

## Touch Compass Dance Trust



### NEWSLETTER September 2009

Touch Compass may seem to have been a little quiet of late but since our strategic planning day in June there have been some exciting new developments.

The Board remains committed to ensuring the sustainability of Touch Compass. To this end we're taking a planned and strategic approach to ensure we carefully build our capacity and broaden our horizons. Our key priorities are to develop infrastructure; strengthen governance; deliver the Encompass education programme; establish a permanent studio; and in 2010 premier a significant new show by two international NZ choreographers.

In strengthening its governance the company is seeking expressions of interest from professionals who are interested in a position on the Touch Compass Trust Board. We are looking for people with business or financial expertise, good social networks and the ability to raise funds. Please contact Karen 0274 199 322 for further information.

Great news just to hand - Touch Compass has been awarded the newly established sector investment funding from Creative NZ. This means the company can now commit to building its infrastructure and offer high quality dance training opportunities with national and international tutors and choreographers. A priority will be to develop Encompass, the integrated community, youth and tutor training dance workshops which enable more disabled people access to regular dance opportunities.

### *Here's what else has been happening...*

#### WHO'S WHO IN TOUCH COMPASS

##### **Rachel Helsby, Administrator**

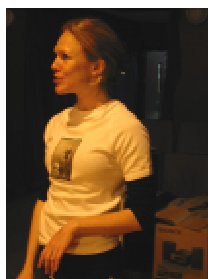
Rachel has been with Touch Compass for the past 2 years as our administrator and unfortunately is leaving to work full time in her new business The Old Lolly Shop in Takapuna. The team and Board sincerely thank Rachel for all her hard work and efforts for TCDT. Rachel has not only ensured our day-to-day processes and procedures are robust and sound but she also written grants and reports that have contributed to our ongoing sustainability. Rachel has always gone the extra mile for the company and we wish her all the very best for her future endeavours.



Rachel Helsby

The company is now looking to fill this 20 hour a week position. If you are interested or know someone who might be please contact Karen 0274 199 322 or email [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz)

##### **Susie Tate, Encompass Dance Education Co-ordinator**



Susie Tate

Touch Compass warmly welcomes Susie Tate who recently moved to NZ from the UK and takes up the newly created dance education co-ordinator's role. Susie has many years of experience in developing and leading community and dance education projects. In the UK Susie was the director of the Foundation Course in dance for disabled students with the renowned Candoco Dance Company. Susie initially trained in ballet gaining a degree from the Royal Academy before working with the education unit of the English National Ballet (ENB) and other leading UK dance companies.

Contact Susie 021 296 3849

##### **Karen Fraser Payne, General Manager**

Karen takes up the newly created role of general manager that has been funded by Creative NZ through the new sector investment funding. Karen returns to Auckland after 2 years in the Beehive and in the Prime Minister's Office as private secretary tourism. Prior to this Karen was for 8 years corporate communications manager for Auckland International Airport. Karen has been a trustee for TCDT since its inception and will step down as chair at the annual meeting in September. Contact Karen 0274 199 322

### **Catherine Chappell, Artistic Director**

Catherine is the company's founder, visionary and now our fulltime artistic director. After 12 years Catherine is excited that the company now has a strong team to steer the performance programme and community workshops forward. Contact Catherine 021 989 447

### **CHOREOGRAPHIC LAB PROJECT**

**Carol Brown 16 November – 4 December 2009 and Jeremy Nelson 10 – 16 December 2009**

The company has the good fortune to work with Carol and Jeremy, two internationally acclaimed NZ choreographers. Carol and Jeremy will workshop material towards a new season which Touch Compass will premiere in August 2010. Thanks to Creative NZ funding towards this project.

### **LAB daily class open to guest dancers**

Limited spaces will be available for the company classes that will be held with Carol Brown and Jeremy Nelson. To take part in the daily classes please email us from 19 October with your expression of interest. Send to [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz) and include your name and contact details, dance experience and number of classes you can attend over the month. We will contact you with further information.

### **COMMUNITY CLASSES**

**Saturday Community Class at Grey Lynn Community Centre, 2.30 – 4.30pm**



(L to R) At the Grey Lynn workshop  
Glynis, Andre, Tanu, and Caroline

The Saturday community class finished last term with a stunning performance. Along with some of the young participants from the children's class the show was inspirational for participants and audiences.

Term 3 classes are well underway with the group working towards another performance to be held on the evening of Saturday September 12 at 6.30pm at the Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Road.

The Term 4 workshops run from Saturday 17 October to Saturday 28 November.

Fee: \$112.50 per term. For further information contact Susie Tate 021 296 3849 or email [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz)

**Tuesday Children's Class, Forrest Hill Presbyterian Church Hall, North Shore, 4.00 – 4.45pm**

The children's class which started last term has expanded and has 10 very enthusiastic young people who are busy dancing their way towards the end of term performance. The performance will be held in conjunction with the Grey Lynn Saturday community class on September 12.

The Term 4 workshops run from Tuesday 13 October to Tuesday 17 November.

Fee: \$37.50 per term. For further information contact Catherine Chappell 021 989 447 or email [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz)

Yvette Carol, parent of two young participants said, *"My two boys are on their second term with Touch Compass. They enjoyed the classes from the start however when they performed at the end of the term and got to see the older students perform a whole world of potential opened up. Samuel has Down Syndrome, he's 6 years old and can't form a sentence coherently yet so I can only put my words in his mouth. I felt, in watching him watch the older performers, that he perhaps saw potential for himself in the future. He got an image of being capable, bright, entertaining, and an artistic performer, able to put across a vivid message of the joy of life without needing words, in a way that everyone there could understand and embrace along with him. It was really exciting for our whole family actually. This second term I notice both my boys use dance a lot more at home as well. They dance to the bath and outside in the garden. It's been very positive"*.

## Tuesday Evening Open Company Class, St. Columbus Church Hall, Grey Lynn, 7.30 – 9.00pm



(L to R) Emilia, Susie and Jesse

The open company dance class commenced last term. The class, which gives company members weekly training is also, open to anyone in the community who loves to dance. The classes are led by a range of dance artists and offer participants the opportunity to develop a variety of skills in an integrated setting. These classes have been subsidised by Touch Compass to offer the professional dance community an opportunity to work with the company.

- Skinner Release led by Wilhemeena Monroe 8, 15 & 22 September.
- Improvisation with Kristian Larsen 13 & 20 October.
- International guest Carol Brown 27 October & 3, 10 November.

Fee: \$7 per class, or \$40 for the block. For further information contact Susie Tate 021 296 3849 or email [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz)

## CART WORKSHOPS



Clare at the Grey Lynn workshop

DANZ, the national organisation for New Zealand dance, has been offering free dance workshops to the community. The first two workshops which were held in Orewa on August 2 and Brown Bay on August 16 were an enormous success and Touch Compass look forward to developing further workshops in these areas. The final workshop will be held at Corbans Estate during the school holidays on October 9 and is open to young people aged 8-12 years.

For further information on the CART workshops, please contact DANZ (09) 815 1420; [auckland@danz.org.nz](mailto:auckland@danz.org.nz) or follow this link [http://www.ceac.org.nz/classes-workshops/touch\\_compass\\_workshop.aspx](http://www.ceac.org.nz/classes-workshops/touch_compass_workshop.aspx)

## TUTOR TRAINING

After the success of the May weekend intensive, in Auckland, demand continues to grow for further training sessions. Working in an integrated dance environment requires specialist skills and our aim is to help dance teachers and support dancers to improve their proficiency and knowledge in working with disabled dancers. Planning is underway (pending funding) to hold a training workshop in Wellington in November 2009 and possibly another series in 2010. For further information contact Susie Tate 021 296 3849 or email [info@touchcompass.org.nz](mailto:info@touchcompass.org.nz)

## WELLINGTON WORKSHOP



(L to R) Kezia, Duncan, Catherine, David, Laura at the Wellington workshop

Thanks to Max Riddle for organising a very successful weekend workshop held at Te Whaea, Wellington, in July. Led by Catherine Chappell along with Touch Compass dancers Jesse Johnstone-Steele, Sumara Logman and Guy Ryan around 26 people took part. An integrated live band, 'Rented Strangers' from Wellington was a huge hit. Max says she would like to see Touch Compass establish an ongoing presence in Wellington, with the next project a tutor training workshop in November, and a programme of ongoing classes to follow next year.

Dancers and Touch Compass supporters in Wellington who would like to be involved in this exciting development are invited to contact Max at [maxriddle@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:maxriddle@vodafone.co.nz)