

THE BALLET FOUNDATION OF NEW ZEALAND TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015

Over the course of 2015, the trustees met (either in person or by teleconference) 4 times. The following activities were undertaken:

- At the governance level, it was with great sadness that our patron, Sir John Todd, passed away in July. He always took a great interest in what the Foundation was doing and he will be sorely missed by us and much of the arts community in New Zealand. The Board will in due course seek a new patron.
- On a more positive note, Rosie Dunphy and Ian Webster joined the board as Auckland trustees and Victoria Muir (supported by Marie Strauss) as a Dunedin trustee. The Board thanked Mark Sandelin for his contribution when he stepped down as his term expired. The Board continued to seek further trustees from Christchurch to allow all the major centres in New Zealand to be represented.
- The Harry Haythorne fund, which was established just before Harry died in November 2014, and with monies received from him, has continued to grow as friends and colleagues have donated to it. Separate funds raised at a party held in his memory in January 2015 were used to fund a very exciting evening, the inaugural Harry Haythorne Choreographic award, before a public audience at the RNZB studios in September. Open to dancers from the RNZB, the Foundation was delighted to award the judges' prize and the audience prize to Loughlan Pryor, for his work "Eve". Further work will be undertaken in 2016 with the executors of Harry's estate to decide how best to use these funds and whether this might become an annual event.
- A successful mission/vision session was held at the end of March, kindly facilitated by Paula Feathers of Feathers Consulting. This resulted in a new mission statement: "committed to building a sustainable fund to provide long-term stability for classical ballet in New Zealand" which we have added to our new letterhead.
- A successful fundraising event was undertaken in Wellington, hosted by the British High Commission with the British choreographer, Liam Scarlett, in Wellington to rehearse his new Ballet, "A Midsummer's Nights Dream" in attendance. This raised approximately \$18,000.
- The Board continued to partner Hayley Donnison of the RNZB and we were delighted to see her at several Foundation events through the year.
- The Board readopted its SIPO.
- Through the generosity of one of our donors, the Foundation supported the Alana Haines award in Wellington over Easter 2015.
- The website address and logo featured in the full-page advert which we continued to take in each RNZB season Programme to publicise our work. Those leaving bequests to the Foundation or making substantial lifetime gifts were listed as supporters in those adverts and all other supporters were listed on the website (with their permission). Total notified bequests grew to 7.

- The Foundation, as in previous years, made a presentation to the RNZB Board in June, to outline the work of the Foundation. Alison Hosie and Liesl Nunns of the RNZB continued to assist with the Foundation's work. Our gratitude goes to them for supporting our work; we would not be able to do what we do without their assistance. Discussions were held with the RNZB in relation to the Foundation relinquishing the lease of the St James Theatre to the RNZB.
- It was with great sadness that we farewelled Amanda Skoog, the RNZB Managing Dir, as she returned to London. She had always been a great supporter of the Foundation.

The Board looks forward to building on these activities in 2016 to provide a platform for the support, promotion and advancement of classical ballet as a form of creative and artistic endeavour in New Zealand.

Jane Meares

Chair

Board of Trustees

The Ballet Foundation of New Zealand Trust