



**THE
BALNAVES
FOUNDATION**

BE BOLD BE BRAVE
ANNUAL REPORT
2018 - 2019 FY



The Balnaves Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation established in 2006 by Neil Balnaves AO.

The Foundation aims to create a better Australia through education, medicine and the arts with a focus on young people, the disadvantaged and Indigenous Australia.

Since 2006, The Balnaves Foundation has dispersed over \$26 million.

26

Grants

9

New grants

20

Multi-year grants

**\$2,500 -
\$250,000**

Range of grants

\$2,891,187

Distributed

\$110,000

Average grant size

GRANT PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2018 - 2019 FY

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL 2018-19 FY commitment **\$75,000**

The Balnaves Foundation supported the presentation of Gravity and other Myths' production of Out of Chaos including 261 'Pay What You Can' tickets for people at significant economic disadvantage. Out of Chaos won the 2019 Helpmann Award for Best Physical Theatre Production.

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Multi-year commitment **\$480,000**

The Balnaves Foundation supports Neo the Art Gallery of South Australia's teenage engagement program, which delivered six dedicated teen exclusive events in 2018 that reached over 1,810 young people.

BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE Multi-year commitment **\$330,000**

Bangarra's Community Nights initiative, supported by The Balnaves Foundation, enabled Dark Emu (based on Bruce Pascoe's influential book) to be accessed by 1,925 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

BELVOIR Multi-year commitment **\$330,000**

The Balnaves Foundation supports Indigenous productions at Belvoir and the Balnaves Fellowship. In 2018, the Fellowship was won by Kodie Bedford, and in 2019 the Indigenous productions, Barbara and the Camp Dogs and Winyanboga Yurringa attracted an audience of 25,947. Barbara and the Camp Dogs also won four 2019 Helpmann Awards for Best Musical, Best Original Score, Best Female Actor in a Musical and Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical.

GUARDIAN CIVIC JOURNALISM TRUST Multi-year commitment **\$300,000**

Guardian Australia through the Guardian Civic Journalism Trust, supported by The Balnaves Foundation, undertook in-depth reporting on Indigenous affairs including stories on: HTLV-1 virus, child protection, deaths in custody, colonial massacres and the water crisis. The Killing Times earned Guardian Australia a Walkley Award for Excellence in Journalism.

LEGS ON THE WALL Multi-year commitment **\$195,000**

Legs On The Wall undertook the creative development, production and presentation of a new work, The Man with the Iron Neck supported by The Balnaves Foundation. The production premiered at Brisbane Festival in 2018 to a standing ovation and then toured to Sydney Festival and Adelaide Festival before going on a national regional tour.

MENZIES SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH Multi-year commitment **\$2.5 million**

The Balnaves Foundation supports the Hearing for Learning Initiative, a ground-breaking five-year partnership combining public and private funding to solve the ear health and education crisis in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA Multi-year commitment **\$420,000**

National Gallery of Australia, supported by The Balnaves Foundation, introduced the Balnaves Contemporary Series. The Series involves contemporary artists

disrupting and transforming spaces throughout the Gallery. In 2018, the exhibiting artists were Sarah Contos, Jess Johnson and Simon Ward. The works were seen by over 346,000 visitors, and the Johnson and Ward work was the first virtual reality work acquired by the National Gallery of Australia.

WESTERN SYDNEY LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT Multi-year commitment **\$441,000**

The Balnaves Foundation supports the Unwired Mental Health Project, a three-year initiative that will test the use of wearable e-health devices to improve outcomes in young people with severe mental illness.

In 2018 - 2019, The Balnaves Foundation also supported: Art Gallery of New South Wales, Darwin Festival, EnsembleTheatre, Garvan Institute, Kaldor Public Art Projects, McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art, National Association of Visual Artists, Pembroke School, Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival, Philanthropy Australia, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney Dance Company, Sydney Peace Prize, Sydney Story Factory, TarraWarra Museum of Art and the University of New South Wales.



OUR ADVOCACY

The Balnaves Foundation has a broad and pro-active approach to philanthropy. Philanthropy is not just about giving money - it is also about giving time, support and guidance, strategic thinking and advocacy. The Trustees choose to be vocal about the Foundation's giving with the intention to promote Australia's culture of giving. They also believe that philanthropy can make a significant contribution to creating a better Australia by engaging in advocacy, which can hold government to account, and create change by bringing issues of importance into the national conversation.

In March and May 2019, The Balnaves Foundation developed and funded a campaign leading up to the NSW election, and in partnership with the National Association of Visual Artists leading up to the Federal election in The Australian, inviting people to "consider our cultural future" when they vote. In June 2019, the Foundation made a commitment to a collective response from the philanthropic community in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including an Open Letter from Philanthropy to the First Nations of Australia that was published in the Australian Financial Review.

The Foundation is particularly interested in supporting organisations, projects and programs that push the boundaries of the status quo, pilot new approaches, shed light on untold stories or give voice to the under-represented, to create a more engaged, empowered and represented society.

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY

The corpus of The Balnaves Foundation is invested in a diverse portfolio including Australian and overseas shares, and property. The portfolio is managed by an investment sub-committee which is overseen by Trustees of the Foundation.

	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017
Net assets as at 30 June	\$59.5M	\$57.8M	\$43.9M
Grant distributions	\$2.89M	\$2.19M	\$2.04M
Cumulative grant distributions since 2006	\$26.8M	\$23.9M	\$21.7M
Operating expenses as a % of net assets as at 30 June	1.23%	1.45%	1.35%

WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN GRANT PARTNERS

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS

Passionate, driven, ambitious and the capacity to deliver

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Where positive outcomes reach beyond the immediate activity

DEEP ENGAGEMENT

The opportunity to add value beyond the financial

STRONG COMMITMENT

From an organisation and its leaders, to the project or program

“You get nowhere standing still. Nothing takes care of itself; you have to fight to keep things alive. Our society, our culture, is all ongoing work. We have to keep opening up space for new people, new communities. We have to make sure there is a place for everyone in our national story. The only way to do that is to keep telling all our stories, old and new.”

Eamon Flack
Artistic Director Belvoir

“Investigative journalism is, by its nature, bold and brave. It requires risk, commitment and persistence. Telling the truth isn't easy and it isn't always welcome. With The Killing Times, Guardian Australia decided to look into the nation's massacre history - not just the shocking statistics that tell the true story of how this land was settled, but the human stories of descendants trying to come to terms with their inheritance - descendants of perpetrators and survivors alike. This is challenging content but necessary to the nation's commitment to truth-telling and capacity to move forward, reconciled.”

Lorena Allam
Indigenous Affairs Editor
Guardian Australia

“Being bold and brave is fundamental to our commitment to justice, equity and diversity. It is through ambitious and generous collaborations with philanthropy that we will address the unacceptable areas of inequality in society. The Balnaves Foundation's support of scholarships for our Indigenous medical students and the historic Uluru Dialogue work undertaken at our Indigenous Law Centre will have a lasting effect on achieving the fairer society to which we aspire.”

Ian Jacobs
President and Vice-Chancellor UNSW Sydney

“We expect our artists to be bold and brave. We seek work that moves us and experiences that astound us. We want artists to be able to work with confidence in professional and political conditions that are ambitious and fair. This means being ready to stand up with a clear, strong voice when those conditions are jeopardised. To stand up not just for artists, but for everyone, because the work of artists is a public good.”

Esther Anatolitis
Executive Director
National Association of Visual Artists (NAVA)



THE TEAM

Neil Balnaves AO
Founder

Hamish Balnaves
Chief Executive Officer

Katy Tyrrell
Grants Manager

Kirsty de la Motte
Executive Assistant to CEO

Jeanmaree Furtado
Finance Manager

Harmony Young
Team Assistant



THE TRUSTEES

Neil Balnaves AO
Founder

Diane Balnaves

Alexandra Balnaves
(vale)

Hamish Balnaves

Victoria Balnaves

Philip Arber

Keith Drewery

Caillean Honor

Brad McIntosh

CONTACT US

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Photo credits: Sydney Dance Company New Breed
2019, choreographer Josh Mu. Image Pedro Greig, Art
Gallery of South Australia Neo 2019. Image Nat Rogers.

VALE ALEXANDRA BALNAVES

With much sadness the Foundation lost one of its main contributors and Trustees in 2019. Alexandra's contribution to the Foundation will be greatly missed. She was a passionate advocate for the Indigenous community, people with a disability, the environment and access to education for all. It is expected her children, Caillean and Leith, will make a valued contribution to the Foundation over the years to come.