

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2017

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Mrs Frost's Message:

Hello everyone

Welcome back to all our returning families and also a warm welcome to the many new families who have joined us for what is set to be an exciting year!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Summer break! Much of mine was spent in England with my daughter Laura and her fiancé Craig who are expecting my first grandchild in June! The relaxed pace, lots of fresh air and walks has refreshed me and reinvigorated me for the busy year ahead.

The concert was wonderful from start to finish and I congratulate and thank every dancer, all our great teachers, the stage crew, technical crew, parent helpers and committee for ensuring it was such a success. I am so pleased that we were once again able to offer a free matinee and morning tea to the elderly and less fortunate in our community, so thank you to the Karralyka and Maroondah City Council for their support for this worthy cause. Thanks also to Carolyn Callanan for organizing it all.

Then came the final big move into our temporary premises. A huge thanks must go to all the parents who volunteered their time to do this – it was an overwhelmingly immense task! Two days were spent sorting and storing concert costumes before I left for the UK. Much was done while I was away so that on my return we were able to turn the space into 3 usable studios thanks to the clever idea of using temporary fencing and some of our stunning backdrops to create walls! Thank you to Vince Morgante and Steve Bullock for sorting out the sound equipment and also thanks to Bendigo Bank for providing funding for 2 new ipads. Cathy May and Carolyn Callanan along with the rest of our committee ladies, spent a lot of time getting the office set up and helping sort so many things.

A special thanks to Geoff Kitchen who was in most days sorting the tarket, the barres, and organizing a team of helpers to actually get the backdrops up and secure. Then a team of parents led by Alison and Gareth Little-Hales came in and made sure all was vacuumed, fresh and ready for enrolment day. So many wonderful volunteers have made this move possible and I extend my thanks to each one of you.

Now remember this all has to happen in reverse when we move back! ☺

Enrolment day was very well organized and very busy. The inclusion of trial classes and a senior open class was successful and we hope to make this an annual event.

The first week of classes ran smoothly on the whole, despite the heat, and it was good to be back at work with our students. There are a number of early closing dates for various things we do so please read through the enclosed information and make sure you are ready to meet these dates. In particular our SFD comp entries close latest 10 March and could be earlier if the online entries reach capacity before then. As we have barely begun private lessons this makes it difficult for all of us!

The SFD celebrates 30 years this year and so their annual combined concert will be a special event followed by a cocktail party for members and special guests. The concert is on 30th April and we have decided to present 2 fabulous pieces – Men in Black (senior jazz item from the concert) and The 5th – a particularly successful classical troupe. Seniors please check the noticeboard for details of rehearsal times etc.

Teachers all attended the SFD Convention which ran over 6 days in January. It is interesting to note that 5 of our staff are also SFD examiners! The new Elementary syllabus was launched during this time. Last year 7 of our talented senior girls and Mr Chris spent many weeks preparing for and filming the work and it has been well received. Jessi Goodall kindly came to the launch to demonstrate the work to the SFD teachers and examiners.

I am looking forward to working with you all through the year and hope that your experience with us is a happy and rewarding one.

Kind regards, Rosemary Frost

President's Message:

A new year is under way and I'd like to say welcome to all those who have just joined our community and welcome back to all those returning.

The Concert was once again a wonderful end to the year and each performance of A Midsummer Nights Dream was a credit to all those involved. I must also congratulate our junior dancers who performed so beautifully in School room Fantasy. Congratulations to everyone for their efforts - from the Artistic Director, Rosemary Frost and her team of hard working teachers, to all those dancers involved, right through to all those parents who contributed in so many ways.

The holiday break went quickly, but thankfully we had good support to get ourselves organised in our new home and ready for Enrolment Day and the start of the new year. A really big thank you to all those who gave up their time and came in to help we were able to get the new studio space organised. Communication plays an important part of the way we function and as such I urge everyone to carefully read the information that is sent out during the year. Information flowing in the other direction is equally important 'Advanced Notice of Class Absence' form should be used whenever you are able to give *advanced notice* of any absences from class (eg school activities, family functions, holidays, procedures & etc). This will help us make sure all staff, on all days are aware of your child's absence and the reason for that absence. For all other absences you should notify as normal - to the teacher in person or by calling the office and leaving full details of class/teachers/times and the reason for the absence.

The next date of note for most is Wednesday March 22nd - the Annual General Meeting. Apart from the presentation of annual reports, the most important aspect of the evening is the election of the new committee. The committee are all volunteers and look after the 'management' side of the school while supporting the Artistic Director and teachers as they concentrate on 'all matters dancing'. Joining the committee means making a commitment to do that 'little bit extra' - there is always something to do for most of the year, but it is even busier around Presentation Evening and in the lead up to the Concert. If you do feel like joining have a chat to any of the current committee - nomination forms can be found at the end of this newsletter and will be available in the foyer.

The AGM is open to all members (as are all committee meetings) and is usually fairly brief but includes the announcement by the Artistic Director, of the feature ballet for the Concert! If you are thinking of coming along, please indicate your intention using the reply slip at the end of the newsletter - this is purely to allow us to provide adequate 'supper' at the end of the meeting and perhaps organise a few more chairs!

This is an exciting year with the redevelopment of the studios. As we move into that familiar routine, let me wish all the best to everyone and hope this will be another enjoyable and successful year for you and your children.

Regards,

Cathy Davidson

president@ringwoodballet.org.au

Our Temporary Venue – Some Rules and Regulations!

Just a reminder that classes are not open for observation until open week. With no doors to close we would appreciate you respect this rule and stay outside the studio spaces and do not block the "doorways"

Also please ensure siblings waiting in the foyer do not access the water bottle and spill water everywhere. This water is for the dancers and staff and is not a toy.

It has also come to our attention that the overlocking machines in Mrs Frost's sewing area have been played with and broken. Once again please ensure your children do not touch anything – overlockers are hugely expensive to buy and to repair.

Bendigo Bank Grant

A big thankyou to Bendigo Bank once again for their assistance and generosity! Late last year our group was lucky enough to receive a grant for \$1650 for new iPads in our studios. We use the iPads to play all music that is required for our classes in the studios and they are fantastic! So thankyou again Bendigo Bank for your support. If you, your friends or family are looking for a new bank, please consider the Bendigo Bank and mention the Ringwood Ballet Group! Support the bank that supports us.



A Midsummer Nights Dream – Free Community Matinee

Last year we were again successful in applying for a grant from the Maroondah City Council to be able to provide our Matinee production of A Midsummer Nights Dream, for free, to groups in our community. The groups who were able to attend the event included the elderly, disadvantaged and underprivileged. We were also fortunate enough to receive extra funding in 2016 to go towards a free morning tea before the performance. We also wish to thank Maryanne Lowe, from Linley Estate, for her additional contribution towards our morning tea. The free community matinee was another huge success and was fully booked out! MP Michael Sukkar, Deputy Mayor Nora Lamont and Councillor Graham were also in attendance and we thank them for their continued support. We were also recognised for our community event as part of the Australia Day Awards Ceremony.



SFD Masterclasses

Below is the SFD information sheet regarding entry to this year's masterclasses. Each family of an eligible student will need to enter their own child/children via the link below. Staff will be letting students know whether they are going to be ready for an exam and therefore for master classes so **DO NOT ENTER FOR THE MASTERCLASSES UNTIL YOU HAVE THIS INFORMATION**

Prices:

Levels 3-6 \$25 per level

Levels 7-8 \$30 per level

Levels 9 and 10 \$40 per level

A booking fee of \$3.50 will apply to each invoice

DATES: Classical (levels 3-6) SUNDAY 21ST MAY

Jazz (levels 3-10) SUNDAY 28TH MAY

Tap (levels 3 to 10) SUNDAY 4TH JUNE

CLOSING DATE IS 30TH MARCH

SFD Rules of attendance can be found on the main noticeboard at the studio

Below is the booking information sent to us by the SFD:

SFD holds student masterclasses in Victoria over three Sundays in May/June. The emphasis is on style and corrections from the Examiners and students who are undertaking an exam should be encouraged to attend.

To enter Masterclasses, go to: www.comps-online.com.au

Select State - VICTORIA

Select Event - SFD Masterclasses 2017 **(For SFD Exam Students only)**

If you have an existing Comps-Online account, log in. Otherwise select **Click Here to Create a New Account**. Once you have filled in your details, you will be emailed a confirmation document that activates your account. Then you can simply log back in and follow the steps below to register.

Step 1 - Update your contact details (if applicable)

Step 2 - Register your Competitor's Names. Students should fill in their details as though they were a competitor. The Comps-Online system collects names under these heading titles, however **it is not a competition**.

Step 3 - Select your Sections/Divisions. Select the style and level of masterclass you wish to register for.

Step 4 - Teachers Passes. Teachers can select a day pass per style or the number of classes they wish to attend.

Step 5 - Payment. Confirm that classes you have registered for are correct. Payment can be made by PayPal Account or Credit Card.

A tax invoice will be emailed to you confirming that your order has been received.

Timetables will be sent out at least 2 weeks prior to the event and schools will be emailed a summary of their students who have registered.

Please Note: If you do not receive an invoice within 1 hour in your Inbox or in your Junk Mail folder, please contact Comps-Online Technical Support on (03) 9841 5940.

RAD HIGHER GRADES AND VOCATIONAL EXAMS

CLOSING DATES AND EXPECTED EXAM PERIOD

Vocational exams first session close on 24th April. We will inform you all about your readiness to enter this session. Some may be better waiting until October. Please listen to your teachers!

SFD Competition Entries

The SFD comps run from 2nd July – 8th July this year.

We will hold our dress rehearsal in the community centre on Sunday 18th June.

Entries close on MARCH 10th but may need to be in earlier if spaces fill up.

Due to APRA copyright changes the SFD now have to pay a fee for every item performed (on top of the fees they already pay and we as a school also pay!) To help offset this huge cost item fees have had to go up.

All information can be found on the noticeboard.

As Mrs Frost does the entry and pays from her own bank account you will need to pay (in cash to her directly or via paypal) asap. You will receive an invoice from Mrs Frost within the next 2 weeks listing all solos/items and their fee as well as paypal information. Check that all items are correctly listed – check with your coach if unsure and then pay this as soon as you can, so that Mrs Frost is not out of pocket. The SFD have informed us they will close the entries even earlier if they reach capacity before 10th March. So this is urgent!

"EXTENSION PROGRAMMES" AND IT'S EFFECT ON THEIR TRAINING AT RBG

It became necessary for Mrs Frost to talk to the senior school about over extending themselves and also participating in overstretching programmes that are scientifically known to cause major damage to developing bodies, despite the craze that has overtaken social media. It is also of deep concern that more and more of our students are attending MYCB and again overloading themselves with little or no down time for their bodies and minds to relax.

Here is the gist of her message and that of every staff member at this school:

My deepest concern for my students is that they are over extending themselves and come to our classes tired, unfocused and often sore or injured. RBG has a very full senior programme – way more than the average school - and adding more on top can and will affect their work. As teachers, we are concerned about our duty of care to these young growing bodies and liability if they develop chronic injuries from over work taking place outside our programmes. So for me as I tried to explain to the students it is not just about dates clashing, it is way more about the workload and their physical well-being.

This said I also understand the value of doing extra workshops and classes, especially with true experts in the field, as they can add immeasurably to their enjoyment and development of sound technique and artistry. The issue with programmes like MCYB is the ongoing year round commitment and their lack of acknowledgement in the public domain of who actually trains these dancers.

It is also sad and disrespectful that several students have been attending MYCB and Dance Prescription without informing us. We cannot prevent you doing these things, however we can, when we see issues in our classes and programmes, talk with you about cutting back the extra opportunities (like comps) that we already offer if you are not prepared to reduce these outside programmes in order to have some downtime/recovery time.

Many of our students over many years have performed in other areas like amateur musical theatre groups and this is wonderful - we don't have any issues with this - it is the issue of continuing constant extra work and the fact that we are seeing, as said above, these students coming into classes tired, sore or injured and unfocused.

Our primary interest and concern is the long term well being of our young dancers.

Redevelopment Fundraising

A big thankyou to all the families and friends who purchased items during concert time, participated in photo day or any other fundraising event! We raised **\$1168.50** in total from our concert fundraising items, which included the sale of calendars, roses, programmes and the raffle.

We also raised **\$267.70** from selling lollies, sausages and drinks on enrolment day.

We have currently raised **\$38,343.15** for the redevelopment of our studios. We are almost at the amount needed for the redevelopment!!! This has been a fantastic effort by all. All fundraising activities this year will continue to go towards the redevelopment and fit out of our new space.

A final, big thankyou to the redevelopment subcommittee who spent many hours behind the scenes organising all the fundraising events, they are: Eleanor Moody, Cathy May, Rachael Parry, Georgina Deray, Catherine Hamersley, Karen Lowry, Michelle Tilden and Carolyn Callanan. We really appreciate all your efforts.

Update on progress

Our Ringwood Ballet Group studios are currently well underway! Part of the studio building has come down, the internal office and toilet area has been gutted and now new stumps are in! Stay tuned to emails and facebook for further updates.



Invoices

Please note that Term 2 invoices will be sent to all families on 20th March and are due at the start of Term 2. These invoices will include the fundraising levy (for those families who choose this option and have not yet been invoiced) as well as the Working Bee levy.

The Ringwood Ballet Group is a community group which requires assistance towards the running of the school. Due to poor assistance in past years, a \$50 working bee levy is charged in Term 2 to all families. The \$50 levy will be reimbursed to any family that provides at least 4 hours of assistance in one or more of the following areas:

- Serving on committee
- Saturday morning duty
- Mid-year clean up before exams
- Sewing working bee
- Painting of concert backdrops or building scenery
- Concert helpers
- BBQ concert helper

A list will be collated by committee members, and families reimbursed the following term.

Important Dates 2017

March

- Monday 13th - Labour Day - NO CLASSES
- Monday 27th - Saturday 1st April - OPEN WEEK
- Friday 31st - SFD Comp entries close

April

- Saturday 1st April - End of Term 1
- TBC (during holidays) - RAD Autumn School (Vocational Grades Only)
- Tuesday 18th - Start of Term 2
- Tuesday 25th - Anzac Day (NO CLASSES)
- Sunday 30th - SFD Combined Concert

May

- Sunday 21st - SFD Classical Masterclasses
- Sunday 28th - SFD Jazz Masterclasses
- TBA - RAD Vocational Exam Session 1 Starts

June

- Sunday 4th June - SFD Tap Masterclasses
- Monday 12th - Queens Birthday - Reduced timetable
- Sunday 18th - Comp Dress
- Monday 26th Saturday 1st July - OPEN WEEK

July

- Saturday 1st July - End of Term 2
- Sunday 2nd - SFD Comp begins
- Saturday 8th - Last day of SFD Comps
- Approx. 8th 9th and/or 10th - Higher Grades Exam prep classes
- Tuesday 11th, 12th 13th - Exam preparation classes
- Friday 14th, 15th, 16th - Mock Exams (Classical)
- Monday 17th - Start of Term 3
- Sunday 23rd - Exam session commences

August

- Sunday 6th - Exam session ends
- Saturday 12th - Senior Ballet Audition

September

- Saturday 9th - Presentation day/night
- Saturday 23rd - End of term 3
- Saturday 23rd - SDF Competitions

October

- Monday 9th - Start of Term 4
- Sunday 15th - SFD Choreographic Comps

November

- Tuesday 7th - Cup Day - NO CLASSES
- Sunday 12th - Concert Tickets go on Sale
- Saturday 18th - Last Saturday of Normal Classes
- Sunday 19th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Friday 24th - Last day of 'normal' classes
- Saturday 25th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Sunday 26th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Monday 27th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Wednesday 29th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

December


- Saturday 2nd - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Sunday 3rd - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Monday 4th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Wednesday 6th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Saturday 9th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal
- Sunday 10th** - Full Dress Rehearsal (Community Centre) **
- Monday 11th - Final Senior Open Class and Theatre Bump-in
- Tuesday 12th** - Junior Ballet, Jazz/Tap FULL DRESS REHEARSAL at Karralyka Theatre **
- Wednesday 13th** - Senior Ballet/Contemporary/Character Full Dress Rehearsal at Karralyka **
- Thursday 14th - 11am Matinee - Senior Ballet only (Red Cast)
- Thursday 14th - 7pm Performance (Blue Cast)
- Friday 15th - 7pm Performance (Red Cast)
- Saturday 16th - 12.30pm Performance (Blue Cast)
- Saturday 16th - 7pm Performance (Red Cast) and End of Term 4

** These rehearsals are compulsory

SPONSORSHIP PAGE

We would like to thank the following organisations for their generosity and support towards the redevelopment of the Ringwood Ballet Group studios:

PLATINUM SPONSORS



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COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

I hereby nominate as a candidate for election on the Ringwood Ballet Group Committee of Management.

President Vice President Treasurer Secretary General Member

Name of Nominator
(being a member of that Incorporated Association)

Signature of Nominator

I consent to this nomination

(Signature of Nominee - being a member of that Incorporated Association)

This form must be delivered to the Ringwood Ballet Group Committee of Management
PRIOR to the start of the AGM – 8:30pm on Wednesday, 22nd March 2017.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPLY SLIP

To assist us with preparations for the Annual General Meeting or to apologise for non attendance, please indicate below (attendance or non attendance is in no way governed by completion or non-completion of this form):

Name/s:

I/we wish to apologise for non attendance at the AGM
on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at 8:30pm ()

I/we are hoping to attend the AGM on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at 8:30pm ()
number attending ()