



MEDIA RELEASE

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Wakakirri extends its NSW reach to Newcastle and Shoalhaven

Australia's largest schools performing arts event is pleased to announce the addition of Newcastle and Shoalhaven venues for 2017. Wakakirri runs annually from August through September at various venues around the country, asking primary and secondary students to create 'Story Dances' for performance in front of a live audience and judging panel.

The two newest NSW venues for 2017 will be the **Civic Theatre, Newcastle** and **Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre**, hosting performances across August. The Civic Theatre will host Wakakirri on **Wednesday 30 August 2017** and the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre will host from **Wednesday 9 – Friday 11 August 2017**.

Wakakirri currently plays in five other NSW venues, with another 11 venues participating nationwide. The 2016 spread of NSW schools who participated in Wakakirri included schools located on the Central Coast, Newcastle and Shoalhaven regions. These schools travelled to venues in Sydney or Wollongong to perform in 2016.

Festival Director Adam Loxley says that Wakakirri is always looking for ways to make it easier for schools to participate.

"Reducing the travel distance will certainly help schools minimise their travel time, reduce their costs and have a positive environmental impact, which is a huge part of the Wakakirri vision," says Loxley.

"We're seeing incredible growth after the 2016 season and have had many enquiries from new schools in these areas wishing to participate in 2017. "

Wakakirri is the largest performing arts event for schools in Australia; where students perform their Story Dances 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.

A Wakakirri Story Dance is a 3-7 minute performance using any combination of dance, creative movement, acting, music, props, costumes, sets, and in some cases, film, projections and singing.

Wakakirri received a record 244 Registrations in 2016.

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

MEDIA INQUIRIES TO VIOLET MARKETING

Lila Cumming

lila@violetmarketing.com.au or 0421 977 329