



bangarra
DANCE THEATRE
AUSTRALIA

2021 Annual Report





Rekindling in Karratha, WA
Photo Jordan Shields

Contents



Chair's Report	4
Artistic Director's Report	5
Executive Director's Report	7
Company Profile	8
A Year in Review	9
Our Mission	10
Experiences	11
Connecting with Community	23
Youth and Education Programs	26
Russell Page Graduate Program	30
David Page Music Fellowship	32
Workplace Giving Program	33
The Company	34
Partners	37
Patrons	38
Board of Directors	41

Cover: (L to R) Bradley Smith,
Nicola Sabatino, Lillian Banks
and Rika Hamaguchi
in *SandSong*
Photo Daniel Boud

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this publication contains the names of people who have passed away.

Bangarra Dance Theatre pays respect and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which our Company calls home, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.



Chair's Report

Bangarra's values of resilience, connection and care for Country, respect and reciprocity provided solid ground for facing the challenges and disruptions in 2021. Bangarra's significant achievements in 2021 include settling back into our new home at the Wharf, undertaking a national, although curtailed, tour of *SandSong*, and developing three new works for future presentations.

The most significant event for Bangarra was the news of our revered Artistic Director Stephen Page, making the decision to step down from the role at the end of 2022. Stephen's resignation marks the end of an incredible 32-year tenure as Bangarra's Artistic Director. Stephen is a national treasure and his legacy cannot be underestimated, he has done so much for this nation. On behalf of the Board, I thank him for his unfailing dedication to his people and his work in bringing cultures together through art, which will be honoured forever more.

His successor Frances Rings is an incredible artist and the perfect choice to carry the extraordinary legacy of Stephen Page into Bangarra's next cycle. We are thrilled to appoint such a major talent with a deep connection to Bangarra to continue to carry Stephen's legacy into the future.

“Bangarra's significant achievements in 2021 included settling back into our new home at the Wharf, undertaking a national, although curtailed, tour of *SandSong*, and developing three new works for future presentations.”

Internationally celebrated Dancer, Choreographer and arts leader, Frances Rings originally performed as a Dancer with Bangarra, before making her choreographic debut with the company in 2002. She has since choreographed eight major works for Bangarra, firmly cementing herself as one of Australia's leading choreographers.

2021 also saw some changes on the Board with the departure of Lynn Ralph, who stepped back onto the Board in 2020 to assist Bangarra navigate the uncertainty and challenges of COVID-19. I thank her, and all my fellow Board members, for their support, expertise and commitment over the past year. We also welcomed new Board member Joshua Duke, a proud Dunghutti man, who joined in October 2021.

I also extend my gratitude to the Federal and State governments, and the many private companies and individuals that support us and our initiatives. The opportunity to connect with audiences again on stage, as well as the continued online presence, is our reason for being. We look forward to continuing to deliver our impactful work and forging deep connections with audiences and communities.

Phillipa McDermott
Chair

“In 2021 we reawakened our healing powers – by sharing stories of our People on stage.”



Artistic Director's Report

Opening the year with *Spirit: a retrospective 2021* was the perfect medicine we needed – shaking off the remains of the COVID-19 impacted previous year, introducing a new generation of Dancers to repertoire, and providing a sense of healing to the audience sitting under a night sky, hungry for our stories and cultural learning.

That evening we paid our respects to Wesley Enoch, in his last year as Director of Sydney Festival. We were also proud to be a part of *Araatika: Rise Up!*, a documentary created by our former Chair Larissa Behrendt, and rugby league great Dean Widders, which was filmed in part that same evening.

The regional tour of *Spirit: a retrospective 2021* was a great way to reconnect with audiences, and our Dancers came out of that experience eager to bring *SandSong* to the stage.

SandSong is our gift back to the Kimberley Community, the Lawford Family and our sister Ningali. Family members Eva Nargoodah and Putuparri Tom Lawford were in the audience for opening night and we are excited to take this production back to the Kimberley at the end of 2022.

In the second part of the year, I was in the sacred cave, preparing all the ingredients to tell *Wudjang: Not the Past* for the 2022 season. Working with the creative team of Alana Valentine, Steve Francis, Jacob Nash, Jennifer Irwin, Nick Schlieper, Kate Dunn, Alan John and our clan of artists, I also convinced my sister, Donna Page to come on as

language adviser, as our Yugambah language is a central thread in this production.

The creation of *Waru - journey of the small turtle*, our very first children's show by Bangarra alumni Elma Kris was a very special time in 2021, and we can't wait to get it to audiences in 2022.

In 2021, we farewelled four Dancers who've been with us for many years – Tara Gower, Nicola Sabatino, Cassidy Waters and Tyrel Dulvarie. It's always hard to say goodbye but we know their footprint will remain within Bangarra. We welcomed three new Dancers to our clan – Emily Flannery, and Russell Page Graduates Daniel Mateo and Maddison Paluch.

Our work connecting Young People and Communities, under the leadership of Sidney Saltner, continues to inspire both our Dancers, and participants.

Thank you to my colleagues and collaborators Lissa Twomey, Frances Rings, Daniel Roberts and all the Bangarra team for your resilience, humour, strength and creativity to share culture, knowledge and stories.

I have optimism for our future under the stewardship of Frances, a deeply committed leader with lived experience of Bangarra's ability to provide healing for all.

Stephen Page
Artistic Director



Nicola Sabatino in *SandSong*
Photo Jacob Nash



“I have been buoyed by the incredible spirit and resilience of our company, and the steadfast loyalty of our supporters and audiences across Australia.”

Executive Director's Report

Despite the continued COVID-19-related uncertainty, 2021 was a productive year for the company. The year began with excitement, back on stage after a 10-month hiatus, followed by a tour to four regional NSW communities we rarely have the opportunity to visit.

A highlight in any year is taking the company On Country. A pandemic lull in May allowed us to travel to the Kimberley in support of the development of *SandSong*.

The adaptable approach developed in our COVID-19 Recovery Plan was tested to the limits, requiring a degree of flexibility that was unthinkable before. After a triumphant opening of *SandSong* in Sydney, our season was cut short due to the emergence of the Delta variant. The Canberra season went ahead under strict 'bubble' conditions, and the Company, along with our *Rekindling* team, underwent quarantine in Howard Springs to continue to work in Queensland and Western Australia. By the second half of the year, COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria and South Australia resulted in four cancellations for the second year in a row.

Government pandemic support in 2021 provided financial stability. The Federal Government through JobSaver and Jobkeeper contributed \$614,000 and the NSW Government provided subsidy to assist with Sydney box office losses and Restart funding totalling \$1.054m. Without this non-recurring government support Bangarra would not have posted a surplus in 2021.

The unwavering loyalty of our private supporters resulted in increased donations and sponsorships in 2021, including a gift of \$400,000 towards our Cultural Care and Pathways Fund. The disruption to live performance and the success of our digital connections led to the establishment of a Film Reserve to continue Bangarra's digital journey accelerated during this pandemic period.

Whilst net comprehensive income in the year was \$1.2m, after adjustments for transfers to the Cultural Care and Pathways Fund and the Film Reserve, the 2021 residual surplus is \$305,755.

Bangarra has learnt a lot about our capacity to rethink and adapt during the past two years. We are grateful for the guidance and support of our Board of Directors and the determination, flexibility and strength of Stephen Page, Frances Rings, our Dancers, Youth Programs team, staff and our extended family of creatives.

I have been buoyed by the incredible spirit and resilience of our company, and the steadfast loyalty of our supporters and audiences across Australia, who joined us when we made it to the stage and continued to connect through our digital programs. We exist because of you, the people, partners and governments who believe in our mission and our First Nations Communities who generously allow us to share their precious stories.

Lissa Twomey
Executive Director



Dancers and production team On Country in Fitzroy Crossing
Photo Beau Dean Riley Smith

Company Profile

We are Bangarra Dance Theatre.

We are a company of professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers.

We are storytellers. We are fire makers.

As one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, we share our culture with Communities and audiences across Australia and the world.

We are contemporary dancers, drawing on 65,000 years of culture.

We create powerful works of theatre with dance, music, poetry and design.

We tell the stories of our Elders, create works on Country and return the works we create to the place they were made.

Each of our dancers is a professionally trained, dynamic artist with a proud Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background. Together, they represent the best of Australian talent.

We have been making our indelible marks on the Australian theatre landscape for 32 years. We were born in 1989 from the energy of NAISDA

(National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association) founder Carole Y. Johnson, along with NAISDA graduates, and Rob Bryant and Cheryl Stone.

Today, Artistic Director Stephen Page, Executive Director Lissa Twomey and Associate Artistic Director Frances Rings lead the company in our mission to promote awareness and understanding of our cultures.

Each year, we aim to tour a world premiere work across the nation and embark on an international tour, although touring in recent years has been impacted by COVID-19. We are at home performing on Country, in tiny venues in regional centres and on Australia's most iconic stages. We run education workshops, programs and special projects to nurture the next generation of storytellers.

We are for the hundreds of First Nations Communities across Australia — and for anyone who wants to be a part of our story.

A Year in Review



25,074
LIVE AUDIENCE
ATTENDANCES



1,430
COMMUNITY AUDIENCE
ATTENDANCES



736,092
TV AND IVIEW DIGITAL
AUDIENCE



23
FIRESTARTER FILM
FESTIVALS PLAYED



10
FIRESTARTER
COUNTRIES REACHED



60,370
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



34,946
INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



2,860
YOUTUBE
FOLLOWERS



8,980
TWITTER
FOLLOWERS



857,679
WEBSITE PAGE
VIEWS



607,391
ONLINE VIDEO
VIEWS



41,359
SONGLINES NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS



1,310
WORKSHOP
PARTICIPANTS



1,995
INDIVIDUAL
DONORS



24
CULTURAL CONSULTANT/ELDER
ENGAGEMENTS



200
LITRES OF PAINT USED IN
PERFORMANCE

Our Mission

To create inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences that promote awareness and understanding of our cultures



Our Values

- Reciprocity and Mutual Obligation • Cultural Exchange and Collaboration
- Kinship • Cultural Protocols • Cultural Integrity • Respect
- Connection and Care for Country • Resilience



Our Company Goals

1

Create inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences for all

- National Footprint 2021 - 2022
- *Winhanga-rra* Workshops for Teachers
- *Wilay* Program
- Digital and Film

2

Strengthen and maintain meaningful relationships with Communities

- Community Nights
- *Rekindling*
- Cultural Care and Pathways Fund
- On Country
- Return to Country

3

Develop and nurture the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Leaders of the future

- Russell Page Graduate Program
- Dancer Further Education Program
- Production Traineeship
- Creative Fellowships
- Future Cultural Leaders
- David Page Music Fellowship

4

Realise the opportunities afforded through the redevelopment of the Walsh Bay Studios

- Secondary Touring Production
- Bangarra at Home

5

Enhance financial sustainability and organisational strength

- Operational Efficiency
- Organisational Culture
- Revenue Management
- Commercial Activity
- Endowment Fund

Experiences



Daniel Mateo in *Spirit: a retrospective 2021*
Photo Daniel Boud

EXPERIENCE: STAGE

“A wonderful introduction to the breadth and depth of choreographic work that constitute Bangarra Dance Theatre’s 30-year history.”

DANCE AUSTRALIA

Spirit: a retrospective 2021



After ten months off the stage, we shared a powerful collection of dance stories in five performances under the stars in *Spirit: a retrospective 2021* for Sydney Festival. Set to a haunting score, *Spirit* connected Stories and Songlines from all over Australia, in a celebration of First Nations Peoples’ unbroken connection to the land.

Featuring the full Bangarra ensemble of 18 dancers, *Spirit* included a selection of our most celebrated works, comprising *Brolga* (*Corroboree*), *Black (Ochres)*, *Yellow (Ochres)*, *Dingo (Skin)*, *White (Ochres)*, *Moth (Bush)*, *Two Sisters (Bush)*, *The Call (Walkabout)*, and *In her Mind (Nyapanyapa)*. Tracing an unbroken Songline, the works unravel a sacred world of plants, animals, and ancestral medicine, laid down one step at a time.

Special screenings of *Spirit* were seen by audiences in five regional locations in Queensland, Northern Territory, Tasmania and New South Wales as part of a partnership between NBN and Sydney Festival.

Spirit revealed the stories of our black experience - uncensored, raw and unapologetic. These stories powerfully communicate the complexities, diversity and sophistication of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and philosophy.

5

TOTAL PERFORMANCES

7,144

PAID ATTENDANCE

8,502

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

6,370

SYDNEY FESTIVAL

AT HOME DIGITAL VIEWS

VENUE/DATES

The Headland at Barangaroo Reserve, Sydney
20-24 January

CREDITS

Choreography Stephen Page, Bernadette Walong-Sene

Traditional Choreography and Music Djakapurra Munyarryun

Music David Page, Steve Francis

Costume Design Jennifer Irwin

Scenic Content Design Jacob Nash

Lighting Design Matt Cox

Video Design David Bergman

Cultural Consultants Djakapurra Munyarryun, Kathy Balngayngu Marika, Nyapanyapa Yunupingu

Original Set Design John Matkovic, Stephen Page, Jacob Nash, Peter England

Original Lighting Design Joseph Mercurio, Karen Norris, Matt Cox, Nick Schlieper, Trudy Dalgleish



Spirit: a retrospective 2021
Photos Daniel Boud

EXPERIENCE: STAGE

“Thank you for last night’s show in Orange. Just beautiful. The images you all create are visually sumptuous.”

AUDIENCE MEMBER, VIA INSTAGRAM

Spirit (Regional Tour)

The disruption to our normal national and international touring schedule caused by the global pandemic, created an opportunity to perform in regional communities we rarely get to visit.

In February 2021, we performed *Spirit: a retrospective* on a regional New South Wales tour with our first ever visit to Wyong and a return to Tamworth after a 10-year absence.

With support from government and private funders, we offered subsidised performances and Community tickets to each venue.

This project was proudly supported by The Balnaves Foundation and by the NSW Government through Create NSW as part of Arts Restart.

“...the most amazing night with the Wagga Aboriginal Women’s Group. We were so lucky to see the amazing Bangarra Dance Theatre show at Griffith Regional Theatre on Wiradjuri Country, and meet the beautiful dancers after the show.”

AUDIENCE MEMBER, VIA FACEBOOK

5

TOTAL PERFORMANCES

1,922

PAID ATTENDANCE

2,134

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

VENUES/DATES

Griffith Regional Theatre
13 February

Orange Civic Centre
17 February

Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre
20 February

The Art House, Wyong
24 - 25 February

CREDITS

Choreography Stephen Page, Bernadette Walong-Sene

Traditional Choreography and Music Djakapurra Munyarryun

Music David Page, Steve Francis

Costume Design Jennifer Irwin

Scenic Content Design Jacob Nash

Lighting Design Matt Cox

Video Design David Bergman

Cultural Consultants Djakapurra Munyarryun, Kathy Balngayngu Marika, Nyapanyapa Yunupingu

Original Set Design John Matkovic, Stephen Page, Jacob Nash, Peter England

Original Lighting Design Joseph Mercurio, Karen Norris, Matt Cox, Nick Schlieper, Trudy Dalgleish



Nicola Sabatino and Daniel Mateo in
Spirit: a retrospective 2021
Photo Daniel Boud

EXPERIENCE: STAGE

★★★★★

“When it comes to the intrinsic connection between story, company and place, few dance works could compare to *SandSong*.”

LIMELIGHT

SandSong

STORIES FROM THE GREAT SANDY DESERT

SandSong: Stories from the Great Sandy Desert tells the unique story of the Kimberley and Great Sandy Desert regions and the survival of its People, where between the 1920s and 1960s, Aboriginal people were removed off their Country and forced into hard labour for no wages and minimal rations. *SandSong* is a journey into ancient story systems framed against the backdrop of ever-changing government policy and of the survival of people determined to hold strong to their Culture.

Created in consultation with Wangkatjungka and Walmajarri Elders from the Kimberley and Great Sandy Desert regions, *SandSong* was choreographed by Artistic Director Stephen Page and Associate Artistic Director Frances Rings.

This work honours the legacy of Ningali Josie Lawford-Wolf (1967 – 2019), a close cultural collaborator of Bangarra whose spirit, stories and artistic contributions have inspired a number of the company's works and enriched the broader arts landscape.

The Lawford family has long generational ties to the Kimberley and are current owners of the pastoral lease for Bohemia Downs cattle station, allowing them the stability to continue to care for their Land, Culture and Community.

SandSong played 15 performances at the Sydney Opera House before the remainder of the season was cancelled due to COVID-19. Planned performances in Melbourne and Bendigo were also cancelled due to COVID-19. The company quarantined for 14 days at Howard Springs in the Northern Territory so that the Brisbane season could continue with an amended performance schedule. Dancers continued morning barre class and rehearsals on the balconies of their quarantine facilities, via Zoom.

26

TOTAL PERFORMANCES

12,310

PAID ATTENDANCE

12,854

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

VENUE/DATES

Sydney Opera House
8 – 24 June

Canberra Theatre Centre
15 – 17 July

Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane
18 – 21 August

CREDITS

Choreographers
Stephen Page, Frances Rings

Cultural Consultants
Putuparri Tom Lawford, Eva Nargoodah, Wangkatjungka & Walmajarri Elders

Composer
Steve Francis

Set Designer
Jacob Nash

Costume Designer
Jennifer Irwin

Lighting Designer
Nick Schlieper



SandSong: Stories from the Great Sandy Desert
Photos Daniel Boud



Gusta Mara, Baden Hitchcock and Daniel Mateo
at Howard Springs, Northern Territory
Photo Claudia Elder



Kassidy Waters at Howard Springs,
Northern Territory
Photo Katie McDonagh

On Screen

Bangarra's on screen presence allows us to deepen relationships with existing audiences, further our reach to regional and remote areas of Australia, and develop new followers across the world.

ON SCREEN PERFORMANCES

Bangarra's On Screen performances included screenings of performances of *Ochres*, *Warumuk - in the dark night*, *The Vigil* and *Spirit: a retrospective 2021* through partnerships with ABC iView, Sydney Festival and Regional Partner NBN, NITV and SBS On Demand.

FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES

Partnerships allowed us to extend our reach through films and documentaries telling stories of Bangarra, its people and inner workings. In 2021, these included *Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra*, *Dubboo: Life of a Songman*, and *Bangarra's World*. We also honoured other First Nations people and their stories through collaborative involvement in documentaries *FREEMAN* and *Araatika: Rise Up!*

Bangarra's on screen presence has become an essential means of sharing our stories, attracting audiences of more than 750,000 in 2021.

ABC IVIEW
AVERAGE AUDIENCE*

Dubboo: Life of a Songman
5,605 views

Ochres
1,593 views

Warumuk - in the dark night
2,948 views

Bangarra's World
3,576 views

ABC IVIEW AND ABC TV
AVERAGE AUDIENCE*

Freeman
137,000 views
(Premiered in 2020 to a complete audience of 1.7m)

Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra
548,000 views

*Average audience measures total minutes played (including co-viewing, where more than one person is watching one device) divided by content length and rounded to the nearest thousand.

ON SCREEN

“A modern dance company unlike any other ... remarkable, imaginative and richly varied.”

NEW YORK TIMES

Firestarter

THE STORY OF BANGARRA

Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra tells the story of our evolution as a company. It premiered at the Brisbane International Film Festival on 11 October 2020 and featured in 23 national and international film festivals throughout 2021, including the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles where it won Best Documentary Award.

The film attracted ten award nominations in 2021, winning three of its categories.

Firestarter featured in ABC's NAIDOC celebrations, attracting a total audience of 548,000 viewers on television and iView.

AWARDS

Rose D'Or

Winner, Best Arts Program

Australian Directors Guild Awards

Winner, Best Direction in a Feature Documentary

Pan African Film Festival

Winner, Best Documentary

Australian Industry Documentary Conference (AIDC)

Nominated for Documentary Award, Feature Documentary

Port Townsend Film Festival,

Special Jury Commendation

Walkley Award

Nominated for Documentary (awarded Best Documentary in 2022)

Screen Producers Australia Awards

Nominated for Best Feature Documentary

Australian Screen Editors Guild Awards

Nominated for Best Editing in a Feature Documentary

Australian Writers Guild Awards

Nominated for Best Documentary

Australian Screen Sound Guild Awards

Nominated for Best Sound in a Documentary (over 60 minutes)

Bangarra Dance Theatre would like to acknowledge all of our cultural foundation families, its Board of Directors, artists, staff, creative collaborators, cultural teachers, community advisors and their families past, present and future for the sharing of their knowledge, stories and language, entrusted to and cared for by the company that was exhibited within *Firestarter*.

10

COUNTRIES REACHED

23

FILM FESTIVALS

FILM FESTIVALS

Australia and New Zealand

Sydney Film Festival, Summer Series

Birrarangga Film Festival

Perfect Light Film Festival

Darwin International Film Festival

Screenwave International Film Festival

Human Rights Arts + Film Festival

Virtual Indigenous Film Festival

New Zealand International Film Festival

Canada

HotDocs

DOXA Documentary Film Festival

Guelph Film Festival

Salt Spring Film Festival

USA

Pan African Film Festival

San Francisco DocFest

Berkshire International Film Festival

Port Townsend Film Festival

San Francisco Dance Film Festival

Doctober

Cucalorus Film Festival

UK and Europe

Sheffield Doc/Fest

Two Riversides Film + Art Festival

Beldocs, Serbia

Doc, Lisboa

ON SCREEN

“The idea of protest is in response to the arrival of the First Fleet, *The Vigil* on the 25th is a moment about us, and a safe space for First Nations and other waves of migration to have a moment of reflection.”

WESLEY ENOCH, DIRECTOR, SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2021

The Vigil & Araatika: Rise Up!



THE VIGIL

On the eve of 26 January, 1,434 Australians gathered at The Headland at Barangaroo Reserve to reflect on our past and consider our First Nations People. 66 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and boys representing various communities, performed together with the Bangarra men in a powerful show of strength and resilience. 31,000 more people joined in at home through live streams on NITV and SBS on Demand.

The Vigil was presented as a free event as part of Sydney Festival.

ARAATIKA: RISE UP!

A special feature of *The Vigil* was the filming of a performance by Community and Bangarra men, which became the triumphant final scenes of Larissa Behrendt's *Araatika: Rise Up!*, a documentary featuring rugby league great Dean Widders and Bangarra's Artistic Director Stephen Page.

Araatika: Rise Up! follows a group of First Nations NRL stars including Dean Widders, Preston Campbell, Timana Tahu and George Rose as they create a pre-game performance to rival the famous *haka*. The film captures dancer and choreographer Sean Choolburra working with the players to craft a culturally symbolic series of moves, ready for the start of the 2020 New Zealand Australia Test match.

The rousing documentary traces the game's troubled relationship to its Indigenous stars, to its previous failed attempts at a pre-game ceremony and to an exultant performance on stage at *The Vigil* at Sydney Festival. The film premiered at Sydney Film Festival in November 2021.

1,434

LIVE ATTENDANCE

31,000

STREAMS ON SBS & NITV



The Vigil
Photo Daniel Boud

Connecting with Community



(L to R) Terence Lawford, Beau Dean Riley Smith,
Eva Nargoodah, Frances Rings at *SandSong*
Photo Daniel Boud

On Country



KIMBERLEY

In May 2021, Stephen Page, Frances Rings, the production team and 16 Bangarra Dancers travelled to Fitzroy Crossing on Bunuba Country to meet with Wangkatjungka and Walmajarri Elders as part of the development of *SandSong: Stories from the Great Sandy Desert*.

Bangarra's usual practice involves inviting Elders to travel to Sydney to teach cultural knowledge and dance. In 2021, with Elders unable to travel due to COVID-19, we took the Dancers on Country to the Elders. This initiative allowed the Dancers time to build a relationship with Elders and key cultural consultants Eva Nargoodah and Putuparri Tom Lawford, and to learn the stories behind the traditional dances.

The company was generously welcomed with a smoking ceremony by Bunuba Elder Mary Aiken, and spent precious time with Walmajarri Elders hearing the stories and learning the traditional dances to be performed in *SandSong*. Their time on Country also included a visit to Kupartiya Community and the station owned by the Lawford Family. The Dancers performed excerpts inspired by stories learnt in a 2020 trip for the Community.

In June 2021, when *SandSong* opened at the Sydney Opera House, Tom, Eva and family attended as special guests and later visited La Perouse and the Blue Mountains. The lifecycle of the development of *SandSong* will be complete when we return to Fitzroy Crossing for a performance in 2022, returning the production back to Community and Country.

YUGAMBEH LANGUAGE REGION

Stephen Page travelled to his father's freshwater Country of the Yugambeh language region, just outside of Beaudesert in South East Queensland to start the first seedings of *Wudjang: Not the Past*. This production, Stephen's last as Artistic Director of Bangarra, is a sacred and very personal contribution to our repertoire.

Stephen and his sisters Donna and Gail travelled to the Country's significant landmarks, reminiscing and reflecting of the stories of the past told by their late grandmother Ann Fogarty. They engaged with Elders, clan and families of their father's Country, the Djimbalung People of the Yugambeh nation listening to recollections of past events and stories of present-day resilience.



Eva Nargoodah collecting Bush Medicine
on the lands of the Walmajarri people
Photo Rikki Mason

“It’s important as the next cultural leaders and custodians of our ever-evolving culture to reconnect to our past through our Elders and to bring forward in a respectful way the 65,000 years of cultural identity and knowledge. We have an obligation to our next generations to maintain our heritage, our songs, our dances and traditional ways.”

**SIDNEY SALTNER,
YOUTH PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Youth Programs



REKINDLING

Rekindling provides a framework for the Community to strengthen bonds between generations and support the maintenance of cultural practices. It’s a safe space and aids in sharing stories, exchanging knowledge, expressing culture, and creating contemporary ceremonial experiences.

Since its inception in 2013, *Rekindling* has engaged with more than 1000 young people from 44 communities across Australia. *Rekindling* has identified links to the Australian Curriculum’s general capabilities framework, through the development of skills such as intercultural understanding, critical and creative thinking, literacy, personal and social capabilities, and ethical understanding.

In 2021, introductory workshops were held in Cunnamulla (QLD), Roebourne (WA), and Moree (NSW). The team was able to manoeuvre through quarantine and different state restriction requirements to successfully deliver the full 2021 *Rekindling* program. Bangarra’s *Rekindling* is generously supported by the Angela Wright Bennett Foundation, Besen Family Foundation, Bowden Marstan Foundation, The Metamorphic Foundation, The MJW Foundation, The James N Kirby Foundation, John Villiers Trust, Paroo Shire Council and many generous individual donors.

Rekindling is led by Sidney Saltner, one of Bangarra’s most acclaimed alumni artists, who became Youth Program Director after 25 years as a performer. Sidney is a descendent of the Wulli Wulli and Wakka Wakka people of Central Queensland.

THE ARTS UNIT NSW

In 2021, Bangarra continued its successful partnership with The Arts Unit, through the New South Wales Department of Education. The team was able to deliver some face to face regional school workshops before COVID-19 necessitated a return to online teaching. In response, new online program content for 47 schools across the State was developed. The team worked with schools and local Aboriginal Communities for inspiration to develop a collaborative piece of choreography for the State Dance festival. In a significant first for Bangarra, all the new works were created and filmed on Country by schools and students. The team also created two short dance videos for the NSW School Spectacular’s “INSPIRED” online offering, which will be shown in 2022.



The Rekindling team in Karratha, WA with program participants
Photo Jordan Shields



Sidney Saltner speaking to Karratha Rekindling participants
Photo Jordan Shields

“Thanks to you all for leading such an amazing day and sharing your own longstanding experience and expertise.”

TEACHER IN BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

Education



Bangarra provides a broad range of unique learning opportunities and education resources for teachers and students across the Australian education sector in Early Learning, Primary and Secondary years and into Tertiary studies.

In 2021, 180 teachers accessed *Winhanga-rra* Teachers professional learning workshops both face to face in Sydney and Brisbane, and online. This included an online workshop designed in partnership with Asialink (University of Melbourne) which comprised six teachers in India and four teachers in Australia led by Bangarra alumni dancer, Yolande Brown. Another alumni dancer, Tara Gower, also joined the *Winhanga-rra* team as a facilitator. Three tailored workshops were delivered for Sydney Theatre Company's teaching artist cohort, and another bespoke workshop series for the Haileybury school across three campuses.

Our *Winhanga-rra* programs now reach a greater diversity of participating teachers, attracting teachers across all subject areas. This shift is in line with the Australian Curriculum positioning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures as a priority across all learning areas.

521 school students and teachers attended *SandSong* in Sydney as part of the *Wilay* program, which provides access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students. Many of the participants travelled long distances from regional NSW and were able to meet the Dancers at the conclusion of a post-show *In Conversation* with Frances Rings and Beau Dean Riley Smith.

Wilay events are amongst our most rewarding and inspiring activities of the year. The pride and excitement of the attendees is palpable, and we are heartened to hear of the significant and long-term impacts.

Teachers accessed more than 500 free Bangarra Study Guides as well as our online Classroom Resources which provide rich content for lesson planning and curriculum implementation. Our Knowledge Ground digital archive continues to provide valuable resources for teachers to use in a range of contexts - planning, research, teaching and as additional curriculum support.

Workshop Summary

491

TOTAL WORKSHOPS

1,310

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

	WORKSHOPS	PARTICIPANTS
COMMUNITY		
VCA Dance Students #1	1	55
VCA Dance Students #2	1	62
NAISDA #1	1	9
NAISDA #2	1	6
Southern Cross Catholic College	1	22
Murri School #1	1	19
Murri School #2	1	16
The Arts Unit Masterclass Aboriginal Dance Company #1	1	14
The Arts Unit Masterclass Non-Indigenous dancers #1	1	34
The Arts Unit Masterclass Aboriginal Dance Company #2	1	15
The Arts Unit Masterclass Non-Indigenous dancers #2	1	30
The Arts Unit Masterclass Aboriginal Dance Company #3	1	16
The Arts Unit Masterclass Non-Indigenous dancers #3	1	30
Total	13	328
REKINDLING		
Metropolitan	51	39
Inner Regional	1	26
Outer Regional	36	16
Remote	17	66
Very Remote	26	13
Total	131	160
THE ARTS UNIT		
Metropolitan	146	290
Inner Regional	102	229
Outer Regional	70	104
Remote	18	19
Total	336	642
WINHANGA-RRA		
	11	180
Total	11	180
TOTAL WORKSHOPS 2021	491	1310

Russell Page Graduate Program



Since establishing the Russell Page Graduate Program (RPGP) in 2015, fifteen young artists have worked with the company full time, receiving mentoring and training as they transition to a professional career. The Russell Page Graduate Program demonstrates Bangarra's commitment to nurturing our next generation of storytellers.

Eleven members of the 2021 Dance ensemble first joined Bangarra through the Russell Page Graduate Program, steadily developing to be the mature and highly accomplished artists we see today. In 2021, Daniel Mateo and Maddison Paluch joined Bangarra as RPGP dancers. Daniel is a descendent of the Gamilaroi people of north east NSW as well as the Tongan people from the Pacifica region. Maddison is a proud Wiradjuri woman raised on Dharug country. Both Maddison and Daniel's first performance with the company was in January during the Sydney Festival season of *Spirit: a retrospective 2021*. Both Maddison and Daniel's contracts were renewed as professional members of the Company for 2022.

Auditions were held in November 2021 for the 2022 Russell Page Graduate Program with seven short-listed applicants from NSW, Victoria and South Australia participating in the audition process. Two Russell Page Graduates have been appointed for 2022: Jesse Murray and James Boyd.

Mitchell J Nalingu Harrison-Currie was the inaugural 2021 Russell Page Youth Program Graduate. Mitchell's matriarchal links are to the Mununjali and Bundjalung people of the Yugambah Language group and he has connection to the Gunggari people of southern Queensland. Following his traineeship, Mitchell was offered a contract for 2022 as a full-time member of the Youth Programs Team.

Amberlilly Gordon, a proud Wiradjuri and Ngemba woman from NSW, has been selected as the Russell Page Youth Program Graduate for 2022. Both Mitchell and Amberlilly started their journey with Bangarra as young participants in the early years of the *Rekindling* program. They are now instrumental in delivering that same program.

The Russell Page Graduate Program is generously supported by the Sherry-Hogan Foundation, The Ross Trust and individual donors.



(L to R) Mitchell J Nalingu Harrison-Currie,
Maddison Paluch, Daniel Mateo, 2021 Russell Page Graduates
Photo Daniel Boud



Maddison Paluch in *SandSong*
Photo Daniel Boud

David Page Music Fellowship



The David Page Music Fellowship (DPMF) honours proud Mununjali and Nunukal man, Roy David Page and his extraordinary legacy within Bangarra's world of storytelling. The program builds on this legacy by nurturing young artists to explore their own voices as they create new music and sound.

Cultivating a platform for First Nations artists to grow and thrive is critical to developing Cultural Leaders of the future.

The David Page Fellowship Program was first established in 2017. With private funding support in 2021, the Fellowship offered two Indigenous composers, Amy Flannery and Leon Rodgers, the opportunity to participate in an extended program of learning, collaborating and creating.

Amy Flannery is a Wiradjuri woman based on the NSW Central Coast. She studied dance and music simultaneously during high school and at NAISDA Dance College. She has composed scores for independent productions including sound design for *Bulnuruwanha* (Taking Flight), premiering at Sydney Opera House in March 2022. Leon Rodgers is a descendent of the Worimi nation from the Myall Lakes region in NSW. Currently based in Melbourne, Leon has created sound composition for film and documentaries, including collaborations with film producer John Harvey.

Amy and Leon's Fellowship program includes a period of close observation of the creative process of *Wudjang: Not the Past*. The Program continues throughout 2022 with mentoring and development of a new work with emerging choreographers and creative artists, culminating in a full public presentation in early 2023.

“David would be overjoyed that there are so many artists out there, hearing with the same ear and the same heart, and bringing First Nations cultures forward so beautifully through contemporary Songlines”.

STEPHEN PAGE

The David Page Music Fellowship is generously supported by Robert Albert AO and Libby Albert.

Workplace Giving Program



In 2021, we reinvigorated our Workplace Giving Program (WPG) to give it greater visibility within the culture of the company. We established a group of seven staff representatives to steer the administration, decision making and communication of the program.

Initiated in 2016, WPG is sustained by fortnightly staff contributions with the annual total matched by a donor. The WPG is a small but important fund that supports activities close to the company's heart, such as providing tickets to performances for young people and their families who would otherwise not be able to attend due to financial or geographical circumstances, or challenges with accessibility.

The program also assists Communities that make our work possible with their Cultural Consultancy, invaluable guidance and generous sharing of

knowledge. In 2021, the program purchased, gathered and sent goods to the remote community of Jimbalakudunj, about 120km west of Fitzroy Crossing and home to *SandSong* Cultural Consultant, Eva Nargoodah. Nineteen large boxes of sheets, warm bedding, towels, gardening tools, camping gear, school stationery, toiletries, clothes and football boots were sent across the continent, arriving with much excitement for the families of this Kimberley community. We look forward to re-connecting in 2022 for the *SandSong* Return to Country.

WPG was also able to support communities in Papua New Guinea as they battled the pandemic with limited equipment and resources. Working with the organisation Our Melanesia and PNG expat Vic Lynch, PPE, masks, sanitisers and thermometers were purchased and sent to the communities of Goroka and Mt Hagen.

The Company



Dancers, Frances Rings and Stephen Page
Photo Daniel Boud

The Dancers



ELMA KRIS



BEAU DEAN RILEY SMITH



NICOLA SABATINO



RIKKI MASON



RIKA HAMAGUCHI



TYREL DULVARIE



GLORY TUOHY-DANIELL



BADEN HITCHCOCK



RYAN PEARSON



LILLIAN BANKS



BRADLEY SMITH



COURTNEY RADFORD



KASSIDY WATERS



KALLUM GOOLAGONG



GUSTA MARA



KIARN DOYLE



MADDISON PALUCH



DANIEL MATEO



EMILY FLANNERY

The Staff



EXECUTIVE

Artistic Director

Stephen Page

Executive Director

Lissa Twomey

Associate Artistic Director

Frances Rings

Executive Assistant

Laura Hough

(until August 2021)

Tamesin Elliot

(from October 2021)

ARTISTIC

Head of Design

Jacob Nash

Rehearsal Director

Daniel Roberts

Head of Artistic Operations

Cloudia Elder

Company Management Coordinator

Lachlan Steel

(from November 2021)

PRODUCTION

Director, Technical & Production

John Colvin

Touring & Project Development Manager

Phoebe Collier

Production Manager

Catherine Studley

Stage Manager

Stephanie Storr

Head Electrician

Ryan Shuker

(until March 2021)

Marshall Bull

(from April 2021)

Head of Wardrobe

Monica Smith

(until October 2021)

Jessica Hodgkinson

(from November 2021)

Production Trainee

Taneisha Madrill

(from June 2021)

EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS

Youth Program Director

Sidney Saltner

Youth Program Coordinator

Sani Townson

Youth Programs Russell Page Graduate

Mitchell J Nalingu Harrison-

Currie

Education Consultant

Shane Carroll

DEVELOPMENT

Development Director

Anna Matthews

Philanthropy Manager

Freya McGahey

(from March 2021)

Corporate Partnerships Manager

Lachlan Bell

(from March 2021)

Development Coordinator

Jacob Williams

(until March 2021)

Lola Pinder

(from May 2021)

MARKETING

Marketing & Communications Director

Harriet Cheney

(until July 2021)

John Quertermous

(from September 2021)

Marketing Manager

Sophie Raper

(Parental Leave from

March 2021)

Shauna Maguire

(from March 2021)

Ticketing & CRM Manager

Scott Bunn

(from July 2021)

Ticketing System Specialist (& Acting CRM Manager)

Emily Windsor

(until September 2021)

Digital Marketing Coordinator

Erin Repp

(from April 2021)

Marketing & Youth Programs Assistant

Zipporah Corser-Anu

(from May 2021)

ADMINISTRATION

Director of Finance & Company Secretary

Rachel Hadfield

Finance Manager

Elizabeth Timbery

(until May 2021)

Finance & Operations Manager

Grace O'Malley

(from July 2021)

Human Resources Manager

Claire Diment

(until July 2021)

Cara Campbell

(from July 2021)

Community Engagement Manager

Michelle Ellis

(from December 2021)

Partners

GOVERNMENT CORE FUNDING PARTNERS



Bangarra Dance Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



Bangarra Dance Theatre is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Bangarra's Bendigo residency is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts

Wudjang: Not the Past is supported through the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages and Arts program.



Australian Government
RISE Fund

Waru: journey of the small turtle is supported through the Australian Government's Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund

MAJOR PARTNERS



COMPANY PARTNERS



PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

Annamila

ANGELA WRIGHT BENNETT
FOUNDATION



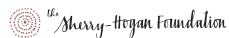
**BOWDEN
MARSTAN**
FOUNDATION



**GIRGENSOHN
FOUNDATION**

MJW FOUNDATION

**PACKER FAMILY
FOUNDATION**



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

BELLE & GRACIE

EY

Patrons



In consultation with Wiradjuri Elders, we have taken inspiration from the word 'Bangarra' – a Wiradjuri word meaning 'to make fire' – to describe the levels of donor support. This use of Wiradjuri language is part of Bangarra's ongoing commitment to the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Bangarra Dance Theatre would like to thank the following patrons for their generous contributions to the company.

FOUNDATIONS

Angela Wright Bennett Foundation
Annamila Foundation
The Balnaves Foundation
Besen Family Foundation
Bowden Marstan Foundation
The Crown Resorts Foundation
Gandel Foundation
Girgensohn Foundation
James N Kirby Foundation
The John Villiers Trust
The Metamorphic Foundation
MJW Foundation
Packer Family Foundation
Perpetual Foundation
The Ross Trust
Sherry-Hogan Foundation
Une Parkinson Foundation

GUYA – FISH

(\$50,000+)
Silver Harris
Canny Quine Foundation
Phil Rounsevell & Nelson Estrella
Turnbull Foundation

BILAWI – SHEOAK

(\$20,000 – \$49,000)
Robert Albert AO & Libby Albert
Marion Heathcote & Brian Burfitt
Krystyna Campbell-Pretty
Patterson Pearce Foundation
Hooper Shaw Foundation
Dick & Pip Smith Foundation

WIINY – FIRE

(\$10,000 – \$19,999)
Anonymous (1)
Larissa Behrendt AO & Michael Lavarch AO
Carolyn Charles
Heather Drew
Linda Herd
Russell & Jane Kift
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Sue Sheldrick

Penelope Seidler AM
Sisyphus Foundation
Jennifer Thurstun
The Todd Family Foundation
The Wiggles

BARGAN – BOOMERANG

(\$5,000 – \$9,999)
Anonymous (1)
Arena Media
Chrysanthemum Foundation
Stella & Rod Clarke
R Clay
Gloria Dall'Alba & Jörgen Sandberg
Jenny Durack
Helen Eager & Christopher Hodges
PK Gold Family Foundation
Ruth Hoffman & Peter Halstead
Edwina Kearney
Belinda Kendall-White
Julia Lane
Cynthia Nadai
Tim Rutherford
Scovell Gardner Family
Sue Terry & Len Whyte
Victoria Taylor
Jane Thorn
Misho Vasiljevich

BIRRIMAL – BUSH

(\$1,000 – \$4,999)
Anonymous (25)
Annette Adair
AirRoad Pty Ltd
Michael Adena & Joanne Daly
James & Belinda Allen
Stephen & Sophie Allen
David Ashley
Damaris Bairstow & Robin Hutcherson
Baker Family
Shane Batchelor
Susan Bear
Janet Berwick
Minnie Biggs
Anna Bligh
Mark Blumer
Diana Bosworth
Mike Bowen
S M Burnett
Annie & Paul Burns
Alison & John Cameron
Sue & Alan Cameron AO
Susan Cochran
Sally Crawford
Susanne De Ferranti
Julia Duffy
Dexter Dunphy
Wesley Enoch
Dianne & Terry Finnegan
Gordon Fitchett

Patrons (cont.)

Future Super
Gemalla Endowment at
APS Foundation
Belinda Gibson
J.P. Griffins
Jen Grimwade
Catherine Hamber
Ben Harlow
Cheryl Hatch
Wendy Haynes
Kaye Hocking
Dahni Houseman
Rosemary & Dan Howard
Sue Jacobs
SG James
David Jonas
& Desmon Du Plessis
Kerrie Jones
Jana Juanas
John Keane
Jill Keyte & Ray Carless
The Knights Family
Jabula Foundation
Melanie Laing
Jane Lake
Elena Lambrinos
Yvonne Langley-Walsh
Craig & Patrice Laslett
Catherine & Geoff
Lawrence
Elizabeth Laverty
Lucienne Layton
Richard Leonard &
Gerlinde Scholz
Ali Local
Elizabeth H Loftus
Heather MacLean
Jill Maddox & Ian Evans
Marian Magee & David
Castillo
Nikki Main
Lyn & Graham Maloney
James Martin
Melanie Mathieson
Thomas McCauley
In memory of Nola
McCullagh

Margot McDonald
Louise McIntosh
Christine Mearing
Elizabeth Mildwater &
Stuart Schaefer
Margaret Moreton
Jo Moss
Fiona & Peter Murray
Barbara Newstead
Stephen & Joanne
Norrish
Barbara Nowak-Rowe
The Osborn Family
Candace Ormerod
Timothy & Eva Pascoe
Chris Pensabene
Ian Plater
Lynn Ralph
Elizabeth Ramsden
Jill Redmyre, Family &
Friends
Kerry Reid & Alan Croker
Keith Richards
David Robb
Cherie Ross
Joan Ross
Angela & John
Rutherford
Bridget Sack
Claire Saffery
Jenny Schwarz
Glenice Shephard
Chris Shipway
& Than O'Brien
Gary Singer
Libby Skilling
Jann Skinner
Ed & Teresa Skok
Ondine Spitzer
Heather Stew
Sandra Stockley
Paul Sugars
Judi & Paul Taylor
Chris & Cheryl Thomas
Chris Thomson
Stuart Thomas
Mike Thompson
& Ian Kelly

Dominic Thurn
Gayle Tollifson
Jessie Wang
Tony Ward
The Warning Family
Sara Watts
Ruth J Williams
David & Faith Weisbrot
Peter Warne
Deborah Whitford -
School of Harmonic
Studies
Josephine Wolanski
Els Wynen

**GARRABARI -
CORROBOREE
(\$500 - \$999)**
Anonymous (21)
Janice Adie
Dora & Michael Aitken
Peter & Lillian Armitage
Kate Arnott
Chrisopher Archibald
Karyn B & friends
Diana Barrie
Simon Bishop
Kaye Blaiklock
Amelie Bonanno
Thali Bower-Williams
Sally Bradford
Sarah Brasch
Cath Brokenborough
Robbie Chapman
Tamara Cirkel
Sharon Cranswick
Louise Cutler
Narina Dahms
Linda D'Bras
Dillon Family
Sarah Durrant
Joanne Eager
Julie Eisenberg
Alison Ellis
Early Childhood Australia
Victorian Branch
Fiona Findlay

Warwick Fisher
First Nations
Development Services
Yvette Forrester
Jacqueline Galbraith
Nicky Gluyas
Emily Gloyns
James Goodman
Joan Goldsmith
Diane Grady
RTG & AK Green
Leila Greenfield
Trudie Harriman
Clare Harty
Robert Henderson
Peter Hengstberger
Lorraine Hudry
Nathan Jacobsen
Helen Johnston
Jane & Les Johnston
Mira Joksovic
Louise Jonas
Antonia Jones
Joos M Joos
Colleen Kane
Danielle Kavanagh
Sophie Keating
Ilse King
Krysia Kitch
& David Riggs
Chris Komarynsky
Murielle Kuczynski
Anne Lampe
Robyn Lansdowne
Bronwyn McColl
Helen McCormack
Casey-Rae McCrickard
Peter McGee
Mary McMenamin
Angela McWinney
Bernard Mearns
Robert Mills
Rebelle Moriarty
Kerryn Moscicki
Mara Moustafine &
Andrew Jakubowicz
Christine Myerscough

Patrons (cont.)



Mei-Guin Ng
Adrian Norris
Nick O'Brien
James O'May
Rosamund Palmer
Don & Leslie Parsonage

Maria Pate
Christine Paterson
Natalie Pelham
Patsy Pynn
Joanna Randell
A O Redmond
Anne Reeves
Stephen Schafer
Susanne Schmeidl
James Smith
Maria Sola
Marie Stewart

Claire Stonier-Kipen
Richard Stuart
David Studdy
Jude Powell Thomas
Pamela Marion Thomson
Stephanie Toole
Vicki Toovey
Ann Tosomeen
Ruth Treyde
Maureen Turner
JS & NS Turnbull
Vera Vargassoff
Meredith Verge
Renee Welsh
Jan Williams
Lucinda Wilson
Elena Wise
Sarah Yeomans

Bangarra Dance Theatre also thanks the many generous donors of less than \$500 who support our vision of which there are too many to list here.

DHULUBANG - SPIRIT GIFTS

Gratefully acknowledging those who have supported Bangarra through a gift in their Will.

Carol Cruikshank
Marena Manzoufas
Sally Nicholson
Elizabeth Roberts

DHULUBANG - SPIRIT CIRCLE

We gratefully acknowledge those who have made the visionary gesture of including Bangarra in their Will

Anonymous (5)
Monika G Gaede
Margo Garnon-Williams
Teresa Handicott
Silver Harris
Linda Herd
Nicola Kaldor
Belinda Kendall-White
Yvonne Langley-Walsh
Tricia Lau
Mary McMenamin
Keith & Marguerite Mobbs
Jane Packham
Lynn Ralph
Anne Therese Roussac-Hoyne & Eric Roussac
Stephen Scrogings
Anna Viale
Kelvin Widdows
Jan Williams

Board of Directors



PHILLIPA MCDERMOTT, CHAIR

(April 2020 – present)

Phillipa is a Wakka Wakka and Mununjali woman. Phillipa is a committed public advocate and champion for diversifying the media, arts and workforces to best reflect contemporary Australia. With over 25 years' experience in media, arts and employment, she provides strategic thought leadership and direction on implementing corporate strategies, governance and change. Phillipa's goal is for an Australia that acknowledges and embraces our shared history and culture to build authentic, purposeful relationships with First Nations Peoples. Phillipa is the Head of Indigenous Employment & Diversity at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and a Board Director at the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre. Phillipa has a BA in Communications from UTS and is the current UTS Indigenous Alumni recipient.

JOSHUA DUKE

(October 2021 – present)

A proud Dunghutti man, Josh has over seven years' experience providing professional services to a wide range of clients across Australia including Federal Government, listed and non-listed entities. Josh is a highly accomplished Chartered Accountant and was the recipient of the 2021 ACT Young Chartered Accountant of the Year award and the Indigenous Leaders Program Scholarship through the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Josh is currently a Manager within Deloitte's Finance Consulting team.

Josh is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and serves on the Board of various organisations including the YMCA Canberra, Ausdance ACT, Deputy Chair of Young Chartered Accountants Committee for the Canberra region and a Panelist and founding member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Panel for Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

RICHARD ECCLES

(August 2020 – present)

Richard Eccles is a consultant and company director. In addition to his role with Bangarra, Richard holds directorships with the Copyright Agency Ltd, the Public Interest Journalism Initiative, Epilepsy ACT, and the Federal Golf Club. He provides advisory services in the fields of the arts, media and sports.

Prior to this, Richard enjoyed a successful career as a leader in the Australian Public Service, having held Deputy Secretary positions since May 2010 across several portfolios, including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; Health and Aged Care; Regional Affairs, Local Government, Arts and Sport; and Communications and the Arts.

As a Deputy Secretary in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Richard led reforms in Indigenous Affairs, with a strong focus on community led economic development activity, and local social policy reforms. More recently (from 2016 to early 2020) as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Communications and the Arts, Richard was responsible for the arts, cyber safety, copyright and media.

Richard is a passionate supporter of the Canberra Raiders, the Brumbies, and the St Kilda Football Club.

JOHN HARVEY

(November 2019 – present)

John is of Torres Strait Island (Saibai Island) and English descent. John is a producer, director and writer working in theatre and film. He is Company Director of Brown Cabs Productions Pty Ltd. working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and creatives to bring their stories to the stage and screen. He produced Stephen Page's debut feature film *Spear*. John is the former General Manager and Co-CEO of Ilbijerri Theatre working alongside Rachael Maza. Previously he has worked at Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts and at Access Arts. He has been a Peer Assessor for the Theatre Board, and was a member of the Community Cultural Development Board, at the Australia Council.

John's recent work as a playwright includes *Black Ties*, a collaboration between Te Rēhia Theatre (Aotearoa) and Ilbijerri Theatre, which premiered at the 2020 Sydney Festival.

Board of Directors (cont.)

NADINE MCDONALD-DOWD

(December 2019 – present)

Nadine is the First Nations Creative Development Officer for Sunshine Coast Council and a Board Member of the Aboriginal Art Company.

Nadine was formerly the Artistic Director of Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts Company from 2001 to 2004. Previously, Nadine has been a Director on the Boards of the Queensland Theatre Company, Queensland Government's Premier's Indigenous Advisory Board and Q150 Advisory Committee, and the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts. Nadine was a Senior Producer with Major Brisbane Festivals in 2010, was the Manager of the kuril dhagun, State Library of Queensland from 2006 – 2015, Creative Producer for the Commonwealth Games Arts and Cultural Festival 2018, and Executive Producer at Queensland Performing Arts Centre 2018-2021.

STEPHEN PAGE AO

(June 1998 – present)

Stephen is a descendant of the Nunukul people and the Mununjali clan of the Yugambeh Nation from South East Queensland. In 1991, Stephen was appointed Artistic Director of Bangarra and has developed a signature body of works that have become milestones in Australian performing arts.

Stephen continues to reinvent First Peoples storytelling within Bangarra and through collaborations with other performing arts companies. He directed the Indigenous sections for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies and created a significant dance work for his dad's People, the Mununjali clan of the Yugambeh Nation, as part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony. Stephen has choreographed over 27 works for Bangarra and directed films including *FREEMAN* (co-directed with Laurence Billiet), *SPEAR*, and *Sand (The Turning)*. He also choreographed the feature films *Bran Nue Dae* and *The Sapphires*. Recent awards and honours include: Honorary Doctorate of Creative Arts by the University of Technology Sydney (2015), NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award (2016), JC Williamson Award (2016), Australia Council Dance Award (2017), and appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2017.

IAN ROBERTS

(August 2020 – present)

Ian Roberts is currently the Chair of the Annamila First Nations Foundation and a Trustee of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust. He is also a freelance writer specialising in speeches and editing for daily press. Previously Ian served as CEO of the Harold Mitchell Foundation, General Manager of the Melbourne Festival, General Manager of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre, and as Interim CEO of Arts Centre Melbourne in 2014. Ian's board appointments have included terms as Chair of the Victorian Australia Day Committee, Deputy Chair of the Melbourne International Film Festival, and as Deputy Chair of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. Ian has also served as a Board Director of Arts Centre Melbourne and a member of the Major Performing Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts.

LISSA TWOMEY

(January 2021 – present)

Lissa was appointed Executive Director of Bangarra in March 2020. Lissa has more than 25 years' experience in the arts and cultural sector having worked in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. Her previous roles include Artistic Director of the New Zealand International Arts Festival, Artistic Director of the inaugural Wellington Jazz Festival and Associate Director of the Sydney Festival. Between 2013–2020, Lissa held a position on the Executive at the Australia Council for the Arts, as Executive Director Major Performing Arts and National Engagement.

Current appointments include board member of the Festivals Board, Create NSW and a member of the Executive Council of Live Performance Australia. Lissa was previously a member of the Local Government Authority Round Sub-Committee, Create NSW and a board member at 107 Projects.

Connecting people and enriching communities

“At BAI Communications, we’re dedicated to connecting communities. The strength of our partnership with Bangarra is defined by our shared passion of connecting people in metropolitan, regional and remote communities. We are proud to be a Bangarra partner, helping to elevate our country’s rich national identity and inspire the next generation of Australians.”

PETER LAMBOURNE,
CEO, BAI COMMUNICATIONS
AUSTRALIA

baicomcommunications.com

Australia | Canada | Hong Kong | Italy | UK & Ireland | USA



bai communications



BORALTM



Proud partners for 19 years and counting

www.boral.com/community

Lendlease proudly
supports Bangarra to
tell our nation's stories.



lendlease

www.lendlease.com



Qantas is proud
to be Airline Partner of
Bangarra Dance Theatre

**BANGARRA DANCE
THEATRE AUSTRALIA**

ABN 96 003 814 006

Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia
Gadigal Country, Eora Nation
Wharf 4/5, 15 Hickson Road
Walsh Bay NSW 2000

Phone +61 2 9251 5333

Email bangarra@bangarra.com.au



@bangarradancetheatre #bangarra



/bangarra



@bangarradance



/bangarradancetheatre



Elma Kris in *Spirit: a retrospective 2021*
Photo Daniel Boud