

The Australian Ballet releases its annual report and cites 2015 as a successful year



The Australian Ballet released its 2015 Annual Report today, following its Annual General Meeting in Melbourne. Executive Director Libby Christie said it was a successful year by all measures.

“The Company is thriving artistically. We connected ever more strongly to our audiences and the broader community across Australia and I’m delighted to announce we achieved a balanced financial outcome for the year,” said Christie.

In its 53rd year, The Australian Ballet delivered 229 performances of 18 ballets—including four world premieres—across six capital cities and ten regional centres in Australia, and two cities in China.

“2015 was our biggest footprint of performances to date,” said Christie.

172 mainstage performances were seen by 267,541 people. The centerpiece of its ‘Year of Beauty’, was Artistic Director David McAllister’s stunning production of *The Sleeping Beauty*.

As in previous years, The Australian Ballet’s community reach extended beyond the major theatres. The Education ensemble engaged 18,320 students and teachers through its national program *Out There – The Australian Ballet in schools*, which visited 117 schools in five states and both territories.

A further 28,232 people participated in audience engagement programs and 11,419 people across

Victoria and NSW enjoyed the Company’s regional tour performances.

In 2015 The Australian Ballet launched a new Storytime Ballet initiative, which was warmly embraced by children and families and extended the Company’s reach to a new audience of 16,770 in Melbourne and Sydney.

The Company again participated in the global live stream of World Ballet Day, which attracted 350,000 viewers—a 44% increase on 2014.

Orchestra Victoria continued to engage communities across Victoria; 3,956 people attended regional concerts and 205 music students and teachers participated in its education programs.

Commenting on financial results Christie remarked, “The costs associated with staging and performing The Australian Ballet’s artistic program continued to rise in 2015 and were significant, with core ballet operating costs totalling \$46.2 million. The resulting performance income gap of \$14 million—core ballet operation costs, less box-office income—was significantly offset by income from our government and corporate partners, and our patrons.”

Christie also noted that:

- 84% of The Australian Ballet revenues were self-generated in 2015.
- The Australian Ballet box-office income and performance fees, our largest source of revenue, increased by 22.5% in 2015.
- The State Orchestra of Victoria contributed to the net operating income of the Group, including a number of one off items that are unlikely to continue into future years.
- The Australian Ballet Foundation contributed net income from endowed and contributed funds and investment income of \$5.338m, thanks to the generosity and on-going support of our Patrons.

TAB Group, including The Australian Ballet, The Australian Ballet Foundation, State Orchestra of Victoria and The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre, reported a surplus of \$3.159m for 2015. Christie commented: “We are fortunate to be in a healthy financial position and most grateful for the support of our generous donors whose continued support underpins The Australian Ballet’s ongoing financial success.”

The 2015 Annual Report is available from 12pm, 23 May australianballet.com.au/corporate/annual-report.

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