

# The Kiwis do it again

New Zealand annual event raises RM200,000 for charity

**O**NCE again the New Zealand Annual Dinner and Dance proved to be a success by raising RM200,000 through table sales alone for the MyKasih Foundation.

The event attended by more than 800 people saw main sponsor Dialog Group Bhd purchasing almost half the available tables and its executive chairman Ngau Boon Keat, who is also the foundation's founder and chairman credited with convincing others to support the event as well.

MyKasih currently provides 8,580 recipient families with financial aid in a unique way by allowing them to purchase their own essential goods at participating stores using their MyKads.

The foundation helps the poor and needy build self-esteem and regain their dignity in addition to providing skills training, workshops and tuition classes for children.

Among those who attended were International Trade and Industry secretary general Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Mamat and New Zealand High Commissioner to Malaysia David Kersey.

Organiser Malaysia New Zealand Chamber of Commerce chairman Richard Tankersley said that they were formed in 1992 and had two local chapters.

"Due to the support of our sponsors, particularly Dialog Group Bhd, we have been bringing in international performers since 2002 that helps draw in the crowd," he said.

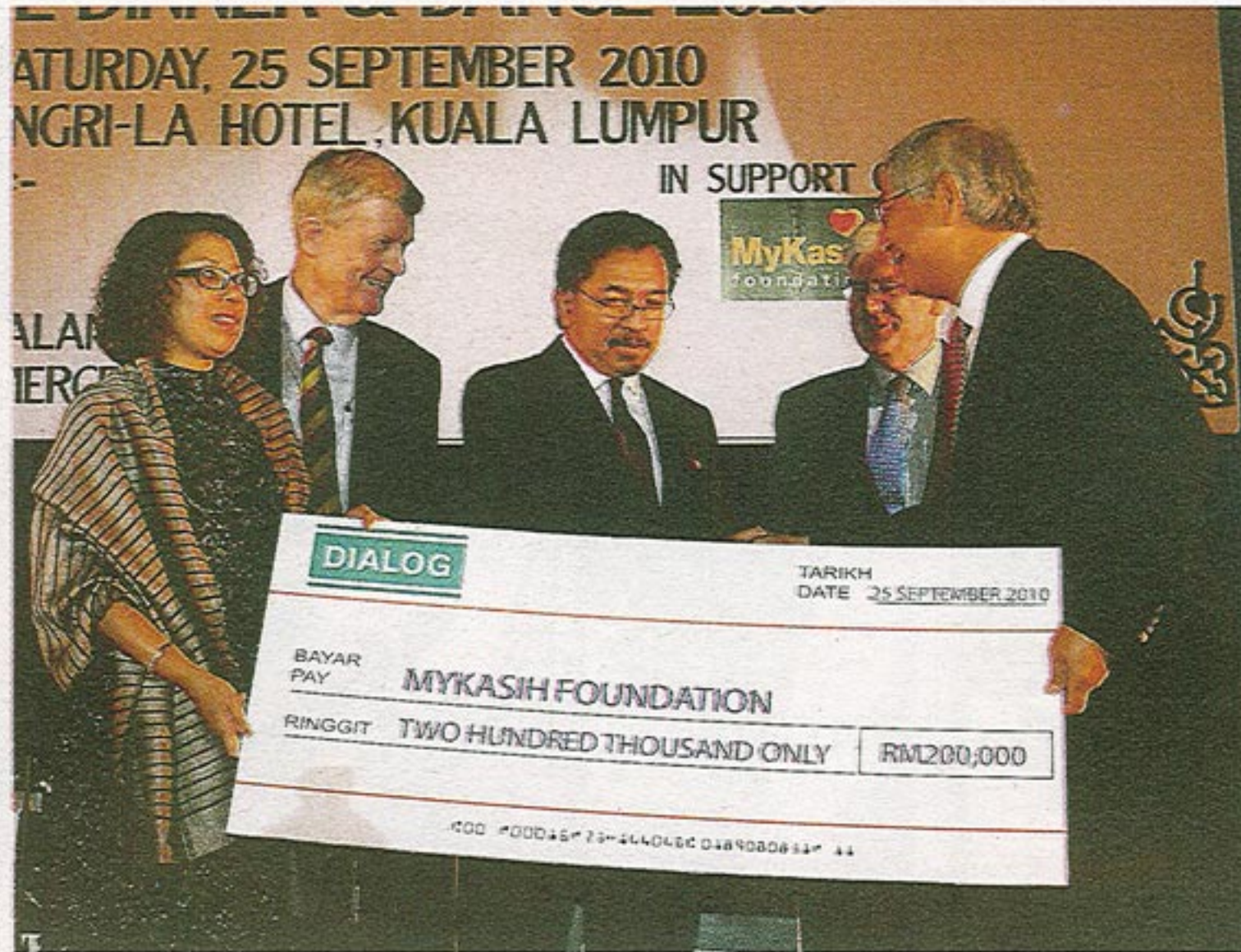
»We have been bringing in international performers since 2002 that helps draw in the crowd«

RICHARD TANKERSLEY

This year, the main act was The Lady Killers, who are considered New Zealand's top female group – performing pop, jazz to rock'n'roll.

Guests also enjoyed a four-course dinner starting with an Auckland appetiser of corn-fed chicken, cottage cheese and kiwi salsa followed by Nelson soup using New Zealand's green lip mussel and a choice of salmon or lamb with a Wellington dessert consisting of pavlova, fruits and mango-lime sorbet.

The event held at Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur saw elegantly dressed guests taking in the free flow of New Zealand wines, beer, kiwi juice and other beverages as well as participating in auctions and lucky draws.



**Thank you:** (From right) Ngau shaking hands with Kersey, Abdul Rahman and Tankersly after receiving the mock cheque for RM200,000 on behalf of MyKasih Foundation.



**Fierce warriors:** A group of youth performing an energetic Maori dance for the crowd.