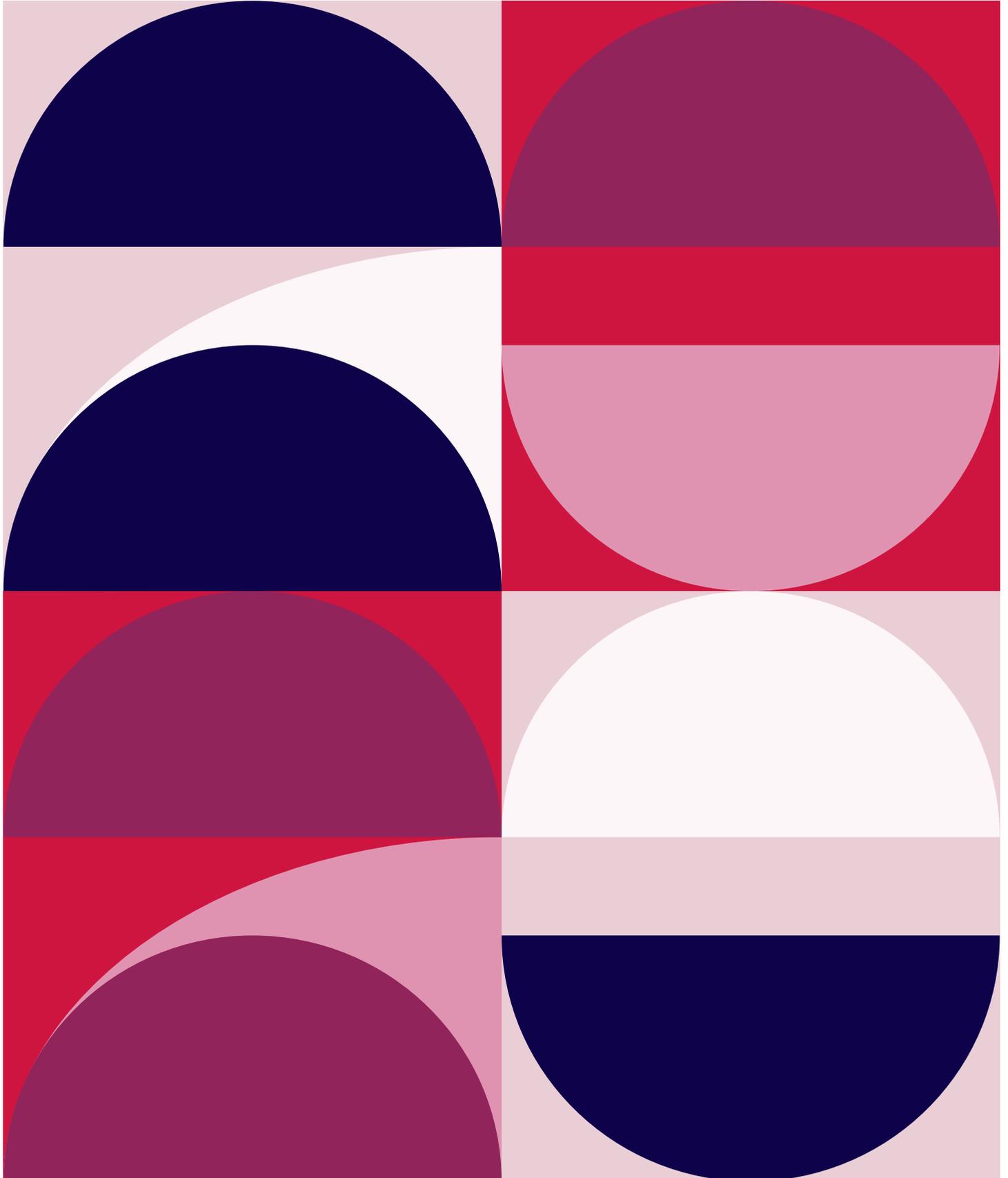


Investing in a
Better Australia

—
Annual Report
2020



Welcome

Neil Balnaves AO

Founder

The last financial year has certainly presented philanthropy with a unique set of problems. The demand for support in many sectors increased at the same time that returns on a Foundation's investments decreased. This, coupled with the national and international impact of COVID-19, will create pressures for the next few years.

It is through forming and strengthening relationships with successful and innovative partners in education, medicine and the arts that we see positive benefits to society. By deep engagement we know we can work collaboratively towards achieving long-term positive impact.

We are strong advocates and continue to promote the importance of the arts and culture to all Australians. It is the soul of our country and what defines us as a society, while its contribution to the economy is enormous. This was no more evident than the global pandemic crisis seen in the second half of the year that saw venues across Australia close their doors to the public. We were pleased to offer additional assistance to the organisations we have supported and worked with for many years.

The Balnaves Foundation is proud to continue to foster and support emerging creative talent, and make arts and culture in all forms accessible to all Australians.

I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the excellent work from all the team at The Balnaves Foundation and the support of the Trustees during the past year.



Hamish Balnaves

CEO

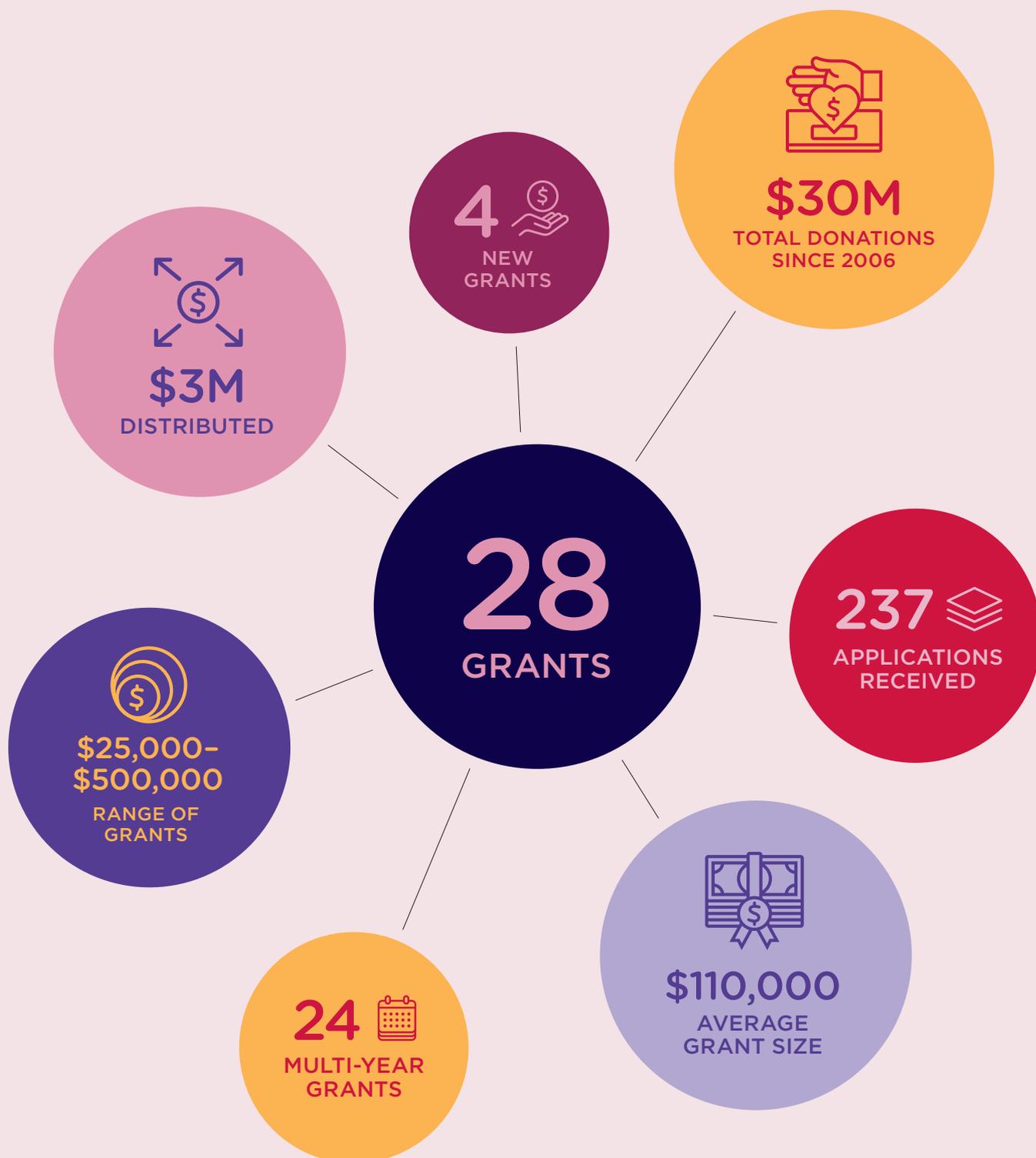
I am pleased to report that our financial commitment has increased again, from \$2.8m to \$3m in the 2020 Financial Year.

COVID-19 adversely affected all our grant partners, especially the organisations we support in the performing arts sector. We were impressed with how those affected were able to quickly and creatively adapt and rework their programs. One example is the MCA's Kids and Families program that was due to start just when museums closed. They successfully delivered an online alternative for its school holiday program and continued to connect with preschoolers on a weekly basis.

One important grant I would like to comment on, that also features in this report, is a new grant to appoint Professor Megan Davis, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous and Professor of Law at the University of NSW, as the Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law. Megan Davis was one of the key indigenous leaders who consulted with Indigenous communities nationally and gained consensus for the wording of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. This grant will enable her to continue that momentum and advocate for a voice to parliament, truth telling and treaty. The grant is in memory of my older sister, Alexandra Balnaves, who sadly passed away in 2019. Alexandra was a passionate advocate for Indigenous rights.



Financial Year 2019-2020



Current Grants

Art Gallery NSW

Multi-year commitment

The *Edmund Capon Fellowship* is an initiative of The Balnaves Foundation, named after former Art Gallery of NSW Director and Asian art expert Edmund Capon. Initially, the Fellowship enabled one AGNSW staff member, chosen from curators, conservators, educators and exhibition managers, to travel to an Asian museum each year, and one museum professional brought to Sydney in return, for up to four weeks. Following Edmund's passing, additional funds were raised from other supporters and a healthy endowment can now fund the program in perpetuity, expanded to include museums in other parts of the world and a third fellowship.

Black Dog Institute

Multi-year commitment

The Foundation has made a three-year commitment to support *BEAM: Building Educator's skills in Adolescent Mental Health*. The project will deliver mental health training to secondary school year advisors in NSW to increase their knowledge of youth mental health and build confidence in their ability to support students.

Ensemble Theatre

Multi-year commitment

Founded in 1958, Ensemble Theatre is the longest continuously running professional theatre in Australia. Ensemble Theatre is committed to performing and presenting the best of international plays, well-loved classics and new Australian works. The Balnaves Foundation supports capacity building to promote Ensemble Theatre's vision to create diverse, accessible live theatre of the highest quality. The Foundation has funded marketing, PR, communications and advertising that has substantially contributed to building brand awareness and increasing audience numbers.

In January 2020, The Foundation was proud to support *Black Cockatoo*, a new Australian play written by iconic Australian screen writer, Geoffrey Atherden, with an all First Nations cast and director. The critically acclaimed play was produced by Ensemble Theatre in partnership with the Sydney Festival.

Garvan Institute

Multi-year commitment

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women in Australia and the second leading cause of cancer related death. The Foundation is supporting a comprehensive approach to identifying and evaluating new therapies for patients with treatment-resistant breast cancer. The aims of this project are to partner with patients, to identify biological mechanisms underlying resistance to endocrine therapies in breast cancer and establish a clinical trial platform to evaluate potential new treatments.

Story Factory

Multi-year commitment

Art, Write, Light represents Story Factory's collaborative creative writing project supported by The Balnaves Foundation. Over three years, the project will bring together three emerging artists, three video design artists and over 600 disadvantaged young people from across Western Sydney in a vibrant collision of creative writing and contemporary art mediums. Young people, artists and storytellers will each teach, grow, and learn from, and alongside, one another as they collaborate to create truly spectacular original works.

Art Gallery of South Australia

Multi-year commitment

The Balnaves Foundation continued its commitment of celebrating contemporary Australian art as Principal Donor of the *Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art 2020*, this year marking the exhibition's 30th anniversary.

The Foundation also funds Neo, a program for teenagers that welcomes them to explore the Gallery and connect with art in an environment that supports ongoing interest and ongoing engagement.



1. Aaron McGrath as Johnny Mullagh, *Black Cockatoo*, Ensemble Theatre

Sydney Dance Company

Multi-year commitment

The support from The Foundation has enabled Sydney Dance Company to commission an array of talented young and upcoming choreographers for the *New Breed* program. Showcasing a rich diversity of choreographic ideas, brand new works are created and performed by the dancers of Sydney Dance Company.

UNSW The Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law

Multi-year commitment

Professor Megan Davis, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous and Professor of Law at UNSW Sydney, has been named the Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law endowed by The Balnaves Foundation. Professor Davis' priorities are to provide the academic rigour needed to inform development of proposals for constitutional amendment and the institutional design of a voice to Parliament, as well as the foundations of a future Makarrata Commission as set down in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law is a gift in honour of Alexandra Balnaves, who passed away in April 2019. Alexandra was the daughter of Diane and Neil Balnaves AO, sister to Hamish and Victoria Balnaves and mother to Caillean and Leith Honor.

"Megan's work in constitutional reform was very important to Alexandra. It gives us great pleasure to support this ongoing effort in a way that Alexandra would have wholeheartedly embraced," Neil Balnaves AO said.



2. Neo: Colourverse, AGSA



3. Bungul, Adelaide Festival (Tix For Next To Nix Program)

Adelaide Festival

Multi-year commitment

The Foundation is pleased to continue its partnership with Adelaide Festival in delivering art of the highest quality to Australian audiences. This year, our support extended to the Open House access program including the Pay What You Can program, providing access to the transformative power of art to the underprivileged in South Australian communities.

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Multi-year commitment

Each year, The Foundation funds *Community Nights* across the country, a series of special performances for indigenous community members to access Bangarra's shows at a discounted price.

Bangarra's relationships with indigenous communities are the heart of the company, and Community Nights are an important component of 'giving back', paying respect and honouring the community relationships that are the foundation blocks of the organisation.

Belvoir

Multi-year commitment

The Balnaves Foundation continues its support of Indigenous productions at Belvoir. Over the last nine years, seven new works have been commissioned contributing to Belvoir's leadership in producing Indigenous work. The Foundation is also committed to continuing the Balnaves Fellowship which is awarded to an Indigenous playwright, writer/director or director.

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

Multi-year commitment

Since 2005, The Balnaves Foundation has supported the Museum of Contemporary Art to develop and grow programs that introduce the younger generation to the world of contemporary art. This year, the Foundation made a five-year commitment to support the Kids and Families Programs. These programs offer creative opportunities for families to discover contemporary art and enjoy playful learning experiences together.

The Guardian

Multi-year commitment

The Foundation has committed to fund a reporter who focuses on indigenous affairs and produces in-depth investigative journalism with national significance.

The Foundation has announced its agreement to fund an additional journalist for a period of three years which will allow The Guardian to commission important stories delving into the issues in Australia's arts sector.

Kaldor Public Art Projects

Multi-year commitment

Since 1969, Kaldor Public Art Projects has brought ground breaking contemporary international artists to Australia to create unique and often site-specific works. The Foundation continues its support of Kaldor Public Art Projects' core operations, ensuring the future of these exciting projects becomes a reality and remains free to the public.

Menzies School of Health Research

Multi-year commitment

Indigenous ear health remains at a crisis point in remote Australia, with the heaviest burden in the Northern Territory. The *Hearing for Learning Initiative* is a ground-breaking 5-year partnership combining public and private funding to solve this serious health and education problem.

Current Grants

National Gallery of Australia

Multi-year commitment

The Foundation supports a series of art interventions which involves contemporary artists disrupting and transforming spaces throughout the Gallery, presenting daring, large-scale experiences of contemporary art. Contemporary intervention projects give the NGA the opportunity to engage directly with living artists, to reach out to younger audiences through targeted programs related to each intervention and to provoke conversation about what constitutes art within our current audience.

Pembroke School

Multi-year commitment

The Balnaves Foundation funded the construction of the *Arts, Technology, and Science Precinct* in the new Shipsters Road Building. Students occupied the building in July 2019. This 'state of the art' facility will provide new contemporary teaching spaces that will set a new standard for learning.

TarraWarra Museum of Art

Multi-year commitment

The Foundation supports the annual summer retrospective exhibition at TarraWarra, a visual arts museum located in the Yarra Valley, Victoria. The Summer Season exhibition program shines a light on artists held in the collection, by presenting well researched and original perspectives on modern and contemporary Australian artists.

St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Multi-year commitment

Since 2004, the Foundation has supported ongoing research under the direction of Professor Andrew Carr, a clinical immunologist with over 25 years' experience in clinical research.

Current research being undertaken is a study of the peanut allergy, an Australian first that aims to demonstrate that peanut desensitisation can be achieved in adults as in children.

The Foundation also supports the Sydney Paediatric and Adult Allergy Research Network (SPAAN). This network focuses on specialist care for complex patients while fostering research to develop better treatment strategies to create clinically meaningful outcomes for patients.

University of NSW

Multi-year commitment

This is a long-term project supported by the Foundation to grow a cohort of indigenous doctors to assist in closing the gap in indigenous health. The Balnaves scholars will graduate with acutely developed critical thinking, problem solving and advocacy capabilities, with a deep understanding of the systemic barriers and inequities Indigenous Australians face.

Western Sydney Local Health District

Multi-year commitment

The Foundation supports the *unWIRED Mental Health Project*, a multi-year initiative testing the use of wearable e-health devices to improve outcomes in young people with severe mental illness. The collated data will be analysed using advanced methodology in order to develop a personalised treatment plan to identify what constitutes a relapse for each patient.



4. Beatrice by Julia Robinson, 2020
Adelaide Biennial
of Australian Art

Finance & Investment Summary

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

	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018
 Net assets as at 30 June	\$51m	\$60m	\$58m
 Grant distributions	\$3m	\$2.9m	\$2.2m
 Cumulative grant distributions since 2006	\$30m	\$27m	\$24m
 Operating expenses as a % of net assets as at 30 June	1.31%	1.24%	1.12%

Highlights of 2020

Winner of Walkley Journalism Award

Lorena Allam, the Indigenous Affairs Editor at the Guardian (funded by The Balnaves Foundation), won a 2019 Walkley award and also the digital category in the 2019 NSW Premier's History Prize, for her 'The Killing Times' stories.

New Breed sets attendance record

Sydney Dance Company's 2019 'New Breed' program, funded by The Balnaves Foundation, sold a record number of tickets, with attendance figures 90% higher than when it commenced in 2014.

Kaldor Public Arts Projects celebrates 50 years

A major retrospective exhibition was held to acknowledge the outstanding contribution John Kaldor has made to the Australian contemporary arts scene, celebrating over fifty years of Kaldor Public Art Projects.

The Balnaves Foundation supports Referendum

Professor Megan Davis, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous and Professor of Law at UNSW, was named Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law, enabling Megan to focus her energy on a referendum to enshrine a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution.

The Drover's Wife to hit the big screen

In 2019 The Balnaves Foundation invested in the full-length feature film 'The Drover's Wife', written by and starring Leah Purcell. This is particularly exciting for the Foundation as it funded the stage version of this work at Belvoir Theatre in 2016, and prior to that Leah won the 2014 Balnaves Foundation Indigenous Playwright's Award for the same work. A book adaptation was released in 2019 and the film will be screened in 2021.

The Trustees

Neil Balnaves AO Founder
Diane Balnaves
Hamish Balnaves
Victoria Balnaves
Dr Philip Arber
Caillean Honor
Dr Brad McIntosh

The Team

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Kirsty de la Motte
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5. Balnaves family and Megan Davis holding the original Uluru Statement From The Heart

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