

PALMERSTON NORTH DANCE ASSOCIATION



Dance News 2014

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Maryanne Mechen

Secretary

Lauren Francis

Treasurer

Michelle Bowater

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings Everyone

Welcome to our spring newsletter. It is hard to believe that our competition festival in September/October is so very close at hand. We have received a good number of entries again this year. Preparations for the competitions begin months before the event and involve many people. It is a busy time for our competition Convenor and the Committee. Likewise on the performance side of things, teachers, dancers, parents, and costume makers have all been busy for weeks preparing for the competitions. The creative process can be exhausting, but well worth the effort - in fact the results of our endeavors can take us by surprise and bring us great delight and satisfaction. .

Following our competitions in October we have the Performing Arts Competition Association (PACANZ) National Young Performer Awards. These are multi-discipline awards representing eight of the art forms traditionally covered in the competition movement in New Zealand. This year ballet, pianoforte, vocal and tap are involved. 2015 will cover modern dance, highland, speech and drama, and instrumental.

This is all happening on the weekend of 18th, 19th October at the Regent on Broadway and at The Speirs Centre. This is a very exciting opportunity for Palmerston North, so mark it in your diary now. One of the tangible benefits for our local aspiring dancers is the Dance Workshop being offered with the Ballet adjudicator on Friday 17th October. If you are interested in being involved, contact your dance teacher for more information. This is a great opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

Thank you to all the dance schools who supported our Dance 2014 Showcase at the Regent in June. It was once again a great success, and only because of your participation.

Our competitions in March enjoyed good support from competitors both locally and from around the North Island. This is extremely pleasing. We have reaped the benefits of the Regent on Broadway; and now we hope that we can continue the momentum now that we are back in the Globe Theatre.

We have some great photos in the newsletter once again, that will give you a pretty good pictorial of events since our newsletter in 2013 - covering both Sept / Oct competitions in 2013, our March Restricted Competitions, our local PACANZ nominees for 2014, and the Dance 2014 Showcase.

Look forward to seeing you
over the competition weekend
- Maryanne Mechen



Maryanne with PNDA Patron,

Sir Jon Trimmer

2014 PACANZ NOMINEES



Ballet - Jasmine Newsome, Elena Croft



Tap - Maddison Bowey



Ballet - Michelle Geange

2013 PACANZ MODERN NOMINEES



Dear Committee members,

I am writing to thank you for your support in funding part of my expenses to attend the Performing Arts Competition Association of New Zealand (PACANZ) National Young Performer Competition In Invercargill this year.

The experience has helped develop my skills as a dancer and reinforced my passion and desire to pursue dance as a career. In particular I enjoyed the masterclass and being able to learn from an international choreographer. Her comments following my performance were also constructive and very encouraging. I felt honoured to be performing among dancers that are at such an advanced level and watching and learning from them benefitted me immensely.

Once again thank you, your assistance and support was very valuable in helping me attend such a prestigious competition.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Hancock

Dear PNDA,

I am writing you to thank you for the financial assistance you provided me with to attend the 2013 PACANZ competition in October as a Modern dance nominee. As my second year of attending this national competition, it was once again an amazing experience that I found to be very valuable in furthering my technical ability and performance exposure as a dancer. Furthermore, as a happy surprise I was so pleased to be awarded the Potential Prize at the finals night for a second time in attending this competition! I have found that there is a lot to be learnt from a national competition, as the level of dancing is both motivating and inspiring with exposure to styles and techniques which are quite different to what I am accustomed to.

Thank you very much for all the support you have provided me with over the years, I am very appreciative of the opportunities your sponsorship has assisted me with.

Kind regards,

Michelle Geange



2013 SEPTEMBER PNDA COMPETITIONS



SENIOR BALLET CHAMPIONSHIP - 1st Libby-Rose Niederer, 2nd Michelle Geange, 3rd Zoe Gilmour



JUNIOR BALLET DANCERS



JUNIOR BALLET CHAMPIONSHIP 1st Jemima Scott, 2nd Amelia Dawe, 3rd Amelia Haxton



JUNIOR JAZZ CHAMPS 1st JScott, 2nd A Jaggard, 3rd M Karton



**INTERMEDIATE JAZZ CHAMPS
1st Jordan McIlwaine, 2nd Meg Morrison, 3rd Anna Dombroski**



SENIOR JAZZ CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Brittany Smith, 2nd Michelle Geange, 3rd Charlotte Watt

DANCE 2014

A photo essay from the Biannual Showcase of the
Dance Schools of the Region



DANCEWORKS



CATHERINE INGER SCHOOL OF DANCE



DANCE UNLIMITED



DEAN MCKERRAS SCHOOL OF DANCE



MICHELLE ROBINSON DANCE STUDIO





KATE MARTIN DANCE



MAXIMUM DANCE ZONE



MAUREEN AX SCHOOL OF DANCE





national young performer awards

17 - 19 October 2014

Regent on Broadway

Palmerston North

www.pacanz.co.nz

admin@pacanz.co.nz

021 417 872

Ballet

Tap

Piano

Vocal

photos courtesy of David Russell, Southern Exposure



A letter from Tessa in Brussels

Hello, my name is Tessa Martin. I was asked to write something for the newsletter as I grew up in Palmerston North, training with Michelle Robinson through to Graduate teachers level in Classical and Modern Dance. In 2005 I graduated from the *International Ballet Academy* in Christchurch, training with Sherilyn Kennedy. 2007 I moved to Auckland to dance professionally and work with Unitec graduates and Contemporary choreographers. 2008 I moved to Wellington where I created work with friends, and Footnote dancers for Wellington Fringe, and joined *Babyshads Dance Theatre* for a season at Bats Theatre. This was an incredible experience as it was the first time I had to learn lines and perform them on stage, sometimes while dancing which was hilarious. In 2009 I left NZ and now I'm currently living and working as a dancer, teacher, and DJ in Brussels, Belgium.

It was never my intention to 'move' to Brussels, but before I knew it I had a paying dance job and a new life in Europe. Looking back to my first year in Europe it was quite a ride, but I had some key people that made my survival possible. I owe my integration to Brussels life to dancer Claire O'Neil who was generous enough to have me live and register at her apartment for my first 6 months.

Life is so different here on many levels, and I've had to cross a lot of obstacles. Accommodation, language and legality have been the bane of my existence for the last 5 years. Upon arrival in Europe I dived straight into professional classes at THE PLACE, and PINEAPPLE STUDIOS in London, followed by *William Forsythe workshops* at IMPULSTANZ in Vienna, followed by *Rosas workshop* in Brussels. I got hooked on *Rosas* piece *Rosas Danst Rosas* after this, completely hooked. If you have not seen it already then you should.

I was lucky to gain an audition for a neo-classical dance company *Cie M.E.S.S* in 2010 who I worked for on many projects till 2012 and had the luxury of performing in beautiful theatres and cultural centres in Belgium and Holland. After my 9 month trip back to NZ last year I was very pleased to realise just how much I had to offer as a teacher after my time in Europe, so I decided to take teaching a lot more seriously. It is important as a dancer to look at what career options you have *outside* of performing for companies. This is the 'dance dream' but it is not always the most financially secure. I would encourage most dancers to teach part-time as it helped me to learn a lot about my technique, and how to articulate what you are trying to do. My first proper teaching job was without a syllabus so I would just improvise the whole class which I absolutely loved. So long as you know the music well it is fine. For my contemporary classes I always prepare before as I make a lot of 'phrases' which are a bit more intricate.

I really love to live here in Brussels because it is an International city filled with all kinds of unique and wonderful types, and above all, very creative types. 4 or 5 nights a week I have the opportunity to go and see art exhibits, shows, installations, dance performances, theatre, circus, you name it. I feel very spoilt. I am also a DJ and very passionate about music so I can make myself very busy with going to visit my DJ friends or supporting their DJ nights. The longer I am here the more connected I feel to what is happening. There is a huge arts scene and once you meet everyone you realise you are part of a great big International arts community that ebbs and flows between Brussels, Berlin, Amsterdam, London, here there and everywhere, then before you know it you have a dozen people to stay with while you travel. A lot of professional dancers base themselves in Brussels but they travel and perform or teach all year round, and because of this we have a community of 'sub-letting' each other's apartments for bargain prices. I look forward to settling back into my NZ life one day, whenever that will be, and I look forward to sharing even more of what I have learnt while living here. I would always encourage people to travel and do workshops and classes in other countries if you have the means to do so. It can be hard work, but you will grow as a dancer and as a person, and you'll most probably never be the same again. I don't regret it for a second.

DW DanceWorks

2014 has proven to be another wonderful but extremely busy year! Someone asked me how I would top the year before I said, stupidly, I think it should be a normal year!.....So far this year DanceWorks has had 2 babies, 3 sets of exams, 2 associates with the NZSD, planning/move of studio and an undefeated under 12 ballet group at competitions. I dream big - what can I say!



2013 ended with a beautiful production of 'Cinderella.' I was so proud of our students who performed to the best of their abilities and completely blew me away.

The end of the year meant we also had to say goodbye to two exceptionally talented students, both Zoe Gilmore and Luke Cooper went on to full time training at; Masters of Dance International and the New Zealand School of Dance respectively.

In the New Year we also learnt that both Maia Cotton & Rimu Kiritoshi have gained a place in the prestigious New Zealand School of Dance Associates programme. A programme that gives talented New Zealand dancers extra and extended education in ballet.

We have now completed all our exams for the year, we have had exceptional results so far and once again I have been so proud of the students and how much they have achieved in the year.



(Jackson Harvey photo by Anu Sefton)

This year has also seen the Dance Works family expand by a two new arrivals. Both Miss Steph and I have welcomed sons this year. Tyler O'Connor was born June 20th 2014 at 6lb 14oz and Jackson Harvey was born August 17th 2014 at 6lb 13oz. Both little boys are a very welcome distraction in the studio and we would like to thank the students & parents for being so wonderful and helpful with our baby brains and sleep deprivation.

As we draw to the close of 2014, we look forward to the end of year performance to be held at the Regent on Broadway December 6th & 7.th We are doing 'The Nutcracker.' As always there will be a twist as I never do a normal show and am excited to showcase the talent that is DanceWorks. In order to continue providing the excellent tuition currently taught at DanceWorks we are moving into a bigger venue - it's one door down the road and will give us 3 studios. Unfortunately due to vandalism, the moving progress has been slow but we are now on a roll and hope to be in the new studio by Term 4.

Dean McKerras School of Dance

Dean McKerras School of Dance is enjoying another great year, the second in our new premises which we are loving.

Actually its been one of our busiest years yet. With our Squad programme now accommodating 75 dancers we encouraged further involvement with solos, duos and trios and ended up with 35 of them. This has been a wonderful experience for our students so far with much progress made in the development of individuals through to studio wide dance ability.

We are offering all genres of dance now within our studios including Classical and Contemporary - we are proud to offer a team of eight dance teachers each focusing on their own specialist genres. We even have a yoga specialist taking some of our dancers to the next level.



Our huge highlight of the year, and perhaps of the entire history of the dance school was our trip to LA! A party of 37 had the most incredible experience of a life time finishing up with a performance and workshops at Disneyland. Many hours of fundraising and hard work went into the success of this tour but huge thanks goes to Kim Davey and NZ Dance Network- I recommend her tours to anyone - get in contact as I know she is booked up several years in advance.

After a successful performance Level and assessment season we are well into preparation for this years show 'Big City LA'- inspired by our travels we thought we'd share it with everyone. It has certainly resulted in a diverse show that will demonstrate all that we love and learn at the studios.

I am currently Directing and Choreographing Mamma Mia for Rotorua Musical Theatre, with Cats for Theatre Whakatane completed earlier in the year; I am working in local schools and my weekly Early childhood centres; we are looking forward to Bride of the Year with Somerset Kindergarten- myself as Master of Ceremonies and students performing; and I have just finished teaching a block course at Massey; our costumes are being hired out around the country and it's wonderful to have them being used - sharing cost for all dancers.

No two weeks are the same but what a life is dance!

I feel very lucky to be surrounded by wonderful families and a fabulous staff.



DanceNZmade continues to go from strength to strength. The Interschool Nationals are on Saturday 27th September at the Regent on Broadway. This year over 750 dancers from 28 schools have danced their way through our 6 regional events - the standard of dance goes up each year and this years Nationals will blow you away. We have booked a regional for Tauranga in 2015 and also have interest from Hamilton, Auckland and the South Island.

Exchange in the middle of the October school holidays is a lovely boutique sized event involving workshops and team competitions. Students leave inspired and hugely satisfied having danced at our gorgeous Regent on Broadway. This year our teams come from all over the North Island.

The Performance Levels have been joined by Hip Hop Levels due to the demand from our studios - they are being danced by ten studios Nationwide and two studios Internationally. User friendly, it is hugely exciting to see our work danced and enjoyed at studios we visit.

DanceNZmade is certainly 'exchanging great dance'

Dean

Kate Martin

School of Dance

Congratulations to all of my Dance Students for a wonderful Dance Production of Alice in Dance Land. It was a great success. A fantastic fusion of Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary Dance and HipHop. A huge thankyou to all of our Parents for their wonderful support. What a fantastic team.

I would like to especially thank PNDA committee members Lauren Francis and Maryanne Mechen for all of their wonderful help with making our costumes and leading our sewing team. We are looking forward to performing some of our items from our concert at the PNDA competitions in the September Holidays.





photos courtesy of David Russell, Production Manager



national young performer awards

18 - 19 October 2014

Regent on Broadway

Palmerston North

www.pacanz.co.nz - admin@pacanz.co.nz - 021 417 872



Ticket Direct
Ph 0800 224-224





Final Awards
7.00pm
19th October

Maureen Ax School of Dance

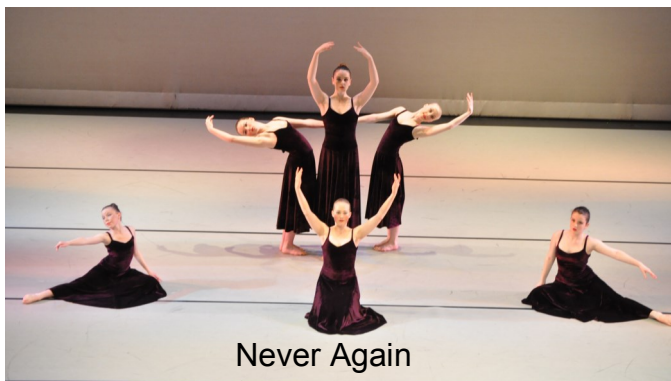


The 2013 end of year Dance Showcase was a wonderful display of the years work from all the students, and the Prize Giving culminated with Meg Morrison receiving the Most Promising Award, and Charlotte Watt, the Most Outstanding Dancer Award.

A number of students were nominated for the NZAMD Jazz, Contemporary and Ballet Scholarships in November 2013 and Michelle Geange became the winner of the 2013 Ballet Scholarship. Another large contingent of students have been nominated to attend the 2014 Scholarship awards – this time in Auckland. We wish you girls all the best!

There were fantastic exam results from the June NZAMD exams, especially with Emily Hancock, Hannah Wilson, Charlotte Watt and Francesca Baan being awarded their Solo Seal Awards in Jazz!

This year's Modern Dance Showcase was held on September 21st and it was a great show, thanks to Jessica Tildesley. The main show on November 15th and 16th will be Cinderella – now the RAD exams have finished, the rehearsals have begun in earnest. Looking forward to it!



Maximum Dance Zone



Maximum Dance Zone had a wonderful recital 'The Wizard of Oz' which was held at the end of 2013. Such a happy story with beautiful colourful costumes, it was a great way to end an extremely successful year.

Our numbers have continued to grow in 2014. We are now using a second studio to accommodate all of our gorgeous dancers.

Special congratulations to our Tap teacher 'Miss Kristina' (Beddis-McErlean) who achieved a fantastic mark for her associate ISTD Tap in 2013.

Senior students have been busy excelling in many areas. Amiya Sen Gupta was a lead in the PNBHS production and has received a contemporary nomination for the past two years running.

Kiri Turu, Mizpah Holani, Pieta Holani, Rocky Rowland, Emma Carey, Marian Sun and Emma-Grace Carey performed in the Abbey Theatres production of 'Song and Dance'.

Mizpah Holani, Rocky Rowland and Amiya Sen Gupta are excited to have been chosen for the prestigious 'Phantom of the Opera' which opens at the Regent in September.

Amy Srichantra, Kayla Wilton and Marian Sun all received recognition for their enthusiasm and skills at the 'Phoenix workshop'.



Miss Maxene has been really enjoying upskilling and learning the new vocational RAD levels this year. It has been great to see our teacher's all lifting the standards also. A special welcome to RAD registered teacher 'Sarah MacDonald'.

We are looking forward to a busy, yet rewarding exam Term 3, followed by our exciting recital to be held in November at the Boys High Speirs Centre.

Michelle Robinson Dance Studio

THE MICHELLE ROBINSON DANCE STUDIO HAS JUST COMPLETED A SUCCESSFUL SEASON OF NARNIA AT THE GLOBE THEATRE.

MEKAH DUNN CHOREOGRAPHED A JAZZ ITEM FOR THE PRODUCTION AND ASHLEY HODGES A CONTEMPORARY PIECE.

STUDENTS ARE NOW TURNING THEIR ATTENTION TO CLASSICAL BALLET EXAMINATIONS' IN NOVEMEBER.



KARA IMRIE - 2013 Monica Skinner Scholarship Recipient

Well it's September already and this first year at Whitireia studying Commercial Dance has gone so fast. I started the year off with a number of minor injuries adjusting to dance training full time, but with physio and rest, I was able to resume training quickly.

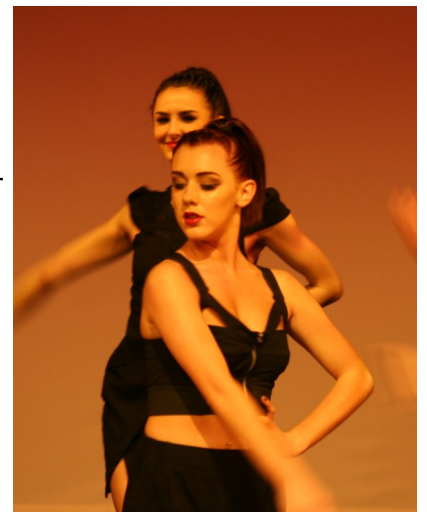
Each week I have classes in ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, pilates and body conditioning. Along with the different dance types I also have classes in both singing and acting, and theory classes covering anatomy, nutrition and contextual studies. During Term 2 we went to use the facilities up at the Circus Hub, beside the New Zealand School of Dance, one day a week for circus training. I really enjoyed learning the tissues, trapeze and the partner work.

I have had a range of assessments including written and mock auditions along with the Year 1 show which was an assessment in performance. I am receiving mostly "A's" in my assessments but I haven't received all my results yet.

I have just had my first year performance show which was an amazing experience. I was in a total of 15 dances over the show doing a variety of different dance types along with singing.

The group of 17 dancers that I started the year with have been fantastic and we work well together. They have become like my extended family. The tutors are wonderful to work with, and they take time to ensure we are well supported.

I am living in a flat with 3 others by the Basin Reserve. This is easy walking distance to class and town. I am thoroughly enjoying living in Wellington but I do miss my family and living at home at times especially when it comes to cooking and laundry. Overall, this year has been an amazing journey for me and I am loving every second of it. Bring on 2015!



Nicola Morrison

2nd Year at Whitireia in Wellington

Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance)

Well this year has been just as full on and fun as last year! Coming back as a year two was so exciting as it is the last year of training before we can go out into the real world, and now there is less than half the year to go! Term two was an exciting one as we found out that the Wellington Musical Theatre Company would be putting on 'Grease' in July and we were lucky enough to audition. Having been a part of 'Phantom of the Opera' last year, I was so excited to be able to be apart of another show, which was a completely different style. I performed as a dancer in the ensemble and was the understudy for 'Patty Simcox'.

During term two, we also had our mock auditions, which as a second year was a big step up from the year before to help fully prepare us for the real thing. For the mocks we had to prepare a whole song, perform a script we were given the night before to memorize, dance a series of progressions and combinations and perform a one minute solo choreographed by ourselves, as well as an interview.

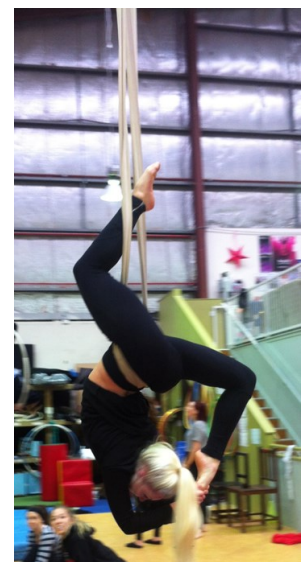
Throughout the year we have been filming rep we have learnt and this term we have been working on putting our showreels together - these come in handy when applying for jobs that are overseas – instead of having to travel to attend live auditions you can send a showreel which shows everything you can do.

At the moment we are working toward our Graduation Show, which will be held at the end of November. Our shows theme is about Artwork, and each of the dances are inspired by or depict either a painting or something to do with art.

I am really enjoying the course and cannot wait for our show to start! I am also excited to start applying for jobs and attending auditions. My ultimate plan is to end up performing in Musicals overseas, but I would also like to work on cruise ships and for Disney.



Cheerleaders in Grease



Cirus

Upcoming events 2014 / 2015

4th November 2014 - applications close for the

Monica Skinner Memorial Scholarship

2015

March (weekend to be confirmed)

- **PNDA Restricted Competitions** including
Nominations offered for the 2015 PACANZ National Young
Performer Awards for Modern Dance

June - **Dance workshops**

September **Competitions**

- **Main PNDA Competition Festival**
- 16th Annual Dance Festival offering Ballet, Jazz, Tap,
Contemporary & HipHop

October

- PNDA welcomes nominees to Palmerston North for the
2015 PACANZ National Young Performer Awards

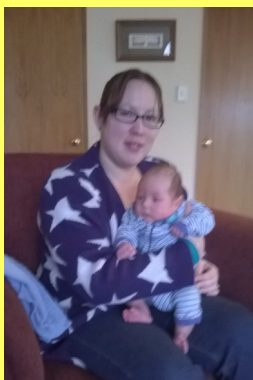
How to contact us -

President - Maryanne Mechen 06 3563997

Secretary /Membership - Lauren Francis 06 35501

Like us on Facebook – Palmerston North Dance Assn

General enquiries to euterpe@xtra.co.nz



Renata and new baby Elijah



Committee members - Maryanne, Jacqui, (Helen Dron - Tap adjudicator), Pam, Kathy, Yvonne, Lauren, and Michelle

Absent - Renata, Lisa, Tracy, Sheree, Sharon and Michelle R