

PARWOOD

DANCE ACADEMY



2026



Message from the Principal

As we step into 2026, I am filled with excitement and pride to be leading Parkwood Dance Academy through our 50th year. This incredible milestone is a chance to reflect on where we've come from — beginning with our founding principal, Marlene Mayall, whose passion first brought Parkwood to life, and then with Myffie Hof, who built the school into a nurturing and inspiring home for so many young dancers.

Now, as we celebrate this golden chapter, I'm thrilled to look ahead to the future of Parkwood. We have some fantastic opportunities planned for our students, including a Mid Year Performance for our younger

students and a Cabaret for our senior students. We'll also be hosting a range of exciting new workshops, and, of course, continuing to offer our trainee teaching program, our VET Dance program and many exam opportunities for those wishing to further their training.

This year is about honouring our history while embracing the next chapter of creativity, connection, and growth. Whether you're joining us for the first time or continuing your dance journey with us, I look forward to sharing a wonderful year of dance and celebration with you.

**Yours in dance,
Jessica**

PDA'S founder



Marlene Mayall

After many years of studying dance (of all styles) under Madam Sicilia Fierenzi, Marlene opened her first dance school in North Balwyn, The Marlene Skinner Dance Academy.

Upon marrying, Marlene settled in Park Orchards. The beginning of Parkwood Dance Academy came about when some mothers in the local area of Warrandyte heard of Marlene's past dancing career and asked if she could teach their children to dance, which meant setting up a studio in her garage at home. After a while, as the number of students grew, PDA moved to a local church hall.

In time, Manningham Council, having heard about PDA's involvement in helping young children in the community, invited Marlene to run her classes at Domeney Recreation Centre.

The Academy grew rapidly and a lot more classes were added. Years later, in a wonderful show of support, Manningham Council's refurbishment of Domeney

included the installation of new dance floors, mirror walls, barres for ballet and the provision of storage for costumes and dance attire. It was about this time (1992), that Myffie and Will enrolled their two daughters in the Academy. Myffie, having been a dancer herself, was only too happy to help the school and Marlene, in any way.

For a further 10 years, PDA grew and flourished, until, unfortunately, Marlene's family life changed altogether when she lost her youngest son and his girlfriend in a tragic accident. By 2002, Marlene was finding it too difficult to give her all to her teaching as well as supporting her family and she decided to accept an opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream to own and run an orchard in the NSW Northern Rivers.

On leaving, Marlene had no hesitation in handing the Academy over to Myffie and her family, knowing they would continue as she would have wanted.

'Thank you to the Hof Family for keeping my dream going - I hope you keep yours too.'

'My legacy is in the many hundreds of dance students, professional dancers, dance school owners, teachers and an internationally renowned choreographer, (Lachlan Prior, formerly Artistic Director / Choreographer with the New Zealand Ballet Company) that have been taught, motivated and inspired by Parkwood Dance Academy.'

Marlene Mayall

PDA'S former Principal



Myffie Hof

Myffie has dedicated the last 21 years to fostering a love for dance at Parkwood Dance Academy. With a background of 50 years in the creative arts industry, Myffie began her journey as a Ballet dancer, then a passionate teacher of fine arts before stepping into the role of principal at Parkwood. Under her leadership, Parkwood has grown into a thriving community, known for its nurturing environment and exceptional dance education. Her commitment to excellence and creativity has transformed the lives of many young dancers, leading them to pursue their dreams on and off the stage.

She has chosen to take on an Administrative role in the school and will remain passionate about the future of dance and supporting the next generation of dancers at Parkwood. She looks forward to staying connected with the students and celebrating their successes from the sidelines, knowing that the spirit of Parkwood Dance Academy will continue to thrive.

'As we look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary (2026), Parkwood will be led by my daughter, Jessica, who has dedicated herself fully to understanding the many details and nuances of this incredible place.'

'Jess is not only a talented dancer, but she's also achieved her dream of becoming an Examiner in the art of dance and with her beautiful visions for the future of Parkwood, we believe teachers, students and their families will enjoy her assistance and support in creating many new brilliant performance journeys for many more budding artists.'

Myffie Hof

Our mission

Parkwood Dance Academy offers classes that are both engaging and educational, inspiring creativity, teamwork, and a love of movement. Through dance, our students develop confidence, poise, coordination, and physical well-being, while also enhancing their focus and cognitive growth.

Learn from leaders in dance education

50 years

Leaders in dance education since 1976.

60+ classes

To choose from each week.

100% success

Ensuring our dancers are accepted into their first preference tertiary dance course.

Our values



Family

Our family welcomes your family!



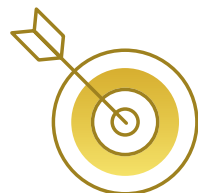
Quality

We measure our dance standards against national and International dance communities.



Community

We support an inclusive dance community that facilitates equality with respect and dignity.



Professional

All our dance teachers hold current teaching qualifications across all styles of dance.



Supportive

We offer families the opportunity to plan, discuss and review their child's dance education at any time.



Our dance teachers

Parkwood Dance Academy teachers are experienced professionals that are enthusiastic about giving every dancer the opportunity to enjoy dance and socialise with their peers in a safe environment. Staff regularly update their dance and teaching skills.



Jessica Hof-Steel
Principal

Comdance Jazz, Tap & Theatrical Teaching Diploma,
Comdance BLUE SASH

Certificate IV Dance Teaching & Management,
Certificate IV TAE, Comdance Graded Examiner



Myffie Hof
Administration

Myffie has been involved in the Arts for the past 50 years. Formerly PDA's Principal for 20 years, she has now moved to an Administrative role for the school.



Lily Crowley
Emerging Studio Manager

Certificate IV in Dance Teaching & Management, Certificate IV TAE



Tamara Moritz
Comdance Tap & Contemporary Teaching Diploma, Comdance BLUE SASH



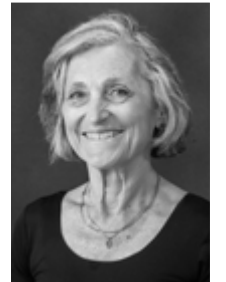
Kylie Digby
Comdance Tap Teaching Diploma



Caroline Ellis
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) (Dance)



Kathryn Boysen
Comdance Jazz Teaching Diploma, Tap & Theatrical Teaching Cert, Comdance BLUE SASH, Cert IV Dance Teaching & Management



Jane Andrewartha
Diploma in Dance Teaching & Management, Certificate IV TAE, Certificate IV Pilates, Certificate in safe & effective dance practice



Bridget Sutton
Comdance Tap Teaching Diploma



Alicia Choy
Comdance Jazz Teaching Diploma, Comdance Tap Teaching Certificate



Sarahjane Norton-Smith
Comdance Jazz Teaching Certificate, Comdance BLUE SASH

All of our teachers hold current Working with Children Checks and are committed to upholding Parkwood Dance Academy's Child Safety Policy.

Leadership & Training Opportunities



At Parkwood Dance Academy, we believe in nurturing not only great dancers, but great leaders.

Becoming a **Class Assistant** is a special achievement and a wonderful opportunity to give back to our dance community. It recognises students who demonstrate dedication, teamwork, and kindness in every class.

Students in Year 8 and above are invited to apply for a Class Assistant position by completing the Jotform application located via the QR code by Saturday 13 December, 2025.

In 2026, we're excited to offer our leadership pathways with two new programs designed to inspire and empower our dancers:

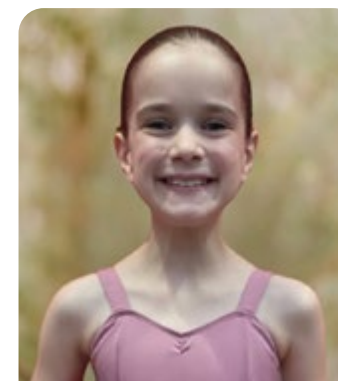
- ★ **ASSIST – Class Helper Program**
For students who would love to develop their confidence as leaders in the studio.
- ★ **ASPIRE – Teacher in Training Program**
For committed exam students who are passionate about teaching and may wish to pursue a future career in the creative arts industry.

These programs provide meaningful hands-on experience, mentorship from our teaching team, and the chance to grow both as a dancer and a role model.

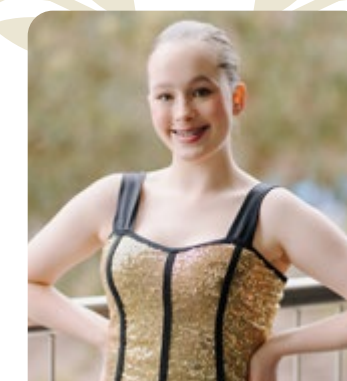
2025 Scholarship Winners



The Sutton Family
Perpetual Scholarship
Jane Clarke



Outstanding
Performance Award
Emily Cefai



Outstanding
Performance Award
Maeve Weeks



Outstanding
Performance Award
Sarah Leembruggen





Encouragement Award
Charlie Berry



Encouragement Award
Dora Pan



Dance classes

 <p>(1 to 3 years)</p>	<p>A toddler dance class where the grown ups join in too! Toddlers will be introduced to the magical world of dance through props, imagery, pictures, sing-a-long songs and fabulous dance music.</p>
 <p>(3 to 5 years)</p>	<p>Designed to provide a fun and imaginative foundation to Ballet and Jazz dance. Tiny Dancers learn to focus and interact with their teacher and peers, enhance their gross and fine motor skills and learn music appreciation.</p> <p>Tiny Dancers enjoy a brand new theme every term – Jungle, Space, Seasons and Circus, here we come!!!</p>
<p>BALLET (Prep +)</p>	<p>The foundation to all dance!</p> <p>Our classes encourage discipline, focus, strength, flexibility, musicality and vocabulary. Our teachers follow the traditional methods of Barre work, Centre work (including turns and leaps), Dance study and stretching. Through repetition and gentle corrections, our students learn to aim for perfection!</p> <p>Over time our classes include Free movement, Neo classical and Character (or National).</p>
<p>DEMI POINTE (Invitation only)</p>	<p>A pre-requisite study for Pointe work. Our demi pointe classes build strength in dancers feet, ankles and core. When our teachers see individual determination, motivation and progression, they will invite the student to purchase demi-pointe shoes for wear in the class.</p>



<p>POINTE (Invitation only)</p>	<p>Always a major goal in a ballerina's dance life! Our Pointe classes can be attended by eligible students who are studying at least two other Ballet classes per week. Upon enrolment into the class, each student is formally evaluated by Management, to determine an ability to meet the demands of pointe work and receive an offer to begin dancing in Pointe shoes.</p>
<p>JAZZ (Prep +)</p>	<p>An energetic class using popular (age appropriate) music for Warmup, Corner work, Centre work, stretching and a choreographed Dance! Students will learn co-ordination skills, high levels of mobility, technique, presentation and style.</p> <p>Over time, we add Lyrical, Hip Hop, Cabaret, Broadway, Latin, Street and Funk!</p>
<p>TAP (Prep +)</p>	<p>A percussive, rhythmic and exciting form of dance. Our tappers learn to listen to music, count it and even make music with their feet whilst performing complex steps - that's why tapping is the "clever" style!</p> <p>Our tappers will learn Broadway, Cabaret, Latin and Street tap styles as well!</p>
<p>CONTEMPORARY (Invitation only)</p>	<p>For our slightly more mature dancers who want to embrace extra core work, speed changes, abstract lines, self expression, imagination and versatility in style. As the Contemporary style borrows from Jazz and Ballet, we recommend enhancing your Contemporary class experience with weekly Jazz and Ballet classes.</p>
<p>PERFORMING ARTS</p>	<p>A class that explores all disciplines of Performing Arts; Singing, Dance, Drama and Performing. Our program encourages students to explore their talents in a supportive and dynamic environment.</p>
<p>ADULTS</p>	<p>Our classes provide a casual, enjoyable and safe place for adult students to explore their physical and cognitive abilities through dance. We offer Ballet, Jazz and Tap classes to Adult Beginners, Intermediates or returnees!</p>



2025 Mid Year Performance



ADULT CLASSES

Tap • Jazz • Ballet

Whether you're brand new, returning after a break, or simply can't resist the music – our Adult Classes are made for you! Enjoy a supportive and light-hearted environment where everyone can move, laugh, and grow at their own pace.

Why you'll love it:

- So much FUN!
- A fantastic workout for both body and mind
- Meet new people and make new connections
- Boost heart health, strength, and flexibility
- Ease joint pain and improve posture
- Increase confidence and self-esteem
- Express yourself creatively
- Feel energised, strong, and inspired
- Reduce stress and sharpen your memory

Come for the dance – stay for the movement, joy, and connection



RAD Examinations

Grade 1 Exam

Emily Cefai (*Distinction*)
Sienna Morrison (*Distinction*)
Maisie Rodger (*Distinction*)
Kenzie Dazkiw (*Distinction*)

Grade 2 Class Award

Evelyn Huang
Vivienne Chiang
Eleanor Huang
Matilda Comrie

Grade 2 Exam

Jane Clarke

Grade 4 Exam

Astrid Punturere
Addison Watson
Ava Edwards
Esther Reichman
Demi Stylianou
Rachel Glanvill (*Distinction*)
Sienna Chapple
Amirthini Quinn
Kam Lok Yin Eliz
Isla Jones
Quinn James
Monika Dean



Grade 5 Class Award

Kayla Mann
Valerie Tan
Amy Southgate

Grade 5 Exam

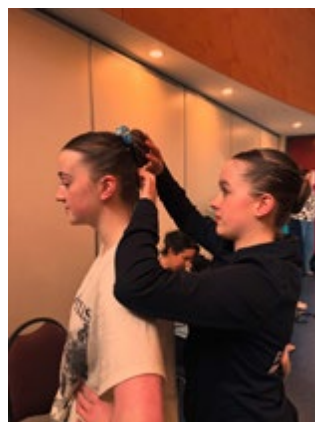
Catherine Tang
Rachel Cefai
Charlie Berry
Stephanie Seeger (*Distinction*)
Lily Fletcher (*Distinction*)
Charlotte Manners

Grade 6 Exam

Maeve Weeks (*High Distinction*)
Rebekah Reichman (*High Distinction*)
Isabel Yee Ching Ng (*Distinction*)
Isabelle Payne (*High Distinction*)
Dora Pan (*High Distinction*)
Rachel Jansen (*Distinction*)

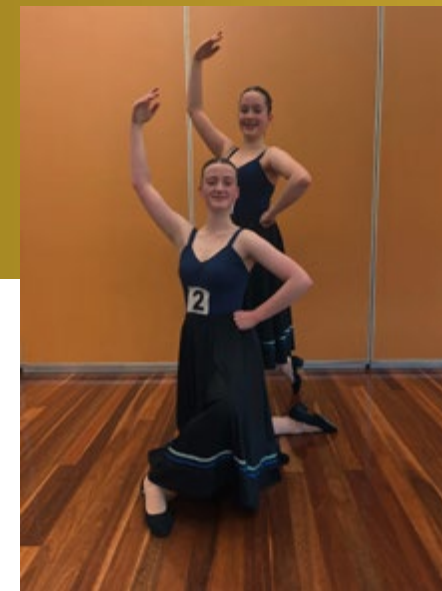
Grade 8 Exam

Daisy Earls (*Distinction*)
Ellie Collins (*Distinction*)
Taylor Punturere (*Distinction*)



Intermediate Exam

Maeve Weeks (*Distinction*)
Taylor Punturere (*Distinction*)
Isabelle Payne (*Distinction*)
Dora Pan (*Distinction*)



Comdance Examinations

Comdance Examinations

Pre Theatrical

Harper Frisby
Averie Zheng
Olivia Halhead
Zoe Mander
Eden Lewis
Halle Waldron
Chloe Ralston
Maya Hendley
Paige Watson
Holly O'Brien
Isla Walsh
Sage Westra
Isla Hamilton

Theatrical A

Lola Rodger
Lola Edwards
Rylie Chen
Capri Dimovski
Ivy Dent
Luella Milne

Grade 3 Theatrical

Alexa Marshall
Quinn James
Sydney Cooper
Sienna Chapple
Demi Stylianou
Astrid Punturere

Pre Modern Jazz

Charlotte Correia
Georgia Dolman
Harper Hamilton
Everly Hof-Steel
Sadie Walsh
Anika Bolton
Hannah Laidlaw
Indy Anderson
Sienna Morrison (*Honours Plus*)
Maisie Rodger
Evie Dawes
Emily Cefai (*Honours Plus*)
Thea Malbroukou
Kenzie Dazkiw

Junior Modern Jazz

Emma Burden
Eleanor Huang
Evelyn Huang
Hannah Nagorcka
Jane Clarke
Lila Adams

Jazz Grade 1

Abigail Roberts
Olive Frame
Caitlin Mott
Alexa Marshall

Jazz Grade 2

Isla Jones
Amirthini Quinn
Sydney Cooper
Lok Yin Eliz Kam
Astrid Punturere
Ava Edwards
Addison Watson
Luca Callahan
Demi Stylianou
Monika Dean
Sienna Chapple
Rachel Glanvill

Jazz Grade 4

Rachel Cefai
Emma Salter
Stephanie Seeger
Lily Fletcher

Jazz Grade 7

Isabel Yee Ching Ng
Dora Pan
Sienna Boutle
Maeve Weeks
Rachel Jansen

Foundation Tap

Sadie Walsh
Vivian Chen
Georgia Dolman
Abby Hodges
Everly Hof-Steel
Charlotte Correia
Roma Dimovski
Harper Hamilton
Anika Bolton
Indy Anderson
Hannah Laidlaw

Junior Tap

Sienna Morrison
Maisie Rodger
Evie Dawes
Emily Cefai
Kenzie Dazkiw

Primary Tap

Emily Cefai
Eleanor Huang
Vivienne Chiang
Jane Clarke
Evelyn Huang
Lila Adams

Tap Grade 1

Abigail Roberts
Olive Frame
Quinn James
Alexa Marshall

Tap Grade 2

Amirthini Quinn
Sydney Cooper
Isla Jones
Astrid Punturere
Ava Edwards
Luca Callahan
Rachel Glanvill
Demi Stylianou
Monika Dean

Tap Grade 3

Catherine Tang
Rachel Cefai
Stephanie Seeger

Tap Grade 6

Maeve Weeks

Advanced Gold Star

Clare Papadopoulos
Lily Crowley

Pre Ballet

Sage Westra
Paige Watson
Holly O'Brien
Jordyn Moran
Harper Frisby
Eden Lewis
Halle Waldron
Michaela Morton
Madeleine Went
Mia Douglas
Sophia Di Manno
Maya Afshar Yazdi
Kleio Gonis
Thinaya Dharmasena

Primary Ballet

Scarlett O'brien
Lola Rodger
Lola Edwards
Rylie Chen
Ivy Dent
Quinn George
Capri Dimovski

Grade 1 Ballet

Anika Bolton
Everly Hof-Steel

Level 1 Contemporary

Taylor Punturere
Maeve Weeks
Isabel Yee Ching Ng
Dora Pan

Level 3 Contemporary

Lily Crowley

Level 4 Contemporary

Lily Crowley



Why Dance?

“

‘Dance — and physical activity — should have the same status in schools as math, science and language. Psst: it may even help raise test scores.’

‘I’m not arguing against mathematics — it’s an indispensable part of the great creative adventure of the human mind. Instead, this is an argument for equity in educating the whole child. I’m talking about the equal importance of dance with the other arts, languages, mathematics, sciences and the humanities in general education.’

– Sir Ken Robinson

Research continually shows that dance and physical activity contribute to better cognitive performance, memory, and emotional wellbeing. It teaches focus like maths, problem-solving like science, and communication like language. Yet dance goes one step further: it connects the mind, body, and spirit through music and movement.

When children move, they learn. But beyond the evidence, dance offers something deeply human. Dance gives young people a way to feel grounded, build confidence, and express who they are. It helps develop resilience, teamwork, empathy, and self-belief — skills that reach far beyond the studio and into every part of life.

When students dance, they learn how to listen — to music, to others, and to themselves. They discover how to lead, follow, create, and collaborate. They feel what it’s like to achieve something through dedication and joy.

At Parkwood Dance Academy, we believe every child should have the chance to experience the magic of movement — not just to become a dancer, but to become confident, expressive, and connected human beings - lessons that last a lifetime.



2025 Concert Photos







VET DANCE

Parkwood Dance Academy is partnering with EMPOWERDANCE PTY LTD (RTO 40397) to deliver VET Dance Certificates for secondary school students.

CUA10120 Certificate I in Dance (Year 7 & 8)

CUA20120 Certificate II in Dance (Year 9 & 10)

CUA30120 Certificate III in Dance (Year 11 & 12)

Students can now choose VET Dance as a VCE subject and have the course count towards their final ATAR!

These certificates are a vocational option of study for students who wish to further their knowledge of dance, through the combination of practical and theoretical classes.

The courses cover topics like anatomy, group projects, safe dance practices, nutrition, body science and dance history that are essential for the dancers of today.

It is recommended that each Certificate is studied consecutively.

We are really excited for the students who have commenced their VET studies this year and special congratulations to the students who have completed their courses!

Certificate III

Taylor Punturere
Daisy Earls
Harry Pennell

Certificate II

Maeve Weeks
Isabel Ng
Dora Pan

Study a Certificate in Dance right here!



PARKWOOD
DANCE ACADEMY

Partnered with

Empowerdance
PTY LTD RTO: 40397

Ask us for more information



A special day at the Victorian Prestige Exam Scholarship by Comdance



We were so proud to see 25 of our students step up to the challenge, all bringing their passion, positivity, and best efforts to their classes.

Big congratulations to our finalists who performed a solo on stage!

Monika Dean - Finalist, Junior Tap
 Demi Stylianou - Finalist, Junior Tap
 Ava Edwards - Finalist, Junior Tap
 Isla Jones - Finalist, Junior Tap
 Addison Watson - Finalist, Junior Jazz
 Abigail Roberts - Finalist, Junior Jazz
 Everly Hof-Steel - Finalist, Junior Classical
 Adelaide Van Wyk - Finalist, Senior Jazz
 Ellie Collins - Finalist, Senior Jazz
 Maeve Weeks - Finalist, Senior Classical
 Isabel Ng - Finalist, Senior Classical
 Rebekah Reichman - Finalist, Senior Classical

And we are thrilled to celebrate our 8 prize winners!!!

3rd Prize Winners (\$50 cash & next Exam entry free)

Ava Edwards - Junior Tap

Isabel Ng - Senior Classical

2nd Prize Winners (\$100 cash & next Exam entry free)

Isla Jones - Junior Tap

Rebekah Reichman - Senior Classical

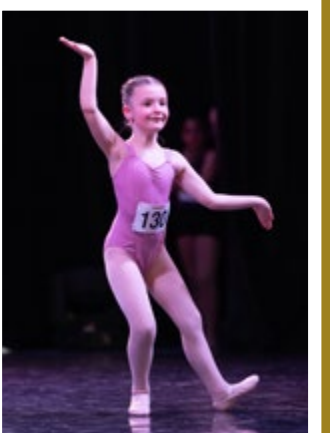
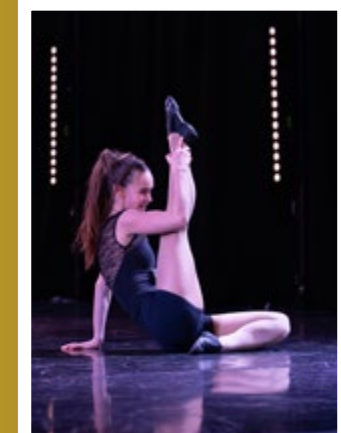
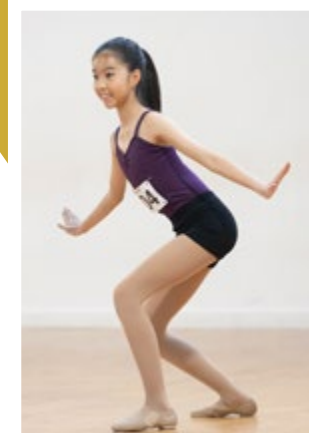
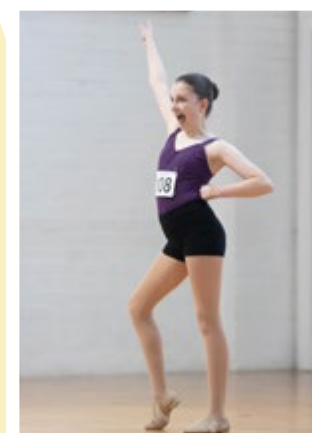
1st Prize Winners (\$500 cash & next Exam entry free)

Abigail Roberts - Junior Jazz

Demi Stylianou - Junior Tap

Maeve Weeks - Senior Classical

Adelaide Van Wyk - Senior Jazz





TINY TOTS Ballet

1 to 3 years



Tiny Tots Ballet

A toddler dance class where the grown ups join in too! Toddlers will be introduced to the magical world of dance through props, imagery, pictures, sing-a-long songs and fabulous dance music.

TINY DANCER Ballet

Tiny Dancer Ballet

Designed to provide a fun and imaginative foundation to Ballet and Jazz dance. Tiny Dancers enjoy a brand new theme every term – Jungle, Space, Seasons and Circus, here we come!!!

3 to 5 years



Public Performance Examinations



Maeve Weeks
 Isabel Ng
 Dora Pan
 Isabelle Payne
 Rebekah Reichman
 Rachel Jansen

Getting to know Miss Jane



Credit: Megan Browne Photography

Where and when did you start studying dance?

I spent my early childhood, a long time ago, in rural Victoria, where dance classes were not something I knew about. When I was seven years old, we moved to Melbourne during the Christmas holidays and my best Christmas present was The Princess Book of Ballet; my introduction to the magical world that I still love. At my new primary school there were girls who were going to ballet classes at the local scout hall. Wow, I just had to go. I went to my first class wearing hand-me-down black ballet shoes, black tights, and a shirt of some sort. I didn't care; I was there!

What memories do you have of your dance studies?

In those early days, everybody walked to ballet as we all lived close by. The hall was very basic with bare wooden flooring, and we used chairs as barres. Safe Dance practices were definitely not a consideration then. The pianist, Mrs Corell, was a bit of a thumper, but always ready to adjust her playing to match what we were performing – it was such an enjoyable and beneficial experience for both dancers and teachers, and something I miss.

Conditions improved a little over my training years, but not significantly. We had no heating or cooling, no dance flooring and no mirrors! I wasn't a very sporty child, but I loved the feeling of dance movements, the use of space, and the independence it gave me.

Years pass and having completed advanced level training, I then took a break to focus on other studies and experiences, but I really missed the special combination of movement and artistry that are inherent in dance and so the second part of my training began when I had the great privilege of returning to dance study as a mature-age student with Laurel Martyn, an eminent Australian dance pioneer. In my early teaching I really didn't know why, or how to do my best for my students. Completing the world-leading Diploma of Dance Teaching and Management under the guidance of Ms Martyn, and many other well-known teachers including Dianne Parrington gave me a holistic insight into the 'when, how and why' as well as the 'what' of teaching dance, and the skills to put it all into practice.

Where did you go when you had finished training?

I continued teaching in several suburban dance schools, and now I enjoy teaching at Parkwood Dance Academy. I was also invited to teach components of the two-year full-time Diploma, which I did for around fifteen years. Ms Martyn's unique approach to teaching dance has been a great influence on my teaching and I now carry that work forward as the Managing Trustee of the Laurel Martyn Foundation; I have trained teachers in this approach both in Australia and internationally, and I have given many national and international presentations for organisations including the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science, the RAD in London, Brisbane, Sydney and online, Dance and the Child International, and the Australian Society for Performing Arts Healthcare.

What skills do you think you bring to your students through teaching?

Safe Dance Teaching Practices are particularly important to me. I have completed Pilates training, a Trinity College London Certificate in Safe and Effective Dance Training, and a Performing Arts Medicine Association certificate for the Essentials of Performing Arts Medicine, Arts Educator(Dance). Currently I am the Australian Registered Course Provider for Safe in Dance International.

What would you like your students to appreciate most from your teachings?

Dance can be enjoyed by every body where individual aptitudes and responses are recognised and nurtured through a broad range of learning experiences. Importantly, the skills we learn in dance should be safe for our own bodies and help us to keep moving well throughout our entire lives.

A holistic dance education will develop open-minded thinking, the ability to respond as an individual, empathy and the ability to work with others, together with a thorough technical training and above all the artistry of dance.



What a brilliant day we had supporting our students at the Audrey Nicholls Awards!



We are so proud of all our dancers for their beautiful performances and wonderful representation of our school.

Grade 4 students: Ava Edwards, Esther Reichman, Amirthini Quinn, Demi Stylianou, Rachel Glanvill, Sienna Chapple.

Grade 1 students: Sienna Morrison, Kenzie Dazkiw, Emily Cefai.

Congratulations to Ava Edwards, who progressed to the semi-finals, and **Emily Cefai**, who reached the finals and performed two stunning solos on stage.

A special congratulations to Emily Cefai, awarded **1st Place – Overall RAD Grade 1 Ballet Winner!**



Celebrating our Year 12 dancers

Georgia Livingstone

I started dancing at Parkwood when I was seven years old, ten years ago. I remember being really nervous in my first ballet class, but that all quickly changed after experiencing the kindness and support of my teacher and peers. I have since gone on to take hip hop, contemporary, jazz and tap classes. During these years I have gained so much, not just in my dancing abilities, but strong friendships, a sense of community and teamwork, and an appreciation for music, rhythm and athleticism.

Now that I am moving on from dancing, I will be forever grateful for the supportive community that Parkwood provides for people of all ages. All of the teachers have pushed me to be the best that I can be and I wouldn't be where I am without my friends.

Daisy Earls

While I have been dancing since the age of 3, my journey at Parkwood only began when I was 14. I must admit beginning a new dance school at an older age was definitely daunting, but once I entered the school I was immediately welcomed by the supportive teachers and other students in my classes.

At Parkwood I have been given incredible opportunities to not only make strong friendships but to continue to grow and develop as a dancer, doing Ballet and Contemporary. Getting to work with a class towards improving for dance exams has taught me so much, in not only evolving my dance capabilities but my mental stamina and mindset. Additionally, completing my VET certificate II and III is an experience that has allowed me to develop my love of dancing into more than just physical performances, but getting to research and explore anatomy, dance programs and careers in the dance industry.



Furthermore, being a part of the dance trainees' program with Parkwood has enabled me to assist in teaching a class, making class plans and learning how to apply myself in a dance studio with younger students. It is an amazing experience that has not only taught me some specifics about dance teaching itself, but also has given me many skills I apply in other areas of my life.

Throughout Year 12, having the support of Parkwood has been greatly appreciated, especially in undertaking a large academic workload. Although at times balance can be hard, having scheduled dance classes throughout the week is a breath of fresh air to the constant schoolwork and study. It allows me to just switch off from outside stressors and focus on something that I can control, which has been beneficial in being able to work hard all year round.

Lastly, while my dance experience at Parkwood has not been long, it certainly has been impactful, thanks to all the wonderful teachers, students and families that form the school. I am very grateful that I get to be a part of such a supportive and welcoming community, and that I have been able to grow as a dancer but also a person during this time.



Taylor Punturere

My time at Parkwood (which has gone much faster than I thought it would), is something that I will cherish forever. Without Parkwood, I would have never discovered my love and passion for dance and performing, and my next chapter in dance wouldn't be possible. For the past 13 years, since 2012, I have had the joy of going from school to Domeney multiple times each week, to learn from the most compassionate and inspiring teachers, and develop into the dancer I am today. It was always a comforting thought knowing I had dance at the end of the day where I could learn and grow as both a dancer and person, and spend hours with some of my best friends, definitely talking a little bit too much when we're not supposed to.

PDA became a second home I could go to whenever, and a second family I could love and care for like my own, knowing this same love would be reciprocated.

I am grateful for the close relationship I have built with Myffie, Jess and Elyse, they were always there with advice, support and encouragement through the good times, and the bad, particularly in these last few years. If I didn't have dance and Parkwood in these recent years, I don't know what I would have done, dance is truly the most important part of my life and for a while, the only thing that made me genuinely happy. I have PDA to thank for that as they were the ones to create a supportive, nurturing and loving environment.

Aside from the community PDA has created, they have also offered me various opportunities and experiences throughout the years. From Dance Exams in Jazz, Tap, Ballet and Contemporary, a Public Performance Tap Exam, the Comdance

Conventions, the Audrey Nicholls Awards, and so many memorable Mid Year and End of Year Concerts that I hold so many fond memories of, every single one has provided me with new experience and the ability to further myself as a dancer and a person. Over my years in high school, I was also invited to develop my theory knowledge of dance, in which I was able to complete my Certificate I, II and III in Dance. To those who taught me in these classes, I thank you for your patience and additional help whenever I needed it.

However, a particular opportunity I am especially grateful for is the Class Assisting Program. I started this Program when I was 14, absolutely terrified of the thought of doing anything like teaching, but so incredibly excited to learn from my teachers in a completely new way. Now, I am just about to complete my Fourth Year as a Teacher in Training, and only slightly nervous at times, but still containing the same excitement and now, passion. I have no doubt that I will revisit this pathway in the future, so I am endlessly grateful for PDA for offering me this incredible experience that allowed me to discover a whole new passion of mine.

As I step into this next chapter of my life and reflect back on my time at PDA, I remember the lifelong bonds I've made with some of my best friends, the endless memories starting from 4 years old, the constant support, love and compassion from every single teacher, the lessons, guidance and encouragement that I will continue to use,

and of course, the journey of my dance life. I am endlessly grateful for my PDA family and I will truly miss returning to this home almost everyday, every week.

Our commitment to the community

The Parkwood Dance Academy community appreciates the care and support of a wonderful group of children, parents, teachers and staff. We're passionate about bringing people together to celebrate the Performing Arts.



Benefits for dancers



- Make friends and build life skills
- Current and relevant dance education
- Personalised dance programs
- Internationally recognised qualifications

Benefits for the community

- A safe and supportive space
- Linked educational pathways
- Performances and entertainment
- Promote health and wellbeing



Support for dancers and families

Providing opportunities for students to commence and continue their dance education at Parkwood, despite challenging circumstances.

Scholarships | Payment plans

Support for community groups

Providing opportunities for community groups to attend and enjoy performances presented by Parkwood Dance Academy.

Discounted tickets | Performances for specific events | Community donations

PDA supports the following organisations

- Alannah & Madeleine Foundation
- Berry street child & family services
- The Salvation Army Australia
- St Anne's Primary School Strawberry Fair
- Manningham Community Kindergartens
- Manningham Community Primary Schools
- Dance Aid Melbourne
- Tap into Mental Health
- Dance Teachers - Melbourne

Our affiliations





Planning Your Dance Success

We have a **100%** success rate ensuring our dancers are accepted into their first preference tertiary dance courses which include:

- Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School
- Victorian College of the Arts (Faculty of Fine Arts & Music)
- Ballarat Centre of Music & the Arts
- Royal Academy of Dance (Certificate in Ballet Teaching)
- Royal New Zealand School
- Royal New Zealand Company
- Australian Ballet School
- Australian Ballet Company
- Kelly Aykers Full Time Dance
- Patrick Studios Australia
- Spectrum Dance
- The Space Dance & Arts Centre
- Deakin University (Bachelor of Creative Arts, Dance)
- Australian Dance institute
- Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance
- Transit Dance
- Comdance (Certificates & Diplomas in Teaching)
- Brent Street Performing Arts

With the benefit of many years of experience in dance education and commencing careers in the commercial dance industry, Parkwood offer students and parents the opportunity to discuss the planning of academic studies in conjunction with their dance studies to support their learning and growth. We can assist with subject selections, exam dates and flexibility in scheduling during heavily loaded study times.



**Principal
Administration**

**Jessica Hof-Steel
Myffie Hof**

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Learn from leaders in dance education

