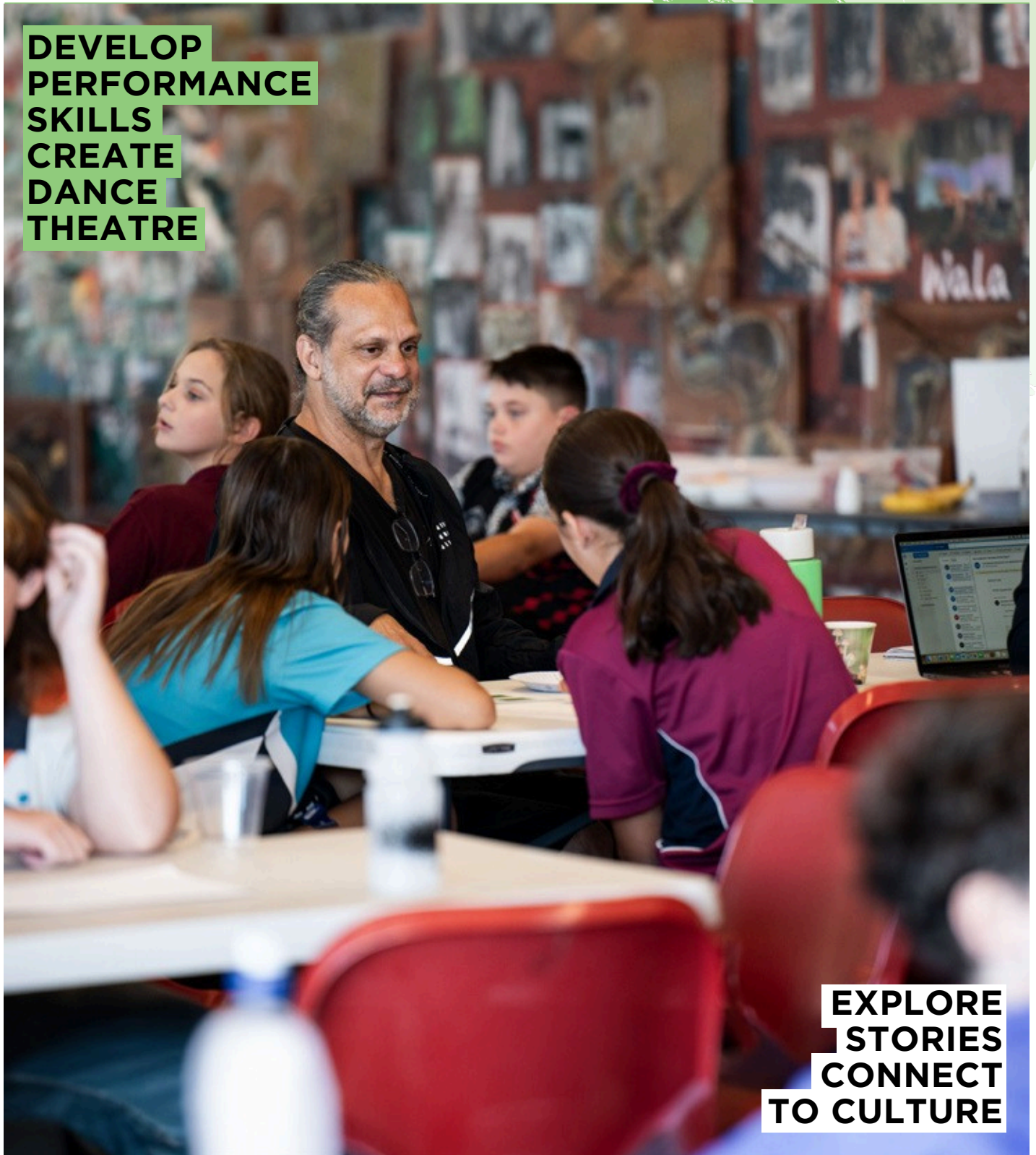


Rekindling

YOUTH PROGRAM

DEVELOP
PERFORMANCE
SKILLS
CREATE
DANCE
THEATRE



EXPLORE
STORIES
CONNECT
TO CULTURE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
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or email rekindling@bangarra.com.au

bangarra
DANCE THEATRE



INTRODUCING REKINDLING

VISION

Rekindling is Bangarra Dance Theatre's Youth Program, which aims to inspire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to:

- Have pride in their cultural background
- Have a strong sense of kinship and connection to their communities and country
- Understand their role as the future custodians of their culture
- Establish the foundations for positive career choices

BACKGROUND

Bangarra is Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts company and fulfills a dual role of creative producer and cultural agent. 2024 marks over three decades of Bangarra's work within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through its performance and workshop programs. We know that rekindling traditional knowledge and ownership of culture amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people is a vital, positive and effective means to instill a sense of pride and self-worth in who they are and where they come from because of their connection to cultural knowledge and practice passed down by their Elders.

The Rekindling program is tailored to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teenagers in regional and urban communities. As we know, for many young people the choices they make and the activities they engage with in their teenage years can have an impact on their entire lives, as well as affecting their families and communities. Since its inception in 2013, we have brought the Rekindling program to over 56 communities across the country, with over 2,000 young people participating in the program.

We need to bring up young people with purpose, passionately loyal to their communities, with a sense of belonging to their traditional country, with skills needed to assert themselves in our time while drawing strength from their heritage.

Michael Anderson, Euahlayi Elder, North West NSW & South West QLD

If you can rekindle some of the stories, knowledge and energy from my community and share it in a positive way that still protects it, that's very important.

-Aunty Di McNabo, Elder, Wellington, NSW

Introducing Rekindling

THE REKINDLING TEAM

Rekindling has been developed under the direction of Bangarra's former Artistic Director, Stephen Page and Sidney Saltner, one of Bangarra's most acclaimed artists. Sidney leads the Rekindling team as Youth Program Director, along with Youth Program and Education Coordinator Chantal Kerr, and Youth Program Coordinator Sani Townson, all of whom have had a long association with Bangarra. They are joined by Youth Program Tutor Amy Weatherall, Bangarra's Community Engagement Manager Raquel Kerdel and the 2024 Russell Page Graduate Program Youth Trainee, Holly Faulds.



SIDNEY SALTNER YOUTH PROGRAM DIRECTOR Sydney is from the Wulli Wulli people of central Queensland and graduated from the National Aboriginal Skills Development Association (NAISDA) Dance College in 1991. He joined Bangarra in 1997, and after 15 years, stepped down from his full-time performing career to assume the position of Youth Program Director. With over thirty years of experience, Sidney has performed and taught alongside Australia's most notable choreographers and dance companies, as well as taking up the roles of Rehearsal Director and Assistant Director with Bangarra and AIDT. In his current role, Sidney has mentored the NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Company as part of Bangarra's partnership with the NSW Education Department's Arts Unit.

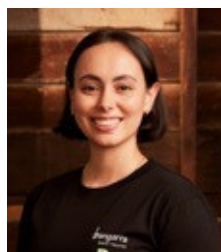
Throughout Sidney's career he has performed and taught extensively throughout Australia and internationally in Asia, Canada, North and South America, UK, Europe, South Africa, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Sidney has been nominated for multiple prestigious awards including: Best Male Dancer in both the Australian Dance Awards and the Deadly Awards in 2003, and in 2004 for a Mo Award.



SANI TOWNSON YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR Sani is from a strong cultural family who are of Samu, Koedal and Dhoeybaw clans of Saibai Island. He trained with NAISDA for four years before joining Bangarra in 2001, performing all company repertoire from 2001-2006. Sani continues his practice as a cultural ambassador and artist and has worked extensively both throughout Australia and Internationally in dance, music, acting and writing. Sani returned to Bangarra in 2020 as Youth Program Coordinator, and in 2023 was selected to choreograph for Bangarra's emerging choreographer season, *Dance Clan*. His acclaimed work, *Kulka*, returns to the stage in 2024 as part of the national touring production, *Horizon*.



CHANTAL KERR YOUTH PROGRAM & EDUCATION COORDINATOR Chantal is from the Biripi people of the mid north coast of NSW. Chantal has been a member of the dance community for over 25 years as a dancer and dance teacher and is a graduate of NAISDA Dance College (2002). She first joined Bangarra in 2003 and has worked extensively throughout Australia and overseas in highly acclaimed performances at the BAM Festival Brooklyn NY, Kennedy Centre Washington, DC, and The World Expo in Aichi, Japan. Chantal returned to Bangarra from 2013- 2020 as a Team Leader for the Rekindling Youth Program. Bangarra welcomed her back in 2023 as the Youth Programs & Education Coordinator.



AMY WEATHERALL YOUTH PROGRAM TUTOR Amy is a proud Kamilaroi woman from Rockhampton, QLD. She began her studies in dance at the age of four under the guidance of Diane Talbot. After finishing high school, Amy completed an Advanced Diploma in Performing Arts at the Aboriginal Centre of Performing Arts (ACPA) in Brisbane and continued her studies with Global Dance Pro in Los Angeles and the Gold Coast. Amy joined Bangarra as the 2023 Russell Page Graduate



HOLLY FAULDS YOUTH PROGRAM TUTOR Holly is a proud Wiradjuri, Dharawal and Wywandy woman from Dubbo, NSW. A graduate of NAISDA Dance College, she has undertaken secondments with companies, including Bangarra Dance Theatre, Sydney Dance Company, Australasian Dance Company, and Legs on the Wall. In 2024, Holly joined the Youth Programs team through the Russell Page Graduate Program and in 2025 she continues on with the team as a tutor.

Rekindling

YOUTH PROGRAM



The Program

Rekindling is delivered in partnership with each local community and starts with the Rekindling team spending time in onsite, developing relationships with local Elders and the community. They establish support for the program and invite the Elders and community representatives to tailor the program to meet the needs of their local community. In doing this, the Rekindling team consults with the Elders about stories and language they choose to provide that would be appropriate to share with the young people and the broader community and then developed into a dance work. The Rekindling team works with the Elders to ensure the practice of appropriate protocols are observed and permissions are adhered to at all times.

The Rekindling team seeks to establish relationships with key stakeholders within the community, to deliver the program during school terms and hours. We find that the encouragement from schools has enhanced participants' attendance and attitude towards learning, and at the same time supports their cultural awareness within their communities. The program begins with an audition workshop process, during which the Rekindling team and local Elders work together to select participants for the program. It is important that the group represents a mixture of participants' backgrounds, levels of cultural awareness and involvement, and personal interests so that the participants can learn from each other's experiences.

The Workshops

THE REKINDLING GATHERINGS

The Rekindling program is divided into three Gatherings, each with specific aims and objectives. **Gathering One | Three-day workshop: An introduction to culture** The program begins with a traditional Welcome to Country, by local Elders. The objective of this first Gathering is to lay the foundations for the program, highlighting connections to and between land, people, and Country, breaking down barriers, and create a nurturing space for the participants to get to know the Rekindling team, each other, and the Elders. They are introduced to the process of shared learning and exchange and begin to explore the cultural knowledge of their Elders - their country, language, and family. Traditional and western dance styles will be taught, as well as other skills from Bangarra's performance repertoire to discover the process of storytelling through movement.



Gathering Two | Four-day workshop: Exploring creativity and expression

The participants engage in creative tasks to explore movement, music, design, and creative development. While specific dance skills are explored, they are used as a vehicle to open broader discussions of culture, creativity and storytelling. Exploring the themes 'who you are' and 'where you come from', the young people research and gather stories from within their communities and begin discussing themes for their group performance. They are shown different techniques for how to make movement using rhythms, floor patterns, and use of objects to tell their story.

Gathering Three | Five-day workshop: Preparing for performance

The participants continue their skills and movement development and prepare for their own creative work. They are introduced to production elements and skills – props, staging, sound, and costume. The program culminates in a public community presentation to celebrate the achievements of the participants and to share their cultural learnings with their peers, families, schools, Elders, and the broader community.

Return visits

The Rekindling Return Visits are one-day workshops designed to reconnect with participants, Elders and community members. Bangarra's Return Visits provide the Youth Program team with a very special opportunity to revisit communities in which Rekindling has already occurred and see what participants have been doing in their communities since taking part in the workshops. At this final stage of connecting with participants, we give them the opportunity to bring a friend to the program, broadening the program's reach. On the day, the Rekindling team delivers a dance warm-up, provides new choreography, and offers an opportunity for the participants to catch up with Elders and community leaders, sharing with them the work and learnings they have made both within and outside of the program.

Rekindling

YOUTH PROGRAM



Program Support

When we invest in our young people, we invest in the future of storytelling and cultural connection. Each year, Bangarra works to secure key funding partnerships with those who share the Rekindling vision, ensuring the program's long-term sustainability and national reach. This support allows Rekindling to remain free and accessible to participants.

The program is currently made possible with the support of the **Annamila First Nations Foundation, the MJW Foundation, Cybec Foundation, James N Kirby Foundation, Patterson Pearce Foundation, The Bowden Marstan Foundation, Todd Family Foundation, Une Parkinson Foundation and many generous individual donors.** Every contribution directly supports young people, Elders, and communities engaging with the program - helping to sustain a powerful cycle of connection, creativity, and cultural continuity.

CONTACT US

email: rekindling@bangarra.com.au phone: 02 9258 5108
website: bangarra.com.au/community/rekindling

WHAT YOU BRING TO THE PROGRAM - COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Rekindling program requires support from each community to source resources for aspects of the program, and to generate community involvement. The Rekindling program is conducted in communities around Australia who seek and are able to secure funding to support participants and community staffing, for example, payment of Elder's fees, accommodation, venues, meals, and transport for participants and other necessary items. The communities are not required to cover the costs of travel, accommodation, wages or per diems for the Youth Programs team. The support required is solely to ensure that the program has the above-mentioned resources to run the program.

Are you ready to submit an Expression of Interest?

Before submitting an EOI for the program, please ensure the following apply to you:

1. You have read this Rekindling Program Overview.
2. You have Community involvement and buy-in for the program.
3. You have School involvement and buy-in for the program.

Please submit an **expression of Interest** to participate in the Rekindling program.