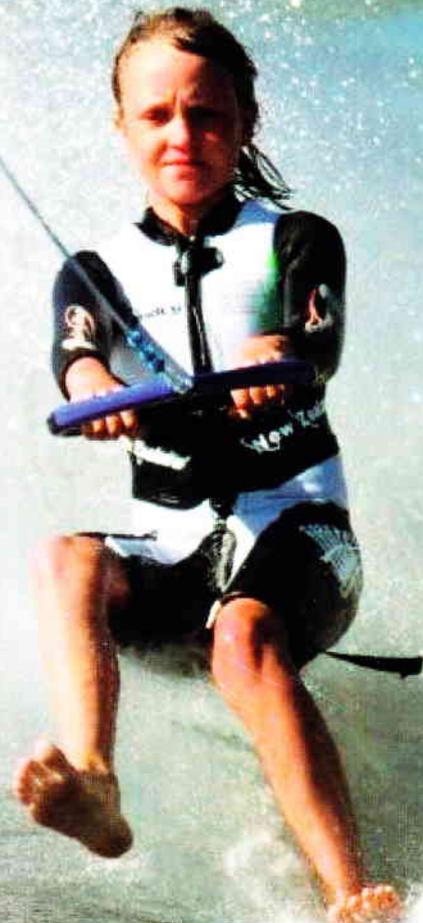




IUISF

# WORLD BAREFOOT *waterski championships* 2009

LAKE INSPIRATION | OTAKI | NEW ZEALAND

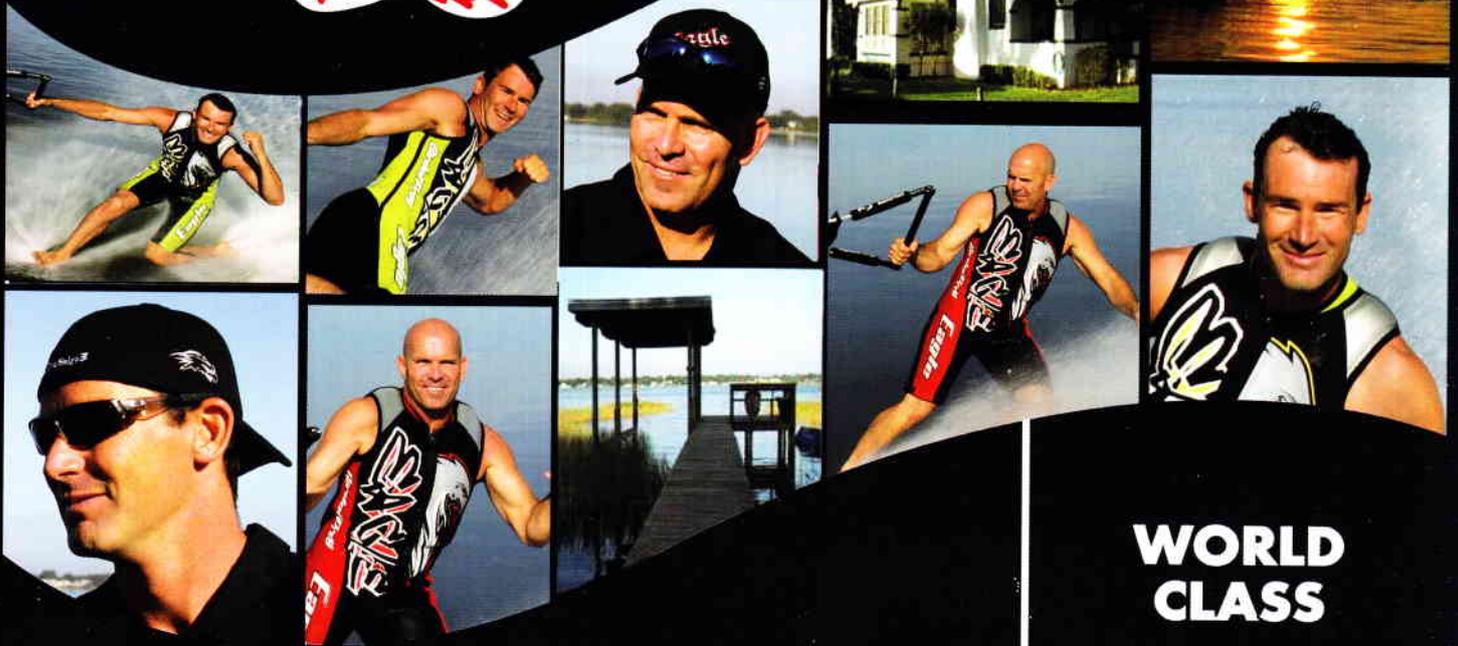


26 january – 1 february 2009



*Ron Scarpa*

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## programme for the week

Saturday 24th January	9.00am	WBC Council meeting – Byrons
	5.45pm	Managers Meeting – Lake Inspiration
Sunday 25th January	9.00am	Officials Seminar – Byrons
	5.30pm	Opening Ceremony – Lake Inspiration
Monday 26th January	8.00am	Skiing begins
Tuesday 27th January	7.30pm	Officials outing and dinner
Wednesday 28th January	7.00pm	Spit Roast and Auction Lake Inspiration
Thursday 29th January	8.00pm	Hawaiian Night – Sanger Bar, Lake Inspiration
Friday 30th January	TBA	Relay
Saturday 31st January	TBA	Paintball
Sunday 1st January	7.00pm	Prizegiving Banquet – Duxton Hotel, Wellington

The Sanger Bar – the footers den will undoubtedly be the place to hang out after the day's skiing. Open from 12noon till late each and every day. The bar offers: Videos of the day's events as seen from the boat, shown on the big screen; footing DVD's, interviews; a good mix of music, dancing karaoke; cocktails; live eel challenge (are you up for it!!)

Come meet some of your footing idols, they are sure to be there – because the Sanger Bar is the place to be!

## new zealand president's welcome

It is with great pleasure that the New Zealand Barefoot Club welcomes to New Zealand for the second time, competitors, officials, supporters and friends of barefoot skiing from twelve countries from around the world.

The organisation for such an event is immense and I would particularly like to thank the small, hardworking, local organising committee and all the other people throughout New Zealand and other parts of the world for their help and support over the last 18 months, since we were awarded the World Championships. I would also like to thank all our sponsors, large and small – without your support this event could not happen. In particular I would like to mention SPARC and the New Zealand Waterski Foundation who have backed us from the start.

The event is now about to begin. We believe we have a fantastic site, magnificent boats, the top skiers in the world, the best officials, and the friendliest competitors any sport will ever see. These ingredients all go to make up what we believe will be a unique championships with a distinctly kiwi flavour, which you will savour and remember for a life time.

We wish everyone a successful championship – competitors, officials, organisers. May the weather be kind to us all and may we share in the camaraderie and good will that is "Barefoot Waterskiing".

**Rob Groen**

*President New Zealand Barefoot Waterski Club and Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee*



## IWSF president's welcome



It is with great pleasure that I welcome skiers, their families, spectators and officials on behalf of the International Water Ski Federation to the 2008 Barefoot Water Ski World Championships.

After the World Junior Championships in 2002 it is for the second time that New Zealand is hosting a Barefoot World Championships in Otaki.

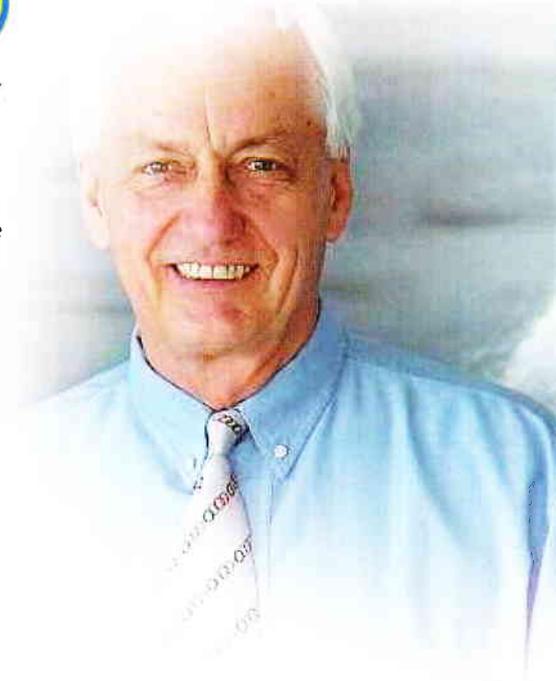
Following the successful first trial in 2006 in Adna, also for the second time all categories are competing at the same event. It is for sure that the World's best Barefooters of all ages will create again an interesting and spectacular competition.

For a full week thrilling skills are on display at the wonderfully named Lake Inspiration in Otaki. Let us hope the athletes are also inspired to do their very best performances.

I thank the New Zealand Water Ski Association and especially the New Zealand Barefoot Waterski Club for preparing a great Championships for both the athletes and spectators. Looking at the programme there is also a full social programme for all to enjoy as well.

I wish all the skiers the best of luck and great success.

**Kuno Ritschard** *President IWSF*



## WBC chairman's welcome

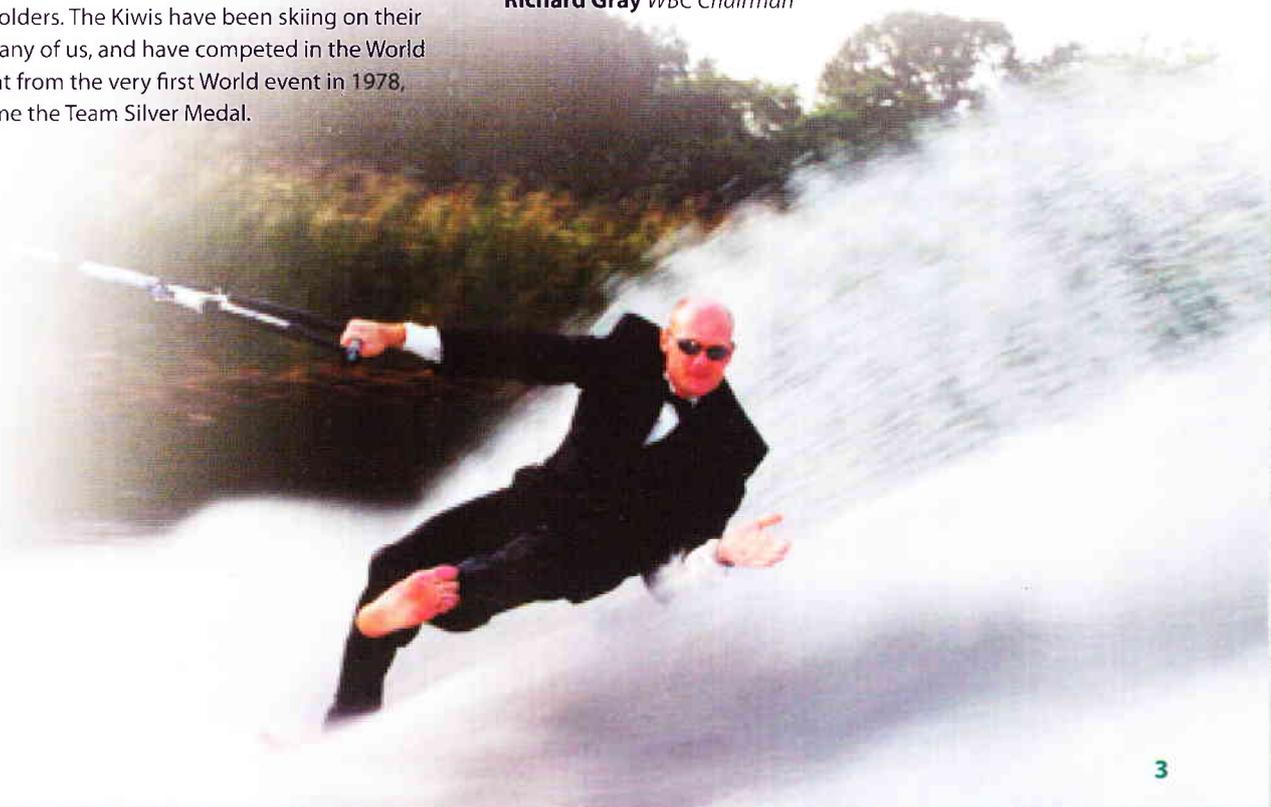
It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to the 16th World Barefoot Championships! This is also the 8th Junior World Championships and the 6th Senior World Championships. Combined together this represents the largest World Championships ever to take place in the AA Confederation. I extend warm and sincere thanks to the New Zealand Water Ski Association and the New Zealand Barefoot Waterski Club for taking on such a large task of hosting this event.

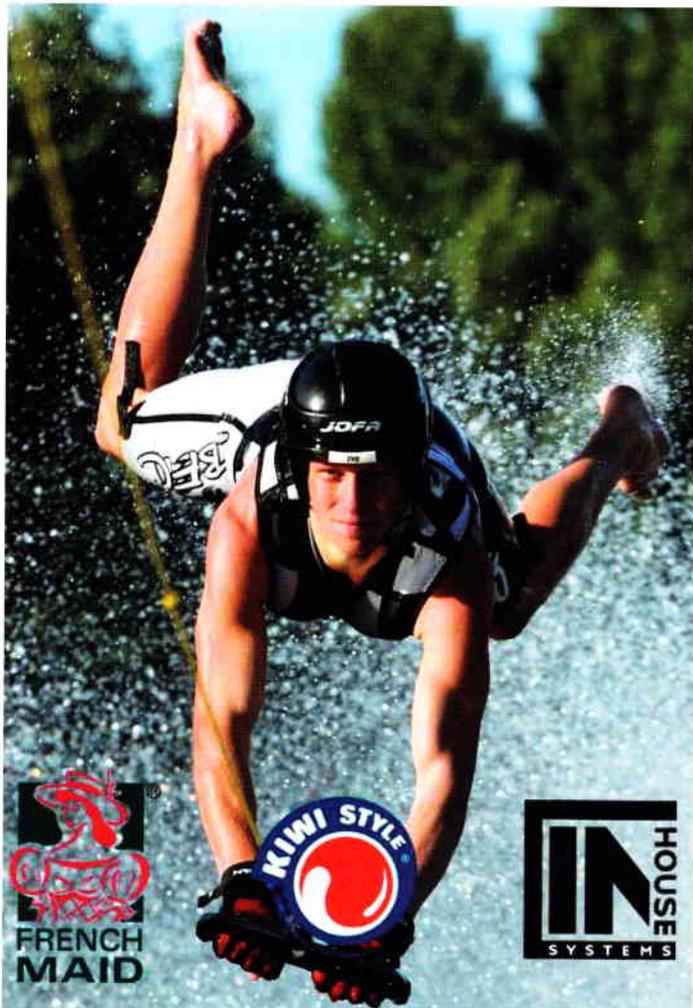
I am especially excited to be in New Zealand as this country has such a rich history in our sport with many past World Champions and World Record holders. The Kiwis have been skiing on their bare feet as long as any of us, and have competed in the World Championships right from the very first World event in 1978, when they took home the Team Silver Medal.

Many thanks to Fred and Rob Groen for having the Inspiration to build a World Class venue for all of us to enjoy. A further thanks to everyone involved with the organization of this event. All of your efforts are greatly appreciated by everyone that has come to enjoy these championships.

I urge everyone to take advantage of the genuine New Zealand hospitality, to see the beautiful country and to take part in all that this event has to offer.

Enthusiastically,  
**Richard Gray** *WBC Chairman*





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Web: [www.ksobarefoot.com](http://www.ksobarefoot.com)

Photo: Lynn Navarofski

**VORTEX**  
WETSUITS

# IWSF appointed officials



**Claire Willard**  
Chief Judge – AA NZL



**Joe Malenfant**  
Asst Chief Judge – PamAm USA



**Ina de Villers**  
Judge – EAME RSA



**Donna Forge**  
Judge – AA AUS



**Kathy O'Donnell**  
Judge – AA NZL



**Ashley Stebbeings**  
Judge – AA AUS



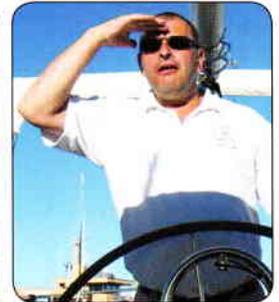
**John Price**  
Judge – AA AUS



**Geoff Davis**  
Judge – AA AUS



**Geoff Blaauw**  
Judge – AA AUS



**Andy Harris**  
Judge – EAME GBR



**Dale Stevens**  
Judge – PanAm USA



**Mike Ozanne**  
Judge – PanAm CAN



**John Boyd**  
Chief Calculator – PamAm USA



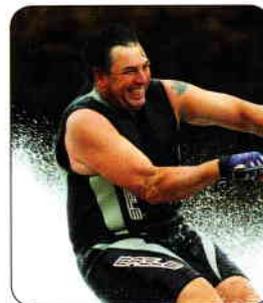
**Robyn Gardner**  
Calculator – AA NZL



**Isabelle Dupuis**  
Calculator – EAME FRA



**Terry Jones**  
Homologator – PanAm CAN



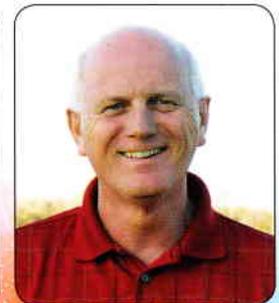
**Robb Gardner**  
Chief Driver Driver – AA NZL



**Andrew Richards**  
Driver – AA AUS



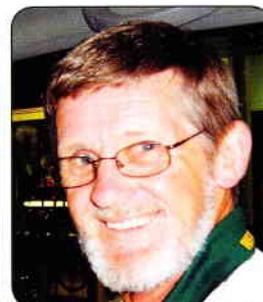
**Jan Ter Wee**  
Driver – EAME HOL



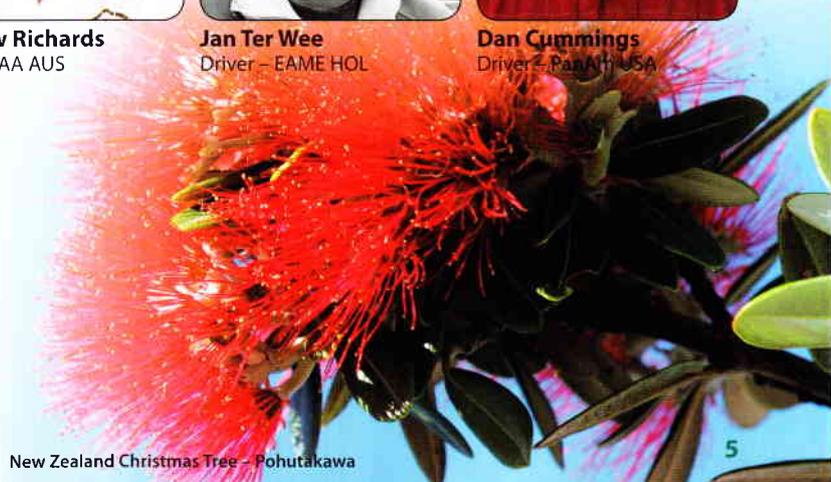
**Dan Cummings**  
Driver – PanAm USA



**Andrew Linton**  
Driver (R) – AA NZL



**Billy Wyatt**  
Chief Video – AA AUS



New Zealand Christmas Tree – Pohutakawa

## tournament appointed officials

Tournament Director  
Site Director  
Assistant Site Director  
Safety Officer  
Assistant Safety Officer  
Tournament/CJ Secretary  
Chief Dock Marshall

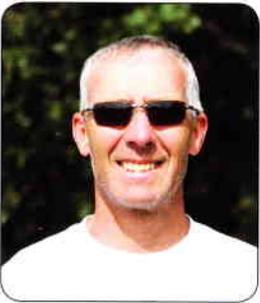
**Rod Green**  
**Gary O'Donnell**  
**Phil Leach**  
**Gary O'Donnell**  
**Noel Binns**  
**Eddie Wilson**  
**Dean McGregor**

Video Operators

**Stacie Gardner**  
**Milky Hamblyn**  
**Gordie Mouldy**  
**Paul Roberts**  
**Steve McKay**  
**Jeff Payne**



## local organising committee



**Rob Groen**



**Claire Willard**



**Kathy O'Donnell**



**Eddie Wilson**



**Andrew Linton**

## heartfelt thanks ...

With an undertaking of the size of this event there are a few people who are seen taking a lead in organising (that is the Local Organising Committee) and I know that we are all very grateful to these people, but they cannot do it alone. There are many more behind the scenes, who have done an inordinate amount of work to make this event the success we know it will be. These people are the unsung heroes of our sport. They are always there when asked, turn their hand to what is asked of them and come back asking "well what next." Thank you all, from far and wide, the New Zealand shores and abroad, for everything you have done, to make this event what it is and will be.

The Local Organising Committee would especially like to thank Richard Gray, President of the World Barefoot Waterski Council, for his support and guidance and Rod Green our Tournament Director from Australia, who from when he first accepted the position, has not stopped asking what else he can do.

Thank you one and all. The Barefooting Fraternity of the World is a very special one, of which we are all very lucky, to be a part.

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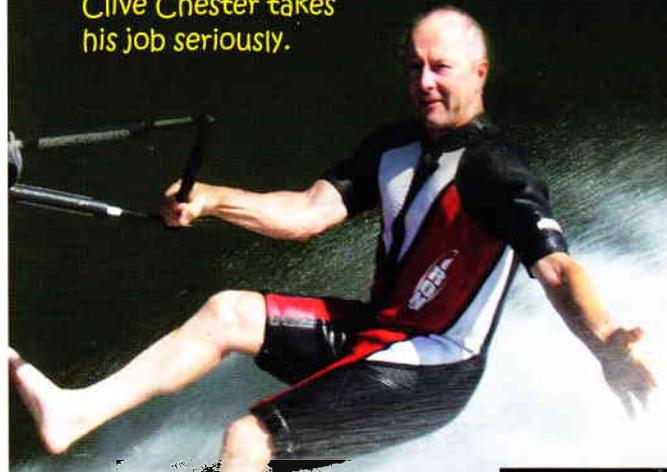
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## regional addresses

### *greetings from EAME*

"Barefoot in EAME is not only a sport, it is a passion. Skiers are not only competitors, they are family. Family you meet only once a year, as if the last time was only yesterday.

World Championships are not only the occasion to prove the excellence of our athletes but also the spirit of our wonderful sport. EAME skiers are excited by the prospect of going to New Zealand because they know they can expect

the best from a country with such a wonderful reputation and such friendly people. EAME skiers cannot wait to see their friends from all around the World, especially the Kiwis. Good luck to all skiers. Thank you to the Organising Committee for making this great reunion possible."

**Alexandra Vigoureux** EAME



### *greetings from PanAm*

On behalf of the PanAm Barefoot Council, I would like to welcome all the federations to this World Barefoot Championships. I wish each and every federation, along with every skier, the best of luck in their competition. I send a special welcome to China as it prepares for it's very first World Championship experience.

Barefooting is a very special family and the World Championships are a truly special event. The competition is always fierce, but the camaraderie of the barefooting family is like no other.

Take some time, reunite with old friends, meet new ones, enjoy your extended family. Like all barefooter's, we work hard and play even harder. I'm 100% sure that our Kiwi hosts have planned an event that you will never forget.

I hope everyone will have an experience of a life time.

**Joe Malenfant** PanAm Council Member and WBC representative  
ABC VP



### *greetings from down-under*

As host confederation and on behalf of the Asian Australasian Barefoot Council, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all federations to the 2009 Championships at Otaki, New Zealand. I would also like to convey a special welcome to the federation of China, to their first World Barefoot Championships. We wish the team well and look forward to further assisting this new federation grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

The key focus over the past two years for our Council has been to grow the number of federations participating in Barefoot competitions. This task is immense, but I am pleased to advise we are slowly seeing the benefits from the many hours contributed by the sub committee involved in our development program.

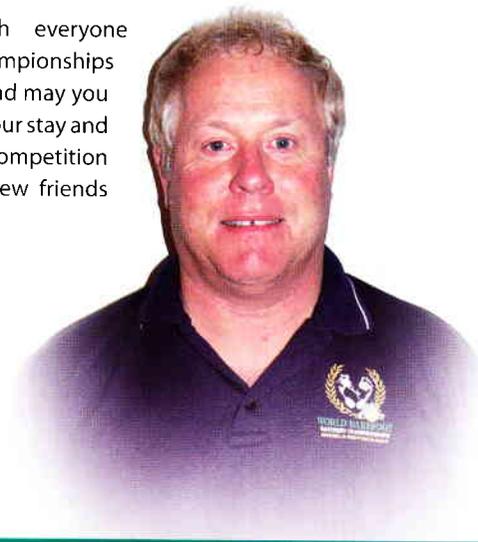
The expansion of Barefoot skiing within the confederation took a great leap forward when our facet of the sport was invited to participate at the first combined (Classic, Wakeboard & Barefoot) Confederation Championships held at Max Kirwan Ski Parks, Mulwala Australia, in December 2006. This event was a huge success and provided the catalyst to showcase Barefooting to our Asian federations. The second combined event was held in the Republic of Korea in September 2008, where four (4) federations - Australia, New Zealand, China and Chinese Taipei attended the championships. Again, another very successful event was staged

with great interest shown towards the barefoot skiers and the way we go about conducting our sport. Our next major event within the confederation will be the World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan in July 2009.

The exposure of barefoot water skiing to the Asian federations over the past two years has been significant and will hopefully assist growing our sport in these developing federations. With China joining the barefoot family here in New Zealand, we look forward to seeing a number of new countries from the Asian Australasian Confederation participate at the 2010 World Championships in Berlin, Germany.

In closing may I wish everyone participating in these championships the very best of fortunes and may you achieve your goals. Enjoy your stay and just as important as the competition side of our sport, make new friends and have fun.

**Brian Price** Chairman Asian Australasian Confederation



## events schedule

The running of each event will be subject to water & weather conditions

<b>Monday 26 January</b>	<b>Lake Inspiration &amp; Forest Lakes</b>
Elimination Rounds	All Divisions
<b>Tuesday 27 January</b>	<b>Lake Inspiration &amp; Forest Lakes</b>
Elimination Rounds	All Divisions
<b>Wednesday 28 January</b>	<b>Lake Inspiration</b>
Semi Final Rounds	All Divisions
<b>Thursday 29 January</b>	<b>Lake Inspiration</b>
Semi Final Rounds	All Divisions
<b>Friday 30 January</b>	<b>Lake Inspiration</b>
Semi Final Rounds	All Divisions
<b>Saturday 31 January</b>	<b>Lake Inspiration - Finals</b>
Boat Parade	Slalom
	Senior Women
	Junior Girls
	Senior Men
	Junior Boys
Boat Parade	Tricks
	Senior Women
	Junior Girls
	Senior Men
	Junior Boys
Medal Presentation	Slalom

<b>Saturday 31 January (cont)</b>	
Boat Parade	Jump
	Senior Women
	Junior Girls
	Senior Men
	Junior Boys
Medal Presentation	Tricks
Medal Presentation	Jump
<b>Sunday 1 February</b>	<b>Lake Inspiration - Finals</b>
Boat Parade	Slalom
	Open Women
	Open Men
Boat Parade	Tricks
	Open Women
	Open Men
Medal Presentation	Slalom
Boat Parade	Jump
	Open Women
	Open Men
Medal Presentation	Tricks
Medal Presentation	Jump
<b>Tournament Complete</b>	



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## competitors

KEY: S = Slalom; T = Tricks; J = Jump

COUNTRY	COMPETITOR	JUNIORS	OPEN	SENIORS
<b>CHINA</b>	Gang Yang		S,T,J	
	Jia Tao		S,T,J	
	Jiayu Li		S,T,J	
	Kaiyong Huang		S,T,J	
	Xin Yang		S,T,J	
	Yu Song		S,T,J	
	Team Leader Yan Xuelian			
	Vice Team Leader/Translator Meng Shuxia			
	Coach Ni Yuancai			
Coach Jiang Zhisheng				
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Mathijs Zielman	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Coach/Team Captain Arno Zielman			
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Dennis Andersson		S	
	Jacob Versteegh		S,T,J	
	Coach Mikael Lindahl			
<b>GERMANY</b>	Marc Niebuhr	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Stefan Worpel		S,T,J	
	Svenja Hempelmann		S,T,J	
	Terry Gregory		S,T,J	
	Manager Hilmar Wehner			
<b>FRANCE</b>	Clement Maillard	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Alexandre Vigoureux		S,T,J	
	Flora Giacuzzo		S,T,J	
	Geoffroy Dupuis		S,T,J	
	Patrick Wehner		S,T,J	
	Bruno Giacuzzo		S,T,J	S,T,J
	Jean Marie Poncey		S,T,J	S,T,J
	Patrice Beekandt		S,T,J	S,T,J
	Manager Jean-Marie Poncey			
Assistant Manager Alexandra Vigoureux				
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	Aiden Finch	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Hannah Bullard	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	David Small		S,T,J	
	Emily Goldie		S,T,J	
	Paul Turner		S,T,J	S,T,J
	Team Manager Paul Turner			
	Official Sue Goldie			
Official Andy Finch				

## competitors

KEY: S = Slalom; T = Tricks; J = Jump

COUNTRY	COMPETITOR	JUNIORS	OPEN	SENIORS
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	Garth Strydom	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Heinrich Sam	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Lize-Mari Verster	S,T,J		
	Pascal Bauwens	S,T,J		
	Shianne Addinall	S,T,J		
	Andre de Villiers		S,T,J	
	Zane de Villiers		S,T,J	
	Eugene Sam			
Manager	Eugene Sam			
Coach	Nadine de Villers			
<b>CANADA</b>	Caitlyn Rowland	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Daniele Tipping	S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Katie Godfrey	S,T		
	Richard Blackmore	S,T		
	Don Schwartz		S,T,J	S,T,J
	Gordie Croteau		S,T,J	S,T,J
	Nicole Blackmore		S,T,J	
	Paul MacDonald		S,T,J	
	Becky Moyres			S,T
	Cathy Tuluck			S,T
	Duane Godfrey (Rev)			S
	Dwayne Rowland			S,T,J
	Coach	Richard Gray		
Manager	Al Moynes			
Doctor	Richard Blackmore			

## competitors

KEY: S = Slalom; T = Tricks; J = Jump

COUNTRY	COMPETITOR	JUNIORS	OPEN	SENIORS	
USA	Anthony (AJ) Porreca	S,T,J	J		
	Ariana Koehler	S,T,J	T,J		
	Jacklyn Kumlien	S,T,J	T,J		
	James Kumlien	S,T,J	T		
	John Pressendo	S,T			
	Kailey Koehler	S,T			
	Lisa Pressendo	S,T,J	S,T		
	Adin Daneker		S,T,J	T,J	
	Cody Heller		J		
	Doug Jordan		S,T,J	S	
	Elaine Heller		S,T,J		
	Heather Towers		S,T,J	S,T,J	
	Keith St Onge		S,T,J		
	Kevin Towers		S,T,J	S,T	
	Laura Szwed		S,T,J		
	Liz Flaherty		S,T		
	Ryan Boyd		S,T,J		
	Shannon Heller	S,T,J	S,T,J		
	Tenley Cederstrand		S,T,J	T,J	
	William (Billy) Brzoza		S,T,J		
	William Farrell		S,T,J	S,T	
	Andrea Eggert		T,J	S,T,J	
	Claudia Landon			S,T	
	Jerry Kanawyer		S,T	S,T	
	Michael Salber			S,T,J	
	Mike Holt			S,T	
	Teri Jones			S,T,J	
Team Manager	Doug Koch				
Team Manager	Derek Koch				
Coach	Gary (Swampy) Bouchard				
Coach	Lee Stone				
FINLAND	Tuurkka Rasanan		S,T,J		
	Evert Aartsen		J	S,T,J	
	Evert Aartsen (Junior)			S,T	
	Timo Harju			S,T,J	
	Jari Ronkainen			S,T	
	Kasimir Ronkainen			S,T,J	
	Coach	Tuuka Rasanan			
	Manager	Tytti Ronkainen			
Motivational Coach	Michell Knutson				

## competitors

KEY: S = Slalom; T = Tricks; J = Jump

COUNTRY	COMPETITOR	JUNIORS	OPEN	SENIORS	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	Ashlea McDonald	S,T			
	Brendan Paige	S,T,J	(Rev)		
	Christopher Marrinan	S,T,J			
	Courtney McDonald	S,T,J			
	Darcy Arnel	S,T,J	(Rev)		
	Gavin Beattie	S,T,J			
	Megan Roberts	S,T			
	Riley McKay	S,T			
	Sam Lamshed	S,T			
	Samantha Payne	S,T,J			
	Ashleigh Stebbeings	S,T,J	S,T,J		
	Jamie Payne		S,T,J		
	Peter O'Neill		S,T,J		
	Stacey Green		S,T,J		
	Cameron Smith			S,T,J	
	Cathy Raynor			S,T,J	
	Gizella Halasz			S,T,J	
	Warren Wark			S,T,J	
	Coach	Oscar (Foot) Mann			
	Junior Coach	Peter O'Neill			
Manager	Brian Price				
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	Ben Groen	S,T,J	S,T,J		
	Chris McGregor	S,J			
	Dan McGregor	S,J			
	Georgia Groen	S,J			
	Josh Atkins	S,J			
	Mitchell Groen	S,T,J			
	Sam Groen	J			
	Sarah Linton	S,T,J			
	Shannon O'Donnell	S,T,J			
	Tyler Groen	S,T,J			
	Bevan Kelly		S,T,J		
	Kelly O'Donnell		S,T,J		
	Nick Hamblyn		S,T,J		
	Ryan Groen		S,T,J		
	Stephanie Hamblyn		S,T,J		
	Anthony Hawes			S,T,J	
	Fred Groen		S	S,T,J	
	Gary Oakes			S	
	Kathy Duxfield			S,T,J	
	Phil Leach (Senior Rev)		S,T,J		
	Robbie Groen		S	S,T,J	
	Manager	Gary Oakes			

## “barefoot stew” – henry stewart mcdonald

**20/02/1925 – 26/08-2008**

Some of you will not have known this gentleman, some of you will have known him well. I fall into the category of having met him but not really known him so hope that I can do justice to his memory. He is



one of the great legends of Barefoot Waterskiing and one we will never forget, not only for his contribution to the sport of Barefoot Waterskiing that we all love, but for his larger than life personality.

I met Stew for the first time at the World Barefoot Waterski Championships being held in Jacksonville Florida in 1990 and his memory remains with me to this day. He was an imposing figure, 6 foot 4 inches tall, dressed all in white, with no shoes. He spoke with authority and people listened. I had little idea of who he was, but he stood out from the crowd.

Stew grew up in Washington DC. As a young lad growing up in the depression he had an affinity for his peers whose parents could not afford footwear. To this end he too would discard his shoes and walk barefoot to school. The freedom this gave him stayed with him for life. He continued with the “bare feet” for many reasons the very least of which was for money and the attention it brought him. This was not always positive as the traffic department in Florida could vouch for.

Contrary to popular opinion, Stew did not gain his nickname from barefoot waterskiing, but it fitted well. As a test pilot in World War II and a pilot in the Korean War, Stew flew bare footed. In 1947 he began Stock Car racing and this led into Motor Racing – yes barefooted. It was while motor racing on the NASCAR circuit that he earned the nickname “Barefoot Stew”,

In 1948, while recuperating from a crash, he came to Miami University and came upon the sport of waterskiing. After a very short time he started his own ski school with a mate Dave and thus began a lifelong love of the sport and a dedication above and beyond. Stew was a participant, a performer at Cypress gardens, a coach, a judge, an administrator, and announcer both at tournaments and for ABC Television’s “Wide World of Sport” and a dedicated supporter of both tournament and barefoot waterskiing. He not only loved the sport - he lived it.

1992 Stew was inducted into the Waterski Hall of Fame. A worthy recipient of such an accolade and now celebrated there for all to remember, and reflect upon his contribution to our sport. He was one of the first proponents of barefoot waterskiing in the USA and played a big part in the development of the rules and regulations that formed the basis of our rule book today.

Stew you may be gone from our physical presence but you will always be remembered in our hearts. How could we forget those size 11 calloused feet, that dry sense of humour, that independent thinking, that man who was Stew McDonald.

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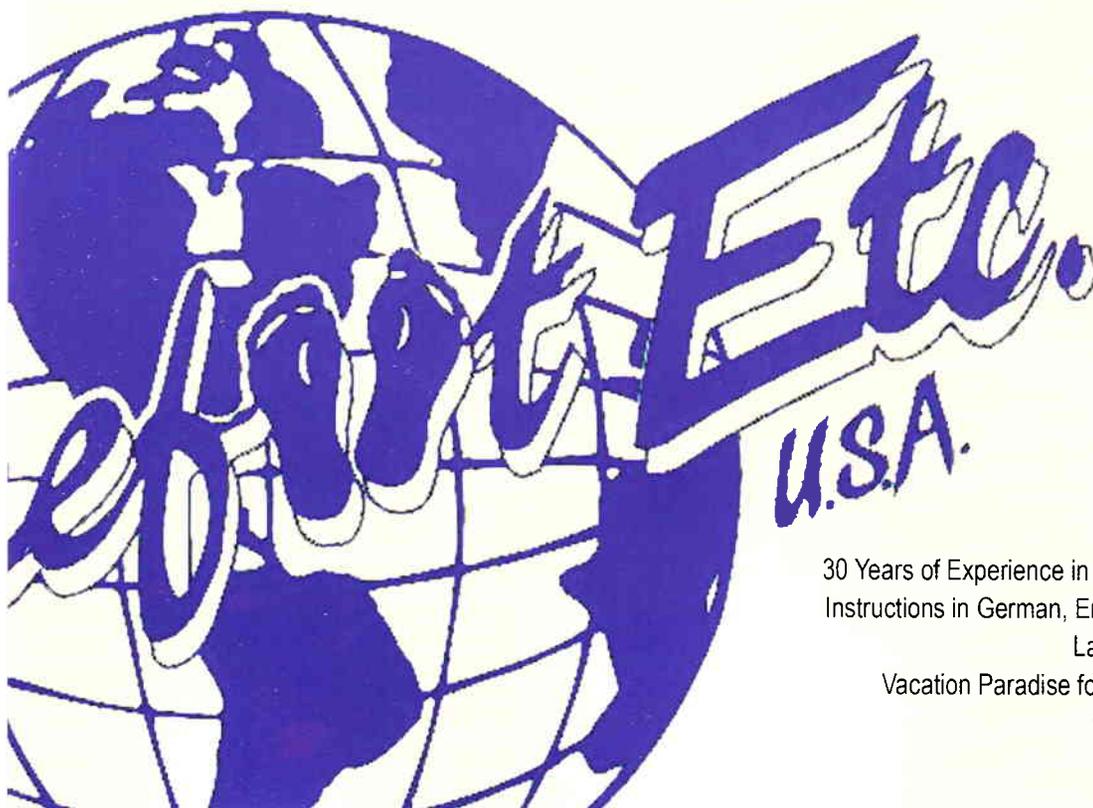
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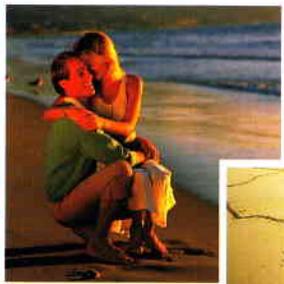
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# it can be a hard road but well worth the journey

The journey to where I am with my barefooting today has been a long and curvy road, with many ups and downs. However, I have enjoyed the ride and everything that has come along with it.

I first learnt to barefoot in 2000 when I was eight years old. I learnt because my brothers could do it and I wanted to keep up with them, despite the impossible. I soon after competed in my first competition, never imaging where it could take me. For the next few years my one and only goal was to keep setting personal bests for myself. I travelled to various destinations across Australia, proudly representing my state.

In 2003 I competed in my first international event being the Asian Australasian. The first time I met the New Zealand team, what an interesting bunch they were. At the 2003 Australian titles I was named in the team that would travel to America later that year to compete at worlds, being ten I didn't really know what this meant, but was excited to tell my mum anyway. Travelling to America was one of the greatest experiences of my life especially training with the team, representing my country and meeting new people. My goal for the Worlds was still to set personal bests for myself, in doing this I come home with a Gold medal in tricks and a Bronze overall.

From that point on I had the travel bug. In the next 2 years I knew that if I wanted to make the team for the next worlds I would have to train really hard. This was quite a difficult time as the people I was training with quit and my brothers did as well, leaving me to face the long hard hours of training to just my dad, my mum and myself. At times it was difficult because I had to create my own fun to keep me motivated. However, this paid off resulting in team selection for the 2005 World titles in South Africa. Leading up to the Worlds I had a hard time with injury and at one stage considered not skiing the Worlds, I wasn't letting a shoulder injury ruin my hard work.

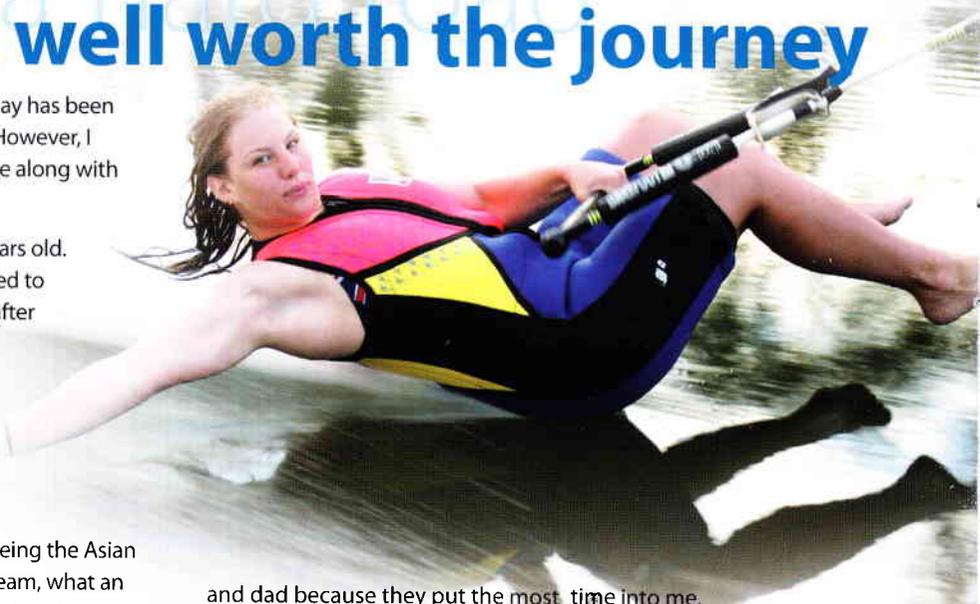
My goals for the Worlds were to do personal bests and to try and defend my trick title. My hard work paid off when I took out Junior Girls tricks, slalom, jump and overall. I was more proud of myself that I did personal bests. Being World Junior Girls Champion meant a lot to me because it meant all my hard work leading up to the Worlds had paid off and I wanted to do it for both my mum

and dad because they put the most time into me.

This was not the end of my journey however with a Worlds coming around the next year, I wouldn't get much of a break. The training for the 2006 Worlds was hard because it was during our winter time, more long hours spent on the water. This Worlds was hard mentally because I was the one all the girls wanted to beat. I was in a complete different situation going from being the 'underdog' and chasing the title to trying to regain the title and ski solid runs. I skied for both Open Womens and Junior Girls and managed to make it through to all 6 finals. I managed to get gold in both Junior Girls tricks and jump and Junior Girls overall and silver in Open Womens Overall.

The Junior Title meant more to me the second time because I felt like I was put under more pressure and I worked really hard to achieve this. Becoming Overall World Champion was like a dream, it didn't feel like it was real. Winning it twice means to me that all the hard work over the past years had paid off. However, the most important goal to me is always going to be achieving personal bests, because no matter the outcome I know that I have skied as good as I could have. You can't ask for more than that!

— Ashleigh Stebbeings



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# a right little battler on and off the water

I started skiing at the age of 4 on a set of combo skis and I just loved it. My first barefoot experience was at the age of 5 or 6. I got on the water with my Dad on combo skis. I had my own rope and then Dad picked me up by the collar and set me down on the water – my first barefoot experience.

At 7 I skied in my first tournament. My motivators have been Nadine and Keith and I knew that if I worked hard I could one day be as good as these skiers.

I was the youngest skier to land an invert jump in a tournament at age 10; I hold the Junior World Slalom record at 19.2; and I was the first skier to ski over 11000 points in tricks. I am the current Junior World Boys Champion and have held this title for 4 years.

I have been lucky to always have Andre de Villiers to ski with and we have competed against each other every weekend. This pushed us both to levels that I don't think we ever imagined. He is one of my best friends and my greatest rival. I think he is the most talented skier this sport has ever had and it is now Andre that keeps me motivated as I always strive to do better than him.

What makes this sport great is that when I got sick last year with cancer the whole world sent me emails. I did not know that so many people knew me and I would like to thank them all for their prayers and well wishes.

(Eugene, Heinrich's Dad, says it was also Heinrich's belief in himself that he would get better and he would ski again, along with prayers from all over the world, that have enabled Heinrich to come back stronger and better than ever.)

I would like to thank my Dad. He always pushed me when everyone thought it was not possible and he always believed that I could be as good as I wanted to be. He never gave up on me and when I came back from my illness he just said we will now take this sport to levels no one else has ever dreamed of.

So here we are back in New Zealand where I attended my first ever World tournament when I was 9 and I made the finals in tricks and skied 3 personal bests.

Good to see you all here at the Worlds.

— Heinrich Sam



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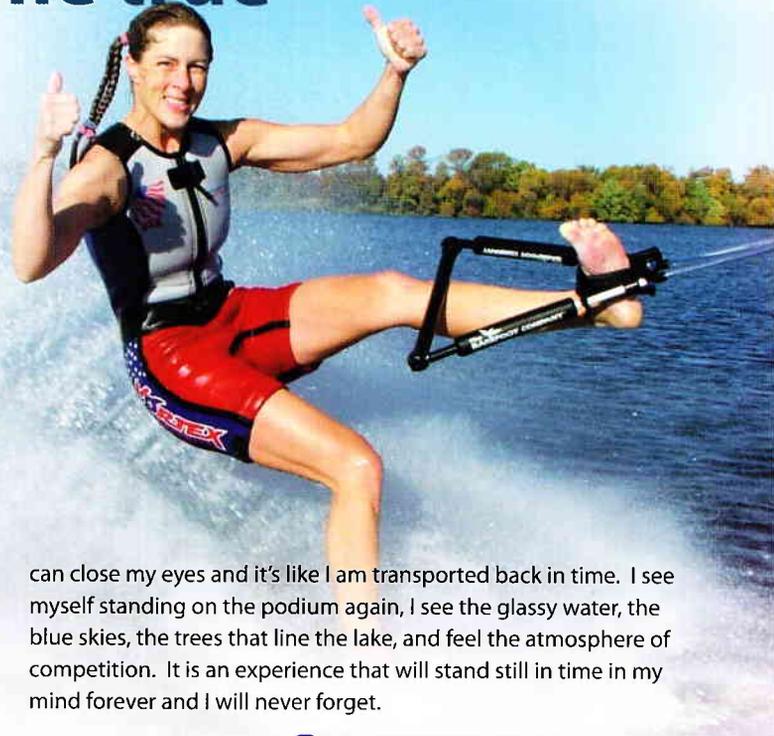
dreams

**... they can come true**

My journey to the 2006 World Barefoot Championships was the culmination of about 9 years of training and tournaments. We all have the crash-fest sets when we wonder if we've forgotten how to barefoot overnight and why the heck we are abusing our bodies the way we do. And then we have the sets that tell us exactly why we do it. For me, it's taking that first pass on absolute glass, making that elusive turn, cranking out a wicked fast set of slalom, scoring my entire trick run in a tournament, being confident that I finally "own" the toe-up, the feeling that comes with posting a personal best. It's the small steps and successes along the way that build to a dream of competing at a world championship and push me to the next level.

Winning a world championship was something that I dreamed about but never thought would actually become a reality. I trained hard the summer of 2006 with my husband, Ron, and good friend, Chris Finn, and my ski partners are a huge piece of my success. You have to be dedicated, focused, motivated and driven to get to the World level of competition, but you also have to have encouragement, support . . . and a good boat driver! Ron and Chris pushed me and kept me focused that summer, and I owe them much of the credit for my success at Lake Silverado.

Two years have passed since I skied the tournament of my life and won 6 gold medals at Lake Silverado, but I can tell you that it still feels like it was yesterday. Every time I hear the national anthem, I



can close my eyes and it's like I am transported back in time. I see myself standing on the podium again, I see the glassy water, the blue skies, the trees that line the lake, and feel the atmosphere of competition. It is an experience that will stand still in time in my mind forever and I will never forget.

*Jody Shenwood*



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# doctor, doctor give us the news

**Tell me about your previous results in World Championships?**

I have won medals ranging from 1978 to 2006. I've won 8 gold, 10 silver and 4 bronze medals as well as many team medals.

**What medals did you win in 1978?**

In 1978 I won the gold medal in tricks, which was my first World Championship.

**What has been your biggest achievement in barefoot water skiing?**

I think winning the first tricks gold medal in the first World Championships, the first World Senior's Championship, and the first World Combined Senior's and Open World Championships would be the best thing I have done as well as winning the Australian Open Barefoot Championship when I was 40 years old, nineteen year after I'd done it the previous time.

**Have you been skiing throughout the whole period of time?**

No. I have had several breaks from skiing; due to completing my medical degree and starting my medical career as well as my long term break from injury.

**What motivates you to train?**

Well, I grew up in a water skiing family and I was training before school even when I was in early secondary school ie. from about 12 or 13 years of age. I don't think I am the most talented skier in the world but I know how to train properly and to apply myself consistently.

**Have you had many disappointments in water skiing?**

Some people would say that when I lost the world championships by .09 of a point in 2001/2 in New Zealand that was a disappointment. But in retrospect it was probably one of the great things that have happened in my life to lose by such a small amount in retrospect was a terrific life experience and I have no regrets and I learnt a lot about myself in losing that way.

**Tell us a bit about what you are doing now?**

Well at the moment I am competing seriously at Triathlons and I have just been to the World Half Iron Man Triathlon Championships where I finished second. That race was in Florida

in the USA. I am training very hard again for both the National Series and the World Series in Half Ironmans. As well as that I am a full time doctor with a medical clinic where we employ ten doctors and I also run my own Powder Coating factory in Ballarat and chase around after three energetic sporting children.

**Do you see yourself competing in Barefoot Waterskiing again?**

Well at this stage I do not have any plans to but I would never say that I never will. I enjoyed my time in water skiing, made many great friends and have had great opportunities and the skills and the discipline that I learned in training for water skiing have carried over into various aspects of my life.



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# the knocks, the pain ... worth every minute of it

**What are your most recent (past 2 years) barefooting accomplishments? Your current standings?**

2006: I am currently the women's World overall and jump Champion. In 2007 I won my 8th overall National title by getting 1st in slalom, tricks, and jump. This was the 7th consecutive year I won the overall title which set a record.

2004: World gold medallist in slalom, tricks, and jump United States Olympic Committee Athlete of the Year International Water Ski Federation Barefoot Skier of the Year USA Water Ski Female Athlete of the Year Banana George Blair Barefooter of the Year Award.

**To be completely blunt, many barefooters have much larger feet than you do (from what I've been told). What size shoe are you? And how has that affected your performance?**

I am a size 7!

To be honest my foot size hasn't been a problem. The biggest help to my barefooting has been professional instruction from Lane "Dawg" Bowers. Having someone teach me who knows what they are doing makes all the difference in the world. With the proper form, speeds, and boat driver anyone, regardless of foot size, should be able to barefoot.

**What are some of the most challenging obstacles you've had to face in your career/life?**

Allocating my time between work, skiing, physical and spiritual growth. Dislocating my shoulder twice. Finding a ski partner.

**Do you have any personal inspirational stories about your life that might serve as encouragement for other skiers/people/athletes?**

It is important to love what you do. I don't just love competing; I love the process of preparing for a competition. I love going out in the boat day after day and seeing the little improvements. One thing that has helped me get to where I am is setting short and long-term goals. By setting short-term goals you have a plan to get you where you want to be and you are able to see the progress you make everyday. After I dislocated my shoulder a second time (two years ago), I thought my dreams of competing at the 2006 Worlds were over. A month after the injury my doctor and I decided I could try to ski if I wore a brace. I was allowed to do anything that didn't hurt. It was hard having to start with the basics again. It took me two months to get back to where I was before the dislocation. With perseverance I made it through the season. It was a miracle I made it to the Worlds and was able to compete and win. I believe it was the Lord that was holding my shoulder together.

I was ten years old when I went to my first barefoot lesson with Lori Powell. Right before she retired I remember telling her, "I'm going to beat you one day!" I never had the opportunity to compete against Lori, but she was my biggest inspiration when I first started competing. I wanted to be the best barefooter in the World like she was.

**Okay, what about your everyday life? Are you a full-time athlete, or is there some other job that helps pay the bills? (many up-and-coming skiers are very interested in finding out what the life of a pro is really like)**

Unfortunately there is not much money in the sport of barefooting. As the sport grows I hope there will be more money available. Because I don't make much money from barefooting I have pursued many things in life leading to a more balanced life. I have had the opportunity to dance with a professional modern dance company and get a degree in athletic training from Florida Southern College. I have worked as a certified athletic trainer at a few different colleges, but now work at a doctor's office as an assistant.

**Is your husband also involved with the sport? How so? Other family members?**

My husband and parents are very involved in my life and helping me pursue my passion for barefoot water skiing. This past summer I taught my husband how to drive the boat for me. This was a big help when Lane wasn't available to ski my husband, Scott, was able to take me.

My dad has been my coach from the beginning. He is a psychologist, which has helped me tremendously with the mental aspect of my sport. Up until the time I went to college my dad was my coach, ski partner, and teacher. Now that I am married my dad coaches me over the phone and he and my mom come to many of my competitions.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I would love to have my own boat by that time and teaching others to barefoot on the side. As long as my barefooting is continuing to improve I want to keep competing. In 5 years my husband and I should be getting pretty serious about having kids.

*Rachel A. Normand*



# Inspiration ... it comes in many forms

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2008-2009 Worlds being held at gorgeous Lake Inspiration! The name of the lake explains why we are all present at this World competition. Whether you are a skier, official, coach, manager or part of the LOC we all had an inspiration that pushed us to this level. With this being said it's obvious that my inspiration for barefoot waterskiing has never and will never dim.

My path down Barefoot Boulevard, was neither a paved road nor a smooth dirt road. It was small mountain bike trails that lead through a mountainous terrain in Northern New Hampshire just sixty miles south of the Canadian border and fifteen miles North of Mt. Washington which holds the fastest recorded wind speed in the world at 231 mph.

My cousin Gary "Swampy" Bouchard started a small show ski club on Lake Umbagog which had more barefoot skiers than pyramid builders. That led to hiring the then current world champion Mike Seipel. Since I had just joined the club at nine years old and learned how to ski that summer it was only right to stick me on the end of the boom while attempting to kick off a ski. I stepped off the ski on my first attempt and they made me do it again to make sure it wasn't beginner's first luck. My next two step-offs were successful and Mike Seipel became my idol!

I competed in my first National Championship in 1989 but did not win a gold medal until I was an Open skier eight years later. There were many tough years while skiing as a Junior, but perseverance and inspiration kept me motivated, as one day I wanted to be the next Mike Seipel. At the 1997 US Nationals I won Slalom, Tricks

and the Overall. These were the first gold medals of my career and the first time in eight years anyone had dethroned Ron Scarpa. I went on to win nine out of twelve Nationals. Let's just say the wait was worth it and I was blessed to have a supportive family behind me!

My first worlds was in 1996 and as many of you know it took me ten years and six worlds to finally win my first World Overall title. I was runner up in the 2000, 2002 and 2004 worlds which made me swallow my pride and forced me to rethink my career and life goals on a serious note. I changed my eating habits and went back to basics one full year before the 2006 worlds. I even decided to take a trip to South Africa to ski with Eugene and Heinrich Sam with an open mind to further my skills.

Everyone matures at different ages and when I look back I wish I would've matured sooner rather than later. It's easy to look back and say, "If I would have known what I know now I would have done things differently!" If there's one message I'd like to get out it would be: Look back at your mistakes and learn from them but don't make the same mistake twice. You can practice all you want on the water but life decisions are everyday which result in your personal future.

I'd like to give a huge thank you to the LOC. I am ecstatic to be here in New Zealand at another World Championship! For everyone that is here experiencing their first worlds, I welcome you and good luck to all! Now the question is, "Was the wait worth it?"

*Keith Stange*





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# previous & current world champions

## juniors

Year	Overall
1995	Jason McArthur
1997	Jason Lee
1999	David Small
2001	Michael Caruso
2003	Andre de Villiers
2005	Heinrich Sam
2006	Heinrich Sam

Tricks
Jason McArthur
Jason Lee
Peter O'Neill
Andre de Villiers
Andre de Villiers
Heinrich Sam
Billy Benoist

Slalom
Jason McArthur
Jason Lee
Terry Gregory
Michael Caruso
George Wimmer Jr.
Robert Blaauw
Heinrich Sam

Jump
Patrick Nasser
Phillipe Renoux
Matt Wright
Michael Caruso
Andre de Villiers
Heinrich Sam
Heinrich Sam

Year	Overall
1995	Jennifer Harris
1997	Nadine de Villiers
1999	Nadine de Villiers
2001	Ashley Shewmaker
2003	Nerissa Wright
2005	Ashleigh Stebbeings
2006	Ashleigh Stebbeings

Tricks
Kristin Russell
Lucy Scopes
Nadine de Villiers
Ashley Shewmaker
Ashleigh Stebbeings
Ashleigh Stebbeings
Ashleigh Stebbeings

Slalom
Charity Merriman
Nadine de Villiers
Nadine de Villiers
Nerissa Wright
Nerissa Wright
Ashleigh Stebbeings
Elaine Heller

Jump
Donna Schmidt
Nadine de Villiers
Nadine de Villiers
Ashley Shewmaker
Stephanie Hamblyn
Ashleigh Stebbeings
Ashleigh Stebbeings

## seniors

Year	Overall
1999	John Stekelenburg
2001	William Farrell
2003	Lane Bowers
2005	Cameron Smith
2006	John Stekelenburg

Tricks
John Stekelenburg
William Farrell
William Farrell
Gordie Croteau
John Stekelenburg

Slalom
Joe Valenti
John Stekelenburg
William Farrell
Tim Failes
Gordie Croteau

Jump
John Stekelenburg
Fred Groen
Lane Bowers
Fred Groen
John Stekelenburg

Year	Overall
1999	Lorraine Burio Piskura
2001	Gizella Halasz
2003	Sherri Morse
2005	Gizella Halasz
2006	Jody Sherwood

Tricks
Lorraine Burio Piskura
Gizella Halasz
Gizella Halasz
Gizella Halasz
Jody Sherwood

Slalom
Francoise Dunod
Sherri Morse
Sherri Morse
Gizella Halasz
Jody Sherwood

Jump
Francoise Dunod
Gizella Halasz
Karyn Scarpa
Gizella Halasz
Jody Sherwood

## open

Year	Overall
1978	Brett Wing
1980	Brett Wing
1982	Brett Wing
1985	Mike Siepel
1986	Mike Siepel
1988	Rick Powell
1990	Rick Powell
1992	Ron Scarpa
1994	John Pennay
1996	Ron Scarpa
1998	Ron Scarpa
2000	Ron Scarpa
2002	David Small
2004	David Small
2006	Keith St Onge

Trick
John Stekelenburg
Brett Wing
Brett Wing
Mike Siepel
Mike Siepel
Rick Powell
Ron Scarpa
Ron Scarpa
John Pennay
Ron Scarpa
Ron Scarpa
Ron Scarpa
Ron Scarpa
Patrick Wehner
David Small
Keith St Onge

Slalom
Brett Wing
Brett Wing
Mike Siepel
Ron Scarpa
Ron Scarpa
Ron Scarpa
Brett Sands
Ron Scarpa
Brian Fuchs
Brett Sands
Keith St Onge
Jason Lee
Keith St Onge
Brett Sands
Keith St Onge

Jump
Greg Adams
Brett Wing
Ron Scarpa
Peter Wellham
Gavin O'Mahoney
Rod Trevillian
Mike Siepel
Lane Bowers
Brett Fritsch
Mario Moser
Evan Berger
Ron Scarpa
David Small
David Small
David Small

Starts
Brett Wing
Brett Wing
Brett Wing
Gavin O'Mahoney
Not Competed

Year	Overall
1978	Collen Wilkinson
1980	Kim Lampard
1982	Kim Lampard
1985	Kim Lampard
1986	Kim Lampard
1988	Lori Powell
1990	Jennifer Calleri
1992	Jennifer Calleri
1994	Jennifer Calleri
1996	Jennifer Calleri
1998	Sharon Stekelenburg
2000	Nadine de Villiers
2002	Nadine de Villiers
2004	Gizella Halasz
2006	Rachel Normand

Trick
Gillian Shipp
Kim Lampard
Debbie Pugh
Debbie Pugh
Kim Lampard
Lori Powell
Jennifer Calleri
Jennifer Calleri
Jennifer Calleri
Jennifer Calleri
Sharon Stekelenburg
Nadine de Villiers
Nadine de Villiers
Rachel George
Jody Sherwood

Slalom
Collen Wilkinson
Kim Lampard
Debbie Pugh
Kim Lampard
Kim Lampard
Jennifer Callieri
Jennifer Calleri
Jennifer Calleri
Jennifer Calleri
Nadine de Villiers
Nadine de Villiers
Nadine de Villiers
Rachel George
Nerissa Wright

Jump
Not Competed
Not Competed
Not Competed
Not Competed
Michelle Doherty
Steffi Hermann
Amy Lawler
Beth Leboff
Sharon Stekelenburg
Sharon Stekelenburg
Nadine de Villiers
Nadine de Villiers
Nadine de Villiers
Rachel George
Rachel Normand

Starts
Collen Wilkinson
Debbie Pugh
Lori Powell
Kim Lampard
Not Competed

# current world records

## Junior Girls

Slalom	Nadine De Villiers (RSA)	16.1	05/04/1997
Tricks	Nadine De Villiers (RSA)	3130	03/12/1999
Jump	Nadine De Villiers (RSA)	15.5M	23/04/1998

## Junior Boys

Slalom	Heinrich Sam (RSA)	19.2	06/01/2006
Tricks	Andre de Villiers (RSA)	8530	11/04/2003
Jump	Andre de Villiers (RSA)	26.3M	06/03/2004

## Open Women

Slalom	Nadine de Villiers (RSA)	17.0	05/01/2001
Tricks	Nadine de Villiers (RSA)	4400	05/01/2001
Jump	Nadine de Villiers (RSA)	20.6M	04/03/2000

## Open Men

Slalom	Keith St. Onge (USA)	20.6	06/01/2006
Tricks	Keith St. Onge (USA)	10880	17/09/2006
Jump	David Small (GBR)	27.4M	08/02/2004

## Senior Men

Slalom	John Pennay (AUS)	18.1	04/02/2004
Tricks	Ron Scarpa (USA)	8850	02/06/2002
Jump	Ron Scarpa (USA)	25.2M	23/08/2002

## Senior Women

Slalom	Gizella Halasz (AUS)	14.0	31/01/2004
Tricks	Gizella Halasz (AUS)	4200	04/02/2004
Jump	Gizella Halasz (AUS)	11.7M	24/01/2002

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