

Lady Gillian Deane BA

Gillian, Lady Deane is Chair and Founder of the Deane Endowment Trust, Joint Patron with her husband Sir Roderick Deane of IHC NZ (New Zealand's largest voluntary welfare charitable organization), and National Coordinator and a Trustee of Rett New Zealand.

Previous positions include Trustee of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand (of which she is a Founding Patron), the International Festival of the Arts, the Diana Princess of Wales Trust, the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders (NZORD) and Patron of the Mary Potter Hospice in Wellington. 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 and encompasses four Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants. Under her oversight, this property now incorporates extensive plantings of native trees, shrubs and grasses and has attracted much native bird activity.

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, theatre 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 particularly in the areas of classical music, opera, ballet and science; to outstanding young postgraduate students to study and assist with research in working with some of New Zealand's leading academics and scientists, including by way of Summer Scholarships; 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 and native bird 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. She was honoured with Life Membership of the Waikanae Music Society and is an Honorary Life Benefactor of the City Gallery Wellington.

February 2018