

# WAKAKIRRI

Australia's Largest Performing Arts Event for Schools

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## WAKAKIRRI ANNOUNCES SYDNEY PRIMARY STORY DANCE CHALLENGE WINNERS



Photos: Dapto Public School & St Christopher's Catholic Primary School, Panania. Credit: Winkipop Media.

Wakakirri is proud to announce Sydney's Primary winners for the 2018 Wakakirri Story Dance Challenge – Mater Dei Catholic Primary School, Strathfield North Public School, Dural Public School, St Philip's Christian College Gosford, St Christopher's Catholic Primary School Panania, Gymea Bay Public School and Dapto Public School.

Twenty-two schools from across Sydney were invited to the Quaycentre at Sydney Olympic Park over two nights (September 18 & 19) to perform their award-winning Wakakirri Story Dance productions (a Story Dance is a 3-7 minute performance telling a story through dance and drama).

Wakakirri's National Panel representatives, Andrew McFarlane and Wayne Scott Kermond, had a tough job selecting the seven winning schools. Each of these schools are now nominated for the coveted national Story of the Year Award, to be announced October 17th on Waka TV. The winning schools celebrated multiculturalism, environmental protection, social responsibility and individuality.

St Philip's Christian College Gosford won over the judges with their clever and relevant portrayal of the effects of anxiety disorder in *'Monsters in my Mind'* (Best Mental Health Story Award), and St Christopher's Catholic Primary School, Panania inspired the audience to make a difference and help to preserve our beautiful environment with *'To bag or not to bag?'* (Best Environmental Story Award).

Dapto Public School dazzled with *'A Tear on the Cheek of Time'* (Best Celebration Story Award) the colourful origin story of the Taj Mahal that transported the audience to India, and Mater Dei Catholic Primary School had everyone laughing and looking at flying pests a little differently with *'BEE Happy'* (Best Comedy Story Award) – when the bees are in trouble a fly takes it upon herself to become Earth's new pollinating pioneer.

Wakakirri is Australia's largest performing arts event for primary and secondary schools. 240 schools have taken to the stage at 40 events at professional theatres across the country for Wakakirri in 2018, telling stories that express the thoughts, ideas and aspirations of thousands of students.

See Editor's Notes for the full list of Sydney Primary winners and more information.

*Wakakirri's Story of the Year Award will be announced on Waka TV on October 17, schools will be watching the announcement live via YouTube. Voting for 'People's Choice' opens September 24.*

*The Wakakirri Story Dance Challenge will return in 2019. Registrations open October 2018, see website for dates and registration info (and subscribe for up-to-date info): [www.wakakirri.com](http://www.wakakirri.com)*

**–ENDS–**

**For further information, interviews and hi-res images please contact:**

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### EDITOR'S NOTES

**Wakakirri** is Australia's largest performing arts event for primary and secondary schools. A Wakakirri Story Dance is a 3-7 minute performance by a group of students that theatrically tells a story using a combination of dancing, acting and creative movement to pre-recorded music.

Read more: [wakakirri.com/what-is-wakakirri/](http://wakakirri.com/what-is-wakakirri/)

**Wakakirri's National Panel** of entertainment industry professionals will decide the Story of the Year. This year's panel includes Michala Banas, Joshua Horner and Alex Papps. Read more:

[wakakirri.com/national-judging-panel/](http://wakakirri.com/national-judging-panel/)

#### Sydney Primary Awards Nights Judges:



#### Andrew McFarlane

A graduate from NIDA, Andrew has had an extensive career in film & television. He has starred in some of Australia's most successful TV dramas including *The Sullivans*, *Patrol Boat*, *The Flying Doctors*, *Water Rats*, *Blue Heelers*, *Home & Away*, *Neighbours*, *The Alice*, and *Underbelly: A Tale of Two Cities* and numerous telemovies and miniseries for the Australian and the US market. Andrew is also a regular presenter on *PlaySchool* for the ABC. In theatre, Andrew has worked for every state theatre company in Australia and for numerous independent and commercial theatre companies. He has run both "Acting for the Camera" and "Introduction to Stage Acting" courses for the NIDA Open Program and is a course director at the Darlinghurst Theatre School.



#### Wayne Scott Kermond

Show business is in Wayne's blood. Being "born in a trunk" he is a fourth generation performer. Wayne has been nominated for 2 Helpmann Awards, 3 Green Room Awards and an Australian Dance Award and he has received a Green Room Award, a Pick of the Fringe Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and five MO Awards, including Musical Theatre Performer of the Year and the Peter Allen Variety Performer of the Year. Wayne in the last few years has turned his hand at directing with his wife Katie choreographing, a production of *Evita*, *Mary Poppins*, *Wicked* and *We Will Rock You* for RRC Queensland, whilst performing, producing and conceiving *Spiegelgesque* in the SpiegelZelt tent in Sydney, Glen St Theatre and Parramatta Riverside Theatre once again playing the role of the cheeky

Emcee Wayne.

#### SYDNEY PRIMARY STORY OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

SCHOOL	ITEM TITLE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AWARDS
<a href="#">Mater Dei Catholic Primary School</a>	BEE Happy	The buzz through the anthills is that the ever busy bees are in trouble. Without them who will pollinate the flowers? Could flies be the new superbugs? Are they more than just annoying maggoty pests? One eager young fly seeks to find his purpose as Earth's new pollinating pioneer...	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Comedy Story Award
<a href="#">Strathfield North Public School</a>	Eriksson's Saga	Take an expedition with Strathfield North Public School as they tell the story of Leif Eriksson's journey to North America. Follow Eriksson and his party as they leave in search of the lush distant land written in the sagas of the ancestors.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best World History Story Award
<a href="#">Dural Public School</a>	The Fantastic Flying Books of Miss Lessmore	Miss Lessmore loved words, stories and books. Her life was a book of her own writing. One day the sky darkened and everything she knew was scattered – even the words of her book. Feeling lost, she began to wander. With the opening of a book, she let her imagination fly.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Celebration Story Award

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<a href="#">St Philip's Christian College Gosford</a>	Monsters in my Mind	Jimmy is a 10yr old boy who has monsters living in his head. These monsters are called 'Generalised Anxiety Disorder' and like 1 in every 6 Australians, he is haunted by them. Jimmy's mum and dad, best friends and teacher, are going to give him the tools he needs to fight the anxiety monsters.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Mental Health Story Award
<a href="#">St Christopher's Catholic Primary School, Panania</a>	To bag or not to bag?	Our Story Dance is based on sustainability. It showcases a students' decision to litter, and the devastating effects plastic can have on our environment. Students at St Christopher's, Panania, have been inspired to make a difference and keep our world beautiful.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Environmental Story Award
<a href="#">GyMEA Bay Public School</a>	Believing gives you wings to fly	When a baby elephant is born at a circus that is not quite like the rest of the herd, he is befriended by a tiny ringmaster who makes it his mission to make Dumbo the star of the circus, celebrating his difference. The main theme of the story is centred around love, diversity and acceptance.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Musical Story Award
<a href="#">Dapto Public School</a>	A Tear On The Cheek Of Time	Time does not stand still for anyone, but, in our story, it can be conquered by memory and love. Join us on our journey as we transcend time and discover the beautiful story behind one of the world's most unique and iconic buildings.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Celebration Story Award