

Southland Competitions Society Inc

P O Box 1393, Invercargill 9840

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NEWSLETTER 2019

Our 2018 Competitions Festival was held in August and September. While numbers in some art forms were down, some others were up. We once again acknowledge and sincerely thank the Southern Trust, Invercargill Licensing Trust, ILT Foundation and the Community Trust of Southland for their financial support. Without their generous support, we certainly would struggle to hold our competitions.

This year our competitions will be held over two weekends:

August 17th - 18th Tap Dancing, Highland & National Dancing & Irish Dancing
September 27th - 30th Ballet & Modern Dance, Vocal & Instrumental

CUPS AND TROPHIES

PLEASE NOTE: Cups and trophy returns are to be arranged with the convenor of each art. Drop off points and cut off dates for returns will be listed in the syllabus. 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 2018. **Please treat these cups and trophies well and do not use abrasive cleaners when cleaning them prior to returning them, as they are very expensive to replace.**

National Young Performer of the Year Awards

In 2018 we were represented at the NYPA by Jaewon Lee (Pianoforte)

Our nominee performed well and the experiences he gained will give him added confidence for any future competitions. Although not nominated by our Society, it was exciting to see Bree Howe of Makarewa, win the Potential Awards in the Tap Dance section.

At NYPA 2019 the Society will be represented by Fuel Fitness & Health (Troupe) & Millicent Askin (Modern Dance) and we know our Nominees will be looking forward to experiencing the NYPA and national competition at this level. Highland Competitors will have the opportunity to be nominated at this year's Competitions.

Further Information regarding the awards is available from the Southland Comps Secretary; the PACANZ Office, P O Box 138, Gore 9710 Ph (021) 417872 or can be seen on the PACANZ website at www.pacanz.co.nz

The NYPA will be held in Palmerston North 18-21 October 2019 and will include the Troupe section again as it was so popular.

SPEECH & DRAMA: Convenor – Karen Duthie

Speech wasn't run due to insufficient entries

VOCAL: Convenor: - TBA

Vocal competitions were held once again at the Lindisfarne Centre with Senior Vocal on the 28th September and Junior Vocal on the morning and afternoon of Saturday 29th September. Senior entries were low with only five competing individually and one group of six competing in the choir sections. The standard of these competitors was high and their items were thoroughly enjoyed by the small audience in attendance. The Invercargill Licensing Trust Senior Scholarship was awarded to Christine McLeod.

The Junior section was also low in entrants, with most classes having only three or four competing as unfortunately some did not compete due to sickness and nerves on the day. The Invercargill Licensing Trust Junior Scholarship was won by Elisha Morrison.

I wish to say thank you to the competitors that did perform and also thank you to the parents, teachers and accompanists as without you there would be no competitions.

Margot Button, our adjudicator from Christchurch, a highly trained singer and teacher, gave good remarks and advice in her reports and spoke often about how competitors could improve their performance. This showed in a number of the younger ones as they seemed to gain more confidence as the day progressed. Finally to Carolyn in the office, Judith and Jan for their writing skills and help with the numbers board a very BIG thank you. You were all very much appreciated.

NOTE; With the recent resignation of our vocal convenor, we are on the lookout for someone to take on this role. Without a convenor, the executive will not be in a position to run the vocal section of our competitions this year. If this is a position that would interest you, please get in touch via the email address above.

HIGHLAND & NATIONAL DANCING: Convenor - Heidi Boniface

The competition this year was again held at Repertory House and while the numbers were down, the competitors commented on the smooth, enjoyable day.

I need to thank the parents & helpers who gave up their time on the day to help run the competition and I would also like to thank our pipers Jorden Caig & Angus McIntyre for their hard work.

Thank you to the ILT and the St Andrews Scottish Society of Southland for their sponsorship of our event. The sponsorship by the Invercargill Licensing Trust meant that the senior dancers received cash prizes rather than ribbons for their events, which they appreciated and will hopefully mean more entries in this age group in the future. We had a wide age range of dancers on the day, from 6 to 21 and the cash prizes available were spread throughout the age groupings. Next year we will look at combining our competitions with the Irish and/ or Tap dancing to give audience a wide variety and to share resources, we look forward to trialling this approach.

IRISH DANCING: Convenor - Birgit Crean

For the first time in many years Southland Competitions Society held an open competition which meant we were able to receive entries from other Irish Dance schools nationwide. We had been optimistic that this would increase the attendance numbers, unfortunately this did not eventuate and therefore we will resume a closed class competition for 2019.

We were very fortunate and delighted to secure the services of Patricia Budding (ADCRG), who hails from Wellington. Thanks must go to Patricia for enabling us this opportunity, we thoroughly enjoyed hosting you and welcomed your positive, wonderful comments and interactions with the Society.

We had also secured a new venue for this event, and everyone was looking forward to dancing at Centrestage. However a curve-ball was delivered the week before the competition and our booking had to be cancelled due to the renovations and curtain rail not being complete. Fortunately, we were lucky to secure an alternative venue, largely through collective brainstorming with parents and other members of the Committee. We went from not having a venue and the probability of cancelling the competition, to having several suitable alternatives. We opted for the Invercargill Workingmen's Club, which proved to be a wonderful venue, having ample space and the ability for the families who attended the competition, to have a meal after the competition.

A second curveball occurred partway through the afternoon session when the sound system failed, but thanks to Anne & Morgan Canny providing us their portable amplifier, we were able to promptly continue. That is the beauty of Invercargill, that response times can be kept to a minimum due to our compact geography. The competitors and Patricia were all wonderful during this unexpected turn of events, and we were pleased to be able to finish the competition, which included a large section of group dancing in the form of 4/6/8 hand commission book dances and 2/3/4 hand composed dances. This was a spectacular display and an additional highlight for those who came and watched.

The day was completed with sashes, cups and monetary awards (kindly donated by the ILT and Waxy O'Sheas), presented to those who excelled in their various sections and dances. Congratulations must go to all the dancers who attended, because each and every one of them were brilliant. Congratulations/thanks also, to all the teachers who input a lot of time, effort and energy so that the dancers are competition ready.

BALLET/MODERN: Convenor-Anne Canny

We had another wonderful weekend of dance enjoyed by an increasing number of participants in 2018. Our adjudicators Jess Leslie (Wellington) and Emily Urban (Sydney) were amazing – keeping the times running smoothly and giving constructive feedback to the dancers. They were impressed with the level of dance here in the South and the support given by all the studios to feed them over the long weekend. A huge thanks to our sponsors the ILT, Rowena Jackson Retirement Village & Ascot Snipps. Our Scholarship & Championship classes were well represented and the participants appreciated the monetary support. Another huge thanks to our office workers who worked tirelessly over the four days to ensure everything ran smoothly.

This year Modern is one of the four arts for the National Young Performers Awards and we welcome entrants in the nomination class and also in to the Troupe/Group section. Those nominated in September will go on to represent the Society at the NYPA 2020.

TAP DANCING: Co-Convenors-Kelly Wills and Andrea Cole

Overall the weekend went well, starting off with 39 competitors from Invercargill, Central Otago, Christchurch and Dunedin and 196 dance routines entered. Unfortunately there were quite a few scratching, only 163 plus the 8 scholarship items were actually danced. Our adjudicator Michelle Ward from Auckland enjoyed her time here and would like to be considered for future competitions. Congratulations to Jessica Mulholland from Dunedin, who received her PACANZ Nomination, our ILT scholarship winners, aggregate point recipients and to all competitors, teachers and parents involved. Our thanks goes out to the Southland Competitions Society for making this event available to showcase tap her in the south, and to Birgit, Carolyn and Valerie for their help. Also to the Tap Dancing Association for the help that each of you gave, Andrea and myself could not have managed without you and we are extremely grateful for your assistance. Lastly a special thanks to the ILT for the generous scholarship prize money. Without your support we would struggle to hold such events.

INSTRUMENTAL: Co-Convenors - Jocelyn Donaldson and Masako Moir

The Instrumental competitions were held 28-29 September at First Church, Invercargill; the co-convenors were Masako Moir and Jocelyn Donaldson. The event went smoothly and kept to time; the adjudicator, Mr Donald Brown was excellent and was impressed with the performances. The number of entries were nearly the same as in 2017.

Masako and I would like to thank Karen Duthie for her assistance in the Office; she was most efficient and took care of problems professionally. We also thank Irene Liddell for helping set up Stobo Hall and Central Hall, printing of certificates and forms and helping pack away chairs and tidying up after the competitions were over.

Our thanks go to Helen Watson who assisted on the Saturday preparing morning and afternoon teas, lunch and dinner; and, to Hazel Cowley for providing food.

Finally, thank you to Birgit Crean for arranging printing of the programme, cash prizes and processing of the entries.

SPONSORSHIP

Once again, we thank the many individual sponsors who provide a lot of the prize money. However, there is always a need for new sponsors so if you would like to sponsor a class, please contact the convenor of the art or any of the Executive Committee.

ENTRIES AND PAYMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIPS AND PROGRAMMES

Please forward your payments to PO Box 1393 Invercargill 9840.

If you wish to pay online our account number is: 03-1355-0823967-00 (SBS)

Competitors: Please use your name and Art form for reference.

Memberships: Your name and ID Number for reference.

ENTRY FORMS & SYLLABUS

If you need more entry forms and / or an extra syllabus, these will be available on our website. Alternatively, please contact us on admin@southlandcomps.org.nz or phone your convenor.

PRICES FOR 2019:

Administration Fees – now includes \$5.00 Competitor membership	\$15.00 single \$30.00 two - if more than two add \$5.00 competitor membership for each additional child
Entry Fees (except Ballet, Highland & Irish)	\$6.00 per class
Highland & Irish Entry Fees	\$5.00 per class
Duos/Trios (except Ballet)	Duos \$8.00 Trios \$9.00 per class
Ballet (all sections)	TBA via entry form
Pacanz Entry for each art	\$25.00
Scholarships	\$10.00
Door Passes	TBA via entry form
Membership – covers all sessions, all venues	\$5.00 per person (programme not included)

We are always looking for new committee members, so if you are looking for a new challenge and have an interest in the arts, please do consider joining. This would help to ensure that our Society continues to progress and function for the betterment of our young people interested in the various art forms in the years to come.

Southland Competitions Society Executive Committee