



# Newsletter

## Term 3 2020

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### Mrs Frost's Message

Term 2 was a time for new approaches, learning how to provide meaningful lessons in a totally new format via zoom and continuing to keep our students involved and engaged. My thanks go to every family and every student who are able to participate online for your support and goodwill. It was a daily highlight to see so many students smiling faces and to observe how much they progressed over the term. Of course there were times when we grew weary and enthusiasm dropped but in most cases it returned and a new spark of joy in dance was ignited! Most importantly we are all there to support each other and we will come through this difficult time stronger and ready to strive for our dreams! Sadly the return to face to face classes was very short lived as the 2nd lockdown took effect! The staff and I discussed the way forward and the return to zoom classes. We all felt the need to move forward to engage our classes with new work that will progress them and keep them challenged and excited to learn new skills! It was also clear the online experience was not going to work for everyone and we hope the eventual return to face to face will see those students who are not on zoom back in class! We miss them all!

To aid the students in the junior/middle school Miss Janine, Miss Jessi, Miss Rhiann and I have managed to film new work for classrooms and it will be posted soon once editing is done and listed in levels 1 to 6 under "term 3 2020"

Also affected by this lockdown is the hope for at least a few senior level exams – we continue to monitor the situation and will keep you posted!

Competitions have also been affected and the SDF are considering something later in the year maybe. Please contact your coaches regarding your feelings about this and possibly going over old solos online. All coaches feel it's too difficult to complete new work in this format. I have had to make the sad decision not to coach online as I do so many hours a week and it is impacting my eyesight quite a lot! We all hope to pick up again next year! As far as I am aware the SFD Choreographic comps may still go ahead in October – again we will keep you posted

I have had several questions about concert that I am unable to answer accurately and now as we enter a further period of stage 4 lockdown it is even harder to know where we will be in term 4! I am, however, the eternal optimist and will continue to work towards the goal of some sort of performance – a wonderful goal for all of us to strive for. It almost certainly will be different to past concerts but we all need to keep moving forward with baby steps and the firm belief that we can get through this together by being there for each other and by maintaining our passion for dance and the future. We are all part of a wonderful community and I want to thank Carolyn, Cassie and Jodie and the rest of the committee as well as all the staff who are keeping RBG going and making it possible to maintain classes and contact with all of you! And to all our families and their students thank you for being there and brightening my days!

Take care, stay well, and stay safe

Warm regards

Mrs Frost

### Presidents Report

Welcome back to Term 3! At the moment the teachers and committee are taking things 'one day at a time' as we all learn to live with the Covid pandemic in our lives. The staff and committee had been hard at work putting together new policies and procedures to get back to dance, which meant reviewing the current timetable, flow of students around the studios etc, to ensure we were compliant with the new government requirements. Unfortunately, this all had to go on hold as we went back into lockdown and back to our online classes.

The teachers are aware of the challenges of online learning and have been working hard to keep the students engaged and motivated during this time. We would like to say a big thankyou to all the students and families that are participating in the online classes. We know it is not ideal, but the

teachers have been very impressed with the amount of work that the students have learnt during this time and the great attitudes they are seeing.

Whilst we had hoped to be able to return to the studios this term, any decision this will be determined by the current restrictions in place and what the Government decides. As soon as we are given the green light we will be back. So make sure you keep in the loop, read all the emails and newsletters that come out as the Term 3 'face to face' timetable is slightly different to the online version.

I hope all families are keeping well and we look forward to seeing you all back at the studios soon.

Thanks

Carolyn Callanan

President

## Grants

We applied for a grant from the Maroondah City Council for our annual Community Matinee Concert, which we deliver for free to the elderly and disadvantaged in our community. I am pleased to say that we were once again successful in obtaining this grant, which is for a total sum of \$3608.00. Whilst we still have no idea what the end of the year will bring this money will be able to be used when we are ready to perform our concert, which will come in very handy.

We were also extremely fortunate to be eligible for the Business Support Fund – Expansion programme and received a \$5000 grant from the State Government. This money can be used to assist cover any expenses or future promotion and assistance of the Ringwood Ballet Group which is fantastic.

## RBG 2020 COVID T-shirt – Competition

We need your help in designing a 2020 t-shirt for Ringwood Ballet Group. As we all learn online with the COVID pandemic in the community, we are after students to come up with a design to represent our 2020 year. We are after something positive, fun and creative! The winning design will be printed onto t-shirts that will be available for purchase.

So, put your thinking caps on and come up with a great idea. Designs will be due in by 31<sup>st</sup> August.

## How do I know what is going on?

We are keeping families updated via Operoo (CareMonkey) and on Facebook through our Ringwood Ballet Group – Private Members Page. We also have an Instagram page that you may like to follow for updates and to see what we are doing, and a public Facebook page.

\*\*\*Please note that CareMonkey has been rebranded and from 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 the product will be called 'Operoo'. Information went out to all families advising them of this change. The system will still operate as usual, just with a new name.

### **Operoo (CareMonkey)**

Just a reminder to our new and current families, that we use a system now called Operoo to disseminate all of our important information. It is a great way of ensuring all families get the right information at the same time, it can't be lost in your child's bag or left on the floor, sends out automatic reminders, and saves the committee a lot of office time.

During this time of isolation it is even more important to ensure your details are up to date and that you are receiving your emails from Operoo. If you have not received any, or are having any difficulties please contact us so that we can help you out.

### **Contacting Committee or Staff:**

If you need to contact the committee or staff regarding an issue please email one of the following options:

Office –

Our RBG phone and office computer is being monitored daily by our office assistant Katie. If you have any questions or wish to advise of any absence from class please use the details below.

Ph: 9870 6549

Email - [office@ringwoodballet.org.au](mailto:office@ringwoodballet.org.au)

President – [president@ringwoodballet.org.au](mailto:president@ringwoodballet.org.au)

Secretary – [secretary@ringwoodballet.org.au](mailto:secretary@ringwoodballet.org.au)

Treasurer – [invoices@ringwoodballet.org.au](mailto:invoices@ringwoodballet.org.au)

### **Accessing a Zoom Class:**

If you are trying to access a Zoom class and having difficulties please contact either Rhiann Costigan or Jessi Goodall via messenger at the time, post a message on our private facebook page, post a message on google classrooms or call the office.



## Invoices

Just a reminder that term 3 invoices are now overdue. If you have yet to finalise your invoice could you please do so ASAP. If you are having any difficulties or wish to organise a payment plan for your fees please feel free to contact the treasurer via email at [invoices@ringwoodballet.org.au](mailto:invoices@ringwoodballet.org.au)

## Our day at the studios before lockdown 2.0

A few of our senior students were lucky to have a day at the studios, trialling our new system for our return to face-to-face classes.



## RBG Cov-interviews

During this time of isolation, we thought it would be a great opportunity to get to know some of the students in our school in more detail. Each newsletter we will be focusing on a student from the Junior, Middle and Senior years.

### Junior School:

**What's your name?** Maddie Taylor

**What level are you currently in?** Level 2

**How long have you been at RBG?** 3 years - I joined as soon as I was old enough to

**What is your favourite dance style?** Tap

**What is your favourite concert dance/ballet/role?** When I was a Liquorice Allsort in my first concert

**What do you like to do outside of dancing?** Rollerblading, cooking, playing on the Monkey Bars and hanging out in my onesie

**Can you share 1 pro and 1 con of dancing online?** The good part about learning online, is that we don't need to rush to get to the studio, but we don't get to practice cartwheels as Miss Rhiann isn't there to help us.



### Middle School:

**What's your name?** My name is Amelia Suidgeest.

**What level are you currently in?** I am in (new) grade 6P, and I do Inter Foundation Progress.

**How long have you been at RBG?** 8 years!

**What is your favourite dance style?** Ballet

**What is your favourite concert dance/ballet/role?** My favourite ballet is swan lake

**Do you have a dancer you look up to, and if so who?** I look up to Amber Scott from the Australian Ballet!

**What do you like to do outside of dancing?** I like to run, stretch and play piano.

**Can you share 1 pro and 1 con of dancing online?** A con is not having enough space and having to use a windowsill as a barre, but a pro is being able to keep up with my dancing regardless of the situation.

### Senior School:

My name is Katie Lowry and I am currently studying Advanced 2. I have been dancing at RBG for 5 years, but it feels like much longer than that! I have always loved dancing classical ballet but I also thoroughly enjoy contemporary dance. My favourite role that I have performed would have to be Swanhilda in Coppélia. It had such fun and challenging choreography and allowed me to unpack my acting skills. Some dancers that really inspired me as I was becoming more involved with ballet were Gillian Murphy and Angel Corella. Watching them perform together in Swan Lake was very moving and it is still my favourite ballet of all time. When I'm not dancing you can find me baking in the kitchen or playing with my dogs (who absolutely love joining in with the Zoom classes right now!) I guess the one thing I miss about not being in the studios is having a nice, stable barre at the correct height, but it's helping me learn to use my core properly and not rely on the barre for those trickier steps! My favourite thing about dancing online is when I log onto Zoom and I see all of my beautiful friends faces, reminding me that we are still all part of the RBG family, even though we may not be together.







## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY -2020

### AUGUST

SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> Senior Ballet Audition **CANCELLED**

### SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> Presentation Day/Evening **CANCELLED**

SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> End of Term 3

SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> - Southern Dance Festival Starts **TBC – may be postponed**

### OCTOBER

MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> Start of Term 4

SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SFD Choreographic Competition **TBC**

### NOVEMBER

MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> Cup Day – NO CLASSES

SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> Concert Tickets go on Sale **TBC**

SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> Last day of ALL Saturday classes **TBC**

SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal\* **TBC**

FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> Last day of ALL regular weekday classes **TBC**

SAT 21<sup>ST</sup> – SUN 22<sup>ND</sup> Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsals\* **TBC**

MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal\* **TBC**

WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal\* **TBC**

SAT 28<sup>TH</sup> – SUN 29<sup>TH</sup> Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsals\* **TBC**

MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsals\* **TBC**

### DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsals\* **TBC**

SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal\* **TBC**

SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> Full Dress Rehearsal – Community Centre\*\* **TBC**

TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> Full Dress/Technical Rehearsal – Junior Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemp etc.\*\* **TBC**

WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> Full Dress/Technical Rehearsal – Feature Ballet\*\* **TBC**

THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 11am Matinee – Feature Ballet Only **TBC**

THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 7pm Performance **TBC**

FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> 7pm Performance **TBC**

SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> 12.30pm Performance **TBC**

SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> 7pm Performance **TBC**

\*These rehearsals replace regular classes in these weeks.

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