Each July the Rockhampton River Festival brings to Rockhampton a unique cultural experience celebrating culture, food and art from around Australia and the world. This year, saw the introduction of a truly unique experience- Spiegelzelt in its own historic Spiegel tent. Spiegelzelt featured a range of shows for audiences including Vaudeville, Burlesque and Cabaret. With these shows, came some amazingly talented and experienced performers including Peta Anderson who has toured the world with many shows, namely Riverdance. As part of the River Festival, workshops were held for locals in tap, hip hop and musical theatre. Three of our students had the wonderful opportunity to tread the boards with Peta, engaging in a fantastic tap workshop where the students extended their tap skills even further. Peta has performed professionally all over the world with other shows such as Rhythms of Ireland, Heartbeat of Home and her own show Eireborne. She is also a Capezio Top 30 Athlete.

Peta is now joining us for the inaugural aDvANCE Summer School as the tap tutor for this amazing four day event. She is then spending two days working with some of our senior tap students choreographing a new senior tap group for the 2018 Rockhampton Eisteddfod.

The experience for Madison Bailey, Maddison Scharer and Benedict Wright was amazing and one they will never forget.

Farewell Miss Alex

At our recent break-up party, we farewelled DMTA Physiotherapist Alex Tomkins who has worked with many of the Academy’s students throughout 2016 and 2017. Alex is moving with her partner down south and has already commenced work at a practice in Brisbane. The students and staff really enjoyed working with Alex on improving outcomes for each and every one of her students in the junior, intermediate and senior conditioning classes. We wish Alex all the best for her future ventures and look forward to welcoming Natasha Thorne as our Conditioning Physiotherapist in 2018.
During the September holidays, some of our students performed at The Rockhampton Dance Festival in solo, duo and trio sections. The students represented our Academy well and enjoyed the experience to once again perform their competition routines. Congratulations to all the students who performed and to our prize winners below:

Hannah MacDonald-
Novice Jazz Solo - 2nd
Novice Contemporary Solo - 2nd

Hannah MacDonald & Maddison Scharer - Contemporary Duo - 2nd

Tillie Hungerford - Tap Improvisation under 9 years - 1st
Tillie Hungerford - Jazz Improvisation under 9 years - 1st
Tillie Hungerford - Demi Character Solo - 1st
Tillie Hungerford - Jazz Solo - Highly Commended
Tillie Hungerford - Tap Solo - 1st
Tillie Hungerford - National Solo - 1st

Millie O'Brien - Song & Dance Solo - 1st
Millie O'Brien - Jazz Improvisation - 1st
Millie O'Brien - Contemporary Improvisation - 3rd

Pictured clockwise from top left: Hannah and Maddison; Hannah; Millie; and Tillie.

Success at Rockhampton Dance Festival

4 days of dance and musical theatre workshops with some of Australia's best professional performers

- Exciting Industry Professionals
- Air Conditioned State of the Art Dance Studios
- 4 days of Cancellation Workshops in:
  - Natasha Window - Modern Jazz
  - Kat Hayes - Musical Theatre
  - Peta Anderson - Funk Tap
  - Marnie Hungerford - Contemporary

For further information: join our Facebook page - aDvANCE Summer School or email dance@rgs.qld.edu.au
Tickets available at www.advance Summit School 2018 tickets.eventbrite.com.au

$395 Regular Price
$320 Early Bird

The Rockhampton Grammar School
Advancing the Spirit of Enterprise
Highland dancers still going strong

The Academy’s Highland dancers have been incredibly busy again this semester with various competitions around Queensland and interstate. Isabella Yore competed in the Northern Tablelands Competition in Glen Innes, NSW where she was awarded 1st in the Sword Dance, 2nd in the Highland Fling and 3rd in the Flora McDonald’s Fancy. She received 1st overall in the Title after placing 1st in both the Seann Truibhas & Scottish Lilt.

Three of our students travelled to the Gympie Highland Rush Competition with Tara Matheson competing in her first Intermediate competition. She was placed 3rd in the Scottish Lilt, Flora McDonald’s Fancy and Seann Truibhas; and 4th in the Strathspey and Highland Reel.

Chloe Cookson also competed in the Premier section being awarded 2nd in the Sword Dance and Sailor’s Hornpipe; 3rd in the Barracks Johnnie, Strathspey & Highland Reel and Blue Bonnets; and 5th in the Highland Laddie.

Isabella Yore enjoyed another good competition gaining 1st in the Strathspey & Highland Reel; 2nd in the Seann Truibhas and Flora McDonald’s Fancy; 3rd in the Sword Dance and Scottish Lilt; 4th in the Special Highland Fling; and 5th in the Title Highland Fling.

Isabella finished 3rd in the Novice Title.

Chloe Cowan travelled to Warwick where she received 2nd in the Strathspey & Half Tulloch, Flora McDonald’s Fancy, Barracks Johnnie, Highland Laddie, Scottish Lilt and Sailor’s Hornpipe. She also came home with 3rd in the Irish Jig and 2nd in the Intermediate 14 and over Title.

Six of our dancers Chloe Cowan, Heather Maitland, Tara Matheson, Chloe Cookson, Kirsty Maitland and Isabella Yore danced for The Cathedral College’s Rowing Club Scottish evening in August. The girls looked stunning and danced beautifully for this Scottish themed evening.

Exam Programme

As part of our 2017 Examination Programme, students work with visiting examiners in the lead up to their exams, to fine-tune their technique and performance of their syllabus work.

In the September holidays, our ADA Tap and Jazz exam students were fortunate to have two examiners from Sydney work with them over three days.

Natalie Khoury and Frances Fontana were once again impressed with the standard of work from our students. Staff were also incredibly proud by the effort put into their exam work by the students and the way they conducted themselves throughout the three day seminar.

This hard work and dedication lead to excellent exam results with the majority of students receiving the highest marks possible for their exams.

Pictured clockwise from above: Tara, Isabella and Chloe at the Gympie Highland Rush Competition; Chloe, Heather, Tara, Chloe, Kirsty and Isabella at the TCC Rowing Event; Chloe Cowan at Warwick and Isabella Yore at the Northern Tablelands Competition.

Pictured clockwise from top: Natalie Khoury with Maddison, Abigail, Najwa, Madison and Hannah; Natalie Khoury takes a selfie with Georgiana and Chloe; Frances Fontana with Stephanie, Alexia and Stephanie.
The title says it all. A sold out audience on 9 September was the icing on the cake for this year’s DMTA production of Showcase featuring Shrek The Musical Jr.

Months of rehearsal and preparation by over 100 students, staff, parents and volunteers saw our best ever production take to the stage.

Act 1 featured over 100 students in various group performances ranging from our experienced eisteddfod performers to those who performed on stage for the very first time.

Audience members commented on the smooth running of the night and the high standard of performance by every single group.

This was then topped off with the amazing cast of Shrek Jr. Tears of laughter were shed by many in the audience as they witnessed this highly entertaining and comical musical, performed for the very first time in the region.

The entire night was an outstanding success and this was not only due to the amazing students and their performances but also to the hard work and dedication of all involved including staff, parents, costume designers, set designers, make-up designers, caterers and the talented and creative crew of the Pilbeam Theatre.

Thank you also to the support and fundraising achieved by the RGS Dance Council and the support of The Rockhampton Grammar School with such a grand scale production.
A Queensland Ballet Year

This year saw a lot happening between the Queensland Ballet and The Rockhampton Grammar School Dance and Musical Theatre Academy.

On two occasions our Adopt a Dancer’s Georgia Swan and David Power travelled to our studios to work with our classical ballet students on classical ballet technique and repertoire.

Each time the students enjoyed the experience to work with these two professional ballet dancers who have built a wonderful rapport with our dancers when they visit each year.

The Queensland Ballet also utilised our professional dance studios for their rehearsals of *La Fille mal Gardée*, working with eight local dancers who were part of the children’s chorus for this production in August.

Two of our dancers, Tillie Hungerford and Patrick Robertson were fortunate to work with Martha from Queensland Ballet in learning routines before they graced the stage with the rest of the company.

Tillie and Patrick also had the chance to meet Queensland Ballet’s Artistic Director, Li Cunxin after their Rockhampton performance.

The DMTA looks forward to working with the Queensland Ballet again in 2018.

Queensland Ballet opportunities throughout the year have included (pictured clockwise from top left):

- Tillie and Patrick and other local dancers with Martha from the Queensland Ballet;
- Patrick and Miss Hegvold had the wonderful opportunity to get a photo with Li Cunxin, the Artistic Director of the Queensland Ballet;
- David and Georgia with our intermediate and senior classical ballet students;
- Our junior ballet students with David and Georgia;
- Our Pre-School Programme students had the wonderful opportunity to work with the Queensland Ballet in November.
Excellent examination results all round

The DMTA enjoyed another highly successful year with its various examinations in Classical Ballet, Highland, Tap, Jazz and Speech & Drama. The students represented themselves and the Academy with pride and the high standard of results showed the students’ and staff’s dedication to well-prepared individuals who present technically accurate work with excellent performance ability. The majority of our students received the highest results possible in their examinations.

This year saw our first Speech and Drama examination candidate Hannah Cowan who was awarded an A (Honours) for her AMEB Grade 3 Drama & Performance Exam. Her teacher, Mrs Nola Smith, was overjoyed with Hannah’s result and the work she had put into this exam.

This year also saw Mackenzee Baker-Moller and Elyena Belonogoff complete their Pre-Elementary Teacher’s Examinations in Tap and Jazz. Both ladies received outstanding results for these examinations and membership with the Australasian Dance Association (ADA).

The staff are proud of all the students and their outstanding results throughout 2017. Here are some moments captured from our examination days.

Clockwise from below:
Isabella, Trinity and Kirsty all ready for their Grade 3 NDAA Highland examination;
Pre-School Programme students Emma, Grace, Isabella and Elliot listen carefully to instructions just before helping Miss Mackenzee in her Pre-Elementary Teacher’s exam;
Elyena with the help of Sophia, Lachlan and Zoya in her Pre-Elementary Jazz Teacher’s exam;
Hannah Cowan with her teacher Mrs Nola Smith;
(centre photo) Miss Hegvold with Genavieve, Heather and Chloe before their Intermediate Classical Ballet examination;
Chloe and Georgiana before acing their Gold Star Tap Exam.
Life is a musical

One of the dominant features of the DMTA, is our students’ participation in musical theatre performances, especially in local musicals. Our students, parents and even staff participate in local productions every year, with many taking on lead roles. Musical Theatre is truly alive at the DMTA! From September to December, apart from our own musical, Shrek the Musical Jr, DMTA members also participated in the local productions of Les Misérables, Elf The Musical Jr and Rockhampton’s Carols by Candlelight.

The Rockhampton Musical Union Choir’s production of Les Misérables featured RGS students Trinity March-Hoolihan and Ella Giles in the principal roles of Épinone and Little Éponine respectively. Tayah Ellis also played the title role of Little Cosette, with Head of DMTA, Michael Robertson in the principal role of Thenardier. Melanie March was part of the Female Ensemble with Elijah March-Hoolihan part of the crew. The show was incredibly successful and well received by Rockhampton audiences with standing ovations for each of its four performances.

Students of DMTA also graced the stage of The Rockhampton Musical Union Hall when the Youth Choir presented Elf The Musical Jr. Roxy McDonald and Luca Mella played the principal roles of Jovie and Buddy with Lily Cooling as Charlie, Millie O’Brien as Shawanda, Shannon Dalley as Charlotte Dennon and Tayah Ellis as Emma Van Brocklin.

The year was then topped off with the following DMTA members who performed at The Mayor’s Carols by Candlelight both at the Pilbeam Theatre and Music Bowl, under the artistic direction of Melanie March: Elizabeth Clarke, Trinity March-Hoolihan, Tayah Ellis and Michael Robertson.

Pictured above: Lisa Ellis, Melanie March, Elijah March-Hoolihan, Tayah Ellis, Ella Giles, Trinity March-Hoolihan and Michael Robertson part of the RMU production of Les Misérables.

Pictured right: Luca Mella as Buddy the Elf and Roxy McDonald as Jovie in the RMUYC’s production of Elf The Musical Jr.