

MIRTHQUAKE FOUNDATION

GRANT IN PROGRESS

BALMAINIA

Balmainia is conceived by Nicola Lewis, a Sydney resident and professional violinist with the Sydney Opera House Orchestra. Balmainia is establishing and managing a sustainable creative hub for artistic excellence in Sydney's inner West, providing a versatile program of events by Australian and international artists that will stimulate innovation, learning and creativity for the community.

An explosion of consciousness through the energy of art.

Balmainia is a registered not-for-profit organisation with deductible gift recipient status, governed by a board.

Mirthquake Foundation has invited and received an application for funding towards the Rock Art Project as it fits the Foundation's ethos and guidelines for making grants.

Mirthquake Foundation has made an initial donation of \$2kAU, with another similar grant to be made in late March.

Balmainia is presented as follows:

GAWURA

In the language of the Aeora people Gawura is the word for whale.

GAWURA signifies powerful flowing connection and the revitalisation and birth of a new generation, as the whales return to the deep waters of Sydney and the Southern Seas.

GAWURA symbolises the relationship and connection indigenous mob members have to each other, to their ancestors, to their past and particularly to their sacred sites.

GAWURA is the indigenous totem of the land around Sydney's Callan Park, where remnant natural areas and Aboriginal cultural sites present a perfect setting to premiere Balmainia's *Rock ART* installation.

ROCK ART is a collaborative work, created by Balmainia for the benefit of the community, and environment at large.

- Awakening awareness about cetaceans and indigenous peoples in our community, with the potential of benefiting society and the environment.
- Strong indigenous acknowledgement and inclusion in programming
- Enhancing relationship development with local indigenous communities, and telling their stories
- Community involvement, providing inspiration and energy, filling a void in the local area

- Increasing awareness and engagement of younger audiences through local accessibility and inclusiveness
- Fostering artistic excellence and creativity within community, seeing these as vital to the future of our worlds - illustrating leadership with vision.
- Empowering all types of artist, and luminaries by creating a safe collaborative space dedicated to honouring their vision.
- Artistic program overlaps with health and education outcomes for community and beyond.

Producing *ROCK ART*, with its depth and breadth of vision, also helps spearhead the Balmainia initiative into being:

- supports Balmainia's vision to manifest a permanent Arts hub, with all its benefits for our community and beyond
- Promotes awareness, interest and shares vision with local government advocates, community, potential donors
- Developing a strong local audience in support of Balmainia
- An example of the value of artistic excellence and creativity, helping to share vision in an accessible and inclusive way
- Outlines the Balmainia initiatives driving elements - artistic excellence, creativity, connection to our cultural and spiritual identity, community engagement, education and mentorship, fundraising and collaborative patronage

ROCK ART is a part of *GAWURA*, a remarkable and unique Arts festival celebrating connection, proposed to take place at Callan Park in Sydney's Inner West over three days, Friday 11th October - to Sunday 13th October 2019.

ROCK ART forms the central presentation at *GAWURA*.

WHAT IS *ROCK ART*?

ROCK ART is a multi-dimensional art installation, featuring laser-illuminated photography revealing beautiful aboriginal rock etchings of whales and dolphins made thousands of years ago by indigenous Australians, sourced from around the entire coastline of Australia.

Balmainia has commissioned a series of works, offering a broader context to the installation - presenting premiere performances of music, dance with storytelling and virtual reality projections.

ROCK ART is a celebratory reflection of cetacean wisdom, and an acknowledgment of the significant power and beauty of humanity's connection to nature.

The installation affirms cetacean communications and voices, always expressed in loving and nurturing vibrations, able to connect and coordinate with other whales across oceans, projecting multi-dimensionally from the earth's surfaces - generously nurturing and balancing our environment.

ROCK ART embraces the indigenous artist's vision and mentorship - particularly in creating beautiful and inspired art, music, dance, rituals, and storytelling that is designed to strengthen community by honouring our essential connection to nature and create environmental awareness.

Balmainia sees this work as an important and valuable resource to share.

Following the premiere of *ROCK ART* at *GAWURA*, Balmainia maintains an intention to float the *ROCK ART* installation around Australia and abroad.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Commissioning celebrated photographer Peter Solness to capture images of ancient rock etchings of cetacea, using laser photography to illuminate this beautiful and profound resource.

MUSIC

Commissioning music by the eminent Australian composer Ross Edwards, local resident of Balmain. A resonating musical accompaniment to photographic imagery. Premiere performances at the installation site by leading international musicians: Alice Giles - harp, and William Barton - didgeridoo.

DANCE

Commissioning a dance work by Bangarra Dance Theatre, expressing stories of connection involving cetacea past and present. Premiere performances at the site.

STORIES TOLD

Balmainia invites indigenous Australian seers and storytellers to tell stories of meaning, illuminating the images further and opening up discussion with a broad and deep tone.

Why do the rock etchings depicting imagery of whales and dolphins exist? What significance do they have, what do they mean? What relevance do cetacea have to humanity and the earth today?

AUGMENTED REALITY

Commissioning Don Searll's, Virtual Reality artwork installation to reanimate the *GAWURA* spirit, called NEE-YAHHHH-EE (the whale word for Welcome).

Representing a metaphor for the loftier spiritual and educational hopes residing in NEE-YAHHHH-EE.

Revive Gawura - a Whale Totem Dreaming Utopian Future.

Mirthquake Foundation seeks to assist Balmainia in its need to raise the \$50kAU required for Balmainia to produce **ROCK ART**.

The funding will empower the following:

- Commissioning artists to create works, including-
- Celebrated photographer, Peter Solness - laser-photographs of rock etchings. Eminent Australian composer, Ross Edwards- a new musical composition for harp and didgeridoo.
- Distinguished musicians Alice Giles, harp and William Barton, didgeridoo to perform.
- Widely acclaimed performing arts company, Bangarra Dance Theatre - a new piece of choreography.
- Trailblazing Virtual Reality artist - Don Searle - augmented reality piece

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All legal and relevant contractual requirements between Mirthquake Foundation and Balmainia are finalised and an initial grant has been made.

IF YOU WISHE TO MAKE A DONATION **SPECIFICALLY TO GARRUWA**, PLEASE MAKE THIS CLEAR WHEN YOU DONATE.

