

A watercolor illustration of a ballerina in a red tutu, captured in a dynamic pose with one arm raised and the other extended. The background is a light blue wash with scattered red and blue ink splatters, creating a sense of movement and artistic flair.

# **Palmerston North Dance Association**

## **25th Annual Dance Festival**

**The Regent  
on Broadway**

**Annual Newsletter**

**27 September - 3 October 2024**





# 2024 Presidents Report ~ Maryanne Mechen

Kia Ora / greetings

Here we are again another year well underway with our Competition festival ready to go. Back now to October 2023 where the newsletter begins. The PNDA hosted Manawatu Performing Arts Society 100 years at its Competition Festival Gala 2023. What a celebration it was! From the beginning to the end it was a very special collaboration between our two societies and something for us all to savour for many years to come. The pictures in the newsletter speak for themselves. Go to our website to view link MPACS celebrating 100yrs video.



Shifting the focus now to the competition festival. The entries were good across all classes for the different genres. The troupe numbers were made up of a mix of local and out of towners, providing a boost to audience numbers and the ticket sales revenue. The troupe classes energy brings with it a wow factor. Seeing is believing, every year we get to experience something quite exceptional. Such a credit to the participating dance schools.



Hannah Watts, from Auckland, adjudicated across all the genres throughout the festival. Hannah was well up to the task, and a pleasure to work with. A big acknowledgement and thanks to PNCC Arts Event Fund, Central Energy Trust, Pub Charity, Lion Foundation, Encore Dancewear and SPF Events, Thank you! Thank you! Without support from funders our competition would not be viable at the Regent on Broadway.



It is with much regret and sadness that our beloved Patron Sir Jon Trimmer passed away on the 26th of October 2023. See our tribute page to Sir Jon Trimmer. At our Gala 2024 we will be joined by our new Patron Deirdre Tarrant. This is an opportunity to pay our respects to Sir Jon Trimmer and welcome Deirdre Tarrant.



We were back to the regular PACANZ NYPA in October. Our PNDA nominees over the modern solo and troupe classes represented us once again to a very high standard. Congratulations to you all. Special mention to "The Academy of Dance & Stage School" for making it into the final troupe round with "They don't care about us" also to locals Anomaly gaining third place in the Troupe final. Congratulations to Nikki Cunningham for her steering and management of another successful event in our city. Alongside MPACS, we are proud hosts of PACANZ NYPA.

We were fortunate to be able to offer Monica Skinner Scholarships to Amelia Simpson, Georgia Kirk, Willa McLaughlan and Mikah Batachel for 2024. Their profiles and inspiring reports are in the newsletter for you to read.



First up in 2024 we held our February Restricted and Open Tap competition at the Globe Theatre. As it is a tap nomination year, we offered both tap solo and troupe nomination classes. This competition involves impromptus across all the genres over two age groups. This involves extra preparation from the adjudicator selecting music across the styles and age groups. Our scheduled adjudicator had to pull out, so we were relieved to secure Okiwi Hawkins from Nelson, who made himself available whilst out of the country, fitting in with his return in late January. The competition numbers were good with 75 individuals and 10 tap troupes. We had 10 competitors in the solo nomination class and 3 in the troupe class.



The numbers for this competition are holding up, making it small but worthwhile. The energy at the comp was tangible certainly assisted by our adjudicator's enthusiasm and encouragement for all performers and performances on stage. The choice of impromptu music brought out the best in the competitors, albeit at times challenging for some of the younger ones. It was smiles all round. Solo tap nominations were given to Taylor Waters and Camden Woodroffe (PNDA) and Abby-Rose Bailey (DanceNZMade) and troupe nomination to DAPA 'Smooth Criminal'.



Moving to March at the Regent on Broadway, we held our Restricted Ballet and Modern solo & open duo trio and groups competition including ballet solo and group nomination NYPA classes as per the back to normal PACANZ NYPA rotation. Our adjudicator was Shannon Cunningham from Mosgiel, who took the competition and all its complexities in her stride. Her reports were very positive and helpful. Despite the entries coming in slower and the numbers for the restricted classes being slightly down, this competition continues to be well supported by the dance schools and solo entries. More than enough for the committee to manage over the weekend. The troupe NYPA entries alone involved 11 dance studios teams ranging from 10-25 members 185 dancers on the stage waiting for the adjudicator's decision added to the general buzz. The standard from the troupes was very high. We ended up with a record number of troupe nominations. Check out our nominees in the newsletter. Too many to list here.



We are very grateful again to NZCT NZ Community Trust for funding for the Venue, Adjudicator fees & Accommodation.



This year we celebrated Dance 2024 our biennial event and a highlight event for the PNDA. This is a non-competitive event supporting our member dance schools in our region. Supporting as it does dance in its many genres across all ages it is truly celebratory. Check out the pics in the newsletter.



Congratulations to all our member teachers, students and care givers. You are the life blood of our organisation.

We also need to acknowledge the many people behind the scenes who help us with our events.



We have moved to the world of apps with our music and entries, our thanks go to Rachael Ouwejan who helps us with the magic links for entry and music downloads. We also have John Ansin, another techie person, who helps us with membership mailouts and Janette Craigie who helps with our PNDA website. This assistance is greatly appreciated.

The newsletter is such a wonderful pictorial review of our 2023 / 2024 year. PNDA committee member, Katrina Rose, works her photography and magic with the newsletter. Thanks to Erin Robson for helping Katrina with the Photography for Dance 2024. Thank you to Dion Martin for his pics of our gala in the regency room and his ongoing commitment to the videoing of dance items.



Thank you to our members and supporters who have been on the journey with us. New members are always welcome. See membership material in newsletter.

Kia kaha  
Maryanne Mechen  
On behalf of the PNDA Committee  
Kia kaha /Go well.



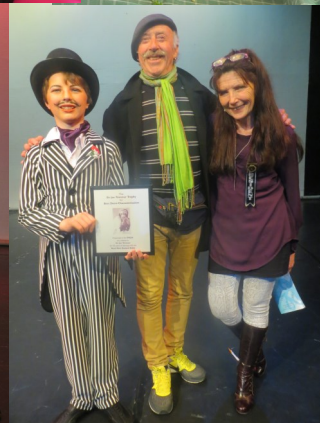
# Sir John Trimmer KNZM MBE 1939-2023 ~ Patron



Sir Jon Trimmer Trophy 2023  
Best Demi Characterisation  
Lily-Ann van Wyk  
Adjudicator— Hannah Watts



Our Friend and Patron - 18 September 1939—26th October 2023 (84 years)  
Dancer, actor, mime, mentor, gardener, painter, potter Sir Jon Timmer was Paton of Palmerston North Dance Association from 2000. Sir Jon was associated with the Royal NZ Ballet for more than 60 years.  
Remembered as a friend to many of us locally and an inspirational National figure. He was and is a national treasure. To us he was a friend, so encouraging and supportive, we knew that he would come to our events ready to engage and do what was required of someone who people expected so much from. He never tired of that role to just be present to people. Such is the power of greatness with humility. Sir Jon Trimmer Trophy for best demi - characterisation was donated by the Friends of the Ballet to the PNDA celebrate our Patrons 50 years with NZ Ballet 2008 . Sir Jon attended the Associations Galas from 2010 - 2023 and presented the trophy in his honour, albeit with apologies along the way. Lady Jacqui represented Sir Jon when the society celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have very fond memories and pictures which we want to share. The 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was the most memorable in his absence. So many people turned out to celebrate with him. The cake was enjoyed by those present. It's a great photo with the mayor and the committee .







# Deirdre Tarrant CNZM:MNZM Patron PNDA 2024



Deirdre Tarrant CNZM:MNZM fell in love with dance seventy-odd years ago when she had her first ballet classes as a seven-year-old with Jean Horne. She started teaching at 14 in Upper Hutt and never stopped. Deirdre founded Footnote Dance in 1985, following a background in ballet beginning in Wellington and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Deirdre recently retired from the role as Artistic Director of Footnote and also from her role as an international examiner for the Royal Academy of Dance. Deirdre is Director of Tarrant Dance Studios. Deirdre was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to the community in 2000, a Distinguished Alumni of Victoria university in 2006 and received Absolutely Positively Wellingtonian award and was Arts Wellingtonian of the year 2012. In 2013 she was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to contemporary dance.





# 2023 Gala Evening



## 2023 Junior Ballet Championship

1. Melody Langstraat
2. Niyah Henare-Pearson
3. Adalyn Minty

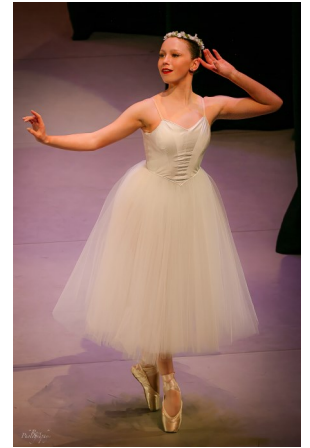
## 2023 Intermediate Ballet Championship

1. April Langstraat
2. Azaziah BatachEl
3. Paityn Angrove





# 2023 Gala Evening



2023 Senior Ballet Championship

1. Amelia Simpson
2. Nicola Sutherland-Smith
3. Mackenzie Waters







# 2023 Gala Evening Celebrating 100 Years of Manawatu Performing Arts Competition Society









**CELEBRATING  
100 YEARS**

**MANAWATU  
PERFORMING ARTS  
COMPETITION SOCIETY**

**2023 CENTENARY EVENTS**

**COMPETITIONS**

<b>DANCE</b> 10-14 APRIL - SPEIRS CENTRE	<b>VOCAL</b> 24-25 JUNE - FREYBERG HIGH SCHOOL
<b>SPEECH &amp; DRAMA</b> 1-2 JULY - THE GLOBE	<b>MUSICAL THEATRE</b> 12 AUGUST - GLOBE 2
<b>HIGHLAND DANCING</b> 26 AUGUST - TERRACE END SCHOOL HALL	

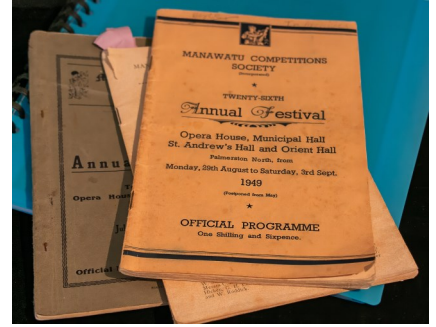
**CENTENARY GALA CELEBRATION**  
WEDNESDAY OCT 4TH | REGENT ON BROADWAY  
HOSTED BY PALMERSTON NORTH DANCE ASSOCIATION

If you have any old programmes, memorabilia, or pictures you'd like to share, please contact Maryanne Mechen 02102269355 or Carol Millward 0210487813

SPONSORED BY:

Palmerston North City Council  
Community-Led Initiatives Fund









# 2024 PACANZ Nominees National Young Performer Awards

Pacanz PNDA Troupe Nomination 2024

Danceworks Studio (PNDA)

Levin the Movement (PNDA)

Step out Dance Company (Dance Southland)

Sweet Studios (Mosgiel Ballet Society)

Elite Dance (Dance Southland)

Anita's Dance Academy (PNDA)





Pacanz Tap Troupe Nomination 2023  
Dreams Academy of Performing Arts (DAPA)



Pacanz Ballet Nomination 2024

Violet Chai (PNDA)

Amelia Macquire (PNDA)

Ivy Yang (DanceNZmade)



Pacanz Tap Nomination 2024

Camden Woodrooffe (PNDA)

Taylor Waters (PNDA)

Abby-Rose Bailey (DanceNZmade)







PACANZ 2024



25-27 October

Regent on Broadway - The Speirs Centre  
The Globe Theatre



2024

Final Awards  
7.30pm  
27th October  
Regent on Broadway

[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





# Monica Skinner Awards Winners

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.

2024 Application forms are with your Dance Schools—please ask your teachers for a form if you'd like to apply.

## Previous Recipients Are

2023 Amelia Simpson, Georgia Kirk, Mikah BatachEl and Willa McLachlan

2022 Keeandra Tohill and Ayla Cooksley

2021 Aylin Atalay and Mārie Jones

2020 Isabella Jones

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







# 2023 Monica Skinner Scholarship

## Amelia Simpson

My year so far as a full-time Classical Major at the New Zealand School of Dance has been incredibly rewarding and transformative.

The rigorous training and diverse learning opportunities have been pushing me to grow both technically and artistically, within my craft. I've had the chance to work with some inspiring teachers and choreographers, further refining my technique and deepening my understanding of the classical repertoire.



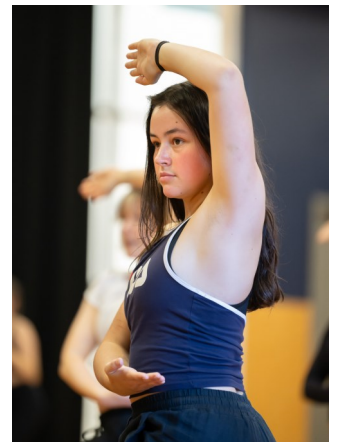
The support from the Monica Skinner Scholarship has been invaluable and I'm so grateful for the support from my community.

As the year progresses I'm excited for keep building on my foundation and experience new things!



## Willa McLachlan

Beginning my pre-professional dance training this year has been the best decision I've made. After my year studying at Victoria University I came to realise more than ever that all I wanted to devote myself to was dance. Half expecting not to get in, I auditioned for Commercial Dance at Te Auaha and when I was offered a place, it was the best feeling in the world. Beginning the year, it seemed like every day just got better and for a lot of the time I was in disbelief that I was actually dancing everyday. The arts and dance community in Wellington is so amazing and strong and being a part of it felt so right to me. In this course there are so many people I look up to and learn from and I feel so grateful to have the opportunity to get to know them. Compared to uni which was very individualised and lacked structure, the dance course has been wonderful for forming connections with tutors and students and having such a set routine of classes everyday has taught me so much discipline and how to care for myself. At this stage we are well into our show season. It has been two years since I've performed and I have definitely been missing that feeling of putting on a show with people you have grown so close to. Our show, 'Midnight meets Morning', is definitely a step up and it's so great to learn about the show process in more of a professional setting. I can't put into words just how much I have learned this year about technique, the dance industry, injury care, fitness, my body and mind. There have been ups and downs but everything I have learned has been such a positive force in my life and I feel so overjoyed that I am only at the beginning of my dance journey and I have so much ahead of me.







# 2023 Monica Skinner Scholarship

## Georgia Kirk

As I reflect on my first year of dancing full-time at ETTINGSHAUSEN'S PRO in Sydney, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the support I received from the Palmerston North Dance Association Scholarship. This year has been nothing short of transformative, and the scholarship has played a pivotal role in my journey. From the moment I stepped into the world of full-time dance, I was greeted with new challenges, opportunities, and an environment that fuelled my passion every single day. The scholarship provided me with the extra financial support needed to focus entirely on my craft, without the stress of financial

constraints weighing heavily on my shoulders. It has enabled me to immerse myself in my training and growth, and I have seen remarkable improvements in my skills and performance.

There have been moments when full-time has been mentally and physically exhausting. Not everyday is the same at full-time. A typical Monday for me as a full-time dancer started at 8:30AM. Some mornings might begin with a ballet class to maintain and enhance technical skills. This would be followed by a physical conditioning/Pilates class, tap, then acro.

Overall, the life of a full-time dancer demands exceptional discipline, resilience, and passion. The challenges are considerable, involving long hours, physical strain, and the need for pursuing a career as a full-time dancer is both exhilarating and demanding, requiring intense dedication and resilience. The life of a professional dancer is characterized by rigorous training, performance schedules, and constant self-improvement.

Every morning, I wake up excited about what lies ahead. The opportunities to learn from world-class instructors, collaborate with talented peers, and push my boundaries have made this year incredibly fulfilling. The scholarship has allowed me to fully engage with my dance education, making it possible to take advantage of every opportunity that comes my way.

For anyone considering applying for this scholarship, I wholeheartedly encourage you to do so. The support from the Palmerston North Dance Association has been invaluable and it has made a significant difference in my ability to pursue my passion with unwavering focus and dedication.

In summary, this year has been the best yet, and the Palmerston North Dance Association Scholarship has been a crucial part of that success. It has not only provided financial



## Mikah BatacheI

Kia ora, my name is Mikah BatacheI, and I am in my first year of full-time dance training at Unitec!! If anyone had told me back in high school that I would be studying dance full-time in a couple of years, I wouldn't have believed them.

As I had somehow convinced myself that dance was just a hobby, I know better now. I know that dance is my life force; it grounds me and brings me alive.

My body and mind don't just want it; they need it to survive. Being here at Unitec has only further proved that, as I have honestly loved every moment, being here has proved time and time again I am on the right path for me, and I am constantly excited for what the future holds.

I can not express how grateful I am to have received the Monica Skinner Scholarship, you have helped make this all possible for me.





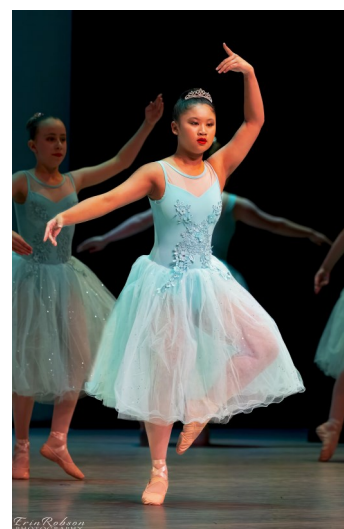
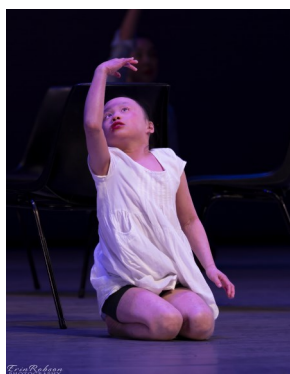


# Dance 2024 ~ 9th June ~ Regent on Broadway

Dance 2024 is the latest in a series of concerts that began in 2000 celebrating dance in its many and varied forms. The event is a significant event for PNDA bringing together our dance member schools from Palmerston North and the wider Manawatu and Horowhenua areas. The showcase of talent supporting Dance 2024 performing were -



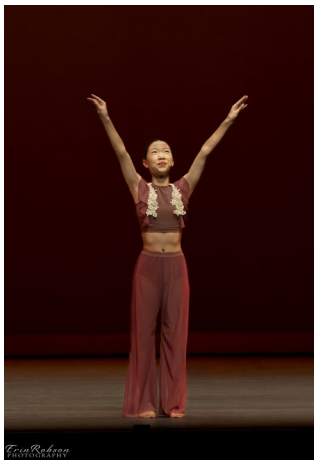
Studio 100 Campbell Street  
[info@michelledance.co.nz](mailto:info@michelledance.co.nz)



Cailin Traditional  
Irish Dancing School  
of Palmerston North.







# MAXIMUM dance 2014

Maxene Jeffares  
[www.maximumdance.co.nz](http://www.maximumdance.co.nz)







Dance 2024

LEVIN THE  
*movements*

DANCE STUDIO

Chantel Pinguet

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



Catherine Inger School Of Dance



[catherineingerdance@gmail.com](mailto:catherineingerdance@gmail.com)





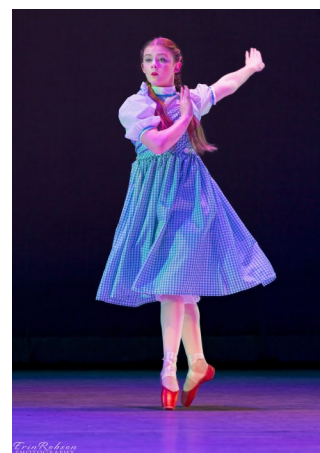
Jay and Sydney Pelman  
[www.anomalydancestudio.co.nz](http://www.anomalydancestudio.co.nz)



## THE ROSE ACADEMY

*of Dance and Performing Arts Ltd*

Rose Brownlie  
[www.theroseacademy.co.nz](http://www.theroseacademy.co.nz)







Dance 2024



DW  
STUDIOS

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



Palmerston North  
Ukrainian Dance Group  
[Dancexercise.tania@gmail.com](mailto:Dancexercise.tania@gmail.com)







Highland Dancers  
of Palmerston North







**Spring Chicken Dance Company**  
Lyn.sheehan@xtra.co.nz





# Dance 2024 Finale

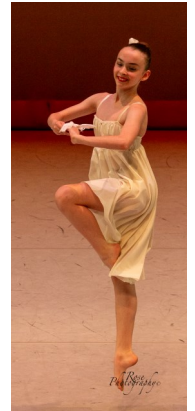




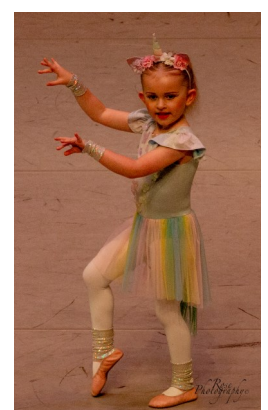
# The year in pictures Ballet



**2023 Junior Ballet Championship**  
 1. Melody Langstraat  
 2. Niyah Henare-Pearson  
 3. Adalyn Minty



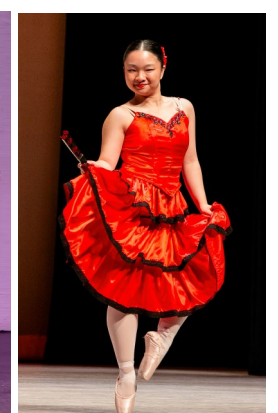
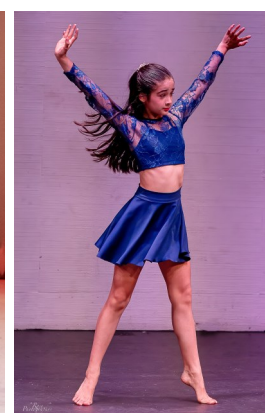
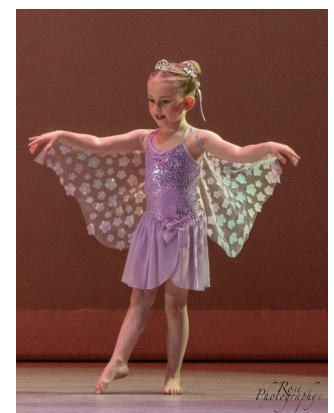
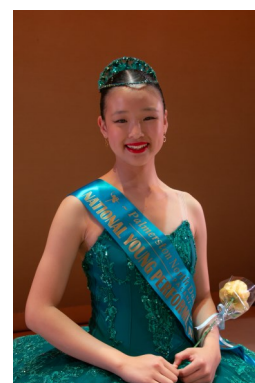
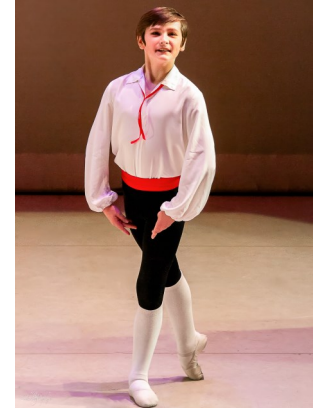
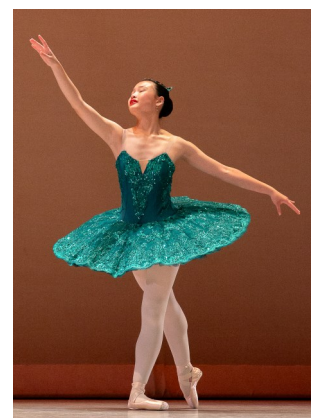
**2023 Intermediate Ballet Championship**  
 1. April Langstraat  
 2. Azaziah BatachEl  
 3. Paityn Angrove



**2023 Senior Ballet Championship**  
 1. Amelia Simpson  
 2. Nicola Sutherland-Smith  
 3. Mackenzie Waters









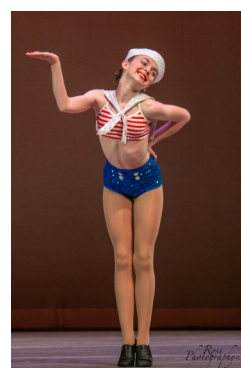
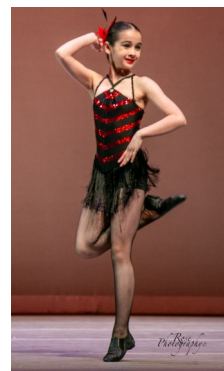
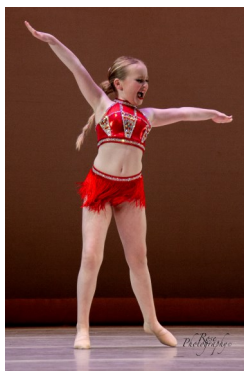


# The year in pictures Modern



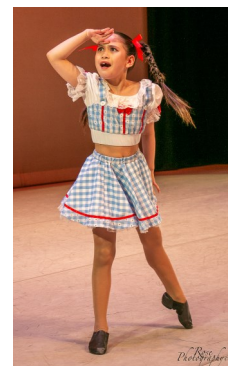
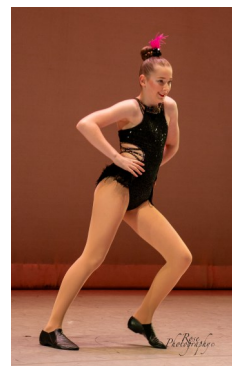
## 2023 Junior Jazz Championship

1. Danielle Gracie
2. Rosie More-Jones
3. Manawa Te Wiki



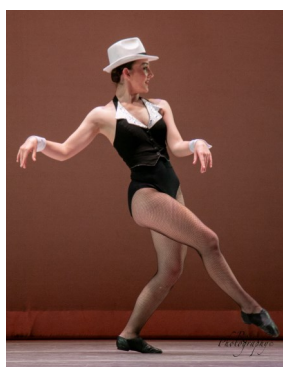
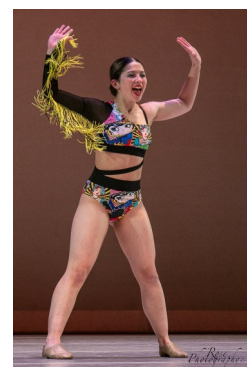
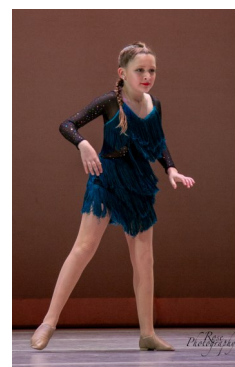
## 2023 Intermediate Jazz Championship

1. Peyton Waters
2. Jade Tufele
3. Neveah Renton

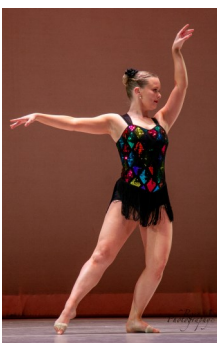
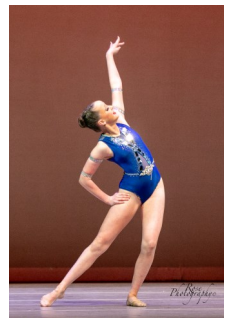


## 2023 Senior Jazz Championship

1. Jake Maskill
2. Mackenzie Waters
3. Amelia Simpson











# The year in pictures Tap



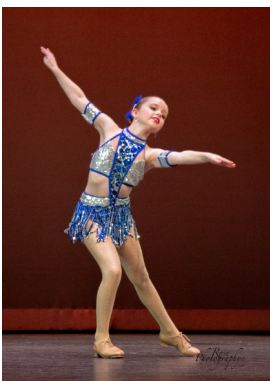
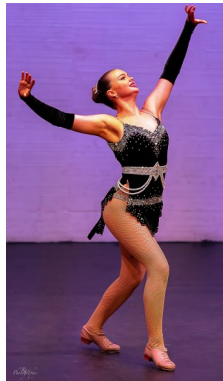
## 2023 Junior Tap Championship

1. Peyton Waters
2. Lucia Hawker
3. Harper-Rose Hodge, Isobel Sutherland

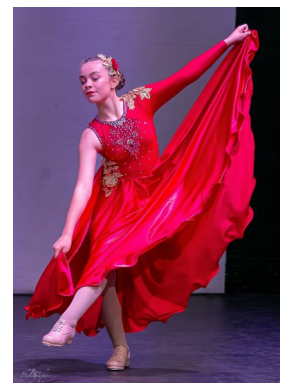
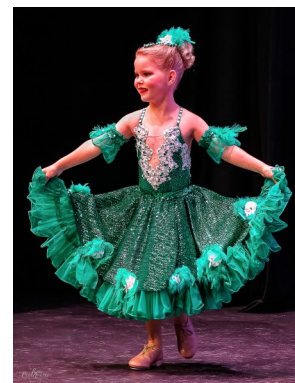
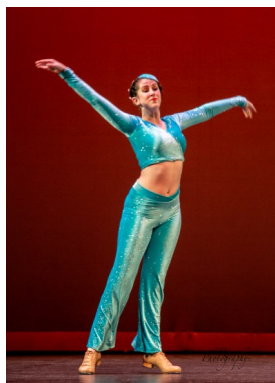
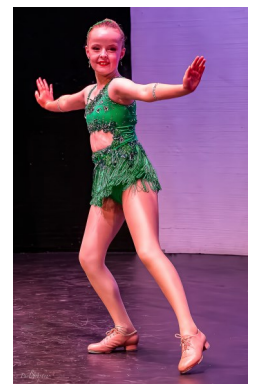
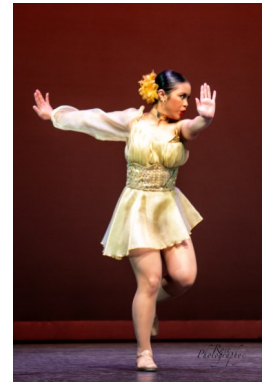
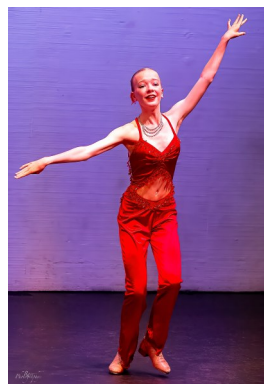
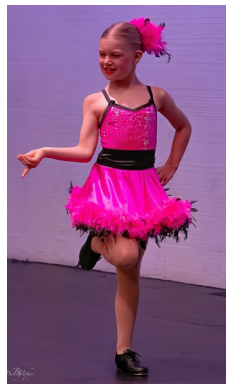
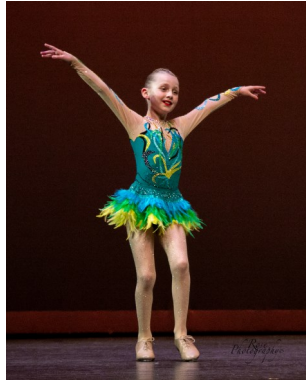
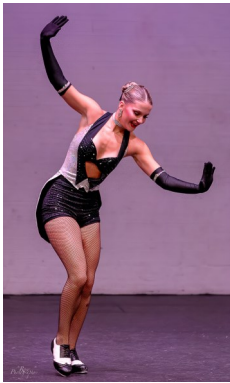
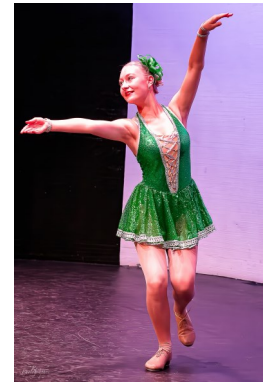


## 2022 Senior Tap Championship

1. Gabrielle Cabauatan
2. Taylor Waters
3. Camden Woodroffe











# The year in pictures Hip Hop & Groups







# 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 [2024 Membership Form](https://pnnda.nz) from our web site <https://pnnda.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.





## **2024**

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

27 September—3 October 2024. Regent on Broadway

### **PACANZ NYPA — Troupes, Ballet and Tap Dance, Vocal and Pianoforte**

25-27 October 2024. Regent on Broadway. Hosted by PNDA and MPAC

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

5pm 10th November 2024

### **PNDA AGM**

1st December 2024

## **2025**

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

14th—16th February 2025 Globe Theatre

### **PNDA Restricted Ballet & Modern Competitions + PACANZ Ballet Modern and Troupe (except Tap) Nomination offered**

21st—23rd March 2025. Regent on Broadway

### **PNDA Dance Workshop 2025**

15th June 2024. Regent on Broadway

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

19th—25th September 2024. Regent on Broadway

### **PACANZ NYPA — Troupes, Musical Theatre, Modern Dance, Acoustic Instrumental, Speech & Drama**

24th—26th October 2025. Regent on Broadway. Hosted by PNDA and MPACS

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

Patron: Deirdre Tarrant CNZM/MNZM

President / Convener: Maryanne Mechen

Vice President: Yvonne Hocken

Secretary/ Convener: Lauren Francis

Treasurer: Kathy Geange

Dance Teacher Representative: Michelle Robinson

Newsletter: Katrina Rose

Photographers : Katrina Rose/Erin Robson

Committee: Christine Booker, Dayle Campbell, Pam Fowler,

Ashley Hodges, Tracy Horman, Lisa Procter, Katrina Rose,

**Facebook: Palmerston North Dance Association**

**Website : PNDA.nz**

Palmerston North City

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PALMERSTON  
NORTH  
CITY



THE LION  
FOUNDATION



**Pub Charity**  
THE HEART OF COMMUNITY FUNDING

*Encore*  
dancewear

**THE PRINTERY**

Thanks to Katrina, Erin and Dion for  
photos used in this newsletter