



# Go Figure!

AUCKLAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CLUB NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2006

## From the President

At this stage of the year, tests have been completed, competitions skated and all are preparing for the New Zealand Nationals which will be held at Paradise Ice Arena, Botany Downs, the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

May I wish all skaters good luck with the rest of the competitive year including the North Island Champs being held at Botany on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August.

For those who are still trying to qualify for Nationals good luck with your tests.

Tristan Thode and Allie Rout (Auckland Ice Skating Club) have been selected to represent New Zealand at the Australian National Champs – Good luck to both of you.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all skaters, parents and coaches well in the remaining competitions and may all your dreams come true.

*Dael Haynes  
President, AIFSC*

### 2006 Committee:

Dael Haynes (President)  
Ph 272 3536

Chris Pulman (Vice-President)  
Ph 834 6686

Melissah Gallagher (Secretary)

Nick Winspear (Treasurer)

Sue Harries  
Deborah Ley  
Jacqueline Prowse  
Ray Pulman  
Wendy Quigley  
Bob Rout  
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Scott Thode  
Delwyn Watson

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### Website

[www.aifsc.org.nz](http://www.aifsc.org.nz)

## Competition Dates for 2006

South Island Championships	August 11-13, Queenstown
Queensland Figure Skating Championships	August 19-26, Boondall
North Islands Championships	August 20-21st, Botany Downs
Australian National championships	August 19-26, Brisbane
New Zealand Nationals	September 18-22, Botany Downs

## Test Dates for 2006

Please note the scheduled test dates for 2006. Test forms should go to Dael Haynes. You can obtain a test form from the AIFSC website. If you have any queries, it is best to direct them to Dael Haynes as she manages the tests.

Tests are still scheduled for -  
12 October, Botany - from 6.45-8.45pm.  
Another test at Avondale in October/November is yet to be confirmed.

### In this Issue...

- Test Results
- Competition Results
- Skater Profile
- Music Tips

*Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Please send articles, items for sale, etc., to Deborah Ley ([ley.family@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ley.family@xtra.co.nz)).*

## Medal Test Passes

The following Auckland Club Members passed tests in May, June and July 2006 - well done skaters!

### 2nd May 2006

Katie Dalbridge	Elementary Stroking
Tracy Danbrook	Elementary Stroking
Christina Floka	Preliminary Stroking
Vicky Mac	Preliminary Stroking
Iryn Quigley	Preliminary Freeskate

### 4th June 2006

Catherine Rezaei	Elementary Stroking
Catherine Rezaei	Preliminary Stroking
Christina Floka	Preliminary Freeskate
Vicki Mak	Preliminary Freeskate
Amber Harries	Preliminary Freeskate

### 13 July 2006

Alicia Kennedy	Elementary Stroking
Alexandra Gatland	Elementary Stroking
Danielle Gatland	Elementary Stroking
Emily Blow	Elementary Stroking
Kelsi Edwards	Elementary Stroking
Gillian Symons	Elementary Stroking
Craig Harries	Elementary Stroking
Amelia Prowse	Preliminary Stroking
Nicola Gatland	Preliminary Stroking
Emma Hudson	Preliminary Stroking
Alexandra McAvoy	Preliminary Stroking
Jahne Potgieter	Inter-Bronze Stroking
Katie Brown	Inter-Bronze Stroking
Eerina Watkins	Inter-Bronze Stroking
Esther Gan	Inter-Bronze Stroking
Ashleigh Gallagher	Preliminary Freeskate
Amelia Prowse	Preliminary Freeskate
Eerina Watkins	Inter-Bronze Freeskate
Esther Gan	Inter-Bronze Freeskate

## Competition Results

### Autumn Championships 2006

#### Skate School Novice

- 1 Jenna Lea Dysart

#### Skate School Advanced

- 1 Fran Hubbers
- 2 Rebecca Greenwood

#### Skate School Free

- 1 Kaho Hirafune

#### Pre-Elementary Ladies

- 1 Kelsi Edwards
- 2 Katie Delbridge
- 3 Tracy Danbrook

#### Elementary Ladies

- 1 Amber Harries
- 2 Ciara Thompson
- 3 Ashleigh Gallagher
- 4 Amelia Prowse
- 5 Vicki Mak
- 6 Brooke Tamepo
- 7 Olivia Morgan

#### Juvenile Ladies

- 1 Luella Ware
- 2 Eerina Watkins
- 3 Alexandra Ley

#### Juvenile Ladies 12 or Over

- 1 Esther Gan
- 2 Emma Thorne
- 3 Aimee Prendergast
- 4 Emma Judd

#### Pre-Primary Ladies

- 1 Kestra Laurent
- 2 Courtney Bettink
- 3 Winnie Wong

#### Primary Ladies

- 1 Yuko Tanaka

#### Intermediate Ladies

- 1 Christine Winspear

#### Novice Men

- 1 Cameron Hems

#### Senior Ladies

- 1 Caitlin Haynes
- 2 Vicky Kuo

#### Senior Men

- 1 Tristan Thode
- 2 Mathieu Wilson

### Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club Championships 2006

#### Skate School Novice

- 1 Leah Mettam
- 2 Charli Roi
- 3 Isabelle Vujanic-Brodie

#### Skate School Advanced

- 1 Jenna-Lea Dysart

#### Skate School Free

- 1 Fran Hubbers

#### Pre-Elementary Ladies

- 1 Katie Delbridge
- 2 Kelsi Edwards
- 3 Rebecca Greenwood

#### Elementary Ladies Under 10

- 1 Amelia Prowse
- 2 Brooke Tamepo
- 3 Preeya Laud

#### Elementary Ladies 10 or Over

- 1 Ciara Thompson
- 2 Ashleigh Gallagher
- 3 Leah Duval

#### Juvenile Ladies

- 1 Luella Ware
- 2 Eerina Watkins
- 3 Iryn Quigley

#### Special Awards

##### Most Improved Skater, 8 years and under

Marie Fooks Memorial Cup Christina Floka

##### Most Promising Skater

Janet & Eric Sellers Trophy Yuko Tanaka

##### Most Artistic Skater

Eerina Watkins

#### Juvenile Ladies 12 or Over

- 1 Kate Jenkins
- 2 Esther Gan
- 3 Emma Judd

#### Pre-Primary Ladies

- 1 Courtney Bettink
- 2 Alexandra Wilson
- 3 Winnie Wong

#### Primary Ladies

- 1 Yuko Tanaka

#### Novice Men

- 1 Cameron Hems

#### Senior Ladies

- 1 Caitlin Haynes

#### Senior Men

- 1 Tristan Thode
- 2 Mathieu Wilson

#### Masters Silver

- 1 Catherine Rezaei

#### Juvenile Synchronized

- 1 Botany Bladettes

#### Open Synchronized

- 1 Botany Blades

## Four Continents, and the World Championships 2006

### Four Continents

Four Continents was held in Colorado Springs, USA. I left for Colorado Springs, with Slava on the 14th of January, which was a week before the Championships actually started. Because the competition was at a high altitude, it was a really good idea to go a week early for training at the competition venue. This helped me to get acclimatised and used to the environment. The first week we stayed at the Best Western Motel, and walked to the arena for practice twice a day. It took about twenty minutes to get to the rink on foot. It was a good walk as there was a nice mountain range to observe during the walk. Cheyenne Mountain, a high security US military base, was ever present in the distance. After 9/11, it was where President Bush flew to take cover in the bunker there. Along the way there was also a variety of shops and restaurants to go to, as well as the movie theatres.

Practising the first week went well and it was good to get to know some of the local skaters and practise with them. Also arriving early were the Australian and Japanese skaters. Having these skaters at training was good as it motivated me to aspire to train as well as possible myself.

In the second week we moved to the competition accommodation, which was the Cheyenne Mountain Resort, and started the official practice. In my practice group were the Japanese skaters, which was good as it meant there wasn't a change in the people I was practising with from the week before.

My short programme went quite well; after the short programme I was in 17th place out of 24 Skaters.

My free program didn't go as well as I had hoped but it was still ok. I got a new personal best score of 65.85, so it was an improvement on the score I got the year before at Four Continents, in Korea. In the last stage of the program I really struggled with my breathing due to the altitude. However, I was not as bad as some of the other guys, a couple of which had to breathe from the oxygen cylinders after their programmes.

One unexpected problem that occurred was that my music skipped in one place. I was unaware of this during the competition and when I got near the end suddenly I was behind the music. I thought that I was running late and so cut my last two spins shorter so I could finish on time. Little did I know that my CD had skipped near the end and so I finished under the required time limit giving me an extra one point deduction and probably a deduction in my last two spins. In retrospect this was quite annoying as it wasn't my fault that the CD skipped and I was unaware of it at the time. I finished 18th overall, but the skater who finished 17th was only 0.3 of a point ahead of me.

### World Championships

These were held in Calgary, Canada. I left for the World Championships on the 15th of March. Slava, my parents, and I stayed at the Westin

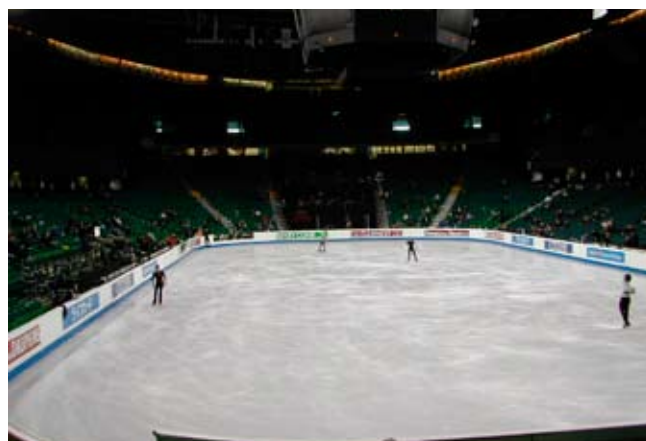


Hotel in Calgary. I had three days of training before the qualification round in which I would skate my free programme. In my practice group were the Russian, British, and Mexican guys. Practice went quite well, but sometimes it was a bit unnerving, especially in the main arena where, as the competition approached, the crowds at training had at least a few hundred people. I also found the ice a bit harder than at home, probably due to the colder environment in Canada. A couple of times I slipped off my edge because of this. The competition was at the Saddledome, which was an enormous stadium that could seat ten thousand people, and was in the shape of a giant saddle from outside view. It was the ice figure skating venue for the 1988 Olympic Games, and now is the regular home stadium for the Calgary Flames ice hockey team.

I skated in the first qualification group in the morning, and was the first skater in the second group. My programme went really well, and as I did not fall, I had no deductions. Interestingly enough, I didn't have a time deduction despite it being the same program as at Four Continents. I scored 74.50 points, which was a new personal best for me and 8.65 points more than I achieved in the free programme at Four Continents. I came 18th out of 20 skaters in my qualification group. In order to qualify for the short programme I would have had to come 15th or higher in the qualification. Probably to achieve this I would have needed to do two or three more triple jumps. Despite failing to qualify, I still felt like I had skated really well and had a good experience.

It was also good to watch the rest of the competition, and see the best skaters in the world perform. It was really inspiring. The men's final was the most memorable event to watch. Even the guy who came 24th did two triple axels in his program. The top six skaters were outstanding. Brian Joubert was incredible, as he did two quads in his clean free program. I thought for sure he had won it, but Stefan Lambiel met the challenge, and skated clean as well, pulling out his two quads, and taking the world title. It was an awesome event to witness in person.

*Tristan Thode.*





**Name:** Alexandra Ley  
**Grade:** Juvenile  
**Date of birth:** 9th November 1995  
**Place of birth:** Botany Downs, Auckland.  
**Profession:** Student at Mellons Bay Primary.  
**Home Club:** Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club.  
**Main Training Rink:** Paradise Ice Arena, Botany Downs.  
**Coach:** Slava Kuznetsov.  
**Hobbies:** Surfing, water skiing, wakeboarding, snow skiing, and reading.

**Main achievements:**  
 2005 Autumn Champs:  
 2nd - Elementary Ladies Under 10  
 2005 Auckland Ice Figure Skating Champs:  
 1st - Elementary Ladies Under 10  
 2005 North Islands Ice Skating Championships:  
 1st - Elementary Ladies Under 10  
 2005 Allegro Ice Dance and Artistic Championships:  
 1st in Le Patinage Artistique Elementary Ladies Under 12.  
 2006 Autumn Champs: 3rd - Juvenile Ladies Under 12.

## Happy Birthday!

Those that have had theirs already, better late than never! To those that haven't had theirs yet – best wishes in the future.

### May

Emily Blow	10
Fiona Latham	17
Vicki Mak	24
Winnie Wong	24
Melissa Gallagher	28

### June

Esther Gan	14
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### July

Ashleigh Gallagher	1
Alice Lilley	1
Keryn Lee Haynes	7
Iyryn Quigley	19
Amber Harries	26

### August

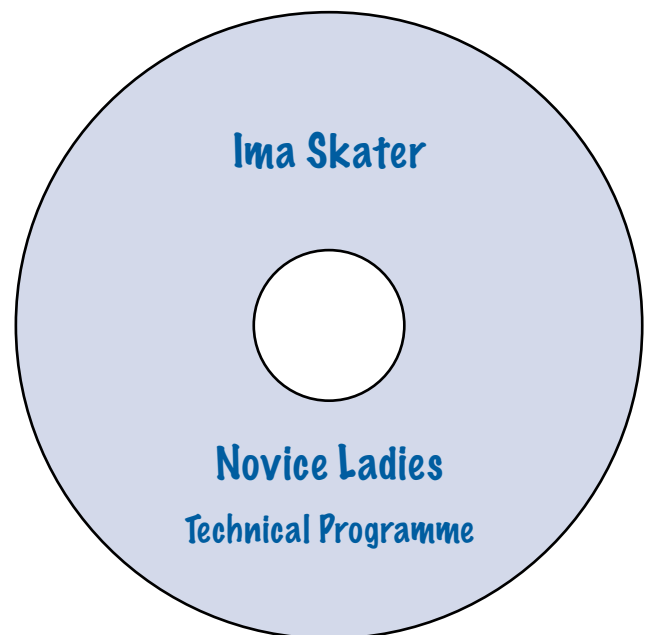
Amelia Prowse	2
Alexandra Rout	6
Emma Judd	8
Katie Delbridge	10
Rachel Gregory	15
Yuko Tanaka	23
Alicia Kennedy	29

## Getting Your Music Sorted!

Congratulations to all who competed at the recent competitions. You have made a great start, and preparations should be well on track for your competitive skating year!

One thing you shouldn't have to worry about is your music, so to help you eliminate any problems, here are a few things you should do:

- It's ok to have the music for both your short and long programme on the your practice CD, but **your competition CD must have the music for only one of your programmes.**
- This CD must be clearly labelled with your **name, the grade in which you are competing** (Juvenile, Primary, Novice) and whether it's your **Technical (Short) Programme or Free (Long) Programme.** Also, each CD must be in a separate case.



Follow these simple rules and you shouldn't be hearing your Free Programme music start while waiting for your Technical! **Ideally, you should have at least 3 copies of your music:**

- One for practice
- One to hand in to the competition Music Steward
- One in your Mum's or Coach's bag, just in case!

## For Sale

### Skating Gear

- *Skating Sports Bag:* Large Grey/Navy with figure skate motif on sides \$30
- *Spin Trainer:* Designed to meet the needs of skaters of all levels. Can be used on any flat surface \$40
- *"Happiness is an Axle"* Tshirt (small adult) \$15,
- *Figure Skates:* Graf Galaxy Extra Light: Ladies 7 medium \$350

**Phone 828 4742**