

# NEW ZEALAND BALLROOM DANCE COUNCIL (NZBDC)

Registered as a New Zealand Charitable Trust Organisation

Established in 1965 as the Governing Body for Ballroom Dancing and Dancesport in New Zealand

Member Body of the World Dance Council  
Member Body of the World Dance Council - Amateur League  
Member Body of the Asia Pacific Dance Council  
Member of Dance Aotearoa New Zealand - DANZ  
Member Body of the World Dance Organisers - WDO

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President: Kingsley Gainsford  
Secretary: Robert Connors

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## Newsletter March 2021

Dear Registrants, Kia Ora, welcome to another year of dancing.

### **Covid-19 and your registrations carried over to this year:**

Many restrictions and challenges were placed upon our industry due to Covid-19 in 2020. We understand this has been a difficult time for Teachers, Dancers and Organisers of Competitions.

With this in mind, Council unanimously voted to carry over your 2020 registration to 2021. We are also limiting the number of Championships in 2021 and encouraging the inter-studio fun competitions started last year in the Waikato and Auckland regions.

We trust that where and when events can be held you will be able to take full advantage of these, support the organiser and hopefully enjoy the ability to express your love of and skills, in the various dance styles and rhythms offered.

### **The 2020 Aotearoa New Zealand Ballroom Championships:**

Held in November in Auckland, were an outstanding success. This is the first time that Council has organised these events directly. We were thrilled with the response from across the entire spectrum of dancers and dance studios in New Zealand. Our adjudication panels were drawn from across all societies and saw many new faces adjudicating at these National title events. In all, there were 737 events and the feedback from Teachers and Dancers tells us that this is the way to go. So, the New Zealand Championships this year will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November in Auckland.

### **The 2020 Aotearoa New Zealand Champions are:**

Professional Ballroom Champions – Tim Mullyanov & Ellie Van der Zwan – Auckland  
Professional Latin American Champions – Cody Stephens and Nicole Harrington - Wellington  
Professional New Vogue Champions – Jonny & Kristie Williams – Albany  
Professional Classical Sequence Champions – Mike Birnie & Elly-Ann Pritchard – Dunedin/Tauranga  
Amateur Ballroom Champions – Daniel McLean & Dasha Goryacheva - Albany  
Amateur Latin American Champions – Denis Kaliuzhnyi & Irina Kovalchuk - Auckland  
Amateur New Vogue Champions – Alex Gudsell & Robyn Dirks - Hamilton  
Amateur Classical Sequence Champions – Ian Wadsley & Rosa Ho – Rotorua

Those names (and others) will join previous winners on the 'Roll of Honour' of New Zealand Champions from 1965.

### **Council held its Annual General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021:**

At this meeting (via Zoom), the 3 Registrants' Trustees (Chante Mueller, Scott Cole, and Robert Connors) presented a remit to adjust the Grading scale used in dance competitions. The purpose of

this was to reduce the number of grades while not impacting the number of events dancers could compete in. It also served to rationalise our grading system, bringing into line with many countries and a consistency within New Zealand. There will now be 3 grades at all age divisions. The following table relates:

Level 1 will become Grade C. At this grade 1 or 2 dances will be offered.

Level 2 and Level 3 will become Grade B. At this grade 3 or 4 dances will be offered.

Level 4 and Level 5 will become Grade A. At this grade 4 or 5 dances will be offered.

In transitioning to this new grading all existing wins at the current levels will be credited at the new grades applicable. Upgrading rules move with the change from level to grade. All these changes will be detailed in the updated Competition Rule Book that will apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

As a result of discussions around grading, trustees of Council also revisited the rules around the application of the Restricted Syllabus. It was determined that there would be a relaxation of this rule and the Restricted Syllabus will no longer apply to any age division or grade. The rationale is to encourage dancers into the art/sport and not restrict their learning capability. Teachers will continue to be responsible for developing a good basic action and steps in dancers and as every Adjudicator and Teacher knows, good basics is the foundation of winners.

The updated Rule Book will be available on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

### **2021 Kiwi Classic:**

The first event authorised by Council will be the Kiwi Classic, to be held at the Cordis Hotel, Auckland on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. With April 26<sup>th</sup> being the ANZAC day holiday, we trust that as many registrants as possible will be able to join the organisers for this event. The syllabus of events is also attached and available on the Council website.

### **New Registrants' Trustee:**

Robert Connors, who retired as a Trustee after 39 years with Council as a delegate, advisor, and observer, has been replaced by Jonny Williams for the next 3 year term. We welcome Jonny to the Council and know he will bring a fresh perspective to our deliberations. Please feel free to raise matters of development, change or concern with Jonny Williams, Scott Cole and/or Chante Mueller, your representatives. Robert Connors will continue as an Independent General Secretary to Council.

### **Registrar:**

Darrell Crozier has retired as our Registrar after many years of service. We thank him for his untiring efforts and efficient support during this time. Darrell also served Council as a Financial Advisor providing assurance to the Trustees on financial matters. While we undertake a development of the Registration Database to be more modern and utilise the internet and cloud computing functions, Kingsley Gainsford, with assistance from Robert Connors, will be the Acting Registrar. You can still contact the Acting Registrar at [registrar@dancesportcouncil.com](mailto:registrar@dancesportcouncil.com) or the General Secretary at [info@dancesportcouncil.com](mailto:info@dancesportcouncil.com) for any queries.

### **Database Development:**

Robert Connors has established a special project with the Auckland University of Technology to undertake a rewrite/redevelopment of the Registration Database and various functionalities that we may be able to use. We hope that this project will be beneficial to Council and Registrants when implemented, hopefully later in 2021.

### **New International Membership:**

This Council has been accepted as the National Country Member of the World Dance Organisation (WDO). With similar principles to the WDC, the WDO is made up of many outstanding Professionals and Organisers. This affiliation will open more opportunities for New Zealand dancers globally.

Kia Kaha

Kingsley Gainsford  
President