

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday, 12 February 2018



**BANGARRA BRINGS REKINDLING YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM
TO DARWIN, CHARLEVILLE & THURSDAY ISLAND**

Unique learning experience for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

This year, Bangarra Dance Theatre's powerful youth outreach program, [Rekindling](#) will travel to Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Torres Strait Islands to inspire pride, kinship and strength in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through intensive dance residencies.

Now in its sixth year, *Rekindling* will visit three communities: Darwin in the Northern Territory, Charleville in Queensland, and Thursday Island (Waiben) in the Torres Strait Islands to reach secondary school-aged students in each community.

Bangarra's Youth Program is a vibrant, physical learning experience, delivered by three Bangarra alumni, Sidney Saltner, Chantal Kerr and Patrick Thaiday.

Youth Program Director Sidney Saltner said *Rekindling's* vision is to promote creativity, positive life choices and a sense of custodianship in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

"We look forward to bringing the *Rekindling* program to three new communities, where we will have the opportunity to use this unique way of learning to pass on our knowledge, strengthen connections to culture and create new opportunities for the young participants.

"The program is an important one for Bangarra, and aims to empower the next generation of cultural leaders to develop a sense of pride and place that will have a lasting imprint in each community," said Saltner.

Participants and Elders are encouraged to share local cultural stories, song and dance through a series of gatherings, which culminate in a community performance of the newly created dances by the youth.

Bangarra returns to each community a year after the performance to deliver additional workshops and invite 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.

Since its inception in 2013, the program has been delivered in 25 communities across five states with more than 450 young people completing the program. Watch the *Rekindling 2018* video [HERE](#).

No prior dance training or experience is required, just a wiliness to learn. Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in these communities are encouraged to register to take part today at www.bangarra.com.au/youth-outreach/rekindling

For all media enquiries, please contact:
Sarah Shields, Media & Communications Manager
Bangarra Dance Theatre
M: 0408 283 091
E: sarahs@bangarra.com.au

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KEY DATES

CHARLEVILLE (Qld)

Registrations close: 15 February 2018
Workshop: 22 February 2018
Gathering 1: 17 – 19 April 2018
Gathering 2: 8 – 11 May 2018
Gathering 3: 21 – 25 May 2018
Performance: 25 May 2018

THURSDAY ISLAND (Qld)

Registrations close: 19 February 2018
Workshop: 26 February 2018
Gathering 1: 23 – 27 April 2018
Gathering 2: 28 May – 1 June 2018
Gathering 3: 14 – 16 June 2018
Performance: 16 June 2018

DARWIN (NT)

Registrations close: 1 March 2018
Workshop: 8 March 2018
Gathering 1: 1 – 3 May 2018
Gathering 2: 5 – 8 June 2018
Gathering 3: 18 – 22 June 2018
Performance: 22 June 2018

Note: Dates are subject to change. Please see www.bangarra.com.au for updates.

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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 Rekindling program is supported by:

- The Colonial Foundation
- Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation
- Patterson Pearce Foundation
- Tim Fairfax Family Foundation
- The Victorian Government, through Creative Victoria, and
- A generous group of individual donors to Bangarra

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