

Music to get you moving

MOVING to music – who would have thought it would take off like it has?

For over 20 years, Australian Dance Week has aimed to raise the profile of dance, with a focus on the values, importance and the many cultural contributions of dance to the Australian community.

Australian dance draws on many influences, including the traditions and history of dance as an art form as well as the various cultures and trends within society.

An important part of Indigenous Australians' cultural traditions, dance is increasing the prominence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as it is transferred from communities to public theatres and from ceremony to spectacle.

Australian Dance Week provides the perfect opportunity for people to try different types of dancing that can help them keep fit and enjoy life at the same time.

Dancing is a great way to become active because you're having so much fun that you don't even realise that you're exercising.

Australian Dance Week is over, but moving to the beat doesn't have to be. There are plenty of ways for you to be involved.

You can enrol for a class or look at joining one of the social dancing groups around town. Gather the kids and grandkids around and get wiggling around the house.

Moving to music is easy. If you want to look good doing it, perhaps the lessons are the way to go.

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Expertise at dance studio

MELISSA'S Dance Studio just keeps on growing. They now have two new teachers – vocal coach Aimee Gibbs and contemporary dance instructor Lisa-Maree DeMarco.

Ms Gibbs has worked at many local and interstate corporate functions and sang with Darren Percival, runner up on the hit TV show *The Voice* in 2012.

Ms DeMarco has returned from performing in the UK. The rest of the team includes:

- Melissa Brown – owner/principal
- Amber Williams – Street jazz/contemporary
- Cathy Pianca – Classical ballet
- David Semken – Ballroom and Latin American
- Emma Armstrong – Tap
- Meghan Armstrong – Street jazz
- M'Kaylee Joyce – Kindy jazz
- Lorraine Brown, Mary Napoli and Maddi Joyce – reception.

The studio may have grown prolifically over the



POETRY IN MOTION: Students of Melissa's Dance Studio perform ballet for their end-of-year concert last year.

past couple of years, but they have retained their friendly, family-oriented feel.

Ms Brown said that classes catered for students looking for fun and enjoyment as well as the more serious dancer.

"We teach from a few dif-

ferent dance syllabi for our hip hop and tap classes, but the most exciting syllabus we are teaching is the Australian Dance Vision (ADV) for our classical ballet classes," she said.

"Using a syllabus to teach students ensures that they have structured learning

and definitive outcomes for each dance class and allows them to progress through their chosen dance style.

"Through ADV and the Australia Dance Institute (ADi) we are able to offer students a nationally recognised certificate for any classical ballet exams they

take part in, allowing them to work towards Certificates 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Dance Performance Studies.

"Next year we will introduce the same system for our jazz students. These classes are a great opportunity for students who are thinking about pursuing a career in dance."

Anyone interested in hearing more about these certificates is invited to a free information evening in term 3. Call the studio to register.

Melissa's Dance Studio is also affiliated with Raw Dance Company in Brisbane. Raw Dance Company will visit the studio on May 18 this year to conduct workshops. These workshops offer students a chance to work with two well-known teachers, choreographers and producers and the opportunity to experience city-style dance classes without the associated travel costs.

Call Melissa's Dance Studio on 0407 408 434 for more information.



STEP IT UP: Getting your groove on is a great way to become more active. Choose the form of dancing you prefer and get moving.

★ Fun dance classes in a friendly atmosphere ★

From 2yrs-82yrs dance knows, no age! We have classes to suit everyone.

- JAZZ/HIPHOP
- BALLET • TAP
- CHEERLEADING
- BELLY DANCING
- BOYS HIPHOP

Also providing dance costume hire & dance supplies

★ Available for entertainment at community functions ★

Disco Birthday parties also available

★ Classes at Griffith ★

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*Don't dance because you're happy..
Be happy because you dance!*

Positions still available for 2013 classes in:

- Street Jazz • Classical Ballet
- Modern Contemporary
- Tap • Latin American • Ballroom
- Hip Hop Classes
- Classical Ballet Exams
- Hip Hop Exams • Adult classes in all styles • Vocal Coaching
- Ages from 2 years through to Adults

For all dance enquiries and online enrolment visit our webpage www.mds4dance.com

Fully equipped studio & qualified instructors.

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