



Arabesque

From the desk of



Jete

and

Wellington Branch

2006/2

Combined Young Friends 3rd Birthday and 'Jon Trimmer' Book Launch

We are delighted to have both Sir Jon and Lady Jacqui Trimmer and the Author, Kevin Boon, attending this event. They will happily autograph books you have purchased.

This book is the life story of Jon Trimmer. It is a great privilege for Wellington Friends to launch this very special once-in-a-lifetime event. Books can be purchased on the booking form for just \$12.00 each (Cash or Cheque). This book is suitable for the young and young at heart.

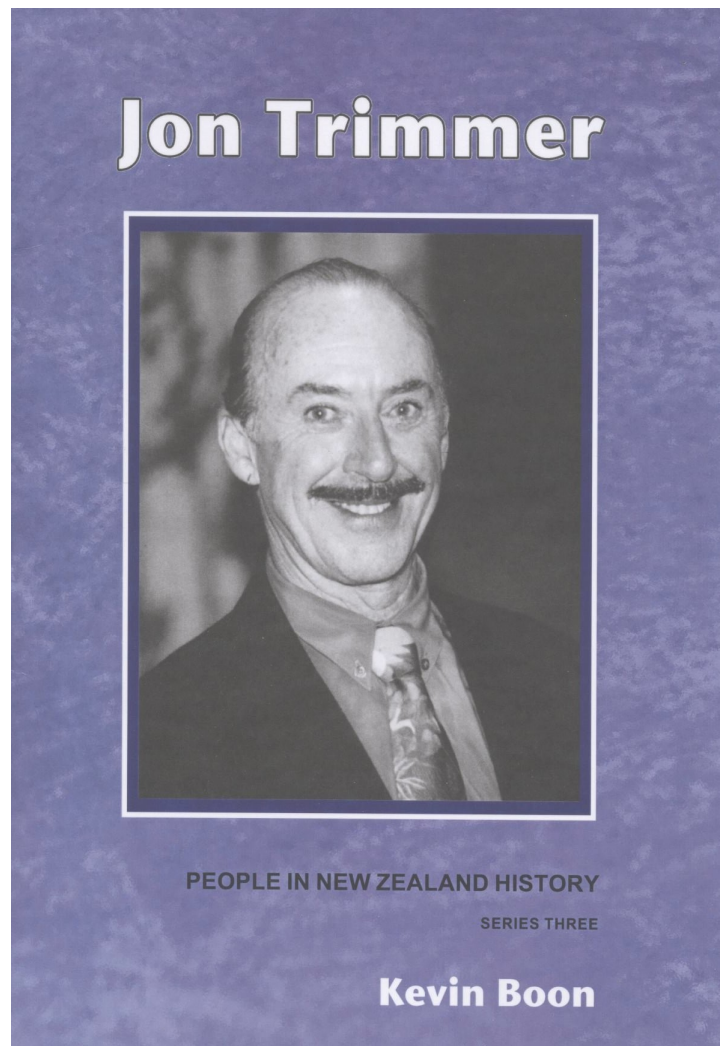
The author, Kevin Boon, *is a writer who has published over one hundred titles, most of them accessible accounts of New Zealand history for young people.*



His subjects include individuals from Sir Edmund Hillary to Dame Malvina Major; events from history from the Tongawera eruption to the Wahine Disaster; and aspects of colonial history from whalers and sealers to the Treaty of Waitangi.

Many of Kevin's books are parts of various series. Series titles include People in NZ History, Famous New Zealanders, *The Story of the All Blacks*, New Zealand Disasters, and Developments in New Zealand History.

This is a very special event so don't miss out.



Louise's Story Read on

When I was a child I went to horse riding lessons where I entered many gymkhanas and won a couple of rosettes. But, suddenly I changed my mind and decided I wanted to learn to dance instead. So at the age of six or seven my parents took me along to the Sunshine Kiddies, a dance school in Hampshire, England, where I learnt tap and modern. The classes were quite far away - my mum and dad drove there a number of times every week, sometimes Saturdays too. I now appreciate this much more than I did at the time.

I remember practising my tap rhythms in the garage where my Dad put down a wooden floor for me. My Dad, who was a drummer, drummed the rhythms and I would tap away. I also remember the pianist, Peggy, a lady about the same age as my Nan, always smiling encouragingly throughout our scary dance exams. It wasn't until I was a little older that I realised exams did not have to be feared. My advice for exams is enter the studio with a focus on enjoying yourself and to show the examiner all that you know with a smile on your face.

As I got older I thought that I might like to become a dance teacher so I picked up ballet classes and then older still, about thirteen, I watched Rambert perform and discovered contemporary dance, so I began classes with another school closer to my home. I found I had a great passion for contemporary and soon started to help teach the younger students and assist teaching choreographic workshops with the local dance teacher in my school at weekends.

I also had a love for theatre. At the age of fifteen, for my school work experience, I arranged a work placement at Chichester Festival Theatre to help backstage in LX (lighting). I spent two weeks working full time and loved it. The theatre asked me to stay on for the Christmas season. My school allowed me to do my GCSE (British exams) coursework out of school. I worked on a fantastic production of A Christmas Carol, operating spotlight and helping LX and crew. It was an amazing experience.

My Mum would drop me off at Chichester early in the morning and pick me up late at night - it was a good half hour drive; once again I cannot thank my Mum enough for her support.

Over the next seven years during school, college and university breaks I worked at Chichester Festival Theatre and trained LX staff at the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe, North England.

During this time I also belonged to a street theatre company called Merchant Players. We travelled throughout the UK and France performing at various festivals. We would set up our travelling stage, put on a play using lots of mime and slap stick and perform fire juggling and stilt walking. After the performance we taught members of the public street theatre skills.

Back to dance! When I was nineteen, before I went to university, I travelled through Europe. I went to a number of dance classes in different dance styles along the way to open my mind to what else was happening in dance.



Louise Fielder, Dance Educator

At university I studied for a BA Hons in Creative dance. I focused on dance and theatre. This involved taking contemporary and ballet classes, studying choreography, dance notation and reconstruction, taking theatre studies and theatre directing, to name but a few of the topics covered.

After three great years at university I went on to study my Post Graduate Certificate in Dance Education (a post graduate teacher-training course). This was an in-depth year of study and teaching practice. We spent the majority of the year in two schools, for me one was in Portsmouth, a very large inner city school with over 1500 students (The police were called almost every day to help deal with large gang fights). The other school was in Brixton, London, an inner city girls school where over 74 languages were spoken. Some students were refugees who only days before they arrived at the school saw their families torn apart in overseas wars. It was an intense and marvellous year were I discovered I had a great passion for teaching and that I loved working with students. I found dance was a language that crossed over the barriers of language and culture.

These experiences led me to New Zealand. A school in Taupo asked me to set up and run their dance department. The department became a mix of strong rugby players, break dancers, ballet dancers and students that had never danced before. I still speak to and see some of my ex students now - some are working in Australia others are here in Wellington, others in Auckland.

Three years later I received a teaching PPTA scholarship that enabled me to take a year out of teaching to study for a Masters in Performing Arts-Dance at the University of Auckland. I focused on Dance Education, Choreography, Maori and Pacific Island dance.

A year later I came here to Wellington to set up the Royal New Zealand Ballet's Dance Education Department. It is here that I have met and worked with some of you from the Young Friends of the Ballet.

My world isn't just about dance, teaching and theatre. I love to hike and have picnics in the gorgeous New Zealand countryside with my boyfriend and friends, I play golf, I like to read, go to the movies and I have recently been taking swimming lessons because I wasn't very confident in the water (I didn't like to put my head under!), and now I can dive to the bottom which I am very excited about!

It has been great to work with you and I wish you all well.

Louise Fielder, Dance Educator, Royal New Zealand Ballet



A big
THANK YOU

to all Young Friends who purchased raffle tickets in this year's National Raffle.

As the lights dim and the curtain goes up, everyone stops mid sentence, waiting in anticipation for the ballet to begin.....

I was lucky enough to win a ticket to the 2006 Meridian Energy season of *The Wedding*. I had a fantastic seat right in the front row, with all the lively, exciting music and dancers' right there, before my eyes.

The costumes were fantastic. Very bright and modern and also made so that the dancers were able to dance in them easily.

My favourite scenes were the 'rugby scene' and the 'airport scene'. I thought it was very clever how they made ballet moves look like the dancers were playing in a rugby match at the stadium and I liked the air hostesses with their little pull along bags!

It is a very **Kiwi** based story and a 'must see' for any patriotic New Zealander.

Sir John Trimmer was fantastic and very funny as American, 'Uncle Alf'. Another one of my favourites was Lucy Balfour, dancing as 'Angie'. She seemed perfectly fitted to her role with her lively character and costumes. She really did look like she was in love.

I really did enjoy my experience of going to *The Wedding* and hope you do too.



Georgia Taggart

The Wedding Workshop through young eyes!

On Saturday, 19 March, a small group of Young Friends took part in a workshop on "The Wedding". This was an awesome opportunity as we all got an insight to not only what the show was like, but also a taste of the life of an RNZB dancer.

Held at the St James Theatre, it was great to be able to go upstairs and see where the dancers went when they weren't performing. Our host Louise, showed us around the studios, the green room, as well as letting us have a glimpse into the kitchen, physio, and Pilates rooms.

Once in the studio, we were given the story line of The Wedding, and were shown pieces of material from the costumes that would be used in the production. Ages of the participants ranged from 7 to 13 and it was pitched at a level where everyone could have a go. We learnt a few warm up exercises and 2 pieces of repertoire from the ballet. With such a friendly host, it was easy for us all to enjoy ourselves and have a sneak peek into The Wedding.

It lasted an hour and a half and the time disappeared too quickly. By the time we came out we were all buzzing, and looking forward to seeing the show.



Young Friends with Louise Fielder at The Wedding workshop

by Young Friend, Zara Andrews-Goss

Young Friends events for 2006

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| Sun - May 28 | A day in the life ... (of a dancer) at Te Papa. |
| Sat - June 24 10 am -12pm (please be dressed and ready for the workshop) ** FREE ** | Come to this exciting Young Friends event. (Be in to win a ticket to Trinity on Friday 27 and join us in the first interval for drinks and a chat): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinity workshop, • 3rd Birthday celebration • Launch of - "Jon Trimmer", a book by Kevin Boon This is a FREE combined Adult and Young Friends event. |
| Fri - July 28 | Juice or Coffee & Conversation in the first interval Young Friends – Free. (Adults/Seniors – \$5.00) |
| Sat - July 29 4:30 pm | Trinity Forum at Te Whaea/NZ School of Dance. Young Friends – Free. (Adults/Seniors – \$5.00) |
| Sat - October 14 10-11:30 approx | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giselle Workshop. • Post in a short story (PO Box 14495) about Giselle and be in to win a ticket to a performance. Colouring-in Competition on the day. |
| Sat - November 11 4:30 pm | Giselle Forum at the Ballet Company. Young Friends – Free. (Adults/Seniors – \$5.00) |

Our Very Best wishes to all our Young Friends who have had birthdays so far this year...



Month of January

- Lydia Easter*
- Laura Gower*
- Christina Guieb*
- John Paul Lowe*
- Jessica O'Neill*
- Laura O'Neill*
- Felix Sampson*
- Paige Shand*

Month of February

- Kate Collins*
- Alexandra Gower*
- Emily Janus*
- Chenice Whearty*

Month of March

- Zara Andrews-Goss*
- Francesca Zoe Griffin*
- Coco Mathieson*
- Georgia Matich*
- Francesca Sampson*
- Rachael Mary Wiltshire*

Month of April

- Eustacia Hughes*
- Michelle Keating*
- Karen Kotze*

