

WAKAKIRRI

wakakirri.com

2023

FESTIVAL
MOTIF:

CHANGE



Great stories inspire change

#wakakirri

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



WAKAKIRRI ASSOCIATION INC.
WWW.WAKAKIRRI.COM

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DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION



Wakakirri 2023 was a remarkable festival that transcended the lingering Covid shadow of the past two years and rekindled the spirit of arts education. It served up a season brimming with astounding performances and captivating stories that illuminated the hearts and minds of all who participated.

As always, schools embraced the festival's ethos: "Great stories inspire change." In 2023, our signature motif was 'change,' and it proved to be an immensely popular theme, with schools presenting inspiring stories about transformation in families, the environment, reconciliation, and civil rights.

One question that echoed throughout the year was, "Are things back to normal after COVID yet?" While we are making steady progress, registrations, although not quite at pre-COVID levels, remained robust, with 228 schools participating. The effects of the pandemic continue to linger, affecting some schools' ability to register fully, but many are eager to return in 2024. The resilience and dedication of our Wakakirri community is heartwarming.

The Artist in Residence program continues to grow, reflecting the evolving landscape for teachers and schools. The uptake of this support program for school speaks to the adaptability and innovation that have become the hallmark of Wakakirri in recent years.

Our transition from a competition to a festival with awards is now complete, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Teachers appreciate that incentives remain, but the competitive edge has been replaced by a more inclusive and collaborative atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the year was the successful trial of the 'student function' at some events, replacing the traditional red carpet. This innovation allowed every student from every school to be involved, rather than just a select few who would typically attend the red carpet. I'm happy to announce that the student function will be expanded nationally in 2024, ensuring an even greater sense of inclusion and participation.

Looking ahead, we are filled with anticipation for a fantastic 2024. The Wakakirri family continues to grow and evolve, and we are committed to providing a platform where great stories continue to inspire change and foster creativity, unity, and growth in the years to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and here's to another incredible year ahead.

Adam Loxley
Festival Director



2023 WHAT A YEAR!

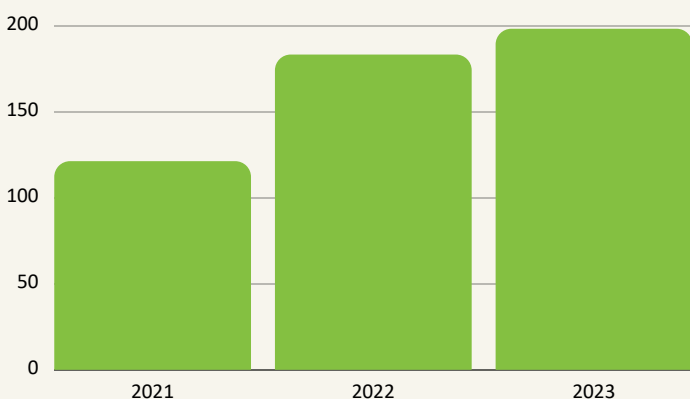
FESTIVAL SUMMARY 2023

STORY-DANCE FESTIVAL

The Wakakirri Story-Dance Festival is a national program for schools that develops student engagement and wellbeing through participation in the performing arts. Schools participate by creating Story-Dances which they perform in live theatres in capital cities and selected regional areas around Australia. Schools in remote and regional areas can participate via Wakakirri Video.

Students x 10,920 | Schools x 198

TOTAL SCHOOLS BY YEAR



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Artists in Residence program is an in-school Story-Dance creation program for schools. Whether it's for the entire school, an end-of-year concert performance, or an entry into the Wakakirri Story-Dance Festival, the AIR program offers flexibility and creativity for schools of all sizes throughout the year.

AIR Schools x 31

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

To assist schools along the way, Wakakirri provides an array of resources, including video tutorials, Zoom masterclasses, student careers online workshop, private teacher facebook group and our "secrets to success" guide. We want to ensure that every school feels supported and empowered throughout their Wakakirri journey.

FB Members x 720

NATIONAL AMBASSADORS

Wakakirri enjoys the support of some of Australia's leading industry professionals who give their time as part of our National Panel to encourage the next performing arts generation. Wakakirri Ambassadors partner with Wakakirri in various ways including participating in Performing Arts Careers Day, mentoring workshops and activities on Show Days, appearing in Waka TV, marketing and advocacy.



ANDREW MCFARLANE



EMMA WATKINS



TODD MCKENNEY



JUSTINE CLARKE



WAYNE SCOTT KERMOND



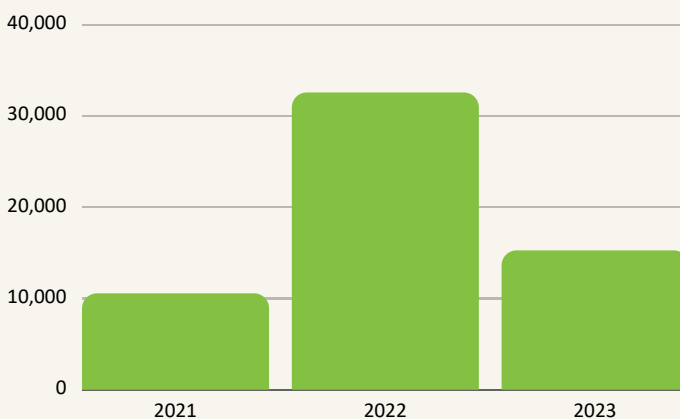
KAT HOYOS

INSPIRATION FUND

The Wakakirri Inspiration Fund raises funds to help schools in disadvantaged communities to participate in Wakakirri. Schools can apply for funding each year which can be spent on subsidising Wakakirri student participation fees. Wakakirri is a registered charity. All funds raised go directly to participating schools.

Funded Schools x 17 | Funds Allocated \$9340

FUNDS RAISED BY YEAR



PROBABLY OUR BEST REVIEW EVER!



My name is Daniel Lavercombe and I am the Wakakirri Coordinator for Toongabbie West Public School.

I wanted to write to say a big thank you for all of the effort that has been put into this year's events. This year was professional, enjoyable and ran incredibly smoothly. Organising any event of this magnitude can not be easy, let alone having to coordinate hundreds of highly excitable primary school students. This year really took it to the next level and we are very grateful for that! Additionally, the focus on enhancing this experience for the kids was noted and appreciated. The replacement of the exclusive red carpet to an all inclusive dance celebration was a brilliant idea and was a highlight for many of my students.

Events like this can only be successful with the likes of Erika at the helm. Erika was a fantastic event organiser, who was nothing short of perfect. I want to pass on that she was both professional and personable with my students. She made them feel excited, confident and she shared her personal stories of when she was a young dancer, which was very inspiring to them. She lead anequally as impressive team, who were helpful, friendly and very accommodating.

I would like to pass on some really special moments that I witnessed yesterday. This year all the schools at the state awards were very supportive of each other. We did not notice or experience any negative or ultra-competitive attitudes from students from other schools. In previous years these negative aspects were present, so I think the shift away from Wakakirri being a competition to a celebration of the arts has been a successful one. Additionally, I reiterate the sentiment I said last night in my speech that Wakakirri is doing great work in changing lives for those that may not realise they need creative arts. Last night, I had a student share with me the following:

Me: "Well done Ethan. You really rocked it in the dance battle!"

Ethan: "Mr Lavercombe I can't believe I did it. It was actually so much fun. Actually Wakakirri has been the most amazing experience because I finally don't feel scared anymore. Before Wakakirri I would get really nervous to even speak in front of my class and after joining Wakakirri I feel like I can do anything, even in front of a big audience."

It's moments like this that are the most important takeaways from this experience. Thank you so much for giving my students, and all Australian students, this empowering and exciting platform to explore their creativity.

Already looking forward to next year!
Regards,

Daniel Lavercombe

P.s I wanted to share this artwork from one of my students which is a drawing she designed of our stories' characters hanging out on the Wakakirri logo. 😊

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS 2023

It has **given me the mindset to believe** that I can potentially become a performer of some kind but not only that it has **given me the courage and support** I never thought I needed as dance was never a career choice I had thought about as I thought I was not good enough to be able to be a dancer, wakakirri however proved me wrong, the support from my peers and teachers proved me wrong.

Wakakirri **helped me to express my opinions** and choreographic ideas to my teammates and viewers of the competition without judgement.



The process was amazing and it took me to explore pathways I didn't yet know.

Wakakirri has positively affected my life ever since I have participated in it in 2022. I love it so much, and it **has supported me through some tough times** and I'm so grateful that it exists.

It has **enabled me to be a mentor** to the younger students whilst cementing friendships with my peers.

It **has made me happy** and made me let my light shine better.

Wakakirri has been the most amazing experience because I finally don't feel scared anymore. Before Wakakirri I would get really nervous to even speak in front of my class and after Wakakirri **I feel like I can do anything**, even in front of a big audience.



It really showed me **I want to perform**.

I have made new friendships with younger people and **I feel a bit more like I have leadership** in grade 5.

It has given me the chance to see that I can choreograph a good dance and **has opened my eyes** into possibly choreographing in the future.

This is probably **the best thing I've ever participated in** and the community is very supportive. I actually couldn't even speak in front of my class and after Wakakirri performances, I can do many things in front of a large audience.

Wakakirri is INCREDIBLE!!! I think being a part of Wakakirri has made me more confident, and I really hope I can do it again!!!!!!



It felt like **I was finally able to be heard** about what our school had to say about the struggles we have all faced together.

It's **helped me realise** that dance is one of my biggest dreams and ambitions.

NATIONAL AWARDS 2023



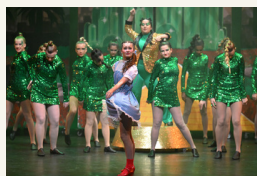
FRASER PRIMARY SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, ACT
"Little by Little"



THE SCOTS SCHOOL ALBURY
Wakakirri Secondary, ACT
"Our world is forever changing"



THORNLEIGH WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, NSW Sydney
"From A Hut to The House"



MLC SCHOOL
Wakakirri Secondary, NSW Sydney
"Beyond the Walk of Fame"



JW ACADEMY
Wakakirri Dance, NSW Sydney
"Say Hi to AI"



DAPTO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, NSW Wollongong
"A House That Once Was"



BRIGHTWATER STATE SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, QLD Sunshine Coast
"Precious Planet Earth"



CAMIRA STATE SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, QLD Brisbane
"Rosa Parks, a change for Civil Rights"



MAGGREGOR STATE HIGH SCHOOL
Wakakirri Secondary, QLD Brisbane
"The Leap"



WEIR STATE SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary Video, QLD Video
"The Gabul Gathering"



KUTTA MULLA GORINNA SPECIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOOL
Wakakirri Video, QLD
"Mary-Ann"



ST PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Wakakirri Video, QLD
"Boomerang"



ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, SA
"Be The Change"



ALDINGA PAYINTHI COLLEGE
Wakakirri Secondary, SA
"Payinthe - more than a school"



CHRISTIES BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, SA
"Learning from the Past. Changing for the Future"



JELLS PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, VIC
"Bucket"



ROSEBUD SECONDARY COLLEGE
Wakakirri Secondary, VIC
"Unfold"



HOPPERS CROSSING SECONDARY COLLEGE
Wakakirri Secondary, VIC
"Disconnect to Reconnect"



TRINITY COLLEGE
Wakakirri Secondary, WA
"The Industrial Revolution"



BRABHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, WA
"Be The Voice"

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA AWARD



The Reconciliation Australia Award presented by Reconciliation Australia is awarded for the creation of an inspired Wakakirri Story-Dance AND community work to increase respect, reduce prejudice or strengthen relationships between the wider Australian Community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA AWARD WEIR STATE SCHOOL, QLD

'The Gabul Gathering'...Discover ...ConnectBelieve

"The Weir State School National Award for Reconciliation Australia allows the fire to burn 'bright' in our embedded values threaded to being Strong, Smart and Connected. Our response to this National Award is one of pride, respect and the morale imperative within our school community to ensure our students are making strong connections through strength-based understanding of the local first nations culture. The award is affirmation our progress and success is the 'right' pathway to the next generation of young Australians moving toward a community which is united in a stronger future".

- Julie Wilson, Teacher



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA AWARD BRABHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL, WA

Be the Voice

Our story follows the journey of the voice of the First Nations peoples in Australia. In 1967, the Australian referendum restored their voice. In 2017, the Uluru Statement from the heart invited us all to walk together. In 2023, it's time for First Nations peoples to be heard.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA AWARD CHRISTIES BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL, SA

Learning From the Past. Changing For the Future.

After being racially vilified during a football match, our young footballer finds strength through the stories and actions of Key Aboriginal Leaders and knows he can be a voice for Elders and influence the future. Australia is on a journey of reconciliation and this performance acknowledges that this is only possible with the understanding, respect and support of a whole community and that there is still a long way to go.

ACT AWARDS 2023



“It was great to be a part of this seasons Wakakirri, ACT. It was great to see so much talent from all around the region and to see them enjoy themselves so much up on the stage!”
- DAVID DUNCAN, ACT Wakakirri Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD
THE SCOTS SCHOOL ALBURY
“Our world is forever changing”

Albany is a fast-growing regional city with many people of different cultures from around the world moving to the area to make the most of the growing opportunities the region offers. This is still contrasted with the multi-generational farming families, some of whom are very much stuck in old traditions and values.

“The Scots School, Albany began 2023 looking for a new venture to afford our students an opportunity to have a voice, create new teams, make new friends and connections, and exercise a love for dance. In our first year joining Wakakirri, we have all those goals met and much, much more.”

—STEWART LUCY, Teacher



NATIONAL AWARD
FRASER PRIMARY SCHOOL
“Little by Little”

Small changes make a huge difference. All it takes is one person to inspire change. 'Little by Little' sees the stories of influential people come to life as we celebrate the impact they have had.



**NATIONAL AWARD -
HIGHLY COMMENDED**
MILES FRANKLIN PRIMARY SCHOOL
“Inside Out”

We wanted to tell the story of 'inside out' as it is a fun and light-hearted way to highlight that good mental health is important but feeling negative emotions such as sadness, disgust and anger is also ok.



“The most amazing, delightful collaboration of a community was built by this year’s 15 participating schools. Support, encouragement and advice were offered across schools as Inter-school groups gathered in the backstage halls, revealing how a shared vision, fuelled by diverse voices, can ignite a community, leaving a permanent mark on everyone involved. As the Waka team danced alongside the performers in the wings, we could feel the immense love and enthusiasm radiating from the students and teachers, forever reminding us of the transformative magic of Wakakirri.”

- ANNA JOHNSTONE, ACT Show Day Coordinator

NEW SOUTH WALES AWARDS 2023



“An outstanding season of live shows in Sydney! Spectacular, fun, powerful and imaginative performances. Schools were more inclusive than ever, and I loved seeing how much it meant to the students when their representatives shared their stories after each presentation. So much fun. So inspiring!”

- SCOTT IRWIN, NSW Wakakirri Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD

THORNLEIGH WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

“From A Hut to The House”

While change is good and exciting, let us always remember who was here before us. Travel, back in time, to a rocky outcrop and a small hut. Meet people who have shaped this story of Bennelong Point.

“We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. To receive a National Award reflects many years of hard work, creative storytelling, team bonding and inspiration from our community. This year we are so proud that we could tell the story of an Australian icon, including people who have lived on, worked on and visited Bennelong Point. Thank you Wakakirri for this recognition. I’m not crying.... You are.”

—KARYN JOHNSON, Teacher



NATIONAL AWARD

DAPTO PUBLIC SCHOOL

“A House That Once Was”

A story that emphasises how important a happy, safe home is and that home is definitely where the heart is. No matter what things look like from the outside there is always something valuable and important to be found within.



“Wollongong absolutely turned it ON this season! Every school that performed showed support, diversity, encouragement and inclusiveness which is what Wakakirri is all about. I loved learning about each school and their story, seeing new schools participate and of course the seasoned professionals returning year after year.”

- KELLY GROVES, NSW Wollongong Show Day Coordinator

NEW SOUTH WALES CONTINUED



“The 2023 live season was nothing short of legendary here in NSW. It was incredible to see so many brilliant & creative story-dances grace the Sydney Waka stage & share their powerful & uplifting messages. So much credit to the teachers & principals for all of their hard work - I can't wait to welcome you all back in 2024!”

- ERIKKA MACPHERSON, NSW Sydney Show Day Coordinator



NATIONAL AWARD

MLC SCHOOL

“Beyond the Walk of Fame”

A stunning & emotional journey through the life and times of Judy Garland! A performance that reflects upon the mistreatment of women and children of the Hollywood Golden era of film, and to show the behind the scenes mistreatment of the celebrated Judy Garland.

“Receiving a National Award for our performance of Beyond the 'Hollywood Walk of Fame' signifies a profound recognition of our school's dedication to excellence in performing arts. The award acknowledges the creativity, hard work, and talent of our students and educators. This recognition serves as a testament to our holistic educational approach, where students not only excel academically but also grow as responsible global citizens, embracing diverse perspectives and making a positive impact on the world.”

—JENNA SKEPPER, teacher



NATIONAL AWARD

JW ACADEMY

“Say Hi to AI”

An immersive, precise & powerful performance foreshadowing our future with AI! We learn online and use technology more than ever, at school and in our everyday lives. It is important to understand it, not fight it and recognise the positive effects of the development of technology.

NATIONAL AWARD HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Green Point Christian College
- Hornsby South Public School
- Our Lady Of Lourdes Primary School
- Randwick Public School
- Shellharbour Public School
- Strathfield North Public School
- St Thomas More Catholic Primary School
- Tuggerah Lakes SC Tumbi Umbi Campus
- Vincentia High School
- Waverley College

QUEENSLAND AWARDS 2023



“It was so great to be a part of this years Wakakirri. The QLD schools brought such a variety of themes and creativity to the stage. It was fantastic to see. I had an absolute blast!”
- LEAH CLARK, Wakakirri QLD Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD
CAMIRA STATE SCHOOL
“Rosa Parks, a change for Civil Rights”

Rosa Parks helped initiate the Civil Rights Movement in the US when she refused to give up her seat to a white man. Her actions inspired the black community and began the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

“Camira State School has never made it this far through the Wakakirri awards, so we are over the moon. Hard work truly does pay off! Our country is heading for some “change” and without people showing courage and inspiring others to stand up, like Rosa, racism would have never changed. Wakakirri has created an amazing platform for storytelling. We were honoured and humbled to even be considered for a National Award.”

—Jane Smith, teacher



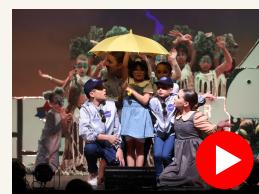
“The QLD season of Wakakirri this year was joyous and built a lovely sense of community. Across the two venues on the Sunshine Coast and Logan we welcomed many new schools alongside a cohort of die-hard Wakakirri schools that have been part of the showcases for 20 years.”

- JACOB WATTON, QLD Show Day Coordinator



NATIONAL AWARD
MACGREGOR STATE HIGH SCHOOL
“The Leap”

The students were passionate about educating the younger students at Wakakirri that high school is not an experience to be feared, but an opportunity that opens new and exciting doors.



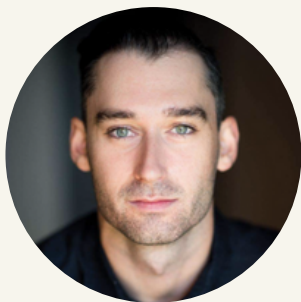
NATIONAL AWARD
BRIGHTWATER STATE SCHOOL
“Precious Planet Earth”

Brightwater students can be part of our supervised Garden Club during play breaks, where they learn to nurture and care for the living plants, animals, fruits and vegetables, as well as the environment that they are growing in.

NATIONAL AWARD HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Coomera Rivers State School
- Mango Hill State School
- Maryborough State High School
- Narangba Valley State School

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AWARDS 2023



“Another wonderful experience and such joy to be apart of here in SA, So much effort and time went into this amazing opportunity for the kids and the final product onstage was just inspirational. Congratulations to all.”

- ALEXANDER KERMOND, Wakakirri SA Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD
ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH SCHOOL
“Be The Change”

At St Augustine's Parish School we are committed to Reconciliation. We have an Aboriginal Education Focus Teacher and a RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) Working Group who meet regularly to ensure that Aboriginal Perspectives are at the heart of all that we do.

“It means a lot for our school to receive a National Award because it means that our story has made a positive impact within both the Wakakirri and broader communities. We are proud of our story and what it represents and to win this award is an absolute honour.”
—PAULA GIUGLIANO, teacher



NATIONAL AWARD
ALDINGA PAYINTHI COLLEGE
“Payinthe - more than a school”

We want to show, that at our college you are inspired to activate your passions, to reach your full potential while making meaningful contributions to the world. Our message fosters an inclusive community that values and respects the journey of every individual.

NATIONAL AWARD HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Kilkenny Primary School
- McLaren Vale Primary School
- Noarlunga Downs Primary School
- Rosary School

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA AWARD

- Christies Beach Primary School



“We had an absolute blast working with all the schools to bring this years wakakirri season together. Being able to share in the excitement of the day with them all at the student function, and then watch them perform and tell stories with messages that they are passionate about and that they had so much pride in, was an honour. ”

- SARA CROCKFORD, SA Show Day Coordinator

VICTORIA AWARDS 2023



“What an enjoyable season 2023 was! Wakakirri is an incredible initiative which allows students to be involved in theatre arts in a supportive and fun environment”.
- CHRISTOPHER POLITIS, Wakakirri Victoria Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD
JELLS PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
“Bucket”

You can fill someone's bucket with positive attitudes and behaviour with a simple smile, wave or 'hello'. Everyone has an invisible bucket they need filled to support positive mental health and happiness, filling someone else's bucket can make you feel just as good as having your own filled, in fact, filling someone else's bucket support your happiness too.

“Our school has been doing Wakakirri for over 20 years. It is an activity that all our students love, appreciate, and aspire to do. Receiving a national award acknowledges all the hard work from the students and teachers, and we now know that our story made a difference!”
—Suzanne Ward, teacher



NATIONAL AWARD
ROSEBUD SECONDARY COLLEGE
“Unfold”

Through the power of contemporary dance we have been able to create conversation with the young people of our community about the human environmental cost of the fashion industry.



NATIONAL AWARD
HOPPERS CROSSING SECONDARY COLLEGE
“Disconnect to Reconnect”

The students brainstormed and wanted to tell a story about impacts of phone usage on the individual and people around them. They acknowledged the idea of being 'present but absent' in their own lives and felt connected to the issue after the isolation of covid.

NATIONAL AWARD HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Bandiana Primary School
- James Fallon High School
- Niddrie Primary School
- Our Lady Of The Assumption School



“Each year in Victoria our schools tell amazing stories, take us on a journey and make you feel the power of their messages. Some much fun as always to see our schools, the teacher, students and helpers. A big congratulations to all our schools.”
- DEBORAH BUBICA, Victoria Show Day Coordinator

WESTERN AUSTRALIA AWARDS 2023



“Wakakirri 2023 in WA was simply magical. The performances demonstrated a high level of exciting teamwork and humble generosity, and the whole program bubbled over with the joy and energy of human connection and loving celebration of our community, our culture and our history.”

- LIBBY HAMMER, Wakakirri WA Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD
TRINITY COLLEGE
“The Industrial Revolution”

During the Industrial Revolution, dance served as entertainment and a means to express joy and excitement. Dances were performed by boys in streets and gatherings, fostering connections and offering emotional release amidst the turbulent changes of the era.

“Receiving a National Award from Wakakirri is a deeply meaningful achievement for our school. It not only affirms the purpose of our performance but also underscores the importance of providing our students, especially within the context of an all-boys school, a platform to freely express themselves through dance. We fostered invaluable peer connections, showcasing the universality and power of dance as a language of expression and connection.”

—PAULA NICOLLETO, teacher



“Wakakirri has enabled students to create magic on stage. We love the joy it brings, not only to the students but staff who work tirelessly to bring the performances together. Here in WA we are so lucky to see such an amazing array of talent and hope it continues for years to come!”

- MADDISON HARDWICK, WA Show Day Coordinator



**NATIONAL AWARD AND
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA AWARD**
BRABHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
“Be The Voice”

Telling the story of the lost voice of the First Nations peoples. How their voice was overpowered and almost completely forgotten. Acknowledging that this is a significant moment in history that deserves recognition and deeper thought. We are all a part of this history.



**NATIONAL AWARD -
HIGHLY COMMENDED**
AVELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
“Yarkiny”

We were all affected by the 2021 bushfire that wiped out 90% of the Ellen Brook Nature Reserve, where the tortoises live. We had to evacuate our homes for a few days and this reminds us how fragile the tortoise's ecosystem is.

WAKAKIRRI VIDEO AWARDS 2023



“I think this is such a wonderful program that allows for collaboration and community, it's really exciting that it can be as big or small as a school would like it to be. I was moved to tears by some of the submissions and really impressed with others, it was such an enjoyable experience to watch these young talented performers from accross Australia.”

- SAMUEL MCKEOWN II, Wakakirri Video Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, QLD
“Boomerang”

Our story reminds children that there is strength in their cultural identity and that, with that strength, they can achieve anything in life.

STATE AWARDS

- Caves Beach Public School, NSW
- Cranbourne West Primary School, VIC
- Fitzgerald State School, QLD
- Kelso State School, QLD
- Pinnacle Academic College, QLD
- St Anthony's School, VIC
- St Mary's Primary School, NSW
- St Patrick's College And St John Fisher College, QLD



NATIONAL AWARD

KUTTA MULLA GORINNA SPECIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOOL, QLD
“Mary-Ann”

Many of our students are First Nations or female or both and they do not see themselves in history. This is one of the many stories that is just beginning to be told.



NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED

NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA STATE
COLLEGE, QLD
“Two Seasons”

The two seasons influence the way community interact with the country and land. It influences both flora and fauna, this impacts hunting and gathering. Both seasons are equally important.



NATIONAL AWARD -
HIGHLY COMMENDED & NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA AWARD
WEIR STATE SCHOOL, QLD
“The Gabul Gathering”

Unpacking the transformational change that has unfolded at Weir State School by weaving a connected approach to school values and expectations through ‘grounding’ the traditional Dreamtime Serpent ‘GABUL’.



2023 WHAT A YEAR!

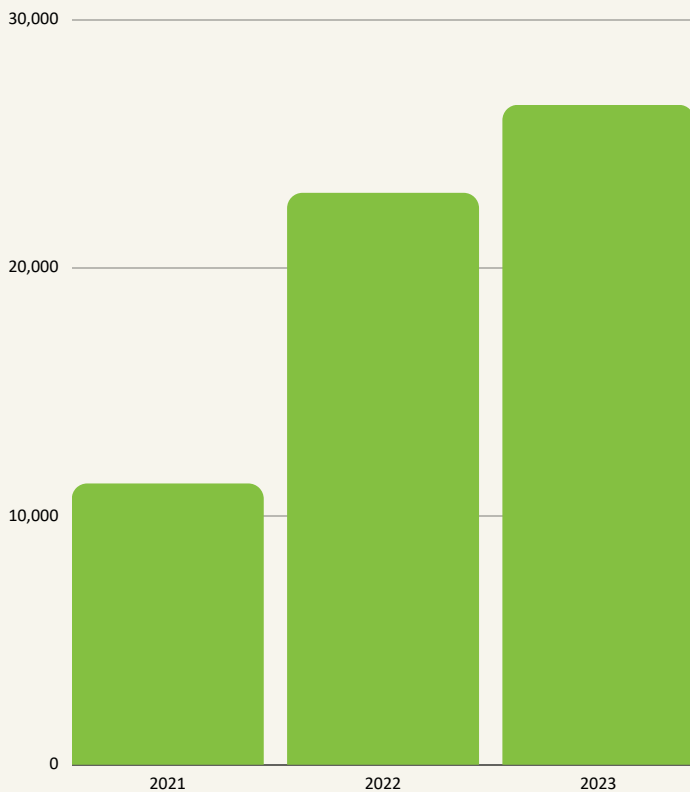


SHOW STATISTICS 2023

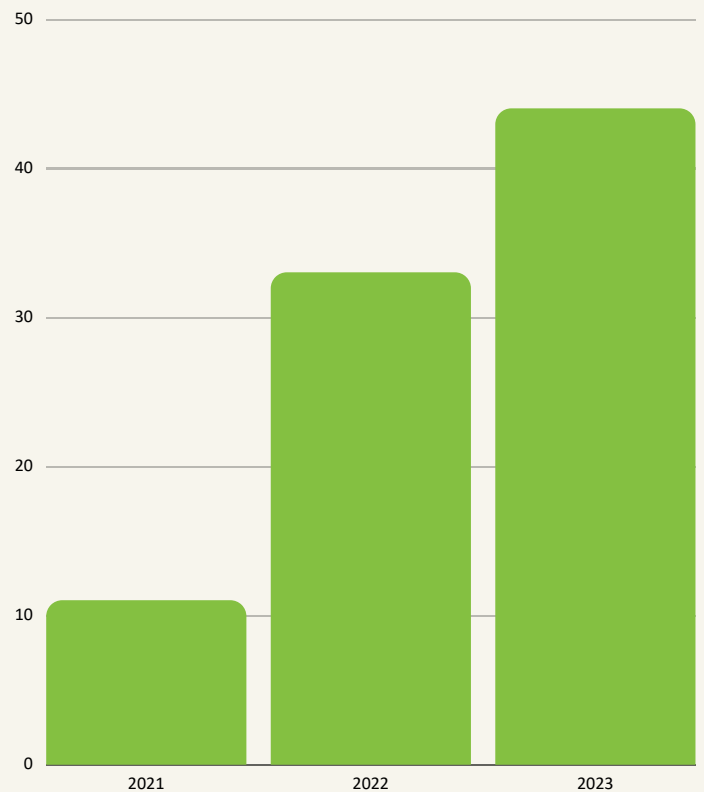
VENUES & DATES

STATE	VENUE	DATES	SHOWS
ACT	Canberra Theatre	1 - 3 August & 12 September	4
NSW	NIDA	7 - 9 August & 4 - 8 September	8
	Riverside Theatres	14 - 17 August	4
	WIN Entertainment Centre	30 August	1
QLD	Logan Entertainment Centre	21 - 24 August & 7 - 8 September	6
	The Events Centre	10 August	1
SA	Norwood Concert Hall	8 - 10, 15 - 17 August & 6 - 8 September	9
VIC	Clocktower Centre	1 - 3 August & 8, 11 September	5
	Frankston Arts Centre	15 - 18 August & 4 September	5
WA	Perth Concert Hall	7 August	1

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

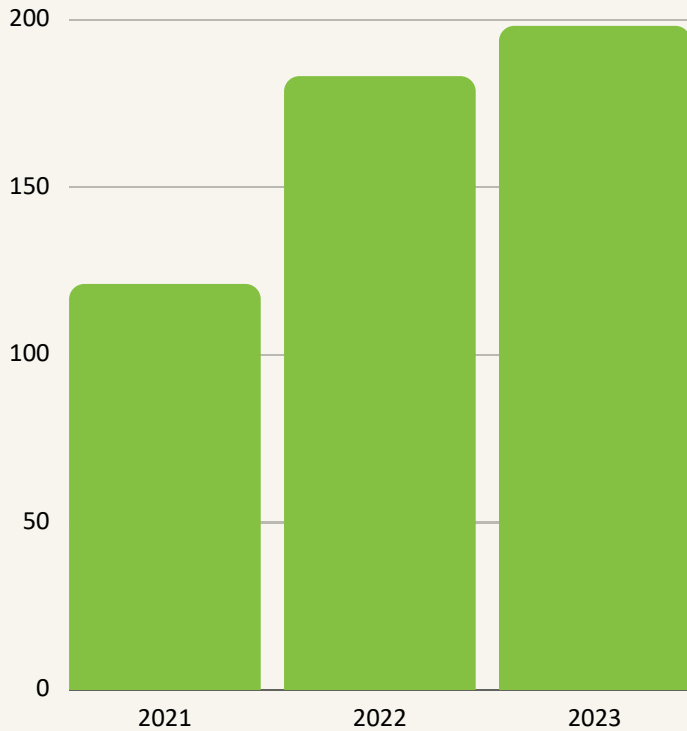


LIVE SHOWS

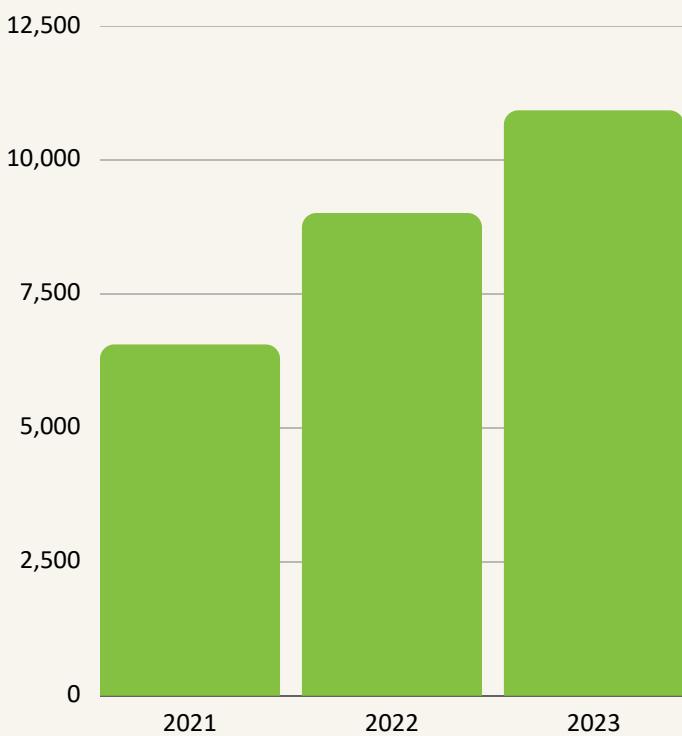


STUDENT PARTICIPATION & SURVEY RESULTS 2023

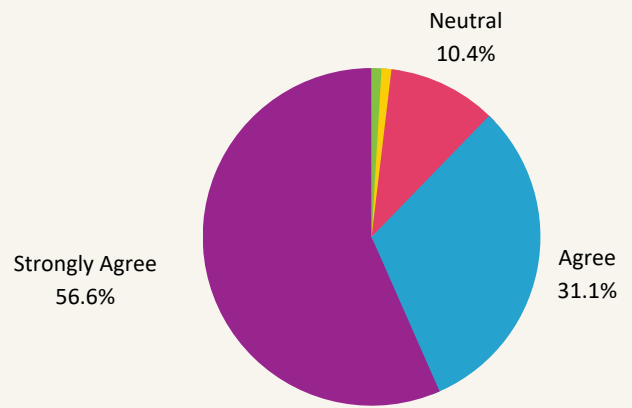
TOTAL # SCHOOLS BY YEAR



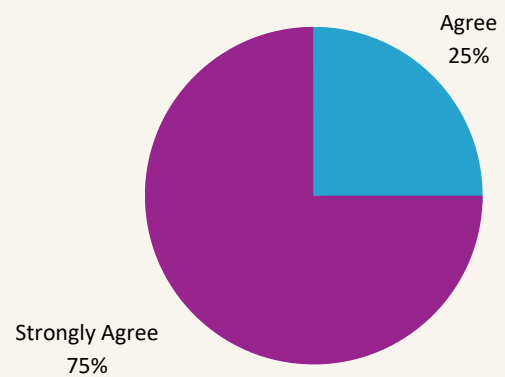
TOTAL # STUDENTS BY YEAR



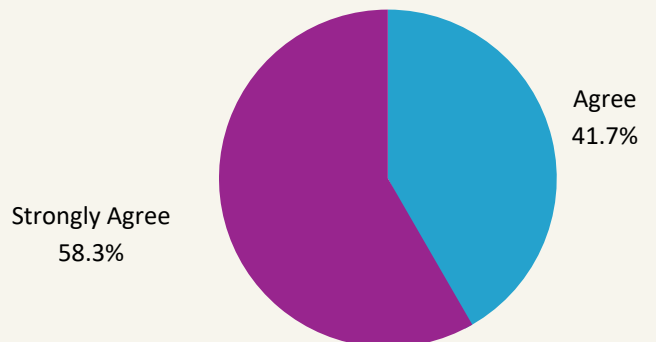
“WAKAKIRRI PROVIDES A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO ENGAGE WITH MY PEERS AND CREATE NEW FRIENDSHIPS”



“I FEEL INCLUDED AND PART OF A TEAM WHEN I AM REHEARSING AND PERFORMING IN WAKAKIRRI”



“I FEEL A SENSE OF PRIDE WHEN OUR SCHOOLS PERFORMS OUR STORY-DANCE “



WAKAKIRRI ASSOCIATION INC.

The Wakakirri Story-Dance Association Inc. (WSDAI) is a not-for-profit organisation (since 2004) that uses storytelling, the oldest form of learning, as its focus for providing innovative educational programs to schools in a manner that resonates with contemporary youth culture.

THE WSDAI COMMITTEE

The WSDAI Committee is governed by individuals from business, the arts and education sectors. As an incorporated association, the WSDAI produces an annual report and is publicly accountable.



PROFESSOR TOM CALMA AO
WAKAKIRRI PATRON



KRISTEN DOUGLAS
WAKAKIRRI PATRON



ADAM LOXLEY
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



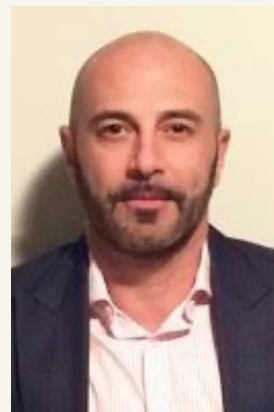
DARREN TASKER
BUSINESS CONSULTANT



GERRY GILCHRIST
ACCOUNTANT



VALERIE HARROLD
TEACHER



MATTHEW SAMUEL
MARKETING CONSULTANT



FRANCESCA VEITCH
SECRETARY

2023 WAKAKIRRI SCHOOLS

- Aberfoyle Hub Primary School, SA
- Aintree Primary School, VIC
- Aldercourt Primary School, VIC
- Aldinga Payinthe College, SA
- Andersons Creek Primary School, VIC
- Antonio Catholic School, SA
- Armadale Primary School, VIC
- Armstrong Creek School, VIC
- Arnolds Creek Primary School, VIC
- Asquith Girls High School, NSW
- Aveley Primary School, WA
- Ballarat Grammar, VIC
- Balnarring Primary School, VIC
- Bandiana Primary School, VIC
- Banksia Beach State School, QLD
- Barnier Public School, NSW
- Berwick Primary School, VIC
- Birdwood Primary School, SA
- Bounty Boulevard State School, QLD
- Boyne Island State School, QLD
- Brabham Primary School, WA
- Brightwater State School, QLD
- Callala Public School, NSW
- Calvary Christian College - Carbrook Campus, QLD
- Camdenville Public School, NSW
- Camira State School, QLD
- Campbell Primary School, WA
- Canberra Girls Grammar School, ACT
- Caves Beach Public School, NSW
- Charnwood-Dunlop School, ACT
- Christies Beach Primary School, SA
- Churchill Primary School, VIC
- Clarence Valley Anglican School, NSW
- Clovelly Park Primary School, SA
- Coastal Lakes College, WA
- Cooma Public School, NSW
- Coomera Rivers State School, QLD
- Coorara Primary School, SA
- Cranbourne West Primary School, VIC
- Cranebrook High School, NSW
- Croydon Hills Primary School, VIC
- Dapto Public School, NSW
- Daramalan College, ACT
- Davallia Primary School, WA
- Derrimut Primary School, VIC
- Devon Meadows Primary School, VIC
- Dromana Secondary College, VIC
- Dural Public School, NSW
- Edgeworth Heights Public School, NSW
- Elderslie High School, NSW
- Emmaus College, VIC
- Encounter Lutheran College, SA
- Enoggera State School, QLD
- Fernvale State School, QLD
- Fitzgerald State School, QLD
- Flagstone State School, QLD
- Fraser Primary School, ACT
- Georges Hall Public School, NSW
- Glenmore Road Public School, NSW
- Gowrie Primary School, ACT
- Green Point Christian College, NSW
- Greenfields Primary School, WA
- Gynea Bay Public School, NSW
- Hammond Park Catholic Primary School, WA
- Helena College, WA
- Hillcrest Primary School, SA
- Hoppers Crossing Secondary College, VIC
- Hornsby South Public School, NSW
- Humpybong State School, QLD
- Ingleburn Public School, NSW
- International Maarif Schools Of Australia, NSW
- Ipswich Junior Grammar School, QLD
- Ipswich North State School, QLD
- Ithaca Creek State School, QLD
- James Erskine Public School, NSW
- James Fallon High School, NSW
- Jells Park Primary School, VIC
- Jw Academy, NSW
- Kangaroo Flat Primary School, VIC
- Karen Feldman's Dance School, VIC
- Kelso State School, QLD
- Kempsey High School, NSW
- Kiama Public School, NSW
- Kilkenny Primary School, SA
- Kimberley Park State School, QLD
- Kutta Mulla Gorinna Special Assistance School, QLD
- Kyogle Public School, NSW
- Lane Cove Public School, NSW
- Leichhardt State School, QLD
- Leppington Public School, NSW
- Lyndale Greens Primary School, VIC
- Macgregor State High School, QLD
- Mackillop College Port Macquarie, NSW
- Majura Primary School, ACT
- Mango Hill State School, QLD
- Maroubra Junction Public School, NSW
- Marrickville West Public School, NSW
- Mary Mackillop Catholic College, QLD
- Mary Mackillop College, SA
- Maryborough State High School, QLD

2023 WAKAKIRRI SCHOOLS

- Mayfield State School, QLD
- McLaren Vale Primary School, SA
- Meadow Springs Primary School, WA
- Melba Copland Secondary School, ACT
- Menzies Creek Primary School, VIC
- Middle Park State School, QLD
- Middlemount Community School, QLD
- Miles Franklin Primary School, ACT
- Minnamurra Public School, NSW
- MLC School (Primary), NSW
- MLC School (Secondary), NSW
- Moreton Downs State School, QLD
- Morphett Vale East School R-7, SA
- Morphett Vale Primary School, SA
- Mount Annan Christian College, NSW
- Mount Brown Public School, NSW
- Mulwaree High School, NSW
- Narangba Valley State School, QLD
- Narre Warren South P-12 College, VIC
- Niddrie Primary School, VIC
- Noarlunga Downs Primary School, SA
- North Haven School, SA
- North Rocks Public School, NSW
- Northern Peninsula Area State College, QLD
- Northmead CAPA High School, NSW
- Our Lady Of Lourdes Primary School, NSW
- Our Lady Of The Assumption School, VIC
- Our Lady Of The River School, SA
- Our Lady Of The Sacred Heart College, VIC
- Our Lady Queen Of Peace School, SA
- Para Hills West Primary School, SA
- Parafield Gardens R-7 School, SA
- Paralowie School, SA
- Parklands Christian College, QLD
- Parkview Public School, NSW
- Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College, VIC
- Perth College, WA
- Pimpama State School, QLD
- Pinnacle Academic College, QLD
- Randwick Public School, NSW
- Riverbanks College B-12, SA
- Riverside Christian College, QLD
- Rosalie Primary School, WA
- Rosary Primary School, ACT
- Rosary School, SA
- Rosebud Secondary College, VIC
- Rossbourne School, VIC
- Sacred Heart School, QLD
- Sadleir Public School, NSW
- Serpell Primary School, VIC
- Shellharbour Public School, NSW
- Slade Point State School, QLD
- Somerville Primary School, VIC
- Spring Farm Public School, NSW
- St Anthony's School, VIC
- St Augustine's Parish School, SA
- St Benedict's Primary School, QLD
- St Clare's Catholic Primary School, VIC
- St Francis Of Assisi College, SA
- St Francis School, SA
- St Gabriel's & St Stephen's Schools, VIC
- St Georges Basin Public School, NSW
- St Jerome's Primary School, WA
- St John The Apostle Catholic School, SA
- St John The Baptist Catholic Primary School, NSW
- St Joseph's School, WA
- St Joseph's School, VIC
- St Mary Mackillop Primary School, VIC
- St Mary's Primary School, NSW
- St Mary's School, VIC
- St Michael's Catholic Primary School, NSW
- St Patrick's College And St John Fisher College, QLD
- St Paul Lutheran School, SA
- St Peter's Catholic School, QLD
- St Pius X School, VIC
- St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, NSW
- Strathfield North Public School, NSW
- Strathfieldsaye Primary School, VIC
- Sunbury West Primary School, VIC
- Sutton Public School, NSW
- The Basin Primary School, VIC
- The Heights School, SA
- The Scots School Albury, NSW
- Thorndon Park Primary School, SA
- Thornleigh West Public School, NSW
- Toongabbie West Public School, NSW
- Torbanlea State School, QLD
- Trinity College, WA
- Tuggerah Lakes SC Tumbi Umbi Campus, NSW
- Tweed River High School, NSW
- Vincentia High School, NSW
- Walkerville Primary School, SA
- Waverley College, NSW
- Weir State School, QLD
- Wellington Point State School, QLD
- Woonona East Public School, NSW
- Wynn Vale R-7 School, SA
- Yanco Public School, NSW