



# DANZ

## DANZ – Dance Aotearoa New Zealand **ANNUAL REPORT 2006**

The National Organisation for New Zealand dance



## Chair's Report 2006

*This report was delivered at the DANZ AGM, 25 March 2007. It provides an overview of the work undertaken by DANZ from 1 January – 31 December 2006 in relation to the new DANZ Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010.*

I would like to highlight key achievements as DANZ embarks on a new strategic direction. This report reflects the consistency with which DANZ is delivering core services as well as the positive response to new initiatives.

- The DANZ Board, Executive and staff completed work on the 2006 to 2010 DANZ Strategic Plan. The broad based plan, embracing the Professional, Education and Recreation sectors, then formed a solid base for capacity building, development and reporting in 2006.
- The Board has had some further change, with Peta Spooner, Charles Koroneho, Keri Kaa and Briar Wilson coming to the end of their terms. Two new board members were appointed: Jacqui Cesan providing a fresh perspective from the dance studio sector and Cathy Livermore, a teacher and performer with a strong Maori kaupapa.
- The staff has remained consistent providing valued continuity and institutional knowledge that is invaluable, and have been ably supported by an expanded administration staff accessed through Work and Income support.
- DANZ Tamaki continues to develop dance as enterprise in the Auckland region, with increasing profile and strengthening recognition of the value of dance and its potential.
- DANZ embarked on new partnerships and directions as part of the SUN Group of recurrently funded arts service organisations and a steering group member of the proposed Entertainment Industry New Zealand group.
- DANZ was increasingly sought after for comment on dance issues.
- Contractual obligations were met with Creative New Zealand, the Ministry of Education, and ASB Trusts.
- Feedback from service users and independent assessors highlighted the upward trajectory of the organisation, and the increasingly valuable contribution it is making to the broader dance sector.
- All of this has been achieved within a tight financial constraint, with wise investment decisions made by the Board and sound management within the staff.

These changes were only possible because of a strong and solid foundation:

- A committed and experienced executive team (Lyndsey O'Reilly, Shona McCullagh, Graham Atkinson, Sahra Grinham, Briar Wilson and Robyn Cockburn).
- Strategic and far thinking board members (Keri Kaa, Charles Koroneho, Ralph Buck, Adam Hayward, Jan Shand, Peta Spooner, Jacqui Cesan, Cathy Livermore).
- Energy, leadership, and commitment that is provided by Tania Kopytko as she relentlessly moves the organisation and industry forward.
- Staff stability in core areas of communication and administration, project management, financial advice and education contract delivery (Celia Jenkins, Susan Jordan, Sarah Hutchings, Lyne Pringle, Annabel Reader, Tatiana Zvegintseva and Maria Dabrowska).

The future holds challenges and potential:

- Increasing service delivery to the wider professional sector, enabled through wider stakeholder relationships and a stronger fundamental base.
- Concern about the current support for dance in schools, and how to best support this critical area of the curriculum as well as linking dance companies with audiences.
- Opportunities to build stronger connections within the recreation sector and promoting the positive contribution that dance can contribute to health and wellbeing.

We are well positioned to continue this development and will be actively seeking partners to work with us in the year ahead.

**Robyn Cockburn**  
**Chair, DANZ Board of Directors**

## **Executive Director's Report**

2006 continued as a year of development and expansion for DANZ, building on the expansion strategies of 2005. Effort was made to consolidate the 2005 developments as well as continue to develop partnerships, stakeholders and opportunities.

### **Strategic Plan Development**

The DANZ Board, Executive and staff completed work on the 2006 to 2010 DANZ Strategic Plan creating a broader approach to strategic development of the dance industry through embracing the Professional, Education and Recreation sectors. The expanded 2006 work plan was largely achieved, including over achievement in targets for education milestones and the Creative New Zealand funded workshop programme. This was supported through successful financial expansion – such as year two ASB funding for the Auckland DANZ Tamaki office and Work and Income NZ support for administration staff. The organisation overall achieved good financial results within a change and development environment.

### **Capacity Building**

2006 saw continued development and capacity building of the DANZ organisation. WINZ assisted, work based learning assistance allowed for the employment of two office support workers for Wellington. This greatly improved capacity for development of services and core activities and resources such as database, communication, advice and development of the event diary. Financial processes and services were strengthened and developed through employment of skilled staff, preparing for financial strategy work to commence in 2007. DANZ IT equipment was upgraded.

Mentoring for the Executive Director to support DANZ strategic development and capacity building was followed through with Mentors New Zealand and a Professional Development Scholarship offered by Creative New Zealand. The latter enabled the Executive Director to travel to Australia to meet with organisational counterpart Ausdance and other key dance organisations. A stronger trans-Tasman relationship has resulted.

### **Stakeholder Development**

Relationships with major stakeholders were maintained. A stronger relationship with Creative New Zealand is emerging as CNZ undertakes internal reorganisation and review of strategies and policies. It has indicated a desire to have a stronger relationship with Recurrently Funded Organisations. DANZ values this shift and has made efforts to reinforce and develop the relationship. The relationship with the Ministry of Education has been strong with the LEOTC (Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom) project but cut-backs in funding for arts curriculum support through NSSAC (National Secondary School Arts Coordinators) and within the tertiary teaching support services, resulted in the need for advocacy and development of alternative strategies for 2007. Inroads were made in developing relationships with organisations such as SPARC, the Ministry of Social Development and the Territorial Authorities and Regional Sports Trusts networks, which, it is hoped will lay the basis for future developments.

## **Significant Achievements**

The resourcing and development of the Auckland DANZ Tamaki office, with continued funding from ASB Trusts was completed by the end of May. DANZ Tamaki soon began to contribute strongly to training and advice, thus enabling an enlarged DANZ workshop and forum programme in 2006. As a consequence DANZ Tamaki increasingly became a focus for support for the Auckland dance communities.

The Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom (LEOTC) contract with the Ministry of Education achieved some exciting work through high quality workshops provided by the LEOTC Officer and in developing support for community based and freelance tutors working in diverse dance styles. An extensive workshop tour of the mid and lower South Island was an important part of the 2006 project focus and succeeded in strengthening regional networks with DANZ. The part time contract experiences difficulties in adequately servicing high demand from schools across the country.

The NSSAC (National Secondary Schools Arts Coordinator – dance) enabled some excellent development in supporting dance diversity in education and regional support. Particularly significant was the Pacific Island youth dance project at the Telstra Clear Pacific centre in Manukau and Pacific Dance Fono in partnership with, and held at, Te Wananga o Aotearoa in Manukau. Dance artists and groups were supported or brokered in performing or providing workshops in schools, or including school matinees in their tours. This increased exposure and assisted audience development and box office income. Workshop providers, groups and productions worked with were Maui, Java dance, UNITEC, tutors for workshops in Maori and Pacific dance styles, Hip Hop and Capoeira, to name a few. Sadly the NSSAC contracts were disestablished by the Ministry of Education at the end of 2006.

Development continued on the DANZ Quarterly magazine through streamlining operations, defining focus and improving quality. This was supported by an increase in advertising and membership income and a continued partnership with the Arts Channel. This has allowed DANZ to plan further developments for 2007. DANZ website development began later in the year through the improvement of web software and the Marketing & Admin Manager focussing more on website management and development. The NZ Dance News service changed to a sponsorship relationship with DANZ and a DANZ E newsletter was initiated as part of a E information development strategy.

CNZ funded DANZ programmes continued to grow and develop in 2006. The mentoring programme experienced high demand and continued to demonstrate its importance in skill development for practitioners, companies, collectives and projects. Seventeen mentoring projects were funded and completed. 2006 mentoring also covered career direction, choreographic and technical skill development, as well as continuing to support production and strategic planning. There was a shift to mature dance practitioners taking up the mentoring opportunity where previously it was sought largely by younger practitioners. This indicates a maturing of the programme and increased recognition that there is a need for continued up-skilling of professional dance practitioners to meet the demands and opportunities now being presented through the growth of festivals in New Zealand. The breadth of the projects has allowed DANZ to further evaluate the nature of mentoring needed to up-skill professional dance and has thus informed the development of the 2007 programme.

