

SPIRAL

MARCH — APRIL 2024



Hello Everyone

We hope you have all enjoyed the Easter Break, maybe some of you have been able to get away for a few days. Easter being early this year has caught most of us off guard, however it won't be long before daylight saving ends and back go our clocks on 7th April. You all know what that means, cooler days are looming. There has been a lot happening since our January newsletter and I am sure you will find some interesting reading in this issue about what our members have been up to.

On 5th March our 20th AGM was held, with an excellent turnout of members and as a result we have a full committee of 10 people plus our Patron. We haven't had that number for quite a few years, so are very excited to have a full team on board including 5 new recruits bringing some fresh ideas and new skills. We'll introduce them to you in future issues of Spiral. Meet the team below.



2024 Committee

Back Row L—R

Isabella,
Meg (Hon Solicitor)
Sophie, Catie, Adam,
Emma - Secretary
Inset: Jeanette -Test &
Comp Sec.
Jeanne Vice President,
Kirsty -Treasurer,
Arnold –Patron,
Linda - President.



Congratulations also to Jeanette on her election as NZIFSA General Secretary after holding CEO position for past 6 yrs.

School Holiday Family Sessions

Wednesday 17 & 24 April 6—7pm

Club Members: Adults (18yrs+) \$7.50, Children (U18) Free
Friends of Club Members: Adults (18yrs+) \$11 Children (U18) \$2
Skate Hire (Alpine Charge) \$4.00
Kids: Please bring your bike helmets!

Please also bring correct money if you can, as no eftpos or credit card facilities are available at these sessions and the cash is collected by a committee member on admission.

Good Luck to club members Kirsty Cox & John Gilmour, who are both heading to Oberstdorf, Germany to compete in the 2024 ISU Adult International Competition 12-17th May.



NZ Masters Games were held in Dunedin 3–4 February

Many of our Club Members competed in this event and brought lots of medals home –here we share their stories and pictures

Karen writes ...

This year was my first time skating at the New Zealand Masters Games. I'd been warned that the Dunedin rink was bigger, and the ice faster. But, because the ice was faster, the rink didn't actually seem bigger, in fact it seemed smaller! We were lucky to have competitors from Auckland and Australia in our grade, and I could see that they were having to adjust their skating for the ice as well. That's what I like about skating; it's mentally challenging. As an Organisational Psychologist, my job involves spending a lot of time analysing other people's motivations and behaviour at work, skating makes me analyse myself (and why my coach makes it look so easy, but my feet aren't doing what I'm telling them to do ...). My greatest achievement of the competition was being able to smile and skate at the same time in my interpretive programme. The Masters Games is known as the 'friendly games'; everyone really wants the other skaters to do well. But, what really stood out for me was how inclusive and supportive our club is. The synchro team members sorted out my transport, accommodation, and included me in their lunch and evening out. And my old friends Linda and Kirsty provided exciting memories that will make this trip unforgettable.

ANZAS Melbourne

Anzas stands for Australia & New Zealand Adult Skating. Of course Alastair who loves to compete around the world took the opportunity to enter this competition as well. Alastair writes....

Anzas Competition held in Melbourne 10–11 February

Yay a holiday; February is a nice time of year for a holiday, school is back and the weather is still nice. Most local skating competitions aren't held in February. However there are exceptions. Every two years there is ice skating as part of Dunedin masters games and the following weekend there is an adult competition, ANZAS, held in Melbourne at the O'Brien Icehouse.

Melbourne is a great city, there is lots to see and do including a cool Icehouse. A great venue with food, shops and accommodation all within easy walking from the ice rink. A place that even on those really hot Melbourne days you can keep cool. The competition was fun with some fantastic and whimsical costumes worn by skaters for their artistic free skate and following the conclusion of the competition, in the evening there was the after skating party...

If you're thinking about doing an overseas competition/holiday but don't fancy a long aeroplane ride, ANZAS might be the competition you're looking for but, you'll have to wait two years for the next one.

Pictured below Alastair in action and with a group of Aussie competitors - you can see they go all out with their costumes. They received small boomerangs with their awards.



Karen managed to skate and smile!



Linda, Alastair, Kirsty & Karen in Dunedin



Around the rink— Coffee Club Thursday 28th March the bunnies came out to play



Kanako, Ian, Fran, Adam & Yoko



Elizabeth, Ian, Michelle, Sam, Andy, Sophie, Isabella & Margaret



Keep a lookout for this new star performer on the ice. We can no longer call it a “Zamboni”, although this will take a bit of getting used to. Looking very sharp painted in Alpine colours.

Lydia we will miss your friendly smile ...

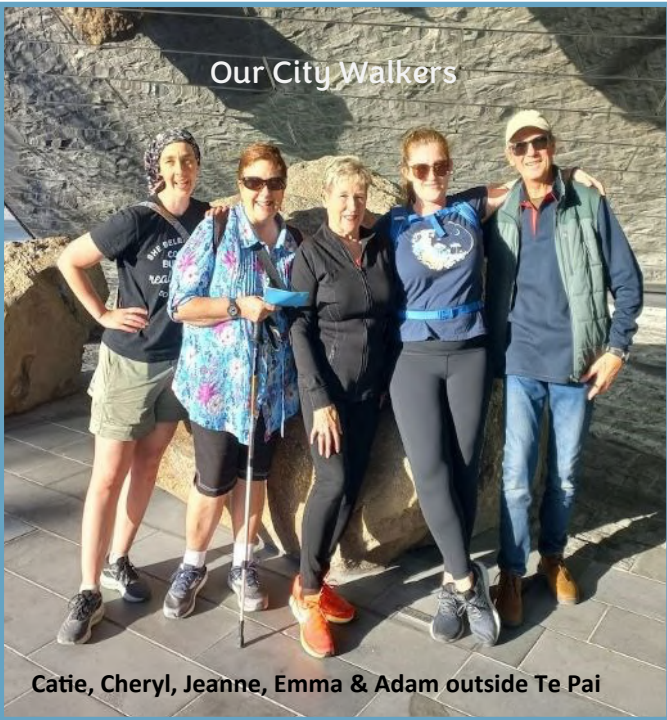
Lydia Sparkle bids farewell after 23 incredible years at Alpine Ice, starting with candyfloss duty in 2000 and evolving into a memorable full time staff member over the years. The next step on her journey is a role in administration and events planning with Exercise New Zealand. She plans to return to watch competitions and will be kept up to date after signing up for the friends of CMFSC membership information.

Club Walking Groups

In February Club Members put on their walking shoes and did two evening walks. The first on 1st February, 13 members got together for a leisurely stroll round the botanic garden taking about 45 to 50 mins. The next walk on 21st February, 5 of us did a city walk starting at the Earthquake Memorial (fitting as the anniversary was on the 22nd) then the Riverside market up Oxford Terrace to Te Pai Convention centre, through Victoria Square, along Armagh St, through New Regent St, along Gloucester to Turanga City Library and new Court Theatre Building opposite, along Cashel Mall, to Bridge of Remembrance, then back to our cars. It took about one hour.



Sarah, Atsuko, Cheryl, (Jack & Emma at Back) Michiko, Kirsty, Mark, Emma, Adam, David & Aleks. Jeanne took photo on our Garden stroll. Another picture on our City Walk is on the next page.



Catie, Cheryl, Jeanne, Emma & Adam outside Te Pai

Noticeboard



QUIZ NIGHT— Team “Illusion” our Club Synchronised Team is having a fundraising quiz night on Monday 6th May 7pm at Robbie’s, 87 Riccarton Road, Riccarton.

Registration 6.30pm Quiz starts at 7pm . Kids are welcome but must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Get your team together or they will find a team for you. Interested? Reply to: cmfsc1@gmail.com

TRIP TO TEKAPO— Adam & Sophie (our Social team) are getting details together for a Club trip to Tekapo. Are you keen on going? Weekend of 23/24 June. Expressions of Interest wanted: Complete this form. <https://www.cognitofirms.com/CanterburyMastersFigureSkatingClub/EOIClubTripToTekapo>

WATCH INTERNATIONAL SKATING EVENTS
World Synchro Championships, Zagreb 6—7 April
Subscribe (Free) to ISU You tube TV Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@SkatingISU>

Has anyone seen Jennie (or Ryan) lately? Here’s why ...

Just a day after competing with Team Illusion at NZ Masters Games Jennie (& Ryan) were on the flight to Rarotonga,.

Kia orana kotou,

We have been living in beautiful Rarotonga now for almost 2 months! I am working at the University of the South Pacific on their archive collections for a year, with Volunteer Service Abroad. I've settled in really well and have been made so welcome! It's been extremely hot the last few weeks and working in the heat is a challenge, but at least we live close to the sea and can go for a swim in the evenings!

We are enjoying getting to know the locals. We are going to Cook Islands Māori language classes and I tried out weaving with coconut palm leaves and we enjoy going to the local market at the weekends.

We have a lovely house with a huge garden and a fantastic view of the mountains. I've found a local yoga class and we've made some nice friends. We feel very lucky to be here and are really enjoying a less stressful lifestyle, and of course a cocktail or two now and then!

Meitaki maata!
Jennie & Ryan



Looks like they've got their work/life balance pretty well sorted!

My unexpected stay in Dunedin after the NZ Masters Games

Our Club President Linda, had an unplanned extended stay in Dunedin after competing at the NZ Masters Games at the beginning of February. Read on as Linda shares her story with us -

"It all happened just a minute or two after leaving the ice following my last event, so the timing was amazing. A pain in my side migrated quickly to my shoulder and jaw, and I shuffled to the sickbay thinking I was having a heart attack! Very scary, for me and those around me. The lovely Dr Fiona Pickering (Dunedin Club skater) assured me it was not a heart attack and with the aid of a hot water bottle and a panadol or two the pain subsided enough for my husband to get my skates off, watch the last of the skating, and dash up the stairs to the awards ceremony to receive my medals.

Time now to get on the road back to Christchurch. The pain had returned with a vengeance and as the Dunedin Hospital Sign came into view I said to my son Taylor "turn in here". I didn't get any further than A & E.

All I really wanted was some "strong pain killers" for the trip home, but the Doctors had other ideas. They scanned me and prodded around, and blow me down, they found I had a perforated ulcer (I didn't even know I had an ulcer let alone a perforated one). Next minute I was whisked off in to surgery. No time to even think about what they were going to do or if I would come out alive or not!

When I awoke in ICU after the surgery, the first thing I asked was "am I alive". I mean, I could have been in heaven for all I knew! They assured me I was very much alive, so I was certainly relieved.

My very relieved family headed for home the next day. I had a week in Dunedin Hospital, with lovely care from the Doctors and Nurses. Also Sue Hoseit from Dunedin Club came in to visit me during my stay, I really appreciated the effort she made arriving by taxi, as Sue herself was in plaster with a broken arm and unable to drive.



So after my extra weeks stay in Dunedin Hospital, my husband returned to drive me home. This was followed by two more weeks at home to recover before returning to work. Such a **drama queen!** I have a lovely scar to remind me of my adventures.

I also went for a walk in my hospital gown before being released, off to the University campus which was the headquarters for the Masters games as I thought I really did need to buy the Official tee shirt this "memorable" year. Yes, I got some funny looks for sure! As of last week I am allowed back on the ice, but making sure that I am taking it easy. Here are some of my special pictures recording the occasion.

It was great to have Linda back on the ice with us at Coffee Club last week!



Your Committee 2024

President

Linda White

Vice President

Jeanne Begej ONZM

Secretary

Emma Hodgson

Treasurer

Kirsty Cox

Test & Competition Secretary

Jeanette King

Patron

Arnold Schmidt

Committee Members

Adam Bryant

Meg Byers

Isabella Cobb

Catie P

Sophie Williams

Spiral

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Thanks to:

KIWI GAMING
FOUNDATION