

Dancing to her destiny



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FROM the time she learned to walk, Scarlett O'Reilly has known she was destined to dance.

The 13-year-old's dreams are now one step closer to coming true, with hard work and dedication earning her a full-time place at the Australian Ballet School.

Scarlett said she was initially overwhelmed when she found out she had been accepted into the program, which will begin early next year.

"It took a little while to sink in... I was very excited and very grateful," she said.

"I couldn't imagine life without dance... ballet was always the number one thing that I wanted to learn and it was also one of the hardest.

"Every day I learn something new and you feel yourself improve every day and it's an amazing feeling.

"I love performing what I can do and what I have learned... dance makes me feel free to express

myself."

Scarlett currently attends classes each day after school at The Dance Centre Peregrine Springs in addition to extra rehearsals ahead of exams and performances, but her training will be kicking up a notch at the Australian Ballet School.

The full-time course means Scarlett, along with her classmates, will attend half a day of ballet classes and half a day of academic classes at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School.

While the workload might be daunting to some, Scarlett said she was excited for the new challenge.

"I know who a couple of the teachers are and they're all really good," she said.

"I'll start at Level 4 and then I'll finish school in Level 7, and after that there is one more level. After the Australian Ballet School when I graduate, I hope to be offered a position to dance with the Australian Ballet Company and tour the world.

"It's what I've always wanted so it's a step toward my goals. I just really want to thank my teachers, Miss Deborah and Mr Leader, and everybody for their support."



NEXT STEP: Scarlett O'Reilly has been selected to attend the Australian Ballet School.

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