

Groups impress at competitions

Upper Hutt was well represented at the Hutt Valley Performing Arts Competition this month, with singers from two local groups making a particularly good impression.

Seven singers from the Arts a Go Go! Performing Arts Classes for Kids competed in three age groups and the Major Minors Children's Choir also performed, with one of their singers also getting on stage as a soloist.

It was the 71st annual competitions festival, featuring more than 150 performers from around the Wellington region and as far as Blenheim, Wanganui, Hawke's Bay and Christchurch.

Competitions secretary-treasurer Helena Easter, from Silverstream, said that in total there were 1580 entries in ballet, tap, modern dance, vocal, piano/instrument and speech categories.

Arts a Go Go! Director Rachel Main said there was a very high calibre of competition "and our kids did a wonderful job of performing under formal conditions".

Holly Main-Grant, Riley Dick, Sophie-Rose Ward, Jack Cocker, Hunta Gray, Noah Jefferson and Christopher Horne all gained placings: Holly (age group 10 and under 12) 1st - Song in Costume, Traditional Song, Sacred Solo, Musical Theatre, 2nd - Popular Song, Received the Ryan Runciman Cup and McLellan Trophy, Riley Dick (12-14) 1st - Vocal Solo, Restricted Vocal Solo, Sacred Solo, 3rd - Popular Song, Riley was also named the "Most promising competitor under 16 years" by the adjudicator. Christopher (7-10) 1st - Song in Costume, 2nd - Boys Vocal Solo, Sophie-Rose (12-14) 2nd - Restricted Solo, VHC - Popular Song, Noah (7-10) 2nd - Song in Costume, VHC - Boys Vocal Solo, Hunta (10-12) 2nd - Lullaby, Commended - Popular Song.

The Major Minors Children's Choir were awarded the HVCS Children's Chorus Cup for the second year running and their senior group combined with some of the Arts a Go Go! chil-



Songbird: Holly Main-Grant, of Upper Hutt's Arts a Go Go! group, shone at this year's Hutt Valley Performing Arts Competitions. She won first place in the 10-12 years Song in Costume, Traditional Song, Sacred Solo and Musical Theatre, was second in Popular Song and claimed the Ryan Runciman Cup and McLellan Trophy. One adjudicator said of Holly's performance: "You could hear a pin drop while you were singing. You held the audience in the palm of your hand."

dren to place second in group performance.

Choir member Jessica Weston placed second in Song in Costume and Vocal Solo, and was highly commended in Popular Song.

Joanne Roelofs, Musical Director of the choir/pianist for all the soloists and singing teacher, said she was proud of the children's efforts.

"Not only have they worked so hard to learn the music and perform it well, but they have been incredibly supportive of each other and other competitors."

Arts a Go Go! Performing Arts Classes for kids, has a variety of drama/dance and singing classes available for children. Go to: artsagogo.co.nz or contact director Rachel Main on rachel@artsagogo.co.nz or 977 7887.

The Major Minors Children's Choir is an allcomers, non-auditioned choir for ages 5 and up. They rehearse on Sundays at 3pm at The Spot, Car Fergusson

► REMEMBERING

The second week of the Hutt Valley Performing Arts Competitions festival ended on a sad note.

For many years, the late Betty Bennett was the Competitions Society President and tireless organiser of the school holiday performance event at Lower Hutt's Little Theatre that has been running since 1943.

Betty, who died four years ago, was always supported by her husband Gordon, who would round up the winners' cups each year and help Betty prepare for the new wave of eager young talent taking the stage. Society members and performers were sad to learn that Gordon died last weekend.

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