

A Magical Evening

Trustees and staff were shocked, amazed and highly entertained when one of New Zealand's most highly skilled magicians brought his 'Magic Touch' to a farewell dinner for two of the Trustees at Shed 5 in Wellington last week.

[Jonathan Usher](#) is a Dunedin based Rotary Board member of the J R McKenzie Trust and everyone was delighted when he agreed to show us some of his most famous tricks at this important event: dollar notes multiplied in value, beer was poured from empty cans into full glasses, balloons were swallowed and ropes were split and joined with speed and flair.

The occasion marked the retirement from the Board of Liz Tanielu and Charisma Rangipunga, both of whom are reluctant resignees, but multiple pressures of work in other areas of their lives means they can no longer give the time and energy required of board members serving on the J R McKenzie Trust. In thanking Liz for her time on the Board, Chairperson Patrick Cummings, referred to the work she had done to guide Trustees towards a stronger focus on Pasifika aspirations in our grantmaking. Liz replied that she had really valued her time on the Trust and appreciated the commitment the Trustees and staff had demonstrated towards increasing the number of applications from Pasifika groups, and wished everyone well on this partnership journey.

Charisma, in thanking Patrick for his heartfelt words delivered in te reo Māori spoke of her passion for increasing Te Reo amongst the rangitahi of Ngāi Tahu in her roles as General Manager, Te Tamatua for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and with Te Taura Whiri (the Māori Language Commission). She also encouraged the Board to listen to the younger voices in our communities and perhaps invite that voice to the Board table.

