

Lady Gillian Deane CNZM BA

Lady Gillian Deane CNZM BA is Chair and Founder of the Deane Endowment Trust, Patron of IHC NZ (New Zealand's largest voluntary welfare charitable organization), National Coordinator and a Trustee of Rett New Zealand, Founding Patron of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand, Patron of the Mahara Gallery, and Patron of the Friends of The Dowse Art Museum.

In the New Year 2020 Honours, Gillian was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for “services to philanthropy, particularly for rare disorders, the arts and youth”. In 2019 she was presented with the Inaugural Lifetime Advocacy Award by the Governor General on behalf of Rare Disorders NZ (formerly the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders, or NZORD). She was awarded the Arts Foundation of NZ Patronage Award in 2008 and she was the recipient of a Civic Award from the Wellington City Council. She is a Life Member of the Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) Alumni Association, a Life Member of the Waikanae Music Society, and an Honorary Life Benefactor of the City Gallery Wellington.

Previous positions include founding Trustee of the Arts Foundation of NZ, Trustee of the International Festival of the Arts (now the NZ Festival), the Diana Princess of Wales Trust, the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders (NZORD) and the Centre for Clinical Research and Effective Practice (CCREP) at Middlemore Hospital. Gillian is a former Patron of the Mary Potter Hospice and Toast Martinborough, the Food and Wine Festival. She was also President of the Friends of the Wellington International Festival of the Arts, a Government appointed Ambassador for the International Year of the Family, and a Member of the Inclusion International Working Group for the International Year of the Family.

Gillian is a member of the Ngati Whanaungua iwi. She has a BA degree from VUW, a Teachers' Certificate and passed the examinations of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticultural (at a time when they ran examinations). She is a Trustee for several private Trusts.

She has a particular interest in the arts, music and opera, science, early New Zealand and Maori history, rare disorders and disabilities, and is a devoted conservationist, having regenerated a large area of wetlands and native trees on the west coast of the North Island, which has now been designated as an Ecological Heritage site and is encompassed by four Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants.

Lady Deane created the Deane Endowment Trust in 1995 in memory of her daughter Kristen Marie Deane. The Deane Endowment Trust provides financial assistance to a wide range of arts and culture organizations, including in the fields of music, both voice and instrumental, opera, ballet, dance and the visual arts; to art galleries and museums, particularly in the Wellington region and principally for the sponsorship of exhibitions and publications; to outstanding young people by way of scholarships to study abroad and in NZ in order to pursue their careers in arts, science, dance and music,

and for the latter particularly to students of Maori and Pacifica descent; to people with rare disorders and intellectual and other disabilities and their families and the organizations which support them; to publications in the fields of the arts, and Maori and New Zealand history; to scientific research particularly in the areas of brain research, medicinal chemistry, rare disorders, and NZ archaeology; to a number of environmental areas especially those associated with the preservation of wetlands and conservation of the native plant environment; and to a number of specific community projects. She has written a book, "A Guide to Te Maimai, A Natural Garden", about her very large native garden and is featured in a book on 25 leading NZ women gardeners published in 2018, entitled "Flourish".

Through her philanthropy, by way of example, Gillian has become a Founding Patron of the Arts Foundation of NZ, a Maestro Circle Member of the NZ Symphony Orchestra, a Key Funding Partner of Chamber Music NZ, a Benefactors' Circle Member of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, a major donor to the University of Auckland Foundation, an Inaugural Gold Foundation Partner of the Pataka Foundation, a major supporter of the Mahara Gallery, a Founding Partner (Pounamu) of the Dowse Art Museum, a Platinum Patron of the Festival of the Arts in Wellington, a Platinum Patron of the Auckland Arts Festival, an Inaugural Platinum Patron of the NZ School of Dance Foundation, an Honorary Life Benefactor of the City Gallery Wellington Foundation, Patron of and regular donor to IHC NZ, a Dress Circle Benefactor of NZ Opera, a Benefactor of the NZ Opera School in Wanganui, a Waimata Sponsor of the Gisborne International Music Competition, a Sponsor of the NZ String Quartet, a Benefactor and Sponsor of two sections (Sopranos and Altos) of the NZ Youth Choir, a Patron of the Indian Ink Theatre Company, a Masters Circle donor to the NZ Portrait Gallery, and a Patron of the Virtuoso Strings Orchestra.

Gillian provided significant financial grants to a number of young people who were seriously injured in the Christchurch earthquakes.

In Australia Gillian is a Patron Donor of the Art Gallery of NSW and has been a regular donor to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Opera Australia and Pinchgut Opera.

In summary, Gillian is a leading advocate for those with disabilities and rare disorders. She created the Rett NZ Trust and played a leading role in the establishment of the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders, now Rare Disorders NZ. She is Patron of IHC NZ. She is also passionate about the arts and assisting talented young people. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Arts Foundation of NZ, the City Gallery Wellington Foundation, and the Pataka Foundation. She is a committed environmentalist and supports a range of activities in the science and medical research fields, including the provision of a significant number of scholarships for young people.

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