



DANZ

DANZ – Dance Aotearoa New Zealand **ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

The National Organisation for New Zealand dance



Chair's Report 2007

The past year has been one of consolidation. DANZ is now into its second year of the current strategic plan, bedding in some new areas of strategic focus.

Key areas of achievements for the year are outlined in detail in the Executive Director's report, but some highlights are mentioned below.

DANZ continued to advocate on behalf of dance across government, including meetings with senior personnel at SPARC, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Creative New Zealand and the Ministry of Education. In all cases, the nature and significance of dance in New Zealand was presented and DANZ's role in supporting this. The outcome of these relationships has been inclusion of DANZ in arts sector consultation, engagement in projects, and as advisors on issues of concern. Progress with all of these organisations has been slow because of the complex issues and relationships, however there is ongoing potential that will be a focus for 2008.

At an operational level, DANZ has been establishing strong new partnerships:

- Collaboration between DANZ Tamaki and The Edge has resulted in an innovative and effective choreographic mentoring programme
- DANZ is working with the Correspondence School to develop a web based and on-line dance learning programme for correspondence school clients which is innovative by international standards.
- The Lion Foundation is supporting DANZ in its regional and community dance development programme, with initiatives in Manukau (Pacific Dance Fono) and Porirua (integrating dance with health and recreation) projects.

DANZ has benefited from increasingly available data on dance, and has been building the case for dance in many sectors. We now know that:

- 270,000 New Zealanders dance regularly, more than rugby and netball combined
- Dance is the fastest growing subject in secondary schools both through NCEA, unit standards and through the physical education curriculum, and the emergence of dance clubs in 80% of New Zealand schools
- Maori cultural dance is expanding with new sections in popular youth culture added to Te Matatini, with 1200 performers and 35,000 attending

- Pacific dance festivals are huge, with PolyFest Secondary schools engaging 85,000 performers and a similar number of audience members
- Dance festivals (The Body, Dance your Socks Off, TEMPO) have increasing numbers of dance participants and audience, reflecting the recreational dance groups that are in our communities.

DANZ continued to raise its public profile through the website receiving over 7000 visits per month. The magazine was distributed and sold through magazine shops, with an increasing readership and positive feedback from a wide range of readers.

In addition to these highlights it is reassuring to know that DANZ is consistently delivering core services, in many cases with greater achievements than anticipated.

These achievements do not happen without considerable strategic stewardship from the Board in particular the Executive team and the staff, ably led by Tania Kopytko.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of:

- Shona McCullagh, Graham Atkinson, Sahra Grinham, Lyndsey O'Reilly who met regularly to assist in the difficult decisions about achievable priorities within a fixed purse;
- Adam Hayward, Jacqui Cesan, Cathy Livermore, Helen Langford and Tihi Puanaki who kept DANZ connected with dance in the regions, across the festivals, in education and with Maoridom
- The management and project personnel of Tania Kopytko, Celia Jenkins, Susan Jordan, Sarah Hutchings, Lyne Pringle, Annabel Reader, Tatiana Zveguintseva, Julie van Renen and Faye Jansen who consistently achieved more than anyone would have thought possible.

Dance is about moving; so is DANZ. We are aspirational, achievement focused and keen to make the most of opportunities that present. Much of the work is choreographed, and set out in the strategic plan. It is refreshing to know that we can improvise and take initiatives when they present, resulting in a dynamism that reflects our relevance.

DANZ and dance has a great history and a great future.

Robyn Cockburn

Chair, DANZ Board of Directors

Executive Director's Report 2007

2006 was a busy year with some consolidation of work achieved over the previous three years as well as some new opportunities developed.

The magazine format and process were consolidated enabling better editorial decision making, content and design. The magazine was sold in shops as a new initiative to give dance and DANZ wider coverage and visibility. This was well received by the dance community.

DANZ Tamaki entered its third year of training and development showing the dedication Susan Jordan has given to the professional sector in Auckland through developing targeted training projects such as the collaboration with The Edge on choreographic mentoring and programmes designed to improve producing skills.

The development of industry resources over the past two years culminated in some excellent web resources plus the written training materials for best practice in working in schools and studios and dance health and safety. These are now able to be used in the 2008 workshops.

The 2007 Mentoring programme ran smoothly with a wider range of professional dance artists and groups supported; from the inclusion of more mature dance practitioners to support for innovation in hip hop presentation. Thirteen groups or projects were supported and, in addition, smaller mentoring clinics were run.

The relationship between the Dance Subject Association and DANZ was formalised with the aim of strengthening professional development and advocacy. However the practical aspects are affected by the capacity of both parties – the lack of dance educator volunteer time and DANZ staff capacity. The So You Can Dance Conference in October in Dunedin was a good first step and set some partnership actions for 2008.

DANZ's advocacy work with Ministry of Education, SPARC, Creative New Zealand and Ministry for Arts and Culture have given depth to DANZ's role and recognition as a national agency. DANZ began the process of developing a partnership with SFRITO – Sports Fitness and Recreation Training Organisation that will hopefully lead to national qualifications for best practice in the dance industry.

Funding and capacity building has proved difficult however DANZ now has three year funding from Creative New Zealand, has attracted Lion Foundation support and DANZ Tamaki has attracted additional funding than the ASB Trust to provide greater security and longevity. However DANZ is still working with SPARC and MSD – Enterprising Communities, to find mutually appropriate projects. DANZ needs to continue to address its capacity to develop the sectors.

New partners and subsequent investment take time to develop. Regional initiatives and development and advocacy work with Maori and Pacific Island dance are being requested and will test this capacity. However the willingness to want to work with DANZ is excellent for the strength of the industry.

The DANZ team is strong, dedicated and the skill level and versatility continues to develop. Thank you to all staff and contract workers for your extraordinary dedication and passion for the cause of dance and DANZ.

Thank you to the Executive for your hard, dedicated and informed work, given as volunteers to the organisation and Robyn for your fine leadership. Thank you to the Board for your enthusiasm and wisdom.

Thank you to our excellent partners, funders, DANZ members and supporters. We would not be able to achieve our work without such assistance:

Creative New Zealand, Ministry of Education (LEOTC, The Correspondence School of New Zealand), Arts OnLine/Cognition Consulting, ASB Trusts, Lion Foundation, Wellington City Council, Auckland City Council, SCOPE and Pub Charity.

We all look forward to another year of DANZ, dance and development.

Dr. Tania Kopytko
DANZ Executive Director

