

## ***Gillian, Lady Deane BA***

Gillian, Lady Deane 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, and a Trustee of the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders (NZORD).

Previous positions include Trustee of the Arts Foundation of NZ, the International Festival of the Arts, the Diana Princess of Wales Trust, and Patron of the Mary Potter Hospice. Gillian 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 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 on the west coast of the North Island, which has now been designated as a Heritage site.

Lady Deane created the Deane Endowment Trust 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, opera, ballet 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 to study abroad and further their careers; 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 area of rare disorders; 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.

Gillian 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 Alumni Association and a graduate of the University with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

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