stance and launched themselves into the dance. Was that the muted murmur of "Robots on ice!" we heard from the sidelines?

But there was nothing mechanical about the team in the Royal Hotel that night. A blazing fire, good company and generous servings to match outsized appetites made for a relaxed evening.

A groomed surface greeted us the next day, but some soon forsook it for the natural ice on the lower ponds.

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Mini Golf, Petanque and a Pot Luck Meal

Don't miss out next time we have a games afternoon – the last one at the end of April was a scream! Thanks to the Lewis family for hosting the event and especially Bryn for providing the quirky mini golf course with its idiosyncratic rules. If playing a shot from where the ball lies means straddling a jungle gym or hanging by the teeth from a trampoline, then that's what has to happen. Luckily in the Lewis' garden you're never more than

a metre from an elegant drink holder – the fence is riddled with them – so there's no need to abandon your beer while playing.

Golf and petanque weren't the only games on offer. An ancient surf board mounted on wobbling springs tested the balance of the brave and for the completely foolhardy Bryn brought out the ultimate challenge – a motorised skateboard. A ride on this was a

terrifying ordeal as it only begins to respond to your controlling movements when it picks up speed. Grateful thanks go to Mykaila and Kelsi who provided a safety escort on their bikes – complete with a barrage of useful advice for riding the thing!

These girls proved impossible to beat at the gentler art of petanque so it was with relief that the vanquished retreated inside for a superb shared meal.

*An overnight tramp
while there's still
lots of snow on
the tops*

Next Tramp

The weather and people's commitments conspired against us in March so the Mt Somers tramp didn't happen. But now there's enthusiasm from a few for a very early spring tramp on 2-3 Sept. Let's face it, it's still really winter so this

overnight trip is likely to attract only the hardy and semi-hardy.

The destination is not yet decided – it could be Mt Somers or the Kelly Tops near Otira or perhaps somewhere in the Lewis

Pass. The first day will be quite short as we can't leave Christchurch till 10am. If you are interested and want to be on the email list to get more information on this trip, talk to June or email june.laird@xtra.co.nz

*Steeped in history, the
remote Rail Trail gives
a unique view of
the scenery*

Central Otago Rail Trail

There has been some interest in a Club trip to cycle the Central Otago Rail Trail. The trail follows the former railway line from Clyde to Middlemarch for 150km – that's the Maniototo again. The gradient is easy, the landscape picturesque and there are lots of historic towns to stop at. The trail is suitable for a range of fitness levels

because there are no steep hills and you can travel at your own pace. It takes 3-5 days to mountainbike the whole length, but there are lots of ways to do the trip – joining or leaving at different points, walking or being a support vehicle driver.

Spring or early summer would be good times to do it. We have access to a trailer that takes 15 bikes or

bikes can be hired down there. Please register your interest by emailing june.laird@xtra.co.nz.

We are also looking for a volunteer, or more than one, to organise this trip. Could this be you?

For more information on the Rail Trail see www.otagocentralrailtrail.co.nz

Resource Library

The Club has acquired a number of resources that members may wish to borrow. They are:

NZ Ice Skating Assn: Rules & Regulations 2006

Ice in Motion : dvd of the Alpine Ice Gala, Apr 2006

NZ Masters Games 2006: skating events - video & dvd

NZ Masters Games 2006 skating - selected photos

Naseby Outdoor Ice Trip 2006 – selected photos

To borrow items or for copies of images contact june.laird@xtra.co.nz

Welcome to new members

We are very glad to welcome the following new members for 2006:

David Busby
Heather Clay
Stephen Codd
Monique Da Costa
Anna Douglas
Francis Freeman
Shaina Greenwood
Jude Heeney
Janette Kear
Sophie Main
Tracey Neville
Doug Platt
Toni Rigarsford
Kevin Rigarsford

Jacqui Rigarsford
Sven Rigarsford
Carolyn Reid
Charles Reid
Rachel Reid
Charles Reid jnr
Bridget Ryan
Jennifer Searle
Charlotte Searle
Emily Searle
Valda Schmidt
Sharleen Sorensen
Andrea Stevens

President's Column

*Recognition of hard
work by many of
our members*

Special mention of thanks are due to the following Club members in recognition of their hard work and contribution in the following areas:

Trish Weir, who has been constantly pursuing funding applications for our members, securing a figure in excess of \$8000 from the Trusts Charitable Foundation for ice time for Synchro, Dance, Free and Stroking as well as competition ice time later in the year.

June Laird - our trip organising guru - many long hours were spent planning and organising this year's major winter trip to Naseby (last year it was Tekapo). June is already looking ahead planning for trips for spring and next year. Not to mention June's "journalism skills" in producing the great

CMFSC Newsletter.

Verity Busby - who offered to make all the synchro ladies' dresses & men's tops, organised the design, purchase etc of the materials then set about the cutting, sewing, fitting etc, ably assisted by many of the members of the team with some of these chores.

Debbie Gill-Fox who undertook to organise the Chocolate Fundraising drive by the synchro team members - distributing chocolate, keeping the records of sales and collecting the money. Most of the chocs have been sold and the money is just about all in. I have to mention the Queen of the Chocolate sales is **Linda White** - no problem to Linda to sell 5 boxes at the sports fields on a Saturday! Linda, the Synchro team's captain, is

also due high praise for her role as timekeeper - counting out the beats that keep the team in step.

Kim Lewis, Synchro coach, who gives her time and energy so generously. It's not unusual for Kim to have her best flashes of choreographic genius at 3am! Patient and inspiring, Kim is working wonders with the team.

Sophie Main - who secured a \$1000 Radio Advertising Sponsorship from "MORE FM" to sell at a discounted rate, the proceeds of which are to go to the Synchro Team to assist in costs to attend SI Champs. At the time of the newsletter going to print the advertising is almost sold.

Congratulations to our first CMFSC members to sit and pass NZISA Tests:

Trish Weir passed Masters Prelim & Inter Bronze Dance Tests.
Anna Douglas passed Masters Inter-Bronze & Bronze Freeskating Tests.
Mykaila Lewis passed Prelim Dance Test.

Jeanne Begej

*A figure in excess of \$8,000 has
been generously provided by
The Trusts Charitable
Foundation*



The Spring Fever Road Show

Here's a chance to see our very own Jenny Blackadder on her banjo with her group of five swing and old time music experts.

The Spring Fever Road Show will be performing

at the Richmond Working Men's Club on Saturday 9th September at 8.00pm.

Muriel Wheatley is organising tickets for club members. The tickets cost \$15.00. If you would like to go, contact Muriel

on 9804228 or email brianmuriel@paradise.net.nz, or simply catch Muriel at coffee club.

It promises to be a lot of fun so let's have a big masters group there!

Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club

Your Committee

President

Jeanne Begej

Vice President

Trish Weir

Secretary

Evelyn Brown

Treasurer

Graham Williams

Committee Members

Kath Craven

June Laird

Kim Lewis

Gail Schat

Muriel Wheatley

Contact details can be found on our website
<http://www.freewebs.com/cantmastersfigureskating/>

Newsletter editor
June Laird

Naseby – continued from page one

These ponds were rough and snowy, but the real McCoy. With the wind rising it was clearly time to mull some wine for inner cheer. When evening came we were all feeling very satisfied with both the wine and the delicious BBQ we'd enjoyed at the rink, courtesy of CMFSC.

Time for curling. The all important table was set up on the ice (it's for drinks!) and local Jock explained the basics of the game. Weakened by such an energetic day some of us struggled to get the heavy stone anywhere near the "house" let alone on the

"button", but poor hurlers excelled at sweeping and the time passed in a blur of laughs, shouts and cheers. Only Verity, with the help of her slippery shoes, took time out to gaze at the stars!

Two Toaster Tony Weir made an all too efficient job of packing up on Sunday, but for those in less of a hurry, Coal Pit Dam offered smooth skating on a big surface in sun and shade.

Deirdre nobly tested the ice for us using the traditional method of attempting to dive through it and, failing, declared it safe.



*Coal Pit Dam, Naseby
Photo by Martha Oerlemans*

Hockey at one end, a synchro line at the other, and between, as always, our accomplished skaters helping others with technical skills. Now this was very close to bliss!

Naseby people – expect a feedback form soon. Your responses will be very useful to help us plan for next year's trip.

Masters Members off to SI Champs

The Spectrum Synchro Team has been practising hard in preparation for its trip to Queenstown for the South Island Champs on Aug 11-13. In gorgeous silvery sea green costumes they'll look like the rolling surf as their perfectly synchronised kickline flows up the ice. The Busby household has been a whirr of sewing machines and a blur of organza as Verity churns out these dazzling outfits.

Others in the team have been cutting and sewing too, or selling chocolate to help fund the trip. The Club has also contributed to costs. If you can't get to Queenstown there will be another chance to see Spectrum's skills in October – see below. Good luck Spectrum!

As well as Spectrum, we also have the following skaters competing:
Trish Weir in Silver

Masters Freeskating and **Anna Douglas** in Platinum Masters Freeskating.

Robin Scanes and **Jan Christieson** are competing in the South Island Waltzing Trophy and **Shannon Russell** in the Special Olympics event so we are very well represented. Good luck too to mini member **Mykaila Lewis** in the juvenile event.

October Competition

As the South Island Masters Games this year are at a venue with no ice rink, CMFSC will be hosting a similar competition here in Christchurch in conjunction with our club championships. This will be at Alpine Ice on Thursday 12th October 3.30pm – 7.00pm. Programme details coming soon.