

ESTEEMED LEADERS IN PHILANTHROPY, BUSINESS AND CULTURE HONOURED AT CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Six exemplary individuals from Australia's philanthropic, business and arts sectors were tonight celebrated at the 2018 **Creative Partnerships Awards** in Sydney.

The awards are a celebration and recognition of the leaders who have made outstanding contributions to Australia's cultural life. These champions have used their vision to foster enduring partnerships between cultural and private sectors to support the arts.

The **Creative Partnerships Awards** are happy to announce the following winners:

- **Arts Leadership | Richard Gill AO**, whose humble beginnings as a music teacher led him to become a world-renowned composer. His advocacy for music education has seen him working closely with students from Darwin, Armidale, New Zealand and as far as rural China.
- **Business Leadership | Adrian Fini OAM** has been at the forefront of delivering affordable housing and exciting urban spaces to Western Australians for over thirty years. Adrian has recently donated \$150,000 to the Perth International Arts Festival to fund new arts programs.
- **Emerging Philanthropist | Joint winner | Mark Rubbo OAM** and his independent retail chain, *Readings*, have contributed enormously to Victorian literacy programs. The *Readings Foundation* has donated more than \$700,000 to community and school programs in as little as five years.
- **Emerging Philanthropist | Joint winner | Beau Neilson** has followed in the footsteps of her mother, Judith Neilson, and forged her own path in arts patronage with donations to the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Sydney Dance Company, and as a trustee of the Neilson Foundation.
- **Philanthropy Leadership | Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax** have a significant and enduring legacy of philanthropy for the arts. Their *Tim Fairfax Family Foundation* has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to galleries and foundations over the last fifty years, and their contributions have recently extended to *A World View: The Tim Fairfax Gift*—a long-running exhibition that aims to bring works by leading international artists to Queensland.

The general public were invited to nominate individuals by answering a few simple questions to determine whether they fit this year's criteria. Nominees were chosen from across the country for their leadership, advocacy and continuing commitment to supporting the arts. The winners were determined by the Creative Partnerships Australia Board.

In the private sector, total support for the arts has grown from \$221.1 million in 2009-10 to somewhere between 267.5 million and \$279.8 million in 2015—2016¹. In 2016, revenue from donations, corporate sponsorship and fundraising events in Australia's major performing arts sector grew by 15.2 per cent in 2016, increasing by \$12.6 million to a total of \$95.7 million. This represents the largest percentage increase since 2011².

This is the third year the awards scheme by Creative Partnerships Australia has run. The awards embrace the legacy of the Australian Business Arts Foundation Awards, which celebrated excellence in partnerships and private sector support to the arts for more than a decade.

Creative Partnerships CEO Fiona Menzies said, "Australia's arts landscape is truly one of the best in the world. But a vibrant, sustainable and diverse arts culture like ours calls for enduring support from all levels of government, business and individuals who share a vision and passion for the arts."

¹ *Private Sector Support for the Arts in Australia*, Bureau of Communications and Arts Research, 2017

² *Tracking Changes in Corporate Sponsorship and Donations*, Australian Major Performing Arts Group (AMPAG), 2017.

"Each of the winners for this year's awards have been selected not only for their contribution to arts partnerships, but also because of their passion for the arts and their desire to encourage others to share in that passion. I congratulate them on their commitment and leadership in supporting the arts," she added.

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WINNER BIOS

Richard Gill, AO | Arts Leadership Award

Richard Gill AO, Founding Music Director and Conductor Emeritus of Victorian Opera, is one of Australia's pre-eminent and most admired conductors specialising in opera, musical theatre and vocal and choral training and is internationally respected as a music educator. Richard's work in developing young musicians and creating opportunities for them is recognised world-wide. Richard has been Artistic Director of the Education Program for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Artistic Director of OzOpera, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and Artistic Advisor for the Musica Viva Education program. He is currently Music Director of Sydney Chamber Choir, Artistic Director of the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra (ARCO) and is the Founder and Director of the National Music Teacher Mentoring Program. Most recently, Richard Gill has had the honour of being appointed to a personal chair. The international law firm, King & Wood Mallesons, has endowed a chair in music education at the Conservatorium High School, secondary arm of the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney. Richard is the inaugural *King & Wood Mallesons Conservatorium Chair in Music Education*.

Adrian Fini OAM | Business Leadership Award

Adrian Fini is a widely respected businessman and philanthropist who has actively championed the arts to the corporate sector, government and the community in Western Australia, contributing significantly to the future sustainability of the State's arts sector. Adrian has been involved in property investment, development, and construction in Western Australia since 1980. He is currently Director of FJM Property Pty Ltd and Fini Group Pty Ltd. This year Adrian's outstanding achievements as a businessman and property developer were acknowledged with an honorary doctorate from The University of Western Australia, recognising his contribution to WA and commitment to community. Adrian was also named the 2016 Western Australian of the Year. This award also acknowledged Adrian's significant contribution to the WA community through his work as a philanthropist and his roles as a Board Member of the University of Western Australia Business School, Perth International Arts Festival, and former Chair of the Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation. In addition, Adrian has been recognised specifically for his service to the arts in Western Australia, receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014. His roles in the arts have always involved the championing of business arts partnerships, including his tenure as Chair of the Western Australian Chapter of Creative Partnerships Australia. In November 2017, Adrian was awarded the title of Honorary Arts Patron of the Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation, in recognition of the significant and lasting impact he has made on the Art Gallery of Western Australia through his roles as a Board Member, Chair of the TomorrowFund and Chair of the Foundation Council.

Mark Rubbo OAM | Emerging Philanthropy Leadership Award

Mark Rubbo is Managing Director of Readings. He is a past president of the Australian Booksellers Association and was founding chair of the Melbourne Writers Festival. In 2006 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia, 'for service to the community through fostering an awareness of Australian literature as a bookseller, literary critic, and promoter and supporter of Australian writers.' Mark was the owner of Lygon Street's Professor Longhairs' Music Shop when he bought Readings Carlton bookshop in 1976, along with partners Greg Young and Steve Smith (who owned the South Yarra Record Collector and ran a mail-order music business respectively). In 1983, the shop moved to larger premises on Lygon Street and, throughout the 1980s and 1990s, business boomed, leading to a final

move in 1998 to the former Commonwealth Bank building across the road. Mark Rubbo established the Readings Foundation in 2009, and is currently on the board of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Beau Neilson | Emerging Philanthropy Leadership Award

Beau Neilson is a deeply committed arts philanthropist who is making a significant contribution to the arts in Australia. Beau grew up in a culture of giving. Her father, Sydney billionaire Kerr Neilson, and mother, art patron Judith Neilson, give to a number of causes and set up the White Rabbit Gallery in Chippendale. Beau is on the board of the Neilson Foundation which has distributed over \$70m to museums and arts organisations across Australia since its inception in 2007. In recent years, Beau has been more actively involved in the Neilson Foundation, establishing the Foundation's website and connecting directly with many of the 45 different arts organisations and charities that the Foundation supports. Beau joined the Board of Sydney Dance Company in 2015 (currently its youngest member) and is a key driver in the Company's commitment to engaging with a younger donor base and making strategic connections among other creative industries. Beau is on the Nominations Committee and has been influential in shaping the Board's succession and regeneration strategies. Through the Neilson Foundation, Beau has made a major contribution to Sydney Dance Company's Capital Campaign. The Neilson Foundation is a lead donor in the Campaign and its support has been instrumental in achieving 97% of a \$7M target since it launched in 2017. Beau is a Founding member of MCA's young ambassadors program and personally supports a range of other arts companies including the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney Festival, Sydney Theatre Company and Gallery 4A.

Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax | Philanthropy Leadership Award.

Tim Fairfax AC

Timothy (Tim) Fairfax AC has been a Member of the National Gallery of Australia Council since 2011 and was Interim Chairman of the Council from March until October 2012. Mr Fairfax has been the Chairman of the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation since 2008 and is Director of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and Australian Philanthropic Services. He is the current Chancellor at the Queensland University of Technology and is President of the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation. Mr Fairfax served on the Board of the National Portrait Gallery from 2000 until 2011 and was Chairman from 2008 until 2011. Mr Fairfax is regarded as a leading advocate for philanthropy and the arts in Australia and is a highly regarded figure in the business community for his pastoral, transport and communications enterprises. Mr Fairfax became a Member of the Order of Australia in 2004 and then became a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2014 for eminent service to business and to the community, as an advocate for philanthropy and as a major supporter of the visual arts, to the promotion of higher education opportunities, and to rural and regional development programs.

Gina Fairfax

Gina is wife of businessman, pastoralist and philanthropist Tim Fairfax AC.

Gina was born in Toowoomba, Queensland. She attended secondary boarding school at Armidale, N.S.W. before becoming a Tresillian Nurse in 1969. Gina married Tim Fairfax in 1977 and have four daughters. The family lived at "Rawbelle", Monto, until moving to Brisbane in 1997.

Gina's various positions include:

- Board member of the Breast & Prostate Cancer Association of Queensland 2001.
- Board member of La Boite Theatre Company 2011
- Trustee of the Queensland Art Gallery 2014
- Trustee of the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation 2008
- Director of Rawbelle Management Pty. Ltd.
- Partner of Strathbogie Pastoral Company.

She has also been involved in various charities including Meals on Wheels, and was a volunteer at the Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane for 8 years.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AUSTRALIA

Our role is to create a culture of private sector support for the arts. We aim to grow the culture of giving, investment, partnership and volunteering, bringing donors, businesses, artists and arts organisations together to foster a more sustainable and vibrant arts sector for the benefit of all Australians.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AWARDS

Arts Leadership Award

This Award category is for an individual working in the arts and cultural sector who through leadership, advocacy, practice and example has made an exceptional contribution to Australia's cultural life; demonstrating vision, commercial acumen and strategic thinking in their engagement with donors and business, and encouraging increased giving to the arts.

Business Leadership Award

This Award category is for an individual working in the business sector who through their leadership, advocacy, practice and example has made an exceptional contribution to Australia's cultural life by fostering increased investment and engagement between business and the arts.

Emerging Philanthropy Leadership Award

This Award category is for an individual who is new to the philanthropic sector (within the last five years) and whose leadership and contribution to the arts is shaping the future of philanthropy and private giving in Australia's cultural sector.

Philanthropy Leadership Award

This Award category is for an individual, family, group, foundation or other entity that through their leadership, advocacy, practice and example has contributed significantly to the arts and encouraged philanthropic giving to the arts.