

NEWS FROM

insert school name

For immediate release: XXXX

The Australian Ballet partners with schools to unveil an innovative new approach to learning



The Australian Ballet Education Team. Photo by Kate Longley

This year The Australian Ballet's education program is bringing the brand-new initiative **STEAMDANCE** to (insert school name) from XXXX to XXXX. Students will have the chance to learn from ballet professionals when The Australian Ballet's flagship education program visits.

STEAMDANCE is a dance-education approach to learning about STEM subjects including **science, technology, engineering and maths**. Designed by The Australian Ballet, this innovative and creative initiative supports students learning curriculum subjects through the arts. The **STEAMDANCE** program is led by The Australian Ballet's dance education team who are specialist educators and professional dancers.

The program works in partnership with teachers to support the curriculum through a series of workshops and performances in schools to foster **critical and creative thinking, literacy, numeracy, individual and cooperative learning and problem solving** in students. The Australian Ballet's NEW schools' version of **Coppelia** will also be presented by the team, offering a fun and engaging introduction to ballet.

Australian property development company Aqualand is a Major Partner of the education program, providing valuable support and helping to deliver the program to more students in 2018. Alex Adams, Head of Sales and Marketing, Aqualand said "It is a great privilege for Aqualand to support

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The Australian Ballet and its education program, an inspiring initiative that shows young Australians and communities how dance can be a pathway to enhance learning.”

In 2018 The Australian Ballet will also offer professional development training for teachers who are supported by the digital resource **Eduhub**. Eduhub features interviews with creatives, downloadable resources and practical ideas for dance workshops and is easily located on The Australian Ballet’s website.

Head of Education at The Australian Ballet Katy McKeown said, “Dance is one of the five performing arts disciplines in the national curriculum and our new *STEAMDANCE* program offers students a fun experience of dance, whilst enhancing the delivery of key STEM subjects and encouraging physical and social skills to students of all ages, abilities and language backgrounds”.

Over the past decade, The Australian Ballet’s education program has given more than 100,000 children across Australia the opportunity to experience dance, with a strong focus on schools and communities in regional and remote areas and outer metropolitan areas. In 2017 the program travelled to 100 schools around Australia.

Robyn Ewing in the Australian Council for Educational Research report, [*The Arts and Australian Education: Realising potential*](#) makes reference to arts education, observing that 'there is considerable evidence that students who engage in music study and/or musical appreciation do perform better academically and on some tests of generic ability.'

In 2018, *STEAMDANCE* will visit cities and townships all cross Australia. The Australian Ballet’s dance education team is comprised of Chantelle van der Hoek, Ben Obst, Yhale Fien and Yvette Sauvage, supported by Dance Development Officer Jasmin Dwyer and led by Head of Education Katy McKeown.

For more information visit:

www.australianballet.com.au
www.australianballet.com.au/learning-and-development

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