

MEDANZ Festival History

When MEDANZ formally became an Association in 1992, its members would gather for the AGM in Auckland. In 2000 Festival was held outside of Auckland for the first time, in Christchurch. This consisted of two full days of workshops, a show where dancers could dance for each other, their friends, family and the general public, a swap and shop and the AGM. Of those who attended, many were from Christchurch. However, other members also came from Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin. The following year an extra day of workshops was added along with a professional theatre venue, and a grant was received in order for Gendi to organise it.

The MEDANZ Archive has footage of many of the early shows from 2002 (all now converted to digital media) where you can see some of the popular NZ teachers in their bellybaby phase.

The festival has been held throughout New Zealand, with international keynote tutors as follows:

2000 - Christchurch
2001 - Christchurch - Keynote: Maria Masselos (Azziza) QLD and Barbara Wolfkamp (Zahraa) from VIC
2002 - Christchurch - Keynote: Azziza (QLD)
2003 - Nelson - Keynote: Azziza (QLD) and Paivi Mielikainen (NSW)
2004 - Wellington - Keynote: Azziza (QLD)
2005 - Wellington - Keynote: Shamira (Adelaide, SA)
2006 - Wellington - Keynotes: Sahara (Sydney, NSW) & Shamira (SA)
2007 - Timaru - Keynotes: Devi Mamak (Blue Mountains, NSW) Sahara (NSW) and Tina Hobin (UK)
2008 - Auckland - Keynotes: Zahraa (VIC) & Yeow (VIC) Drum
2009 - Auckland - Keynotes: Lily Tsai (Austin, Texas, USA) & Matt Stonehouse (Melbourne, VIC) Drum
2010 - Tauranga - Keynotes: Zahraa (VIC) & Matt Stonehouse (VIC) Drum
2011 - Tauranga - Keynotes: Laura Bucknall & Kathy Sheean (Las Hermanas) NSW
2012 - Dunedin - Keynotes: Melusina (VIC) & Andy Busuttil (NSW)
2013 - Dunedin - Keynotes: Darshan (USA) & Alan Burden (Wellington) Drum
2014 - Orewa (Auckland) - Keynotes: Ava Fleming (USA) & Karim Nagi (USA) Drum
2015 - Christchurch - Keynotes: Nerissa (QLD) & Evangeline (SA)
2016 - Wellington - Keynotes: Leila Haddad (Paris, France) & Alice Knox (QLD)
2017 - Christchurch - Keynotes: Kami Liddle (USA), Zaghareet Daniela (EGY/SVK),
Doug Brush (USA/AUS) and Bilge Özgün (TUR/AUS)
2018 - Napier - Keynote: Saqra (USA)
2019 - Auckland - All NZ Tutors
2020 - No festival held, AGM by Zoom - Covid 19 - NZ in lockdown Level 4.
2021 - Nelson - All NZ Tutors
2022 - Online & Orewa Auckland - All NZ Tutors
2023 - Wellington - All NZ Tutors
2024 - Christchurch - All NZ Tutors - a community Fundraised event
2025 - Palmerston North - All NZ Tutors
2026 - Orewa, Auckland - All NZ Tutors
2026 - Auckland - TBC

Each year the festival has improved and changed, using feedback from the previous years attendees and current members to guide keynote choices and Festival format and timing.

Over the Festival weekend the Show and the Hafla are popular performance platforms with groups and soloists from all over the country submitting items each year and often planning work especially for the MEDANZ festival.

List of MEDANZ Festival Tutors by Year

2026 Festival Orewa, Auckland

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Canela
Catherine
Christine
Elea
Eva
Irina
Lenna Rose
Melissa
Nisha
Vanessa



2025 Festival Palmerston North



Keynotes:

Mirian Caberlon
Setsuna
Vanessa Castro

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Fernanda
Gina
Irina
Jill
Juniper
Lenna Rose
Mazana
Monique & Anoushka
Rosina June
Samantha Flower Nova
Shahravar

2024 Festival Christchurch

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Catherine
Emmola
Fernanda
Jenny
Jill
Juniper
Samantha Flower Nova
Yenifer
Ziva
Zumarrad



2023 Festival Wellington

Finding Inspiration in Every Turn

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Dani
Juniper
Jane
Lenna Rose
Mirian
Rosina June
Tais
Vanessa
Ziva



2022 Festival Online & Orewa, Auckland

Shifting Sands - Embracing Change



Online, Choreographies

Mirian
Vanessa

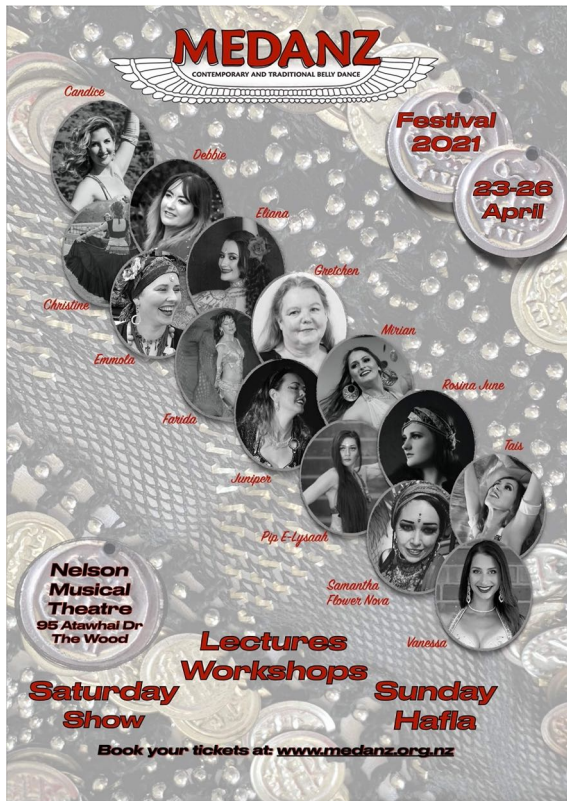
Online, Technique

Elea
Siobhan
Vanessa
Zumarrad

Orewa, Auckland

Dani
Desert Divas NZ
Elea
Eva/NUR Bellydance
Lenna Rose
Juniper
Mirian
Rosina June
Safi
Siobhan Camille
Suher
Vanessa
Zahraa
Zumarrad

2021 Festival Nelson



Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Candice
Christine
Debbie
Emmola
Farida
Gretchen
Juniper
Mirian
Pip E-Lysaah
Rosina June
Samantha Flower Nova
Vanessa

Due to Covid 19 we were unable to hold a festival in 2020.

2019 - Seven Seas of Belly Dance Festival, Auckland

Kiwi Tutors in no particular order:

Pip E-Lysaah
Siobhan Camile
Vanessa Castro
Taia Derbasova
Samantha Flower Nova
Desert Divas
Zumarrad
Farida
Candice Frankland
Tracey Saunders
Setsuna
Agate Ponder-Sutton
Christine Haviland
Emmola
Rosina



2018 - Celebrating Belly Dance in New Zealand, Napier

Keynote: Saqra (USA)

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Aaralyn (Tracey Saunders)
Aida Oryantal (Aida Sajadi)
Angela Mott (Shakeelah)
Kashmir (Judith Varga)
Pip E-Lysaah
Setsuna
Tanya



2017 - "MEDANZ 25th Anniversary Festival", Christchurch



Keynotes: Kami Liddle (USA)
and Zaghreet Daniela (EGY/SVK),

Music & Drum: Doug Brush (USA)
and Bilge Özgün (AUS)

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Agate Ponder-Sutton
Aida Sajadi
Alan Burden
Angela Mott (Shakeelah)
Bronwyn Mohring & Jacinda Baker
Candice Frankland
Debbie Sumner
Martin Fastier & Tanara Stedman
Mirian Caberlon
Pip E-Lysaah
Rachael Lundy (The Ruby Lady)
Samantha Murphy
Stefanie Kalmakoff and Lisa Maia Ambrose
Tracey Saunders (Aaralyn)
Vanessa Castro
Zumarrad

2016 - "Windows of the East" Festival, Wellington

Keynotes: Leila Haddad (France) & Alice Knox (QLD)

Kiwi Progressive Tutors: Tanya Bamford-King & Ziva

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Aaralyn
 Alan Burden (Drum)
 Candice Frankland
 Carlotta
 Catherine Corcoran
 Christine Haviland
 Farida
 Jane Steane
 Lisa Lawford
 Mirian Caberlon
 Pip E-Lysaah
 Sandy Danford
 Siobhan Milner
 Tatyana Laptsevich
 Victoria



2015 - "Roots & Branches" Festival, Christchurch

Keynotes: Evangeline Feary (SA) & Nerissa (QLD)

Middle Eastern Dance Association of New Zealand

Kiwi Progressive Tutors:

Tatyana Laptsevich
 Christine Haviland (Iman)

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Aaralyn (Tracey Saunders)
 Candice Frankland
 Doug Brush (Drum)
 Elena (Yoga)
 Farida
 Fern
 Kashmir
 Lisa Ambrose
 Mirian Caberlon
 Moonjelly
 Rachel Bond (NSW)
 Sahher (Carol Hunt)
 Sandy Danford
 Siobhan Milner
 Stefanie Kalmakoff
 Unfortunate Repercussions (Drum)
 Victoria
 Zumarrad



2014 "Out of Egypt" Festival, Orewa (Auckland)



Keynotes: Ava Fleming (USA)
and Karim Nagi (USA)

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

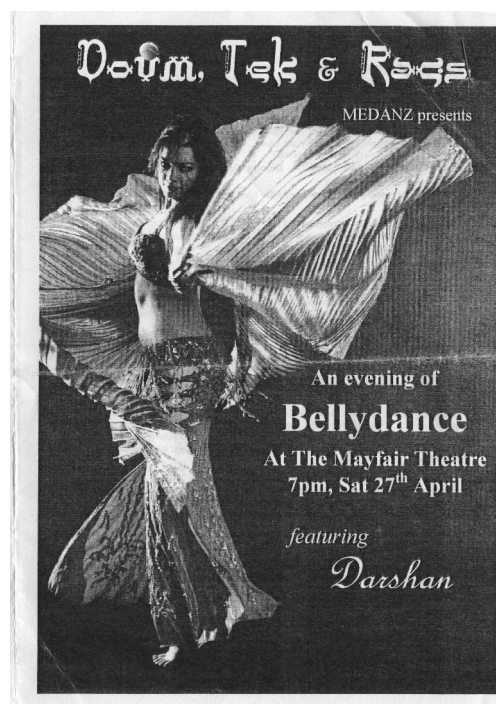
Alan Burden (Drum)
Candice Frankland
Diane James
Farida
Kashmir
Khalila
Massarah (Cindy O'Brien)
Moonjelly
Nina Gastreich (Photography)
NomadZ (Craig Kilpatrick) Drum
Pip E-Lysaah
Sam Brass (TribalDiva)
Sandy Danford
Shakeelah
Suher
Suraya (Rosie Cook)
Tais Derbasova
Tanya Bamford-King
Tatyana Laptsevich
Rachael Lundy (The Ruby Lady)
Tracey Saunders (TribalDiva)
Zumarrad

2013 - Doum Tek & Raqs Festival, Dunedin

Keynotes: Darshan (USA) & Alan Burden (Wellington)

Kiwi Tutors in alphabetical order:

Alan Powell (Drum)
Angie
Candice Frankland
Cydonia
Dallia
Iman (Christine Haviland)
Jane Steane
Jen Allen
Louise Flemming
Pip E-Lysaah
Suezy Robertson
Tanara Stedman
The Ruby Lady (Rachael Lundy)
Unfortunate Repercussions (Drum)
Ziva
Zumarrad



2012 - Festival, Dunedin

Keynotes: Melusina (VIC) and Andy Busuttill (NSW)

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

A'mal
Adilah
Angie
Candice
Cdonia
Dallia
Dori
Iman
Kenny Chan
Pip E-Lysaah
Saffron
Tais
The Ruby Lady
Unfortunate Repercussions
Victoria
Ziva
Zumarrad



2011 - Festival, Tauranga



Keynotes: Las Hermanas -
Lara Bucknall & Kathy Sheean (NSW)

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

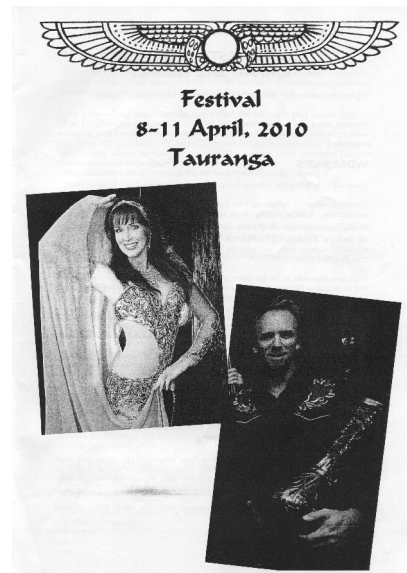
Alan Burden
Adilah (Karen Walworth)
Alan Powell
A'mal
Candice Frankland
Dori (Doreen Bestmann)
E-Lysaah (Pip Bennington)
Fern (Bronwyn Mohring)
Cindi (Cindi Baker)
Linley (Duncan)
Louise (Flemming)
Maarie (Hutana)
Moonjelly (Beverley Dowling)
Rachael (Lundy)
Shakeelah (Angela Mott)
Stefanie (Kalmakoff)
Tais (Derbasova)
Victoria (Escaip)
Ziva (Sylvia Edge-Perkins)

2010 - Festival, Tauranga

Keynotes: Zahraa (Barbara Wolfkamp) VIC
and Matt Stonehouse (VIC) Drum

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

A'mal (Amanda Macauley)
Abijii (Andria Goodliffe)
Chewy (Drum)
Chrystal (Clare Penberthy)
Fern (Bronwyn Mohring)
Hannah (Tapner)
Jini (Jeena Monk)
Kachina (Melissa Charbonneau)
Karen (Walworth)
Lia (Lia Premius) Hairdressing
Linley (Duncan)
Louise (Flemming)
Maarie (Hutana)
Mihrimah (Tiana Edney) Feldenkrais
Pip E-Lysaah
Saxie (Lynne Roberts)



Schirin (Diba)
Suher (Iris Gerber)*
Tais (Derbasova)
Vicki (Langford)
Victoria (Escaip)
Ziva (Silvia Edge-Perkins)
* Shakeelah (replaced Suher due to injury)

2009 - Festival, Auckland

Keynotes: Lily Tsai (Austin, Texas USA)
and Matt Stonehouse (VIC) Drum

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

A'mal
Alalehe (Rosanna Marks)
Alan Powell
Amy Wilson
Andria Goodliffe
Angie
Anoushka (Sharon Denfield)
Dallia
Diane James
Fatina* (Cancelled)
Fern
Ishtar (Sharon Presnell)
Jeena Monk
Jo Hogan (yoga)
Joy
Karen Walworth
Kashmir
Maarie Hutana
Melissa Bryant



Mihrimah
Moonjelly
Pip E-Lysaah
Raven (Andrea Buchanan)
Saffron
Shakeelah
Stefanie
Suher
Tais
Victoria

2008 - Festival, Auckland



Keynotes: Zahraa (Barbara Wolfkamp) (VIC)
and Yeow (VIC) Drum

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

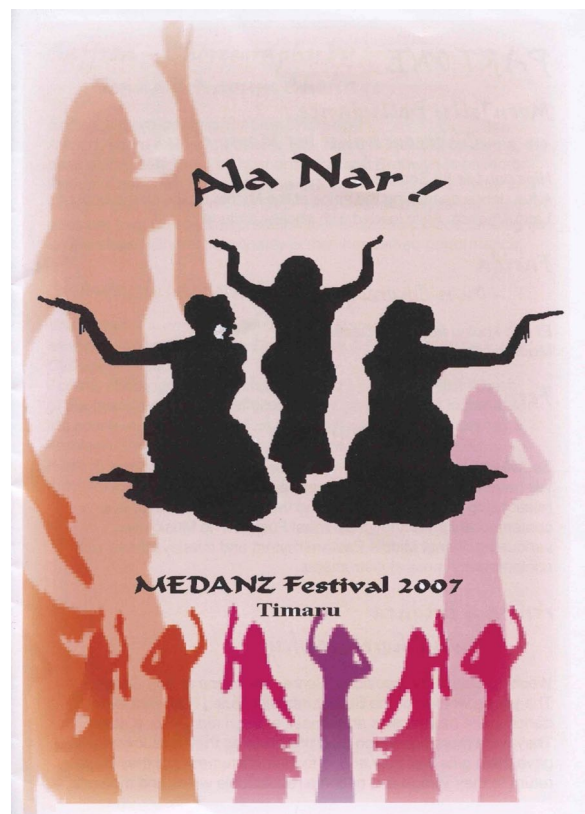
Angie
Bronnie (Bronwyn Watt)
Dallia (Iphigenie Amoutzias)
Dark Cabaret (Amy Wilson)
E-Lysaah (Pip Bennington)
Fern
Kachina (Melissa Charbonneau)
Khalila (Kim Grison) (Singapore)
Moonjelly
Petro Smith (Qigong)
Saffron (Babriella Powell)
Sekeeta
Shakeelah
Stefanie
Suher
Tanya Bamford-King
Victoria Escaip
Zahiya (Glennis Jones)

2007 - Festival, Timaru

Keynotes: Sahara (NSW)
Devi Mamak (NSW) with Ghawazi Caravan,
and Tina Hobin (UK)

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Alan Burden (Drum)
Alan Powell (Drum)
Angi
E-Lysaah
Farida
Fatina
Fern
Gretchen
Hassan (Ross Nixon) Drum
Maarie Hutana
Petro Smith (Qi Gong)
Saffira (Stefanie Kalmakoff)
Samya (Iphigenie Amoutzias)
Sekeeta
Shakeelah
Shekinah Moonjelly
Victoria Escaip
Yurie Somerville
Zumarrad

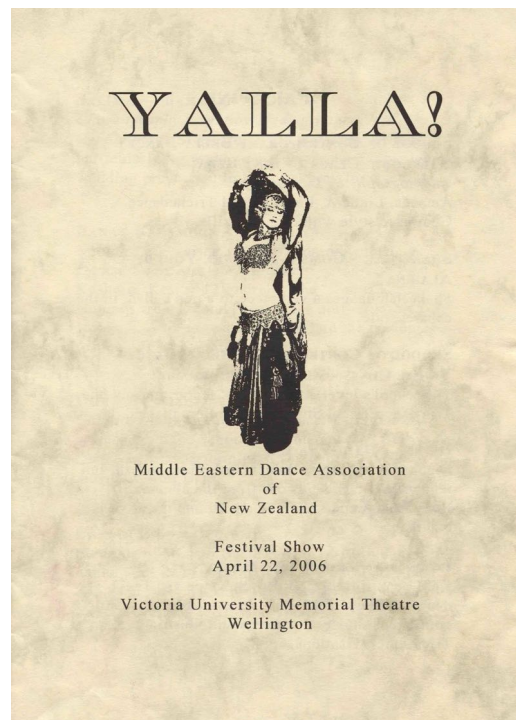


2006 - Yalla! Festival, Wellington

Keynotes: Sahara (NSW) and Shamira (SA)

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Alan Burden (Drum)
Aldabra
Angi
Bronnie
Dianna (USA)
E-Lysaah
Eva Mason (Drum)
Farida
Fatina
Fern
Gretchen
Hassan
Kashmir
Lynn-Frances Eaton
Saffira & Storm
Salima (Laurice Holland)
Samya
Shakeelah
Shannon
Shekinah Moonjelly
Suher

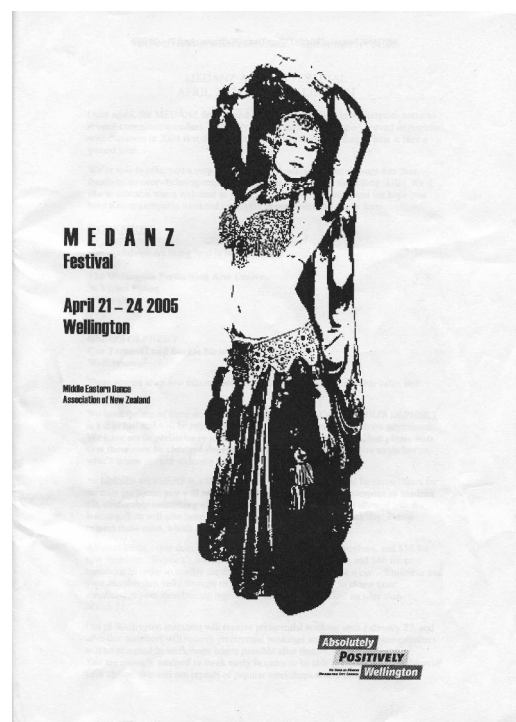


2005 - Festival, Wellington

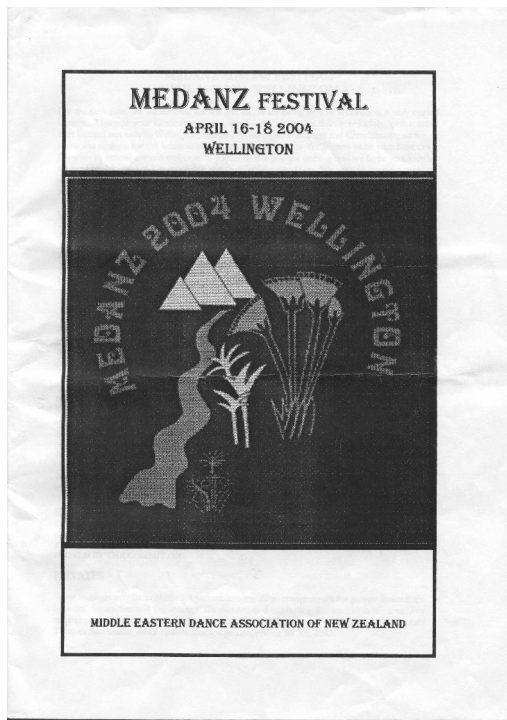
Keynote: Shamira (SA)

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Alan Burden (Drum)
Angi (Angela Currie)
Dianna (Dwyer) (USA)
Dunia (Donna bliss)
Eva Mason (Drum)
Fatina (Liz Irvine)
Fern (Bronwyn Mohring)
Gretchen (Gretchen Howard)
Iphigenie Amoutzias
Jezamin and Hassan (Joy Evans and Ross Nixon)
Lynn-Frances Eaton
Maarie Hutana
Shakinah Moonjelly (Beverley Dowling)
Tahiya (Stephanie Hobbs) Wellington/Los Angeles
Tanya Mabford-King
Yurie Somerville
Zumarrad (Brigid Kelly)



2004 - Festival, Wellington



Keynote: Azziza (BNE)

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Alan Burden (Drum)
Angela Currie
Beverley Dowling
Diane James
Eva Mason (Drum)
Gendi Tanner
Glen Keith (Drum)
Iris Gerber
Joy Evans
Judith Varga
Kassie McCluskie (Pilates)
Liz Irvine
Lynn-Frances Eaton
Matthew Cronin (IRD and you)
Ross Nixon (Drum)
Tamara Allerhand
Yurie Sommerville

2003 - Gypsies Tribes and Troupes Festival, Nelson



Keynotes: Azziza (BNE) and Paivi Mielikainen (NSW)

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

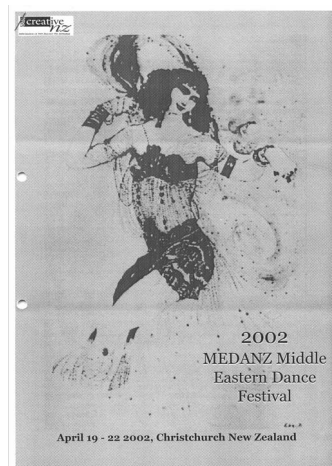
Farida
Fatina
Gendi
Jezamin
Kashmir
Kate
Neroli (Pilates)
Sarah (Makeup)
Sekeeta
Suher
Tanya
Yasmin
Yasser (Drum)
Yurie

2002 - Middle Eastern Dance Festival, Christchurch

Keynote: Azziza (Maria Masselos) QLD

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Eva Mason (Drumming)
Fatina
Gendi
Kashmir
Margy Morris
Suher
Susan Brown
Tanya (Bamford-King)
Zanny



2001 - Festival, Christchurch

Keynotes: Maria Masselos (BNE) and Barbara Wolfkamp (VIC)

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Gendi Tanner
Iris Gerber
Judith Varga
Liz Irvine
Tamara Allerhand
Tanya Bamford-King

2000 - Festival, Christchurch

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Fatina (Liz Irvine)
Gendi (Tanner)
Kashmir (Judith Varga)
Luna (Drumming Beginners)
Sekeeta (Diane James) Zills
Simon (Int. Drumming)
Suher (Iris Gerber)
Stage Makeup - Minifies

1999 - Workshops, Auckland

Kiwi tutors in alphabetical order:

Diane James (Sekeeta)
Jacqui Thorpe
Jude Varga (Kashmir)
Liz Irvine (Fatina)
Sherrill Dickie (Zahir)

The above listings have been compiled from the historical documents of MEDANZ, however, some things may have changed from the published festival booklets to the festival itself (ie last minute cancellations) - if you believe that any of the above information should be updated, please email committee@medanz.org.nz with this information.

****Tutors names and the use of stage names change between festivals according to the promotional material.**