

No 1, 2006

## Hi there!

This issue is about **The Wedding** which is a ballet written especially for the Royal New Zealand Ballet by Witi Ihimaera who also wrote the book **Whale Rider**. He has created a ballet which is very romantic and totally kiwi.

The story moves from the rugby club to a city nightclub, from the church to the reception and on the way a heart stopping love triangle develops – read about the story on the next page.

## The Wedding Word Search

W E D D I N G D R E S S B N M I  
W C B R T T N T N V E R R O A S  
U F L R E A E G P N S U I I R Y  
D B A U M S A U G K G X D T R U  
C E U T B G S A Q B S V E P I W  
H H S L E R P M Y U O L S E A N  
K E U M C M O H A W O U M C G B  
B H E R A T E O S K G B A E E T  
L N W H C X H D M O E G I R R E  
T J C S L H W G I X M R D I A C  
S E L R A H C C I R C I A T N N  
H O N E Y M O O N N B N U S G A  
C A T E R E R B F F G G F A I M  
M O O R G N Z A R L O V E O E O  
S P I N X D R X E A N Z F T I R  
S S E N I P P A H P D D U R P H

ANGIE	BESTMAN	BOUQUET
BRAD	BRIDE	BRIDESMAID
CATERER	CHAMPAGNE	CHARLES
CHURCH	CLUBROOM	DRESSMAKER
ENGAGEMENT	GROOM	HAPPINESS
HEART	HONEYMOON	LOVE
MARRIAGE	NIGHTCLUB	RECEPTION
RING	ROMANCE	RUGBY
TOAST	TRIANGLE	VOWS
WEDDINGDRESS		

## DANCER PROFILE

### Michael Braun



Our featured dancer in this issue is Michael Braun who is from Australia.

The photo above shows Michael in the role of Charles in **The Meridian Energy Season of The Wedding**.

Over the page, he has written a letter to Young Friends.

## Have a giggle

Q. What do cars do at a disco?  
A. Brake dance!

Q. What kind of dance does the plumber do?  
A. A tap dance!

Q. What is a pig's favourite dance?  
A. Swine Lake!

## A letter from Michael

G'day Young Friends

I'm originally from Australia but I've spent almost a year now with the RNZB and I'm loving it!

I started my training in Brisbane, Queensland when I was 10. I tried my hardest for all my ballet exams and performances, until one day I was offered a job. This meant I was paid to do my favourite thing – performing!

I was lucky to have some experience beforehand doing “extra” work and amateur company shows, because getting work in a ballet company can be extremely difficult.

This is my ninth year of dancing professionally, and I love it more all the time. As I am only 26, I'm hoping to have another nine years of dancing!

Christmas time for me was great! I have a gorgeous wife, Sonya, and a baby boy Kai who just turned one. We all went back to Australia to visit family and friends and I got to catch up on some surfing with my brothers – one of my favourite pastimes.

This year I am hoping to do some tramping through New Zealand in between the seasons – The Wedding, a Triple Bill and Giselle. I am especially looking forward to The Wedding. The story sounds very funny and should keep us all working hard but amused. I hope you get to see the finished product, and it's a completely New Zealand piece (apart from the Aussie dancer or two – ha ha!!).

Feel encouraged, and always try harder than you think you can!

Your dancer

Michael Braun

PS: Please keep writing in – we love hearing about what you think.

## The Wedding story

The ballet tells the story of Angie and Brad and Charles.

Angie and Brad are a beautiful young couple – and they are about to be married. As the big day draws near, Angie begins to wonder if Brad is the marrying kind. Brad is the star of his rugby team, and always has lots of admirers! And when she meets up with her high school sweetheart Charles, she begins to doubt even more!

Who will Angie choose? Will she follow her head or her heart?

## Book Review by Diana Masters

### **The Usborne Internet-Linked World of Ballet**

By Judy Tatchell, published by Usborne.  
Price \$24.99

There are many good books about ballet but this one has bits for everyone, and at a reasonable price. It includes many useful internet addresses, some textual, some interactive and many able to be downloaded. However if you haven't got a computer the book still stands alone as an excellent reference.

It contains sections on the daily life of a dancer, and how a company operates. There are well photographed, clear to follow illustrations of various common steps and positions, with useful comments on technique.

The book has sections on the history of ballet and the stories of popular ballets, and includes pages on interpreting ballet using costume, scenery and mime as examples. I particularly liked the illustrations of costumes, shoes and make-up.

If you want information on famous dancers and choreographers thumbnail sketches are included with lots of useful websites.

It would be hard to find a person who does not find some part of this book interesting and it is a great reference to use and to keep.