

## Registrations close 3 April for 2019 Wakakirri Story Dance comp

**R**egistrations for the 2019 Story Dance competition are open now, with 3 April set as the last date for entries.

Wakakirri is Australia's largest performing arts event for schools with separate events for Primary and Secondary. Each year schools create story dances that reflect students' thoughts, ideas and aspirations. These stories are performed in professional theatres in front of the official Wakakirri Panel who are searching for 'Story of the Year'.

The performances are watched and graded by leading performers in Dance and Musial Theatre including Emma Watkins (the Wiggles), Joshua Hornet (Billy Elliot, the Musical) and Jason Coleman (So you think you can dance).

Wakakirri has accredited Wakakirri Facilitators that can come to participating schools once a week for 10–12 weeks and do a lot of the heavy lifting required to get the schools' Story-Dance on stage. Their support makes participation feasible for schools that do not have a dedicated music/dance teacher on staff. The programs run across Terms 2 and 3 for a Term 3 performance.

Last year, 240 schools performed; popular themes included cyber bullying, the refugee crisis, and the environmental impact of plastic bags.



Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College Tumbi Umbi Campus won the National Reconciliation Story Award in 2018 and also took out Story of the Year for their performance based on John Marsden's novel *The Rabbits*

In New South Wales, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School explored the issues currently being faced by Australia's farming families.

The school's Northmead's Wakakirri coordinator Warren Flanagan, an English, Drama and Entertainment teacher, explained that his students learned the true meaning of the term 'the Aussie battler' when they sought to tell a story that every Australian can relate to.

"We discovered our Australian climate is very harsh to our farmers and many properties nationally have suffered from

the aftermath of extreme weather, with drought being the most severe," he said.

In Northmead's performance titled *The Farmer Wants a Life*, buying a piece of the Aussie dream becomes reality for the Jones. However working on the farm becomes a struggle as rain and drought damage crops. While the Jones lose everything, the Banks make another record profit. Wakakirri's National Panel representatives called it "a mini musical epic with strong attention to plot, drama and the human spirit".

[www.wakakirri.com](http://www.wakakirri.com)

## NCCD evidence for students online recording system launched

**T**he ImproMation Group has developed ezNCCD – an online system to streamline the recording, storage and annual rollover of NCCD evidence for students.

CEO Michael Tunks said: "Tracking and recording NCCD evidence is vital – but it can be very time-consuming. ImproMation has worked with schools across the country to define what data needs to be collected and how best to do this, ezNCCD online is easy to use, it collects and stores the information compre-



hensively and makes the annual rollover requirement a simple routine."

The system:

- Stores student related evidence in one location

- Automates disability category and learning adjustment reports
- Access and update entries online
- Allows teachers to access to their class information
- Automatically rolls over student data into new classes from year to year
- Utilises collected information for school decision making
- Satisfies audit requirements

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[info@impromation.com.au](mailto:info@impromation.com.au)