We’ve hit the ground running

The above title sums up our first semester. We have literally hit the ground running, or dancing as was pointed out to me at a recent Head of Department meeting. The Rockhampton Grammar School Dance and Musical Theatre Academy (DMTA) has commenced with an outstanding enrolment of 140 students aged from 3 years right up to our senior students. We also have some very enthusiastic adults taking our adult dance class. I am proud to have a talented and dedicated group of staff to work with the students in a very impressive range of classes on offer. Our 2015 Faculty consists of Lita Hegvold, Emma Killion, Aimee Robertson, Nola Smith, Kira Tickner, Megan Horton, Jessica Lawton and Caitlin Dennis.

We have had a very busy six months with students participating in our first eisteddfod, students preparing for upcoming examinations in Classical Ballet, Highland, Tap and Jazz and more recently, classes have commenced in preparation for our 2015 Production featuring Disney’s Aladdin Jr.

Thank you to everyone for making the start of our new Academy such a success. My staff and I look forward to working with the students and their families throughout the year.

Michael Robertson
Head of Dance

Dance moves are afoot

DMTA results from the 80th Rockhampton Eisteddfod

For the first four months of the year, approximately fifty students of the Academy spent many hours rehearsing their solos, duos, trios and group items for the 80th Rockhampton Eisteddfod.

DMTA staff Lita Hegvold, Emma Killion, Jessica Lawton, Nola Smith and Michael Robertson put the students through their paces, which included extra weekend rehearsals and theatre rehearsals on top of the students’ normal dance classes.

“The students performed amazingly at the eisteddfod and we were all very proud of their efforts and the way they represented the Academy,” said Head of Dance, Michael Robertson.

Our Intermediate Contemporary Group and Mikaela Webb were also invited to perform at the Eisteddfod’s Gala Concert. Congratulations to all students involved and to the following students on their achievements.

Solos
Heather Maitland – Classical Ballet
Solo 9 & under 11 years – 3rd
Maddison Scharer – Tap Improvisation
10 & under 13 years – 2nd
Heather Maitland – National Dance
Solo 9 and under 11 years – 3rd
Mikaela Webb – Modern Jazz Solo 15 years and over – Highly Commended
Georgiana Russell – Tap Solo 11 & under 13 years – 2nd
Tillie Hungerford – Modern Jazz
Solo under 7 years – 2nd
Mikaela Webb – Tap Solo 15 years & over – 3rd
Kirsty Maitland – Classical Ballet
Improvisation under 10 years – 2nd
Heather Maitland – Demi Character
Solo 9 & under 11 years – 1st
Kirsty Maitland – Demi Character
Solo 9 & under 11 years – 3rd
Mikaela Webb – Song & Dance
Solo 15 years & over – 1st

continued on back cover
Don’t cry for me Argentina!

Rockhampton Venues and Events produced yet another amazing musical production in March. The production of Evita, directed and choreographed by husband and wife team Wayne Scott Kermond and Katie Kermond, played to sell out crowds at the Pilbeam Theatre. As part of the cast, were some of our own DMTA students, Kelly Barrett, Matariki Kibblewhite-Claus, Abbey Miers, Ella Kibblewhite-Claus, Roxy McDonald, Shannon Bainbridge, Elijah Hoolihan, Kalani Williams, Fynn Moran and Jeremy Fokas. One of our parents and School registrar, Lisa Kibblewhite was also part of the adult chorus. Congratulations to all involved in this amazing production!

Cocktails & Canapés
at Willby’s Restaurant
Canning Street Rockhampton
Saturday the 1st August, 6pm

Cocktail Dress please!
Canapés, cocktails, champagne, beer and wine will be served from 6:00pm. Supper will be served at 9:00pm. Live Entertainment featuring Brad and Rachael Villiers.
An auction will be held of various luxury items such as jewellery, Hugo Boss products, CHANEL products, Designer’s Guild products, Perrier-Jouët Champagne and much more.

Tickets ($85 each) must be purchased by Monday 27 July.
Tickets available from The RGS Administration Office only 4936 0600; M-F 8.00am to 4.30pm

Council established

The Rockhampton Grammar School Dance Council (RGS Dance Council) has been officially set up with planning underway for fundraising initiatives for 2015. The council’s executive committee was voted in at the first AGM on Tuesday 28 April. Executive committee members are:

President: Frances Russell
Vice-president: Kim Harrington
Secretary: Samantha Bailey
Treasurer: Brent Giles
Head of Dance: Michael Robertson
Director of Co-curriculum: Todd Wells

The council’s first fundraising event, Cocktails & Canapes will be held on Saturday 1 August at Willbys Restaurant, CQUniversity’s Canning Street (TAFE campus).

Dancing in Autumn

Chloe Cowan recently competed at the Autumn Titles put on by International Dance Affair in Mackay. This Highland Dancing Competition held on 23 March saw Chloe receive six first placings in the Sword Dance, Highland Fling, Scottish Lilt, Flora McDonald’s Fancy, Trophy Fling and Sean Truibhas.
Chloe also took out first place in the overall Novice Aggregate. Congratulations Chloe!
Dance leaders step out

On Thursday 30 April, Headmaster Dr Phillip Moulds presented badges of office to the inaugural RGS Dance Captains. Taking on the positions of RGS Dance Captain is Chloe Cookson, left, current RGS Year 12 student who has danced for fifteen years and has been a dedicated Highland Dance student of Aimee Robertson since 2006.

Taking on the role of Vice-Captain is Kate Brennan, right, currently studying Year 12 at RGS and who has been dancing since the age of 3.

Both girls are looking forward to supporting the Academy and working with all the DMTA students, particularly in the lead up to our production on 18 September.

Festival takes flight

At the recent Emu Park Lion’s Festival of the Wind, four of the Academy’s highland dancers, Madeleine White, Chloe Cookson, Isabella Yore and Alexandra Thomson, performed with The Rockhampton Pipe Band (pictured). The girls performed a range of dances including the Highland Fling, Blue Bonnets and the Highland Laddie.

During the Easter vacation, sisters Isabella and Caitlin Yore performed at a Highland Dancing Competition in Maclean. Both girls performed well with Isabella (pictured centre) taking out three first places, one second place, one third place and then finishing the day by winning the overall first place for her group. Congratulations Caitlin and Isabella!

Cast for Aladdin Jr emerges

A very talented group of students auditioned for speaking roles in our upcoming production of Disney’s Aladdin Jr. After a long day of auditions and then call backs, Mrs Nola Smith and Mr Michael Robertson announced the cast.

The casting decision was one of the toughest decisions that Mrs Smith and Mr Robertson have ever had to make, with so many talented students trying their hand (and feet!) at the principal speaking roles. Congratulations to every student who auditioned and to our talented cast. The musical will take the stage in Act 2 of our 2015 production, That’s Entertainment at the Pilbeam Theatre on 18 September.

The principal characters:

Aladdin: Benedict Wright
Jasmine: Georgiana Russell
Gene: Mikaela Webb
Iago: Lucy McCartney
Jafar: Harshitha Peddireddy
Sultan: Meghan Wilson
Razoul: Elijah Hoolihan
Magic Carpet: Madison Bailey
Narrator 1: Trinity Hoolihan
Narrator 2: Chloe Cowan
Narrator 3: Ella Kibblewhite-Claus
Narrator 4: Manya Chauhan
Narrator 5: Claire Moulds
Narrator 6: Abbey Miers

Let the memory live again

The Academy’s very own Drama and Musical Theatre teacher, Nola Smith, will make memories of her own when she sings Memory, the song made famous by Barbara Streisand, as part of her role in the musical CATS. Nola plays the lead role of Grizabella in the Yeppoon Choral Society’s production presented at the Yeppoon Town Hall on July 18, 19, 24 and 25. A great chance to see one of our staff performing live on stage. Break a Leg Mrs Smith!
Healthy Snacks for Dancers

Emily C. Harrison MS, RD, LD
The Centre for Dance Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles | www.dancernutrition.com

Depending on activity level, a dancer might want to consume more than 100 calories at a time to ensure that he or she has sustained energy for a longer time period. Some 100 Calorie Snack ideas include:

- 2 small oatbites (oats, almond butter, pumpkin seeds, flax seeds, honey rolled together)
- 20 mini-pretzels (quick burst energy)
- 1 slice of whole grain bread with 1 tsp nut butter (longer sustained energy)
- 1 medium banana
- ½ banana with 2 tsp of peanut butter spread on it
- 1 large grapefruit
- 1 large apple
- 3 small peaches
- 25 seedless grapes
- low fat yoghurt
- 1 large orange
- 5 dried apricots
- 1 ½ cups of regular popcorn
- ½ cup cottage cheese with ¼ cup fruit

Results from the 80th Rockhampton Eisteddfod
continued from front cover

Madison Bailey
– Tap Improvisation
under 10 years – 2nd
Zali Burr
– Classical Pointe Solo
Open – Highly Commended
Alyssa Hiroi
– Classical Pointe Solo
Open – Highly Commended
Alyssa Hiroi
– Classical Pointe Solo
Open – Highly Commended
Chloe Cowan
– Cabaret Solo under 13 years – 1st
Maddison Scharer
– Tap Solo 9
and under 11 years – 2nd
Madison Bailey
– Jazz Improvisation
under 10 years – 3rd
Maddison Scharer
– Waltz Tap Solo
9 and under 11 years – 2nd
Benedict Wright
– Song & Dance
Solo 9 and under 11 years – 1st

Duos/Trios:
Abigail Scotney & Ella Giles
– Modern Jazz Duo 10 & under 13 years – 1st
Kennedy McDonald & Bridget Scotney
– Contemporary Duo 13 Years & Over – 2nd
Madison Bailey and Benedict Wright
– Song & Dance Duo under 13 years – 1st
Chloe Cowan, Georgiana Russell, Ella Kibblewhite-Claus
– Song & Dance Trio under 13 years – 2nd

Groups
Intermediate Contemporary Group – 1st
Intermediate Classical Ballet Group – 3rd
Intermediate Song & Dance Group – 3rd
Senior Song & Dance Group – 2nd

Trophy Awards
Heather Maitland
– Sharon Hamilton Trophy – Highest marks in Classical Ballet, National Dance and Demi Character Solo 9 and under 11 years.
Mikaela Webb
– Frances Funch Trophy – Highest marks in Song & Dance Solo Open.
Mikaela Webb
– Michael Robertson Studio of Dance and Musical Theatre Trophy – Most outstanding dancer in song and dance and cabaret sections of the eisteddfod.

You can see Eisteddfod photos at
www.rgs.qld.edu.au/dmta-photos

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