



Christmas Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We've reached the start of Concert week and after all the hard work and effort of the last months there is still a lot to do over the next few days as we prepare to move to the Karralyka and set up for the Concert. Once there, a lot of effort will still be required as we move through the performances. Can I just say a very big thank you to everyone for the part you have played as we've prepared for this production – it has been wonderful to see everyone come together over the last weeks and months and help as much as they are able.

Now we are approaching the time when the dancers take centre stage, so I would like to wish the performers all the best for the Concert - dance as well as you are able, but especially remember to enjoy yourselves and delight in your ability.

Tickets sales have been excellent, except for the Thursday matinee – the response from the schools has been poor. If you know of someone who might like to attend, please tell them to get in touch!

I've enjoyed this year – once again it has been busy but generally everything has run smoothly and efficiently and for that I'd like to thank our Artistic Director, Rosemary Frost and the committee. Rosemary puts a lot of time and effort into running the school and the fact that the school is so successful is due in no small part to her efforts. The committee, all volunteers, also devote a lot of time to assist with the management of the school and keep things running smoothly. Please remember that if you can assist with some of the tasks through the year, it makes the workload that much less for everyone.

On the subject of finances, the committee has decided that there will be no increase in the class fees for 2009. As a 'not for profit' community group we strive to keep fees as low as possible and with good enrolments we can still provide all we need. Just to remind you that although fees are due before the start of each term, we do realise that some families find this single payment difficult. If you feel this may be the case please discuss this with the Treasurer so that an alternative payment plan can be organised. The best time for this will be at the enrolment day next January, when not only will the teachers be present to discuss your children's dancing but committee members will also be around to discuss all the other issues.

In conclusion, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Geoff Kitchen

A WORD FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The concert is right upon us, yet it feels as if it should only be August! Where has the time gone! I wish all the dancers “chookas” and hope that the sold out performances will be a huge success for all. I want to mention how amazed I am at the creativity of the team making the sets –Patrick, Ian, Geoff, and the many other dads, mums and friends who have spent so many hours creating the backdrops, flats and props for the show. What I have seen emerging through the combined rehearsals looks amazing so thank you all for your freely given time and creativity!

Thank you also to the many seamstresses who have re-produced the costume designs and brought them to life and to all the busy sequin sewers putting the final touches to jazz and tap costumes and headdresses. I can only say that I hope all your effort and hard work and that of all the dancers will be rewarded by the applause and appreciation of the enormous audience at each performance!

I would like to express my thanks to all the families who ensure their children present at each rehearsal and have made the effort to get costumes done on time and have fulfilled their commitments to the concert. Your input and support is what make this school successful and it is vital to the continued prosperity of the school.

I would also like to thank the very hard-working committee who ensure the viability of this school and often have to put in long hours of voluntary work to do so. The teachers too have earned a huge thank you for their support, their time and dedication –ensuring the excellent exam results through the year and who have given so much time to the production of this year’s annual performances. Thank you one and all!

As a suburban school we are here to introduce dance to the many children who enrol and wish to learn with us. This year we have had some truly wonderful students reaching their full potential in class, in exams, competitions and performances and I want to say how proud I am of each one of them – we as teachers know how far some students have had to travel to achieve and we celebrate every improvement and every effort!

Sometimes particular students stand out for their achievements. This year two of our students have been recognised outside of our own community – Natasha Ritchie received the SFD Outstanding Achievement Award for her excellence in and dedication to dance – both in exams and in performance. Madeleine Magetti was the recipient of the Passion to dance Scholarship given by the family of Kirsty Gambera and worth \$1000. It will be presented to Madeleine on Friday night at our concert.

Finally I wish all our families a wonderful break over Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards

Rosemary Frost

ENROLMENT FOR 2009:

Saturday 31st January 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

CLEAN UP DAYS:

In January all the costumes and scenery have to be put away. If you will be present around the middle of January your help would be greatly appreciated Dates and times will be available at the theatre during the show.

JUNIOR SCHOOL BREAK UP PARTY:

Wednesday 17th December from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. at Ringwood Lake – BBQ near the playground. If the weather is awful we will go to the Ballet School. BYO food and drink.

VIDEO ORDERS:

Get your order in soon to avoid disappointment - these make a wonderful gift for your child or family and a great record for the future – I know that many senior students still watch the videos of performances when they were small beginners! Our children grow up so fast that any record of their childhood becomes a very precious memory to be treasured! Each of the full school performances is being filmed this year so you are able to order exactly the right one for your family!

BACKSTAGE AT THE THEATRE:

This is a reminder that space backstage it at an optimum and only rostered on parents are permitted to stay backstage or in the dressing rooms. Your children do not need you to hold their hands while they wait in a make up queue and you will not be permitted to stay with them unless you are rostered on to help.

We still require helpers in some areas – there is a notice at the studio regarding this. This year we will be doing Kinder class Make up in their dressing area upstairs so that they do not have to squeeze into the under stage area. Helpers issued with badges **MUST** return the badge to the under stage area each evening.

All costumes are the property of Ringwood Ballet and **Must Not** be removed from the dressing rooms. All performers must arrive and leave in **normal street clothes**. No one is permitted into the auditorium in costume during performances.

The previous newsletter contained detailed information about make up – if you wish your child to use his/her own make up you need to ensure they have it with them and bring it to the make up people under the stage, otherwise they will be made up using the communal RBG make up.

All parents are reminded that we have a system for allowing performers into the auditorium to watch the show after they are finished. There will be class lists near the stage door for helpers to mark off who needs to be brought to the auditorium and who will be picked up from the stage door to go home. Please ensure they are aware of your needs when you drop your child off at the stage door.

DRESS REHEARSAL AT THE KARRALYKA – WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER

1.00 – 1.45 Miss Massey's piece

1.45-3.00 Jazz and tap

3.15-5.00 Junior Ballet

5.00-5.15 set stage for act 1

5.15-5.45 official break

5.45-7.00 acts 1 and 2 THURSDAY NIGHT/SATURDAY

NIGHT 1ST CAST (Melanie and Rob) Jessica to be given opportunity to do some of the ballet eg with Cassidy – pas de deux etc. She will be given time on stage before Friday night – to be decided with Karralyka staff and cast for Friday night.

7.00-7.15 break

7.15-8.00 act 3

8.00-8.30 break

8.30-9.40 acts 1 and 2 SATURDAY MATINEE 2ND CAST

(Natasha and Josh)

9.50-10.30 act 3

10.30-11.00 corrections

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Sarah Cossey for passing her Associate exam – Music – this is an amazing achievement and we should also congratulate her teacher Laurice Boak who has trained her so well. Also to Hannah Monson who passed the Advanced Foundation exam with Distinction and Natasha Sosnin who has successfully passed Level 10 tap with Highly Commended. Natasha is the first RBG student to complete all 10 levels of tap under the expert eye of our Tap teacher Terry Surtees.

We wish all our families a joyful festive season, a good rest over the holidays and look forward to seeing you all on enrolment day

The committee and staff of RBG