

MEDIA RELEASE

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Aboriginal dancers selected for national dance camp



15 young Aboriginal dancers who participated in the *Marramarra* workshops and performance have now won scholarships to attend the NAISDA dance camp in Sydney August 14-19.

NAISDA is the national indigenous dance college. The college has launched the professional dance careers of scores of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers.

Marramarra dance workshop facilitator Jo Clancy is a NAISDA graduate and current Chair of the NAISDA Academic Board. She was on the lookout for suitably talented and committed dancers during her workshops in Cowra, Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo this year.

Jo had originally hoped to find about four dancers up to the standard of the national camp. She found 15. About half the students attending the intensive training camp will be from the Central West of NSW.

During the weeklong camp the dancers will explore a range of dance forms including hip hop, jazz, Torres Strait Islander dance, contemporary Aboriginal dance as well as circus, drama and physical theatre. They will also be mentored by current NAISDA students, learn drama skills with NIDA tutors and prepare a show for performance at the end of the week. The students have also been invited to see the Bangarra Dance Theatre production of 'Belong' at the Sydney Opera House.

Dancers from Cowra attending the camp are: Kieren Murray, Jesse James, Maddison Simpson, Ebony Williams, Tamara King, Michaela Jeffries, Takisha Pollard, Shanice Husband, Kerri-Anne Cutmore and Tameeka Tighe. Attending from Condobolin are Shirley King, Shannon King and twins Rhiannon Bell and Leilani Bell. One dancer from Bathurst's Aboriginal Performing Arts Program will also attend.

Marramarra was a showcase of Aboriginal dance, music, visual arts and film making from across the Central West. The Arts OutWest run project involved workshops in local communities March to July this year and a huge public event in Bathurst on July 12.

Pictured: Dance action on stage at Marramarra in Bathurst in July. Photo credit: Peter Gumpert.