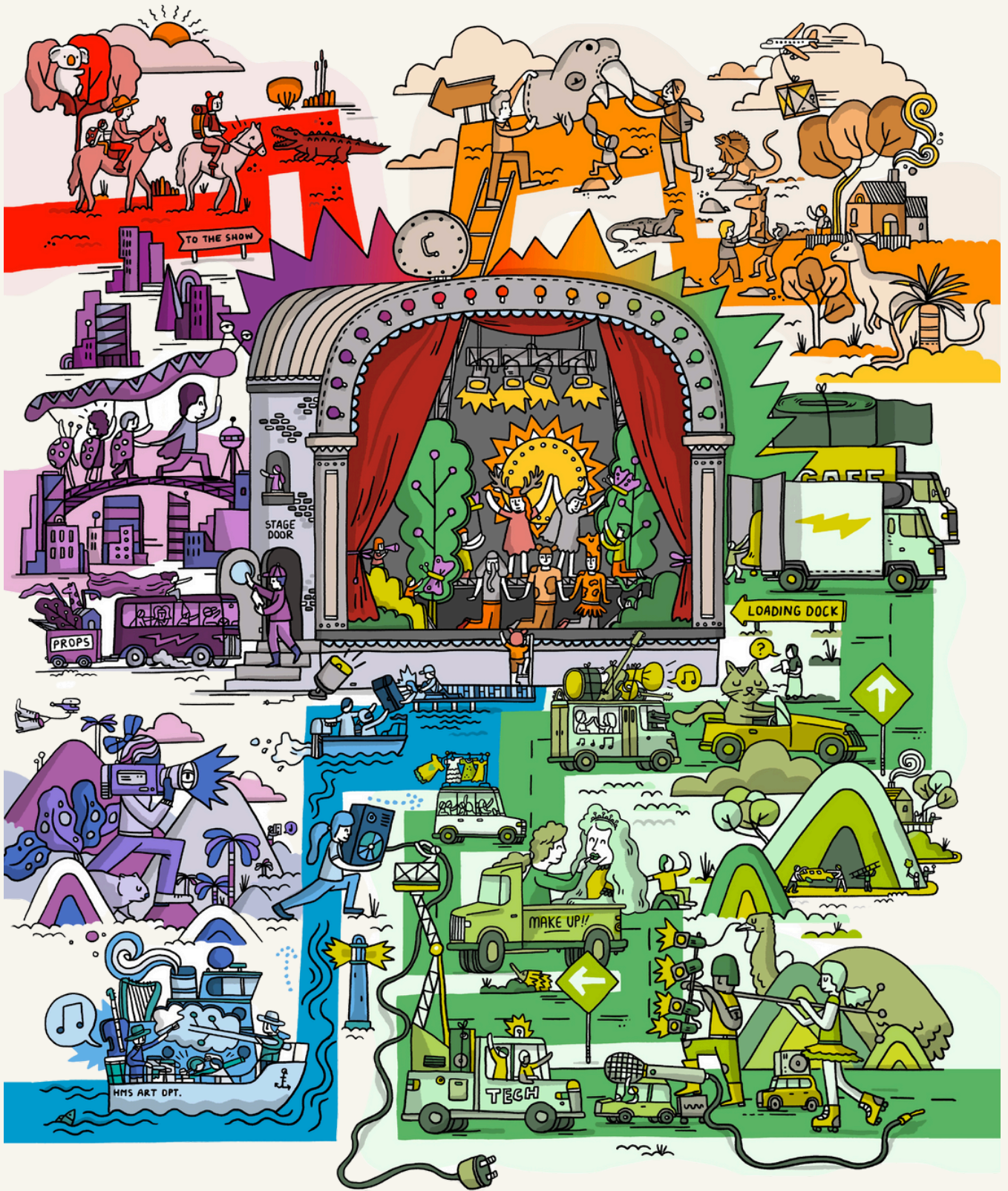


Great Stories Inspire Change
WAKAKIRRI
NATIONAL STORY-DANCE FESTIVAL



2024

ANNUAL REPORT
WAKAKIRRI ASSOCIATION INC.

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WAKAKIRRI ASSOCIATION INC.



DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

As we reflect on Wakakirri 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible performances and stories shared by schools across Australia. This year's festival has once again proven that "Great stories inspire change," with schools wholeheartedly embracing the ethos that has become the heart and soul of Wakakirri.

The 2024 theme, **Belonging**, resonated deeply with our participants, sparking a remarkable variety of performances that explored what it means to feel connected, included, and valued within our communities. Schools used their Story-Dances to tell tales of identity, connection, and togetherness, and it was truly inspiring to see how these ideas came to life on stage.

This year also saw the exciting addition of new festival partners, including Kids Helpline, Planet Ark, and Greenfleet, joining long-time collaborator Reconciliation Australia. These partnerships have expanded the impact of Wakakirri, aligning with our vision to inspire positive change through the arts and storytelling.

We were also thrilled to welcome Simon Pryce from The Wiggles as our 2024 National Ambassador. His passion for the arts and advocacy for Wakakirri brought new energy to the festival. Simon's enthusiasm was contagious, and it wasn't long before more of The Wiggles joined in, amplifying the excitement and engagement of students everywhere.

One of the standout successes of 2024 has been our new student function. This initiative is already proving to be a festival favourite. As we continue to refine and expand this component, we are excited to see it grow in popularity and provide more meaningful experiences for students in the future.

This year, we were humbled by the overwhelming number of thank-you letters from schools. Many teachers expressed their gratitude for the program's positive impact on student engagement and well-being. These acknowledgements are a testament to the hard work of the Wakakirri team and our commitment to providing a festival that is both inspiring and manageable for schools.

As we close the chapter on 2024, I look forward with great excitement to Wakakirri 2025. With the announcement of next year's theme, **Mind Over Matter: Tales of Inner Strength**, we anticipate even more powerful performances and stories that will continue to move and inspire us all.

Thank you to every school, teacher, and student who participated this year. Your passion and dedication have made Wakakirri 2024 unforgettable, and I cannot wait to see what you create next.

Adam Loxley

Wakakirri Festival Director



2024 NATIONAL FESTIVAL AWARDS



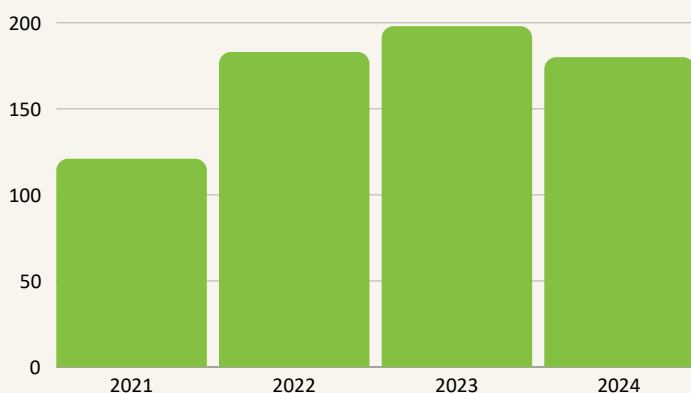
FESTIVAL SUMMARY

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 8697 | Schools x 180

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 16

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 786

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.

"It's so important for young people to be able to express themselves through the art of storytelling and dance. This has such a positive impact for all the students involved."



- SIMON PRYCE

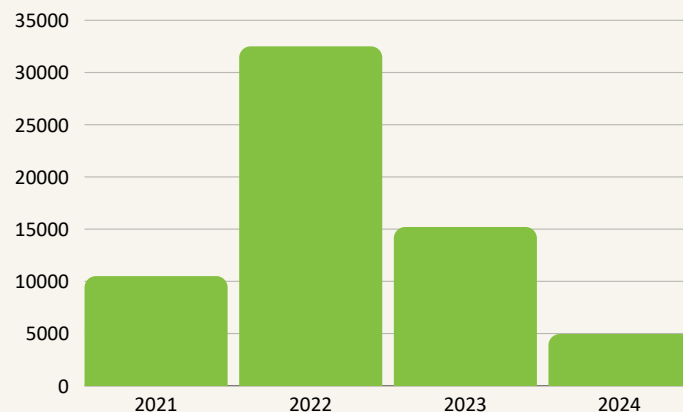
Wakakirri National Ambassador 2024

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 29 | Funds Allocated \$21,320

FUNDS RAISED BY YEAR



25 YEARS OF WAKAKIRRI AT STRATHFIELD NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Our experience with Wakakirri over the past 25 years has been deeply enriching and transformative for the school community. Strathfield North Public School is committed to creating inclusive and engaging learning environments that foster the development of the whole child, as outlined in our strategic improvement plan.

Through Wakakirri, we provide our students with an extraordinary platform to creatively express their ideas and engage in meaningful storytelling through dance. This experience aligns closely with our focus on student voice, well-being, and community engagement. Wakakirri is an essential part of our extra-curricular offerings that helps to promote student well-being, resilience, and collaboration. The program allows students to work together on a shared goal, developing confidence, teamwork, and communication skills.

Importantly, it also helps strengthen connections across generations, as many of our Wakakirri staff team have in fact been Wakakirri performers, some in the same school. This continuity builds a rich legacy of participation, fostering a sense of pride and belonging for our students and their families. It creates an environment where students feel valued and supported by their peers, teachers, and the wider community.

Participation in Wakakirri is not only about artistic expression but also about nurturing a sense of social responsibility. Our Story-Dances often focus on issues that are relevant to our students and their communities, sparking conversations about positive social change. By exploring themes such as diversity, sustainability, and kindness through their performances, students develop empathy and a deeper understanding of their role in shaping the future.

Additionally, our commitment to Wakakirri and other extra-curricular programs contributes significantly to our outstanding attendance rates. Our school and community highly value the rich, diverse and inclusive creative and performing arts programs at the school.

As noted in our strategic goals, attendance is a key priority at Strathfield North Public School, and programs like Wakakirri are instrumental in keeping students engaged and excited about school. The high level of student involvement and the enthusiasm generated by Wakakirri contribute to our position as the school with the highest attendance rate in our network, enhancing student engagement and learning outcomes.

Adam Kasalo
Creative and Performing Arts Coordinator
Strathfield North Public School.



TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

“What was the highlight of the day? Seeing our students bring their story to life on stage and the joy that they were feeling. The excitement, enthusiasm and opportunity that performance allows students to experience. The inclusion for one student (who had 2 broken legs from a fall the week before). There just isn't one thing it was everything! It's an awesome, amazing and incredibly valuable experience for everyone.”

- **Maree Fawke, Majura Primary School ACT**

Nothing can prepare you for the absolute joy the children will feel as they perform and feel like they have accomplished great things. The teamwork, the hard work, the sense of connection and belonging that comes from participating is not matched by anything else I have seen in my 35 years in education.

- **Sharon King, Bass Valley Primary School VIC**

“As a performing arts teacher for the past 35 years I would like to say that being involved in Wakakirri is always a highlight. It gives the students a chance to flourish and grow in their ability, and love for Performing arts. To see the students faces lit up all day long is a joy and a gift to me as their teacher. As a Performing arts teacher who has been involved since 2006 with Wakakirri, I can honestly say it was one of the best years yet!”

- **Jacinta O'Leary, Warranwood Primary School VIC**



“WOW what an incredible day! Many of our students do not participate in performing arts outside of school so having the opportunity to perform in such a fun and professional environment was certainly a night to remember. Multiple students claiming it was the best day of their life!. We can't thank the staff at Wakakirri enough for providing this incredibly memorable experience for our stunts.”

- **Beth Hadley, Mawarra Public School NSW**

“The relationships and belonging it builds are indescribable. The pride on the students and parents faces are so heartwarming.”

- **Alicia Hoger, Sacred Heart School QLD**

After attending a Live Wakakirri Show and receiving a backstage tour: “We are so pumped to join in next year. The Wakakirri vibe is so authentic, respectful, upbeat and amazing. I was overwhelmed by the way everyone spoke - especially to the students - they were made to feel special and valued and it solidified the student focused approach... Love it! We sat up for hours last night workshopping ideas and figuring out how it will work for us back at school. The backstage tour and all the info you shared have made it so clear and it will be so easy for us to make it all work.”

- **Amy Kelly, Hamilton South Public School NSW**

NATIONAL AWARDS



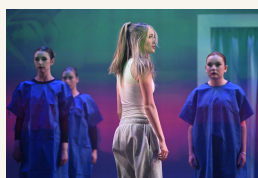
CANBERRA GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, ACT
"Building a home for you and me"



DARAMALAN COLLEGE
Wakakirri Secondary, ACT
"Belonging to Broadway"



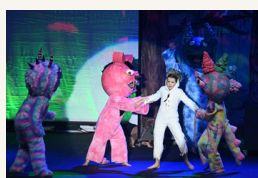
LILLI PILLI PUBLIC SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, NSW Sydney
"Longing For Belonging"



**TUGGERAH LAKES SECONDARY COLLEGE
TUMBI UMBI CAMPUS**
Wakakirri Secondary, NSW Sydney
"Grief"



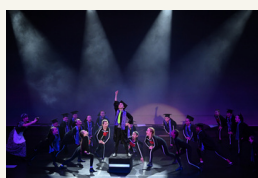
IGNITION PERFORMANCE ACADEMY
Wakakirri Dance, NSW Sydney
"To Build A Home"



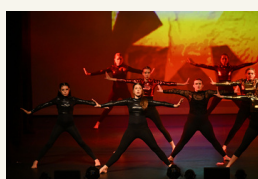
WOONONA EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, NSW Wollongong
"Finding Home Where the Wild Belong"



MAWARRA PUBLIC SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, NSW Sydney
"Be true, be you, belong!"



MANGO HILL STATE SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, QLD Brisbane
"We Are Only Human"



RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Wakakirri Secondary, QLD Brisbane
"Connecting = Belonging"



SIENA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, QLD Sunshine Coast
"No One Could Actually Have 953,721 Friends!"



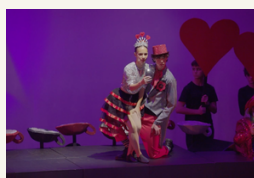
FITZGERALD STATE SCHOOL
Wakakirri Video, QLD
"Salt meets Sand"



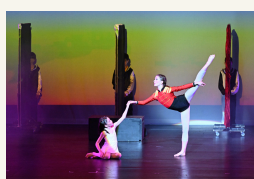
WHITEFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, SA
"Bungle in the Jungle"



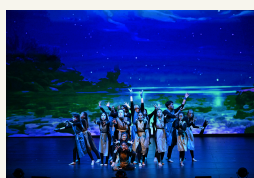
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLEGE
Wakakirri Secondary, SA
"This Is Me"



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
Wakakirri Video, TAS
"Road Less Taken"



SERPELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Wakakirri Primary, VIC
"Fit in, stand out!"



KEYSBOROUGH SECONDARY COLLEGE
Wakakirri Secondary, VIC
"History Repeating"



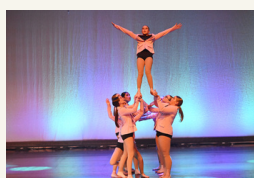
SALTWATER P-9 COLLEGE
Wakakirri Primary, VIC
"Under the Australian Sun"



ELEVATION PERFORMING ARTS
Wakakirri Dance, VIC
"The Journey"



BULLSBROOK COLLEGE
Wakakirri Primary, WA
"A Place To Call Home"



PETER CARNLEY ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Wakakirri Secondary, WA
"Girlhood"

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION STORY AWARD

PRESENTED BY
RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA



The National Reconciliation Story 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 STORY AWARD
RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, QLD
"Connecting = Belonging"

Kukatj, Gkuthaarn & Kurtjar Peoples forced into reserve by European Settlement in 1870. After many years the Indigenous people were permitted to move into town. Riverside students travel to Normanton to learn, connect and grow together with the children and elders.

"Riverside has been talking about this story with the Normanton Elders and Butchulla elders for the past 2 years. We have wanted to show that we don't just talk about connecting with country, but we actually do connect with country. After speaking with the Elders they all have guided us in sharing OUR story. They wanted us to share that we can't change the past but we can learn for it, and make our own path on this beautiful land."



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION STORY AWARD
CHRISTIES BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ALDINGA
PAYINTHI COLLEGE, SA
"Hope for Makarrata: History is calling"

Christies Beach Primary School's Wakakirri journey has been a powerful platform for fostering reconciliation, cultural understanding, and empathy.

In 2022, Sara, alongside the school's Aboriginal Community Education Officer, Tamia, led a Wakakirri story-dance focused on the Stolen Generations, which earned national recognition and increased student engagement. The 2023 performance centred on racism, inspired by Aboriginal leaders and iconic moments like Nicky Winmar's stand, deepening students' awareness through community connections and cultural education.

This commitment continued in 2024 with a joint Wakakirri project with Aldinga Payinthe College, focusing on the Uluru Statement from the Heart, creating space for dialogue, cultural sensitivity, and a shared vision for a reconciled future.

Through Wakakirri, the school not only celebrated First Nations culture but also cultivated leaders for change, empowering students to embody empathy and engage in meaningful conversations about Australia's shared history.

ACT AWARDS



"I was truly impressed by the incredible talent showcased at Wakakirri Canberra 2024. The dedication to preparation, strong community involvement, and powerful storytelling was evident in every performance, creating a spectacular and memorable display of creativity and passion. Well done to all involved."

- DANIELLE WHITE, ACT Wakakirri Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD
CANBERRA GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL
"Building a home for you and me"

No matter who you are - if YOU make the effort to help and support others, no matter how different they are to you, this effort will help create a community that you belong to. This is a story of inclusion.

"Canberra Girls Grammar School is absolutely thrilled to be nominated for a National Wakakirri Award for the first time. Ours students embraced the Wakakirri journey at every step and are grateful and honoured to be considered for a National Award. This year we wanted to use the power of storytelling to not only tell a story of belonging, but also inspire audiences to be inclusive and welcome others into the community so that everyone knows they belong somewhere.."

- MAREE CRONIN, Teacher



NATIONAL AWARD
DARAMALAN COLLEGE
"Belonging to Broadway"

The message of our story is that despite the challenges and obstacles faced on the journey to pursuing one's dreams, the sense of belonging comes from persevering through those challenges and staying true to one's passion and self.



NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED
TELOPEA PARK SCHOOL
"A Tree on Galamby (Black Mountain)."

At our school we focus a lot on our connection to France. (we are a French/Australian school), but we wanted to learn more about what it means to belong to this country.



"Once again, the young storytellers of Canberra danced their hearts out, made new friends and filled backstage with Wakakirri Spirit making Waka 2024 a year to remember."

- ANNA JOHNSTONE, ACT Show Day Coordinator

NEW SOUTH WALES AWARDS



“The 2024 season of Wakakirri was, and always is incredibly inspiring, exciting, creative and entertaining. All the schools engaged audiences with captivating stories interpreted through unique styles of dance that excited and moved an audience every time, I'm sure there will be many memorable experiences, on and off stage, that all the young performers will never forget.”

- **WAYNE SCOTT KERMOND, NSW Wakakirri Ambassador**



NATIONAL AWARD

TUGGERAH LAKES SECONDARY COLLEGE - TUMBI UMBI CAMPUS
“Grief”

Our performance explores the five stages of grief—denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. These stages depict the emotional journey through loss, illustrating how individuals navigate towards resolution and healing.

“Wakakirri is a highly valued event at our school that unites students from all year levels, allowing them to showcase their exceptional performing arts skills. Our students are deeply involved in every element of the production, including storytelling, choreography, set design, music, projection, and even designing their own shirts. Earning a National Award reflects their immense passion, commitment, and hard work.”

- **KERRY BANDY, Teacher**



“Another year done and dusted, and another year of SMASHING IT OUT OF THE PARK WOLLONGONG! Congratulations to all the talented students, dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and school staff who made this year a huge success. I loved watching you all perform, share your stories and see your passion shine through dance. Well done everyone!”

- **KELLY GROVES, NSW Wollongong Show Day Coordinator**



NATIONAL AWARD

MAWARRA PUBLIC SCHOOL
“Be true, be you, belong!”

We chose to explore the concept of belonging through three prominent pop culture characters because this is where the students interest lied. After speaking to our students, it was clear that they wanted to perform a story that had familiar and meaningful characters to them. We choose to highlight how in these well known stories, the characters struggled with identity and group acceptance but ultimately find a sense of belonging in being their true self.



NATIONAL AWARD

WOONONA EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL
“Finding Home Where the Wild Belong”

We believe that when children portray characters related to self discovery they demonstrate the journey of understanding oneself and the importance of overcoming challenges. This performance fosters a supportive and inclusive school environment by depicting a character who embraces her true self and learns to accept differences, promoting positive social values and contributing to a culture of respect and inclusion within the school community.

NEW SOUTH WALES - CONTINUED



“This season has been one of the best! We've loved seeing our 'seasoned' Sydney Waka schools levelling up & up, alongside brand new Waka schools that truly moved and inspired their audiences in big ways. Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work, beautiful stories and wonderful energy.”

- ERIKKA MACPHERSON, NSW Sydney Show Day Coordinator



NATIONAL AWARD
LILLI PILLI PUBLIC SCHOOL
“Longing for Belonging”

Our item ‘Longing for Belonging’, is a story dance performance with accompaniments of acting and digital technology to communicate the theme of belonging, through the eyes of the main character, a young Deaf student.

“Never before have we had a school event that has brought ALL of us together. Wakakirri made us a formative team! We were successful in showing our students that the performing arts is for everyone, that performing gives you confidence and that creative programs like this can provide opportunities to make new friends you never thought you would! What does Wakakirri mean to Lilli Pilli? It means absolutely everything..”

- JANE SHEPHERD, Principal



NATIONAL AWARD
IGNITION PERFORMANCE ACADEMY
“To Build A Home”

We have chosen this story because we believe it is an important aspect to teach kids while they are navigating through their own journeys of self discovery. The key message is that everyone’s individuality is what creates a community. Each individual brings their own uniqueness to the table and should be celebrated.

NATIONAL AWARD HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Campbellfield Public School
- Dapto Public School
- Janice Breen Performance Studio
- MLC School (Seniors)
- Toongabbie West Public School
- St Michael's Catholic Primary School

QUEENSLAND AWARDS



“What an incredible experience it’s been to be a part of the Wakakirri festival here in QLD. Watching the kids express themselves through dance and drama is truly inspiring. Congratulations to everyone for bringing their stories to life so beautifully.”

- **NATHALIE COTTE, Wakakirri QLD Ambassador**

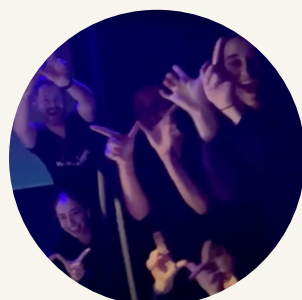


NATIONAL AWARD
MANGO HILL STATE SCHOOL
“We Are Only Human”

Our story helps students to also see the benefits of connections and that teachers care about their relations with their students. We are all only human!

“Mango Hill State School is thrilled to be receiving a National Award because we want to continue to share our story dance. Our story is about the need for positive relationships in schools because we are all only human. It’s about connections and creating a sense of belonging. Wakakirri allows us to share such a powerful message and hopefully inspire change too.”

- **GLENDA KOSTOGLU, teacher**



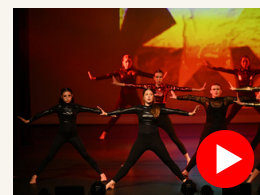
“The crew and I had an absolute cracker of a time bringing together the Queensland shows for Wakakirri 2024! Sharing in all the excitement with the kids, their teachers and family was a true joy to watch and it's easy to see what makes the festival so special for all involved. Well done Wakakirri 2024!”

- **BRENDAN HODDER, QLD Show Day Coordinator**



NATIONAL AWARD
SIENA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
“No One Could Actually Have 953,721 Friends!”

Our message encourages people get out of the pixel world, and back into humanity. We need to build an awareness that online friends and followers are not representative of your self-worth and your capacity to belong.



NATIONAL AWARD
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION STORY AWARD
RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
“Connecting = Belonging”

Reminding us to connect to our community and learn from the past. Listen to others, share your story. **FIND YOUR PATH.** Butchella Law: What is good for the land comes first. Do not take or touch anything that does not belong to you. If you have plenty, you must share.

NATIONAL AWARD HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Cleveland State School
- Glenvale State School
- Macgregor State High School
- Middle Park State School

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AWARDS



"I am incredibly honoured that I was able to be apart of such a wonderful, jam packed season for Wakakirri 2024. Everyone came onto that stage and nailed every beat, I couldn't have been more proud of everyone who stepped on that stage, or helped to make it happen. Congratulations to everyone!"

- KATE BURGESS, Wakakirri SA Ambassador



NATIONAL AWARD
WHITEFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
"Bungle in the Jungle"

Whitefriars Catholic school is a multi-cultural community where we believe that everyone brings a unique and valuable gift. Our Year 6 students wanted to deliver a story about a character feeling left out, but persisting in trying to find their place by sharing their gift. We believe everyone can have their time to shine.

"Our students worked extremely hard to tell a story about difference, acceptance and belonging through music, dance, movement, emotion and joy. We're so delighted that our story-dance message has been noticed and acknowledged. We are so different but the same inside our hearts."

- GRACE LOIZOS, teacher



NATIONAL AWARD
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLEGE
"This Is Me"

Each student has their own narrative, and experiencing the challenges of adolescence is like a rite of passage to becoming a young adult. Although there are challenges, there are also many positives, supported by one's ability to embrace and accept themselves, and their strengths, and finding comfort in people they feel safe with, and trust.

NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Morphett Vale Primary School

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION STORY AWARD

- Christies Beach Primary School & Aldinga Payinthe College



"This year SA was high energy, full of positivity and just all around fun vibes. The stories told were powerful, emotional and joyful and once again, it was a pleasure to watch such wonderful messages being told."

- SARA CROCKFORD, SA Show Day Coordinator

VICTORIA AWARDS



"As the Victorian Wakakirri ambassador I saw the absolute joy this initiative gives to students. The creativity, teamwork and hard work gives creates unforgettable moments in the performers lives. The arts brings out the child in all of us - and it brings out the best in a child."

- **CHRISTOPHER POLITIS, Wakakirri Victoria Ambassador**



NATIONAL AWARD
SALTWATER P-9 COLLEGE
"Under the Australian Sun"

This story is an extension of our Saltwater College community reflecting our values, attitudes and characteristics as a culturally diverse school, that aims to educate and promote acceptance and belonging in the next generation. It is for this reason that we have chosen to tell this story to represent who we are, and what we stand for.

"Wakakirri is more than just the routine and story that we all create. It teaches the students so many valuable elements that can transfer across into all other elements of life such as teamwork, communication, commitment, discipline, consistency, ownership, accountability, problem solving, perseverance, time management, leadership qualities, and so much more!"

- **PHILL HADDAD, teacher**



NATIONAL AWARD
SERPELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
"Fit in, stand out!"

The motif of "Belonging" is the whole message behind our story! Finding your passion and your people will lead to a sense of belonging. The students feel that it is important for everyone to find their passion and find a place where they fit in.



NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED
THE LAKES SOUTH MORANG COLLEGE
"The Fabric of You"



NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED
ST PETER APOSTLE SCHOOL
"The Garden of Life"



"What an amazing 2024 season in Victoria. The Victoria team are so proud of the stories we saw. The passion, talent, energy, commitment, team work and genuine Spirit of Wakakirri from our performers was so inspiring. Congratulations to all of our performers and a big Chookas for your continued work in the Arts."

- **DEBORAH BUBICA, Victoria Show Day Coordinator**

VICTORIA AWARDS - CONTINUED



"A hugely successful and impactful year for Wakakirri in Victoria. Such an abundance of talent, passion and hard work on and off the stage. Truly moving story-dances and memories to cherish forever! Congratulations to all involved."

- **LAUREN JIMMIESON, Wakakirri Victoria Ambassador**



NATIONAL AWARD
KEYSBOROUGH SECONDARY COLLEGE
"History Repeating"

As a school that celebrates diversity, we want to question why humans on our planet continue to wage wars against one another. Why is it that people do not seem to learn from their mistakes, hence the title 'history repeating'. We also wanted to demonstrate the strength and resilience of the human spirit and that through togetherness, there is always hope.

Our students were thrilled at the news of a national nomination and have not stopped asking about the announcement! In true Gen Z style a lot of the students had their phones out to record the reactions on the performance night, and we are so glad they did! The students leapt up and were jumping, screaming, crying and chanting the schools name together with so much joy. It has given them a great sense of school pride and has showed them the performing arts are valued. Our students aren't dance trained, so to be recognised for their hard work and ambition has had a huge impact on their confidence and self worth."

- **KATHLEEN SPAULL, teacher**



NATIONAL AWARD
ELEVATION PERFORMING ARTS
"The Journey"

We wanted to open the student's eyes to the wider world - to find empathy and compassion in one person's story. Hopefully this encourages them to live their lives with the purpose of understanding more people's stories. We also wanted to give purpose to the telling of Theany's story by raising funds for a charity in Cambodia, as we have learnt so much about the country's history and how it was changed during the Pol Pot regime.



NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED
THE BASIN PRIMARY SCHOOL
"Houdini"



NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED
ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL
"The Very Lonely Butterfly"

WESTERN AUSTRALIA AWARDS



"There were so many wonderful performances this year, all embracing humankind's hopes and dreams for the future with startling creativity, sensitivity and exuberance, not to mention spectacular dancing! Everyone should be extremely proud of themselves."

- **LIBBY HAMMER, Wakakirri WA Ambassador**



NATIONAL AWARD
BULLSBROOK COLLEGE
"A Place To Call Home"

A story created to demonstrate the range of places we may belong to throughout our life journey without recognising it. When students were discussing where they feel they belong, everyone mentioned a place that was noted as a second home. Each place was described as an inclusive, safe space and was different for all.

"Bullsbrook College earning a national award is a testament to our commitment to "belonging". Through dance and storytelling, our students discovered a safe, inclusive space where they felt at home, forging deep connections with one another. This program not only showcased their talents but also built a strong community, allowing each participant to thrive. Ultimately, we believe that together with this program, our students can truly shine."

- **STEPHANIE CLEMENTS, teacher**



"Our performers were excited, filled with fun and an absolute joy to be around. What a wonderful day and what a memory was made for performers, teachers, the WA team, our special guests, the Perth Concert Hall staff and of course, our dedicated audience. Bring on 2025!!!"

- **SONJA PLUMMER, WA Show Day Coordinator**



NATIONAL AWARD
PETER CARNLEY ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL
"Girlhood"

Exploring the concept of belonging for women highlights the importance of creating inclusive environments where women are valued, respected, and empowered to thrive. We aim to inspire individuals and communities to work towards fostering gender equality, promoting diversity, and building a more equitable society for all.



NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED
DEANMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL
"The Invisible Boy"

In childhood, where laughter and adventure await, some children feel invisible. This story champions inclusion, urging us to notice those who feel lost. Join us in celebrating belonging, where every child finds friendship and understanding.

WAKAKIRRI VIDEO AWARDS



“I'm so inspired to be part of Wakakirri as it continues to grow in remarkable ways, with participants showcasing vulnerability, creativity, and a true sense of community. It's incredible to witness the dedication of everyone involved, from the performers to the teams behind the scenes. I hope these experiences create lasting memories and deepen their connection to their communities.”

- **SAMUEL MCKEOWN II, Wakakirri Video Ambassador**



NATIONAL AWARD
FITZGERALD STATE SCHOOL, QLD
“Salt meets Sand”

An inspiring story exploring the coming together of two cultures and their respect for the land, sea & sky. Through sharing these with our non-indigenous brothers and sisters and acknowledging and accepting our differences, we celebrate diversity and form a deeper connection to one another.



NATIONAL AWARD - HIGHLY COMMENDED
WARRINGA PARK SCHOOL, QLD
“Team Warringa Comes Together”

Warringa is a Special Education school. Our students face unique challenges preventing them from working together. In addition, outside the school environment, students have few opportunities to form meaningful relationships. We want to show the world that our students learn to interact as a team, share their talents, and together, build skills for a more positive future.



NATIONAL AWARD
ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, TAS
“Road Less taken”

We all have felt the pressure to belong: the Cheshire Cats and the Flowers that entangle you, the Mad Hatter and his cronies that entice you, the Queen and her minions that manipulate you. And on the sideline is the White Rabbit recording it all for social media. Making it abstract allowed us to reuse and create some fabulous costumes that helped tell our story and filled the stage with colour.

STATE AWARDS

- Burpengary State School
- Cooktown State School
- Goroke P-12 College
- Kangaroo Flat Primary School
- Mackay West State School
- Mount Carmel College
- Northern Peninsula Area State College
- Thomas More College



2024 WHAT A YEAR!

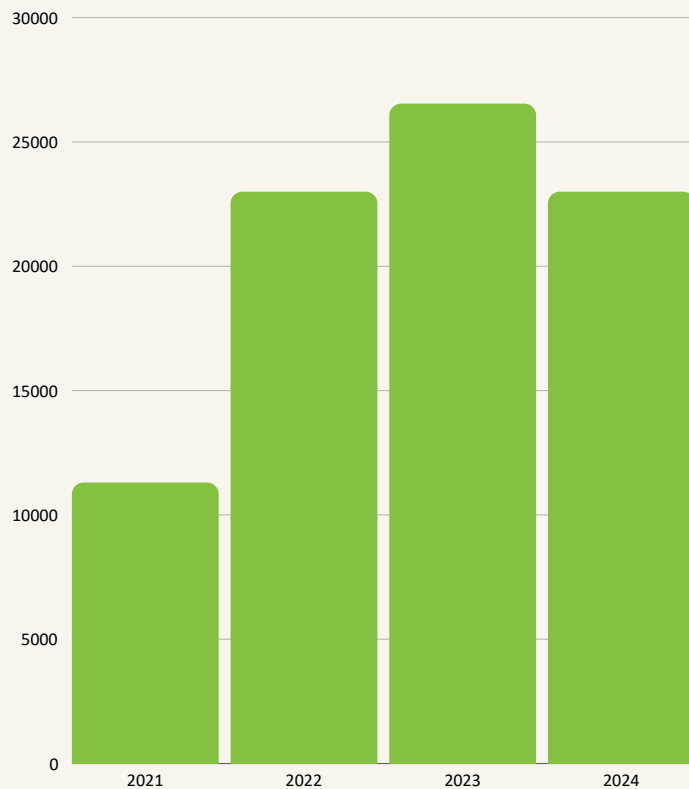


SHOW STATISTICS

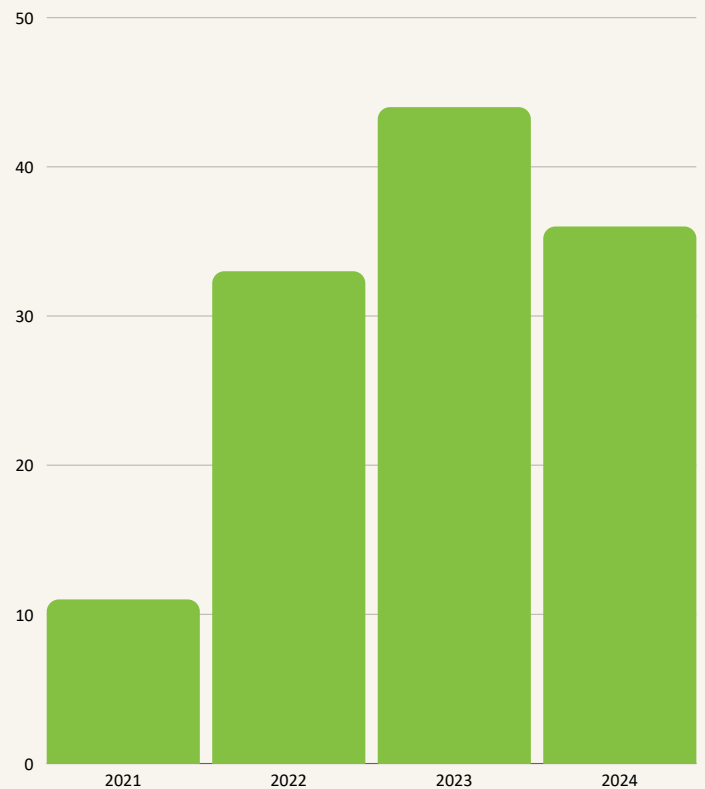
VENUES & DATES

STATE	VENUE	DATES	SHOWS
ACT	Canberra Theatre	29 - 31 July, 26 September	4
NSW	NIDA	5 - 6 August & 17 - 19 September	5
	Riverside Theatres	19 - 22 August	4
	WIN Entertainment Centre	13 August	1
QLD	Logan Entertainment Centre	6 - 8 August & 5 - 6 September	5
	The Events Centre	2 August	1
SA	Norwood Concert Hall	6 - 9 August & 4 September	5
VIC	Clocktower Centre	31 July - 2 August, 12 - 13 September	5
	Frankston Arts Centre	20 - 23 August & 9 September	5
WA	Perth Concert Hall	12 August	1

AUDIENCE MEMBERS



LIVE SHOWS



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