

MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY, 20TH OCTOBER 2016, 11AM (AEDT)

WAKAKIRRI NATIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED ENTRIES FOR 2017 NOW OPEN

Australia's largest schools performing arts festival, Wakakirri, is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 national Story of the Year Awards. Primary and secondary schools across Australia are now invited to enter for 2017, with entries closing 31 March, 2017.

The 2016 winners were announced in two special Waka TV episodes on [the Wakakirri website](#) at 11am Thursday 20 October 2017. The Waka TV episodes feature National Panel Representatives Justine Clarke, James Elmer, Mark Wilson, Ian Knowles and Michael Cormick.

The recipients of the Story Of The Year Awards are as follows:

PRIMARY SCHOOL RECIPIENT OF STORY OF THE YEAR: Dapto Public School, NSW

SECONDARY SCHOOL RECIPIENT OF STORY OF THE YEAR: Northmead Creative & Performing Arts High School, NSW

SCREEN CHALLENGE STORY OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT: Wondall Heights State School, QLD

Schools also won Special Awards and Category Awards, please find the full list of those winners in separate attached document.

National Panel Leader Justine Clarke reflected on the 2016 performances, saying "it was so inspiring to see so much passion, talent and commitment to great story telling at the shows this year."

"The technical support around the performances is of the highest standard, giving schools every opportunity to showcase their best work. Wakakirri provides an experience that the students will never forget and reminds us of the power of the arts in primary and secondary school," says Clarke.

Wakakirri is also pleased to announce the signature item for 2017, which is 'gift'. Schools are encouraged to incorporate this item into their entry in a creative way.

Wakakirri is the largest performing arts event for schools in Australia; where students perform in professional theatres in front of an official panel of industry professionals. It involves over 20,000 primary and secondary students across every State and Territory annually. Wakakirri received a record 244 Registrations in 2016.

Registrations for 2017 are now open via <http://www.wakakirri.com/2017-expression-of-interest/>

LINKS: Waka TV episodes announcing the 2016 recipients:

Primary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awgNDLl8bA&feature=youtu.be>

Secondary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nlSB4kFNgg&feature=youtu.be>

MEDIA INQUIRIES TO VIOLET MARKETING

Lila Cumming

lila@violetmarketing.com.au or 0421 977 329