

# Lucy (Fleming) Ricardo '82



The ability for everyone to shine on stage is not just a beautiful sentiment but for Lucy, it was also the guiding principle behind the charity she founded in 2009.

DanceAbility is a community group teaching people of all ages with physical or mental disabilities to dance.

From its humble beginnings in a small scout hall at Clovelly, with an enrolment of 12 students and six volunteers in 2009, DanceAbility has grown into a top-class dancing school with enrolments capped at 70 participants and 20 dedicated volunteers.

Among the many tapping feet and smiling eyes is Lucy's first child, Patrick. Born with Down Syndrome, Patrick has been among the hundreds of people who have experienced the sheer joy of dancing to music.

Patrick and his DanceAbility community have performed to ten sell-out crowds at their annual concerts and have performed at various corporate fundraising events over Sydney. As they dance, the only thing that's clear to see is ability, ability, ability.

The benefits of the dance program are huge. The combined health benefits of exercise and the strong sense of belonging to this rich community are profound. Not to mention the positive impact this all has on the extended community of family and friends.

This is the special gift Lucy has given with grace, humility and love in her heart to the DanceAbility community and it is one which will remain her enduring legacy.