

NEWSLETTER

The NZ Footer

May 2017

ISSUE 03



Tournament Dates

Wellington Regionals 27th/28th January 2018

Lake Inspiration – Otaki

Waikato Regionals 10th/11th February 2018

Lake Karapiro – Cambridge

BOP Regionals TBC

Lake Okaro – Rotorua

Nationals Championships

Easter Weekend – 30 March to 1st April 2018

Piarere Ski Club, Lake Karapiro – Cambridge

IWWF World Waterski Championships – August 2018

Dream Lake – Napanee, Ontario Canada

Check It Out

The 2017 Nationals

The wind blew and the rain fell, then the wind blew some more. The big tent had to be rescued the night before we were due to begin, and the wind and rain continued throughout the day.

3 into 2 goes well and there was no time to be bored. Yes the Nationals ended up being a 2 day event with only the hardy Rookies skiing on Day 1. No matter how hard he tried, Chief Judge Rob Groen could drum up absolutely no enthusiasm from the judges for getting in the boat in the rain on the Thursday or for that matter from skiers to ski in rough water in the rain. In fact the judges tried from early morning to get him to postpone for the day, but he was determined to stick it out, ever hopeful that the rain and wind would stop and the sun would shine at any time.

Luckily day 2 and 3 were fine and relatively sunny and all events were able to be completed albeit running right up until prize giving almost.

This year we had 28 entries including the 3 Rookies and for the first time we allowed cross entry in the Nationals. This made the 2 days extremely busy for William Leigh who skied both Junior Boys and Men's Open. It was great to see him doing this and he finished in the top spot in Junior Boys and a creditable 4th place overall in Men's Open. The Men's Open was taken out by Hugo Schaw for the first time. Hugo won Tricks and Jump and took 2nd place in Slalom. Once again our current World Woman's champion Georgia Groen took out the Womans Open, winning all 3 events.

It was also good to see skiers helping out with Judging. Many of them had attended a Level 1 coaching clinic at the AAO Tournament in Auckland which was run by Geoff Blaauw from Australia. It was great to see their confidence coming through. Also a big welcome to the ranks of judging to Grayson Cooper, one of our Men's 1 skiers. I think Grayson actually enjoyed the experience.

All too soon the competition was over and we were at the final Prize Giving. This year we did not have our usual spit roast but the food was amazing. Thanks must go to Wendy Groen who master minded the food for the banquet, cooked much of it and then with her helpers, served it. The prize giving and after match was enjoyed by all although I am not sure if all enjoyed the clean up the next day. There were some sad, pale looking faces and a few holding their heads as the big tent was lowered and packed away.

Until next year.....



The National Exec will be running some training camps starting in Spring 2017, for any team or independent skiers who would like to throw their hat in the ring and qualify for the World's. If this interests you in one, two or three events, please contact Jo Leigh and she will provide you more information. Camps are likely to be at Piarere, Atiamuri and Forests Lakes, with more details to be announced closer to the time.

There will also be grass roots coaching camps held over summer, so if you are interested in these please also contact Jo: jleigh@ihug.co.nz

Kiwis Found in Florida.

While most of us wrap up for the winter, Kiwi barefoot water skiers have been travelling over to Florida more than one would realise. Over the past 7 years since the World Barefooter Center started in Winter Haven over 40 NZ footers have made the flight over to train with the worlds best coaches, which includes our very own kiwi Ben Groen.

And they still keep travelling whether to train at top level, increase their skill set or add the stop on to their summer vacation.

In the last 12 months we have seen a group of skiers of all levels make the pilgrimage among them were Brooke Fitch, William Leigh, Hugo Schaw and April Foster who got to spend between 4 to 8 weeks there leading into the Worlds along with visits from Nick Byrne, Shaun Blyde, and recently there to learn some new tricks and enjoy some warm Florida weather were Richard Reynolds, Frank Reynolds along with his two sons Henry and Jamie.

Our Men's One Champion Grayson Cooper lands in July for a few weeks of coaching while travelling around the USA on vacation.

So if you have packed up for the winter and you are getting itchy feet then take that 20 hour flight to Florida and join those other Kiwis that have added a life time memory to their adventure of water-skiing.

<http://www.worldbarefootcenter.com/>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/WorldBarefootCenter>

The 2017 Waikato Regional Barefoot Waterski Champs were held on the 4th and 5th of March at the Piarere waterski club, on Lake Karapiro. 16 skiers took to the water under the clear blue sky of the sunny Waikato. High scoring was achieved by all in both the trick and slalom event; however a tricky southerly wind dominated the barefoot jumping, the best score being just 22.6m and just 3 skiers above the 21 mark. Emerging on top of the podium in the open women and men divisions were Georgia Groen, claiming her second title of the season and Hugo Schaw, with his first overall win of 2017.

The tournament was run in a sublime fashion, thanks to a group of amazing officials, tournament coordinators, and caterers, headed by chief judge Kathy O'Donnell.

Connect to the World

Your starting point for all things barefooting:

<http://www.nzbwsc.co.nz/>

... and don't forget to checkout tournament scores from near and far too: <http://www.nzbwsc.co.nz/page.php?3>

Joanne Leigh, Claire Mowday and Eddie Wilson

MEMBERSHIP OF THE NZBWSC

For all current or past NZBWSC members wishing to renew their membership with the club please click on the following link to the NZ Waterski Association that manages the Barefoot Club subscriptions:

<http://www.nzwaterski.co.nz/nz-barefoot-water-ski-club.html>

