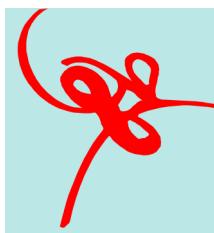


# Palmerston North Dance Association



# 2020

Ballet



Tap



Contemporary



Troupe



Jazz



Hip Hop



21st Annual Dance Festival Annual Newsletter  
The Regent on Broadway ~ 25 September - 1 October 2020

# 2020 Presidents Report ~ Maryanne Mechen



## Kia Ora/Greetings

This time last year the Covid Pandemic was the stuff of fiction, and 'new normal' was not an expression, let alone a collective reality. Our dance community has shown itself to be very resilient. Our teacher members proving once again what an amazing group of individuals they are, despite the uncertainty and the limitations placed on their studios they keep responding to the challenges and local studios are as busy as ever. We are aware and need to acknowledge the hardships many in our community are facing. It is definitely a time to look out for one another. The Palmerston North Dance Association managed to dodge lockdown in March by pure luck. Other societies were not so fortunate, some have been able to postpone and hold their competitions at a later date, and others have been recently frustrated by the Auckland Lockdown. We are moving towards our September competition date optimistically. If you are reading this newsletter at our comps you will know our luck has held. Pacanz decided to cancel this year and hold a Mega Pacanz NYPA next year, combining 2020 & 2021. See the advertisement in the newsletter. All going well, this promises to be a very exciting event. So picking up now where we left off in 2019, our September Competition festival was a success once again. The standard of dance was very high, very noticeable in the senior Jazz section. This in part reflected the modern NYPA year. But the upward trend of competition entries and the standard across the country is something to be feeling excited about. The growing interest in troupes alone is a positive, it means more dancers and more audience, experiencing the thrill and excitement of live performance. Our gala event was a treat as per usual. Our Mayor stood in for Sir Jon Trimmer and cut the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday cake (Sir Jon was deeply disappointed that he was unable to attend the celebrations at the last minute) however his cake was shared and he was toasted in a manner he would have approved of, and enjoyed by all in attendance. Thank you to the Mayor Grant Smith, to the Deputy Mayor Tangi Utikere and to Councillors Rachel Bowen and Susan Baty, for attending. Your support and presence at our functions is duly noted.



# PNDA Gala Evening September Competitions 2019

Our evening involved the traditional line-up of Junior and Intermediate Championship winners (from the afternoon) and the recipient of the Sir Jon Trimmer Trophy (adjudicator award for the best dance characterisation, across all the age groups throughout the competition) plus the Guest artists, this year featuring Highland dancers from the Manawatu and local Japanese dancers. All of the above were a delightful 'curtain raiser' for the main event the Senior Ballet Championship.

Ending the PNDA year we announced Shavaun Tohill as the recipient of 2019 Monica Skinner Tertiary Scholarship and awarded a PNDA incentive award to Phoebe Howard.

As I mentioned earlier our 2020 February Tap Competitions and March Restricted and Open troupe Comps including NYPA ballet solo and troupe nomination classes were able to go ahead.

The line-up of young competitors was very impressive; the 2020 year looked very promising.

From February Comps: PNDA Tap Nominees are Kate McGimpsey & Tara Fox PNDA Tap Troupe nomination to carol-Anne Moynihan Dancers ' It's a Musical' Gifted solo Tap nominations to Greer Sawtell & Georgina Palmer from DanceNzmade.

From March Comps: PNDA's 2020 Ballet Nominees are Tessa Cockerton-Holmes & Isabella Vollmer

Our Group/Troupe nomination is Dean Mckerras School of dance – 'Alpha' Gifted Solo Ballet Nomination to India Shackel from DanceNZmade  
Gifted Troupe Nomination to Step out Dance Company 'Uh Ha' from Mosgiel Performing Arts Society

They will all now participate at the mega NYPA next October. If our 2020 Nominees are unable to participate for logistical or other reasons we can re-run the nomination class at our Feb and March Competitions 2021.

Dance 2020 to be held in June was a casualty of Covid, we are holding it over and celebrating a Dance 2021 next June. 2021 marks Palmerston North's 150th anniversary, so all going to plan we can add to the city's celebratory year. The newsletter once again provides a pictorial review of our events throughout the year, thank you to our members and supporters who have been on the journey with us. Welcome to those of you who are new to our events or just having a browse.

New members are always welcome. (See membership material)

Congratulations to all competitors for your efforts and willingness to participate. It gives us great pleasure being able to experience your many achievements and successes little and big on your dance journey.

Kia Kaha

Keep strong, Go well,

Maryanne Mechen for the Palmerston North Dance Association





# 2019 Gala Evening



Sir Jon Trimmer Trophy  
Best Demi Characterisation  
Talya Schiff-Abels—Charlottes Web



# 2019 Gala Evening



## 2019 Senior Ballet Championship

1. Marie Jones
2. Niamh O'Meara
3. Isabela Guerra





# 2020 PACANZ Nominees National Young Performer Awards



Pacanz Troupe Nomination  
Dean McKerras School of Dance—Hip Hop  
Step Up Dance Company



Pacanz Troupe Nomination  
Carol-Ann Moynihan Dancers—Tap



Pacanz Ballet Nomination  
Tessa Cockerton-Holmes  
Isabella Vollmer  
India Shakel



Pacanz Tap Nomination  
Kate McGimpsey  
Zara Fox  
Greer Sawtell  
Georgina Palmer



*Pacanz*  
Performing Arts Championships, Competitions and Showband Zone

2021

20-24 October

Regent on Broadway - The Speirs Centre

The Globe Theatre

Final Awards Concert: 24 October: 7.30pm: Regent on Broadway



**MEGA** *9*national  
All 9 art forms young performer awards

PERFORMING ARTS COMPETITIONS



[www.pacanz.co.nz](http://www.pacanz.co.nz)

021 417 872

[admin@pacanz.co.nz](mailto:admin@pacanz.co.nz)

Hosted by Palmerston North Dance Assn & Manawatu Performing Arts Competitions Society



# Championships



## 2019 Senior Jazz Championship

1. Tempany Paola
2. Julia Litherland
3. Shavaun Tohill

## 2019 Intermediate Jazz Championship

1. Sophia Brewerton
2. Marie Jones
3. Ariana Buttar

## 2019 Junior Jazz Championship

1. April Langstraat
2. Kensi Waters
3. Anoushka Tohill



## 2019 Senior Tap Championship

1. Gracie Hearfiled
2. Kate McGimpsey
3. Emma –Katte Johnson

## 2019 Junior Tap Championship

1. Jessica McLeannan
2. Emily Blackadder
3. Ayla Tyson



## 2019 Senior Ballet Championship

1. Marie Jones
2. Niamh O'Meara
3. Isabela Guerra

## 2019 Intermediate Ballet Championship

1. Lucy Klee
2. Skylah Langstraat
3. Mercedes Lang

## 2019 Junior Ballet Championship

1. Tayla Schiff-Abels
2. April Langstraat
3. Bethan Renew



# Membership

We are a non-profit, incorporated organisation and our objectives are

- To encourage, foster and promote the practice and appreciation of all dance forms
- To encourage, foster and promote all cultural and education activities of all dance forms
- To inculcate in the individual a sense of responsibility and of sportsmanship to fellow members and associates

Download our [\*\*2021 Membership Form\*\*](#) from our web site <https://pnda.nz> or contact our president

Maryanne Mechen at [maryanne.mechen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:maryanne.mechen@xtra.co.nz)

Internet Banking – Westpac 03 1522 0013110 00

*Membership is due by the end of February each year*

## **Benefits of membership**

- Members are issued with one free Festival pass to our September competitions (currently Festival passes are \$25, giving you a wonderful bonus for supporting us)
- PNDA newsletter celebrating local dancers, dance schools and activities
- Discounted rate to events including our biennial Workshops/Dance 2000 series
- Contacts and networking as members of the dance community
- PNDA is a member of PACANZ which means we can offer nominations in Ballet, Tap and Modern Dance, and are covered for APRA (music copyright fees)
- Consideration for a travel subsidy to such events as Winter School and other dance education opportunities. This is always dependent on funds being available
- We have launched a Gala Evening event as part of our September dance competitions. This is run to highlight and support ballet dancers participating in the championship classes. Members are invited to be part of this entertaining, social and networking occasion

## **Annual membership**

Family Membership \$20

Individual Membership \$10

Teacher Membership \$20

Local Dance Teacher financial members are offered the opportunity to take part in our biennial Regent Dance day where they can have their studio perform an item in conjunction with other dance studios from the area. On alternate years we offer workshops which, in the past, have included ballet, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre and impromptu dance skills.

We are a hard working committee, dedicated to providing dance opportunities to local dancers and their teachers. While we have ballet, modern/jazz, contemporary and tap styles of dance as our priority, we are trying to extend our networking as time and resources allow.

We appreciate your support of our efforts on behalf of the dancers, by showing your commitment through becoming a current financial member of PNDA.



# 2019 Monica Skinner Scholarship

The Monica Skinner Scholarship is offered by the Palmerston North Dance Association when funds are available, to assist a dancer who is to further their dance experience through tertiary study at an acknowledged tertiary institution. The applicant's proposal can include further study or training in dance. The Scholarship may be undertaken in New Zealand or overseas. Applicants are required to demonstrate how their study will help them to enhance dance excellence. Monica was a valued committee member as well as a hardworking secretary of PNDA from 2004 until 2009. Her diligent achievements in securing funds to further dance education are the impetus for this scholarship in her name.

2020 Application forms are with your Dance Schools—please ask your teachers for a form if you'd like to apply.

## Previous Recipients Are

2019 Shavaun Tohill  
2018 no applicants  
2017 Charlotte Gilmour and Tobyn Gregory  
2016 Megan Morrison  
2015 Luke Cooper and Daniel Hardcastle  
2014 Michelle Geange and Emily Hancock  
2013 Kara Imrie  
2012 Nicola Morrison  
2011 Ashley Hodges  
2010 Emma Martin





## 2019 Monica Skinner Awards

### 2019 Shavaun Tohill

2020 - What a Year to Remember!!! For me it will not just be the crazy year that we have all experienced with Covid-19 but the year I started my full time dance training.

In February I moved to Wellington to start my full time dance training at Te Auaha. I was loving it. Particularly loving going to dance class (my happy place) everyday instead of school. I was also enjoying living at the hostel and spending time with my new friends whom I had met through my course. I would phone home full of stories until that moment when it was announced we were going into lockdown and I had to return home for who knows how long.

We didn't stop dance class during lockdown, we continued with our course online via zoom, albeit very difficult to dance in the lounge. We also continued with our academics whilst at home and I had to hand in several assessments during that period too.

Whilst at home I had to choreograph a group dance that I would then have to teach my peers. It was rather difficult because I wasn't sure whether we would be able to have contact with each other and therefore be able to do lifts etc or whether we would need to keep 1m distance.

The feeling was a huge sigh a relief when I finally got the email to say we were allowed back to class and yay we were allowed to go ahead with the lifts and contact that I had choreographed into my dance.

Moving back into the hostel and back to dance class felt amazing. It was great getting back into the studio and finally being able to put my pointe shoes on because I wasn't allowed to do pointe on carpet at home, and it was rather difficult doing tap on carpet too.

When we got back to course it was full on as we went straight back into show rehearsals. The show was amazing, the tutors are fantastic and the dances were so much fun. My choreographic piece was also chosen to be a part of the show which was very rewarding. I guess my experience choreographing my comp solo dances helped me.

It is going to be really busy from now until the end of the year trying to fit in all the assessments required, both the practical and academics but I am thoroughly enjoying it and could not see myself doing anything but dance.

I am, however, really missing competing. I am just lucky to have two sisters who are still doing comps so I have been trying to support them at the comps as much as I can. As much as I enjoy being there for them it is hard not putting on a costume and jumping on stage, especially in the jazz section.

I want to say a big thank you to PNDA for awarding me with 2019 Monika Skinner Scholarship and wish everyone all the best. I have very fond memories of competing at the PNDA competitions and was very proud to be one of the 2019 Pacanz nominees. From the age of 7 I only ever missed one PNDA competition and that was when I was in LA on the Dance Tour.

## From our local dance schools



MAXIMUM DANCE ZONE has had an exceptional year. Our successes continue to grow as our passion and technique in dance strengthens. Miss Maxene is so proud of all the achievements but mostly of the wonderful team of teachers, students and parents that make up our dance school.

In 2019 these students were nominated for NZAMD scholarships: HIP HOP: Bart Andrews, Amy Lampp, Kayla Wilton, Malissa Sun, Caitlyn Tornquist, Franchesca Gordon. CONTEMPORARY: Amy White & Kayla Wilton. TAP: Malissa Sun, Lauren Holroyd, Elaine Stichbury. JAZZ: Ariana Buttar, Kayla Wilton, Amy White & Sashini Punchihewa. Huge congratulations to Kayla Wilton, Bart Andrews & Amy Lampp for receiving their Solo Hip Hop level AND Kayla Wilton & Amy White on receiving their solo Contemporary Level!

Miss Emma Carey's contemporary crew 'Legend' received a nomination for PACANZ 2019 and performed beautifully.

Alex Pedley was chosen as a child extra to perform with the RNZB in the stunning show of 'Hansel and Gretel'.

Olive Look was an exceptional 'Cosette' in Les Miserables which also saw Miss Maxene and Miss Emma Carey in the cast. Former student Lily Bourne was fabulous in 'Mamma Mia' as was our Miss Emma Carey.

We wrapped up 2019 with a phenomenal recital of 'Beauty and the Beast'. Although 2020 hasn't shaped up to be quite what was expected, MDZ has stepped up and continued on in an amazing way. Online classes immediately began when they were needed and with such a fabulous response from our dance families. One very important thing that came out of lockdown was that so many of our

students realised how much they love their dancing. We have managed to keep our goals for exams alive and were luck enough to just sit our first lot of exams for 2020 with incredible results.



These students received NZAMD scholarship nominations for 2020: JAZZ: Amy White, Emma Carey, Kayla Wilton, Ariana Buttar. HIP HOP: Malissa Sun, Caitlyn Tornquist, Franchesca Gordon. CONTEMPORARY: Ariana Buttar. Congratulations to all!

We are looking forward to further exams over the next couple of months and then our recital on November the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at PNBHS. This certainly will be a celebration of being a Kiwi in 2020! Miss Maxene would like to take this opportunity to thank her incredible staff for making MDZ such a fabulous place to be! Thanks Miss Georgia, Miss Emma Jane, Miss Lauren, Miss Kristina, Miss Emma, Miss Kayla, Mr Bart, Miss Briony, Miss Madeline and Nicole.



## From our local dance schools



2020! A year 'not to forget' on so many levels. We are very thankful for the amazing support from our DU families and dance supporters from far and wide because DANCE is alive and kicking here in Feilding at Dance Unlimited.



The year began with lots of activity and excitement, a full student role and team of great teachers. New Zealand then went into lockdown and we all reassessed how we lived, danced and worked, and then dared to believe we could resume reopen our Dance Studios with some normality weeks later – and we did! The music from the studios and the happy sounds coming from waiting/dressing rooms was heard again. It was great!



Term 3 is full of Examinations, Presentation Classes & Competitions, and the anticipation of our Term 4 Production 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Feilding Civic Centre when it will be time to farewell our graduates to their exciting Dance futures in 2021 – both here in NZ and in Sydney.

## Michelle Robinson Dance Studio



The Michelle Robinson Dance Studio resumed classes half way through term and managed to fit 12 weeks into 6. Due to the lockdown we have had to reduce our 2020 production down to a showcase in December.

Our dancers are looking forward to performing on the Regent stage and competing in the Palmerston North Dance Association September Competition Festival.



# The year in pictures





# Up Coming Events

## 2020

### **PNDA Annual Dance Competitions & Gala Evening**

25 September— 1 October 2020. Regent on Broadway

### **Monica Skinner Memorial Scholarship : Applications close—**

5pm 17th November 2020

### **PNDA AGM**

6th December 2020

## 2021

### **PNDA Restricted and open Tap Competition and Open Impromptus + PACANZ Tap Troupe Nominations offered**

20-21 February 2021. Globe Theatre

### **PNDA Restricted Ballet & Modern Competitions + PACANZ Modern & Troupe Nominations are offered**

12-14 March 2021. Regent on Broadway

### **Dance 2020/2021 - celebrating the Regions Dance Schools!**

13 June 2021. Regent on Broadway

### **PNDA Annual Dance Competitions & Gala Evening**

1—7 October 2021. Regent on Broadway

### **PACANZ NYPA — Troupes, Ballet, Modern ,Tap, Highland, Vocal , Pianoforte, Instrumental, Speech & Drama**

20—24 October 2021

*Central Energy  
Trust*



 Eastern & Central  
**COMMUNITY  
TRUST**

  
**PALMERSTON NORTH  
CITY COUNCIL**



**Pub Charity**  
THE HEART OF COMMUNITY FUNDING

*freedom<sup>+</sup>*

Thanks to Dion Martin, Katrina Rose,  
for photos used in this newsletter :)

### **Palmerston North Dance Association Inc.**

P O Box 655 Palmerston North

President/ Convener: Maryanne Mechen

Vice President: Yvonne Hocken

Secretary/ Convener: Lauren Francis (euterpe@xtra.co.nz)

Treasurer: Kathy Geange

**Facebook: Palmerston North Dance Association**

**Website : PNDA.nz**