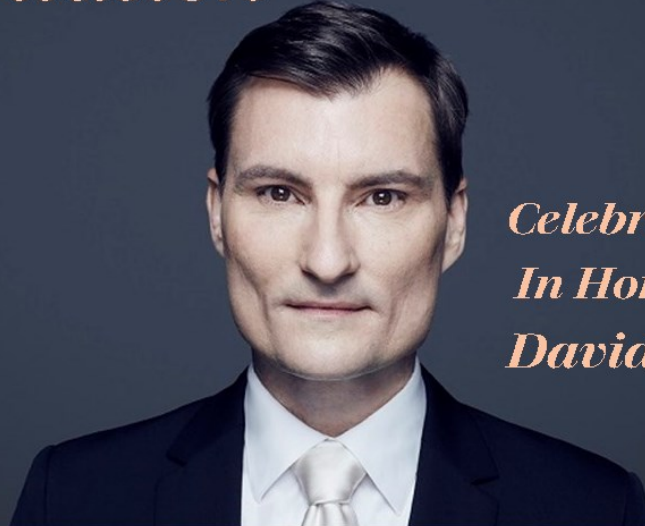


The Australian Ballet Society Inc .

Proudly supports The Australian Ballet and The Australian Ballet School

March 2021

An Invitation



Celebration Luncheon In Honour of David McAllister AM



The Ballet is BACK, and boy did we miss it!

The Australian Ballet took to the stage for the first time in almost a year last month and although we were not in the beautiful State Theatre at the Arts Centre, the performances at Margaret Court Arena certainly made up for it. If you were fortunate enough to arrive early you were able to see company barre on the stage followed by some individual run-throughs, and what a delight it was to see the orchestra, more visible than usual, positioned on a raised platform behind the dancers. It was a welcome and delightful return to the stage and one that left us all wanting more. Excitement is now building for the first season at the State Theatre in June!

David McAllister AM , Special Luncheon

It has arrived – Your Special Exclusive Invitation to a Celebration Luncheon to join us as we say Thank You to David McAllister for his many years both dancing for and directing The Australian Ballet company. If you receive your newsletter by email make sure you look out for the postman!

The luncheon will be held on **Wednesday 19 May, 2021 at 12 pm – 3pm** at Metropolis Southbank which is located on the top level of Southgate Melbourne on the banks of the Yarra River. The event space features sweeping views of Melbourne's city skyline and iconic landmarks

including Flinders Street Station, Federation Square, and Princes Bridge. Enjoy the view, a beautiful seasonal lunch and beverages and hear from David and others as we celebrate his brilliant career. Our guest speakers for the day are Steven Heathcote AM , Ballet Master and Regional Touring Associate and Elizabeth Toohey, Ballet Mistress and Repetiteur. We have special items at our Silent Auction and our next newsletter will have a list of these.

Tickets cost \$150.00 each and as there are limited numbers due to Covid restrictions, we encourage you to book your seat. The venue follows all Government regulations and tables are spacious with a maximum of 10-12 per table. On your RSVP slip you may wish to advise us to be placed on a table with some of your special friends and family, we encourage you to do this and please be aware that we will do our best to seat you together.

If you need special access or have any dietary requirements, please let us know on the acceptance slip. Parking is nearby at Southgate Car Park, The Arts Centre and Eureka Car park. We will provide more information with your ticket.

We certainly cannot wait as our committee are busily making sure the day is a wonderful reconnection with David McAllister, staff of The Australian Ballet and of course our members and their friends and family. We have missed you all so much. If you have any questions or queries don't hesitate to contact the office.

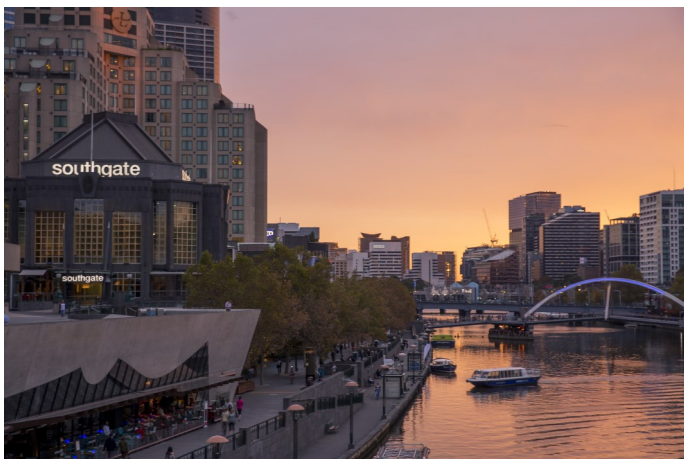


Image courtesy of Metropolis Southbank

New office space

Whilst we are moving our office in the next few weeks, we are not moving far! When we can accept visitors into the building, we will be in a new space just around the corner from where we have been for many years. You can still find us at the same address and floor but now around the corner as you enter from the walkway onto level four. We look forward to seeing you there some time soon.

New York Dialects

We are all looking forward to attending a dress rehearsal of *New York Dialects* on **Wednesday 2nd June**. Details of how to purchase tickets (subject to Covid restrictions) will come out in our April or May newsletter, so put that date in your diary. The programme consists of two revered classics from George Balanchine, the great game-changer of ballet, with a brand-new creation from a 21st-century innovator.

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 29th April at 6.30pm via zoom**. Voting forms and rsvp details are included in this newsletter. RSVP is essential.

Australian Ballet School news

We welcome back to The Australian Ballet School's young dancers filled with energy and dedication as they present "Morning Melodies" . An annual program of daytime presentation of works celebrating the art of Ballet. These will be held at a variety of Melbourne venues listed below. Follow the link to book your tickets. Or visit The [Australian Ballet School](#) website.

[Morning Melodies at Arts Centre Melbourne, Hamer Hall](#)

Tuesday 18 May 2021, 11am and 1:30pm

[Frankston Arts Centre](#)

Friday 21 May 2021, 1:30pm and 4:30pm

[Clocktower Centre, Moonee Ponds](#)

Tuesday 25 May 2021, 11am and 2pm

We also have some wonderful news of the school's graduates, Congratulations to the following graduates and their achievements.

Annabelle Watt – The Australian Ballet
Lilla Harvey – The Australian Ballet
Maidie Widmer – The Australian Ballet (3 month contract)

Izaak Westhead – West Australian Ballet
Rab Flanigan – West Australian Ballet
George Thomson – The Royal New Zealand Ballet
Jemma Braun – Victorian State Ballet

Telstra Dancers

Voting will have closed for The Telstra Ballet Dancer Awards for 2020 by the time you read this. We look forward to telling you about the winner in our next newsletter.

Farewell Andrew and Kevin

The Australian Ballet has announced the retirement of two of its most established and admired dancers, Andrew Killian and Kevin Jackson, who both leave the company after long and highly successful careers. We thank them for their beautiful performances and wish them well in their future careers. Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, David Hallberg, said in a statement: "I have known Andy personally since I first came to Melbourne in 2010 and have always admired his ease of dancing and approach to work. Nothing was ever too much to take on. A consummate team player, one committed to the glory and uniqueness of this company, Andy has always been 'one' with his colleagues. I know he will be missed within the ranks. . . ." he also spoke about Kevin: "Kevin is a soulfully deep artist; one that touched his audiences and colleagues with intense interpretations of the vast array of repertoire that The Australian Ballet offered him. . .," said Hallberg. "Kevin immersed himself in the complex roles, going to an artistic place that required every bit of him. He spared nothing. He gave everything. This is the true sign of an artist, the devotional commitment to any role. Behind the scenes, he was as warm a colleague as any: devoted on stage, but human off it."

Source: <https://www.danceaustralia.com.au/news/kevin-jackson-and-andrew-killian-announce-retirement>

Retirement

Helen Hunwick has stepped down from the committee after 22 years of devoted service. We thank her for all she has given the society but still look forward to seeing her at the ballet for many years to come.

Bloch Partnership and junior members

As we reported in the last newsletter, this year the Australian Ballet Society developed relationship with Bloch by offering all students who spend over \$150.00 in one transaction as free membership for them and their parent/guardian for the 2021 season.

Newsletter: The Environment and use of time

Don't forget that you can receive your newsletter online and help save the environment at the same time! No doubt you have had experience of delayed mail, so by signing up to an email version you will receive all our news promptly and at the click of a button. Please let the office know if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email rather than in the mail.

Website

Our updated website will be launching very soon! We are sure that you will love it and it is our aim to make it easier for you to book tickets, follow news and generally be involved with the Society.



Image courtesy of The Australian Ballet School

We are delighted to be involved in nurturing future interest and love for ballet in talented and passionate young people and are pleased to report that we already have several new, young members due to this initiative. We cannot wait to see you at the ballet!

Membership renewal 2021

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2021 as soon as possible. You can renew online, or via post or email. If you have already renewed, you will receive your membership card in the mail very soon (if not already).

Covid Rules

Please note that The Australian Ballet has a clear policy re Covid and attendance at the ballet. We will be following the company and government guidelines for all events and performances and details of this policy can be found on The Australian Ballet website.

Stay safe and see you soon at the ballet.

*“Through movement, I found my calling.
Through ballet, I found my voice”*

Cover image courtesy Justin Ridler

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TELEPHONE: (03) 9669 2951

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of The Australian Ballet Society Inc will be held in the Salzer Room (12 committee members COVID safe limit) plus ZOOM
The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre. Level 4, 2 Kavanagh Street, Southbank
THURSDAY 29TH APRIL, 2021
7.00 PM

BUSINESS

1. To receive the President's report, to confirm the minutes of previous meeting and to consider the Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Balance Sheets of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2020.
2. To set Annual Membership rates for 2022.
3. The Australian Ballet Society Fund Pty. Ltd
4. The Committee of the Society must be submitted for election with the exception of the Immediate Past President.
To elect Twenty (20) Committee Members : In accordance with the Constitution of the Society, twenty Committee Members shall be elected for a period of two years. Nominations for Committee should be lodged with the Honorary Secretary NO LATER than 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
5. **Any further business** brought forward by a member of which at least twenty eight (28) days notice has been given in writing, addressed to the Honorary Secretary at the Society's office.

Dated this 2nd day of March 2021
by order of the Committee

Marilyn Jacka
President

Should members wish to receive a copy of the Financial Report one will be sent on application to the office.

VOTING PAPERS : Members unable to attend the AGM may obtain voting papers on request.
A request for postal vote must reach the Honorary Secretary NO LESS than 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SOCIETY INC
to be held in Salzer Room (12 committee members COVID safe limit) plus ZOOM
The Australian Ballet Centre
Level 4, 2 Kavanagh Street, Southbank
THURSDAY 29TH APRIL 2021, 7.00 PM

I wish to nominate _____	to the position of Committee Member of The Australian Ballet Society Inc.
Signed _____	M'ship No _____
Seconded _____	M'ship No _____
I accept this position _____	M'ship No _____