

dancing with the stars

Starts **Tuesday 7.30pm** September 30 on



yahoo7.com.au/dancing



Welcome to the dancefloor...

RICKI-LEE

Singer/Songwriter, dancing with **Jarryd Byrne**

ASHLEY HART

Supermodel, partnered with **Julz Tocker** making his DWTS debut

TORAH BRIGHT

Olympic gold medallist, dancing with newcomer, **Robbie Kmetoni**

KYLY CLARKE

Presenter/Model, partnered by **Damian Whitewood**

APRIL ROSE PENGILLY

Actress, dancing with **Aric Yegudkin**

LYNNE McGRANGER

Home and Away actress, partnered by **Carmelo Pizzino**

EAMON SULLIVAN

Olympic swimmer, dancing with **Ash-Leigh Hunter**

MATT COOPER

NRL Legend, dancing with **Masha Belash**

DAVID RODAN

AFL Star, partnered by **Melanie Hooper**

TAI HARA

Actor from *Home and Away*, paired with DWTS newcomer **Jorja Freeman**

MARK HOLDEN

1970s Pop Idol, to dance with **Jessica Prince**

Live each week on Channel Seven the hit television show **DANCING WITH THE STARS** returns Tuesday September 30 at 7.30pm.

Hosted by Daniel MacPherson and co-host Edwina Bartholomew, series 14 will see 11 celebrities ready to rumba and battle it out to take home the coveted mirror-ball trophy.

Under the scrutiny of the judging panel - comprising celebrated dancers Kym Johnson and Adam Garcia alongside DWTS seasoned professionals Todd McKenney and Helen Richey (who are celebrating their 14th series this year) - the dazzling stars will have to prove they have all the moves on the dancefloor.

The judges scores, combined with the viewer vote, will determine who wins the trophy and a place in Dancing With the Stars history.

Dancing With The Stars is a BBC Worldwide format produced by FremantleMedia Australia for Channel 7. The smash-hit BBC format is licensed to 50 countries, with over 260 series aired around the world to date and 13 series broadcast in Australia. The show celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.



Past DANCING WITH THE STARS champions:

Series 13 (2013)

Cosentino and Jessica Raffa

Runners up: Tina Arena and Damian Whitewood / Rhiannon Fish and Aric Yegudkin

Series 12 (2012)

Johnny Ruffo and Luda Kroitor

Runners up: Danielle Spencer and Damian Whitewood / Zoe Cramond and Aric Yegudkin

Series 11 (2011)

Manu Feildel and Alana Patience

Runners up: Haley Bracken and Aric Yegudkin / Damien Leith and Melanie Hooper

Series 10 (2010)

Rob Palmer and Alana Patience

Runners up: Tamara Jaber and Carmelo Pizzino / Alex Fevola and Arsen Kishishian

Series 9 (2009)

Adam Brand and Jade Hatcher

Runners up: Kylie Gillies and Carmelo Pizzino / Matt White and Ash-Leigh Hunter

Series 8 (2008)

Luke Jacobz and Luda Kroitor

Runners up: Danny Green and Natalie Lowe / Paul Licuria and Eliza Campagna

Series 7 (2007)

Bridie Carter and Craig Monley

Runner up: Anh Do and Luda Kroitor

Series 6 (2007)

Kate Ceberano and John-Paul Collins

Runner up: Fifi Box and Paul Green

Series 5 (2006)

Anthony Koutoufides and Natalie Lowe

Runner up: Arianne Caoili and Carmelo Pizzino

Series 4 (2006)

Grant Denyer and Amanda Garner

Runner up: Kostya Tszyu and Luda Kroitor

Series 3 (2005)

Ada Nicodemou and Aric Yegudkin

Runner up: Chris Bath and Trenton Shipley

Series 2 (2005)

Tom Williams and Kym Johnson

Runner up: Ian Roberts and Natalie Lowe

Series 1 (2004)

Bec Cartwright (Hewitt) and Michael Miziner

Runner up: Pauline Hanson and Salvatore Vecchio



DANIEL MACPHERSON

Host

Whether it is acting, hosting or competing in triathlons, Daniel masters his performance and does it seemingly with ease.

Growing up in the Sydney beachside suburb of Cronulla, Daniel was discovered while competing in the Kurnell Triathlon and was subsequently offered the role of Joel Samuels in Neighbours. After making his mark on Neighbours, he received a Logie award for Most Popular New Male Talent in 1999.

In 2002, Daniel moved to the UK to star in the musical 'Godspell', alternating the lead roles of Jesus and Judas. Upon completion of the show, he was offered the role of PC Cameron Tait in the long-running iconic British TV series, The Bill. Within a year, Daniel was nominated for the British National Television Award for Best Newcomer. He also starred opposite legendary actor Edward Woodward on the stage in 'The Mysteries' in London's Canterbury Cathedral, to rave reviews.

Daniel's career has continued to traverse the globe and several genres, with leading roles on Tripping Over, Blackjack, Seven's hit crime drama City Homicide, as well as hosting various formats including The X Factor, Killer Sharks and The Morning Show.

In 2008, Daniel hosted his first series of Dancing With The Stars and soon after Daniel was named GQ Magazine's 'Television Personality of the Year'.

In 2010 Daniel extended his hosting duties for the Channel Seven game show Beat the Star and filmed the Melbourne Cup feature film The Cup, starring alongside Stephen Curry and Tom Burlinson.

In 2011 while hosting Dancing With The Stars, Daniel assumed the lead role in Wild Boys, a period piece set in the 1800s about a group of Aussie bushrangers. His role as Jack Keenan earned Daniel a TV Week Silver Logie nomination for Most Popular Actor.

Currently based in LA, Daniel recently played the lead role in the science fiction feature film INFINI, alongside Luke Ford and Luke Hemsworth, to be released in 2015.

Away from his television and filming commitments Daniel has upheld a demanding and gruelling fitness routine and competes regularly in elite-level triathlons. Daniel is a six time Ironman finisher, and has competed in World Championships over three different triathlon distances, Olympic, 70.3 and Ironman.

Daniel is also a multiple marathon finisher, and has used his profile to raise money and awareness for charities such as Reclink, Charity:water, and The Indigneous Marathon Project for which he is an ambassador.





EDWINA BARTHOLOMEW

Co-host

Joining Daniel MacPherson as co-host in 2013, Edwina proved an instant hit on Dancing. With her boundless energy and wit, combined with her experience in live TV, Edwina has brought extra sparkle to the perennial favourite.

Away from the glamour of ball gowns and mirror balls, Edwina travels the country as the weather presenter on Australia's number one breakfast show, Sunrise. Each week takes her to a different location here in Australia, and overseas.

Edwina is also part of the Channel Seven Sport stable, reporting on racing events in Melbourne and Sydney, including the Autumn and Spring racing carnivals, and Bathurst 1000.

Edwina started her career at Channel Seven 10 years ago. She worked her way up the ranks from producer, to news reporter, to Sydney correspondent for Sunrise. As a journalist, she has covered

major events from the Beijing and London Olympics, to the Brisbane floods, Christchurch earthquake, and the disappearance of backpacker Britt Lapthorne, in Croatia.

She has also filed stories for Seven's flagship current affairs show, Sunday Night. In 2012, Edwina travelled to Las Vegas for an exclusive interview with Andre Agassi, and last year, swung from a helicopter in the Top End for a dangerous feature on crocodiles.

Born in the South Australian mining town of Whyalla, Edwina spent her early years living in Japan and Malaysia.

Edwina completed her journalism degree at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst NSW, and a Masters of International Studies at Sydney University in 2006. She has also worked as a reporter on Radio 2GB.



TORAH BRIGHT

Olympic Gold Medallist

Champion snowboarder Torah Bright is used to soaring to great heights but will she land on her feet on Dancing? Torah was on skis from the age of two, snowboarding at 11 and professional by the time she was 14. In 2010 she carried the Australian flag in the Olympic Opening Ceremony in Vancouver, where she won gold in the snowboard halfpipe. Torah made history recently by qualifying for the Sochi 2014 Games in all three snowboarding disciplines -halfpipe, slopestyle and snowboard cross. She walked away with a silver in the women's halfpipe to become Australia's most successful Winter Olympics athlete. Her other achievements include three world super-pipe titles in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

How did you feel to be approached to do the show?

Why not, I'm going to learn how to dance! I love to dance, but I like it when no one's watching and you can do whatever.

ROBBIE KMETONI

Robbie Kmetoni makes his DWTS debut this series. At only 19 years of age Robbie won the third series of Australia's So You Think You Can Dance. Specialising in Contemporary, Robbie is an incredibly

What do you think your dancing strengths are or will be?

My dance partner Robbie! He's a clever dancer and he can fix me.

Do you have any previous injuries that you need to consider?

No injuries but when we were doing some Latin training my knees hyperextend and it hurt a little. I'm used to being in a squat position all day.

What do you think you'll get out of the experience?

Dancing skills as well as a whole new level of confidence plus good memories and great friendships.

How do you think you'll cope with the criticism of the judges?

I'm used to being judged. Sometimes I don't know what they are talking about so

you just brush it off. Robbie was telling me I have elephant strides and I was stomping in puddles. I'm up for some nice criticism that will make people laugh.

Is your family excited about it?

I think they are all excited for us to have this experience; my mum is very worried about the outfits I'll be wearing. I just said, 'Mum, I just have to embrace it, as long as I keep it with a little class.'

"My mum is very worried about the outfits I'll be wearing."

others. He has made numerous television appearances and toured with "Burn The Floor".



Torah is dancing for Free to Shine www.freetoshine.org

KYLY CLARKE

Presenter/Model

Kyly Clarke is a woman of many talents but will dancing be another string to her bow? The model, actress, presenter and interior designer is the wife of Australian Cricket captain Michael Clarke. She studied drama, theatre, dance and acrobatics at a young age before moving into TV commercials and modelling. In 2004, Kyly trained with the Australian Theatre for Young People and intensive acting at NIDA to further her skills. More recently, she was seen presenting the weather on Foxtel's The Weather Channel. As well as being a cosmetics and fashion brand ambassador, she has established her own interior design business, Bold Interiors.

How do you feel about being on Dancing With The Stars?

This is going to be lots of fun. I think that there's an element of dance that I miss. Performing gave me that fire in my belly. It's really exciting to get that back.

Do you have any fears?

Definitely! Technically I think it's so different from anything I've ever known before. So I think it's going to be really difficult. I've got a lot to learn and I'll be paying very close attention to my partner and listening to every single word he says.

How do you think you'll cope with the judges' criticism?

I'm expecting a fair amount of criticism. I learned when I was younger that discipline is a major part of being a dancer. They're not critiquing you to put you down. It's just to help you excel. I'm ready and prepared. I'm just going to take on board what they say. And hopefully turn it into a better routine for the next week.

What do you think you'll get out of the experience?

A lot of friends! Everyone is so amazing and so friendly. I'm just looking forward to the whole journey.

"It's so different from anything I've ever known before."

Who are you dancing for?

My charity is The McGrath Foundation. Being part of the cricketing community, I've become very close with the McGrath Foundation attending all the High Teas and then becoming a Foundation Friend. I'm looking forward to raising as much money as I possibly can for the Breast Care Nurses around Australia. They do such an amazing job.

DAMIAN WHITEWOOD

In 2012 and 2013 Damian finished as runner-up with partners Danielle Spencer and Tina Arena on Dancing With The Stars. Damian made the move to primetime television in the US in 2010 as one of the professional dancers on the US version of the show partnering Pamela Anderson.

He has also guest appeared on the Israeli, Argentinean and Mexican versions of the show. Born and raised in Perth, Damian was first introduced to ballroom dancing at the age of 10. He learned to love competitive ballroom dancing and, from the age of 14, he was travelling across

Australia competing in both Ballroom and Latin competitions. He achieved many of his life-long goals but his most memorable was in 2009 making his Broadway debut as a lead dancer for 'Burn The Floor', which opened to rave reviews and sold-out performances.



Kyly is dancing for the McGrath Foundation www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au

ASHLEY HART

Ashley Hart can strut down a catwalk, but how will she go on the dance floor?

The successful model has built an impressive career both locally and internationally. She first came to the attention of Chadwick Models at the age of 16. After signing with them, she worked for an ever increasing list of clients before moving to New York. She has worked constantly for US, European and Australian clients and is a brand ambassador for a number of events and products. Ashley – who recently became engaged to long-time boyfriend and fellow model Buck Palmer – juggles her busy modelling career with her first passion, teaching yoga.

How did you feel to be approached to do the show?

Really excited. I think I've secretly always wanted to dance and never really done any of it in my life. So when this opportunity came up I was really excited and on top of that I was able to move back to Melbourne for an extended time which I haven't done in seven years.

JULZ TOCKER

Julz is making his debut on Dancing With The Stars this season. For the past 18 months, he has been on the US version of DWTS as part of the troupe and as a choreographer. He has choreographed for Strictly Come Dancing in London, So You Think You Can Dance in the USA.

Do you have any fears going into the show?

Definitely, I just really want to keep reminding myself that it's all fun and that's what I'm going in for it and the experience of just learning how to dance. Then I'm happy. After my first two rehearsals I realised that it's very technical and that I'm actually going to have to practice my butt off.

What do you think your dancing strengths are or will be?

My favorite dance will be the Samba, but I think it will be the hardest. I think that will be my weakness but I really want to get good at it. I love the whole Brazilian booty sexy dance. When it comes to technicality that could be a weakness, although I don't want to say that.

Do you have any previous injuries that you need to consider?

No – apart from 10 blisters on my feet from the new dancing shoes.

He was the lead Latin dancer for the West End show Cheek To Cheek and a professional dancer on the UK Sky One dancing show. Born in New Zealand, Julz moved to Australia at 16, began dancing quickly and became a youth champion. He continued to develop his dancing skills

Supermodel

How do you think you'll cope with the criticism of the judges?

Fine. I actually like being judged, I haven't ever been judged in competitions, but I am one for the truth. I am into learning about the dance properly and I'm all for being told what's right and what's wrong.

Who's your biggest threat to win the show?

I can already see that Kyly is a dancer so I might have to take her legs out.

"I love the whole Brazilian booty sexy dance."

What charity are you dancing for?

Celebrate Life Foundation. They are all about the three pillars of mindfulness, movement and nutrition. It's all about promotion for health and wellbeing and supporting smaller charities.

and moved to London then Italy. He has worked throughout Asia for dance training and competitions. He is a New Zealand, Australian and international Latin American champion.



Ashley is dancing for Celebrate Life Foundation www.celebratelifefoundation.org.au

LYNNE McGRANGER

Home and Away actress

Lynne has proven she has stamina, having recently notched up the honour of being the longest-serving female cast member on Home and Away. She's hoping that endurance will translate to the dance floor as she follows in the footsteps of many of her co-stars, three of whom have won the mirror ball trophy. Before she ventured into acting, Lynne was a primary school teacher. She grew up learning ballet and modern dance and rekindled her interest in performing with Penrith's Q Theatre. Short film, theatre and television roles in The Flying Doctors, Seven Deadly Sins and Skytrackers followed before she joined Home and Away in 1993 as Irene Roberts. She performs regularly in pantomimes throughout the UK at Christmas.

Do you have any fears going into the show?

I have two : to be kicked off first and to fall down the stairs!

What do you think your dancing strengths are or will be?

My personality! I'm hoping that I will enjoy it. I think I will because I enjoy most things in life which is a great thing. Hopefully my enjoyment of it will radiate and people won't be looking at my tangled legs!

Will being a performer help you?

I probably will get a little bit nervous but I do love to perform live. I think what I'm going to do is just focus on the audience and forget the fact that over a million people are watching at home. I can't go, 'Sorry can I do that again?' like I can on Home and Away. I just have to forget about the cameras and have a good time and enjoy myself. It's an opportunity that will never come my way again.

Do you have a favourite DWTS moment?

I would have to say watching the lovely Chris Bath and Ada in their final. I wanted

them both to win. They were both beautiful dancers.

"I probably will get a little bit nervous but I do love to perform live."

Who's your biggest threat to win the show?

The other 10 dancers! I think some of the blokes will be dark horses. I expect Ricki-Lee and Kyly will be fabulous. Torah is an athlete, she moves for a living so I think she will be terrific too.

CARMELO PIZZINO

Carmelo first appeared on Dancing With The Stars in 2004 partnering Noeline Brown. This marks his eighth appearance. In 2013 he partnered not only one celebrity – Sally Obermeder – but stepped in to partner Libby Trickett when her dance partner left the competition due to an injury. In those years he has been a finalist many times. Born in Perth, Carmelo won his first dancing award at just five years

of age. Moving to Sydney at a young age, Carmelo then moved to London to further his dance career and represent Australia on the international circuit. He has since won many Australian and World titles, including the prestigious British Latin Championship, The International Latin Championship, the Australian Open, South Pacific, Australasian, Singapore's Lion City Championship and the Rumba in

the Jungle Latin Championship in South Africa and many other titles. Carmelo has also performed in 'Burn The Floor's Floorplay', touring Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Japan, Europe, Canada and the US. Carmelo has also performed internationally with appearances on So You Think You Can Dance Holland.

Lynne is dancing for Bears of Hope www.bearsofhope.org.au



APRIL ROSE PENGILLY

Actress

Music is in her DNA but will April Rose Pengilly rock the dance floor? The daughter of INXS musician Kirk Pengilly has found her own fame as a model and actress. She has featured in campaigns for many brands and graced numerous magazines. She's worked in Sydney, Tokyo, New York, Osaka and London and walked in shows for designers such as Tina Kalivas, Lover, Romance Was Born, Bowie Wong, Karen Walker and Marnie Skillings. More recently, she has concentrated on her acting and was last seen in the indie film LBF alongside Gracie Otto.

Do you have any fears going into the show?

I'm mostly afraid of making a big idiot of myself and falling over.

What do you think you'll get out of the experience?

Hopefully a mirroball trophy! I just want to have a lot of fun and do something different.

Do you have any funny dancing anecdotes?

I remember my first ever ballet concert. I was only about three or four. It was a Teddy Bears Picnic and we were all dressed as teddy bears. We rehearsed for a long time and then we did the final performance and they released bubbles from the top of the stage which we didn't know was going to happen. Of course, we just looked up and started catching the bubbles. We completely stopped our dance.

Do you have a favourite DWTS moment?

I really liked Rhiannon Fish's performance last year to Beauty and The Beast. I loved that film as well growing up. The dance was just beautiful.

"I just want to have a lot of fun and do something different."

What's something that we don't know about you that might surprise your fans?

I'm a pretty good rapper. I haven't written my own raps or anything but if you give me the right song that I know the words to I'm pretty good.

ARIC YEGUDKIN

Aric has a good track record on DWTS. In Season 3, he took home the coveted trophy with Home and Away's Ada Nicodemou. In 2013 he was runner-up with Home and Away star Rhiannon Fish; he also finished runner up in 2012 with Zoe Cramond; and 2011 with Haley Bracken. This year he was the resident ballroom choreographer for So You Think you Can Dance Australia and the choreographer for the stage show

'Shake Rattle and Roll' which had sell-out performances in Melbourne and Perth. A former National Juvenile Champion in dance, Aric paired with Masha Belash in 2001. They have won many titles, including the National Youth Latin American Championship three years running; the Australian – and the South Pacific – Youth Under 19 Latin America Championships; the World Super Stars Adult Latin American

championship. They were also Australia's representative to the World Ballroom and Latin Championships in 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2009.

Aric has toured with theatrical production 'Burn The Floor' and is one of the principal dancers and choreographers for stage show 'Dance Dance Dance', performing across Australia for a number of years.



April Rose is dancing for Fight Dementia www.fightdementia.org.au

RICKI-LEE

Singer/songwriter

Pop sensation Ricki-Lee can bust a move on stage but can she tango? Ricki-Lee found fame at 18 on Australian Idol. Her first self-titled album was certified gold and produced three hit singles. After more chart success with the Young Divas, she headed to London, New York and LA to write and record her second solo album Brand New Day. It included the top 10 singles Love Is All Around and Can't Touch It. Her third album Fear & Freedom included the hits Raining Diamonds and Do It Like That, which were both certified platinum. In 2011, after a year off music, she self-funded a trip to LA and New York to work on new material which she plans to release shortly.

How did you feel when approached to do the show?

I was actually quite hesitant. Being a performer, I know how much it takes to become really good at what you do. I'm a perfectionist and I'm all about the finer details. I knew it would be a huge task and would I have time? I'm about to release my new album. We've got music videos to shoot and press and promo for the album. But now I'm just really excited.

What was your first rehearsal like?

I honestly felt like I was being taught how to walk and talk again. I'm at square one like everybody else. The dancing I do is a cross between jazz and hip hop which is completely different to ballroom. It's the complete opposite to what I've done my whole life. And the performing freaks me out. I'm used to performing to the front of stage whereas ballroom is 360. I'm getting lost and I don't know where to look or where I'm meant to be.

What do you think your dancing strengths will be?

I am a performer; I've performed on national TV a lot in front of lots of people. I love that adrenalin. I know how to harness it and use it. I feel that will be one thing I won't have to worry about. In saying that I know on the first night I'm going to be absolutely freaking out.

How do you think you'll cope with the judges' criticism?

I think I'm my harshest critic and my worst judge. I will know if I've messed up. If anything I'm looking forward to getting some constructive criticism. To hear what I'm doing

wrong; what I can do to fix it. I'm always wanting to know how I can be better.

Do you have a favourite DWTS moment?

Tina Arena last year was amazing. We're on the same record label. She's told me to just enjoy it. I know what she means when she says enjoy it because she's a hard task master herself. She knows I'd be like that. She said she wasn't expecting to have as much fun as she did but once she let go and let it all happen she loved it.

Which charity are you dancing for?

I chose the Ronald McDonald House. It was the first charity I ever worked with. I was 19 when I auditioned for Idol; my world was turned upside down. There was chaos and hysteria and people knowing my name. At a perfect time we went and visited one of the Ronald McDonald houses. I will never forget that moment; the day that I walked in and met the kids. And sat and spoke with the families. It's such an amazing charity. I really hope I can stick it out for them.

"I am a performer."

**dancing
with the
stars**

JARRYD BYRNE

At just eight years of age, Jarryd Byrne was inspired to dance after watching Baz Luhrmann's Strictly Ballroom. At his insistence, his parents enrolled him in classes and he quickly found his place and knew dancing and performing was what he wanted to do. Finding a love of Ballroom, Latin American and Hip Hop, at 18, Jarryd moved to Sydney to focus on developing

himself as a dancer, and has since gone on to choreograph and perform in numerous shows and compete at the highest level nationally and internationally in Latin American. Jarryd is currently playing the role of Nathan Starkey in Baz Luhrmann's 'Strictly Ballroom the Musical' which was originally played by Todd McKenney in the 1992 film. He made his debut on Dancing With The Stars in season

13 and was partnered with Miss Universe Australia, Jesinta Campbell. Recently, he performed with the cast of Strictly Ballroom at the 2014 Helpmann Awards, in the stage show of 'Shake, Rattle and Roll' and toured the US with 'Burn The Floor'. His other achievements include Singapore International Latin Champion and National Latin American Champion.

Ricki-Lee is dancing for Ronald McDonald House www.rmhc.org.au



MATT COOPER

NRL Legend

Rugby league legend Matt Cooper is used to scoring tries but how will he tackle Dancing? A NSW State of Origin and Australian international centre, Matt played his entire National Rugby League career for the St George Illawarra Dragons, with whom he won the 2010 NRL Grand Final. After seven Tests, 13 Origins and 243 games for the Dragons, injury forced his retirement from the game in August 2013. Married with two children, Matt now focuses his energy on his gym DragonFit Fight Club.

How did you feel about being approached to be on the show.

At first I was a no, it's definitely not my thing. But then I actually had a good think about it and I thought it would be a good challenge. And something I could enjoy with my two daughters. My five year old loves dancing and I thought this would be a good opportunity for me to do something that they will get a lot of enjoyment out of.

MASHA BELASH

This year, Masha was the resident ballroom choreographer for So You Think you Can Dance Australia and the choreographer for the stage show 'Shake Rattle and Roll' in Melbourne and Perth. In 2011 Masha partnered cricket star Nathan Bracken. Masha dances with fellow DTWS tutor Aric Yegudkin. Since 2001, they have won many titles together, including the National Youth

Do you have any particular fears going into the show?

Yeah, it's not my personality to be a flashy dancer. I am a footy player, love my mixed martial arts, so I'm totally out of my comfort zone which is probably my biggest fear for me.

What are your advantages going in? What are your strengths?

I think it would be my physical strength. I try and train everyday so my fitness is great. I have a passion for music - I don't know if that's going to help. I've done a lot of nightclub dancing after a few drinks.

Have you danced in front of people before?

My wedding dance in 2009. My wife said she wanted to do something different at the wedding so we had two half hour lessons and didn't tell anyone. After the cake, the lights went out, the music started playing

Latin American Championship three years running; the Australian - and the South Pacific - Youth Under 19 Latin American Championships; and the World Super Stars Adult Latin American championship. They were also Australia's representative to the World Ballroom and Latin Championships in 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2009. Masha has toured with theatrical

and I get up in front of all my footy playing mates and they are just laughing and in shock saying, 'What the hell is going on'. But we nailed it!

"I'm totally out of my comfort zone."

Tell us about your charity and why you chose it?

Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation. I've done a lot of visits to hospitals in my footy career. We go there at State of Origin time. I went there before I had kids, and it affected me. And now that I have kids, I get really emotional about that sort of stuff. It's really hard for me to see what they go through. They just do a great job there, not just with the kids, but with the parents as well.

production 'Burn The Floor' and is one of the principal dancers and choreographers for 'Dance Dance Dance', performing across Australia for a number of years. Masha holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Sydney and is an accredited instructor with Dancesport Australia.

Matt is dancing for Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation www.schf.org.au



TAI HARA

Home and Away actor

Home and Away's Tai Hara has set hearts on fire in Summer Bay but will he burn up the dance floor? He landed the part of Andy Barrett in 2013, his first major acting role.

The 24-year-old realised he wanted to be an actor during his first school performance in grade three. He pursued his passion at Queensland's University of Technology, where he graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting). Tai went on to present the TV Show, Cash Call, for two series before making his small screen debut on Terra Nova.

Do you have any fears going into the show?

No not really. I mean it's a pretty cool opportunity to get the experience to learn how to dance. The only difference being is that it's on national television. So as long

as I don't make a complete fool of myself I think it will be great.

What will your challenges be?

Remembering all the dance moves. I'm curious to see how I handle dancing in front of so many people and the nerves on the night. That's when I'll be at my most nervous as I'm sure everyone else will be.

What do you think you'll get out of the experience?

Hopefully I'll come out of it with a new skill set. I'm in good company, so hopefully some great friends as well.

Do you have any funny dancing anecdotes?

I've definitely have had to do some funny dances in plays and things. At uni, we did

one play called 'Blood Wedding' by Garcia Lorca. We had to do Spanish flamenco style dancing. We were horrendous but we all played it up and had a lot of fun with it. It's a really fond memory because it was a with a lot of my best mates from uni.

"As long as I don't make a complete fool of myself I think it will be great."

Who's your biggest threat to win?

The girls – it's a powerhouse cast of girls this year. They're all looking really strong.

JORJA FREEMAN

Series 14 of Dancing With The Stars sees Jorja making her debut. Jorja began studying dance at the age of 3 in Cecchetti Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Contemporary & Musical Theatre, and began Latin and ballroom dancing at age 15. She has competed

nationally across Australia in all dance styles since the age of six. Jorja is a West Australian, Tasmanian, and Victorian Open Latin finalist as well as an Australian Latin Semi-finalist. On top of studying dance Jorja has recently completed a Bachelor of

Journalism at the Swinburne University of Technology. She is also a cast member of 'Burn the Floor' where she has performed across the world.



Tai is dancing for YGAP POLISHED Man Campaign www.polishedman.com.au

MARK HOLDEN

Former Australian Idol judge Mark Holden will be hoping for a touchdown when he waltzes into Dancing with the Stars. He made his name in the 1970s as the good-looking carnation-carrying pop star with hits like Never Gonna Fall In Love Again and Last Romance. TV and film roles followed before he moved to LA in 1980, where he produced hits for the likes of Milla Jovovich, the Temptations and David Hasselhoff. After returning to Australia in the late 1990s, he formed Marjac Productions who, together with Universal, launched Vanessa Amorosi's career. In 2003, Mark became a household name again as a judge on Australian Idol, which he appeared on for five series. He now practices as a barrister in the areas of crime and copyright.

What are you most looking forward to on DWTS?

Learning to dance and move. Because I've been ill over the last few years and I've become quite sedentary. My mother has dementia and I think you need to have

reasons to keep moving as you get older. So for me just moving is fantastic.

How is the rehearsing going?

I've got cranky ankles and a tennis elbow. How I got a tennis elbow I don't know. I think it's the jaw bone connected to the elbow bone connected to the knee bone.

What do you think your dancing strengths are?

My dancing strengths are stillness.

What will your challenges be?

Moving. I have no actual rhythm; it's unbelievable for a guy who has made his living out of music. I can feel the beat eventually - my mind, brain and spirit get it but it doesn't get through to the old body.

Do you have any previous injuries that you need to consider?

I've had osteoporosis for many, many years. It could affect my dancing. But I haven't had a fracture for six of seven years now and I was fracturing regularly before that.

1970s Pop Idol

I manage my osteoporosis by doing weight bearing exercises. I've had supplements. I don't know that I will be doing too much lifting - no Patrick Swayze Dirty Dancing moments for me.

"I have no actual rhythm; it's unbelievable for a guy who has made his living out of music."

Do you have any funny dancing anecdotes?

I've never danced in my life. I don't like dancing. Except one role as Lee Gordon in the musical 'Shout' where Lee and Johnny O'Keefe danced for a song. Tim Campbell (who played Johnny) and I did 101 performances where we did a two hander together and I was dancing in that scene. Tim was the doing the lead. He carried me completely!

JESSICA PRINCE

2014 marks Jessica's third appearance on DWTS. In 2013 she partnered supermodel twin Jordan Stenmark and the previous year Ironman Caine Eckstein. Trained in Ballroom, Latin American, Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Lyrical, Jazz, Broadway, and Tap, Jessica is ready

to showcase her talents on the dancefloor. Jessica was top six in So You Think You Can Dance Australia (season 3) and has since featured in numerous theatre productions including Baz Luhrmann's 'Strictly Ballroom the Musical' and the American production of 'Burn The Floor'. She has choreographed

Sydney Theatre Company's production of 'Dance Better at Parties' and regularly teaches at Sydney Dance Company. She was recently ranked 3rd in Australia for New Vogue and 8th in Australia for Ballroom Standard.



Mark is dancing for Ice Factor www.icefactor.net

DAVID RODAN

AFL Star

AFL star David Rodan could move on the footy field but will his fancy footwork translate to the dance floor? Fiji-born David moved to Australia as a three-year-old. He started his career at Richmond, where he played 65 games from 2002-06 before moving to Port Adelaide. David played 111 matches for the club until 2012 when he switched to Melbourne. He played nine games for them before a knee injury saw him bow out of the game permanently in August last year. He kicked 131 goals from 185 matches during his career. His 2007 season is his personal highlight when he was part of Port Adelaide's charge to the grand final.

Do you have any fears going into the show?

Falling over would probably be the biggest one. I've got a fantastic partner in Melanie who's great. I'm sure she'll teach me all the tricks of the trade.

What do you think your dancing strengths will be?

I'm still trying to work that out in rehearsals!

What will your challenges be?

Getting the steps right and hoping I don't step on Melanie's feet too much.

Who's your biggest threat to win the show?

Coops [Matt Cooper] is probably the favourite. He's got two weapons on the side

of his body; he's got two huge canons and I'm looking to his lifts. Also Ricki-Lee, with her musical background. She'll be very good.

"Hoping I don't step on Melanie's feet too much."

How does dancing compare to playing footy?

I'd kicked a footy around a few times. So I was a lot more confident going out on the field than I will be dancing in front of the nation. I'll be giving it everything I can and I'm excited by the challenge.

MELANIE HOOPER

In 2011 Melanie made her Dancing With The Stars debut, coming runner-up with partner Damien Leith. Last year, she partnered TV Legend Tony Barber and in 2012 80s rock legend Brian Mannix. Born in Townsville, Melanie moved to Brisbane at the age of 21 where she went on to compete throughout Australia in all three styles – Ballroom, Latin and New Vogue. In 2000, Melanie decided to specialise in

her favourite style, Latin American, and two years later moved to the UK with her then dance partner to pursue her career. She enjoyed much success on the International dance circuit, dancing in championships throughout the UK and Europe.

In November 2008, Melanie joined the renowned stage show, 'Burn the Floor', performing on Broadway for seven months before continuing on the successful world

tour. Melanie's dance career has taken her all over the world with her biggest achievements including UK Rising Star Professional Latin Champion, British Professional Rising Star Latin runner-up, German Professional Rising Star Latin Champion, Australian Open Professional Latin Champion, and Moscow World Professional Latin.



EAMON SULLIVAN

Olympic Swimmer

Champion swimmer Eamon Sullivan has made a splash in the pool but how will he go diving into uncharted waters on Dancing? He recently announced his retirement from competitive swimming, marking the end of a stellar career. A former world record holder in both the 50 and 100m freestyle, Eamon went to three Olympic Games – Athens, Beijing and London – and won silver in 2008 in the men's 100m freestyle and 4x100m medley relay, as well as bronze in the 4x100m freestyle relay. Out of the pool, the 29-year-old is a keen foodie who's released his own book, Eamon's Kitchen. The Perth-native has also opened two restaurants – Louis Baxter and Bib & Tucker – in his home state.

Do you have any fears going into the show?

Remembering the routine is number one – I think getting halfway through and forgetting is my worst fear. I think that's what amazes me the most is watching everyone remember everything and pull off the routine every time and no one's really got half way through and lost where they are, unless they have covered up really well.

What do you think your dancing strengths are or will be?

I don't give up until I've got it right, I think. With swimming I'm pretty determined to do well – you'll find if I'm not good at something I'll push myself till at least I can do it which is the discipline and attitude coming through from an athlete.

Do you have any previous injuries that you need to consider?

Shoulders! I've had three repairs and cleans ups in the past years on the same shoulder. It's weak and in a bit of pain but doesn't affect my day-to-day life.

“I don't give up until I've got it right.”

How do you think you'll cope with the criticism of the judges?

I think it's the only way you improve. You learn from your mistakes which I learnt through my swimming career and next time you don't make that mistake. Criticism is one word for it, but for me it's feedback. It's a learning experience; I'm not going to take it to heart as I'm not a professional dancer.

ASH-LEIGH HUNTER

In 2013, Ash-Leigh partnered Olympic champion Steve Hooker. This year she returns to the dance floor with another Olympic champion. Ash-Leigh was a grand finalist on DWTS in 2009 and a top 18 dancer on So You Think You Can Dance in the same year.

She is one of Australia's most dynamic and well-travelled Ballroom performers, having been part of 'Burn the Floor' for 14 years. Leaving her home town of Kalamunda, Western Australia, at 18 to tour the world meant that Ash-Leigh grew up on the road. She travelled extensively with the company

to America, China, Korea, London, Japan and Singapore as she honed her craft. Ash-Leigh began taking dance classes at five and moved quickly into Ballroom, showing and obvious aptitude for mastering the genre.



Eamon is dancing for SIDS and Kids www.sidsandkids.org

HELEN RICHEY

Judge

Recently inducted into the Dancesport Victoria Hall of Fame, Helen Richey an icon of Dancesport and certainly deserves the title 'Australia's First Lady of Latin'.

In 2014, Helen celebrates her 10th anniversary as a judge on Dancing With The Stars.

Born and raised in Melbourne. Helen started dancing at a very young age studying Ballet and Tap. At 15, Helen won the coveted Lily Ellison Award. Two years later she met her future husband, Robert and took up Ballroom and Latin dancing.

After winning the Australian Rising Stars Ballroom Championship, they travelled to the United Kingdom to further their dancing careers. Originally planning to visit for six months, they stayed for 27 years.

Helen's competitive career included becoming undefeated All England Latin Champion as well as the South of England Latin Champion and the Imperial Latin Champion. In the major international events, Helen was placed third in the World

Professional Latin Championship, equal third in the British Professional Latin Championship, runner-up in the United Kingdom Professional Latin and was twice placed third in the International Professional Latin Championship. Helen was a Grand Finalist in the British Professional Championship, one of the most prestigious events, for seven consecutive years. She was also Australia's official representative in the World's Championships in both the Ballroom and Latin Styles for more than 10 years and was a regular semi-finalist in the Ballroom Style.

After retiring from competitive dancing, Helen has become one of the world's leading coaches and most sought-after adjudicators. She has judged the national dance championships of almost every country in the world. Helen has coached World Champions, British Champions and Australian Champions. Many of the professional dancers in all of the series of Dancing With The Stars have been trained wholly or in part by Helen.

An accomplished and skilled dressmaker, she makes the beautiful gowns that she wears on the show.



TODD MCKENNEY

Judge

Currently touring Australia with 'Grease', Todd McKenney has barely taken a break since picking up the maracas in 2011 to star as Peter Allen in 'The Boy from Oz'. Later this year Todd will star in 'La Cage Aux Folles' and early 2015 in 'Anything Goes'. 2014 marks Todd's 10th year as a judge on Dancing With The Stars.

A former champion in Ballroom and Latin, singer/dancer Todd competed internationally for more than 10 years before breaking into theatre. Todd began dancing at the age of three at his mother's dancing school in Perth, training in Jazz, Tap, acrobatics and Ballroom.

He was cast in his first professional musical, Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Song and Dance' in 1983. Many stage shows followed including; 'Cats', '42nd Street', 'West Side Story' and 'Crazy For You'. He was cast as Nathan Starkey in Baz Luhrmann's 1992 internationally acclaimed film 'Strictly Ballroom'.

A career highlight, Todd did 766 performances as Peter Allen in 'The Boy From Oz', winning two Mo Awards, the Variety Club Heart Award, the Glugg Award, the Green Room Award, the Australian Dance Award and the Helpmann Award. He recreated Gene Kelley's original famous tap dance on stage in 'Singin' In The Rain' - a performance that won him another Australian Dance Award.

In 2002, Todd performed his one-man show around Australia and in 2003 he had sell out performances of his show at Taronga Zoo, then went home to Perth to appear in 'Cabaret'. In March 2004, Todd starred in his own production, 'Todd McKenney LIVE', at Sydney's Star City for a week of sell-out shows.

In August 2004, he and Rachael Beck performed with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Tommy Tycho. The same month, he sang with the Western Australia Symphony Orchestra and, in September 2005, presented his 'Todd McKenney Song And Dance Spectacular' on the Gold Coast. In 2005, Todd released his debut CD "Just a Gigolo", and toured Sydney, the Gold Coast and Melbourne in his own stage show.

In 2006 and 2007 he toured Australia in 'Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks' with Nancye Hayes. Also in 2007 Todd was nominated for Helpmann Award and a Sydney Theatre Critics Circle Award for 'Priscilla' in his roles as Tick and Mitzi. Todd has also appeared in the stage productions of Annie The Musical and Priscilla Queen of the Desert.

His most recent venture is Todd McKenney's Centre Stage Tours www.toddstours.com.au; a series of personal tours which sees him welcome people into his world for a VIP theatrical experience. It's his way of celebrating 30 years in show business.





KYM JOHNSON

Judge

Kym Johnson joined the judging panel on Dancing With the Stars in 2013. A professional ballroom dancer, Kym certainly knows a thing or two about taking to the Dancing With The Stars stage.

Kym first appeared on the show during its debut series in 2004, and the following year she took home the mirror ball trophy with her celebrity partner Tom Williams. In 2006 Kym jetted to Hollywood to compete on the US version of Dancing With The Stars where she has since appeared in 14 series and won twice.

Kym began dance at the age of three, training in all aspects of the performing arts including singing, Ballet, Tap, Jazz and acrobatics. At 13, she was inspired to concentrate her talent in the field of competitive Ballroom dance. She went on to become the Australian

Ballroom Champion and represented Australia in the 'World 10' dance championships for two years running.

Before appearing on Dancing With The Stars in Australia, Kym appeared in the hit show 'Burn The Floor'.

Since moving to LA, Kym's celebrity partners have included talk show host Jerry Springer, 'N Sync performer Joey Fatone and actors David Arquette and David Hasselhoff.

In 2009 she took home the mirror ball crown with entertainer Donny Osmond and followed up the win with another in 2011 with sports star Hines Ward. Kym is the only professional dancer in the world to hold trophies on two different continents.





ADAM GARCIA

Judge

Adam joined the judging panel on Dancing With The Stars in 2013.

Adam is an Australian actor and dancer who has appeared across our screens and on stage in a variety of loved roles here and overseas.

In addition to feature film roles in 'Coyote Ugly', 'Riding in Cars with Boys', 'Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen' and 'Love's Brother', Adam has appeared as a Judge in the UK Sky Production of 'Got To Dance' for four seasons and on the London theatre stage in roles such as 'Where Do We Live' at the Royal Court, Chip in 'On The Town' for the English National Opera and as the lead in last year's commercial dance production 'Revolution'.

In the late 1990s Adam left university to pursue the role of Slide in the musical 'Hot Shoe Shuffle'. During this time, he was a founder

member of the dance troupe Tap Dogs. In 2000 he portrayed Sean in Bootmen, a movie based on the story of Tap Dogs. It was with Tap Dogs creator Dein Perry that Adam got to be the solo featured performer and lead dancer in Dein Perry's Tribute To Industry section for the 2000 Sydney Olympics Games opening ceremony.

Adam has also featured across London's West End, winning critical acclaim. A highlight was being nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor in a musical for his portrayal of Tony Manero in the smash hit musical 'Saturday Night Fever'.

Adam played Fiyero in the multi-award winning musical stage production of 'Wicked', and most recently as starring as Bill Calhoun in 'Kiss Me Kate' for which he received his second Olivier Award nomination for Best Supporting Performance.





For further information, please contact Seven Publicity:

National

Robyn Smith

T 03 9697 7765

E RobynSmith@seven.com.au

Sydney

Elizabeth Johnson

T 02 8777 7254

E Ejohnson@seven.com.au

Brisbane

Debbie Turner

T 07 3368 7281

E Dturner@seven.com.au

Adelaide

Libby Rayner

T 08 8342 7297

E Lrayner@seven.com.au

Perth

Helen Ganska

T 08 9344 0692

E Hganska@seven.com.au