

Trio springs into elite dance program

THREE students of The Dance Centre Peregian Springs have been accepted to the Australian Ballet School interstate training program.

April Stephens, 10, Mei Mei Tan, 12, and Alfie Shacklock, 9, are committed young dance students who were ecstatic when their invitations arrived.

Few students in Australia are invited each year as the ballet school only accepts those students who display the aptitude of its vocational training programs.

Deborah Preece-Brocksom and Richard Leeder, directors and teachers at The Dance Centre, said: "We are very excited for our successful students. April successfully auditioned for The Australian Ballet School ITP in July. Mei Mei Tan and Alfie Shacklock were noticed by the director of the school while participating in the school's Masterclass in Brisbane earlier this year.

"Soon after, the director contacted The Dance Centre to offer the two dancers positions in the ITP program.

"This also follows the recent invitation received by another of our students, Dayna Booth, 15, who was invited to join The Australian Ballet School's full time program in October. We are very proud of them all."

Dayna will reside in



RISEING STARS: April Stephens, 10, (from left) Alfie Shacklock, 9, and Mei Mei Tan, 12, (12), from The Dance Centre Peregian Springs training hard now that they have been accepted into The Australian Ballet School Interstate Program.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Melbourne next year while the other three students will travel to Melbourne on school holidays to participate in the ITP program. Successful participation over a period of years can lead to an invitation to join The Australian Ballet School full-time program.

While working hard towards a career in dance,

these Junior Excellence Program students are also members of The Dance Centre Community Outreach Program.

They have been visiting and dancing at kindergartens and aged care facilities around the area.

The students train daily, compete in dance competitions, enter ballet and jazz examinations and

are preparing for The Dance Centre's annual concert at The Events Centre, Caloundra, on November 27.

For details on The Dance Centre Community Outreach Program or The Vocational Dance Program auditions, please call Deborah on 0400 029 198 or 5442 8128 or visit the website www.dancecentreperregiansprings.com.