

Southland Competitions Society Inc

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NEWSLETTER -- 2006

The 2005 Competitions Festival went well and we sincerely thank the Invercargill Licensing Trust, The Community Trust of Southland and Invercargill City Council Creative Communities for their continued financial support.

CUPS

Convenor: David Sycamore

Once again, we had trouble with the return (or non-return) of cups. This is a constant source of frustration and embarrassment to the Society when we have to tell the next recipient that we can't give them the cup because it hasn't been returned. Reminder notices are sent out in plenty of time. We would appreciate it if parents could ensure that cups are returned and we ask teachers to remind their students about returning any cups and/or trophies they received in 2005 to the White Heron, Cnr Tweed and Pomona Streets, by the 28th July.

PACANZ National Young Performer of the Year Awards

Our Society realises how difficult it is for parents/caregivers to find the money to send their young people to these Awards, especially as there is less than a month between our Competitions and the Awards being held. In 2005, our Society successfully applied to The Community Trust of Southland for funding through their Excellence in the Arts Awards for our nominees to attend the Awards in Tauranga. We have applied again this year and we believe this will give *all* eligible young people (as long as they live within the Community Trust of Southland area) the opportunity to work towards attaining the nomination, knowing that the funding is there for them to attend the Awards if they achieve 85%.

NOTE: (2nd June 2006) We have just been advised that up to four nominees residing in the Community Trust of Southland area will be eligible to receive a Community Trust of Southland Scholarship to assist with the costs involved in attending the National Young Performer of the Year Awards in Tauranga from 13th-15th October 2006. These Scholarships will be awarded at the Society's discretion and are only available to nominees who actually attend the Awards and will need to be reimbursed to the Society if the money has been paid out and the nominee does not attend.

SPEECH

Convenor: Doris Cody

Once again, the venue for the 2005 Speech & Drama Competitions was the Repertory Society Rooms. The Rooms are a 'work in progress' and the renovations that have been done so far have enhanced what was already a good venue. We look forward to seeing how things progress in the future. The Adjudicator, Donna McKinlay-Jones, enjoyed her time back in Southland, and I think Southland enjoyed her adjudicating. However, after listening to 19 recitations of 'I'm Getting Sick of Peanut Butter' Donna decided *she* was sick of Peanut Butter and vowed never to set that test piece again!

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.

2005 was a Speech and Drama PACANZ year and Ruth Paul received the Society's nomination to attend the Young Performer of the Year Awards held in Tauranga in October 2005. Although unplaced, Ruth was very grateful for the experience she received from this opportunity.

The Repertory Rooms will be used again as the venue for the 2006 Speech & Drama Competitions. There will probably be a break in proceedings on the Sunday night to allow the Vocal Song in Character to be held there, but it may mean that Speech and Drama will not finish until the evening of Tuesday, rather than lunchtime as has happened in the past, as the Adjudicator felt it was too rushed. This, however, will depend on the number of entries received.

VOCAL

Convenor: Isobel Walsh

The Central Baptist Church, once again, was the venue for the Vocal Competitions. Our Vocal Adjudicator, Rosemary Bromley, had a wonderful time here and we were very grateful for her expertise. Having the Vocal Character Recitals at the Repertory Rooms on the Sunday evening has proved very popular for competitors and audience. Rosemary took the opportunity offered to do a television interview to discuss the wonderful experience young people gain from entering the competitions.

2006 is the year for the Vocal National Young Performer of the Year Award. Our Society has the option to nominate two performers who have achieved 85%. Also, "performers will be eligible to attend the Awards as a Direct Entry if they obtain an average of 80% in the qualifying classes. The Direct Entry competitor will be responsible for paying the full entry fee of \$90".

CHORAL

Convenor: Isobel Walsh

Here in Southland choral competitions have increased over the last few years, which has made it very difficult for our Society to include this art in our programme as it is difficult for schools to fit it into their schedule. We have, however, included ensembles, octets, quartets, etc. in our Vocal syllabus and we would like to see more young (and not so young) people enter these classes.

IRISH DANCING

Convenor: Kirsty Lay

Sadly, the art of Irish Dancing was not a part of the 2005 Competitions due to the small number of dancers available because of the Nationals being held the following weekend. We had hoped to have Irish Dancing as a part of our 2006 festival, even looking at an earlier date away from the Nationals, but this will not be possible because the number of Irish dancers in Southland has dropped to a level where it would not be economic.

BALLET

Convenor: Melanie Kennard

Centrestage Theatre was the venue for Ballet and Modern Dance. 2005 was the year for the PACANZ Modern Dance Young Performer of the Year Awards, but our one entrant gained nomination from another Society prior to our competitions being held. 2006 is the PACANZ Ballet Young Performer of the Year Award, and we hope to get entries for the qualifying class.

HIGHLAND & NATIONAL DANCING

Convenor: Julia Adams

It was decided in 2005 to hold all the dancing competitions at Centrestage. For Highland & National, there seemed to be a few problems with changing rooms, but this matter will be sorted out before the 2006 competitions. Sadly there were no entrants for the nominating class for the PACANZ Highland & National Young Performer of the Year Awards. At the recent PACANZ AGM, a Highland & National Dancing sub-committee discussed the problems and hopefully came up with some ideas for 2007. This, together with the possible funding to send nominees (see *PACANZ above*), seems cautiously optimistic for the future.

INSTRUMENTAL

Convenor: Judith Stevens

Once again the Instrumental section was held at Central Baptist Church. The adjudicator, Ellen Doyle, had an incredible amount of knowledge to assist young performers. Two young people entered the qualifying class for the PACANZ Orchestral Instrument Young Performer of the Year Award. Kevin Lo (flautist) was the Society's nomination and he went on to achieve a third placing at this national award. Emma Pay (clarinettist) also went to the Awards as a Direct Entry and, whilst she did not achieve a placing, gained a wealth of experience. We commend both these young people for representing 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."

This year, our Society has the option to nominate two young people for the Pianoforte Section of the 2006 National Young Performer of the Year Awards. Also, as with the Orchestral Instrument section last year, "Performers will be eligible to attend the National Young Performer of the Year Award as a Direct Entry in the Pianoforte Section if they obtain **an average of 80%** in the qualifying classes. The Direct Entry competitor will be responsible for paying the full entry fee of \$90." Last year, for the Orchestral Instrument section, it was an average mark of 85% for Direct Entry. There was some discussion about the 80% mark at the recent PACANZ AGM, and it is possible the Direct Entry mark may return to 85% for 2007.

TAP DANCING

Convenor: Coral Sycamore

Centrestage was used as the 2005 venue for Tap Dancing. Due to a smaller number of teachers available, there are not so many young people learning Tap Dancing and entries were lower than normal. We look forward to a resurgence of this art in the future. This year, our Society has the option to nominate two young people for the Tap Dancing Section of the 2006 National Young Performer of the Year Awards. The PACANZ Executive has decided, for the 2006 year, that there will not be an Award for Song and Dance, for two reasons: first, they wish to concentrate on the main arts; and secondly, it allows people to arrive later at the Awards. It is probable there will not be a Group Award in 2007; for the same reasons as the Song and Dance Award but also - because of the costs involved in moving groups around the country - it is mostly only groups, local to where the Awards are being held, that are entering.

SPONSORSHIP

The Festival could not be held without the wonderful support of many individual sponsors who provide much of the prize money. Over the past couple of years, for one reason or another, there have been some who have not continued with their sponsorship, so there are some Classes that need new sponsors. Please contact the Secretary or any of the Executive Committee if you are able to help. If you provided Sponsorship money in 2005 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 launched its website www.southlandcomps.org.nz for the 2005 competitions. From comments we have received through the Survey and online, it is the way of the future so we are endeavouring to improve it for 2006. One thing missing on the website is images. If you took photos (film or digital) and/or video (from which we can capture still images) at the 2005 competitions (or know someone who did) we would love to hear from you.

ENTRIES ONLINE

From the 2005 Survey, it became apparent that people were worried about how they would pay for their entries if they entered online (many not trusting website payment). The way it worked in 2005 and will work again in 2006 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. You will receive confirmation of receipt of your entry by email, along with confirmation of the amount you have to pay and an Entrant ID 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.

As we move with the technological age, we hope more people will use these facilities, saving time and money for postage. If you have any questions or suggestions about the website, please contact webmaster@southlandcomps.org.nz.

COMPETITION DATES AND CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 2006

The 2006 Festival dates are 22nd-28th September. The Syllabus and printable Entry Forms are also online. The closing date for entries is 30th June 2006.

PRICES FOR 2006

When setting prices for 2006, we have considered the replies we received to the Survey that was available for completion at the 2005 Festival. The normal class price has been set at \$4 per class, administration fees at \$6 per person or \$10 per family or group. For the 2006 Festival it has been decided to place a **\$75 cap** on the cost that any one family has 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, but there will be a \$7 Day Pass (\$5 for Highland & National) as well as the \$20 Season Ticket.

TEACHERS

For 2006, we will be providing a free door pass to the Festival for teachers who have students entered, so it is important that students put their teacher's name(s) and address(es) on their Entry Form.

*Brenda Cahill,
for the Executive Committee*