

Facility: Junee Correctional Centre
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Stage is set for city's May Festival

SCHOOLS and dance academies have just over a week left to enter the much-anticipated May Festival, set to take place in Wagga next month.

The spectacular dance festival, regarded as a prelude to the major City of Wagga Eisteddfod in September, will take place from May 20 to 25 in the Kyeamba Smith Hall.

Coordinator Di Jacobson revealed primary and secondary schools from across the Riverina, Australia Capital Territory and Queanbeyan, along with a large number of dance schools, will converge on the city for the event.

The May Festival caters to a broad range of ages, with dancers as young as four encouraged to enter the championships.

"We have everything at this competition; all genres are covered," Di said.

"We have ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, modern and national character."

For readers unfamiliar with the different genres of dance, particularly the often little-known national dance style, Di was quick to end confusion.

"National dance is where dancers perform a dance of a specific nation and wear costume of that country," Di said.

"Say you were doing a Polish performance, you would have to make sure you had clothing of that country.

"If you were wearing a Russian hat, the

adjudicators would pick up on that.

"National character really is quite good. You get some very interesting performances."

As the countdown to the festival begins, Di said organisers are being to finalise plans for the construction of the stage.

Inmates from the Junee Correctional Centre will visit Wagga to construct the stage, saving the committee hundreds of dollars.

"They have it down pat now and it only takes a day," Di said.

While the majority of schools and dance groups likely to contest the September eisteddfod, Di revealed for some dancers the May Festival is the priority.

"Not all the schools or groups will come back," she said.

"Queanbeyan has a big festival on in October so they don't come across."

Di believes there will be plenty of talented dancers take to the stage during the event, revealing the May Festival is highly-regarded amongst dance groups and schools.

The syllabus for the May Festival is available at Deb's Dance Design or by visiting www.wag-gaeisteddfod.com.au and entries close on April 11. The syllabus for the September eisteddfod is now available from Deb's Dance Design, Dale Allison's Music, Gateway Bookshop and Custom Music.