



# Go Figure!



AUCKLAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CLUB NEWSLETTER

December 2004

I have noticed a certain festive air at the rink lately as the 2004 skating year comes to an end and it's time to wish you and your families Happy Holidays.

## Address label

The Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club has had another successful year. It continues to grow with forty-one TC registered skaters calling AIFSC "home", and our skate school skaters are rising throughout the ranks with 15 currently enrolled in development programmes.

At the NZ Nationals in Queenstown during September, the AIFSC had a team of 16 skaters as well as a synchro team and were awarded 12 medals in various sections. Also during the year, several AIFSC skaters performed well in overseas competitions.

Congratulations to all of you for such wonderful achievements and very best wishes for 2005.

Merry Christmas!  
Chris Pulman, Vice President

## 2005 Committee:

**Dael Haynes** (President)  
Ph 272 3536

**Chris Pulman** (Vice-President)  
Ph 834 6686

**Delwyn Watson** (Secretary)

**Nick Winspear** (Treasurer)

Allen Kuo  
Deborah Lay  
John Potgieter  
Michelle Potgieter  
Ray Pulman  
Bob Rout  
Val Rout  
Lenore Thode

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## Web site

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Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Please send articles, items for sale, etc., to Delwyn Watson ([del.watson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:del.watson@xtra.co.nz)).

## New Zealand National Championships – Queenstown 2005

### Results of AIFSC Home Club Skaters

#### JUVENILE LADIES:

Libby-Jean Hay	3rd
Doris Yi-Hsuan Kuo	6th

#### PRE-PRIMARY LADIES:

Yuko Tanaka	5th
Christine Winspear	7th
Dharini Marinkovich	8th

#### PRIMARY MEN:

Jimmy Yu-Chan Kuo	1st
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#### NOVICE LADIES:

Allie Rout	1st
Aravinda Marinkovich	5th
Leanne Rudolph	6th

#### JUNIOR LADIES:

Dee Pulman	2nd
Vicky Kuo	3rd
Caitlin Haynes	4th

#### JUNIOR MEN:

Joel Watson	1st
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#### SENIOR LADIES:

Vicky Kuo	2nd
Rachel Fisher	3rd
Caitlin Haynes	5th

#### SENIOR MEN:

Joel Watson	2nd
Tristan Thode	3rd

#### MASTERS SILVER:

Catherine Rezaei	5th
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#### OPEN SYNCHRONIZED

Botany Blades	1st
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Congratulations to all Auckland Ice Skating Club Skaters who have been named for international competitions and development groups.

## Tier 1 International Skaters

### FOUR CONTINENTS

February 2005, Korea:  
Tristan Thode  
Joel Watson

### JUNIOR WORLDS

March 2005, Canada:  
Joel Watson

### AFRISKATE

April 2005, Sth Africa:  
Tristan Thode  
Joel Watson,  
Dee Pulman  
Vicky Kuo  
Allie Rout

## Tier 2 2005 Australian National Championships

SENIOR: Tristan Thode,  
Joel Watson,  
Vicky Kuo

JUNIOR: Dee Pulman  
NOVICE: Allie Rout

## Tier 3 Skaters who may skate at Australian State or Club Events

Caitlin Haynes  
Yuko Tanaka  
Christine Winspear  
Libby-Jean Hay

## Tier 4 - Skaters who may apply for permission to skate in Australian Club or state Competitions

Doris Yi-Hsuan Kuo  
Aravinda Marinkovich  
Leanne Rudolph  
Dharini Marinkovich  
Jimmy Yu-Chan Kuo

## Australian Nationals 2004

This year the Australian National Championships were held in Sydney at the Canterbury Ice Arena. I arrived a few days in advance to take time to adjust to the different ice conditions and change in atmosphere, and also to settle into the new environment as that is what usually throws me when traveling to any competition. With a change back to the Championships being held in winter we didn't have to deal with the heat which has caused some problems during the last two years in Brisbane which had hosted the championships during summer.



*Joel and coach after winning Junior Men*

We stayed at the Travelodge, Bankstown, which was a massive complex incorporating a hotel, casino and various restaurants and bars, which were surrounded by an indoor tropical rain forest theme. We managed to get a room on the top floor of the building, which was fortunate as that meant we were as far away as possible from the noise of the sports club which was located on the ground floor.

2004 was the Australian Figure Skating Championships centennial and we were each given a limited edition commemorative program. The Canterbury rink where the competition was held was a standard Olympic size arena and was older than most and looking very run down. It also appeared there would not be enough seating, which proved true later in the competition when there became only standing room available. However the ice surface was good, and I found jumping and spinning a lot easier once I adjusted to the change to the harder ice.

The standard of skating had improved slightly since the previous year with more of the guys in my division (Junior Men's) being able to do triples and with almost all of them able to do a confident double axel. My practices were going really well with no major dramas, unfortunately though my short program did not go as well as I had hoped, as I stepped out of my triple toe combination and placed 3rd in the Short. As we had skated at 9:45pm that night it meant that we were still doing the draw for the long program at midnight, and with the time difference for the New Zealanders it was like being up till 2am, the night before you skate.

The next morning I skated the official practice for my long program which was not exactly all inspiring either, I wasn't too sure what was wrong but I knew I had to snap out of it quickly. So I had a bit of a think and thought to myself, well I was eating right, plenty of water so wasn't dehydrated or anything, plenty of rest, wasn't nervous at all etc., however apparently this approach wasn't working for me in this particular instance. So instead of following my normal routine I decided to take a chance and just do the complete opposite! So I ended up walking around Bankstown most of the day until I was about to drop, then before I skated I went down to Hungry Jacks (aka. Burger King) and had as much junk food as I could handle, including 3 large cokes! (diet of course!!) Fortunately this paid off later that night when I skated an almost clean long program and won Junior Mens for the second year. Although this worked for me, I wouldn't necessarily recommended this strategy to all skaters!!!

I spent the rest of the week watching the competition and catching up with old friends and fellow competitors, followed by the banquet on the last evening. We flew home the following day.

I would also like to congratulate the other AIFSC home club skaters who both skated well, Tristan in Senior Men who placed 5th and Allie in Novice Ladies who placed 1st overall.

*Joel Watson*

## Synchronised Team Trip To Queenstown for Nationals 2004



After many months of training and a final week of intensive training for Nationals the day arrived. We met as a team at a crowded Auckland domestic airport. People were everywhere as it was school holidays and many other sports teams were travelling. We saw fellow Auckland club members, who with their families, were also on their way to Nationals in Queenstown. Our flight was enjoyable and we all became very excited as we floated above the Southern Alps and other breath taking views of frozen white blankets.

We arrived in Queenstown and noticed a huge temperature drop compared to Auckland. Two minibuses were waiting for us and took us to the Copthorne Hotel, where stayed, and which for many of us was a luxury.

After putting our bags in our rooms and changing soon after we arrived, we went to the local ice rink to have our first go on the unfamiliar Queenstown ice. It was very different, the ice was a lot firmer than Auckland's ice and I noticed when I returned to Auckland my blades were already blunt. We lived together as a team and all enjoyed eating out for dinner but it was very frustrating trying to find a restaurant, which would take us as we were a big group and because of certain liquor laws. However we were fed well and loved the delicious afternoon teas each day after off ice practice.

This trip was no holiday, we were up at seven for breakfast and on the ice between nine and ten each morning for official Nationals practices. After our practices we walked as a team into town, on the second day we had a ride on the jet boat, which was a real blast and on the last day we went up to the luge.



Each evening was competition time for all the Synchro teams and overall I thought we performed well even though we all became anxious and nervous, but when we started we were fine. Our team mascot Benny the bear was present during our performances, which encouraged team spirit. The other synchro teams were very supportive and we noticed their clubs were behind them all the way. When we left Auckland we were individuals trying to be a

team but when we returned to Auckland we returned as The Botany Blades, a true team.

I liked travelling as a team to represent the Auckland region, and can't wait for next year. I (and I am sure the rest of the Botany Blades), would like to thank the Auckland club committee for giving us a chance; our coach Keryn Haynes for coaching us; John Potgieter, the manager for getting us there; Angela McAvoy and Chris Brown for helping with arrangements in Queenstown; and everyone else who helped us reach our goals.

*By Jahné Potgieter*

As the Manager of the Botany Blades Synchro team, it is with pride and pleasure that I congratulate the team for their achievement in improving over a short period, due to hard work and dedication by themselves and their coach, Keryn Haynes and making the club proud at their performances during Nationals.

We are open to any one who would like to join us for synchro in the New Year. We anticipate starting training at in the middle of February 2005. We would like to take two teams to Nationals in Dunedin next year and also hope to participate in the Centaurus Club (Christchurch) championship in the earlier part of the year. Please contact me on 576-4579 or 027 234 9032 for further details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Auckland Charitable Trust and Pub Charity for their generous grants, without which we would not have been able to travel to Queenstown.

*John Potgieter*





**Name:** Jimmy Kuo  
**Grade:** Primary Men  
**Date of birth:** 27 December 1989  
**Place of Birth:** Taiwan  
**Height:** 170cm  
**Profession:** Student  
**Home Club:** Auckland  
**Main Training Rink:** Paradice Ice Arena - Botany  
**Year started skating:** 2003  
**Coach:** Gordon Rushton  
**Previous Coach:** Debbie Darvill  
**Hobbies:** Piano, Violin, Flute, Tennis

## Medal Test Passes

Congratulations to the following AIFSC Members who have passed medal tests

### Elementary Free

Jason Williams

### Preliminary Stroking

Luella Ware, Winnie Wong, Zoe Cameron-Brown

### Preliminary Free

Winnie Wong

### Inter-bronze Free

Lisa Kuo, Ariel Nadas

### Bronze Stroking

Kestra Laurent, Ariel Nadas

### Bronze Free

Yuko Tanaka, Christine Winspear

### Inter-silver Stroking

Jimmy Kuo



Some of our skaters at the Nationals in Queenstown

## Membership Renewal

Yes, it's time to renew your AIFSC membership, for your convenience a membership form is included with this newsletter.

## For Sale

**Figure Skates:** Graf Galaxy Extra Light: Ladies size 7 medium

(Good condition ~ only worn for 9 months): \$450.00

Ph: 828 4742

## Happy Birthday!

### September

17 Alicia McNabb  
20 Kestra Laurent

### October

4 Cameron Hems  
10 Doris Kuo  
10 Catherine Rezaei  
21 Christine Winspear  
22 Vicky Kuo  
27 Jimmy Kuo  
29 Alexandra McAvoy

### November

2 Leanne Rudolph  
3 Sarah Brown  
4 Tania Ostwick  
10 Kelly Hyslop  
11 Tania Ostick

### December

13 Siobahn Brown  
14 Libby-Jean Hay  
17 Jenny Ho  
25 Tristan Thode