CENTAURUS ICE SKATING CLUB INC.

★ The last days are upon us! The holidays, that is. And back to skating for another year. Time to get the skates sharpened and dusted off and reset the alarm clock for times not seen since last November.

Welcome back for 2004 when Centaurus will be trying to repeat the success of the last three years in winning the trophies for interclub competition both at South Island Champs and at Nationals.

OPEN PATCHES

To start the year off there will be two patches for Centaurus members. These will cost \$8 per patch and the times are Monday 26 Jan from 4.30 to 5.30pm and on Thursday 29 Jan from 6.30 to 7.30am.

The club is also planning to run an information session for parents and skaters at some time in February. Watch for a notice about this at the rink.

NZ REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2003

Caitlyn Paul and Iain Pollock would like to thank club members for their support for their trip to Australian Nationals in December. Caitlyn placed 4th out of 21 skaters in the Intermediate Ladies grade while Iain was 2nd out of 6 in the Intermediate Mens grade.



BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wishes for January and February to Mykaila Lewis

Chelsea Richdale

Amy Button

Nicholas Kokay

Brittany Woods

Charmelle Dorn

Emily Horwood

Lauren Harwood

Ciara Zack

Madeleine Weir

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As you may have been aware Sharon Mills has handed over the job of newsletter editor. She has done excellent work over the last three years to keep club members informed. Thankyou Sharon.The new editor is Dorothy Brown who can be contacted by email at pollockk@lincoln.ac.nz or dbn@lincoln.school.nz. Please forward any items to be included in the newsletters

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

A club membership form is included with this newsletter. Note that a discount applies to those who renew before the end of March so get your form filled in and sent off before this date.

Membership forms are also available at the rink and can also be printed from the website. Please do not leave cheques or cash in the filing cabinet at the rink. Forms can be posted to the post office box (P.O.Box 30041, St Martins) or given to the secretary, Ina Paul.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Hollins Trophy (Sydney) June 12-14 Club Champs date to be advised South Island Champs (Gore) August 12-15 Australian Nationals (Adelaide) August 21-28 Nationals (Queenstown) September 19-23

Sunskate 2003 - Brisbane

Our plane left the terminal and returned two minutes later to drop off a caterer. The rest of the flight was boringly normal and we arrived in the heat and humidity of Brisbane. Thank goodness for air conditioners.

My first look at the rink was on Sunday when we went to watch the Gore precision team in action. Added drama was provided by an Australian skater who gashed her leg in the middle of a routine requiring another ice clean. Murphy's Law meant that the ice had just been cleaned before this.

Both Caitlyn and I had a practice and the short program the next day. It was very hot outside and inside the rink which operated like the Gardens hothouse in reverse. My event was first so I got to relax and watch Caitlyn afterwards. The power was off for 45 minutes so everything was late, very late and we left the rink at midnight. I was in second place and Caitlyn was in third place. The next morning we had our practices at the convenient time of 6am which meant we had about five hours sleep before having to front up to the rink again. This left us very tired so we slept for most of the day before going to the rink for the freeskate. I had a good warm-up and landed my double axel but my program was far from spectacular and I equalled my personal record of four falls in a program. However, it was enough to keep me in second place. Caitlyn was up next and had a better skate than me but was narrowly edged out of third place.

After we had finished skating we were able to do whatever we wanted. We went to the Gold Coast, looked around downtown Brisbane and visited Australia Zoo though we didn't see Steve – or the baby. Unfortunately, while we were doing all this Brisbane got about the same amount of rain that Canterbury gets in a year. We did enjoy the nearby Subway (especially the meatball), Cold Rock ice cream and frangipani flowers but could have done without the ants, especially the colony that invaded Caitlyn and Ina's motel unit.