

# *Support Material*



## HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL



MAYOR'S OFFICE

Lawrence Yule B.E. (Hons), JP  
Mayor of Hastings

**Lawrence Yule  
Mayor of Hastings**

**To whom it may concern**

**Invitation to bring children from Christchurch to Hawke's Bay this summer**

Hanley Productions has produced a unique series of 'Creative Arts Programmes' for children in Hawke's Bay.

While the majority of children's holiday programmes are in the sports and recreation field, company director Megan Hanley has developed a series of workshops which focus on creative arts, with an emphasis on involving children from all walks of life. The programme operated in Napier and Havelock North this year and participants included foster children who were placed by Child Youth and Family.

The participants were taught artistic drama techniques and creative movement during a series of fun and disciplined, daily workshops.

Megan is now excited to offer this programme to Christchurch children, who are in need of some respite from the stress of earthquake recovery activities. The workshops will take place during the summer school holidays in 2012 and would be most beneficial to children aged 7 to 12.

Hereworth School in Havelock North has offered space in their hostel for 20 children for the week. This would provide a safe, secure environment for the children and their carers which would assure them of an enjoyable stay in Hawke's Bay.

I would like to commend this programme to you. Megan is currently in the process of finding funding support to help bring the children to Hawke's Bay this summer. I believe those who attend the programme will have a wonderful and educational holiday in our fabulous region. It promises to be an experience they will remember for a very long time.

Yours sincerely

Lawrence Yule  
**Mayor of Hastings**

## **Letters of Recommendation:**

**From Alan & Liz Dick alizdick@xtra.co.nz  
To hanleyproductions@gmail.com**

**Date Mon, May 30, 2011 at 9:00 AM**

**Subject: Shirley Jarrett foundation recommendation of Holiday Programmes in Hawke's Bay**

mailed-byxtra.co.nz

Dear Megan

I am very pleased to offer this brief note of support for your intention to establish a foundation to assist in the funding of Children's Creative Arts Programmes

I am aware of the success of your existing programmes operating in Australia and would wish that such programmes could be offered here in New Zealand as well.

It is most appropriate that the foundation be named after your late mother Shirley as a most highly esteemed and dearly missed leader of the creative communities here in Hawke's Bay.

Yours sincerely

Alan Dick QSO (former Mayor of Napier NZ)



## **Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre Ltd**

*Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre assists women and children who have been affected by domestic violence or sexual assault. We provide crisis accommodation, counselling, court advocacy family support and short-term housing.*

21<sup>st</sup>.07.2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to formally acknowledge the success of Umbrella Studios - school holiday drama workshops and director Megan Hanley's ability to engage with the families I support. I work for Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre, a service that provides support and accommodation to women and children escaping domestic violence.

The families we work with are often experiencing financial difficulty, the impacts of trauma, social isolation and exclusion and have very limited access to mainstream programs. My role is as a domestic violence caseworker and as such I am always looking for opportunities to give the children I work with experiences that they would otherwise not have. Many families cannot afford extracurricular activities at school or during the week and find it especially difficult to fund activities for their children during the holidays. In some cases children are bullied and excluded in social groups at school due to being unable to attend some programs. In my search for appropriate activities I came across Megan's interesting and exciting program.

Since my initial email to her we have developed a good partnership whereby for the last 3 school holidays approximately 10 of the children (per holiday) we work with have attended her school holiday program for 4 consecutive days. The outcome of this has been fantastic. This opportunity has given these children a chance to express themselves freely in a safe and non-confrontational environment. It has allowed them to extend themselves and to test their individual limits safely and they have also been given the opportunity to develop social skills and self-esteem, something which children from violent homes often lack.

The feedback from parents and their children has been very positive with many saying that their children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. One parent went so far as to say that rather than fighting (which was normal at home) her two daughters returned each evening to practice what they had learnt and actually got along peacefully.

The current arrangement is that our service receives a reduced fee for sending our clients and that MWWRC covers all costs. I believe that if this program were to become not-for-profit and be fully funded by Government and other departments other children in need of this form of support will benefit greatly. The experience that these children receive is invaluable and will no doubt be something that they remember for the rest of their lives.

Kate Ritchie  
Domestic Violence Caseworker  
21/07/11

1.06.11



**Napier Family Centre**

*making the future happen together*

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

During our last school holidays we were offer places, for children from our services, to attend 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party' a creative children's holiday program.

We had a child attend whose mother reported that it had been so fantastic for her 10year old boy.

He was diffident at first but thoroughly enjoyed going each day and trying something new.

He made new friends and the culmination of the program was the performance which was such an occasion for her son to put his achievement on show.

The Mum also remarked that her son's confidence increased significantly from the experience

This program gives children a different experience from the usual holiday programs, increasing self confidence and opening up other opportunities for growth and development.

Thank you

Kathy Egan

Counselling Manager

5 June 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Megan Hanley and her Children's Theatre Proposal 2009**

I am very pleased to write in support of Megan Hanley and her Children's Theatre Proposal. I first met Megan in 1986, when she was performing and part-producing dance and stage shows in Auckland. More recently we have caught up again in Sydney. Megan is creative, energetic and, just as importantly, disciplined and organised. She can combine great ideas with practical plans to turn them into a show that people want to watch. In short she is a natural producer. Megan also has many contacts and friends in the artistic community and that so many are delighted to collaborate with her demonstrates the respect they have for her talent.

In particular I am pleased to support Megan's children's theatre proposal. I have watched the DVD proposal and laughed out loud. The characters are believable and quick to draw you in. The story-line is well-structured and moves at the appropriate pace to retain the attention of young children. The music is a real highlight and along with the dance numbers and general choreography, lifts the show to a level at which it would be, in my opinion, a great addition to the 2009 Sydney Festival.

Yours sincerely,



David Kirk  
Chief Executive Officer



The Reed Group  
Level 3, 41 McLaren Street,  
North Sydney NSW 2060  
PO Box 6395, North Sydney NSW 2060

T 02 9965 0399  
F 02 9955 8812  
info@reedgroup.com.au  
www.reedgroup.com.au

17 September 2010

To whom it may concern

I first met Megan Hanley in 2003 when Megan was producing events in Sydney.

In 2005, I became an investment backer supporting a series of Hanley Productions International entertainment events and assisted Megan to develop studio premises in North Sydney when Megan launched Umbrella Studios 2005 – 2008.

In 2009, Reed Developments provided set up funds for Megan's Children's Creative Movement and Arts Education Programs. The backing provided has supported the development of Megan's intellectual properties with the designs Megan contributes to her production company.

Megan's tenacious ability to remain focused and dedicated to expanding Umbrella Studios and Hanley Productions with Children's arts education, festival shows and the theatre arts are reasons Reeds developments continue its support today.

I highly recommend Megan and her team at Hanley Productions and believe them capable of delivering a New Zealand tour of stage events that will be well received by the Rugby World Cup demographic as outlined in this RWC 2011 proposal.

Yours sincerely

**THE REED GROUP**

Geoffrey V Reed





**Shirley Jarrett,  
Associate Examiner I.S.T.D  
(03.07.1931 – 11.07.2010)**

**Shirley Jarrett, Founder: Original concept -  
Education in dance for children and Mother's  
Keep fit classes, 1963.**

Shirley Jarrett's career as dance teacher, choreographer, writer, director in the performing arts spans six decades.

Born, Lower Hutt, Wellington 1931

Shirley moved to Napier, Hawke's Bay, with her family in 1936. Shirley co owned & operated the highly acclaimed 'Shirley Jarrett & Anne Bradley Academy of Dance' from the mid 1970's mastering English dance syllabuses 'Imperial Society Teachers in Dance' (ISTD) and the 'Royal Academy of Dance' (RAD).

Shirley was first NZ teacher to be awarded an Examiners Associate in London, 1980.

Studies in Los Angeles, California with Hollywood Choreographer Roland Dupree saw Shirley introduce

American Tap to the Hawke's Bay region along with the '80's Disco era' when Shirley bought 'Disco - Partner Dancing' to Napier in 1981.

A resident choreographer with the Napier Frivolity Minstrels and the Napier Operatic Society for over two decades, Shirley choreographed productions such as Cabaret, Grease, Jesus Christ Superstar, Oklahoma and Annie to name but a few.

Shirley wrote the manuscript and stage play for 'An evening with Gershwin', portraying the musical genius of Composer George Gershwin from a series of Gershwin's musical scores she found in London. As Director and Producer the show won 'Best NZ Operatic Production' in 1988. Shirley wrote the 'Story of Jerome Kern' staged by the Napier Operatic Society in 1992.

Recognised for her contribution to the performing arts and for her teaching attributes Shirley was awarded 'Outstanding Woman's Award' / in 'Sufferget Year' 1994.

Shirley went on to choreograph for the Hawke's Bay Opera. Operas such as 'Tom Jones' and 'The Pearl Fishers' in 1991 and 'Carmen in 1993 with Director Richard Campion.

Shirley Retired in 1995 after a long career teaching many students to reach excellence in Contemporary Dance, Modern and Jazz Dance, Classical Ballet and Tap Dance.

2008, Shirley assisted her daughter, Sydney based producer with the development of Shirley's 1963 design for children's early education in movement.

The programmes trailed in Sydney, June 2009 being introduced into schools educational departments, operating on site and in Community Centres in New South Wales, Australia. Shirley passed away 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010 aged 79.



### **Megan Hanley, Producer**

### **Producer / Director: Megan Hanley**

Megan Hanley started dancing in her 'mother's children's classes' at the age of three. Going on to complete examinations in Classical Ballet R.A.D, Modern & Tap Dance in ISTD, Megan studied for her dance majors at 'The Betty Laine Academy' in London, 1976. Laine Studios are where dancers are predominantly primed in musical theatre studies. Megan studied Jazz, Funk and Contemporary dance in America at The Dupree Academy in Los Angeles in the early 1980s..

With a professional career in the Performing Arts and a lifestyle in comedy and satire, Megan moved to Sydney with NZ dance trio 'The Thunderbirds' 1986. The group worked in theatre and cabaret until 1993 with Megan becoming Artistic Director of Iconic Sydney Nightclub 'Jamison Street' 1987-89.

A performance and tutorial career that spans twenty

years Megan has returned to NZ often to perform and guest tutor in teaching positions directing dance at the National Youth Drama School, the Eastern Institute of Technology - diploma course for Opera singers in Hawke's Bay and dance classes at St Margaret's College Wellington.

Sydney 1988 Megan formed Hanley Productions. Working as a producer to dancers, singers, musicians, comedians and artists alike has seen her write, direct and choreograph internationally for stage, theatre, television, Festivals and the corporate world.

Megan recalls as career highlights events such as performing in a support act with a 12-piece funk band for 'Grace Jones', Sydney 1989. Working in Japan on the 'Celebrate Australia Festival' 1994 and while in Japan writing a series of shows that became the 'Gala Opening of the Augural International, 'Christchurch Arts Festival' 1996. 'Shaft' the 70's Funk show - 'New Years Eve' show Ch - Ch Cathedral Square to 30,000 revellers, 1998. Her Jazz Concert show support act for the late 'Ray Charles' in 1998, Wellington. Her Children's theatre production toured NZ 1997 - '99.

'Shaft' was the 1999 - midnight hour show for the 'New Millennium' for NZ's capital city Wellington, to an audience of 60,000.

In 2007 Megan was invited to Florida by the 'Mansion', Miami's largest super club, originally a theatre built in 1929 by Al Capone, then owned by musician and songwriter 'Prince'. Megan produced a marketing event as part of Miami Fashion Week sponsored by Miami Lamborghini for Sydney swim wear label 'Hallican Boodie'. Megan produced the labels Australian Fashion Week events 2004 - 2007 in Sydney.

Director of 'Umbrella Studios' 2005 - 2011, Megan is currently producing the creative arts movement and educational study in Sydney. Developing the programme her dance teacher / choreographer mother Shirley Jarrett, designed in 1963. Megan is introducing the concept to schools and the community in Australia and New Zealand.