

MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday, 7 December 2017



REKINDLING 2018 REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!
Bangarra's youth outreach program to visit three new communities in 2018

Bangarra Dance Theatre's powerful youth outreach program, [Rekindling](#) will return in 2018 to inspire pride, kinship and strength in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through intensive dance residencies in Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Torres Strait Islands.

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 engage with secondary school-aged students from each community.

As part of the 2018 program, the *Rekindling* team is working with 60 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and Elders from across the Yugambeh Nation who will perform at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony on 4 April with Bangarra's professional dance company. This project expands on the connections the *Rekindling* team has made with many communities across the Yugambeh Nation.

As one of Bangarra's most important initiatives, *Rekindling's* vision is to promote creativity, positive life choices and a sense of custodianship in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Watch the *Rekindling 2018* video [HERE](#).

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

Youth Program Director Sidney Saltner said *Rekindling* is a vibrant, physical learning experience for the students involved.

"*Rekindling* is dedicated to empowering the next generation of cultural leaders to develop a sense of pride and place in this world and has left a lasting imprint in each community visited.

"The program allows us to pass on our knowledge, strengthen connections to culture and create new opportunities for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders that weren't available to our parents and grandparents.

"We are extremely excited to take *Rekindling* to three new communities and to expand the program to the Torres Strait Islands for the first time. We look forward to connecting with each community and inspiring participants through a new way of learning," said Saltner.

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

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

CONNECT WITH BANGARRA



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.

No prior dance training or experience is required, just a wiliness to learn. Registrations are now open at www.bangarra.com.au/youth-outreach/rekindling

KEY DATES

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

CHARLEVILLE (Qld)

Registrations close: 15 February 2018
Workshop: 22 February 2018
Gathering 1: 16 – 20 April 2018
Gathering 2: 7 – 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: 28 May – 1 June 2018
Gathering 2: 11 – 15 June 2018
Gathering 3: 23 – 28 June 2018
Performance: 27 June 2018

DARWIN (NT)

Registrations close: 1 March 2018
Workshop: 8 March 2018
Gathering 1: 30 April – 3 May 2018
Gathering 2: 4 – 8 June 2018
Gathering 3: 18 – 22 June 2018
Performance: 22 June 2018

-END-

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

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

CONNECT WITH BANGARRA

