

Welcome Rock n Roll Clubs of New Zealand to our AGM and I'd like to congratulate every Club no matter how big or small on your continued dedication and enthusiasm to promote rock n roll in your communities. No matter what role we each play I believe we all offer the gift and love of rock n roll in our regions and this reflects in the continued growth and interest we are experiencing.

Thank you to my fellow EXECUTIVE committee who offer their energy and knowledge to ensure the smooth running of the Nationals and collectively ensure, along with the host club, a memorable event for everyone.

Currently we have 30 National Association Judges and three Association Judges and an exciting number of 24 Trainees!

I'd like to acknowledge the retirement of Trev Halstead from judging. Trev is well known in our community and a dear and personal friend to many. Trev has shared his talent for dance and rock n roll over many years and been an inspiration to many. Trev is pursuing his love of cars and we wish him all the best.

Our bi-annual Combined National workshop July 2018 had a great turnout and a full room allowed for exciting interaction and discussion on a variety of topics. It's so vital our upcoming trainees attend workshops as these provide the ideal platform to hear from our experienced judges on the various aspects of judging and interpretation of rules and guidelines. All viewpoints and understandings are important to ensure the continued success of our goal – to serve our dancers and apply the guidelines.

Digging deep into Harmony has been the topic and theme of workshops this last year, along with of course Timing and Variety. This quote from the Universal Dance Centre about harmony –

“ In dance as in other art forms that excite the senses, harmony is the balance and relationship between contrasts. Harmony is the result of different things working together to produce a thing of beauty.”

Workshops are a great opportunity to describe and feel more deeply the elements of our guidelines and for judges to share their wisdom with others.

Clubs be sure to ask your judges for feedback from workshops and any aspects around the judging guidelines you may be unsure of.

Regional workshops are set for 2019 and having demo dancers are an integral part and we thank Clubs for organising this and the willingness of dancers to be available.

Clubs please support your trainee judges and encourage and help them with opportunity to attend workshops and armchair events so necessary in the pathway to becoming a fully qualified National Association Judge. All trainees need to nominate their MENTOR, an experienced judge, to guide and help them along. I want to thank all MENTORS as this line

of communication is so important for our upcoming trainees to share their experiences. Trainees also need to be encouraged to take an active part in their development.

Seniors 2018 thank you Wellington for a memorable occasion and such a well-attended event. Great to see this high-calibre dancing with the likes of NOVICE being so well supported each and every year. Clubs are taking up the opportunity to put their dancers on a National floor and get that encouragement to go on.

Juniors 2019 Invercargill was another example of Southern hospitality. Congratulations to you for hosting this vibrant weekend and the large number of juniors entered reflects your continued commitment to juniors.

Teams continue to produce a thrilling performance and every team has something dynamic to offer. Oftentimes there is very little separating the teams and of course dance ability, interpretation, cohesiveness of the dancers, and the judging guidelines continue to determine the points awarded.

Best Dressed continues to be a popular aspect of our competitions as people like to participate and we observe an exceptional standard of dress from Juniors and Seniors alike.

It's been a busy but fun year of unity and growth and I thank you for the opportunity to be your Head Judge at this time, which I truly honour.

Colleen Ryan
May 2019