

not
d,
ld

Mr Brailey who then
r Streeter with the nego-
WAE's behalf.
AE's claim is that the pair
d their fiduciary duty by
deal over the gold tenem-
n as the Cue tenements
their location, by vending
estern Areas NL without
ledge.
uestioning, Mr Bennett
ressed Mr Streeter as to
ot told Mr Brailey that he
he group seeking to buy
ements and planning to
el tenements.
er replied that Mr Brailey
deduced it was the group
le nickel projects
ad been the one to refer
to the group earlier.
didn't tell him that the
as ANPC — you said (it
company buying gold
hy would he think it was
p," Mr Bennett said.
know that you were
disclose that you had a
sonal interest? Did you
that you should have
e got an interest in the
nd have it minuted?"
Streeter said.
did know this, your ex-
public company for 10
ght you that," Mr Ben-
r's lawyers say Mr Brai-
ed disinterest" in the
when it was presented in



Stepping up: Dance companies continue to benefit from corporate sponsorship despite the downturn. Pictures: Sandra Jackson

BHP puts a spring in dance program

VIVIENNE RYAN

A part-time WA dance company has defied a slowdown in corporate sponsorship in its 20th year by winning a major deal with BHP Billiton's WA nickel arm.

STEPS Youth Dance Company, which hosts free workshops and concerts at regional schools for nine to 12-year-olds, hooked up with BHP Billiton Nickel West in a regional partnership two years ago.

Artistic director Alice Lee Holland said the expanded commitment to a major partnership would enable STEPS to widen its program into Kalgoorlie and Mandurah.

Corporate sponsorship from the likes of BHP Billiton, Wesfarmers



Wider program: Alice Lee Holland

and Rio Tinto underpin numerous organisations around WA, and though the companies say their support is not waning, some sponsorship has slowed down.

"There has definitely been a

sponsorship downturn," Michael Pailthorpe, executive director of charity organisation Variety WA, said.

"They are certainly saying it is tougher to part with the corporate dollar but they are remaining committed in getting the funds to us through other resources."

Variety WA receives hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations a year and pro-bono support runs into the millions of dollars.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore gave \$20 million to community programs last financial year and has budgeted for \$23 million in 2008-09.

Rio Tinto contributed \$34.3 million to community investment partnerships, sponsorships and grants last year.

explorer incentive

in the State would
sion within six months.
o ensure South Australia
builds on, its ability to
on investment, in part-
a mining-focused and
overnment," he said.
ustralia has 26 per cent of
ferred gold resources yet
nly 3 per cent of Austr-



Austal leaps on \$114m ferry order

LOUISE BURKE

WA shipbuilder Austal is tipping more ferry orders after winning a \$114 million contract with a Danish company for its biggest-ever catamaran ferry.

The 113 metre, high-speed passenger ferry is scheduled for delivery to Danish operator

Chairman John Rothwell said Austal had been through a tough six months, with a global slowdown in demand for ferries triggered first by high oil prices and compounded by the financial crisis. But the contract was a sign things would improve.

"To win this sort of order at the moment is a sign that it is turning around and I think the industry is at