

# WAKAKIRRI

Australia's Largest Performing Arts Event for Schools

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## WAKAKIRRI ANNOUNCES VICTORIAN SECONDARY STORY DANCE CHALLENGE WINNERS



Photos: Hoppers Crossing Secondary College and Dromana Secondary College. Credit: Winkipop Media

Wakakirri is proud to announce Victoria's Secondary Challenge winners for the 2018 Wakakirri Story Dance Challenge.

Nine finalist schools from around the state were invited to The Palais theatre on Monday September 11th to perform their award-winning Wakakirri Story Dances for the chance to be nominated for the coveted national Story of the Year Award. (A Story Dance is a short performance telling a story through a combination of dance, drama and creative movement.)

Hoppers Crossing Secondary College, Dromana College and Mount Erin Secondary College were named as the region's winners. Each school impressed the judges with their original Story Dance productions expressing students' thoughts, ideas and aspirations.

All three high schools are now in the running for Wakakirri's coveted national Story of the Year Award. Wakakirri's National Panel representatives – Andrew McFarlane, Jason Coleman and Christopher Horsey – all commended the schools for their strong storytelling, dance ability and dramatic action.

Each school explores poignant themes and relevant issues. Dromana College's performance '383' examines the way society is ignoring the ongoing issue of homelessness in Melbourne, and the impact we as individuals can have on repairing this issue. The college was also recognised with the Best Raising Awareness Story Award.

Hoppers Crossing Secondary's performance 'Race of Life' acknowledges that "everybody is dealt a different card in life". The school was awarded the Best Motivational Story Award for their message that through working hard, building resilience and not allowing circumstances to bring you down you can still be in the "race of life".

Mount Erin Secondary were recognised with the Best Australian History Story Award for 'Vietnam - The War Within', a performance exploring how the Vietnam War brought the brutality of war into Australian homes through the story of a young soldier forced to fight a conflict he didn't understand.

See Editor's Notes for the full list of Victorian Secondary Challenge winners and item descriptions.

*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.*

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

–ENDS–

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

Alannah Maher at WAKAKIRRI

E: [info@wakakirri.com](mailto:info@wakakirri.com) | P: 1800 650 979 | M: 0423 066 170

# WAKAKIRRI

## Australia's Largest Performing Arts Event for Schools

### 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: [www.wakakirri.com/what-is-wakakirri/](http://www.wakakirri.com/what-is-wakakirri/)

### Victoria Secondary Awards Night 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.



#### Jason Coleman

Jason Coleman, best known for his role as judge on the hit dance show *So You Think You Can Dance*, came to dance prominence when he was the Choreographer for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Jason has also worked on many well known musicals including *Chicago*, *Hair*, *A Chorus Line* and *Hairspray* just to name a few. Please visit [www.theministryofdance.com.au](http://www.theministryofdance.com.au) to view Jason's full biography.



#### Christopher Horsey

Christopher Horsey is an actor, vocalist, dancer, choreographer and presenter on stage, screen and radio. His recent performing roles include Marty in *The Tap Pack* (TheatrHals Prod), Rooster in *Annie* (Packemin Prod) and Benny Southstreet in *Guys & Dolls* (The Production Co). As a choreographer, Chris created the opening sequence of the Helpmann Awards (Sydney Opera House), the Rob Guest Endowment (Capitol Theatre) and *Ruthless!* (Seymour Centre). He has performed on the West End in the original *Hot Shoe Shuffle* and on Broadway as a founding member of *Tap Dogs*. His film credits include the role of Angus in *Bootmen* (Fox Searchlight). For a full list of credits: [christopherhorsey.com](http://christopherhorsey.com)

### WAKAKIRRI VICTORIAN SECONDARY CHALLENGE WINNERS

SCHOOL	ITEM TITLE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AWARDS
Hoppers Crossing Secondary College	<i>Race of Life</i>	Our story is about our students college acknowledging that everybody is dealt a different card in life. Those dealt not great cards in life, your message is to work a little harder, build resilience and don't let these circumstances bring you down, you're still in the race of life	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Motivational Story Award
Dromana College	383	We examine the way society is ignoring the ongoing issue of homelessness in Melbourne. The performance shows the impact just one person noticing their plight can have on working towards fixing this issue.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Raising Awareness Story Award
Mount Erin Secondary College	<i>Vietnam - The War Within</i>	Vietnam brought the brutality of war into Australian homes. This is the story of a young soldier forced to fight a conflict he didn't understand. A story of love, loss, compassion and the fight for free will. A story of survival and the internal struggle that rages beyond the last reign of fire.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Australian History Story Award