

NEWSLETTER

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21st March 2009

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Diary 2009

Term 1

27th January – 9th April

Exam Entries Due (Sydney 1st Session)

21st March

NO LATE ENTRIES

Isobel Anderson

26th – 29th March

Term 2

28th April – 10th July

28th June

Scholarship Concert
Griffith Duncan Theatre

5 July

Sydney Eisteddfod
Open Age Classical &
Jazz Groups

8 August

Sydney Eisteddfod
17/U Contemporary
Group

Term 3

27th July – 2nd October

1st August

Sydney Eisteddfod
14/U Contemporary
Group

2nd August

Final – Sydney
Eisteddfod Jazz (open)

Tentative Graded Exams TBA

4,5,6 August

9th August

Sydney Eisteddfod
14/u Jazz Group

22nd August

Sydney Eisteddfod
12/U Classical &
Contemporary Groups

Term 4

19th October – 11th
December

Bursary Semi Final

December TBA

Dress Rehearsal

11th December
Civic Theatre

End of Year concert

12th December
Civic Theatre

NCD Graduation

13th December

All information is correct, to the best of our knowledge, at time of printing. Please check the studio timetable & noticeboards regularly

★ Dear Parents and Students

Let me start by giving an enormous thank you to all parents, Rose Fund Committee and staff members who were able to attend our meeting last Tuesday evening. I felt it was a very valuable opportunity to explain how the 2009 year will unfold. We hope it was a warm welcome for all new parents and a nice reunion for old. May I especially thank Julia Monaghan, our guest speaker, for the evening. Julia gave us a humorous insight into the reasoning behind the creation of her new book 'Dance Parent's Survival Guide'. This book will be a useful tool for all ballet parents and will be released all over Australia and New Zealand. Congratulations Julia for a job well done! It is certainly something the ballet world needs.

A special mention to the Rose Fund Committee, during this evening the AGM was held and the new 2009 Committee announced. Congratulations and thank you to the following: President, Mark Jones; Vice President & Information Officer, Liz Wallace; Treasurer, Esther Liet; Secretary, Liz Barnett. Karryn McFadyen has stepped down as Treasurer to take on the enormous task of Costume Co-ordinator (more information regarding the current costume room to follow in coming newsletters). We hope you take the opportunity to get to know the committee by helping out from time to time. Volunteers are always welcome, it's also a great chance to make new friendships.

Several topics were covered during this meeting, one of which was the Scholarship Concert. All suggestions regarding this concert discussed at the meeting were noted, including the introduction of a Senior de File. I will be meeting with the staff next week to finalize arrangements and discuss the option of the Senior de File. The outcomes of this staff meeting will be addressed in the next newsletter. We have changed the date of the concert to **Sunday 28th June @ Griffith Duncan Theatre**, due to 'Starstruck'. We have a duty of care to the students and feel that scheduling another concert so close to a large NSW schools event would not be in their best interest.

★ Newcastle Eisteddfod

If your child is in the Newcastle Eisteddfod I recommend that you book a private lesson for after the Easter Break. Lessons will be held at the studio on Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th April with Marie Walton-Mahon, Michele Jarmaine, Hayley Farr, Veronica Mahon, Brianna Thomas, Zoe Jones, Jillian Kempton (to cover Miss Frawley's students). Miss Debbie Linnert will be available during the holidays with lessons being allocated around her commitments to SYTYCD. Bookings are essential. Please fill in the tear-off at the end of this newsletter. *NB: all perpetual trophies are to be returned to Christine in the studio office ASAP.*

★ New Purchases

Due to the success of last year's 14/U Contemporary & Open Jazz groups we will be putting the \$350 prize money towards the purchase of 2 x LCD TVs with DVD players for the studio's foyers (upstairs and downstairs) with the prize money. Management and I would like to thank those talented students and their teachers who have made this possible. The TVs will be very useful for students to study ballets/dance by various companies as well as to study their own group performances. The school will also be purchasing the latest 'up to date' information from the RAD; new teachers' syllabus books from Primary – Vocational, along with CDs and DVDs. These resources assist with the rotating process that I am over viewing. Ballet technique books and new resources for our student library including numerous ballet DVDs and CDs are also being added. Our aim within the next month is to also have a computer in the staff room to enable the teachers access to edit music and have their resources more available. Two new computers will also be available for the NCD students to complete their College work.

★ Graded Examinations - EXAM DATES: 4th, 5th, 6th August (3 days) NB: All Exam Dates still Tentative

Closing date for the exam entries is 30th May

The winter workshop will be extremely valuable for the students' confidence prior to their exams. The workshop will be 3 days of classical and character classes with ballet class with a pianist. Uniforms for Graded students are hired by the students and organised by the Rose Fund whose volunteers assist on the day to groom the children's hair and dress for the exam. Graded students are to have satin shoes for exams – no split soles shoes as the RAD does not allow them in exams.

Winter Workshop dates (Grades): 20th, 21st, 22nd July

★ Vocational examinations – Commencing 10th August

Sydney 1st Session is now closing. We are sending some students who we feel are ready to do their exams in this early session. This will also balance out the class sizes. August exams will close on 6th June. It will be extremely valuable for the students sitting for Vocational exams in August to enrol in the Winter Workshop (RAD and Pointe class each day). Vocational students can either hire their exam leotards from the fund or have one custom made for the exam (details closer to exam dates).

Winter Workshop dates (Vocational): 23rd, 24th, 25th July

We have decided not to put any students into Sydney's 2nd session of examinations this year (November), with the exception of Bursary and Solo Seal. It's too much for the students and staff with the concert in December. I also feel that the examiner in Newcastle is the best choice.

★ Concert DVD - \$60

2008 "A Night To Remember" DVD's orders **closing Saturday 21st March!!** Don't miss out on this wonderful DVD. Complete order form and return to office with payment immediately.

★ Performance Groups:

McDonald's Challenge, Sydney :

Dates (NB: all dates are still tentative):

- Open Age Classical: 5 July
- 17/U Contemporary (MWM): 8 August
- Open Age Contemporary (NCD): 5 July
- Open Age Jazz: 5 July (final: 2 August)
- 14/U Classical: 1 August
- 14/U Contemporary: 1 August
- 14/U Jazz: 9 August
- 12/U Contemporary: 22 August
- 12/U Classical: 22 August

Best Wishes to all students competing in the Isobel Anderson Awards next week



To Miss Debbie Linnert, husband Matt and son Max. Miss Linnert is due to have her second child in mid September! I think we are going to stop all staff from drinking the water in the staff room!

★ 2010 SUMMER SCHOOL - 18TH – 22ND January

We are very excited to announce that we are in the final negotiations with Li Cunxin to guest teach at our Summer School 2010.

★ (CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to **Sophie Lidbury**, NCD 2008, who has just signed a contract with Tokyo Disney. It's wonderful to see that our graduates are maintaining their fitness and dance skill and are succeeding at auditions.



★ Email from Daniel Baker – Miami Ballet Soloist (Former student)

".... We recently got back from a successful New York City tour. It was our debut in Manhattan. we were sold out and got absolutely amazing reviews. It was a real career highlight. Jasmin came up from DC to see the shows which was nice. Just letting you know I got my contract renewed this week and I have been promoted to soloist. On a down note.... every arts based company in the states is having financial issues. Miami is struggling. A number of Broadway shows have recently closed. Miami just fired 9 dancers and New York City Ballet 11 Dancers. I also heard San Francisco is firing too. Hopefully things will pick up soon but I'm thankful I still have a job right now. We just finished a run of Don Quixote. At the moment I'm working on the piece I'm choreographing for that grant I won. Stressful!.... Love, Daniel!"

★ Class for Newcastle Eisteddfod Scholarship Students

If you have a child entered in either the Intermediate or Senior Scholarship at the Newcastle Eisteddfod and are interested in them having a class with me before the scholarship, please fill in the 'Expressions of Interest' tear-off below.

★ Teachers' Training Course

We would like to share with you some of the lovely feedback that I have received from the RAD teachers that I have been tutoring: "...I left Newcastle on Friday feeling totally inspired and uplifted. You have my utmost respect and admiration and hope that one day the people of NSW will appreciate what you have created for them with your National College of Dance. I wish you every success and will aspire to one day having some of my students pass through your doors. Thank you again for the time taken to share your extensive knowledge and wealth of experience with us. I feel very privileged to have been invited..." Regards, Teresa Johnson

Fond wishes,
Marie Walton-Mahon

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – Scholarship Class (Newcastle Eisteddfod)

Yes, I would be interested in a scholarship class for my child

Student's Name: _____ Scholarship (circle): Intermediate / Senior

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____



Concert DVD – "A Night to Remember" Order Form COST \$60

Name: _____ Phone: _____
No. Of Copies Required: _____



PRIVATE LESSONS – Easter Break 14th 7 15th April

Student name: _____

Teacher: _____ Signed: _____
Parent/guardian