

THE BALLET FOUNDATION OF NEW ZEALAND TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

The Foundation enjoyed considerable growth in its activities and continued to work towards growing its funds in 2019. Over the course of the year, the trustees met (either in person or by teleconference) four times (March, May, August and November).

Working with and supporting the RNZB

- The Foundation continued to work closely with the Royal New Zealand Ballet (RNZB) and consideration was given to amending the name of the Foundation to more closely align with the RNZB. This process is underway and continuing. A proposed revision to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations was put on hold pending resolution of that issue.
- As in previous years, the Foundation met with the RNZB Board in August, to outline the work of the Foundation and ensure that there is a close connection between the two organisations. The Board is grateful for the support from Steven Fyfe, Chair of the RNZB Board of Trustees. Stephen stepped down from the RNZB Board at the end of December 2019 and will be sorely missed, but Trustees look forward to working with the new RNZB chair, Dame Kerry Prendergast.
- The Trustees have enjoyed working with the new Executive Director, Lester McGrath and appreciate all the support we receive from the RNZB, from him and Patricia Barker, the RNZB Artistic Director, and, most particularly, Bryna O'Brien-Kiddey, the RNZB Philanthropy Manager.
- Our fundraising events would not be meaningful without the support of the RNZB and we thank them for their support. In our turn, we have worked to connect and introduce new supporters to the RNZB and were delighted to be involved in successful events in Nelson, Auckland and Wellington to assist with sponsorship for the Low Decile Schools ticket subsidy project, costumes and support for *Hansel and Gretel* and to grow the number of Partner a Dancer Sponsors.

Investment

- Craig's Investment Partners continues to manage the Foundation's funds under a Discretionary Investment Management Service.
- Conservative investments and a conservative granting policy resulted in continued growth of the Foundation's investments. The Foundation is confidently working towards a capital investment of \$1 million. Trustees were delighted to pass the halfway mark in 2019.

Other Activities

- Dame Trelise Cooper became the Foundation's Ambassador. The Trustees would like to acknowledge her generosity in creating and selling tutus for the Foundation (with all profits coming to the Foundation), in attending and supporting Foundation events, and in promoting the Foundation and the RNZB through her social media channels.
- A successful fundraising and profile-raising event was held in Nelson at the Suter Gallery, wonderfully supported by keen Foundation supporters, Dennis and Analee Emery. Dame Trelise made her inaugural speech as Ambassador at this lovely event.
- The Foundation participated in the Wellington on a Plate festival, working with Logan Brown on a *Bold Moves* dinner where guests "danced" the arm movements from *Artefact II*. The event raised approximately \$4,000, and further donations for the RNZB were received. The Foundation also participated in the Te Papa Whanau Day, selling Trelise Cooper tutus and a gingerbread house (in line with the *Hansel and Gretel* theme).

- The Auckland Trustees and sub-committee progressed a new patronage initiative, called the En Pointe Patrons' Scheme. This was formally launched in November 2019. Patrons pledged an annual sum, half of which will be given to the RNZB for possible projects that the Patrons decide upon.
- The Foundation provided funding for the Barbara Webster scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a classical dance student at the New Zealand School of Dance.
- Through the generosity of one of our donors, the Foundation sponsored the very successful Alana Haines Awards in Wellington over Easter.
- The Harry Haythorne fund was established just before Harry died in November 2014 with monies received from him, friends and colleagues. The inaugural Harry Haythorne Choreographic award was held in September 2015. The Award was reviewed in 2018 and in 2019 the Trustees made a grant from this fund to support the RNZB choreographer in residence, Loughlan Prior, to assist the development of choreography for *Hansel and Gretel*.
- The Foundation decided to move to streamline the number of different funds it operated and as a result wound up its International Creative Development fund.
- Total notified bequests remains at 14; our supporters and donors continue to grow.

Governance

- Throughout 2019 Jane Meares (Chairperson), Louise Binns, Sarah Cole, Ann-Louise Gower, Melanie Morris, Victoria Muir and Ian Webster remained as Trustees. Liliias Bell joined the board in February 2019 as the RNZB appointee. Ann-Louise Gower was reappointed for a three-year term from May 2019.
- Trustees are appointed in accordance with clause 7.3 of our Rules and, in addition to the skills outlined, the Board has regard to the need for representation from different regions within New Zealand. We were pleased to continue to have representation from each of New Zealand's four main centres. The Foundation endeavours to have national reach.
- Auckland is represented by 3 trustees, Wellington by 3, Christchurch by 1 and Dunedin by 1.
- Auckland trustees are ably supported by a local fundraising sub-committee which works on fundraising events. That committee comprises Louise Binns, Sarah Cole, Ian Webster, Carol Ross, Chrissy Bollard and Carrie Hobson.
- Wellington trustees are ably supported by a local fundraising sub-committee which works on fundraising events. That committee comprises our patron, Lady Susan Satyanand, Jane Meares, Liliias Bell, Ann-Louise Gower, Susan Arnold, Sarah Bartlett, Sarah Singleton and Ruth Lavelle Treacy.
- In addition, the first steps were taken to forming sub-committees in Christchurch and Dunedin.
- Lady Susan Satyanand is our patron and provided her unstinting support and encouragement throughout the year.

The Board looks forward to building on these activities in 2020 to provide a platform for the support, promotion and advancement of classical ballet as a form of creative and artistic endeavour in New Zealand. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters and donors for their ongoing belief in the Foundation.

Lastly, the Foundation could not exist without the unstinting support and indefatigable effort of my fellow trustees and all the subcommittee members. They give voluntarily and generously of their time and other resources and contribute to the Foundation with their enthusiasm and vision.

Jane Meares

Chair

Board of Trustees, The Ballet Foundation of New Zealand Trust