



**From the Director Chilton Dance Centre
Bronwyn Bennett**

It is hard to believe that we are already in Term 3. Dance Centre students and teachers have been busy with the first session of Royal Academy of Dance Vocational exams, the Alana Haines Australasian Awards, New Zealand Association of Modern Dance Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop and Medal Tests all complete. Students have also been involved in public performances at the Wellington Zoo as well as the All Black versus France Rugby test held at the Westpac Trust Stadium, the Hutt City Community Concert, Dance Eleven Fundraising Concert and competitions throughout the region.

A group of 25 students attended the Phoenix workshop in Palmerston North during the last weekend of the April school holidays. Students were buzzing after attending high energy classes in Hip Hop, Jazz, Funk and Lyrical with tutors from the USA and Australia. Grace Cabauatan (Advanced) and Ashleigh Tan (Beginners) were awarded scholarships at their respective levels. A number of our students were selected to perform in "Dance with the Stars" at the end of the Workshop. These students are selected for not only their talent but also enthusiasm and commitment during the weekend.



Dance Centre students and teachers with the Phoenix Workshop faculty members

The Dance Centre was invited to perform at the Wellington Zoo as part of the Fundraising event *The Big Bite*. Tutors Bronwyn Bennett, Pagan Dorgan and Caroline Steele worked with eleven Advanced level ballet students to choreograph an African themed item. This offered the students a wonderful opportunity to perform in a new environment; the students also greeted the guests and guided them through the Zoo to where the various events were held. The students have since performed this item at the Hutt City Community Concert and have won the Dance Troupe section of the Wellington Regional Dance Teachers' Competition.



Dance Centre students perform at the Wellington Zoo's Big Bite

Significant Dates

Thursday 30 July-Sunday 2 August
Royal New Zealand Ballet Company performance of *La Sylphide* at St James Theatre, Wellington

Monday 27 August – Monday 4 September
Royal Academy of Dance Vocational exam dates (approximate dates)

New Zealand School of Dance Informal Studio Performance

Friday 25 September
New Zealand School of Dance Studio Showing. 6.00pm Te Whaea National Dance and Drama Centre

Saturday 26 September
End of Term 3

Monday 28 September – Friday 2 October
Dance Centre Performing Arts Holiday Programme. A holiday Programme for Year 5 – 8 students offering classes in Dance, Singing, and Costume Workshops with qualified professional tutors. Children will work towards a performance on the final afternoon of the Holiday Programme. Enrolment forms available in August.

Monday 5 – Saturday 10 October
Grade School compulsory for all Grade Ballet students entered for Royal Academy of Dance exams

Monday 12 October
Term 4 commences

Monday 12 October – Wednesday 4 November
Royal Academy of Dance Grade exams (approximate dates for Wellington region)

Wednesday 18 – Saturday 28 November
New Zealand School of Dance Graduation Performance. 7.30pm Te Whaea National Dance and Drama Centre

Friday 30 October – Saturday 7 November
Royal New Zealand Ballet Company performance of *Peter Pan* at St James Theatre, Wellington

Friday 4 – Sunday 6 December
Chilton Dance Centre end of year performance at the Lower Hutt Town Hall
End of Term 4

DANCE CENTRE CONTACTS

Dance Centre teachers can be contacted through the school office or through the following direct dial telephone numbers:

Bronwyn Bennett office 570 4034
Raroa Road Studio 568 9055

Please notify the class teacher or school office if your daughter/son is unable to attend class.

EXAM PREPARATION

The Dance Centre offers exams for students attending Classical Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Hip Hop. In order for students to reach their full potential they must practise their class work at home during the term. All students sitting exams will need to give their class teacher a blank CD for their class music to be recorded. It is also recommended that parents of junior students take notes during class so that you can help the students at home. When the students are confident and know their exam work well they can then concentrate on improving and strengthening their technique and presentation - the major components of dance exams.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Dance Centre students continue to achieve high standards in exams, workshops and competitions. At the Phoenix Workshop Grace Cabauatan and Ashleigh Tan received scholarships as well as the following students being selected to perform in *Dance with the Stars*: Grace Cabauatan, Allegra Canton, Brianna Coughlin, Emma Dellabarca, Jacinta Heffernan, Cordelia Hughes, Olivia Hughes, Katie Musgrove, Chelsea O'Reilly, Taylor Shera, Michaela Sullivan, Ashleigh Tan, Peita Tawhara, Katie Tregurtha and Shimada Waiwai. Advanced student Grace Cabauatan is currently attending an Intensive Study course at the Alvin Ailey School in New York City. Grace successfully auditioned for this course which allows her to attend daily classes in Classical technique, Horton Contemporary technique, Jazz and Repertoire for five weeks. Students have been involved in a number of competitions during Term 2. Results of Scholarships and Special Awards are: Wellington Regional Teachers Competition (April) – Senior Ballet Variation 1st Grace Cabauatan, 3rd Paige Shand, 4th Katie Burley; Restricted Variation 1st Allegra Canton; Junior Variation 1st Megan Wright, 3rd Mikaela Berney.

Wellington Regional Teachers Competition (June) – Senior Variation 1st Katie Burley, 2nd Allegra Canton, 3rd Emma McBeth, 4th Grace Cabauatan; Intermediate Championship 1st Megan Wright; Special Awards – Most Versatile Dancer Allegra Canton, Most Promising Dancer over 14 years Grace Cabauatan
Hutt Valley Performing Arts Competition: Emma McBeth winner of Senior Scholarship and Championship, 1st Senior Ballet Variation also awarded the Jenness Cup for the Outstanding Dancer; Megan Wright winner of Intermediate Ballet Scholarship and Championship, 1st Junior Ballet Variation also awarded the Joye Lowe Cup for the Most Promising Dancer; Emma Dellabarca awarded the Kathleen Bartosh Memorial Trophy for her Contemporary Dance; Katie Burley (Neo Classical) and the Dance Centre Trio (Allegra Canton, Katie Burley and Paige Shand) received the trophy for the highest mark awarded throughout the competitions.

A large group of Ballet Students attended the New Zealand School of Dance Winter Seminar in the recent holidays. Students participated in daily Classical Technique, Jazz, Contemporary, Repertoire and Royal Academy of Dance syllabus classes with tutors from the New Zealand School of Dance as well as top New Zealand choreographers and International tutors. The following Dance Centre Vocational students were nominated for scholarships: Therese Featherston, Mikaela Berney, Megan Wright, Katie Burley, Allegra Canton, Paige Shand and Katie Tregurtha with Emma McBeth receiving the Advanced 1 scholarship.

Intermediate Ballet student Megan Wright will be performing in the New Zealand Ballet Company Wellington season of *La Sylphide*. Megan will spend two weeks rehearsing with the Ballet Company before performances begin on Thursday 30 July.

The following students have been nominated by examiner Lynn Gilbert-Smith for the New Zealand Association of Modern Dance Jazz Scholarship: Liesl Eksteen, Allegra Canton, Eddie Brunton and Megan Wright. Dancers from throughout New Zealand will attend the Scholarship Awards to be held in Wellington on 6, 7 and 8 November.

Olivia Hughes has passed her New Zealand Association of Modern Dance Solo Seal.

STUDENT WORKSHOP

The following articles were written by students after attending the Phoenix Workshop: *On the last week of the school holidays, I went to Phoenix dance workshop in Palmerston North along with 25 girls and dance teachers from Chilton Dance Centre. It was awesome! Girls and boys from different dance centres went too. I made heaps of new friends. The tutors from Phoenix were: Adam, Malaya, Rosa, Joe, Liz, Michael, Morgan and Nathan. They are from USA and Australia. Everybody survived eight hours a day (2 days) of dancing training – Jazz, Funk, Hip Hop, musical theatre and lyrical. On the second day, we had dance audition for the "Dancing with the Stars". I was so happy to be chosen to dance with all the tutors. Next was so exiting because they were giving out the prizes. I won a \$200 cheque! That was the best dance experience ever!* By Ashleigh Tan



Ashleigh with Phoenix tutor Rosa

For some girls this was a weekend to get fitter, for others it was so they could practise and perfect their technique, but for all of the Chilton Dance Centre girls we went because we love it. Once again Phoenix lived up to its reputation and went well above and beyond with dances. Every day had six classes, each one hour, and at the end there was a concert for all levels and styles of dance. Many girls had to try different styles that they had not tried before, and ended up loving them and perform the dance everywhere they go. Phoenix works on building your confidence not only in dancing but in yourself; it's a motivational workshop which gets your heart racing in order to have as much energy as you can when you perform. I think Phoenix helped everyone to realise why they started dancing, why they never want to stop and why we truly love to dance.

By Abbey Sadlier-Boyd

Dance Centre teachers would like to remind parents and students of the following etiquette:

- There are to be **no cell phones used** in the Dance Centre studios by parents or students.
- There is to be **no talking by parents/caregivers when watching class**. It would be appreciated if there is no prompting as the students can be easily distracted. Parents are asked to encourage students to remain with the class group not run back and forth to the parents. If younger siblings are brought to class please ensure they are quiet or else take them out of the Dance studio.
- If students arrive late to class they are to excuse themselves to the teacher before they join the class.
- The correct uniform must be worn to all classes
- Parents of senior students (Intermediate Foundation / Pre Elementary and above) are reminded that they may observe classes during **week 5** and **week 9** of the Dance Centre term.