

**THE BALLET FOUNDATION OF NEW ZEALAND TRUST**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2017**

The Foundation had another busy and productive year in 2017. Over the course of the year, the trustees met (either in person or by teleconference) 4 times (February, May, August and November).

**Working with and supporting the RNZB**

- The Foundation continued to enjoy a very strong relationship with the RNZB, working with Frances Turner, the RNZB executive director, and Allison Groves, the RNZB philanthropy manager, on the executive side. A restructuring of the RNZB finance area promised to streamline some of our processes and the Foundation Board agreed to make an annual contribution to the RNZB for its assistance and put in place a new memorandum of understanding between the two organisations.
- The Foundation was sad to see the artistic director, Francesco Ventriglia, leave the RNZB, but welcomed his replacement, Patricia Barker, from the United States. We look forward to working with her in 2018.
- Our fundraising events would not be meaningful without the support of the RNZB and we thank them for it. 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 Auckland and Wellington to assist with sponsorship of the Romeo and Juliet costumes.

**Investment**

- Having considered the need to prudently invest its funds and, in accordance with its mission statement, being committed to building a sustainable fund to provide long-term stability for ballet in New Zealand, in 2017 the Board reviewed how it might achieve this.
- The decision was made to appoint Craig's Investment Partners to manage its funds under a Discretionary Investment Management Service.
- With anti-money laundering and other regulatory requirements, and seven trustees who only meet in person twice a year, it took us a little while to complete all the paperwork. However, the Board is very pleased with progress on this to date.

**Other Activities**

- Another successful fundraising and profile-raising event was held in Auckland, at St Matthew's in the City, in March. This raised approximately \$50,000 and we were delighted to have the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Bill English, with us for the second year in a row.
- At that event, we were thrilled to announce the Foundation's \$10,000 sponsorship of the Associates programme at the New Zealand School of Dance. The Associates programme identifies classical and contemporary dance students from throughout New Zealand who have the talent for a career in dance performance. Each year they have 4 weekends of tuition at the New Zealand School of Dance in Wellington. Our funding assists in the delivery of this programme.
- The Foundation provides funding for the Barbara Webster scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a classical dance student at the New Zealand School of Dance. This year it was awarded to Mali Comlekci, who we were pleased to connect with over 2017. Mali has taken up a position with Queensland ballet.
- In addition, a further Ballet Foundation scholarship is currently awarded annually to a classical ballet student to support his or her fees. In 2017 the Ballet Foundation scholarship was awarded to Saul Newport. We were delighted that Saul could dance at our Auckland event in March. At the end of 2017 Saul took up a position at Houston Ballet II, the junior company of Houston Ballet. We wish him well but we were sad to see him go.

- Through the generosity of one of our donors, the Foundation sponsored the Alana Haines Awards over Easter in Wellington, which two of the trustees had the pleasure of attending. This is one of Australasia's premier ballet events the young dancers aged 11 – 18 years, providing a career platform for young dancers.
- 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. In 2017, the RNZB changed the format slightly and opened the competition to all New Zealand choreographers. The awards were held over the evenings of 19 – 21 October. Five pieces were performed; Sarah Knox won the Harry Haythorne award and Jo Funaki the audience choice award.
- The Board continued to partner an RNZB dancer, Harry Skinner, and were delighted to see him perform in the RNZB's productions of *L'Arlesienne*, *Carmen*, and *Romeo and Juliet*.
- The Board made a small travel grant to Loughlan Prior to facilitate his participation in the Assemblée Internationale in Toronto
- Total notified bequests grew to 13 and our list of supporters and donors continued to grow.
- The Foundation, as in previous years, made a presentation to the RNZB Board in June, to outline the work of the Foundation and also spoke to the Friends of the RNZB at its AGM in August to update the Friends on the work of the Foundation and recognise the close linkages between the two organisations.

### **Governance**

- Throughout 2017 the seven trustees of the Foundation were Jane Meares (chairperson) Louise Binns, Ann-Louise Gower, Victoria Muir, Ros Burdon (RNZB appointee), Rosie Dunphy and Ian Webster. Jane was reappointed as chairperson for a further three years from May 2017.
- 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.
- Louise Binns moved back to Auckland at the end of December. This resulted in Auckland being represented by 3 trustees, Wellington by 2, 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 Ian Webster, Louise Binns, Rosie Dunphy, Carol Ross, Sarah Cole, Chrissy Bollard and Carrie Hobson.
- In 2017, a Wellington sub- committee was also formed. That committee comprises our patron, Lady Susan Satyanand, Jane Meares, Ann-Louise Gower, Susan Arnold, Sarah Bartlett and Sarah Singleton.
- In addition, the first steps were taken to forming a Christchurch sub-committee.
- The Board adopted a social media policy, a new financial policy and a communications strategy, which included developing its email communications with supporters through a scheduled programme of e-newsletters.
- 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 2018 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