

June 2018

# SPIRAL

Newsletter of the  
Canterbury  
Masters Figure  
Skating Club

## CMFSC's AGM and new look committee

The club's annual general meeting was held on March 6th and it initiated some changes amongst the committee. We have been lucky enough to have new committee members each year in the past but the executive members (president, secretary, treasurer etc) have been looking much the same for some time. While no one dared to use an expression like "gang of four", we were amused by Vera's take on the fact that some of our long serving committee members are also officers of the NZIFSA and the South Island Ice Skating Sub Association. "Where I come from we call that the Mafia" she was quick to respond.

So to put us above and beyond suspicion of a brotherhood approach to club management we are especially pleased this year to welcome Vanessa Anderson as our incoming secretary. Vanessa brings a wide range of abilities to the job - we have already seen her skill in helping to reinvigorate our ailing website and her technical knowledge equips her well to continue that work. Vanessa is an accountant by profession which makes her a great fit for a committee keen on accountability. She also brings masses of experience in sports administration having worked as a volunteer leader for the Girl Guides in South Africa and then here in NZ where she has been involved with GirlGuiding for about 18 years as a leader of pippins, brownies and guides, Treasurer, Trainer, Assessor, mentor, outdoor co-ordinator, delegate and currently local-co-ordinator and ranger leader. A fantastic array of positions.

Vanessa has already served on the CMFSC committee for a year as an ordinary member so she has had plenty of time to get up to speed on how the management of CMFSC works.

We also welcome to the committee new faces Kanako Johnson, Sarah Button and Vera Domigan. Longer serving members re elected are Jeanne Begej as President, Kirsty Cox as Vice President, Arnold Schmidt as Treasurer and Jeanette King as Test & Competition Coordinator. Jeanette is also CEO of the NZIFSA and in this role has recently attended the 57th ISU Congress in Seville, Spain. NZIFSA's Technical Director, Connor Mclver, who is also a

CMFSC member was there too. But back to the our committee. David Ramm and Aleksandra Jarmolik will continue to share an ordinary member's role joining returning committee member Alastair Christie. We are very glad that Kath Craven is still acting as our patron and Linda White, while not on the committee, continues to maintain our membership list and looks after club mail outs. Our warm thanks for their contribution go to Anna Douglas-Bray, Yoko Kim and June Laird who did not stand for re-election this year.

Vanessa is happy to introduce herself to us in her own words:

*"On a personal front I am married to Bruce (who doesn't skate, but is very supportive of everything I take on) and while we don't have any children we do have a fur-baby, Bellatrix, a ridge-back cross. You can probably tell from my Guiding CV that GirlGuiding is a passion for me and has been ever since I was a Guide myself. I love seeing the girls push themselves to succeed and take on new challenges.*

*I also work for Hope Church managing the accounts for the church and its two associated trusts. My father owned his own business so from an early age I was at work with him starting with making the tea, answering the phones and eventually managing the accounts.*

*I skate for recreation at the coffee club sessions but in 2016 I was a member of Spectrum and went with the team over to the Australian Nationals. It was absolutely fantastic seeing such a huge array of different teams skating under one roof."*

Editor's note: Members - in this issue of Spiral, devoted to extremely able women whose names begin with **V**, you'll see more about **Vanessa** further on after you've read all about **Vera's** culinary and hostess triumphs.



## Spectrum's March 2018 Workshop

Spectrum got off to an early training start this year by holding its first workshop in March. Coach, Natalie Williamson, flew in from Australia to guide the team through the process of developing a new programme for this year. Natalie, Director of Synchro in Boondal, Brisbane, coaches Australia's Nova synchro team which has qualified for and competed in 2 world championships. So Spectrum felt pretty special benefitting from the exceptional choreography skills and practical experience that Natalie brought to the workshop.

And sure enough, before the weekend was over, the team had a freshly developed programme which they have been fleshing out and refining ever since. The photo here from left shows the workshop participants: Anna Poole, Jeanne Begej, Jeanette King, Natalie Williamson (workshop leader), Kanako Johnson, Vicki Smith, Liz Sarjeant, Hayley Bykerk, Merryn Skipper, Kirsty Cox, Nicole Webber, Sue Mein & Laura Thompson.



## SPIRAL CLIPS



Vera whipped up this fabulous marmalade tart to thank the secretary. But the secretary was so impressed with it she insisted on taking it home uncut. Thanks for the committee service June but no thanks for sharing. Trusty Vera came to the rescue with 2 more home baked cakes



Kanako and Peter Johnson's daughters Kaori and Namiko found plenty to enjoy at Vera's



Karen Kennedy took Vera's instructions about the quality of food to be brought very seriously and produced this mouth watering olive eyed baked salmon with appropriately coloured accompaniments



And when you're all eaten and played out at Vera's, there's always the swing seat to collapse into. Yoko's boys James and Oliver do just that.

## Club says Ciao to Secretary

Vera Domigan had already treated the club to the delights of her elegant home and Italian food at a dinner at the end of January. A scorching day faded into a balmy evening as we ate and drank beneath the abundant grapevine and the colours of Italy. It was superb. But Jeanne had only to mention the idea of a farewell for the outgoing secretary, June Laird, and Vera shot her hand up again. What a star. We are loathe to let her return to Italy each summer and now she is threatening us with a year's absence should she teach in England. I suppose Vera deserves a life of her own but we would really rather have her here.

The farewell lunch was as impressive as the dinner. Threatened rain held off and we were able to celebrate outside. June's Italian themed bunting joined the green, white and red of the flag and the feast below reflected those colours back.

Although Vera looks in perfect control in the kitchen and is definitely a poised and elegant hostess, she did admit to a few tense moments during the day. After blind baking the tart featured on the left of this page she hurriedly threw the hot beans used for the process into a plastic bag which promptly exploded all across the kitchen floor. "What are you doing?" shrieked one of the resident young German women. "It's not so much what I'm doing. It's what you are now doing" responded the imperturbable Vera as she gestured to the floor indicating the urgent task at hand. Not long after, eyes blurred from cutting onions, Vera placed the salad bowl down on the bench. "What's that noise?" she thought just as her vision cleared to reveal that the bench wasn't where she had thought it was and the salad bowl lay shattered on the floor. Where are those girls when I need them? Tipping a vase full of water on the carpet some time later hardly featured in the list of disasters of the day. But no one would have guessed the chaos behind the scenes as Vera deftly ran the party and, as always, had plenty of time for her guests. As did her excellent husband, Ian.



## Outgoing Secretary gets the Last Word

Thanks CMFSC for continuing to have me as your secretary for all those years. It has been fun! Lots of laughs at committee meetings and on competition days. I can't tell you how relieved I was when we were able to ditch the cd player for music in favour of digital delivery at competitions. Oh the stress of trying to get the right music at the right volume on that temperamental old CD player while some poor hopeful was holding an impossible starting pose on the ice.

We have been very lucky during the last decade that the Charitable Foundations from which we sought funds, so generously supported us. There is quite a bit of work involved - ironically it is harder in years where we get less funding because when applications are turned down we usually leave time to reapply to other organisations. There are many more applications to make. So do give your support to our new secretary who will be learning our processes and doing this task to help ease the financial burden for our recreational and competitive skaters.

You gave me a fantastic send off - thanks for the party Vera - and members, thank you so much for your generous gift which perfectly hit the spot for me. For those who don't know the final gift decision, make discreet enquiries!

## How much ice is enough? Vanessa Anderson reports on a continent of it

The coldest place on earth - when I tell people of my recent trip to Antarctica the first thing they ask is why? My husband Bruce has wanted to go for a very long time and when we arrived here in NZ, 20 years ago, he applied for a job down at Scott Base, but they wanted him to do an 18 month stint rather than the 3 months that was advertised, so he decided against leaving his new wife in a strange city for an



extended period. So this trip was really more for him than me. Before leaving, my biggest concern was being without phone or internet for 30 days, followed by seasickness. The first days were quite difficult getting used to not being able to google or txt at will, but once we settled into the routine of the boat that passed.

We left from Bluff on a Heritage Expedition vessel commonly called the Spirit of



Enderby and island hopped down the Snares, Auckland and Macquarie Islands before heading out to sea towards Antarctica.



On the islands we saw the expected sea birds, penguins, sea lions and seals. Out at

sea the seabirds were still our companions, but we also saw whales and dolphins.



The sighting of the first iceberg was a much talked about challenge to break up what had become a little tedious for some, especially those who were suffering from the dreaded sea sickness. During our first safety briefing we were told always keep one hand for the ship and this was very good advice. We didn't have any big storms thankfully but we



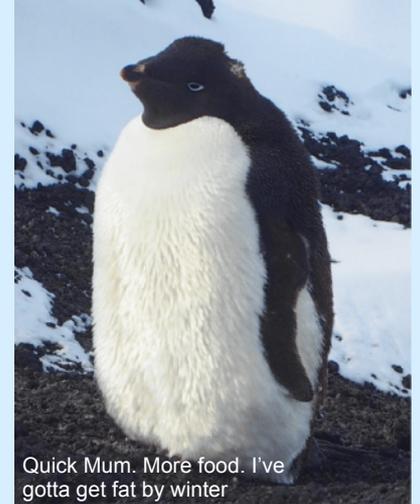
were travelling through some of the roughest oceans and moving about the ship was a little tricky at times.

Our first glimpses of Antarctica were breathtaking and the pictures just don't do justice to the awe of the experience. Our trip was called In the Wake of Scott and Shackleton, so not only were we on the



lookout for unique wildlife of Antarctica (we only saw one royal penguin) we were learning the history and following in the steps of the explorers before us. Too soon we had to make our way back to NZ, coming

back via the Balleny and Campbell Islands. The trip home was a little rough and most were very pleased when we got back to Bluff, but I was a little sad to leave the ship that had been our home for the past 30 days.



*June, the editor, here - I really enjoyed looking at Vanessa's photos and reading her tale. It brought back for me an experience on the very same ship 2 years ago. My trip was not as far as the magnificent Antarctica alas, but just an 8 day trip to the Snares, Auckland and Campbell Islands, part of the group known as the Sub Antarctic Islands. No ice for us but the megaherbs and wildlife of these islands are stunning. Vanessa is so right about the roughness of the water. On the first night out of Invercargill the rocking of the ship rolled my adventurous 80 year old cabin mate from bunk to the floor and somehow miraculously back up onto the bunk again. "Are we safe June?" she whispered to which I replied "Safe as houses, Norma. We have the best Russian crew in the Southern Hemisphere", thinking, "We'll all be dead by breakfast". Surprisingly we were all alive but breakfast wasn't really on our minds. With seasick passengers occupying all the heads ( I think that is mariner speak for the loos) a quick dash to the deck was necessary. Courtesy led me to look down to make sure I wasn't endangering someone on a lower deck, but arghh - what if there was someone above in the same desperate need? Not all the medication in the world (and you know me - I'd taken everything modern medicine can offer as well as natural and witchcraft remedies) was going to keep me from letting the side down - or should I say, letting it down the side. Am glad to report that a day or two sufficed for me to find my sea legs and enjoy the trip of a life time. I'd love to do Vanessa's trip some day. She has many more photos to show if you are interested.*

## Lake Rotoiti Skating Pond

Some of you will have met Janna Greene who sometimes joins us at or after Coffee Club when she is in Christchurch visiting her mother. Here's a note from Janna about her recent experience at the Lake Rotoiti skating pond.

*Wish I lived in Christchurch and could be proactive with your lovely group. I tried to skate at Lake Rotoiti the other day on very thin ice .... needed a plank to get onto surface, and it was cracking with every step but I wanted to get some rather large rocks off the surface that had been thrown on. Chris then suggested that I should get the "log" off the ice so I went to dislodge it with my baton only to discover that it was a trout with its tail stuck in the ice but going through to the water and its body above the ice and all frozen.....!!!*



This is not Janna's "log" but some poor fish in a similar plight.

## NZIFSA Skating Tests

Since our last newsletter the following club members have passed these NZIFSA tests

Josie Dawber	Preliminary Stroking
Jeanette King	Preliminary Stroking
Adelaide Wilkinson	Elementary Stroking
Liam McIver	Inter Gold Stroking

Congratulations to these members on their success. It is especially impressive to see adult skaters passing standard tests.



Our thanks to Pub Charity which has generously subsidized our ice time for the middle part of the year. Pub Charity has supported us consistently since we first applied to it for funding.



Warm thanks as well to the New Zealand Racing Board which gave us a substantial grant at the end of last year to fund ice time

## Spills and Splatters



Poor Merryn. She was diligently applying herself to perfecting her cross rolls in early May when her blade caught in a groove in the ice. Plastered from wrist to shoulder she clearly made a very good job of breaking the elbow of her dominant arm! Merryn is out of the cast now but reports that her arm feels like a plank. We wish you a speedy recovery, Merryn.

While we are thinking of injured limbs and painful extremities, we also want to send our good wishes to Jude Heeney, much missed from the ice since early this year, kept at home by a recalcitrant toe. Jude - we are sending all our healing thoughts to you - we do so want to see you back on the ice soon.

We are also missing Trish Weir who underwent knee surgery earlier this year. Trish we understand it will be a while before we see you on the ice again but we are looking forward to that. We hope your recovery is going well.



Jeanne, Karen and Yoko consider auditioning for Playboy. Keep the day jobs, girls.

### Your Committee

#### President

Jeanne Begej

#### Vice President

Kirsty Cox

#### Secretary

Vanessa Anderson

#### Competition and Test Coordinator

Jeanette King

### Treasurer

Arnold Schmidt

### Patron

Kath Craven

### Committee Members

Sarah Button

Alastair Christie

Vera Domigan

Aleksandra Jarmolik

Kanako Johnson

David Ramm

# SPIRAL

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

Newsletter editor

June Laird