

COMDANCE Inc

Reg No A0027131V

ABN 26 170 509 030

Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing

Patron: Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

GOVERNOR GENERAL ACCEPTS PATRONAGE OF THE C.S.T.D.

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia has accepted the position of Patron of The Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing.

In announcing this appointment at the Annual General Meeting, the President, Les Newman O.A.M. said this was further recognition of the importance of dance and a reflection of the international standing of the Society.



**Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia**

NORMA RYAN RETIRES

The President said it was the end of an era, in that Mrs Norma Ryan had retired from the Executive Committee.

As an Executive Committee Member for 44 years, Examiner for 40 years and Exam Organisor for 30 years, she has given a lifetime of service to the Society. He spoke of her many achievements over this time and said she would be sadly missed but was pleased she would still be available to assist the Society in any way.

On behalf of all members he presented her with a plaque marking her service together with a floral tribute.



**President Mr Les Newman O.A.M. presents
Mrs Norma Ryan with a plaque to commemorate her
years of service with the Society.**

VALE GWEN MACKEY

It is with regret that we advise members of the passing of Miss Gwen Mackey O.A.M. on 11th September 2009.

Miss Mackey was a stalwart of the Society in South Australia for very many years. As an examiner, teacher, choreographer she made a very large contribution to the growth of that state.

She was granted life membership of the Society in recognition of her pioneering work for us. Her name is perpetuated with the Gwen Mackey Perpetual Trophy.

Details of this years winners are below.

GWEN MACKEY PERPETUAL TROPHY WINNERS - 2009

Congratulations to the winners of the Gwen Mackey Gold Cross. Miss Mackey has donated a perpetual trophy to each state and this was awarded to the student gaining the highest mark in the Gold Cross examination.

- VIC - Elysia Lawrence–Parkwood Dance Academy
WA - Taryn Regali - Jodie Birchill - Dance in Perspective
SA - Gemma Freeman–Barbara Jayne Dance Centre
QLD - Zoe Grant–Maria Shanks Dance Centre

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following members were elected at this years Annual General Meeting to the Executive Committee for the 2009/10 year.

President	Mr L. Newman, O.A.M.
Vice Presidents	Miss S. McCombe Mr I Clifton- Shanhun Miss S. Breen Miss L. Downie
Festival Representative	Miss C. Boots
Other Representatives	Mrs S. Alback Miss L. McLellan Miss J. Richards
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs D. Gepp

REVAMPED WEBSITE

Apologies for the delay in the new website which should be available early 2010.

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IBSA PROJECT

Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA) has commenced a project to develop qualifications in performing arts (dance).

The project will entail the development and validation of units of competency, qualifications, skill sets and assessment guidelines in dance for endorsement as part of a new performing arts training package. VERVE, the industry training advisory board for the arts, culture, sport and recreation sectors, has been selected to coordinate the project in collaboration with IBSA.

A National Project Reference Group (NPRG) has been established and we are represented on this group by our President. The first meeting of the NPRG took place on 21st October 2009.

IBSA will be conducting information meetings in all states regarding this project. Members are urged to check the IBSA website <http://www.ibsa.org.au> for information on this matter as it develops.

The effects of this project, phase 1 of which is scheduled to be completed within 12 months, could have vast ramifications for the dance teaching profession.

CSTD (COMDANCE) BANK DETAILS

Please note that there has been a slight change to our bank account details which will be posted to our new website in the 2010. The change is to the BSB No. which denotes our branch.

The new account details will be:-

BSB : 083-347
A/C No. : 637905843
A/C Name : Comdance Inc.

Please note that previous account details will divert funds to the new account for a short period to allow members to update their records.

TECHNICAL CORNER

Notes for Teachers

THEATRICAL MODERN DANCES:

All Grades

There appears to be some discrepancy in styles that may be used for this section.

Definition here means any form of Modern Dance is acceptable today – not only “Modern Stage” ie: Jazz, Bop, Hip-Hop, Funk, Lyrical, Contemporary.

Providing musical times are adhered to and showing suitable standard for each Grade.

THEATRICAL DVD

Please ensure that you purchase this new DVD showing all set work in Theatrical Grades, Acrobatics included. – Available 2010

TAPPING

Set arms must be used as per DVD. Check correct Rhythms & Counts in all set work. Male arm lines are now shown on DVD (2007).

Character routines must have a story line & show mime throughout to tell this.

Students must know set theory in medal tests. Marks are being lost because students cannot answer this or show technique correctly.

CLASSICAL

A new DVD of Classical Grades with students of appropriate ages is now available. Please purchase one of these and check carefully.

TEACHERS

Importance of posture needs to be stressed to students in all subjects. Classical Music must be used for all Classical Dances & must be suitable for each Grade. Not a slow Modern or Lyrical piece or heavy Orchestral for lower Grades.

TRAINING FOR TEACHING CERTIFICATES & DIPLOMAS

Read Handbook & Theory Booklet carefully for requirements and help in preparing students for these Examinations. Music section in some cases is very poor.

Rhythms not known or the type of Dance to these. Students need help with choice of music, mainly Classical & Tap showing the right tempos.

Suggest Certificate and Diploma candidates add a 10 second lead in to each of their chosen tracks to allow them time to show each dance.

It is the Teachers responsibility to see that students are fully prepared for these very important Examinations. Letters from teachers verifying candidates teaching experience must accompany Entry Form to Organiser.

TEACHERS REMINDER

Please train students to introduce themselves when handing report paper to Examiner.

I have noted, as have several other Examiners, comments from students when Examination work is questioned that we constantly hear “We have always done it that way” or “that is the way I was taught it”

We now have assisting DVDs and very comprehensive Syllabi to aid the correct teaching of all C.S.T.D. set work, so, just a hint, **“This is how we do it today”**

Suzanne McCombe, C.S.T.D, Technical Adviser

(ORIGINAL) JAZZ SYLLABUS WHICH LEADS TO THE JAZZ AWARD

At the September Executive Committee Meeting a decision was made to phase out the (Original) Jazz Syllabus over a 4 year period ending 31st December 2013.

We believe this phase out period will enable any student to complete the Jazz Award.

SUBS FOR 2009/10 NOW OVERDUE

Membership subscriptions (\$66) for the year 2009/10 are now overdue.

Almost three-quarters of our members have already paid their subscriptions. If you are not one of these please pay now to avoid becoming unfinancial as per our constitution requirements.

There are now 3 methods of payment. They are cheque/money order, EFT or credit card (Visa and MasterCard only +2% fee).

You may also complete your Subscription form online to avoid using snail mail altogether. Simply complete the on-line form located on our homepage (click find out more under the Subscription Renewals section) and submit it. It will arrive as an email to me which I can print off for our records. If you prefer to post your form please do so using the blue form sent with the August Newsletter or download a copy from the Membership section of our website.

BLUE SASH PRE-REQUISITES

At last months meeting of the Executive Committee it was: -

- i) Resolved that the pre-requisites for the Blue Sash Examination shall be any 3 of the 4 following exams.
 1. Theatrical Shield
 2. Gwen Mackey Gold Cross
 3. Intermediate Classical Ballet
 4. Modern Jazz Shield
- ii) Resolved that this decision be implemented with effect from 1st January 2010.

SET ELEMENTARY ENCHAINEMENTS FOR 2010

ADAGE
Set Exercise for Fouette and Rotation
Set Adage 2 & 4

ALLEGRO 1, 5 & 8

DATES FOR CSTD COMPS IN VICTORIA FOR 2010

Northern comps
29th May evening & 30th May all day
CSTD Theatrical Festival
24th June to 4th July
2010 Dance comps October – Date TBA

Schedules for the CSTD Theatrical Competitions 2010 will be available to be downloaded on the Comdance website in February next year.

QLD MEMBERS

The AGM for QLD Members will be held on Wednesday February 17th 2010 commencing 9.30 at 28 Blaikie St. Hendra (off Gerler Road).

The Election of Officers will take place at this meeting. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. Please become involved and have an input.

If you would like a reminder email for meetings please email marilyn.culpitt@bigpond.com.

VIC THEATRICAL FESTIVAL WINNER

My apologies for omitting one of the winners of the Major section of this years Theatrical Festival in Melbourne.

The winner of the Junior Theatrical Cup was Georgia Turner from Bev Palmer Dancers.

This was a new section this year.

QLD CONVENTION



Mini Musical of Shrek

This year our opening item has been created by one of our very well respected and talented examiners, Miss Clarrissa Hill.

The music is from the current hit Broadway Musical – Shrek.

Miss Hill bought together children from various CSTD schools around Brisbane and worked with them to create this brilliant, fun and exciting item.

The children worked very hard in the months leading up to the Convention to complete the performance which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were present.

VICTORIAN SUMMER SCHOOL

The Victorian Summer School will be held at The Space from 18th January to 21st January 2010. If you are interested please email cstdfestival@bigpond.com.au for info.

HOLIDAY CLOSE

Head office will close for the Christmas & New Year holiday period on Thursday December 17th and re-open on Tuesday January 19th 2009.



On behalf of the President and the Executive Committee and myself, I would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.