

## **Chairman's Report 2009**

As we look back on another year of challenges DANZ can be particularly proud not only of its achievements but also that Dance is no longer looked upon as a lesser art form. There have been many successes during the past year and everyone involved can be satisfied that their efforts have been justly rewarded.

For me two exciting milestones were the placing by the Auckland Festival of several contemporary New Zealand productions in mainstream venues, recognition surely of the standing of the artists involved but a brave decision nevertheless, and Auckland University's acknowledgement of Michael Parmenter as a Distinguished Alumni; both outstanding achievements. While Michael is not the first to be honoured by a University I believe he would be the first distinguished alumni with dance as the major subject and the new works premiered and presented by some of our most experienced choreographers and performers ensured the Auckland Festival AK09 will be long remembered.

Equally exciting have been the developments in association with Creative New Zealand and, in particular, Manukau City Council in recognising and supporting new initiatives in the Pacific Island dance community. I am confident that we are entering a new era of professional development in Pacific Island dance which will eventually bring new audiences and a greater appreciation of the potential and history.

The relationships at many levels with Creative New Zealand, the Ministries of Education and Culture and Heritage and with SPARC have been cordial and productive. We have also enjoyed a good rapport with the Hon Chris Finlayson, Minister for the Arts, and his ongoing support and encouragement is appreciated.

DANZ could not achieve anything without the ongoing support of our financial partners particularly Creative New Zealand, the Ministry of Education, and the ASB Charitable Trust. I need to acknowledge the support of arts advisers from many City and District Councils – Auckland, North Shore, Manukau, Rodney, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin amongst others. Thanks also to both the Caversham Foundation and the various community trusts for your confidence in us and your support of our efforts to enhance the service to the Dance Community.

The decision of the ASB Community Trust to commit to continued support for a DANZ presence in Auckland has enabled us to establish a new and very professional Centre in Great North Road in conjunction with several partners. I want to acknowledge and thank everyone who worked so hard to develop the original DANZ centre in Sandringham Road – without your dedication, commitment and support it is unlikely the new centre would have become a reality.

On a staff level DANZ is amazingly well served by our very small team of professionals. Thank you Tania, Susan, Celia, Tatiana, Faye, Zoe and those other individuals (David, Salena and Elizabeth in particular) who come in at a moment's notice to get the work completed – without your constant overachievement DANZ and Dance in New Zealand would be the poorer.

Unlike the previous year there has been little change to the membership of the Board. At the AGM we farewelled Lyndsey O'Reilly, who had served seven years as a Business Director and Treasurer, and welcomed Liz Davey while in August Shona McCullagh stepped down from the Executive, although remaining as Deputy Chairman, with Helen Langford replacing her on the Executive Committee. In my opinion the Board has worked extremely well as a team and provides DANZ with a high level of governance and leadership.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve DANZ as your Chairman through the past year and to work for and with such talented individuals.

**Graham C Atkinson**  
Chairman  
Dance Aotearoa New Zealand Limited

March 2010