

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

Gillian, Lady Deane CNZM BA has spent a lifetime devoted to working in the voluntary sector and providing philanthropic assistance and other forms of support to a wide range of causes.

In the New Year Honours 2020, Gillian was appointed as a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit “for services to philanthropy, particularly for rare disorders, the arts and youth”.

None of the following positions she has held have been remunerated. Although she has been a very successful fundraiser for various causes, this CV concentrates on those areas where her own family funds have been used for philanthropic purposes.

Gillian Deane is:

Patron of NZ’s largest voluntary welfare charitable organization, IHC NZ;

Founding Patron of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand;

Founding Trustee and National Coordinator of the Rett Syndrome NZ Trust;

Patron of Mahara Gallery in Waikanae;

Patron of the Friends of The Dowse Art Museum;

Honorary Life Benefactor of the City Gallery Wellington Foundation; and

Founder & Chair of the Deane Endowment Trust. This Trust is funded only by Gillian and her husband, Sir Roderick Deane.

Life Member of the Victoria University of Wellington Alumni Society.

Life Member of the Waikanae Music Society

Trustee of several private Trusts.

Gillian is a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit and has a BA degree, a Teachers Certificate and passed the examinations of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticultural (at a time when they ran examinations).

Member of the Ngati Whanaungua iwi (and has done much research on her whakapapa).

She was previously a:

Founding Trustee of the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders (NZORD) now Rare Disorders NZ;

Founding Trustee of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand;

Trustee of the International Festival of the Arts, now the New Zealand Festival;

Trustee of the Centre for Clinical Research and Effective Practice (CCREP) at Middlemore Hospital;

Trustee of the NZ Diana Princess of Wales Foundation;

Patron of the Mary Potter Hospice in Wellington;

Government appointed Ambassador for the International Year of the Family;

Member of the Inclusion International Working Group for the International Year of the Family;

President of the Friends of the International Festival of the Arts; and

Patron of Toast Martinborough, the Wine and Food Festival.

Her passions revolve around advocating for those with disabilities and rare disorders, working extensively for the arts, assisting and encouraging young people to build their talents, searching for her Maori whakapapa, and creating a large NZ native wetland garden from what was 90 acres of cow paddocks.

She published a book on her extensive native garden in 2019 entitled “A Guide to Te Maimai: A Natural Garden” and she features in a book on 25 leading NZ women gardeners published in 2018, entitled “Flourish”.

Gillian is a leading advocate for those with disabilities and rare disorders. She created the Rett NZ Trust and played a leading role in the establishment of the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders, now Rare Disorders NZ. She is Patron of IHC NZ.

She was instrumental in the establishment of the Arts Foundation of NZ, the City Gallery Wellington Foundation, and the Pataka Foundation.

She established the Deane Endowment Trust in memory of her daughter Kristen who died in 1995 aged 27 from Rett Syndrome. Over the past 25 years this charitable Trust has provided financial assistance to:

1. A wide range of arts and cultural organizations, including in the fields of music, opera, ballet, dance and the visual arts;
2. Art galleries and museums, particularly in the Wellington region;
3. Provided scholarships for study overseas and in New Zealand for a large number of young talented people at graduate and postgraduate level in the arts, music, opera, ballet, dance, the visual arts and science;
4. Helped fund a range of scientific research projects;
5. Assisted people with disabilities and the organizations which support them;
6. Sponsored publications and books on the arts and on Maori and NZ history;
7. Assisted a number of environmental areas especially those associated with the preservation of wetlands and conservation of the native plant environment; and
8. Gifted funds to a significant number of community projects.

For young graduate and post graduate students, by way of example, 21 scholarships were awarded in 2019 at the University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington and the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute.

Gillian has also gifted funds to assist a significant number of major community projects. These include for example sponsorship of the proposed Civic Music Hub for the NZ Symphony Orchestra, the Wellington City Council and the NZ School of Music at Victoria University of Wellington in Wellington, the Auckland Town Hall organ restoration project, a public library Art Room in Paraparaumu, an all-weather hockey field for the Kapiti region, extensions to three art galleries (the City Gallery Wellington, The Dowse and the proposal for the Mahara Gallery in Waikanae), refurbishment of the Gisborne War Memorial Theatre, and extensions to the Nga Manu Native Reserve education and teaching facility.

Gillian has worked voluntarily at a senior level for a number of New Zealand organizations including in the area of intellectual disability and particularly rare disorders such as IHC NZ (of which she is now Patron), the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders, now Rare Disorders NZ (for which she received the Inaugural Lifetime Advocacy Award), the Rett NZ Trust which she created to assist girls with Rett Syndrome across NZ, and the Arts Foundation of NZ which she helped found, acted for many years as a Trustee and has been a significant donor. The Arts Foundation awarded her their top Patronage Award.

Her philanthropic activities span New Zealand including sponsorships and donations to organizations in Auckland, New Plymouth, Gisborne, Napier, Wanganui, Wellington, Porirua, Lower Hutt, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Gillian's sponsorships include many NZ-wide organizations such as the NZ Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music New Zealand, the Royal NZ Ballet, the NZ Youth Choir, Opera New Zealand and others.

Arts organizations have been supported in Auckland, the Wellington region, Christchurch and Dunedin, as well as some provincial centres such as Gisborne and Wanganui. In Auckland for example, organizations supported include the University of Auckland, the Auckland Art Gallery, the War Memorial Museum, the Festival of the Arts, and the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra (the APO).

Financial assistance to scientific research and scholarships have been provided by Gillian in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin.

This has been by way of a range of grants and especially student scholarships at the University of Auckland in the Centre for Brain Research, the medicinal chemistry Brimble Laboratory and in the Archaeology Group; the creation of the NZ Seed Fund (in association with her husband Sir Roderick Deane) which arose out of research work at the University of Auckland and then resulted in the formation of the Australian listed company Neuren Pharmaceuticals which is now at the final stage of testing with the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in the USA for a drug Trofinetide which will assist girls with Rett Syndrome (from which Gillian's daughter Kristen died). Neuren is developing drug therapies for a range of neurodevelopmental conditions.

At the University of Otago, Gillian funded research work and provided student scholarships in the biochemistry laboratory some years ago, research which was then assisted also by the NZ Seed Fund (a Special Partnership) and resulted in the creation of the NZ listed company Pacific Edge Ltd, a cancer diagnostics company.

In Wellington, Gillian provides scholarships each year for five graduate students to study and research with leading scientists at the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute. GMRI's research programme includes cancer, fibrotic conditions, vascular birthmarks, and regenerative medicine, based on the role of stem cells in disease and health.

At Victoria University of Wellington, Gillian provides the Deane Music Scholarships and a range of Summer Scholarships which have included assistance for students in the arts, music, economics, and museum and gallery internships. A wide range of other Wellington based organizations are assisted by the Deane Endowment Trust under Gillian's oversight.

Lady Gillian gave up her teaching career in 1968 to care for her daughter Kristen Marie Deane, who died of Rett Syndrome, a degenerative neurological condition, in 1995. Up until that time she undertook several voluntary roles in the charitable world and undertook a range of philanthropic projects. In order to develop further this work, along with her husband Sir Roderick Deane, she created the Deane Endowment Trust in 1995 in memory of Kristen.

After Kristen died, Gillian increasingly accepted senior roles in a variety of charities and devoted herself to helping others through these roles and through her own philanthropy. She did not accept any paid roles.

Gillian effectively works full time in the charitable world including spending much time assisting families who have disabled children. She became a lead advocate for the rights of intellectually disabled people and others who suffer from disabilities; a supporter of a range of scientific research endeavours; a provider of many scholarships for young people to facilitate their studies abroad and in NZ; a passionate conservationist; and a significant sponsor in the arts world.

In 2019, Gillian committed to significant legacy gifts to the University of Auckland Foundation and the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation. She has also promised a range of other legacy gifts to other charitable causes.

Through her philanthropy, Gillian has become a Founding Patron of the Arts Foundation of NZ, a Maestro Circle Member of the NZ Symphony Orchestra, a Key Funding Partner of Chamber Music NZ, a Benefactors' Circle Member of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, a major donor to the University of Auckland Foundation, an Inaugural Gold Foundation Partner of the Pataka Foundation, a major supporter of the Mahara Gallery, a Founding Partner (Pounamu) of the Dowse Art Museum, a Platinum Patron of the Festival of the Arts in Wellington, a Platinum Patron of the Auckland Arts Festival, an Inaugural Platinum Patron of the NZ School of Dance Foundation, an Honorary Life Benefactor of the City Gallery Wellington Foundation, Patron of and regular donor to IHC NZ, a Dress Circle benefactor of NZ Opera, a Benefactor of the NZ Opera School in Wanganui, a Waimata Sponsor of the Gisborne International Music Competition, a Sponsor of the NZ String Quartet,

a Benefactor and Sponsor of two sections (Sopranos and Altos) of the NZ Youth Choir, a Patron of the Indian Ink Theatre Company, a Masters Circle donor to the NZ Portrait Gallery, and a Patron of Virtuoso Strings Orchestra.

She has been a significant donor to the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, the Auckland War Memorial Museum, the University of Otago, the Adam Gallery at VUW, the Art Deco Trust in Napier, the Kapiti Writers Festival, the Kapiti Library Literary Festival, the NZ Historic Places Trust, the Wellington Sculpture Trust, Circa Theatre in Wellington, the Kapiti Chamber Choir, the Paekakariki Piano Competition, the Centre for NZ Music, Soundz New Zealand, the Orpheus Choir in Wellington, and the former Canterbury Opera and Southern Opera. There are many other organizations for which Gillian has also assisted financially.

Gillian has sponsored a wide range of publications and books and catalogues on the Arts and NZ and Maori History, a number of sculptures in the Wellington region, and has gifted or sponsored the purchase of art works and ceramic works to a number of galleries and museums, including the Auckland Art Gallery, Pataka Gallery in Porirua, Victoria University of Wellington, the Wellington Sculpture Trust, and The Dowse Art Museum in Lower Hutt.

She has sponsored numerous exhibitions at a range of galleries. She has also sponsored many concerts and performers at concerts.

In 2019 Gillian arranged and funded through the Deane Endowment Trust scholarships for 21 undergraduate and graduate students, 8 at the University of Auckland (4 in the Centre for Brain Research, 2 in the medicinal chemistry Brimble Laboratory, and 2 in Archaeology), 5 at the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute, and 6 at Victoria University of Wellington (4 School of Music scholarships and 2 Summer Scholarships for art museum work). She has provided scholarships of this type for over 20 years. In earlier years she also provided research grants and student scholarship assistance to research projects at the University of Otago as described above.

She has provided many scholarships to outstanding students for study overseas including by way of a few examples such well known people as opera singers Jonathan Lemalu, Anna Leese and Phillip Rhodes, pianist Amber Rainey, bassoonist Todd Cornish-Gibson, violinist Ben Baker, ballet dancers Tasman David and Delia Matthews, and cellists Lavinnia Rae and Matthias Balzat. There are many more one could list. Several graduated in their final year as the top student at the Royal College of Music in London.

Apart from her own giving, Gillian has been over time a major fundraiser for a range of charities including particularly the Mary Potter Hospice, the Arts Foundation of NZ, the International Festival of the Arts, the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders, now Rare Disorders NZ, the NZ Youth Choir, and the Rett NZ Trust.

Gillian has created a very large native garden where she has restored extensive areas of wetlands. The property amounts to 90 acres with about 30 acres now having been planted out in tens of thousands of native plants and trees. It was a series of cow paddocks when she and her husband purchased the two adjoining properties. A large restored manuka-surrounded swamp attracts the bees from the beehives on the property. There are four QE II National Trust covenants over the property to protect the planting for future generations. She provides financial assistance to a number of other environmental areas including the Nga Manu Native Reserve.

Gillian provided significant financial grants to a number of young people who were seriously injured in the Christchurch earthquakes.

In Australia Gillian is a Patron donor of the Art Gallery of NSW, and a donor to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Opera Australia and Pinchgut Opera.

She has received a Civic Award from the Wellington City Council.

Wellington New Zealand June 2020

