School to bridge a needs gap

A New Palmerston special needs school is well on its way to completion.

Construction has been progressing on the $21.35 million facility in Bellamack, expected to be finished by September for students to enrol for Term 1, 2017. On top of this, a new principal, Annie Keighran, was appointed last week.

Ms Keighran has more than 25 years experience in the education sector, with many of those spent working in special needs schools. After starting at Nernatuk School in 1991 (formerly known as Ludmilla Special School) Ms Keighran taught at the Palmerston High School Special Education Centre and was later appointed assistant principal at Henbury School.

Ms Keighran has experience teaching across the globe, in far-flung countries including Malaysia, Egypt and Thailand. She has now returned to the Territory and looks forward to her new role in Palmerston. “I am delighted to be appointed to the role of principal of this new school and I look forward to growing the school together with the students, their families and the broader community,” Ms Keighran said. “I strongly believe education unlocks the potential in both students and staff, inspiring and enabling them to be the best they can be.”

The new special school will provide 84 places for preschool and primary school students. Its design includes safe learning environments, a covered, outdoor heated pool and an early learning centre for preschool students.

Education Minister Peter Chandler said this was “a step in the right direction for special needs students and their families residing in the Palmerston and rural area.”

The latest dance school addition to the NT!

Petite Stars is an exciting new performing arts studio for preschool to school age children offering ballet, jazz, tap and hip hop classes in various locations in Northern Territory.

Petite Stars is formed by Principal Jaclyn Woodward and with the inspiration and guidance of Tiziana Bertaglia have studios in NSW (Lake Macquarie - Springfield and now the Northern Territory - Palmerston, Malak and Nightcliff). Petite Stars classes will be on Saturday mornings while Nightcliff are Monday mornings and Malak are Wednesday mornings.

Classes are 30 to 40 minutes long and designed to build confidence and develop life skills like listening while learning the fundamentals of dance. Parents can stay and watch so they can see their little dancers shine!

Jaclyn’s team’s extensive knowledge internationally and within Australia with dance, performing and teaching spans over 35 years. With this knowledge, they bring a beautifully structured, creative, colourful and artistic syllabus with warm and loving Teachers.

There are beautiful all age appropriate classes in ballet, jazz, hip hop and tap dancing! Classes are full of energy and a wonderful atmosphere embracing little children on their first taste and introduction of performing arts! Props are used in classes, which makes it lots of fun and stress free!

There is a little end of year Recital that is held which again is stress free for parents (no sewing or make up involved) and a whole lot of sparkle! It is about 40 mins long and the teacher is with the children the whole time. It simply brings a smile to everyone involved!

At Petite Stars, their Stars starter pack registration fee of only $20, includes tutu and hair piece for half price registration fee of only $20, includes tutu and hair piece and within Australia with dance, performing and teaching spans over 35 years. With this knowledge, they bring a beautifully structured, creative, colourful and artistic syllabus with warm and loving Teachers.

Tender applications closed on June 28 with eight submissions received. The redevelopment will deliver two pools including a main pool with 10 lanes.

On top of this, the upgrade will include a 25m training pool. The project will provide seating for 600 spectators with the ability for a further 1600 temporary seats.

Jump for last laps before closure

PATRONS are lapping up the news they can enjoy a dip for a few more weeks as Darwin council continues to assess tenders for the Parap Pool redevelopment.

Originally expected to close in July, the Parap Pool will remain open for as long as possible to allow the community to enjoy the facility until works commence. Acting general manager of infrastructure Drosso Lelekis said the council remained “committed to delivering this project for our community.”

She said the council would “be working with the successful tenderer to complete the project by its intended date of December 2017.”

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