Gillian and Roderick created the Deane Endowment Trust in memory of their daughter Kristen, to assist and benefit the community and individuals in the fields of the arts and culture, scientific research, education, the environment, disability, and the work of charitable voluntary organisations. The Trust focuses on the arts and culture by way of sponsorship of a number of exhibitions and publications by a range of art galleries and museums; by the use of scholarships and grants, especially for educational purposes for young singers, musicians, dancers and artists exhibiting outstanding potential; and through donations to a number of classical music and opera organisations particularly those centred in Wellington.

Numerous organisations and individuals involved in the arts have benefited from the Deane Endowment Trust, including: the New Dowse in Lower Hutt and the City Gallery Wellington building extension programmes; most major and some smaller art galleries in the Wellington region, including the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Pataka, Mahara Gallery and the New Zealand Portrait Gallery; the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the New Zealand Chamber Music and Opera societies, the New Zealand String Quartet, the New Zealand Youth Choir and Tower Voices. In addition, the Deane Endowment Trust has provided awards and scholarships in a number of areas to young people establishing themselves in the academic world and on the international stage; contributed toward publications including a range of books and catalogues produced by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, the City Gallery Wellington and for biographies, and promoted and helped establish a number of charitable trusts including the Arts Foundation of New Zealand.

Support from the Deanes has also spread across the Tasman with a number of Australian organisations receiving support, including the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, the Victorian Tapestry Workshop and Opera Australia.

Gillian and Roderick Deane are Founding Patrons of the Arts Foundation. Gillian offered valuable insight to the working party during the Foundation's conceptual period. With her understanding of the arts and the need for patronage, Gillian helped formulate the vision and the mechanism for achieving the Arts Foundation's business plan.

Gillian & Roderick Deane - Donation selections:
- Anna Leese - Opera Singer;
- Jonathan Lemalu - Opera Singer;
- Delia Mathews - Ballet Dancer;
- The TOWER New Zealand Youth Choir