

THE BALLET FOUNDATION OF NEW ZEALAND TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016

The Foundation had a busy and productive year in 2016. Over the course of the year, the trustees met (either in person or by teleconference) 4 times.

Governance Changes and activity

- Lady Susan Satyanand stepped down from the Board and became our new patron, following the sad passing of Sir John Todd in 2015. Lady Susan was replaced by Ann-Louise Gower, a long-time, Wellington-based, supporter of the RNZB, who was appointed for an initial three-year term in June 2016.
- Geoff Thomas, who had been on the Board since the inception of the Foundation in 2011, stepped down in December 2016, at the same time as his terms on the RNZB Board were completed. Geoff's wise counsel was invaluable round the Board table and the Foundation trustees join with me in thanking him for his contribution and for being the RNZB's appointee to the Foundation Board and performing that important liaison role. The RNZB's appointee from December 2016 will be RNZB Board member, Ros Burdon.
- A further trustee from Christchurch was unsuccessfully sought in 2016, so it is with a real pleasure that Ros's appointment fulfils the Board's wish to have a Christchurch trustee, so that all the major centres in New Zealand are represented. We look forward to working with her.
- The trustees undertook a strategic planning session at the Board's meeting in February which guided many of the activities of the year and reminded the Board of its role in encouraging legacy giving and in fundraising.
- The Rules of the Foundation were amended to increase the possible maximum number of trustees.
- Auckland trustees organised a local fundraising sub-committee to work on fundraising events.

Changes at the RNZB

- The Foundation enjoyed working with Kim Acland, who was the interim executive director at the RNZB at the beginning of the year, and were delighted to meet, and then work with, Frances Turner, whose appointment as Executive Director was announced by the RNZB in February.
- Liesl Nunns, philanthropy manager at the RNZB, left the RNZB in September to take up a new role with another organisation and was replaced by Allison Groves, who ably performs the liaison role between the RNZB and the Foundation. We wish Liesl all the best in her new role and thank her for her marvellous assistance over the years.
- Our gratitude goes to Alison Hosie, who helps us in the finance area, and everyone else at the RNZB for supporting our work; we would not be able to do what we do without their assistance.
- Lastly, we were sad to hear of the decision of the artistic director, Francesco Ventriglia, to resign as from July 2017.

Other Activities

- A highly successful fundraising and profile-raising event was held in Auckland in February. This raised approximately \$90,000. In addition it raised the profile of the RNZB in Auckland and the Foundation was pleased to think it had assisted the RNZB in selling out its first season "Speed of Light" in Auckland in February.

- A “Meet the RNZB” High tea in Dunedin was held in May 2016. This was organised by Dunedin trustee, Victoria Muir. This raised approximately \$2750 and also generated some new Dress Circle memberships for the RNZB.
- A high tea event also took place in Wellington at Logan Brown in July. This was not intended as a fundraising event, but a profile-raising event to stress the importance to the Foundation of legacy giving. A donation received after it resulted in a breakeven for the Foundation.
- 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. The inaugural Harry Haythorne Choreographic award was held in September 2015. In 2016 the Foundation agreed to support the second Harry Haythorne Choreographic award, which was held before a public audience at the RNZB studios in November. Open to dancers from the RNZB, the Foundation was delighted to award the judges’ prize to Shaun James Kelly and the audience prize to Laura Saxon Jones. The work of the winner of the judges’ prize will also be featured in Auckland’s Tempo festival in 2017.
- The Board continued to partner an RNZB dancer. This was Hayley Donnison until her departure at the end of the first season. The Foundation then partnered Harry Skinner and were delighted to see him at the Wellington Foundation event, and at other times through the year. He also appeared in the video the RNZB made about the Foundation and which has been posted to the RNZB website.
- Having at this point achieved a level of funds which needed to be carefully invested, the Board began work on revising its investment policy and SIPO.
- The Board revised and adopted a granting policy.
- Through the generosity of one of our donors, the Foundation supported the Christchurch Ballet Society South Island Ballet awards.
- The image for the Foundation changed slightly over the year as the rights to use our previous image expired. One of our trustees, Louise Binns, provided a new image which has since been used on our website, invitations and in the advert which the Foundation takes in each RNZB season programme. We are very grateful to her for this.
- The Board decided to put together a brochure with information about the Foundation and detailing how recipients could get involved. This has been successfully used to profile the Foundation at Foundation events.
- The Board began work on a communications strategy to keep in touch with our supporters.
- Total notified bequests grew to 9.
- The Foundation, as in previous years, made a presentation to the RNZB Board in August, to outline the work of the Foundation and also to the Friends of the RNZB at its AGM.
- The Board began discussions with the School of Dance as to what support might be offered to it.

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