

Southland Competitions Society Inc

Secretary/Treasurer: Brenda Cahill - P O Box 1393, Invercargill 9840
Website: www.southlandcomps.org.nz - Email: admin@southlandcomps.org.nz
President: Margaret Allan - Email: president@southlandcomps.org.nz

NEWSLETTER -- 2007

The 2006 Competitions Festival went well and we once again sincerely thank the Invercargill Licensing Trust, The Community Trust of Southland, the Invercargill City Council Creative Communities, Southland District Council Creative Communities and the Gore Council Creative Communities for their financial support. We also thank the Community Trust of Southland Excellence in the Arts Awards for the scholarship provided for Kevin Lo, our Pianoforte nominee at the 2006 Young Performer of the Year Awards held in Tauranga in October.

CUPS

Convenor: David Sycamore

Congratulations to everyone who returned their cups on time for the 2006 Festival. There was an improvement last year and we hope it continues in 2007. Because the competitions have been split in two this year, there are two return dates for cups: Instrumental, Highland & National and Tap Dancing cups and trophies are to be returned to the White Heron, Cnr Tweed and Pomona Streets, by the 27th July; Vocal, Speech & Drama and Ballet by the 24th August. We would appreciate it if parents could ensure that cups are returned by these dates and we ask teachers to remind their students about returning any cups and/or trophies they received in 2006.

PACANZ National Young Performer of the Year Awards

For the 2007 year the arts covered are: Speech & Drama; Modern Dance; Highland & National Dancing; and Orchestral Instrument.

Once again our Society has applied to The Community Trust of Southland for funding, through their Excellence in the Arts Awards, to send one nominee from each art (who resides in The Community Trust of Southland area) to the Awards in Tauranga. We ask teachers to make sure parents know this funding is available (provided our application is successful) because the scholarship will cover all the nominee's costs. The funding will only be available to nominees who go to and compete at the Awards. If parents cannot afford to accompany the nominees, the Southern South Island representative on the PACANZ Executive Council will be travelling to Tauranga for the Awards and would be happy to offer support wherever it is needed.

We would like to think that everyone who has achieved in their particular art has the opportunity to compete nationally. So, teachers of students in the relevant arts, please start looking for possible nominees!

Information regarding the awards is available from: our office; the Pacanz Office, PO Box 763, Te Puke 3153 (Phone 07 573 9485); or can be seen on the Pacanz website at www.pacanz.co.nz.

SPEECH

Convenor: Doris Cody

After losing Speech and Drama teachers in 2006, we were not surprised that the Speech entries were down. However, we had an adjudicator who 'set the stage' with lights before the competitions began and we know the entrants and parents appreciated the effort he put into his adjudication.

Once again, we 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.

2007 will be a Pacanz Speech and Drama Young Performer year and we look forward to receiving entries for this class. To be competitive at the Awards, competitors will need to be at Grade 7 or Grade 8 level. They will need to achieve a mark of 85% or higher to receive a nomination.

The Repertory Rooms will be used again as the venue for the 2007 Speech & Drama Competitions which will be held from the 21st to the 24th or 25th September, depending on the number of entries received.

VOCAL

Convenor: Isobel Walsh

The Vocal competitions were again held in the Central Baptist Church. There were three entrants in the Pacanz Vocal Young Performer class, but sadly the adjudicator was not able to make a nomination. The Senior Vocal competitions ended with an enjoyable Afternoon Tea in the Acacia Lounge, where competitors were able to mingle and also meet the Adjudicator.

Junior Vocal competitions began again with the usual Songs in Character at the Repertory Rooms on the Sunday evening and then continued at the Central Baptist Church.

As there are no choral competitions any more, it would be nice to have more entries in the duet and group classes.

The same venues will be used again for the 2007 Vocal Competitions which will be held from the 21st to the 24th or 25th September, depending on the number of entries received.

IRISH DANCING

Convenor: Pamela Fraser

Due to a change of date for some of the arts this year, Irish Dancing will once again feature in our competitions. The venue will be the auditorium at Aurora College. The Irish Dancing will be held on Sunday, 26th August, throughout the day, and will be interspersed with Highland & National Dancing classes.

BALLET

Convenor: Melanie Kennard

Once again, Centrestage Theatre proved an ideal venue for Ballet and Modern Dance. The 6-years and under Ballet Dance class held on the Saturday afternoon was a delight for parents and grandparents of a lot of up-and-coming Ballet Dancers! The adjudicator related well to the young people, and a short Master Class held at the end of the competitions for older entrants, was well received. 2007 is the year for Modern Dance at the Pacanz Young Performer of the Year Awards; we hope to get some entrants in the nomination class.

HIGHLAND & NATIONAL DANCING

Convenor: *Julia Adams*

Highland & National Dancing was once again successfully held at Centrestage Theatre. For 2007, however, there will be a change of date and a change of venue. The date will be Sunday, 26th August, and the venue will be the auditorium at Aurora College. It is a Highland & National Dancing year for the Pacanz Young Performer Awards, so, with the possible funding package shown above, we hope there will be entrants in the nomination class.

INSTRUMENTAL

Convenor: *Judith Stevens*

The Instrumental competitions were held at the Central Baptist Church. Once again, there were a number of classes with only one or two entries. This has prompted major changes for the 2007 competitions. A lot of work has been done on the Syllabus to combine ages and classes. We hope this will be seen as a positive move. The other change will be that the Instrumental competitions will, this year, be held from the evening of the 24th August through to Sunday evening, 26th August, at the Lindisfarne Methodist Community Centre.

This year there will be a class for possible nominees to the Orchestral Instrument National Young Performer of the Year Awards. Teachers, please look out for young people between the ages of 15 and 20 years who might be suitable contenders. Remember the possible funding package advised above.

TAP DANCING

Convenor: *Coral Sycamore*

Centrestage was the venue for last year's Tap Dancing competitions. Classes were small but it was an enjoyable competition. Tap Dancing is another art that will see a change for 2007. These competitions will be held from the evening of Friday 24th August and through Saturday 25th (depending on number of entries). The venue will be the auditorium at Aurora College. It is hoped that a weekend will be more suitable to hold the competitions, leaving people free to make their own arrangements for the school holidays in September.

SPONSORSHIP

Once again, we thank the many individual sponsors who provide most of the prize money. There is always a need for new sponsors so if you would like to sponsor a class, please contact the Secretary or any of the Executive Committee. If you provided Sponsorship money in 2006 and the full amount was not awarded, as in previous years the relevant amount will be deducted from the amount requested this year.

WEBSITE

Our Society continued to develop its website www.southlandcomps.org.nz for the 2006 competitions. The one thing still missing from the website is images. If you took photos (film or digital) and/or video (from which we can capture still images) at the 2006 competitions (or know someone who did) we would love to hear from you.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the website, please contact webmaster@southlandcomps.org.nz.

ENTRIES ONLINE AND PAYMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAMMES

Entries online became even more popular in 2006 and will be offered again in 2007. The way it works is that the entry form is filled out online and you can nominate payment from: Cheque; bank deposit; or Internet Banking such as Pay Anyone. The Society's Bank account details will be provided. Confirmation of receipt of entries will be sent by email, along with confirmation of the amount to be paid and a payment reference number.

This ID number **must** be used on bank deposit forms and/or internet banking, identifying who the payment is for. Payment must be made within three working days of entry. There is no transfer of money through the website, only through Internet Banking if that is your option, and in this case your bank provides a secure encrypted connection to ensure your bank details remain safe. Programmes and passes will still be mailed out and will not be available through the internet.

We look forward to more people using these facilities, saving time and money for postage, as long as they **do not forget to pay**. Last year there were problems with people entering online but not paying. Payment must be received by post or online into our account within three working days after entry. **Entries will not be processed until payment is received.**

Payments for Membership and Programmes can be made in the same way as long as your ID number and/or name show on the payment.

COMPETITION DATES AND CLOSING DATES FOR ENTRIES 2007

The 2007 competition dates will be:

- 24th to 26th August for Instrumental, Tap Dancing, Highland & National Dancing and Irish Dancing; entries will close for these arts on Friday, 15th June
- 21st to 24th or 25th September for Vocal, Speech & Drama and Ballet and Modern Dance; entries will close for these arts on Friday 20th July.

The Syllabus and printable Entry Forms will also be online.

PRICES FOR 2007

2007 prices will remain the same as last year, with normal class prices being set at \$4 per class, administration fees at \$6 per person or \$10 per family or group. The **\$75 fee cap** will remain as the maximum cost any one family will have to pay (exclusive of Programmes and Membership Fees). At the Festival itself, door prices will remain the same at Adults \$3 and Children \$1 per session with a \$7 Day Pass as well. The \$20 Season Ticket will also be available, covering both the August and September competitions (keep the Pass in a safe place!). There will be two Programmes this year, one for August and another for September, each costing \$4.

TEACHERS

The free door pass for teachers who have students entered will again be available. Please let your students know if you require a pass and, if you do, ask them to put your name and address details on their entry form. The free passes will only be sent to those teachers who actually request them, either by the teacher contacting the office or by teachers ensuring their students ask for a pass on their entry forms.

*Brenda Cahill,
for the Executive Committee*