

# SPIRAL

Newsletter of the  
Canterbury Masters  
Figure Skating Club

FEBRUARY 2023

Hello everyone

I hope you all managed to have some time off over the Christmas and New Year break. Luckily for us here in Canterbury the weather has been great over Jan-Feb with lovely hot summer days. Already many of us have been back on the ice and are looking forward to the year ahead. Starting off with coffee club on 23rd February followed by our adult skaters workshop on weekend of 25 & 26 February. Applications for this close on Friday 17 February.

Registration Night went well on 28 January and we were pleased to see so many skaters on the ice.

Congratulations to two of our Club members Oliver (Ollie) Gormack selected for the Junior World Gymnastic Championships to be held in Antalya, Turkey in March and also Liam McIver (now resident in Sydney) who will be competing (for the 2nd time at Worlds) with the Australian Champion Team "Unity" who won selection to compete at the World synchronised skating championships in Lake Placid USA March 31 to April 1. We wish Ollie & Liam all the best for success in their chosen sports. Fantastic honour for both of you!

Congratulations & Happy Birthday wishes to Marianne Scott (below) who celebrated her 80th birthday in January.



**Come along the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Club!**  
St Martins Presbyterian Church, 43 St Martins Road, Ch'Ch  
**Would you be willing to go on the committee?**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7-8pm**

Agenda:

- Welcome & apologies
- Notified Proxy Votes
- Approval of Minutes of 2022 AGM
- Presidents Report
- Financia Report
- Correspondence
- Election of Officers
- Notified General Business
- 1. Ratification 2023 Membership Fees
- 2. Ratification Honorary Members

Arnold Schmidt (our CMFSC Patron & Life Member) & his wife Valda (Hon Member)



Congratulations Liam McIver & Team Unity



See story on Page 2



# Meet the Gormack Family .....

Kim, Andreas, Ollie & Julian



In late November 2022 there was great excitement in the Gormack home when Ollie's selection to compete in the NZ team was announced. (Photo Page 1). Now they're all heading off to Antalya, Turkey to watch Ollie compete at the 2023 World Junior Gymnastics Championships March 28th to April 2nd. At 15 years old Ollie (youngest son of Kim & Julian) is part of the NZ team of 3 MAG (men's) gymnasts and one WAF (Women gymnast). Ollie will first compete in the teams event (3 of them) and individual all round one day for all 6 apparatus floor exercise, pommel horse, still rings, vault, parallel bars, and horizontal bar.

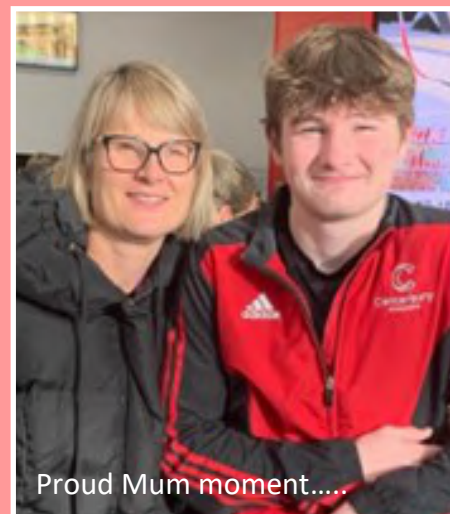
Then another day will be the Individual Apparatus competition where he will compete all 6 apparatus with top qualifiers in each app going through to the app finals. Ollie likes winging apps so parallel bars, horizontal bar and rings are usually his favourites. Ollie is a member of the Christchurch School of Gymnastics.

The Gormack family will all be travelling to support Ollie at his first international competition. In 2022 he won the Under 16 Championship title at the NZ National Championships.

The Gormack family have been CMFSC members since 2007 adding Ollie in 2008. Many of you will know Kim from her competitive skating days when she was a club, regional and national champion during those earlier years. Kim also has for many years, served as a Technical Specialist on the officials panel of the NZIFSA. Julian was formerly involved in ice hockey both as a player and Referee at Canterbury level. Whilst eldest son Andreas who is 18yrs plays football for Ferrymead Bays.

As Kim gained so much from competing in figure skating both in NZ and Australia she has encouraged both her boys to be involved in their chosen sports, so they too can have amazing experiences, build great life skills and long-term friendships.

Kim says Ollie is really proud to be selected and it has given him something to work hard for which has been great for him. The family are really looking forward to going on this trip.



Proud Mum moment.....



Showing style on the Rings

Registration night antics Jeanette (Liam's Mum), Kim L, sisters Kirsty & Kim G (Ollies' Mum)



Available to purchase  
Badges \$5 each  
Monograms \$7.50ea  
Replacement Key-rings \$3 each

## Yoko & Kanako's Banks Track experience

### 3 Day Banks Track (Akaroa)

by Yoko Kim



Kanako and I had a lucky escape from home with other 2 kiwi friends just before Christmas. We started the journey staying in a pretty cottage style hut in Onuku 30min drive from Akaroa town centre. This trek only allows 10 people per day and a few extra 2 Day walkers. Meeting at the old Akaroa Post Office we were all taken by shuttle to the Hut. Upon our arrival we made ourselves comfortable, with one of us quickly checking to score the best room for our group of 4 and putting our food in the fridge. At dinner-time our friends were preparing dinner, while Kanako and I sat outside having a relaxing cup of tea looking over Akaroa Harbour and listening to the birdsong. As women, we were most thankful that someone else was cooking for us and we felt very spoilt having a kiwi style dinner the first night.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day (Day 1 on the track) From Onuku to Flea Bay 11km, 200m to 699m and back down to sea level over farmland and through a reserve. Starting off with a very steep uphill climb, fortunately we had only our day packs, our big backpacks were carried by the shuttle to the next hut at Flea Bay. We had lots of stops, along the way, drinking, eating snacks and taking photos. Halfway up the hill was a lookout with a huge rock overlooking the entrance of Akaroa Harbour. We had to push ourselves a bit harder to reach the highest point of the day, taking in the last view of Akaroa town for the next couple of days. We moved faster on the downhill side to the road where we entered a native red beech gully and finding a nice picnic spot for lunch. Here there were giant Manuka tree ferns alongside a stream. On the way back to Flea Bay we cooled down sitting by a waterfall. Arriving at the hut early afternoon we again quickly chose the best room, put our food in the fridge and had a hot shower. The hut was quite old, however we were able to purchase wine and beer. Sharing a bottle of white wine on the balcony while eating our friend's Couscous dinner. Flea Bay has the largest little blue penguin colony on mainland NZ We had a free penguin watch tour with other tourists from Akaroa. What an absolutely fantastic attraction, the farm owner explained about the history of Flea Bay and Little Blue Penguins. During spring to summer, its penguin breeding time. Each couple has a house with their names on and babies in it. At our visit, the babies' fur was changing from grey to stunning blue. We finished the tour to observe penguins floating as a group in the bay, catching fish for their babies.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Day (Day 2 on the track) While the kiwi friends joined a sea kayaking tour around the bay, Kanako and I spent a quiet morning around the beach. Our friends returned excitedly telling us they saw dolphins swimming along side of their kayak. Time to walk to our next hut at Stony Bay. Flea Bay to Stony Bay 8km, up and down along coast with high cliffs passing volcanic farmlands. Climbing a steep hill to view the Pacific Ocean then downhill again. In a small valley we had lunch at a cute shelter using a huge rock as a wall. Close by was a New Zealand fur seal colony resting in the shallow sea cave. Being low tide, we were able to climb down where we saw 2 baby seals singing and playing in the cave, while the adult seal was floating nicely in the water enjoying peaceful life. We finished rock climbing and back to the track, our legs got so tired. Another one and half hours later we arrived at the most impressive hut and couldn't wait for the open-air bath here. A sign pointing to the Stony Bay Cottages says 2 minutes, however it was a much longer walk and there were many more 2 minute signs along the way. After some time walking, suddenly we arrived at a Fairy Tale World. I'm not joking, it was definitely a Fairy Tale

World with separate small wooden cottages with a vase full of colourful flowers in the kitchen. The shared shower was a kind of tree house with stairs to the heavens. Everything was so antique. It was our turn to prepare the dinner for the lucky birthday girl who organised this unforgettable trip. While Kanako and I prepared a Japanese meal, our two friends made an open-air hot bath. We all had a great final night together.

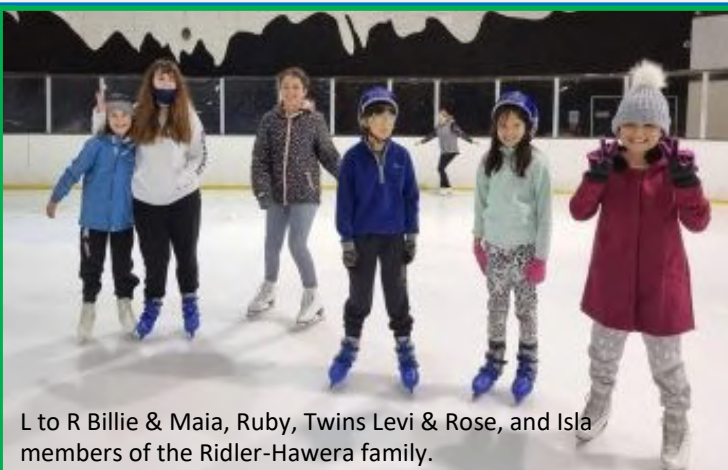


Final Day ( Day 3 on the track) Stony Bay to Akaroa 12km, from sea level to crest of hills at 690m, then descent to sea level. This was our longest walk starting uphill in very hot weather. We had to rest every 1km in the cool shade along the way. Passing by Hinewai reserve and the shelter, the weather had turned cloudy and misty, and we were unable to see the view over Stony Bay and Pacific Ocean. Our plan was to climb to Stony Bay Peak at 809m from sea level but the peak was covered by cloud so after lunch at the shelter we headed straight down the hill to Mt Vernon Lodge where our car was parked. Wow! that was the hardest part for us, very steep downhill, so busy looking at the scenery of Akaroa town far down but had to concentrate on the narrow track with rocks jutting out. We finished our journey just as heavy rain had started so that was perfect timing to leave Akaroa to return to our sweet home on Christmas Eve.



I enjoyed this track as we could do lots of activities rather than just walk and complete the whole length. I'd like to go back with my family, easy to access and shorter walking hours per day. Every time I go out for a trek I thank the God who made this beautiful country and let me stay in New Zealand under his protection and very thankful to share this story with all of you CMFSC members.

From Kanako : It was my first long walk after so many years, I REALLY enjoyed it. This trip certainly tickled my adventurous spirit so I'm thinking of buying proper backpack and some equipment for the next walk. I'm hoping it won't be so long until I go for another walk next time. I was very thankful and impressed by this beautiful country and also appreciated my family for letting me go on this trip (just before Xmas!!). And BIG Thank you, Yoko for inviting me on this trek AND writing up such an informative wonderful report for sharing with CMFSC members!!



L to R Billie & Maia, Ruby, Twins Levi & Rose, and Isla members of the Ridler-Hawera family.

L to R Jazz, Anna & Hudson, Michelle & Cassidy, Brynn & Kira

Fun on the ice January 28th  
Registration Night



**MAINLAND  
FOUNDATION**  
*Proud to Support Our Community*

Our ability to subsidise ice time costs at family sessions, synchronised team trainings, and coffee club sessions for Club members is thanks to the continuing generous support from the Mainland Foundation.

**Your Committee :**

**President:** Jeanne Begej ONZM

**Vice President:** Linda White

**Secretary & Treasurer:**  
Vanessa Anderson

**Test & Competition Secretary:**  
Jeanette King

**Patron:** Arnold Schmidt

**Committee Members :**

Kirsty Cox

Emma Hodgson

Sarah Ross

Liz Sarjeant

**Hon Solicitor :** Peter Woods

*Spiral*

[www.cmfsc.co.nz](http://www.cmfsc.co.nz)

