

## 2024 NZ Academy of Officials AGM Report

This past year commenced with a new structure within our group, forming the NZ Academy of Officials (NZAO) with Jenny Lupton being appointed as Principal Manager, with Leigh retiring from her role as Officials Convenor, Di Gunson was appointed as the new Officials Convenor. Forming the Academy with our Chiefs, Leigh Duske as Chief Judge/Referee, Judith Lowes as Chief Calculator, Hollie Patete as Chief Marshall and upon Roger Boulcott retiring from his role due to becoming the Skate NZ President again, Eileen Mills was appointed as Chief Announcer along with everyone's Teams'.

We had four of our officials attend the 2023 Oceania/Pacific Cup Championships which were held in Brisbane. Our Oceania selected officials were Tony Alexander and Pam Peters. Both Di Gunson and Trudy Pocock were given the opportunity to officiate on the Pacific Cup Figure panels (and unbeknown to them at the time this was actually their practical assessment towards their International Figure Commissions).

The Championship was followed by the World Skate Artistic Seminar, presented by Nicola Genchi and Seona Martin and their team- various NZ officials attended which was a great opportunity leading into World Skate examinations. We had set up for 1 freeskating exam, 1 dance exam, 1 DO exam and 2 figure exams. Unfortunately our selected DO was unable to attend due to a last minute family medical emergency, our officials gave all opportunities a go and made us all proud with the work and effort put in prior to and during the conference.

We were able to congratulate both Di Gunson and Trudy Pocock for gaining their International Figure Judging Commissions during this conference.

The start of 2024 kicked off with the NZ Artistic Seminar, overall, we had great attendance and we thank Leigh Duske, Pam Peters, Tony Alexander, Judith Lowes for putting the officials section together, we always appreciate their ongoing leadership, support and learnings.

Unfortunately, also at the start of the year we were all sad to hear of the passing of Peter Willy. Peter was a past competitive skater and foundation member of the Tokoroa Rollerskating Club. He was an international coach and CIPA International Judge, he was a Life Member of SkateNZ and mentored officials, coaches and continued to judge medal tests in the Waikato until only last year. He was a dear friend to our NZAO Team and we will miss him.

Throughout the year we have held and benefited from various technical, judging, announcing and data operating zooms within our officiating groups, this has been a key tool for staying connected having discussions and for ongoing learning leading up to the 2024 Oceania/Pacific Cup Championships.

We have appointed Tim Price to the role of IT Lead. With the range and scale of equipment, along with networking and connection needs, Tim will be a valuable lead to help our official volunteers set up, connect and display the results from the RollArt scoring system. Each location has different set up situations and requirements, depending on the event.

Developing processes will help Event and Championship Managers ensure that everything is ready to go, for events to commence.

Regular Chief zooms have been held, as the Officials Academy has established itself. It's been great to connect, support and better understand one another's needs as we work collaboratively to foster improvement and deliver the best possible officiating for our sport.

Our 2024 World Skate Oceania selected officials were Leigh Duske, Pam Peters, Tony Alexander and Sarah Barlow. We are so proud of our selected Team and how they represented us on the judging panels, there were some long days and everyone demonstrated professionalism and made us proud.

Our 2024 Pacific Cup selected Officials were Michelle Crosby, Di Gunson, Trudy Pocock, Yvonne Lambert-Smith, Judith Lowes, Gerald Allen, Bruce Crosby, again this was a fantastic learning opportunity and they too did us proud, stepping into roles where required and officiating with professionalism and impartiality. Both Roger Boulcott and Eileen Mills did an incredible job announcing the whole week and are bringing new learnings to this year's championships.

Tony Alexander will be officiating at this year's world roller games. We wish Tony all the best for this competition, safe travels and we look forward to hearing about Tony's experiences.

Both Pam Peters and Leigh Duske continue to represent NZ on the Oceania technical committee (OATC), we are very grateful for the work they present in this space, keeping us up to date and NZ in the loop internationally.

As we come into these NZ Championships we look back on the past year and how our Academy has evolved, the work that everyone has put in and continues to do. Moving forward we are pleased to see new officials coming through and progressing with their accreditations. We are in the stages of expanding our Judging learning modules, mentoring support, growing our Teams and ensuring succession within our roles that we carry out as volunteers.

We would like to thank all of our Chiefs for the work you do to lead within your specialised areas and all of our Officials for the ongoing support and work you do for our amazing sport.

Di Gunson, Officials Convenor  
Jenny Lupton, Principal Manager  
NZAO