



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

What a year this has been! Its disjointedness struck home when we returned to the studios mid November and the calendar hadn't been changed since March! It feels almost impossible to arrive at the end of the year without the excitement of a concert but here we are! I for one have learned many lessons over the past months. One of those is that no matter how bad it has been to be locked away from loved ones, from work and doing what we are passionate about that same love and passion has helped us survive and come through to a better place. Back in March when we decided to shut up the studios ahead of the inevitable lockdown my heart wanted to break – the fear of losing everything we had all worked so hard to build was devastating but then the staff met and together, with the help and support of the committee we figured out how to move online and maintain contact with our students. Many words come to mind to describe the last 9 months – isolation-fear-depression – anxiety-loss-anger, but also other words and feelings – persistence – passion – dedication – tenacity –determination – support – perseverance! This is what has brought us to today with RBG intact, students (all be it less than we started with) back in the studios and a more hopeful future ahead.

Moving to online classes was a major challenge – the senior staff are not as tech savvy as the younger teachers and we relied heavily on their help and expertise. This was meant to be for a couple of weeks but became nearly 8 months – 2 1/2 terms! We were able to film every component of every level of classical, jazz and tap before being locked out of the studios in April and added more classical in the tiny window of time available in June before the stage 4 lockdown. This fantastic resource will always be there for students and staff to use into the future. The need to communicate information to families and to ensure the financial stability of the school was the domain of committee and we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to these ladies especially Carolyn, Cassie and Jodie on whose shoulders this task fell. Their commitment and willingness to get this all under control has ensured us of a future and thank you doesn't seem enough, however we say it from our hearts -you have been a rock of calm stability through everything.

The staff have worked under enormously difficult circumstances, isolated from each other meaning less support, less opportunity to discuss anything and having to cope with the vagaries of internet and power outages or zoom failure. Internet speeds and buffering made musical timing a nightmare and issues with spatial awareness made it tricky to get a class all facing the same direction! Not being able to physically interact with students meant finding new ways to pass on corrections, step sequences etc. which I believe has taught us a huge amount! Connecting to individual students was also much harder in a zoom environment. I am so very proud of all the teachers and what has been achieved during this time and under these circumstances. So thank you Susan, Janine, Wendy, Peggy, Ashlee, Jessi, Rhiann, Monique, Natalie, George and Sam for everything you have endured and done to keep the spirit of dance alive in our students!

The final ingredient in our continued existence is you – our families and students. Your support in attending virtual classes, maintaining disciplined grooming and appearance and each family's generosity in allowing us into your homes and sacrificing space and family time to enable training to continue has been remarkable. We have met many adorable pets – cats, dogs even a turtle and even getting to know several siblings along the way! A different means of communication to speed up online processes has created a new bond between students and teachers and we wonder whether we will grow to miss the mute button!

So now we enjoy being face to face and actually hearing other classes happening, being able to communicate individually as well as in groups, even the incessant sound of the wattle bird outside studio 1 – a sound I never thought I'd miss! I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2021 along with the families who were not able to participate online. 2021 celebrates the 60th anniversary of RBG and we hope we can provide a very special year for everyone! It will begin with an open day on 30th January, followed by a return to performing with a senior school gala in April. Then we have SFD master classes, competitions, exams, Presentation evening, anniversary celebrations and finally our spectacular production! All planned but of course dependant on so many other factors!

All that is left to say is once again my heartfelt thanks to everyone – staff, committee, students and parents, also to Dance Art Croydon for their ongoing support! I wish you all a healthy, happy Christmas and holiday – if you are lucky enough to be travelling safe journey and to all I hope 2021 is a much better year!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well what a year!

As we reflect on the year that has been I would like to take this time to make a number of special thankyou's.

Firstly to the students and their families. Thankyou, for participating in the online classes, for working through the new system and for giving up portions of your house. It has not been easy, with internet issues, space, motivation, but everyone did a really good job and you should all be very proud.

Next I would like to thank the committee. It's a big job in a normal year of exams, presentations and concerts. But in a COVID year with numerous different timetables, changed fee schedules, invoicing, and re enrolment in online classes, It was crazy. So a very big thankyou to all the committee for your assistance this year, whether it was undertaking a big task or just listening to me on the other end of the phone your assistance and commitment is much appreciated.

There are 2 very special mentions that have to be made, firstly to Cassie Bowman our Secretary. Cassie has become the Operoo guru. She has organised all the forms and processes throughout the year, and is the key driver that got us online for enrolments in 2021.

The second one is to Jodie Kilworth our Treasurer, this is the lady who keeps the financial side of our school going. If not for her we would not be in the sound financial position we are in. She ensures bills are paid, invoices raised, fees chased and this year also had to get her head around JobKeeper and the ATO requirements, all to ensure our community Ballet School would continue to flourish.

Finally, a very big thank you to our teachers. At the end of Term 1 when we finally decided to cancel classes, I don't think any of us really had any idea of what was in store or how the rest of the year would pan out. Thankfully we have a group of dedicated, passionate and determined teachers who were not going to let closed studios get in their way. They spent many hours prior to lock down filming content for online classes, changing timetables, and getting their heads delivering dance online. This also meant coming up with new ideas and teaching methods to try to keep the students engaged, safe in their home environments, all the while dealing with their own limited spaces, internet issues and lack of certainty. They too had moments of frustration and fatigue from sitting in front of the computer, but their passion never wavered and their resilience, determination and love of dance has kept our children dancing.

So a big thankyou to all. Have a great Christmas break, don't forget to read and make note of all the important items in our final newsletter and we look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS 2020

LOYALTY AWARDS

these acknowledge the length of time students have remained an active part of the school and they receive a 10% discount on one terms fees.

10 YEARS

Katherine Mende and Grace Morgante

15 YEARS

Juliette Mende and Eloise Lamb

20 YEARS

Jessi Goodall and Rhiann Costigan

OUTSTANDING CLASS AWARD

Over the course of the past year, especially through the entire online experience, one class has stood out for their 100% attendance their amazing attitude and vast improvement in every class and style they do! Voted unanimously by every teacher as the most outstanding class -

Grade 8: Sydney Callanan – Kieanna Goodall – Alice Hart - Monika Heng -Charli Kilworth – Tahlia Oldmeadow – Hayley Snowball – Indy Spencer – Chloe Wallace

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS

JUNIOR: Boudica Dickeson

MIDDLE: Lilliana Gwynne

SENIOR: Grace Morgante

MOST IMPROVED JAZZ

JUNIOR: Charlotte Taylor

MIDDLE: Alannah Clarke

SENIOR: Ainsley Thomson

MOST IMPROVED TAP

JUNIOR: Madison Taylor

MIDDLE: Jennifer Sawyers

SENIOR: Jade Goudie

MOST IMPROVED CLASSICAL

JUNIOR: Claire Harris

MIDDLE: Ariannah Vella

SENIOR: Bridget Hayman

SCHOLARSHIPS

FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Bowman Family

DANCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Emily Sutherland

PAM LANG JUNIOR CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tessa Walsh

FAY FAIRFULL SENIOR CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Indy Spencer and Eloise Lamb

COVID INTERVIEWS

What's your name?

"Odin"

What level are you currently in?

"2? 1? I don't know." (Pre-primary - mum)

How long have you been at RBG?

"30 years" (2 years - mum)

What is your favourite dance style?

"Russian dancing"

What is your favourite concert dance/ballet/role?

"The Nutcracker"

Dancer you look up to?

"Baryshnikov."

What do you like to do outside of dancing?

"Play computer games."

Can you share 1 pro and 1 con of dancing online?

Pro: "We can see ourselves" (in the Zoom screen during class).

Con: "We don't get to be at the ballet school."



What's your name?

My name is Sarah Hudson.

What level are you currently in?

I'm in classical grade 6p and tap and jazz level 6.

How long have you been at RBG?

I have been at RBG for 7 years and this is my 8th year.

What is your favourite dance style?

I like them all for various reasons because they all strengthen a different aspect of dance, but if I had to choose one it would be ballet because there is something about it that makes you want to do it all the time and you never get bored.

What is your favourite concert dance/ballet/role?

Being a little fairy in A Sleeping Beauty was really fun, I used to make up little side stories for the characters.

Dancer you look up to? (middle/senior only?)

I guess I look up to any dancer who plays a minor role in a ballet, because they do such a great job in bringing the stage alive, and it simply wouldn't be the same with real dolls in *Coppelia*.

What do you like to do outside of dancing?

I like to sing, do karate and play piano.

Can you share 1 pro and 1 con of dancing online?

1 pro would be having the Google Classroom, I hope it stays up because it helped me a lot, and 1 con would be bad internet, no explanation needed.



What's your name

Charlotte Stuart

What level are you currently in

Advanced 1 and level 10

How long have you been at RBG

13 years

What is your favourite dance style

Contemporary/Ballet

What is your favourite concert dance/ballet/role?

Nutcracker- sugar plum

Dancer you look up to?

Paris Cavanagh and Robyn Hendricks

What do you like to do outside of dancing?

I really enjoy travelling, making new artwork, music and choreographing

Can you share 1 pro and 1 come about dancing online

The very limited space I had for Allegro and jazz steps were difficult, but it taught me to be more controlled with my movements and helped me gain some strength in special awareness.



HOLIDAY CLASSES FOR SENIORS

January 2021

Tuesdays - 5th January – 12th January – 19th January

- Open Class – 6.00-7.30pm

Wednesdays 6th January – 13th January – 20th January – 27th January

- Open Class Adv Levels, also Inter Found/Inter Levels – 6.00-7.30pm
- Rehearsal of Repertoire for April concert TBA – 7.30-8.30pm

Fridays 8th January – 15th January – 22nd January – 29th January

- Open Class Adv Levels, also Inter Found/Inter Levels – 6.00-7.30pm
- Rehearsal of Repertoire for April concert TBA – 7.30-8.30pm

I am happy to add SATURDAYS as follows if you would like, but this would not be every week due to professional development/courses.

Saturdays 9th January – 22nd January

- Open Class - 11am-12.30pm
- Rehearsal (TBA) - 12.30pm-3.00pm

RE-ENROLMENTS FOR 2021

Reenrolment forms for 2021 were sent out via Operoo. If you could please complete these ASAP, whether you are returning or not, that would be a great help for us as we plan for 2021. If you have a sibling or friend that is interested in joining they can enrol directly via our website www.ringwoodballet.org.au. The website also has at the latest information on timetable, classes levels, fees etc. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to call the office on 9870 6549 or email us at office@ringwoodballet.org.au

TIMETABLE AND PROPOSED FEES 2021

Please copies of the 2021 proposed timetable and fee schedule for 2021 at the end of the newsletter.

STUDIO CLEANER REQUIRED FOR 2021

Whenever possible, we like to use members of our community to perform services that we require. The cleaning of the ballet studios is one of these.

Remuneration is made by reducing or waiving the tuition fees. To cater for the numbers using the studios during the week, we prefer that the cleaning is done on two days, Mondays and Thursdays. Cleaning normally takes 3-5 hours and apart from the weekly routine during term, it is also done at appropriate times (by arrangement) during the term holidays. Cleaners are employed for a 12 month period and start at the beginning of first term.

We are seeking a cleaner for next year. If you would like further details please get in touch with myself via email at president@ringwoodballet.org.au or call me on 0413 306 386 to discuss further. If you would like to be considered for the position, please forward a written expression of interest (email will suffice).

A decision will be made at the committee meeting in mid January, so applications will be accepted up till then.

OPEN DAY 2021

RINGWOOD BALLET GROUP
OPEN DAY
30TH JANUARY 2020
ROSEWARNE LANE, BEDFORD PARK, RINGWOOD

10AM - 1PM

MEET THE TEACHERS
TRIAL CLASSES (KINDER AND PREP AGE)
BUY SECOND HAND UNIFORM
MAKE FRIENDS AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY



WWW.RINGWOODBALLET.ORG.AU
[FACEBOOK.COM/RINGWOODBALLETGROUP](https://www.facebook.com/ringwoodballetgroup)
[INSTAGRAM @RINGWOODBALLETGROUP](https://www.instagram.com/ringwoodballetgroup)

This year instead of an enrolment day we will be holding an Open Day.

This will be an opportunity for current and new students and families to check out our studios, chat to the teachers, discuss any class issues, buy and sell second hand items and catch up with their friends prior to our classes commencing. There will also be trial classes on the day for Kinder and Primary levels.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY -2021

JANUARY

SATURDAY 30TH Open Day

FEBRUARY

MONDAY 1ST Start of Term 1

MARCH

MONDAY 8TH Labour Day – NO CLASSES

WEDNESDAY 17TH AGM

MON 22ND – SAT 27TH Open Week **TBC**

APRIL

THURSDAY 1ST End of Term 1

MONDAY 5TH Senior Concert **TBC**

TUESDAY 6TH Senior Concert **TBC**

WEDNESDAY 7TH Senior Concert **TBC**

MONDAY 19TH Start of Term 2

SUNDAY 26TH SFD Combined Schools Concert **TBC**

TUESDAY 27TH Exam Entries Close **TBC**

MAY

SUNDAY 16TH SFD Classical Masterclasses

SUNDAY 23RD SFD Jazz Masterclasses

SUNDAY 30TH SFD Tap Masterclasses

JUNE

MONDAY 14TH Queens Birthday – REDUCED TIMETABLE

SUNDAY 20TH Comp Dress Rehearsal **TBC**

MON 21ST – SAT 26TH Open Week **TBC**

SATURDAY 26TH SFD Scholarship Technical Classes

SATURDAY 26TH End of Term 2

SAT 26TH – FRI 2ND (JULY) SFD Competitions

JULY

SATURDAY 3RD Higher Grades Exam Prep Classes (*Compulsory for exam candidates*) **TBC**

MONDAY 5TH Higher Grades Exam Prep Classes (*Compulsory for exam candidates*) **TBC**

TUES 6TH – WED 7TH – THURS 8TH Exam Preparation Classes (*Compulsory for exam candidates*) **TBC**

FRI 9TH – SAT 10TH – SUN 11TH Mock Exams – Classical (*Compulsory for exam candidates*) **TBC**

MONDAY 12TH Start of Term 3

SUNDAY 18TH Exam Session Commences **TBC**

AUGUST

SUNDAY 1ST Exam Session Ends **TBC**

SATURDAY 7TH Senior Ballet Audition **TBC**

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 4TH Presentation Day/Evening

SATURDAY 18TH End of Term 3

SUNDAY 19TH ONWARDS Southern Dance Festival Starts **TBC**

OCTOBER

MONDAY 4TH Start of Term 4

SUNDAY 10TH SFD Choreographic Competition

NOVEMBER

MONDAY 1ST No Classes

TUESDAY 2ND Cup Day – NO CLASSES

SUNDAY 7TH Concert Tickets go on Sale

SATURDAY 13TH Last day of ALL Saturday classes

SUNDAY 14TH Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal*

FRIDAY 19TH Last day of ALL regular weekday classes

SAT 20TH – SUN 21ST Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsals*

MONDAY 22ND Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal*

WEDNESDAY 24TH Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal*

SAT 27TH – SUN 28TH Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsals*

MONDAY 29TH Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsals*

DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY 1ST Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsals*

SATURDAY 4TH Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal*

SUNDAY 5TH Full Dress Rehearsal and Photo Day– Community Centre**

MONDAY 6TH Final Senior Open Class and Theatre Bump-in

TUESDAY 7TH Full Dress/Technical Rehearsal – Junior Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Character

WEDNESDAY 8TH Full Dress/Technical Rehearsal – Feature Ballet**

THURSDAY 9TH 11am Matinee – Feature Ballet Only

THURSDAY 9TH 7pm Performance

FRIDAY 10TH 7pm Performance

SATURDAY 11TH 12.30pm Performance

SATURDAY 11TH 7pm Performance

*These rehearsals replace regular classes in these weeks.

**These rehearsals are COMPULSORY. Failure to attend will result in being withdrawn from the production.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE 2021 V1 – as at 09/12/2020

MONDAY

Studio 1		Studio 2		Studio 3	
4.15-5.15	SFD Classical 4 JG	4.15-5.15	Jazz 3 RC		
5.15-6.15	SFD Classical 3 R	5.15-6.15	Jazz 4P RC	5.15-6.15	Inter/IF Pointe J
6.15-7.30	Intermediate R	6.15-7.00	Jnr Acro (Levels 2-4) M&SR	6.15-7.30	Adv Found J
7.45-9.00	Adv 2 R	7.30-8.30	Tap 8 W	7.30-8.15	Senior Acro (Inter+) M&SR
		8.30-9.30	Tap 9 W		

TUESDAY

Studio 1		Studio 2		Studio 3	
4.15-5.30	SFD Classical 5 R	4.45-5.30	Inter Acro M & SR (Levels 5-IF)		
5.30-6.45	Inter Found Prog R	5.30-6.30	Jazz 4 M	6.00-6.45	Pre Pointe training Peg (SFD 6)
6.45-8.00	Adv 1 S	6.30-7.30	Open Tap W	6.45-7.45	Junior Character Peg (Levels 4-6P)
8.00-9.30	Senior Open R	7.45-8.45	Tap 6 W		
		8.45-9.30	Tap 10 W		

WEDNESDAY

Studio 1		Studio 2		Studio 3	
				3.45-4.30	Kinder RC
4.15-5.30	SFD Classical 6 R	4.30-5.15	Tap 1 JG	4.30-5.15	Pre-Primary RC
5.30-6.45	RAD Grade 6P R	5.15-6.00	Tap 2 JG	5.15-6.00	SFD Classical 1 RC
7.00-8.30	Adv 2 S	6.00-7.00	Tap 5 JG	6.00-6.45	SFD Classical 2 J
		7.00-8.00	Jazz 6 A	6.45-8.00	Inter Found J
		8.00-9.00	Tap 7 A		

THURSDAY

Studio 1		Studio 2		Studio 3	
4.15-5.30	Inter Found R			4.30-5.30	Junior Boys Class SR
5.30-6.45	Adv Found R	5.30-6.30	Junior Contemp. (Levels 6/6P) N		
6.45-7.15	Adv F POINTE R	6.45-7:45	Inter Contemp. (Levels IF) N	6.00-7.30	Open class/BOYS CLASS G
7.30-8.30	PDD R & G TBA	7.45-8.30	Commercial Open Jazz N		
		8.30-9.30	Senior Contemporary (ADV) N		

FRIDAY

Studio 1		Studio 2		Studio 3	
4.30-6.00	RAD Grade 8 R	4:15-5:15	Jazz 5 M		
6.00-7.15	Adv 1 R	5.15-6.15	Jazz 7 A	5.15-6.30	SFD Classical 6 J
7.15-8.15	Adv 1 and 2 Pointe R	6.15-7.15	Jazz 8 A	6.30-7.45	Inter Found Progress J
8.15-9.15	T Training R	7.15-8.15	Jazz 9 A	7.45-9.00	Inter J
		8.15-9.15	Jazz 10/Open A		

SATURDAY

Studio 1		Studio 2		Studio 3	
9.00-10.30	RAD Grade 6 R	9:00-9:45	Jazz 2 RC	9.00-9.45	SFD Classical 1 J
10.30-12.00	RAD Grade 7 R	9.45-10.30	Jazz 1 RC	9.45-10.30	SFD Classical 2 J
12.00-1.30	Snr Open R	10.30-11.15	Pre-Primary RC	10.30-11.30	SFD Classical 3 J
1.30-3.00	Repertoire R/J	11.15-12.00	Kinder RC	11.30-12.30	SFD Classical 4 J
		12.00-1.00	Tap 3 JG	12.30-1.45	SFD Classical 5 J
		1.00-2.00	Tap 4P JG		
		2.00-3.00	Tap 4 JG	3.00-4.00	Snr Character Peg (IF up)

R = Rosemary J = Janine W = Wendy A = Ashlee Peg = Peggy S = Susan JG = Jess M = Monique N = Natalie RC = Rhiann SR = Sam Rash G = George TBA = To be advised if class will proceed due to COVID restrictions

2021 FEES SCHEDULE (all fees include GST)

Class Fees (per term)

			shorter classes *	25% Sibling discount
Junior School - Kinder to SFD Level 3	1 class per week	\$132.00	\$106.00	\$99.00
	2 classes per week	\$237.00	\$191.00	\$177.75
	3 classes per week	\$332.00	\$267.80	\$249.00
	Junior School Package (4 or more classes per week)	\$416.00		\$312.00
	Admin/Maintenance Fee (per term)	\$25.00		
Middle School - SFD Levels 4-5-6	1 class per week	\$132.00		\$99.00
	2 classes per week	\$237.00		\$178.00
	3 classes per week	\$332.00		\$249.00
	4 classes per week	\$416.00		\$312.00
	5 classes per week	\$474.00		\$355.50
	Middle School Package (6 or more classes per week)	\$515.00		\$386.25
	Admin/Maintenance Fee (per term)	\$25.00		
Senior School - Grade 6P and upwards	1 class per week	\$134.00		\$101.00
	2 classes per week	\$241.00		\$180.75
	3 classes per week	\$334.00		\$250.50
	4 classes per week	\$416.00		\$312.00
	5 classes per week	\$488.00		\$366.00
	6 classes per week	\$546.00		\$409.50
	Senior Package (7 or more classes per week)	\$587.00		\$440.00
	Admin/Maintenance Fee (per term)	\$25.00		
	Family Fees Package	\$875.50		

Maintenance Fee of \$50 will be refunded in the following term if 4 hours or more of assistance is provided to Ringwood Ballet.

Concert Production Levies (per term)		Exam Levies @2020 (Only charged in Term 3)	
Kinder and Pre Primary Production Levy (Only charged in term 4)	\$40.00	Jazz/Tap - 1, 2, 3	\$43.00
Production Levy Junior School, 1 Style	\$22.00	Jazz/Tap - 4-10	\$56.00
Production Levy Junior School, 2 Styles	\$28.00	Internal Assessment	\$28.00
Production Levy Junior School, 3 or More Styles	\$37.00	Classical Level 1, 2, 3	\$54.00
Production Levy Middle School, 1 Style	\$28.00	Classical Level 4, 5, 6	\$69.00
Production Levy Middle School, 2 Styles	\$37.00	RAD Grades 6, 7, 8	\$112.00
Production Levy Middle School, 3 or More Styles	\$42.00	Please note that there is also an exam fee paid to the Southern Federation of Dance or Royal Academy of Dance	
Production Levy Senior School, 1 Style	\$36.00		
Production Levy Senior School, 2 Styles	\$42.00		
Production Levy Senior School, 3 or More Styles	\$50.00		

