

COMDANCE Inc

Reg No A0027131V

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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 2010

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT – MRS DIANE GEPP



Dear Members

I take on this position with excitement and some trepidation. As only the second President in 34 years I have a huge learning curve ahead of me. Mr. Newman has led the CSTD into a very successful organization and I hope to add my skills to building the society into the organisation that does indeed offer dance for the 21st Century.

As way of introduction I have been a student of CSTD all my career. I have teaching diplomas in theatrical, classical, tap and highland. I have grown up in a dance studio and to many of you will be known as the late Betty Tilley's daughter.

Dance is thus in my blood. I also have a Bachelor of Education and am currently working as a sessional lecturer at Edith Cowan University in Perth in the Sports Science department. I have taught in Perth and Melbourne since 1981. I hope both my passion for dance and my experience in education can combine to further develop the CSTD.

We have many exciting opportunities planned for members in 2011 including the work towards being able to offer National Dance Qualifications and certification. We will continue to look for promotional prospects and to be seen in the marketplace. Some work is already taking place so we can introduce a contemporary syllabus and to further develop the Classical syllabus. I hope to meet many members during 2011 as well as visit some of our centres overseas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that placed their faith in me and wish all members a Merry Christmas and prosperous and safe New Year.

Diane Gepp (B.Ed.)

VALE CAROL FAIRY

Sadly I need to advise you of the passing of one of our favorite examiners Miss Carol Fairy on 11th September 2010.

Carol was a truly dedicated teacher and highly respected examiner who worked tirelessly for the CSTD and who shared her passion for dance with all who came into contact with her.

She is sadly missed by many students past and present as well as many teachers. She truly was a lovely lady.



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PROPS & COSTUMES FOR SALE

Disney characters such as Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin and many more. Also large drums, solo costumes for girls and boys possibly good for competition. Various hats and accessories also available.

If interested contact Angela (one of our Victorian Members) on 0405 591 929.

CLOSING DOWN – GARAGE SALE

Huge range of Costumes & Accessories

Salzone Dance Studios

204 Sussex St. North Coburg

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th December – 10am – 2pm and 5pm – 9pm

Saturday 18th December – 10am – 2pm

Any Queries contact 0416 059 452

A REMINDER

Whenever you transfer funds for stock or subs please accompany it with an email to comdance@bigpond.com advising of payment and reason for payment. I have received many deposits of \$77 for subs in the last few months many not accompanied by the on-line subscription form required by our auditors as your record of membership.

SA CONVENTION - 2010

This year's SA Convention will have to go on record as the most memorable to date : the one & only time it has had to be cancelled !!

On Saturday 4th September 2010, Teachers, Parents & Students gathered at the Norwood Concert Hall in preparation for rehearsal & an evening of entertainment.

This was not to be, as due to the forces of nature (extreme weather causing a severe power blackout) we were left no option but to cancel.

There were sad faces & even a few tears from tinies who would not get to perform.

Students & parents were praised by Theatre Management for their co-operation, patience & understanding.

As Mr (& Mrs) Newman had flown in especially on the occasion of his retirement, all was not lost – a dinner was arranged & enjoyed by examiners & organisers whereby a gift (on behalf of CSTD-SA) was presented.

The efforts of all, leading up to, on the day & after the event were very much appreciated.

Lynda Purkis - Organiser - SA

WA CONVENTION - 2010

U/14 Valerie Heston Tap Championship	Amber Fewster	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre
Helen Mackay Junior Ballet Scholarship	Carina Roberts	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre
Betty Tilley Open Classical Scholarship	Shelby Duckworth	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre
Ron Jenkins U/16 Tap Championship	S. Lane	Jody Marshall dance Company
Noreen Meade Open Tap Championship	Melissa Pontorolo	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre
Norma Atkinson Open Modern Scholarship	Shelby Duckworth	Gail Meade Performing Arts Prynness Adamson Dance Force
	Jack Green	The Performance Company
	3rd Abby Williams	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre
	2nd Monique Eley	Dance Force
	1st Tameka Lopresti	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre
Open Modern Troupe	The Performance Company	
Open Tap Troupe	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre	
Best Boy - Beau Sargent	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre	
Competitors Aggregate Cup	Shelby Duckworth	Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre
Teachers Cup	Raquel Muir	The Performance Company



Winner of the Open Modern Scholarship, Tameka Lopresti - Gail Meade Performing Arts Centre

GWEN MACKEY PERPETUAL TROPHY WINNERS - 2010

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 - Thomas Lacey – May Downs School of Dance

WA - Tameka Lopresti –Gail Meade Performing Arts

SA - Ashley Bronca - Maryke Dance Academy

QLD - Brooke McMullen – Ritz Dance Studio

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 Mrs D. Gepp

Vice Presidents Mrs S. Alback
Miss S. Breen
Miss L. Downie
Miss S. McCombe

Other Representatives Miss C. Boots
Miss M. Fisher
Miss D. Hatty
Mrs J. Richards

Hon. Treasurer Ms C. Evans

VALE BERT SHAW

It is with deep regret that I advise you that Mr Bert Shaw passed away 24th August 2010.

He was commissioned by the CSTD to write the (original) Jazz Syllabus and was also a member of the CSTD.

DATES FOR CSTD FESTIVALS - 2011

Victorian Theatrical Festival
Thursday 30th June to Sunday 10th July 2011

Qld Redcliffe Festival
Friday 24th June to Sunday 3rd July 2011

WA Festival
Friday 8th to Sunday 17th July 2011

Schedules for the CSTD Competitions 2011 will be available to be downloaded on the Comdance website early next year.

EXAMS A SUCCESS IN NSW

The examining session in NSW during September was a very exciting & rewarding one. Many new teachers from this State are joining our Society & such high profile Studio's such as Brent St is one. Mrs Joanne Richards was the visiting examiner & was thrilled with the dedication & commitment that she experienced from the teachers & students alike.



SET ELEMENTARY ENCHAINEMENTS FOR 2011

ADAGE
Set Exercise for Fouette and Rotation
Set Adage 3 & 4
ALLEGRO 2, 4 & 7

QLD MEMBERS

The Queensland Annual Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday February 16th 2011 commencing at 9.30am at 28 Blaikie St. Hendra (off Gerler Road).

At this meeting the new committee will be formed for 2011.

If you would like a reminder email for meetings please email: gandmculpitt@bigpond.com.

NATIONAL DANCE QUALIFICATIONS UPDATE

The National Dance Qualifications that appear in the Live Performance Training Package are now being presented at Ministerial level for endorsement. They should be ready for Registered Training Organizations to add to their scopes by June 2011. Those state based RTO's offering dance qualifications will have 18 months to convert to the NDQ's.

At this stage I have met on the CSTD's behalf with several bodies to investigate the steps required for RTO recognition. A number of avenues are being contemplated that will take time to analyse before a decision on the direction we approach RTO status is reached.

The decision that has been made is that CSTD will work towards being in a position to offer NDQ's to students.

Formation of New Dance Council

Reviewing the new government dance qualifications project now at hand, CSTD with other founding dance societies and teaching Institutions is working with IBSA via a new industry advisory group, the Council for Dance Education Co Ltd - CDE* - formed initially in response to the governments request for industry input and to provide better and more direct liaison with government in advising on qualifications in both teacher and dance training. A formidable group, CDE represent over 3,000 teachers who examine 200,000+ students every year in Australia and SE Asia, engaged at the vocational level of dance training.

At the core of any new industry standard is the degree of participation contributed by the various stakeholders. In terms of employability skills there are very few professional dancers or teachers who do not trace the provenance of their skills to one or more of the existing dance societies most of whom have joined CDE.. The modus vivendi of CDE is to drive a concerted and balanced approach to government on behalf of its member societies, their teachers and especially students.

CSTD, initially and now via CDE, is urging government to recognize this project is a once in a generation opportunity to embrace the professional dance teaching methods used by dance societies, giving them the opportunity to enhance curriculum and improve vocational job opportunities for young dancers and teachers. The optimum result will only be achieved through full engagement by both government and industry at all levels. We have been watching the outcomes with the interests of all dance teachers and their silent stakeholders, namely their students, at heart! Why not take this opportunity to do the best possible job from the outset!

After entering into the project enthusiastically your society and CDE have formed several views in reflecting on the past 12 months of the project.

Dance Teacher Training

Much of CSTD's input on teacher qualifications, together with other industry feedback has resulted in a new Certificate III in Dance Teacher Training and some restructuring in the Certificate IV in Dance Teaching & Management.

Dance Student Qualifications (Certificates I to IV in Dance)

CDE have some reservations to this material and are working to convince the project managers of the need to recognize the value of society syllabi when developing the competencies and time frame for delivery of these certificates. We are working to ensure that optimum outcomes can still be achieved by a common-sense reflection by government on the fundamental differences in teaching part time vs. full time dance curriculum to vocational students.

CSTD withdrawal from Ausdance membership.

We have written officially to Ausdance withdrawing our membership. The newly formed Council of Dance Education, of which we are a founding member will place an open letter in a number of publications voicing our reasons for withdrawing from Ausdance and what we hope to achieve with CDE.

Our reasons for this are listed below.

- We feel Ausdance has failed to support the dance societies and private teachers within those societies. Particularly in relation to the National Dance Qualifications training package.
- The societies had some grave concerns about these qualifications as they were presented and in direct relation to their needs and Ausdance's failure to either enter into discussion or show support for the societies specific requirements was most disappointing.
- We now need to have our interests supported at both governmental and industry level. Ausdance purports to be the 'peak body' to do this. It is our opinion that at present this is far from the case.
- Ausdance through their affiliate state branch Ausdance Victoria is presenting itself in direct competition with other dance specific registered training organizations in the provision of skill sets. When CSTD become an RTO this will become an increasing problem for us.
- A distinct lack of consultation by Ausdance with the largest sector of the dance industry, the dance societies.

WELCOME TO THE C.S.T.D.

Welcome to the following new and returning members.

Charlie Mason	Affiliate	N.S.W.
Megan Louise Kerkow	Affiliate	QLD
Michelle Sanders	Full Member	VIC
Wu Jiamin	Affiliate	Asia
Grace Sim Shiying	Affiliate	Asia
Sarah Murphy	Affiliate	Asia
Idris Eshor'aine Mohd	Affiliate	Asia
Li Tian Tian	Affiliate	Asia
Jasmine Koh Rui Zhen	Affiliate	Asia
Joy Foo Zhen Yin	Affiliate	Asia
Miawaty Chan	Affiliate	Asia
Rachel Tan Yuting	Affiliate	Asia

We hope your association with the Society will be a long, enjoyable and rewarding one.

SUBS FOR 2010/11 NOW OVERDUE

Membership subscriptions (\$77) for the year 2010/11 are now overdue. Do not risk becoming unfinancial.

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

Please ensure you either complete the Subscription form posted to you in August (you may also download one from the Membership & Fees section on our website) or you may prefer to complete your Subscription form online to avoid using snail mail altogether. Simply complete the on-line form located on our homepage (See Quick Links – Subscription Renewals) and submit it.

HOLIDAY CLOSE

Head office will close for the Christmas & New Year holiday period on Tuesday December 21st and re-open on Wednesday January 19th 2011.



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.