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WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA WELCOMES THE MINDEROO FOUNDATION AS MAJOR 50th ANNIVERSARY PARTNER

West Australian Opera (WAO) is delighted to announce the Minderoo Foundation has joined its 50th Anniversary celebrations as a major partner.

Carolyn Chard, General Manager, WAO, thanked Andrew and Nicola Forrest for the Minderoo Foundation's support of the state opera company in this important year and said that in 2017 West Australian Opera will perform in 'the home of opera' at His Majesty's Theatre which celebrates its 113th anniversary. "West Australian Opera is proud of its history as we celebrate 50 years trading under the same name and constitution. The contribution and engagement with the state opera company by government, patrons, leaders, corporates, donors and audience members is crucial to continuing the legacy already established by the company. The leadership of Minderoo Foundation in supporting the company is important and reflects the values of both organisations," says Ms Chard.

The Minderoo Foundation is contributing \$75,000 towards WAO's 50th Anniversary Year celebrations, with a focus on ensuring greater access across Western Australia to the Opera.

WAO 50th Anniversary events include three main stage operas, the free community event City of Perth's Opera in the Park which is simulcast to venues across WA, three regional concerts in the Pinnacles, Greenough and Valley of the Giants as well as expanded education and outreach programs. WAO will reach over 50,000 audience members across Western Australia. This reach has been made possible through partnerships with philanthropy and support from corporate organisations.

"The WA Opera is a cornerstone State arts and cultural institute. We are delighted to support the company's 50th anniversary and mission to bring opera to the community in new and inclusive ways," says Mrs Nicola Forrest, CEO of the Minderoo Foundation.

The Minderoo Foundation was established by Andrew and Nicola Forrest in 2001 and was originally known as the Australian Children's Trust. The Foundation's work was based on the mandate to give a hand up, not a hand out and that ethos remains today.

Since establishment the Foundation has supported over 250 initiatives across Australia and internationally in pursuit of a range of causes. These include fighting modern slavery, ending Indigenous disadvantage, ensuring all children in Australia thrive by five, strengthening arts, culture and community through partnerships, and attracting the world's best minds to Western Australia.

The next event on WAO's Anniversary calendar is Puccini's *Tosca* at His Majesty's Theatre from 28 March. More information at www.waopera.asn.au

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