

Dance News

June 2012

Greetings everyone from the Palmerston North Dance Association.

The year is well under way. Our Restricted Competitions and our PACANZ nominations have been held for 2012. The entries were slow coming in but the numbers exceeded our expectations by the closing date.

Congratulations to all our competitors especially to those first timers. It takes a lot of courage to set foot out onto that stage and lots of effort by the support team of teachers and parents. It can be very nerve racking for first time mums and dads. I think it would be fair to say that the children's nerves disappear long before the parents.

We would also like to congratulate our PNDA PACANZ nominees for 2012. We wish them luck with their preparations for the National Awards in October.

Preparations for Dance 2012 are well underway, and by the time this goes to print the show should be ready to take to the stage. We are aware of how full the dance year can be with dance exams, dance studio recitals, competitions etc. The commitment required from all involved is enormous. The Palmerston North Dance Association appreciates your support for Dance 2012. It is a special bi annual event in the PNDA calendar.

We value very much the coming together of all the local dance schools for this event. As well as being a showcase of dance in its many forms and differing styles, it is underpinned by enthusiasm, budding talent, teacher expertise and a commitment to the performing arts in the City and beyond .

You may have read the article in the Evening Standard about the findings of the 2012 Creative New Zealand survey it shows that Palmerstonians top the national average for attendance and participation in the arts.

So congratulations everyone for contributing to this fine achievement.

We continue with our efforts to support our teacher members and dancers. Last year we were able to assist local dancers attendance to the NZ School of Dance Winter School.

We also were also able to offer travel subsidy to nominees to PACANZ Young Performer Awards in Invercargill in October 2011.

Chairperson
Mary-anne Mechen
Secretary
Lauren Francis
Treasurer
Michelle Bowater



Senior Jazz Championship 2011
1st Brittany Smith, 2nd Lauren McMillan,
3rd Nicola Morrison

Because of successful funding applications and generous sponsorships, we were able to offer scholarships at our dance workshops, which we hold in alternate years to Dance 2012. We also offer generous prize monies for our championship classes at our open competition festival in September.

We have been able to offer the Monica Skinner Scholarship for tertiary study for 2010 and 2011. Monica Skinner was secretary of the PNDA when she died in December 2009. The scholarship of \$2,000 in her name is awarded each year, funds permitting, to a local dancer who is embarking on tertiary dance studies. This scholarship is a significant milestone in our organisation's journey.

Funding is an ongoing concern for any organisation like ourselves. We are very appreciative of the funding we receive and feel very fortunate to have enjoyed such generous sponsorships. We cannot take anything for granted however. The funding is contestable event by event, and each year we start anew the search for sponsors and funders.

So please if you are interested in supporting our organisation financially, **we do need you**. Please don't hesitate to approach myself or anyone else you know on the PNDA Committee.



If you would like to join our organisation there is information about joining on the back page of the newsletter. You don't have to be a dancer or teacher to belong to the PNDA.

On behalf of the PNDA Committee we wish you well for the winter season. We look forward to seeing you in the spring at our October Competitions.

Maryanne Mechen
President
PNDA

Senior Ballet Championship 2011
1st Ashley Hodges, 2nd Michelle Geange, 3rd Lauren McMillan

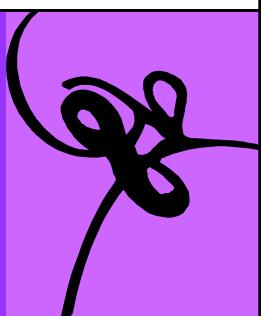
'Dance 2012'

PNDA Presents 'Dance 2012'

Regent on Broadway

Sunday 23 June

3.00 pm



Mekah Dunn

Mekah, a former pupil of Michelle Robinson, graduated from Whitirea last year with a Diploma in Commercial Dance.

Mekah has secured a very exciting opportunity and is now working in the seaside resort of Manzanillo in Mexico. She has already been made the Dance Captain.



Ashley Hodges



Ashley is in her first year at the New Zealand School of Dance. She was the recipient of the Monica Skinner Scholarship for 2011. Here is a copy of a letter she wrote to PNDA in 2012.

"Dear PNDA

I am writing this letter to show my appreciation and gratitude towards the support you've given me through out these past years. First it was the PNDA annual competitions. These competitions gave me the opportunity to watch as well as compete against dancers of all different strengths and abilities. Throughout the 8 years of competing in these competitions, I have learned so much about my own dancing as well as others.

These have been the most important years of my career so far. Whether it was winning or losing, I always learned something that improved me as a dancer.

Thank you also for holding these competitions at such a lovely venue as the Globe Theatre. Whenever I go back there it will always feel like home.

I can't explain how grateful I am to have so much support from such an understanding committee. Without your help I wouldn't have had the opportunity to compete at PACANZ for three years in a row. When I made the semi-finals in 2011, it was the highlight of my performing experiences and to be in the top 12 dancers in New Zealand was unbelievable. So I'd like to thank you for helping me make it all the way down to Invercargill.

The NZ School of Dance is where I've wanted to be since I can remember and when I received my acceptance letter, it felt like all my dance training over the years had paid off. And when I say training, that includes all the scholarship days and competitions I have participated in and all the scholarships and prize money that I have received from you that has paid for my training.

And if that wasn't enough support, I was lucky enough to receive the Monica Skinner Scholarship awarded by you. This scholarship has been such a huge help towards my future training and I would just like to say that it is greatly appreciated. The generosity and understanding that you have shown me is a huge inspiration to me and motivates me to work my hardest and to always follow my dream to one day becoming a professional dancer.

I will always keep in touch and hope you will too and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the competitions. Thank you so much for everything..

Yours Sincerely, Ashley"

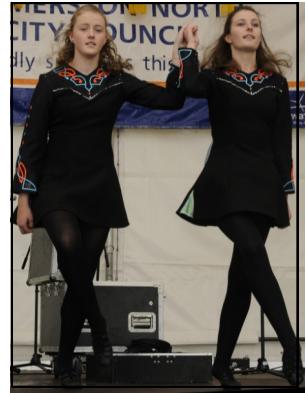
Around the Dance Studios

Cailin Traditional Irish Dancing School

The Cailin Traditional Irish Dancing school is based here in Palmerston North. We have dancers with a wide range of ages and abilities who share an enjoyment of Irish dancing. Each dancer begins learning dances that are performed in soft shoes, and then progresses to learning how to dance in hard shoes with fibreglass tips.

Some dances are performed individually, with arms stationary, and others are performed in groups. As well as great exercise, Irish dancing can be heaps of fun!

If you are interested in joining, please visit www.irishdancing.co.nz for information on our classes. We hope you share in our enjoyment of Irish Dancing.



Dance Unlimited www.danceunlimited.co.nz is based in Feilding, with classes also in Marton. Classes are held in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop & Contemporary from beginners to advanced levels. We pride ourselves in consistently achieving excellent results with our students learning in a caring & friendly environment.

Dance Unlimited students have won numerous awards, scholarships & competitions. Former students are currently working in the dance profession, most recently our students dancing fulltime at Sydney's Brent St Studios, The Wellington Performing Arts School & Melbourne's Ministry Of Dance.

Dance in 2012 has been busy, stimulating & exciting for our students with lots to look forward to this year. Coming up soon is the American Jazz Dance Affiliation Jazz Camp (AJDA) to be held in Wellington in July which comes hot on the heels of the Phoenix Dance Workshops that were held in PN in April. Our students are looking forwards to dancing with amazing tutors and meeting fellow dancers from NZ wide. Term 3 is our Examination term followed in Term 4 with our Annual Production scheduled for 24/25 November at the refurbished Feilding Civic Centre. Love to see you there.





www.manawatudance.com
email admin@manawatudance.com

mobile 021 510031

It has been a busy & exciting start to 2012 for the Manawatu Dance Academy which opened with two purpose built studios in February 2012.

Our teachers are Miss Kate Martin (ballet & contemporary) & Miss Chanel Saunders (modern, tap & hip hop).

Miss Chanel has returned from maternity leave and we thank all our teachers & assistants who have helped us during this time and for their on-going support - Ruby, Emily, Paula, Amy, Pieta & Mizpah.

Miss Penelope Sharp, former local dancer now dancing professional in the UK, took our senior students for a contemporary & hip hop workshop in March, while some of our junior students attended workshops for Tap & Ballet in Wellington.

Our students had a fantastic time attending the Phoenix Dance Workshop in April, with most students picked to 'Dance with the Stars'. We were also thrilled to see Brittany Smith do so well, winning the Phoenix Scholarship to Urban Dance Centre in Sydney.

Students are currently working very hard at competition dances - many their first time competing as well as their upcoming ISTD exams in August/September. Once exams are over, we will begin preparation for our end of year recitals at the Regent on Broadway in December.

Thank you to all our parents & families for their wonderful support with our new studio.



Maureen Ax School of Dance

Students from the Maureen Ax School of Dance look forward to a very busy and fulfilling year.

The highlight of the year will be the production of 'Coppelia' in the Regent Theatre in October.

This is the same weekend that Maureen Ax celebrates her 50th year of teaching dance in Palmerston North with a reunion function. Maureen looks forward to welcoming back past students to join her in celebrating the occasion.

2012 has started off to be a very busy and very successful year to date. The PNDA restricted competitions were held in March and several students appeared for the first time on stage on their own and enjoyed the experience. The highlight of the weekend was Michelle Geange being successful in being nominated to the Performing Arts Competitions Association of NZ in their bi-annual National Ballet awards. Anna Dombroski won the Intermediate Award and Charlotte Watt won the Senior award.

In the Napier Competitions Nicola Morrison won the Variation Award and Lauren McMillan was 3rd. Charlotte Watt won the most promising dancer.

Manawatu Performing Arts Competitions Society held their annual competition in the Globe. The 'In the Blue' group won the junior section and the 'Doo wak a Doo' won the senior group as well as won the most outstanding item at the competitions. Hannah Heng won the choreography award for a most brilliant dance she choreographed for Michelle Geange's neo classical. Emily Hancock was nominated to go to Invercargill for the PACANZ award joining Michelle Geange. Anna Jones won the Junior Ballet championship and Meg Morrison was runner up. Michelle Geange was runner up in the senior and Nicola Morrison was 3rd. Anna Dombroski won the most promising dancer and Lauren McMillan the most artistic dancer.



Dance Reunion 2012

Celebrating 50 years ~ Maureen Ax School of Dance

Labour Weekend
20th & 21st
October 2012

www.maureenaxdance.co.nz

Contact Toni
dance2012@hotmail.co.nz

P0 Box 1479
Palmerston North 4440



The school was asked to be Guest Artists in the Unity Singers Mothers Day Concert in the Regent Theatre as well as travelling to Dannevirke to perform.

Maureen recently hosted the 17th Dance Seminar in PN over Queens Birthday Weekend.

Students were very fortunate in being tutored by Elizabeth Harvey from Auckland and Vivenceo Samblaceno and Sonya Behrens from Wellington. It was a fantastic weekend with students enjoying their dancing having the chance to dance in the rehearsal room at the Regent Theatre.

At the Maureen Ax School of Dance students learn to dance in a fun atmosphere as the motto for the school is:

'LEARN THE LOVE OF DANCE
IN A PROFESSIONAL AND CARING
ENVIRONMENT'

YOUNG FRIENDS ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET

Imagine if you bought a new pair of shoes every Monday and had to throw them out by Sunday because they were worn through. Each year Royal New Zealand Ballet imports more than 1000 pairs of pointe shoes. Friends' fundraising helps foot this bill.

Annual membership of the Young Friends is just \$20 and we have our own branch here in the Manawatu/Wanganui area.

To join send \$20 to Friends of the Royal New Zealand Ballet Manawatu/Wanganui P O Box 7055, Palmerston North with your name, address, phone number and date of birth.



Maximum Dance Zone

Maximum Dance Zone is having another very productive year. Marian Sun was the 'Beginner's scholarship winner' for Phoenix.

We have enjoyed performing at the 'St Van Concert' at the Regent and look forward to featuring as performers at Miss Manawatu. 2012 is Miss Maxene's 20th year of running a dance school.

We have some fun activities planned throughout the year to celebrate this milestone - accumulating with a trip to Wellington for the 'International Genee Ballet competition' in December.

We are lucky to have Joanna Berrett and Kristina Beddis sharing their talent with the students and welcome Emma Carey and Kiri Turu to our friendly teaching team.

Kate Buchanan

Miss Maxene is loving being back teaching after maternity leave.

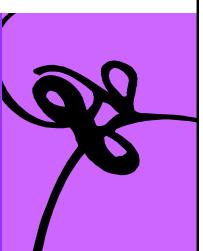
Our annual recital will be held at the Palmerston North Boys High 'Speirs Centre' on 30th November 6 pm and 1st December 1pm and 6pm.

Please check out our new website at www.maximumdance.co.nz

Theatre
Globe

PNDA
13th Annual Festival
Ballet, Modern and Tap
Competitions

29 September—3 October 2012


Evening
Gala

Michelle Robinson Dance Studio

Ph: 3299457 Mobile 027-2418347
email: info@michelletedance.co.nz
www.michelletedance.co.nz

The Michelle Robinson Dance Studio is looking forward to a busy year of performance, competitions and examinations. They will be presenting a production of Peter Pan in September.

Pictured is the ballet 'Rivendell'

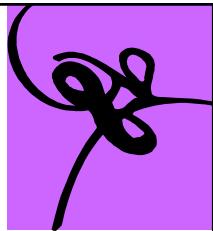


Upcoming Events

<i>2–6 July</i>	Winter School , New Zealand School of Dance
<i>7–10 July</i>	Kapiti Competitions
<i>8 & 9th September</i>	Michelle Robinson Dance Studio - 'Peter Pan'
<i>29 Sept–3rd October</i>	PNDA Competitions - including the Gala evening featuring the Ballet Championships.
<i>20–21 October</i>	Maureen Ax School of Dance—'Coppelia' and 50 year Dance Reunion
<i>24–25 November</i>	Dance Unlimited—Annual Production
<i>30 Nov–1 December</i>	Maximum Dance Zone—Annual Recital
<i>December</i>	Manawatu Dance Academy End of Year Recital



Palmerston North Dance Association Inc
P O Box 655
Palmerston North



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL 2012

Membership Fee:	Teacher Membership	\$20.00 per year
	Family Membership	\$20.00 per year
	Single Membership	\$10.00 per year

Applicant **TEACHER / FAMILY / SINGLE Membership** (circle one)
(single members must be over 18 years)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

Children (Family Membership Only)

NAME: _____ D.O.B. _____

NAME: _____ D.O.B. _____

NAME: _____ D.O.B. _____

Teacher (Family Membership Only)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Invoice Required **Receipt Required**

Post to: PNDA, PO Box 655, Palmerston North

OFFICE USE ONLY

CASH/CHQ \$ _____

Teacher/Family/Single

President/Secretary _____

Date: _____