



Announcement

22nd August 2017

It is with great sadness that we announce that our dear friend and great benefactress Diana Ramsay AO has passed away peacefully at the age of 91 on Sunday 20th August 2017. Diana will be greatly missed; she was a wonderfully warm, generous and gracious lady who has been one of the most longstanding and admired arts philanthropists in Australia.

Diana was a member of the well-known South Australian Hamilton wine-making family and led a full and very happy life. She particularly loved the visual and performing arts, enjoyed playing golf and was a member of the South Australian State Hockey team from 1945-1947. She was happily married to James Ramsay AO for 35 years until he passed away due to ill health in 1996.

Diana and her late husband James were great benefactors to the arts and generously supported many arts organisations such as the Art Gallery of South Australia, The Australian Ballet Company, The State Opera of South Australia, The National Gallery of Australia, Adelaide Youth Orchestra's, The Helpmann Academy and many more. In 1987 they established the Ramsay Fellowship through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and Diana also supported other medical scholarships in South Australia. It is less well known that Diana's care and support extended to teens at risk and community care organisations.

Diana recognised that philanthropy was about more than just being financially generous; it also included the structured giving of her time on management boards and by being an advocate for the organisations that she cherished and supported. She happily and actively used her voice to influence and improve the wellbeing of the community where she could.

Her extraordinary philanthropy and service to the arts and the community saw Diana appointed as an Officer of The Order of Australia (AO) in 1992.

Diana was extremely proud to be the Founder of the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation which was established in 2008 and since its inception has provided grants of over \$10M to support projects in the arts, medicine and programs for youth at risk. The Foundation will continue to work within its focus areas to enrich the community in which we live now and well into the future in honour of its visionary Founder.

Through personal gifts, grants through The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and a significant bequest, James and Diana's benefaction is estimated to be worth over \$80M. A significant portion of this remains invested that will further benefit the community in perpetuity.

Diana believed that having the means to give was a privilege, which provided both her and James with great joy over the years and will continue to have significant impact on the lives of so many.