



Annual Report 2016

Canberra's leading community dance organisation

Vision

To be a vibrant, diverse and sustainable community dance organisation in the ACT region.

Goal

To provide quality dance classes, performances and projects through engagement with our community, professional artists and organisations.



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Audited Financial Statements are provided separately.



GOLD perform in *Great Sport* at the National Museum of Australia. Photo: Lorna Sim

Office bearers elected May 2016

Position	Office Bearer	Date Elected	Date Resigned
Chair	Pam Diver	22 May 2016	
Treasurer	Margaret Vincent	22 May 2016	
Co-secretary	Boronia Halstead	22 May 2016	
Co-secretary and Public Officer	Penny Mullbacher	22 May 2016	
Member	Emma Batchelor	22 May 2016	March 2017
Member	Genevieve Chan	22 May 2016	Nov 2016
Member	Mary Hinchey	22 May 2016	
Member	Angel Leelasorn	22 May 2016	Nov 2016
Member	Luke Mulders	22 May 2016	
Member	Jon Real	22 May 2016	

Ex Officio Board Members

Artistic Director	Liz Lea	1 Jan 2010	May 2016
Business Manager	Liz Lanigan	March 2015	Oct 2016

The following persons were elected or appointed to the Board during 2016 but resigned from their positions prior to, or at, the 2016 AGM

Position	Office Bearer	Date Elected	Date Resigned
Chair	Jon Real	30 May 2015	22 May 2016
Treasurer	Margaret Taylor	30 May 2015	Feb 2016
Member	Jill Fraser	30 May 2015	22 May 2016
Member	Jane Ingall	30 May 2015	22 May 2016
Member	Victoria Taylor	30 May 2015	22 May 2016

Chair's Report

2016 was another successful year for CDT, despite tighter budget circumstances and major changes to staff. The Board's focus in 2016 was primarily on improving financial management systems, policies and governance. This will put CDT on a stronger footing to enable us to better manage our finances and provide more support for our staff and students. This is not the exciting stuff, but it's essential to ensure the future viability of CDT and it recognises the important roles our staff, teachers and volunteers play at CDT.

The resolution of our long-standing issues with ANU relating to our lease (finalised in December 2015) means our ongoing financial commitments are now much clearer and can be properly budgeted for. We are due to sign a five-year extension of the lease in 2017 and we now have a much improved relationship with ANU's building managers.

Early in 2016 the Board and staff worked with an independent arts facilitator, Mandy Hillson, to develop a Draft Strategic Plan for CDT. The aim of this process was to get us thinking about the direction and challenges for CDT in the next 3-5 years. The planning workshops were informed by a survey of CDT members conducted in February 2016. This was a very useful exercise and produced a lengthy report on future options for CDT which will inform our future directions.

After the departure of CDT's Artistic Director, Liz Lea, in May 2016 the Board decided to review CDT's staff structure and carefully assess our ability to fund staff positions. It was decided that we did not have good enough financial information to commit to recruiting a new Artistic Director in the short term and that we should focus on improving CDT's financial viability so we could create sustainable positions when income allowed.

In August 2016 we were very fortunate in obtaining the services of Neil Roach as a Consultant, with a brief from the Board to review CDT's strategic and business operations. After the retirement of CDT's Business Manager, Liz Lanigan, in October 2016 Neil also took over the Business Manger's duties. As you will see from the Business Manger's report, he has been very busy! I think everyone at CDT has benefited from Neil's very positive inputs to our organisation. His qualifications, experience and comprehensive background in the ACT arts scene make him uniquely suited to assist our organisation as it moves forward to a new stage in its long existence.

We made good progress during 2016 but there is still work to do – updating our rather tired Constitution remains an important task for the future. We will also be developing plans to celebrate CDT's 40th anniversary in 2018, which will include recording our long history of promoting and presenting contemporary dance in the ACT, and making plans to celebrate our birthday with the whole ACT community.

I believe CDT has a bright future and offers a unique community dance experience in Canberra. In no small measure this is due to the commitment and vision of its staff, my fellow Board members, the teachers and the volunteers.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you all for your support for Canberra Dance Theatre.

Pam Diver
Chair

Activities for 2016

2016 was another busy dance year with classes, performances, residencies and workshops. Classes for adults were our core business, especially in ballet and contemporary. CDT also supported a number of other styles and some special groups, including CDTeens and the GOLD program for people over 55.

Funded Projects

CDT was fortunate to receive funding in the 2015 rounds from both artsACT and ACT Health. The funding supported the development of *Great Sport!*, a major site-specific project for GOLD dancers performed at the National Museum of Australia in April 2016. *Great Sport!* was a highlight of Liz Lea's artistic directorship of CDT and a marvelous parting gift for the organisation.

This generous support from the ACT Government allowed CDT to commission works from choreographers Martin del Amo, Kate Denborough, Gerard van Dyck, Tammi Gissel and Liz Lea. The project was developed in collaboration with Philip Piggini and Jane Ingall and included dancers from the Dance for Parkinson's programs at Tuggeranong and Belconnen Arts Centres. The National Museum of Australia and Ausdance ACT were major partners in this project.

Great Sport was a huge achievement for all involved, and a testament to the dedication of the artistic team.



Great Sport! at the National Museum. Photo: Lorna Sim

CDTeens Winter Holiday Workshop

The CDTeens group enjoyed an intensive five days in July with Natalie Ayton, internationally respected physical theatre performer, dancer, choreographer, movement director, workshop leader and teacher.

Hilal Workshop

CDT donated use of the studio for a two-week intensive program in October when the founder of Hilal Dance, Suraya Hilal, visited Australia on a teaching tour. Suraya also gave open classes at the CDT Studio.

Teachers

Regular Teachers through the year were Toni Allen (Ballet); Debora di Centa (Contemporary, GOLD); Danielle Cook (Hilal); Kirsty Duncan (Belly Dance); Jane Ingall (Parents, Tinies and Toddlers, GOLD); Elizabeth Fellows (Ballet); Celeste Flannery (Ballet); Charmaine Hallam (GOLD); Rachael Hilton (Hilal); Amy Macris (Ballet, CDTeens); Luke Mulders (CDTeens); Philip Piggini (Contemporary, GOLD); Rachel Reid (Fabulous Fans) and Amy Wallace (Ballet).

Accompanist Angel Leelasorn provided piano accompaniment to certain ballet classes.

Guest Teachers included James Batchelor (Contemporary); Jennifer Chait (Ballet); Genevieve Chan (Ballet); Eva Damarjati (CDTeens); Amy Forman (CDTeens); Anca Frankenhaeuser (GOLD); Olivia Fyfe (Contemporary); Katherine Harper (Ballet); Suraya Hilal (Hilal); Ji Yung Hung (Ballet); Susan Innis; Sandra Lauffenberger (GOLD); Meg Millband (Contemporary); Alison Plevey (Contemporary); Elizabeth Rainbow (Fabulous Fans); Emma Strapps (GOLD); Shrikant Subramanian (GOLD); Margaret Taylor (Ballet); Liisa-Lyn Wallace (Ballet); Rebelle Velveteen (Fabulous Fans); Jess Wasikowska (Contemporary); Jamie Winbank (Contemporary); and visiting guest artists.

The Holiday Ballet School Program Teachers were Katherine Harper (Ballet); Kylie Hunter (Ballet); Laura Pearce (Ballet); Fusako Skelton (Ballet); Lauren Vieira (Ballet).

Performances

Public performances included the following:

- 14 February National Multicultural Festival - Fabulous Fans, GOLD, CDTeens: *Alane*
- 12 March Seniors Week at the National Museum of Australia - GOLD: *Black Gold*
- 7, 8, 9 April *Great Sport!* at the National Museum of Australia - GOLD: *Acknowledgement of Country, Annette, Grand Finale, First and Last, None of us want to be in calm waters all our lives, Dance for Parkinson's: I used to run marathons*
- 20 May Fund raising for Taoist Tai Chi Society in Phillip - GOLD: *Fields of Gold, Respect, The Click Song*
- 28 May Eurobodalla River of Art Festival at Moruya - GOLD: *Respect, Fields of Gold, The Incense and The Click Song* with a showing of Sue Healey's film *The GOLDS*
- 21 to 24 July Canberra Youth Theatre *The Verbatim Project* at the Ralph Wilson Theatre with six GOLD performers in the cast
- 28 August Dance Kaleidoscope at Belconnen Arts Centre - GOLD: *Air Kiss, Hilal Dance* performance
- 10 September Goodwin Ainslie Lifestyle Centre concert - GOLD: *Respect, Fields of Gold, Air Kiss, The Young Ones, Let's Face the Music and Dance, The Click Song, Ve David*. Accompanied by GOLD performers David Turbayne (poetry) and Gemma McKeown (piano).
- 3 December Ignite: I-Day at Belconnen Arts Centre - CDTeens: *Alane and Stereo Hearts*



CDTeens at the 2016 National Multicultural Festival

Fabulous Fans Performances

- 2 February Mondayitis: Crazy in Love at The Abbey
- 14 February National Multicultural Festival
- 30 April Australian Dance Week at the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets
- 5 May Cabaret: Thrilling Thursday at The Abbey
- 14 May Andrometta at SkyZone in Belconnen
- 9 July Ode to Eve at The Artworks in Phillip
- 9-10 July The Curry Festival
- 10 September Jazida's backup dancers at the Miss Burlesque ACT heat at The Abbey
- 18 September Sweet Chari Tea at The Abbey
- 8 October An Elemental Evening at Gorman Arts Centre
- 21 October Jazida's backup dancers at the
Miss Burlesque Australia National Grand Final 2016 in Darwin
- 12 November Majors Creek Folk Festival
- 26 November Ode to Eve at The Artworks in Phillip



Fabulous Fans at the 2016 National Multicultural Festival

Treasurer's Report

CDT produced a substantial operating loss in 2016, primarily due to a decline in income from dance classes. Details of CDT's 2016 income and expenditure are set out in the Audited Financial Statements.

Expenses for operating the studio and staff costs were kept well in hand, but it appears that the business systems were not keeping up with activities. This was noted in the Auditor's Reports for the 2014 and 2015 Financial Years. The Auditor's suggestions included:

- Improving policies for the use of complimentary dance cards
- Improving policies for cash and EFTPOS accounting
- Improving class recording.

CDT has historically operated on minimal resources for many years, while producing excellent classes and dance works, but the time had come to step forward.

In August 2016 the CDT Board sought new ways and new information to address these and other issues, including the decline in dance class income, by engaging Neil Roach, former Director of Ausdance ACT and General Manager of The Street Theatre, as a business consultant.

Neil was tasked with reviewing the Strategic Plan and overall business operations, reporting to the Finance Committee and Board meetings. With the retirement of the previous Business Manager, Liz Lanigan, in October 2016 Neil was asked to take on the role of Business Manager as well as retaining the brief for reviewing and reporting to the Board.

As a result of the efforts of the Business Manager and the Board over the past months, good progress has been achieved and it is anticipated that in 2017 CDT will return to an operating surplus.

Margaret Vincent
Treasurer



Lunchtime ballet class. Photo: Neil Roach

Business Manager's Report

2016 was again a busy year, with Liz Lanigan managing the role of Business Manager until her retirement in October. With the support of the Board, Liz Lanigan ably took on many additional tasks following the departure of Liz Lea. She managed the class registrations, the administrative volunteers, the financial information, and additionally the teachers, the web site and all emails.

Classes generally performed well, with Ballet and GOLD being the best attended. Grant income for *Great Sport!* was well-managed and acquitted, but due to the departure of Liz Lea and Liz Lanigan there were no new grants applied for in 2016 for 2016 or 2017 delivery.

In August the Board asked me to review strategic and business operations, as it was time for CDT to step back from the exceptional level of grant-funded activity of the past few years and consider how to better manage the core business. I was familiar with CDT operations, having auspiced many CDT grants through Liz Lea while the Director of Ausdance ACT, advised Liz Lanigan on GST topics, and originally danced with CDT from 1978 to 1983.

My approach was to work with the Board and Liz Lanigan to understand the business and the underlying assumptions about finances and operations. When Liz Lanigan retired in October the Board asked me to take on the Business Manager role with the support of the Board. Between August and the end of the year we achieved reviews of the Constitution, a tightening up of the draft strategic plan, a review of class information systems, reviews of the spread of governance policies, a review of the financial management systems, and an improvement in the financial information provided to the Board. I was also able to commence the build of an updated website, for launch in January 2017.

Administrative Volunteers for 2016

Kerry Boswell, Lauren Bartley, Linette Bone, Denise Druit, Nisrine El-Mogharbel, Jill Fraser, Jane Ingall, Jane Keogh, Xiao Lin King, Noppakao (Angel) Leelasorn, Jitana Lyell, Angus MacDonald, Amy Macris, Anne Mitchell, Luke Mulders, Penny Mullbacher, Cynthia Shannon, Monica Styles, Sania Kerong Wu, Anna Zhang.

Neil Roach Business Manager



GOLD performing *Respect* at the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival in Moruya.

Liz Lea – A Tribute

Liz Lea departed from Canberra Dance Theatre in May 2016 after an extraordinary contribution over many years. Her work at CDT culminated in *Great Sport!* a major site-specific work developed in conjunction with the National Museum of Australia.

To quote Liz in her own farewell message to CDT 'I have been working with Canberra Dance Theatre for seven years and been Artistic Director for just over six. My time has been life changing not least because of all the amazing people I have been privileged to work and dance with and the life lessons that have come my way.'

At the 2016 AGM Liz was elected a Life Member of CDT. Liz departed with the best wishes of all at Canberra Dance Theatre, and we are sure her contributions to dance and the artistic life of Canberra will continue to be vibrant and meaningful.



Liz Lea with Jane Ingall at the National Museum during rehearsals for *Great Sport!*
Photo: Lorna Sim