

# WAKAKIRRI

## NATIONAL STORY-DANCE FESTIVAL

# 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.

