

# WAKAKIRRI

Australia's Largest Performing Arts Event for Schools

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## WAKAKIRRI ANNOUNCES VICTORIAN PRIMARY STORY DANCE CHALLENGE WINNERS



*Photo: Frankston Heights Primary School. Credit: Winkipop Media*

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

Ten finalist primary schools from around the state were invited to perform their award-winning Story Dances\* at The Palais Theatre in St Kilda on Wednesday September 12th, 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.)

Jells Park Primary School, Hallam Primary School and Frankston Heights Primary School 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 and Christopher Horsey – commended the schools for their strong storytelling, dance ability and dramatic action.

Jells Park Primary's performance '*Freedom*' celebrates Nelson Mandela's life long fight for equality, commemorating his achievements in the year he would have turned 100. The performance also won the school the Best Biographical History Story Award.

Hallam Primary's Best Motivational Story Award-winning performance '*Never Give Up!*' follows a student's journey as they empower themselves and unlock their creativity, with a message not to doubt your abilities.

Frankston Heights Primary's Story Dance production honours the sacrifices of the Australian soldiers who fought in the Battle of Gallipoli during WW1, in which over 18000 Australian Soldiers were wounded and over 8000 died. The strong performance also won the school the Best Australian History Story Award.

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:

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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: [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.



#### 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 PRIMARY CHALLENGE WINNERS

SCHOOL	ITEM TITLE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AWARDS
Jells Park Primary School	Freedom	The year that Nelson Mandela would have turned 100, we celebrate his life-long fight for equality. His imprisonment for his rebellious work mimics the regime he fought against. After 27 years, Mandela is free & fights to free his Country from the shackles of its own imprisonment.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Biographical History Story Award
Hallam Primary School	Never Give Up!	Have you ever doubted your abilities? Have you sat in art class thinking 'I can't do this'? All you need is a splash of inspiration, a spatter of colour and a dab of imagination to put you on the right path. Follow a student's journey as they empower themselves and unlock their creativity.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Motivational Story Award
Frankston Heights Primary School	One Minute's Silence	WW1 erupted at the start of last century. Many Australians signed up to serve their country. The landing at Gallipoli on April 25th 1915 began an 8 month battle. Over 18000 Australian Soldiers were wounded & over 8000 died. Their sacrifices are honoured throughout our land. We will remember them.	Story of the Year Nominee / Best Australian History Story Award