

U17 WORLDS CHILEAsia Oceania's... OZ KIWI 2017

Lily Meade



U17 Worlds Chile

Having a lake in the suburbs of one of South Americas biggest cities is not only a fantastic achievement by the Miranda family but also an asset for the skiing fraternity, its protected from the wind by a large bank of trees and according to almost everyone its a wonderful place to ski.

With a drive of only 30 minutes from our Hotel the lake was just far enough away that it meant a whole day away from our accommodation, luckily there was a bar with ice cold Corona and fresh Burritos. Lily had a few training sets and a good Familiarisation and was ready for the challenge of the worlds.

Nerves are never far away at these tournaments so it was with a great deal of relief when Lily ran her opening 55kph pass, her 16m also looked good but coming back on the 14m line she just dropped her shoulder into 4 ball and popped the

handle, a good score but not really the one she wanted. The cut for the girls final ended up being 2 ½ @ 12m. 34 of the girls ran the 13 meter line in the prelim only 12 made the final with two having a run off for the final spot.

Tricks went well and she stood up both her hand and toe passes, some of the favourites were not so lucky with a couple of the top seeds falling early. The judges scrubbed about 700 points from Lily's run which meant a final score of 3100. The cut ended up being just under 5000 points for the final which as Lily pointed out was more than her whole run if everything was paid.

Jump didn't quite go as planned and following a good opening jump of 27.8 Lily had a nasty crash when she left her right ski behind in the wake and shot of the side of the jump and upside down, she did however keep the crowds entertained. I ended up signing a bunch of forms to prevent them from taking her to hospital, I don't think the ambulance staff had seen water skiing before and thought she must be injured for sure. Jump cut for finals was late 30m.

Video of the jump crash and an edit from the worlds can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5--V3J06Ww>

Good trip overall and a great experience, well worth the squeeze in economy for 13 hours to see some of the best U17 skiers and world record holders such as Anna Gay in action.

Lily's overall result was 25th in the world

U17 Asia Oceania

For those of you that don't know where Lake Kereta is it's about a one hour drive northwest of Auckland and nestled into native bush one kilometre from the sea. Privately owned by the Donald Family and the O'Connell family, Kereta is an absolutely great place to camp and ski.

Training and Familiarisation went well for Lily and although the wind was an issue throughout the whole tournament most of the skiing took place in reasonable conditions.

During the first round of **Tricks** Lily fell early and just made the final where she tricked 3600 for 4th place and 300 points behind the winner Briana Mcgrady from Australia.

The first round of Slalom was quite windy and the top scores were down a little from usual, Lily made the final with 3 ½ @14 and then went on to make 5@14 in the final for 4th spot. The slalom was won by Sade Fergusson, a 13 YO Australian girl with a score of 2@12.

Jump was a mixed bag with Lily having a fairly significant out the back on her first attempt in round one which meant she had to still post a score to make the final. With a 28.8 in round one, Lily then made her best jump of the season to land in 3rd spot with a 32.1 meter effort.





Aussie Kiwi 2017 Myuna Bay

With a big team of 21 skiers and an equal number of parents the NZ team arrived in mass at the Myuna Bay Recreational Facility which is situated about 150 North of Sydney. The Lake is basically a small salt water inlet that's fairly shallow with a muddy bottom. Rain was a consistent theme throughout the entire tournament and we were cooked slowly by 28-32 degrees and significant humidity making the conditions fairly uncomfortable for skiers and spectators. Water Temp was around the 28 degree mark as well.

The scoring for this event is a little different to the worlds and AO's due to the fact that both rounds are added together to give the skiers a result in each event rather than a

prelim and a final, but the overall is still based on the skiers best result in either of the two rounds.

Lily dominated the first round of **Tricks** in windy rough conditions (just like Wanganui) with a score of 3810. She went on to stand up both her runs in the final for 3850 which meant second place by only 170 points.

Slalom in round 1 ended with 5@14 only 4 ½ behind the leader, unfortunately round 2 was the first time for a number of years that she missed her first pass, dropping in hard at 2 ball and just pinging the handle.

Jump in round one had Lily 3rd equal with a 30 meter effort, round two was a mixed bag with her passing the first up and then not riding away the second, it looked a little depressing when her 3rd jump was just under 30m and 4th place. However the ski gods assisted by taking away the boat times and with just one re-ride she made 31.5 for 3rd in the jump.

Lily was 2nd overall in under 17 girls. Initially the U17 team were leading the Aussies following round one but unfortunately a few mistakes and some great skiing by the Aussie team we were once again beaten into 2nd position.

Thank you all the Wanganui Water Ski Club and Central Region for your help and assistance whether it has been driving, coaching, or just a few kind words, it has been appreciated.