



Volunteer & Friends Newsletter

November / December 2020

From my Home Desk as the Competition & Volunteer Officer

Wow, another month has past, we are now leading up to the most wonderful time of the year Christmas or at least I think so, as I do love Christmas. My tree is up with many presents underneath ready for the big day, plus there is one very special great niece of mine, Charlotte who is very excited seeing all the presents, she is so excited.

I will be busy leading up to Christmas as I am cooking lunch for 8 of my family. Then I am off to Mt Gambier for a few days, then many day trips, and of course spending time with Charlotte. I hope everyone of you has a great time with you families as well, especially this year with the year we have all endured.

This will be the last of the newsletters that I will be writing from my home office, hopefully we will be back in South Street office upon our return to work after the holidays. By the time you will receive this newsletter the staff of South Street, will be winding down as officially we will cease working from the December 17th & hopefully re-open back in Eureka House on January 11th, 2021. On behalf of the board & staff of South Street, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas & let's all hope we will be back to normal in 2021.

In the coming year our newsletters will continue with special interest stories, so if you know of anyone who has a passion for South Street, let me know and I will see what I can do. Thought I might add each month the birthdays to be celebrated the following month, so you will see next the birthdays for January.

With the help of Amanda Fewell, we are starting a new program for the Volunteers which is called Better Impact, this will make us all organised as everything will be on it & you set up your own password, so you have control and will be able to change your information, the only other person that can is myself. There will be training in the new year on how to work the system, for those who do not have access to emails, you will be required to give the office a ring or come in & we can show you.

January 2021 Birthdays



If I have forgotten anyone it will mean that your birthday is not on file.

7th ~ Julie Jones; 10th ~ Gayle Ellen 12th ~ Libby Middleton & Mavis Lancashire
13th ~ Bradley Saul 14th ~ David Cullinan 15th ~ Kristen Rowlands 16th ~ Gordon Reynolds
17th ~ Sally Gibson 19th ~ Elizabeth Eldridge & Eric McCleod
20th ~ Maree Nolan & Melanie Dunbar 22nd ~ Verna Martin 24th ~ Arnie Currie
26th ~ Sue Beechey 27th ~ Marilyn Watts 28th ~ Robert Bugge 31st ~ Aileen Linahan

Royal South Street Board of Directors

As we held the AGM for South Street a few weeks ago, I can now announce the board for the coming term, and to get to know them I have added a little bit of them along with their picture and the position they will hold for the next few years.



Board Chair ~ Peter Zala

Peter has been on the board of Royal South Street for over 30 years and once again is the chair of the board for this term. He is also the section chair of VBL, Herald Sun Aria, committee member for Vocal and also the Risk & Finance Committee. Peter volunteers his time for every discipline throughout the 3 months of comps.



Board Secretary ~ Ron Harrington

In 1984 I was invited by Warwick Kittson to consider going on the South Street board. It was a bit of a shock and I felt it an honour to be asked, one of the benefits was to be able to go to the Herald Sun Aria final in Melbourne. Another highlight was when I was President in 1991 and the society celebrated its Centenary 100 years with a special morning celebration at the Dana Street school where South Street started with seven young men who were going to the night school. As that was where I started my schooling it was rather special to be back in that assembly room. A plaque has been put on the wall between the two schools commemorating the fact that is where it all started. I was honored to receive a life membership from the board in 2004 and in 2008 I received an OAM in the Queen's Birthday List. A few of the highlights I had as President was to go on stage at the Melbourne Concert Hall and make a short speech in front of 2000 people. The first time I was compere for the Graceful Girl Championship I was shaking so much I could hardly keep the paper still enough to read it.



Board Member & Treasurer ~ Virginia Wise

Virginia Wise joined the Board of Royal South Street in 2018 knowing the Society was facing a tough year ahead with the closure of Her Majesty's Theatre. She was inspired to contribute because of her daughter Circe's participation in Royal South Street through dance, drama, classical & contemporary vocal, choir and instrumental. None of which Virginia has any talents in. Virginia is a commercial lawyer and runs her own practice Compact Commercial Law, she holds a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne and is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Virginia is on the Risk & Finance Committee, Choir Committee, Marketing Committee and has recently been appointed Treasurer of Royal South Street. She is also a Board Member of Her Majesty's Theatre. In her spare time Virginia loves all things French, has authored audio books for Google Home and puppy sits her daughter's Italian Greyhound Orlando.



**Andrea Brown
Board Member & Chair of Calisthenics**

With a long history of competing at South Street, my involvement as a volunteer began as a writer, then an usher, and over the past 10 or so years I have branched out into other volunteer roles, both backstage and front of house, mostly within the calisthenics and dance disciplines. In 2016 I joined the Calisthenics Committee, and with an increasing interest in the "bigger picture" I joined the Board in 2019. This year I took on the role of Chair of Calisthenics, and recently joined the newly formed Marketing Committee.

I worked as a medical secretary, office manager and then practice manager for many years, and now own and run a local allied health practice with my husband. Mum of two young adults, and owner of one lazy dog and a smoochy cat, I enjoy cooking up a storm in the kitchen, genealogy research and reading.



Maree Nolan

Board Member & Chair of Piano / Chopin

Maree Nolan is a Director of the Graduate Business School, working in all areas of the training industry with clients to ensure excellence in program outcomes. With over 20 years' experience in the training industry, Maree's expertise lies in the areas of leadership and management training with particular emphasis on business, health, aged care, disability services and government and also extends to all industries where addressing the key issues of innovation, the management of change and interpersonal communication issues can provide organisational benefits. More recently, an aspiration to share expertise and experiences in strategy and business management, has developed into a commitment to support not-for-profit organisations through involvement on Committees and Board representation.



Kallista Kaval

Board Member

Kallista grew up in Creswick and spent much of her childhood hanging around Her Maj with her grandparents Monica and Ron Morgan. She competed regularly in the calisthenics, speech and drama and debating sections. Kallista studied acting at the Actors Centre Australia in Sydney and spent several years there working on theatre productions and various TV Shows including ABC's Bed of Roses and The Cut, SBS' East West 101 and other shows such as All Saints and Packed to the Rafters. While visiting Timor Leste she directed a production of the Vagina Monologues with a local and international cast and started a theatre group made up of conflict affected young people which continues to operate today. Their first production, which Kallista directed, was honoured by the international Freedom to Create Prize. Kallista re-trained as a yoga teacher, spent time teaching English in Chile,

then ended up working for the Federal Member for Parramatta. While on maternity leave, she became a national convener for Mums 4 Refugees and lobbied for more humane refugee policy in Australia. She now works for Juliana Addison, the Member for Wendouree and is mum to two small children and two cheeky kittens.



Adam Miller
Board Member

Adam Miller graduated with Distinction and a Dip RAM from the Opera Programme at London's Royal Academy of Music. Before moving to London, he studied in Melbourne and then continued his language and vocal studies in Milan, Italy. During his stage career, he performed a great number of operatic roles, working with companies such as Scottish Opera, Opera Australia, English Touring Opera, Opera Queensland, Oz Opera, Melbourne Opera and Melbourne City Opera. In 2009, Adam started his own production company in the UK, Opera Novella, which produced full operas, gala concerts and corporate shows across Europe. Since then, he has also directed a number of operas including Carmen, Rigoletto and La Boheme. In 2014, Adam returned to Australia to join Melbourne's CitiOpera as General Manager and produced a number of successful operas and concerts for them. He was elevated to the Board of CitiOpera in 2015. Adam then took on the role of Executive Producer for TEG Life Like Touring, working on exciting and unique projects across Australia and around the world. Adam currently works with the City of Boroondara to lead a number of special projects including the Boroondara Eisteddfod and the Summer in the Park series.



Rebecca Garlick
Board Member

Hi, I am Rebecca Garlick, and I am excited to be the new member of the Board of South Street. South Street comps hold a very special place in my heart as I have attended every year of my life except in 2020 due to Covid. I am an audience member, sponsor, past competitor in calisthenics, volunteer and active member on the Arts for All committee.

I am a wife to Dean, mum to Charlotte aged 3 and a primary school teacher at Invermay Primary.



Mary-Rose McLaren
Board Member & Section Chair of Speech & Drama

Mary-Rose has been on the South Street board and chair of Speech & Drama committee for 11 years now. I'm also an academic at Victoria University, and as part of my research there I wrote a paper on the intergenerational bonds established through participation at South Street. It opened my eyes to an extraordinary history of overlapping stories, and the wealth of experience in the Arts in Ballarat. Because of this insight, I co-wrote a play with Peter Nethercote, which was produced by Ballarat National Theatre, entitled Honourable Mentions which dramatized the history of South Street. I am lucky to have had such amazing opportunities and to have been so enriched by the culture of the competitions.

I know that I have had a happier, healthier, richer, and more rewarding life because of the experiences I have through South Street. I believe that many, many other competitors would say the same. The challenge, the adrenalin, the friendships, the achievement, the discovery, the empathy one develops, the ability to improvise and trust oneself, taking a risk and sometimes failing, sometimes succeeding, and the grace in victory and defeat – all of these make more fulfilled lives. And that is why I volunteer at South Street, and why I hope it goes on and on, way beyond me.

Our wonderful Volunteers and their outstanding achievements

Congratulations to the following, what an amazement achievement, you should be very proud of yourselves, as without you all the competitions will not be a success.

5 years' Service:

Lorinda Bolton, Irene Warfe, Helen Brown, Rachel Cheah, Melanie Dunbar, Margaret Howell & Wayne Mitchell.

10 years' Service:

Arnie Currie, Lyn Bowman, Ron Fleming & Marilyn Watts.

15 years' Service:

Marion Blythman, Mavis Lancashire & Helen Whatman

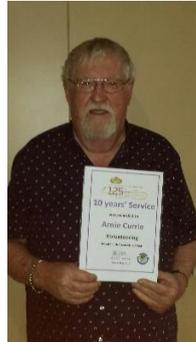
20 years' Service:

Lorraine Haintz, Colleen Holloway & Graham Paulin

Some of our wonderful volunteers with their certificates



Colleen Holloway



Arnie Currie



Irene Warfe



Graham Paulin



Lorinda Bolton

Expression of Interest

We are currently looking for willing volunteers who would be interested in joining the committee for Energetiks Dance, Choral, Piano, The Arts for All or the Archive Team. Please place your interest along with any experience in any of the disciplines, or even you would just like to be a part of one of the committees, please send me your details via email to julie@royalsouthstreet.com.au as soon as possible.

Volunteering for South Street

If you know any of your friends that may be interested in joining our wonderful volunteers in 2021, please either let me know by sending me an email or passing my email onto them. I would love to see them join our team. Everyone must have a valid Working with Children's Card or VIT (Teachers) card, along with a special interest in helping the competitions, in 2021 training will be given if required.

Special Interest Stories

Kellie Fishwick- Roscoe

Director of The Academy of Classical Ballet



My first experience at South Street was in 1981 when I was eight years old. I performed several times that year and it was very memorable! My very first performance was in the 6 years and under 9 Novice Classical Solo and then I performed in the Open Classical Solo section for the same age group. I believe I also did a character trio and a troupe with my ballet friends. I was fortunate to be awarded first prize for both my solo performances and I was hooked on South Street and don't believe I have missed a year since.

I performed annually as a student with solos including Classical, Character, Jazz, Modern and National, duos and trios and of course troupes. A highlight for me as a performer at South Street was in 1985 when I won the Ballarat Ballet Guild Junior Ballet Championship. So many wonderful memories... walking the tunnels as we call them to the dressing rooms, the stairs to the stage, the excitement and anticipation of the green room and of course the lights and audience when on the stage. I have fond memories of the office that used to be at the front of the theatre... going there to collect crit sheets and signing the very big book Mr Hooper had to receive prize money. Everything was so special and felt very prestigious for a little girl with big dreams of dancing on the stage. The atmosphere is always energised with dancers, teachers, technicians, family and friends – all for the love of theatre and performing.

Ballet was always my focus however during South Street seasons I became friends with lots of other dance students, some of whom also did Calisthenics. So, I started Calisthenics too! This only lasted a short time but I did get to perform in that competition as well and over more recent years I have been to many Graceful Girl competitions at South Street as I am fortunate to coach some of these gorgeous young ladies with their solos and have had several of the graceful girls I coach win the ultimate calisthenics prize at South Street.

As many will agree, flowers are a traditional gift, good luck 'chookas', 'well done darling' for performers. As a child, my friends and I would walk from the theatre to the council garden beds on Sturt St, which at that time had an abundance of bright yellow daffodils. We would pick the daffodils and give them to each other in the dressing room. To this very day, daffodils are my favourite flower and a symbol of South Street to me. Now a teacher with a ballet school in Ballarat, every student of mine receives a daffodil at South Street. A tradition I hope will continue for many years as the Dance competition is always in Spring - as are daffodils!

Once my time as a performer at South Street came to an end, my life continued a journey in dance of which I am sure the experiences of South Street contributed to inspiring. I would eagerly visit South

Street each year, to reunite with teachers and performers and of course the many wonderful committee members and volunteers that seem to have remained with South Street forever!!!

When I commenced a dance teaching career in Melbourne and taught at various schools I would choreograph and coach soloists and troupes for South Street which saw me commence to see South Street from a new perspective. Needless to say, it was still the same excitement and the same uniqueness. I feel I have relationships with so many people that continue to evolve because of the connection South Street provides. I simply love it! My students love it too!

In 2001 I moved back to Ballarat with my husband and growing family and continued to be involved in South Street each year. My mother, sister and grandmother had also become involved as volunteers and soon my two daughters would be performing at South Street too.

In 2010 I opened my ballet school here in Ballarat, The Academy of Classical Ballet. Not wanting to wait anytime to be involved again with South Street, in the first year and with just a small school, I entered troupes and quite a few soloists. Since then, and as my school grew, I am proud to support South Street wholeheartedly and annually enter many students and troupes and literally live at South Street for the entire two weeks of the Dance Competition. Some of my soloists have been prize winners in many sections as have many of my troupes and whilst these accolades are held with high esteem and great humility, it is simply to be part of South Street that invigorates the soul and inspires one to continue to pursue dreams be it for oneself or to guide others. Every young artist who steps onto the stage at Royal South Street is special and every performer deserves that opportunity to express themselves, to dance, to aspire and to be inspired.

Over the past ten years I have witnessed the amazing work of Dance Chairs Angela Cannizzaro and Kerryn Gledhill along with the many members who form the dance committee and volunteers that make it all possible. Most importantly I have great respect and admiration for the passion of the ultimate gentleman, Dr Tony Cole. To me, Mr Cole IS South Street! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Julie Wiseman for the fabulous work that she does for South Street.

2020 was missing a lot of things but one of the most significant for anyone in dance was the absence of South Street... I look forward to next year and yes – I will have daffodils for every one of my students.

Wendy Riding

Principle Coach of Jayde Calisthenics



Wendy has been involved in Calisthenics for most of her life. She first started as a young 3-year-old at the Ballarat Calisthenic College and continued their as a student, and Assistant coach for 16 years. Wendy has fond memories of competing at South Street at Her Majesty's Theatre, as well as the Civic Hall. South Street was a highlight of her Calisthenic calendar as it still is 47 years later.

In 1990, Wendy and her sisters formed Jayde Calisthenic Club where she is a Principal Coach. She now continues to support South Street bringing her own team to compete at the Prestige

competitions. South Street has always been the pinnacle of our season and we look forward to the competitions each year.

Wendy received her coaching accreditation in 1988 and is currently working towards obtaining her Level 2 coaching accreditation.

In 1999 and 2003, Wendy coached the Victorian Sub-Junior State Teams who went on to win the National Championships.

Wendy is an accredited Calisthenic adjudicator, travelling all over Victoria to adjudicate both solo and team competitions. She has always been a role model to cadet coaches within the club and supports her coaching team to achieve the best possible outcomes for their students.

Wendy is very proud of the achievements the club has already made over the past 31 years and continues to strive towards making Jayde Calisthenic Club a successful and family friendly environment.



Merry Christmas everyone, hope to see you all in 2021.

Kind Regards,

Julie
Competition & Volunteer Officer
julie@royalsouthstreet.com.au
0417 390 599