**Manawatu Skating Club Report for Artistic AGM 2021**

The Manawatu Club remains in good spirits after our covid shut down period with growing numbers at our Learn to Skate class, our Adult Learn to Skate class, holiday programmes and birthday party bookings. Our discos have been exciting and enthusiasm seems to have exploded since returning after covid with us regularly seeing over 100 skaters on our little rink.

With our growing numbers of recreational skaters we are needing to buy more skates, both quad and inline, as well as more skate frames which have proven to be an absolute must.

Phoenix Reid has been instrumental in establishing an Adult Learn to Skate class and this has proven to be popular especially with university clientele. The numbers are consistent and continue to grow. One of these skaters even competed at our Laurie Hastie competition. We have had 8 new skaters take the floor for competition over the season with great success, including a new precision team!

We have had many skaters successfully gaining medal tests in this past year, including Phoenix who gained her Figure medal level 10. We would also like to congratulate Phoenix on being selected for the NZ team for the Artistic World Competition. Unfortunately, due to restrictions from Covid 19, she will not be able to attend this competition. It is an unfortunate time for our older skaters and the motivation to keep striving forward is tricky, but something that we need to consider and support them in for the future.

We were most appreciative of Kylie Shirley’s initiative of her ‘Restarted’ series which enabled our skaters to get back on the floor. Kylie ran separate sessions for each discipline (Figures, free, dance and show/precision). These were enjoyable for the skaters and helped them dust off some cobwebs! We also appreciated the opportunity for our free skaters to attend a session in Rotorua. Thank you for enabling these training squads for our skaters. Several members attended the Coaches and Officials seminar in New Plymouth and found this valuable learning time also.

Competition season for our skaters started in Upper Hutt with many deciding to do as many competitions as possible. Upper Hutt Open Day and Regionals saw many MSSC skaters attend. However the big event for us this past year was, of course, running the Laurie Hastie competition. With a committee who had not run a competition before, we were very grateful for all the assistance and many many hours given up by so many from all over the country. We definitely would not have been able to run it without you. Despite a few small glitches of being locked out of the building, the fuses not working in Bell Hall, and running skaters and officials between 2 venues, the weekend went well with most people relaxed and understanding. We had 142 skaters, and 61 events over the weekend and tried hard to accommodate skaters and officials timing requests. This was a near impossible task, and we were disappointed to see that some of the requests we had tried so hard to accommodate were irrelevant on the day! We have learned A LOT and will get the caffeine reserves in super early next time..

Our committee is a small dedicated group who have had a few challenges which have had to result in us reaching out for advice from others. Working in a volunteer capacity with a small group can be rewarding, but it can also be stressful, demanding and thankless. Some of our committee have found these challenges difficult to navigate with personal and work commitments as well (we all work full time, with some shift workers, so that can make scheduling doubly tricky!). We are continually trying to recruit new volunteers to the committee roles to help spread the workload but at times this proves difficult.

Several of our members have taken on National roles which enables us a fabulous and greater perspective of skating in NZ. Phoenix is the skaters rep for the Artistic committee and training to be Technical Specialist, Kylie is training to be Technical Specialist, Rox is Treasurer for the Artistic Committee, Sonja is Trophy Steward for Nationals and training to be DEO, Katja is training to be a judge, Hollie is training to be Chief Marshall, Demelza is training to be an announcer, Hayley continues to judge when she is able, and Jenny remains a dedicated team member on the Rollart Steering Committee.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our fabulous coaches who give so much of their time and knowledge to better our skaters skills (Kylie, Lisa, Phoenix, Hannah and Learn to Skate coaches).