

MEDIA RELEASE
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REKINDLING REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!
Bangarra's powerful youth outreach program enters its fifth year,
visiting five new communities in 2017

Bangarra's youth outreach program, *Rekindling*, will be back on the road in 2017, inspiring pride, kinship and strength in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through intensive dance residencies.

[Watch](#) the *Rekindling* video.

Delivered across five new communities, *Rekindling* will visit Warrnambool in Victoria, Grafton in New South Wales, Docker River in the Northern Territory, Umuwa in South Australia and Townsville in Queensland.

With a vision to stimulate creativity, positive life choices and a sense of custodianship in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, *Rekindling* is one of Bangarra's most important initiatives. Since its inception, the program has been delivered in 20 communities across five states with almost 300 students completing the program.

Through a series of *Gatherings*, participants form connections with the Elders and community leaders. They share local stories, songs and dance, and develop skills to produce thought-provoking dance theatre. The program culminates in a performance of the newly created dances by the young people for their entire community.

Bangarra's Youth Program is comprised of three Bangarra alumni, Sidney Saltner, Chantal Kerr and Patrick Thaiday.

Youth Program Director Sidney Saltner said *Rekindling* is a transformative experience for the students involved.

"Self-confidence and a strong connection to culture are fundamental to the development of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' identity and wellbeing. By using movement and creativity to build a stimulating and positive environment, *Rekindling* opens up a space for teenagers to embrace and become more deeply aware of their culture."

"There has been a lasting and sustainable imprint on the communities that have welcomed us in the past. We look forward to another year of discovering and nurturing

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the next generation of cultural leaders.”

Bangarra returns to each community a year after the performance with a “Revisit”, delivering additional workshops and inviting participants to bring a friend. This element of the program encourages the sharing of skills and is an important tool in maintaining relationships with those who completed the program.

NATIONAL AUDITION DATES

WARRNAMBOOL (VIC)

Introductory workshop: 20 February 2017
(online registrations close 19 February)
Community Meeting: 21 February 2017

GRAFTON (NSW)

Introductory workshop: 27 February 2017
(online registrations close 26 February)
Community Meeting: 28 February 2017

DOCKER RIVER (NT)

Gathering: 2 – 11 April 2017

UMUWA (SA)

Gathering: 19 – 26 April 2017

TOWNSVILLE (QLD)

Introductory workshop: 23 February 2017
(online registrations close 22 February)
Community Meeting: 24 February 2017

Register online at <https://www.bangarra.com.au/youth-outreach/rekindling>

ABOUT REKINDLING

Rekindling is an intensive dance-based program for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander secondary students to explore “who you are” and “where you come from”. The participants research and gather stories with the help and guidance from Elders within their communities. They then develop dance, performance and creative skills to produce dance theatre in collaboration with local Elders and community members.

Bangarra's 2017 Rekindling program is supported by the Victorian Government.



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