



## **SOUTHLAND COMPETITIONS SOCIETY INC.**

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### **NEWSLETTER - 2005**

The 2004 Competitions Festival was a successful one and it broke even financially – which is always a bonus! The break-even was only possible because of the continuing support from the Invercargill Licensing Trust, The Community Trust of Southland, The Lion Foundation (a new funder for 2004), and our many individual Sponsors.

#### **cups ∞∞**

**Convenor:** David Sycamore

The return of Cups seemed to go a lot better for the 2004 Festival. We will continue sending out reminders to cup holders.

#### **speech and drama ∞∞**

**Convenor:** Doris Cody

Once again, the venue for the Speech & Drama Competitions was the Repertory Society Rooms; ideal for our requirements. It was most unfortunate that both the Adjudicator and Writer were extremely unwell for the whole of the Competitions and their dedication and commitment, under the circumstances, were very much appreciated. I think they both appreciated their Sunday night off when the Repertory Rooms were used for the Vocal Character Recitals. The Repertory Rooms will be used again as the venue for the 2005 Speech & Drama Competitions.

We would like to remind Speech Teachers of the time requirements for Own Selection pieces. No more than: 4 minutes for a drama; 3 minutes for Senior Poetry; 2 minutes for Junior Poetry; 4 minutes at the most for Shakespearean. Improvisation pieces should be no more than two minutes.

2005 is a Speech and Drama PACANZ year and the Southland Competitions Society would like to nominate one person to attend the Young Performer of the Year Awards.

#### **vocal ∞∞**

**Convenor:** Isobel Walsh

Once again, the Central Baptist Church was the venue for the Vocal Competitions. It was the Vocal PACANZ Awards in 2004. There were two very good entrants but both at the lowest age for competitors. The adjudicator felt that neither of them was ready to compete against entrants at the top end of the age scale. There was a change in venue for the Sunday night Vocal Character Recitals and everyone seemed very happy with the Repertory Rooms as an alternative venue.

#### **choral ∞∞**

**Convenor:** Isobel Walsh

There was no Choral Competition in 2004 but some classes were added for duets, octets, etc, but with very few entries. We would really like to see more entries in this area of the Competitions.

## **irish dancing ∞∞**

**Convenor:** Kirsty Lay

A very enjoyable Saturday morning was experienced by all who attended the Irish Dancing in the Centrestage Theatre. Whilst there is now an Irish Dancing School in Invercargill, run by Sean O'Neill from Christchurch, a situation has arisen where the National Competitions for Irish Dancing are always held on the weekend following our Competitions, so we do not get enough entries. The Committee is looking at the possibility of holding the Irish Dancing at a different time to the rest of the Festival. However, this is still in the planning stage.

## **ballet and modern dance ∞∞**

**Convenor:** Melanie Kennard

Once again the Ballet & Modern Dance Competitions were held at the Centrestage Theatre. This is an ideal venue as far as the size of the stage is concerned, but has some limitations as far as the availability of food at weekends. The Committee is aware of this situation and will endeavour to address the matter before the 2005 Competitions. Chelsey-Rose Baker was the Society's nomination for the PACANZ Ballet Young Performer of the Year Award but Chelsey-Rose was unable to take up the nomination. 2005 is the year for the Modern Dance PACANZ Awards.

## **highland and national dancing ∞∞**

**Convenor:** Julia Adams

The Highland & National Dancing section of the Festival was held at the Scottish Hall. This is always a very popular day and has a lot of support from parents. 2005 is a Highland & National Dancing year for the PACANZ Awards. Our Society would really like to nominate a dancer for these Awards as they are in danger of being dropped from the Awards because of lack of support.

## **instrumental ∞∞**

**Convenor:** Judith Stevens

The Instrumental Competition was held in the Central Baptist Church and once again it proved to be an ideal venue. There was one entry in the PACANZ Awards for Pianoforte but, as with the Vocal entrants, the Adjudicator felt the entrant needed more years to reach the standard required. It is great to see these young performers and we hope they will continue with their studies and eventually represent Southland at the Awards.

Once again we remind teachers to ensure your students adhere to item 6(d) of General Conditions for Competitors in the Syllabus and Programme, i.e. "For the Junior and Senior Pianoforte Championship and Open Instrumental Classes, the time limit must not exceed eight (8) minutes. See each Art for its specific Time Limits. Otherwise, where there is no Time Limit specification, the Time Limit for each selection is five (5) minutes. Any competitor exceeding the time limit may be disqualified."

Our Society will be putting forward one nomination in the "Orchestral Instrument" Section for the 2005 PACANZ Awards. However, we have been advised of the following: "(Instrumental) performers will be eligible to attend the National Young Performer of the year Award as a DIRECT ENTRY in the Orchestral Instrument Section Only if they obtain an average of 85% in the qualifying classes..... The Direct Entry competitor will be responsible for paying the full entry fee, i.e. \$90.00."

## **tap dancing ∞∞**

**Convenor:** Coral Sycamore

Once again the Scottish Hall was a good venue; but the usual downstairs rooms were not available because they were being used by someone else who usually used the Victoria Rooms. Our Society nominated Rebecca Greenall from Mosgiel in the Tap Dancing section of the PACANZ Awards. We also nominated Rachel Engel for the Tap Dancing section and also the Showcase Song & Dance. Both girls competed to the very best of their ability and learnt a lot at the same time. We thank them for representing Southland.

## **accompanists ∞∞**

We are currently in the process of changing the way Accompanists are provided for the Competitions by our Society. Nothing has been finalised as yet but will be advised in the Syllabus.

## **sponsorship ∞∞**

Once again we would like to sincerely thank our many sponsors. The Competitions couldn't be held without your support. If you provided Sponsorship money in 2004 and the full amount was not awarded, as in previous years the relevant amount will be deducted from the amount requested this year.

## **website and new email address ∞∞**

Our Society now has a website: [www.southlandcomps.org.nz](http://www.southlandcomps.org.nz). The new email address is [admin@southlandcomps.org.nz](mailto:admin@southlandcomps.org.nz). Individual prefixes are shown on the website. It is currently under construction but we are hoping to have the Syllabus online with a printable Entry Form if extras are needed. It will also be invaluable where people have not received the Syllabus but want to enter. We would appreciate receiving your comments/suggestions about the website and what you would like it to contain.

For your information, we will put the Adjudicator Profiles online as soon as they are received.

## **competition dates and closing date for entries 2005 ∞∞**

The 2005 Festival dates are 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September. We are hoping to have the Syllabus in the post about the middle of May; and hopefully online at the same time. At this stage we are looking at a closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> July. This is one week before the school holidays start.

## **PACANZ ∞∞**

This year, the Young Performer of the Year Awards will again be held in Tauranga from the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October. This is **NOT** Labour Weekend. We realise it makes it very difficult for parents to raise the necessary funds for nominees to compete when there is so little time between our Competitions and the Awards. Our Society has approached The Community Trust of Southland and, as a result, will be applying for funding on behalf of possible nominees, through the Trust's Excellence in the Arts Awards. Obviously, there is no guarantee there definitely will be funding, but it may help parents to know of this possibility.

We would like to advise teachers that it is the PACANZ year for the "National Showcase Group Entertainment Award". This is a Direct Entry Award only, and groups can come from any or more than one of the Arts. All societies have been asked to advise possible entrants that entries will be restricted to the first 20 entries received.

Further information, including Profiles of the Adjudicators, is available from [annette@pacanz.co.nz](mailto:annette@pacanz.co.nz). Their website [www.pacanz.co.nz](http://www.pacanz.co.nz) is currently parked and will soon be under construction.

## **increases in prices ∞∞**

Over the past few years, the cost of venues has been increasing and we know the cost for the Scottish Hall will be increasing for this year. Between 2002 and 2004, the prices increased by almost \$2,000. Our Society applies for grants each year and we are very grateful for the funding support we receive. However, we can only expect to be given so much and feel it is necessary for us to increase some of our charges. These have not as yet been finalised but we will endeavour to keep them to the absolute minimum.

Brenda Cahill,  
for the Executive Committee