

FOCUS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA LIMITED - THE GOVERNING BODY FOR DANCESPORT IN AUSTRALIA

ISSUE 37 - AUGUST 2017

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National Council elections are held every 2 years wherein eligible members of DSA will define 10 people who will become as Directors of the Company and members of National Council. Full details on Page 2

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DSA's annual National Championship was this year held in Wollongong, NSW, at the WIN Entertainment Centre over the week-end 24th to 25th June, 2017 was a resounding success; see Page 3

3 DSA LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS and QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS
Our congratulations to Neville Boyd OAM who was awarded Life Membership at the DSA 2017 National Championship and to Adele Hyland AM and Wayne Douglas OAM who received Orders of Australia awards in the recent Queens Birthday Honours List See Page 3 and 4

www.dancesport.org.au

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve, expand, empower and succeed in the promotion and development of Dancesports for all.

DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA IS A MEMBER BODY OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS

WORLD DANCESPORT FEDERATION - AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
- AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION - WDC AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DANCE COUNCIL

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we move to the 2017 National Elections it is timely that we review the Board's current work as well as looking at the challenges that lie ahead.

Your DSA Board of Directors has worked passionately and persistently for DanceSport, over the past two years, with much of this time devoted to the growth of DanceSport participation. Participation is the key to the development of DanceSport and is an integral part of the Recreational Division. Today's Recreational participant will become tomorrow's Amateur competitor.

The past two years have seen an increase in the number of Registered Teaching Facilities (RTFs) - our member studios - registered with DSA. This has led to a direct increase in the number of Recreational competitors - with many of those Recreational competitors - moving up to the Amateur Division. However, overall numbers in the Amateur Division are not increasing due to the 'retirement' of our older competitors. No doubt this is a challenge we will see for several years but this does not diminish our enthusiasm to create a 'Studio'

environment that nurtures future competitors.

DSA is also working with these RTFs to expand the Teacher/Student categories of DanceSport competitions. It is not possible to have a serious conversation about a 'career' in DanceSport if there is no work available for our young Coaches.

This year the National Championship, DANCE, moved to the seaside city of Wollongong, and along with the move, had a 'make over'. This was done to inject new excitement into this Championship - and excite it did - with over 1500 spectators and competitors attending. All sponsors including Mercedes Wollongong have confirmed their participation for 2018 - which is thrilling and heartening. So yes, work has already commenced for DANCE Wollongong 2018!

Members and Recreational competitors who were unable to attend DANCE Wollongong 2017 can view every event (that was held in the main ballroom) via the DanceSport Australia Video Service. This service has been made possible by the Directors' decision to commission a dedicated web server which houses the P5000.org site. DanceSport Members can expect more

services to be available from this platform in the future.

Some of the past initiatives through this website p5000, have been ability to change Amateur competitor's Bonus Points and the Recreational Division now have their very own Ranking System.

It is exhilarating to see new competitions evolving, especially the Development Competition Pilot Program (starting this July in Victoria) which is targeted at beginner competitors - and their friends and families.

This means Spectators have free admission in the style of amateur cricket, football, tennis! This is another way we are developing out competition participation - those spectators could be tomorrow's beginners.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the fabric of DanceSport in Australia. Your contribution is sincerely appreciated and I am honoured to have been your president for this past term. I know challenges are upon us - but I truly believe that by concentrating on providing value for Members - DanceSport can increase numbers in all areas.

Dallas Williams, DSA President

NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION 2017

This years' National Council Election is a process held every 2 years in which eligible members will define 10 people who will become Directors of the Company and members of the National Council.

Voting rights extend to all Ordinary Members of DSA - that is, those who are 16 years of age or over and who have paid the full membership fee. Ballot papers, profiles of candidates and information regarding the voting procedures are included with this newsletter for those members eligible to vote.

Under the terms of our current constitution, only State Branch Board members - past and present - are eligible to nominate for election via this process. The reason for this is that people who have been elected by the members to serve on a State Branch are able to gain the necessary administrative experience to have a valuable input at the National level.

The election will define 10 Councillors elected from the following categories:-

- 2 Coach Representatives - elected by the accredited coaches.
- 2 Competitor Representatives - elected by the eligible registered competitors.
- 6 General Member Representatives - elected by all eligible Members.

The "function based" ideal has been a part of the framework of DSA's National Council since its inception so as to ensure that Coaches and Competitors are represented at this level.

Voting members are asked to read the candidate's profiles and the information sheet before completing the ballot paper. Once completed, only the ballot paper should be forwarded to the Returning Officer in the return envelope provided with this mail out. Votes can only be lodged by post. Should you misplace the return envelope, the address for lodgement of votes is Post Office Box 123, Eastwood NSW 2122.

DSA's external auditor Chapman Wyatt & Associates is the independent Returning Officer. He will be solely responsible for the receipt and counting of votes and the declaration of the result.

VOTING CLOSES at 6pm on Friday, 8th September 2017 - that's not far away...and remember to allow time for the mail to be received by the due date. To vote is to exercise your democratic right and we encourage you to participate.

WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENT

DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA 2017

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

“As one of the Directors of Dancesport Australia I am proud and pleased to provide this report on DANCE Wollongong.”

The DANCE Wollongong 2017 event was so successful that it featured on WIN TV as the “strongest competition in years” with over 1,500 spectators attending.

The generous sponsorship from Mercedes-Benz Wollongong and CMG Audio Visual allowed DSA to offset many of the costs. This included hiring a quality venue, bringing in a purpose-built floor and having a superior audio visual set-up.

Being in a beachside location made for a lovely change from chilly Canberra. It did not feel like winter to the Southerners! Wollongong is part of a beautiful coastline

with much to see. One of the many benefits of DanceSport is travelling to new places.

The advertising campaign on Facebook was brilliant - charming excerpts and facts popping up every few days to keep interest piqued. It generated momentum early on and kept going. This campaign was orchestrated with local media and actively included i98 radio, WIN TV and the Illawarra Times newspaper. Destination Wollongong, the local tourist bureau, were outstanding with their helpful promotion of the event.

We are very grateful to Sandy Rae, a local dancer who worked hard behind the scenes in organising sponsorship, facilities, publicity and much more.

Location, Location, Location - It was a very exciting time for the National

Championships to move to a new and improved location - in Wollongong - close to the beach.

For me, the venue was the centre piece with its large floor and amazing lighting, it was second to none. The event was magnificent, from the impressive opening showcasing the major sponsor, Mercedes, right through to the very end. It was underpinned by a very professional approach to detail which provided a premium experience for the dancers and adjudicators.

In terms of accessibility, accommodation was within walking distance of the stadium, so it was wonderfully convenient. The event seemed to run smoothly, with no delays. Feedback I received was that both evenings finished at a respectable hour, for which a lot of people were grateful.

This points to the meticulous organisation that ensured everything went according to schedule; no hiccups or lags.

Great admission price and retail support - As a spectator over the entire weekend, I noticed all the main dance retailers were present and offering great specials to competitors. In speaking to them, they said they received a good response and take-up from buyers.

The competition admission price was very reasonable for such an upmarket stadium, and was below average cost for competitions today. The seats were easy to access and all offered great views.

Wollongong - a good move - Obviously the shift from Canberra to Wollongong provided many challenges and several changes to traditional thinking; I know that many

decisions were painstakingly assessed by the Directors. However, there was an overwhelming feeling that they needed to break new ground because just running a ‘competition’ was not good enough for DanceSport competitors in Australia.

Overall, I feel this change is for the better and I want to congratulate the organising committee for their fantastic work in putting on such a spectacular event, catering for competitors, major sponsors and spectators”.

DanceSport Australia would like to thank all who attended the second DanceSport Australia National Championship.

From Madeleine Zoanetti, DSA Director

DSA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

At the 2017 DSA National Championship recently held in Wollongong, DSA President Dallas Williams proudly presented a Honorary Life Membership of DanceSport Australia to Neville Boyd OAM. Neville, who has made an outstanding contribution to improving DanceSport over many years, and has worked tirelessly and conspicuously for our industry without thought of personal gain. Neville's efforts have contributed greatly to the standing and attractiveness of DanceSport in the community.

HERE'S HOW!

LOOKING TO GAIN A DSA ACCREDITATION COACH, ADJUDICATOR, SCRUTINEER

While Accreditation is a DSA process, it starts locally and is overseen by the State Board. The process is as follows:

- Candidates must be a DSA financial member.
- Applications are online, via DSA web site (under the Accreditation tab)
- There are two main categories: Coach (Assistant DanceSport Instructor, DanceSport Instructor, Coach and Elite Coach) or Adjudicator (Competition, Championship and National Championship levels). There are also other categories, e.g. Scrutineer, Chairman of the Panel. Details of criteria of all these levels are contained within the DSA Accreditation Program tab, under Accreditation on the DSA web site.
- Application & examination fees are payable online with the application.
- The application form goes to the Accreditation Commission (Chair) Inbox, who will respond acknowledging receipt.
- The Accreditation Commission forwards the application to the relevant State Accreditation Officer (SAO) who will oversee the process locally. Applications for Scrutineer are forwarded to the CFO; SAO is copied.
- The candidate will be sent any required information and study documents (including a Clearance Form).
- The candidate (when ready to do exam, or has questions) contacts their SAO, who will -
 - Organise the exam and examiners
 - Agrees date with candidate
 - Informs candidate names of examiners
 - Communicates with Accreditation Commission to organise appropriate examination papers.
 - Forwards completed examiner's reports to Accreditation Commission for processing.
 - Coordinates Assessors payments and communicates details to CFO for payment.

Successful candidate will receive an Accreditation Certificate and will have their accreditation level recorded in the National Accreditation Database which is published on the DSA web site.

The most important parts of this process are applying online and contacting the State Accreditation Officer who will assist candidates with the process. SAO contact details are in the State sections of the DSA web site – or from the Executive Officer of the State Board.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS? PLEASE LET US KNOW

Your MyDSA portal is a very effective way of keeping us informed of changes to your contact details.

If you change your postal address, phone numbers or email address, you can alter it on your membership record. If other details are incorrect then contact your State Branch Registration Officer if it relates to Date of Birth or your Grading record or the National Registration Officer in the case of Accreditation details. If you are unsure of how to go about it, any of the DSA officers will be able to give advice.

ORDERS OF AUSTRALIA AWARDS - QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Congratulations are also in order for the following well-known members of DanceSport Australia on receiving Orders of Australia awards in the recent Queens Birthday Honours List

ADELE HYLAND

DSA National Councillor/Director, Coach and Adjudicator - on being awarded the honour as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the General Division for significant service to the performing arts as a choreographer and dance educator and to developing dance as a sport.

WAYNE DOUGLAS

DSA Coach and Adjudicator on being awarded the honour of a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to dance as a teacher and adjudicator.

DSA RULE CHANGES ALL OPERATIVE FROM 1ST JULY 2017

Optional Bonus Points

This is a very important notice for all **C & B Grade competitors**, and their Coaches.

A major challenge for DanceSport in Australia is how to balance the needs of competitors throughout the entire country. The dancing habits of those in highly populated areas are not the same for rural areas, and this causes some to feel that the 'system' does not work for them.

All Bonus Points will be optional!

Everybody's needs are different. Competitors and Coaches work in unison so that personal goals are achieved and DanceSport grows. The Directors of DanceSport recognise this uniqueness and have moved a motion that all Bonus Points be optional. So the competitor decides if the available Bonus Points are to be added to their total for elevation.

Points awarded to Amateur competitors are separated into two parts;

- Base Points calculated from your Ranking in a Graded event,
- Bonus Points to assist specific Age Groups and regions.

By default all competitor accounts are set so that Bonus Points are included in the total for elevation. This status can be easily changed by;

1. Logging into your account at **www.p5000.org**
2. Clicking on the 'Competitor Points Summary' button.

Summary of your points will be displayed and whether the Bonus Points are included in the total. You can change your 'Bonus Points Status' by clicking the button that appears below your Points Summary.

Reassessment of Grade or Status

We've eased the bureaucratic burden – any competitor who, with good and sound reason, believes their competitive grade or status is 'not right' may apply to the CEO and Sports Director (jointly) who will assess the application for change.

Applications should be supported with comment from the competitor's coach. Such applications were previously assessed by the State Branch.

Automatic Elevation – Rule Modified

We listen – for some time there has been disquiet regarding the lack of a current rule of automatic elevation to the next grade with a win at a major championship.

DSA's National Council has heard this, reviewed the comments and situation – and made a change. Now, an automatic grade elevation will come from a win in a graded or open event at the 'Australian Championship' currently managed by the Australian Dancing Society and held in Melbourne at the end of each calendar year. The matter will be kept under review.

WDSF ATHLETES ID CARDS

In order to dance in any WDSF registered event, competition or championship anywhere in the world (including those that may be held in Australia), the possession of a WDSF Athlete's ID Card is mandatory

Details can be found on the DSA web site at www.dancesport.org.au/index.php/competitors

DSA members should note that the WDSF ID Card ONLY applies to WDSF registered events, whether they are stand alone competitions, or individual events operating within a competition registered by another body, such as DSA. The possession of such a card is NOT a requirement for competitions or events registered solely with DSA which are open to all competitors providing they hold a valid competitors registration in their country of residence and/or agree to abide by the Rules of DanceSport.

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS

The DSA online registration system "myDSA" continues as a service to members.

An important aspect of the integrity of the system is that a receipt is automatically issued for all payments received; if you don't receive an emailed receipt, please check your spam or junk mail, or contact your state registration officer.

New members registering for the first time are required to submit a written application form, available from the state registration officer or downloadable from the DSA web site. Usernames and passwords will be provided prior to the commencement of the next registration period. It is in your interest to ensure that your contact details remain current either by updating your information via the "myDSA" portal or advising the relevant Registration Officer of any change.

CONTACT US

NATIONAL AND STATE BRANCHES

National President

Dallas Williams
Email: president@dancesport.org.au

National Office

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Steve Edwards

National Registrar: Mr Steve Edwards
PO Box 7771, Baulkham Hills BC
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
Phone: 02 9836 3337 Mob: 0402 159 398
Email: ceo@dancesport.org.au

STATE BRANCHES (INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING)

NSW CHAIRMAN

Ms Carol Kimmins
PO Box 74
Georges Hall NSW 2198
Mob: 0418 415 227

NSW REGISTRATIONS OFFICER

Mrs Sue James
PO Box 158
Seaforth NSW 2092
Tel: 02 9979 6453

VIC EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dr Martyn Kibel
2/6 Paul Street
Doncaster Vic 3108
Mob: 0409 028 162

VIC REGISTRATIONS OFFICER

Mrs Norma Johnson
PO Box 158
Pascoe Vale South VIC 3044
Tel: 03 9357 3016

QLD EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mrs Rebecca Beardesley
33 Antrim Street
Acacia Ridge 4110
Mob: 0422 967 267

QLD REGISTRATIONS OFFICER

Mr Kevin Morellini
PO Box 692
Edmonton QLD 4869
Mob: 0416 703 414

SA EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr Oryst Tkacz
17 Mowbray Street
Mawson Lakes SA 5095
Mob: 0403 971 624

SA REGISTRATIONS OFFICER

Mrs Shian Mitchell
11 Coondoo Avenue
Ingle Farm SA 5098
Mob: 0402 853 748

WA EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mrs Jan Hunt
4 Cesare Circle
Madeley 6065
Mob: 0439 186 198

WA REGISTRATIONS OFFICER

Mrs Jan Hunt
4 Cesare Circle
Madeley 6065
Mob: 0439 186 198

TAS EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ms Alison Jacob
55 Fitzroy Crescent
Dyynyrne TAS 7005
Mob: 0417 165 424

TAS REGISTRATIONS OFFICER

Mr David Stearns
9 Molecombe Drive
Prospect Vale TAS 7250
Mob: 0407 053 221

NT ADMINISTRATION

Contact WA Executive Officer

NT REGISTRATIONS OFFICER

Contact WA Registrar

SCHEDULE OF FEES

JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST 2017

(ALL FEES ARE INCLUSIVE OF GST)

Ordinary Membership Fee	\$71.00
Competitors	
Professional, Adult, Masters, Youth 16 years and over	\$76.00
Juvenile, Junior and Youth under 16 years	\$48.00
Transfer Fee from Recreational	
First Registration Only Adult, Masters, Youth 16 yrs & over	\$50.00
First Registration Only Juvenile, Junior, Youth under 16 yrs	\$30.00
Recreation Division	
Registration Fee	\$20.00
Accredited Member Renewals	
Accredited Coach	\$184.00
Accredited Coach and Competitor	\$197.00
Licensed Adjudicator	\$149.00
Accredited Coach and Adjudicator	\$197.00
Licensed Adjudicator and Competitor	\$163.00
Coach / Adjudicator / Competitor	\$197.00
Scrutineer	\$97.00
Event Registrations	
National Championships	\$550.00
Championships	\$275.00
Competitions	\$165.00
Development Competitions	\$165.00
Adjudicating	
First Time Adjudicator Accreditation Application	\$99.00
Adjudicator Technical Assessment – Competition	\$233.00
Adjudicator Technical Assessment – Championship	\$283.00
Adjudicator Technical Assessment – Nat. Championship	\$333.00
Re-instatement of Accreditation – Up to one year absence	\$33.00
Re-instatement of Accreditation – One to five year absence	\$132.00
Coaching	
Assistant DanceSport Instructor (Single Style)	\$93.00
Assistant DanceSport Instructor (All Styles)	\$133.00
DanceSport Instructor	\$183.00
DanceSport Coach	\$233.00
Elite DanceSport Coach	\$283.00
Other	
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	\$233.00
Scrutineer Exams	\$99.00
Chairman of Adjudicators – Competitions	\$33.00
Chairman of Adjudicators – Championships	\$44.00
Other Fees	
WDSF Athletes ID-Card Applications	\$25.00
Registered Teaching Facility	\$50.00

www.dancesport.org.au

Our website is the easy access point for information, news, rules and policy documents plus links to other sites and details of local and international events.

Focus Newsletter Editor
STEVE EDWARDS

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