



**BANGARRA'S YOUTH PROGRAM TO VISIT QUEENSLAND,
NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
IN 2019**



The Youth Program Team and *Rekindling Program* participants in Darwin in 2018. Image by Tiffany Parker

[Bangarra Dance Theatre's](#) Youth Outreach Program, [Rekindling](#) returns in 2019, with the Youth Program Team set to deliver their flagship initiative across Queensland, New South Wales, and the Northern Territory. As the company enters its third decade, Rekindling forms an integral component of Bangarra's impactful work with communities.

One of Bangarra's most important outreach programs, Rekindling was established in 2013 to inspire pride, kinship and strength in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Throughout the course of the year, participants and Elders in selected communities come together to learn and share local cultural stories, song, and dance through a series of gatherings. Rekindling culminates in a community performance, where students share the transformative works created through the program.

In 2019, the Youth Program Team will deliver Rekindling to secondary school-aged youth in four communities; Rockhampton, Cherbourg, and Northern Peninsula Area (Queensland), and the Matraville/La Perouse area of Sydney (New South Wales), as well as delivering an intensive three-day workshop in the remote community of Borroloola (Northern Territory).

Bangarra's Youth Outreach Program is delivered by three of Bangarra's alumni **Sidney Saltner**, **Chantal Kerr** and **Patrick Thaiday**, who have more than 30 years of combined performance and education experience. Now in its seventh year, Rekindling has travelled to 31 communities across the country, with over 850 young people participating in the program.

In 2018, the Youth Program Team played a central role in the Opening Ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, with the team working with the Bangarra ensemble to lead a 60-strong cast of Elders and past Rekindling participants from across the Yugambeh Nation, in a totem ceremony viewed by a global audience of millions.

Youth Program Director Sidney Saltner is proud of Rekindling's ongoing work with communities and the transformative power of the program.

"We look forward to bringing Rekindling to four new communities in 2019, all of which have approached Bangarra specifically to deliver the program for their kids – which speaks to the strength of the program and the sense of pride instilled in our young participants. The team will also be delivering a tailored version of Rekindling in the Northern Territory town of Borroloola to meet the specific needs of this community."

The Youth Program Team worked with more than 200 kids across 2018, and more than 1,000 people attended free community performances.

An integral part of the Rekindling program is the 'Revisit' component, in which the Youth Program team return to communities in the year after completing the program to reconnect with participants, Elders, and community members. Revisits enable Bangarra to facilitate sustained connections with the communities that Rekindling has visited, and encourage skill sharing within the community. In 2019, the Youth Programs Team will revisit Charleville and Thursday Island (Queensland), and Darwin (Northern Territory) to continue their work and impact in these regions.

No prior dance training or experience is required, just a willingness to learn. Registrations are now open at www.bangarra.com.au/youth-outreach/rekindling

KEY DATES

Rekindling

Northern Peninsula Area (QLD)
Introduction Workshop: 28 February
Gathering 1: 17 - 19 June
Gathering 2: 6 – 9 August
Gathering 3: 19 – 23 August
Community Performance: 23 August

Cherbourg (QLD)
Introduction Workshop: 4 March
Gathering 1: 30 April – 2 May
Gathering 2: 21 – 24 May
Gathering 3: 3 – 7 June
Community Performance: 7 June

Rockhampton (QLD)
Introduction Workshop: 7 March
Gathering 1: 11 – 13 June
Gathering 2: 30 Jul – 2 August
Gathering 3: 12 – 16 August

CONNECT WITH BANGARRA



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Community Performance: 16 August

Matrville/La Perouse (NSW)
Introduction Workshop: 25 February
Gathering 1: 2 – 4 April
Gathering 2: 7 – 10 May
Gathering 3: 27 – 31 May
Community Performance: 31 May

Borrooloola (NT)
3 – 5 September

Rekindling Returns

Thursday Island: 20 June
Charleville: 22 July
Darwin: 19 September

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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

- have pride in the knowledge of 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

Bangarra's Rekindling program is entirely supported by philanthropic trusts, foundations and individual donors to Bangarra. In 2019, Rekindling is supported by the Colonial Foundation, Patterson Pearce Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and Bangarra's individual donors.

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