

BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE  
AND CARRIAGEWORKS PRESENT

Knowledge  
**GROUND**





# Knowledge GROUND

Welcome to *Knowledge Ground: 30 years of sixty five thousand* – an immersive experience that reflects on the worlds that challenge, influence, and inspire us.

As we move into our fourth decade, we are committed to protecting and preserving our unique songline for the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytellers, and to sharing different dimensions of our productions with you.

Navigate the six thematic worlds in this installation – History, Country, Social Issues, Costume, Soundscape, and Homelands – and connect to the rich and ancient knowledge ground that has fuelled our cultural fire for thirty years.

This installation also marks the launch of our archival platform Knowledge Ground, which catalogues and curates our history online. We hope you enjoy exploring our productions, delving deeper into our stories, and immersing yourself in our history.

**[bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au](http://bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au)**

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional owners of the land and waters upon which Carriageworks stands.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this installation contains audio and video of people who have passed away.

Bangarra would like to acknowledge the many people in our family who are no longer here but have left an indelible mark on our cultural and creative continuum.

# Foreword

We are thrilled to welcome back Bangarra Dance Theatre to Carriageworks, and to present *Knowledge Ground: 30 years of sixty five thousand*. Bangarra's contribution to the arts and culture, both nationally and internationally, continues to engage audiences year after year, with their distinctive choreography, soundscape and design.

This installation celebrates three decades of groundbreaking performance, and the historical legacy of one of Australia's leading contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance companies. This new curated experience shares the stories that have been at the heart of Bangarra's creative and cultural expressions, and is a testament to the manner in which Bangarra has created pathways for generations of Indigenous dancers and artists.

Carriageworks is able to present *Knowledge Ground: 30 years of sixty five thousand*, with the ongoing support of the NSW Government through Create NSW and of the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, and I would like to thank them for their assistance and commitment to our programs.

**Blair French** Chief Executive Officer, Carriageworks

# Welcome

For thirty years, we've been inspired by communities across Australia who have entrusted us with their sacred stories, and who have joined us on this creative and cultural journey. We've been thinking a lot about that clan this year – about the generations of Dancers, Artists, and Cultural Custodians who've been part of our story so far. Knowledge Ground – the exhibition and the site – is about tending the ground for the future; ensuring there's cultural fuel for the next generation of storytellers, fire-makers, cultural caretakers. You can't see it but you can feel it – you can feel the conclusion of one cycle, and the awakening of the next.

We'd like to thank our whole clan for their work in making this exhibition come together – in particular, our incredible Dancers, Associate Artistic Director Frances Rings, our Board, our family of donors, and our philanthropic, government, and corporate partners who've been part of this story so far.

Finally, we'd like to thank Yolande Brown, who over the last two years has carefully constructed our new digital archive Knowledge Ground, and reawakened thirty years of artistry to share with all of you.

Welcome to our knowledge ground.

**Stephen Page** Artistic Director, Bangarra Dance Theatre

**Jacob Nash** Head of Design, Bangarra Dance Theatre

Co-Curators, *Knowledge Ground: 30 years of sixty five thousand*



Knowledge  
**GROUND**  
MAP



**HISTORY**

1788 Set Piece

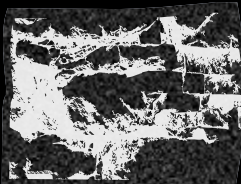
Nest

Behind-the-Scenes Photographs

Sacred Ring

**SOUNDSCAPE**

Dubboo Songline



Patyegarang Cloth

**COSTUME**

Costumes from our Productions




**SOCIAL ISSUES**

SPEAR Film




**COUNTRY**




EORA - Dark Emu

**HOMELANDS**

Homelands House



 Navigate each world at your own pace and enjoy this unique opportunity to connect with the knowledge ground that supports our works. You can explore each world further, and learn more about all of our productions at [bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au](http://bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au)

# History

This world speaks to a history that extends beyond the colonial timeline, and to our unyielding connection to Country. First Nations people have thrived on this continent for millennia, and our histories are permanently embedded in this land. Bookended by some of our most iconic set pieces, this space illuminates the inherent nature of Bangarra – our dual existence in both traditional and contemporary worlds, and our place in an ongoing and unfolding story.



**Delve deeper into Indigenous histories through documents, audio, and articles.**



# Country

As Australia's only Indigenous Major Performing Arts company, we are intimately and innately connected to the lands, seas, and skies of Australia, to Country that has sustained life for time immemorial. Country is the foundation of all of our works, the ground that nurtures our stories, song, and dance. Country is not only a source of inspiration; it's a site of resistance, pride, and identity. We are particularly connected to the Eora Nation – the land and waters around Sydney that have nourished our storytelling practice for over three decades.



**Journey across the lands and seas that shape and sustain our productions through stories, and photographs, and ephemera.**

# Social Issues

As a company we exist in two worlds and we have the ability and responsibility to share our stories with, and in, both. They are stories from remote communities and big cities; stories from North East Arnhem Land to Tasmania; stories about contemporary lives and ancient spirits. They are stories that powerfully and unapologetically convey our experiences, and shed light on our resistance and resilience as First Nations people. This world prompts questions about the tensions between Indigenous and western worlds, and the impact of a continuing legacy of colonisation. It's an exploration of how we face social issues, and about the spirits and Elders that guide us to safety and connect us to Country.



**Explore our works that respond to social issues through production videos, images, and interviews with Choreographers.**



# Costume

Our bodies are the medium through which stories have been handed down and shared for millennia, passed from one generation to another without written language. For us, costumes are more than ornaments that adorn our Dancers, they are part of the fabric into which our stories are woven. Our costumes are born on Country, and are brought to life through creative partnerships between our Costume Designers and Elders who keep their stories, cultures, and languages alive. This world explores the intricate designs of Jennifer Irwin, who since the 90s has been invoking Country through cloth, and creating costumes that transform our Dancers' bodies into the spirits of earth, sea, and sky.



**View more of our costumes and check out design notes from some of Australia's most celebrated Costume Designers.**

# Soundscape

Bangarra's soundscapes are a rich tapestry of contemporary music and traditional language, a delicate balance between innovative composition and ancient spirit. This world unravels the threads of these scores, revealing how our signature soundscapes are created, how the traditional and contemporary come together to fill theatres with our unique sound. Soundscape is a reflection on the legacy of our beloved songman Roy David Page, who was the musical heartbeat of Bangarra. The song 'Young Man' that fills this space was a unique collaboration between David and his father, who gifted him the Yugambah language words that propel this rich soundscape. This composition marks the coming together of two men who'd never had the opportunity to participate in traditional ceremony, to share language, song, and story and preserve their cultural knowledge.



**Immerse yourself further through recordings of our award-winning scores, journeys about the process of composition, and podcast-style interviews with musicians.**



# Homelands

This world is an homage to the families who have opened their doors to us over three decades, who have entrusted us with their sacred stories, languages, and cultures. From the Elders that guide our works, to our Rekindling participants – the next generation of cultural leaders – we are part of a continuum of First Nations storytelling. Whether we're running workshops in traditional or urban communities, or working with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities on our next production, our stories and our respect for the cycles of cultural creation are what connect us. We are committed to bringing the stories we tell, home; returning them to the Country that birthed them, and back to the communities and cultural custodians who have shared their knowledge with us.

Homelands is a portrait of our clan – of everyone who is part of Bangarra's songline.



**Learn more about our clan through videos about our Rekindling program, profiles on Dancers and Creatives, and interviews with Cultural Consultants.**

Knowledge  
**GROUND**

**Artistic Director** Stephen Page

**Associate Artistic Director** Frances Rings

**Head of Design** Jacob Nash

**Co-Curators** Jacob Nash & Stephen Page

**Music** David Page & Steve Francis

**Sound Design** Steve Francis

**Set Design** Jacob Nash & Peter England

**Costume Design** Jennifer Irwin

**Lighting Design** Nick Schlieper

**AV Content Design** Dave Bergman

## **PRODUCTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Director, Technical & Production** John Colvin

**Production Electrician & Lighting Programmer** Steve Hendy

**Lighting Technician** Aiden Brennan

**Props Making** Traleen Ryan

**Props Making** Jason Lowe

**Video Editor (Homelands)** Petra Leslie

## Credits



*Knowledge Ground: 30 years of sixty five thousand* is a curated collection of multimedia elements from our 30-year history, each carefully crafted by a team of Creatives. For a full list of credits, please visit [bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au/productions/knowledgeground](http://bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au/productions/knowledgeground)

# Special Thanks

The Roy David Page Estate  
Djakapurra Munyarryun  
Matthew Doyle  
Bonnie Elliott ACS  
Yolande Brown  
Katherine Hamilton  
Brown Cabs  
Chameleon Touring Systems -  
Tony Davies & Trish Baxter  
Experience the Pulse

Sydney Opera House  
Sydney Theatre Company  
Arena Media  
Planet Eng - Rick Best  
dplr - Andy Lysle  
*EORA - Dark Emu* was inspired  
by the book, *Dark Emu, Black  
Seeds: Agriculture or Accident?*  
by Bruce Pascoe and  
commissioned by Destination  
NSW for Vivid Sydney 2018

# Image Credits

## **Cover**

Tyrel Dulvarie &  
Rika Hamaguchi  
with Elma Kris,  
photos by Daniel  
Boud & Jacob Nash,  
designed by Jacob  
Nash

## **Page 2**

Elma Kris,  
photo by Daniel Boud

## **Page 5**

Stephen Page  
& Jacob Nash,  
photo by Jamie  
James

## **Page 7**

Bangarra Dancers  
in *Bennelong* (2017),  
photo by Daniel Boud

## **Page 8**

Yolande Brown  
in *SPEAR* (2015),  
photo by Jacob Nash

## **Page 9**

Bangarra on  
Country at Yirrkalala,  
photo by Tiffany  
Parker

## **Page 13**

Current Russell Page  
Graduates,  
photo by James  
Green

## **Page 15**

Nicola Sabatino,  
Lillian Banks, Rika  
Hamaguchi &  
Bradley Smith,  
photo by Daniel Boud

# Donors

In consultation with Wiradjuri Elders, we have taken inspiration from the word 'Bangarra' - a Wiradjuri word meaning 'to make fire' - to describe these levels, as part of our ongoing commitment to the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

## Dhulubang - Spirit (Gifts)

Estate Late James  
Simpson Love  
Marena Manzoufas  
Sally Anne Nicholson

## Dhulubang - Spirit (Circle)

Anonymous (2)  
Margo Garnon-Williams  
Davina Gifford  
Dean Gifford  
Roger Hewitt  
Nicola Kaldor  
Yvonne Langley-Walsh  
Keith Mobbs  
Lynn Ralph  
Anne Roussac-Hoyne  
Eric Roussac  
Stephen Scrogings  
Jennifer Vass  
Kelvin Widdows  
Jan Williams

## Guya - Fish (\$50,000+)

Linda Herd

## Bilawi - Sheoak (\$20,000+)

Robert Albert AO  
& Libby Albert  
Krystyna Campbell-Pretty

Canny Quine Foundation  
Nelson Estrella  
& Phil Rounsevell  
Marion Heathcote  
& Brian Burfitt  
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Patterson Pearce Foundation  
Sisyphus Foundation

## Wiiny - Fire (\$10,000+)

Charlie's Cookies  
Jane & Russell Kift  
Lyn & Graham Maloney  
David Robb  
The Ross Trust  
Penelope Seidler AM  
Fiona Stanley  
The Turnbull Foundation  
The Wiggles  
Mary Paula Williamson

## Bargan - Boomerang (\$5,000+)

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Stephen & Sophie Allen  
Susan Bear  
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Jane Thorn  
Shemara Wikramanayake

Bangarra also thanks the many generous donors of less than \$5,000 who support our vision.

## Foundations

Annamila Pty Ltd  
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E.H. Flack Trust  
Packer Family Foundation  
The Sherry-Hogan Foundation  
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation

Correct at 21 November 2019

# 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.



Bangarra Dance Theatre is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.



Regional Touring  
Partner



Community Nights  
Partner



# Russell Page Graduate Program

Meet Baden, Gusta, Bradley, Kallum, Ryan, Lillian, Glory and Tyrel – eight remarkable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancers who launched their career with Bangarra through our Russell Page Graduate Program. Since 2015, the Program has helped emerging artists find their feet in the world of professional dance, as members of Australia's leading Indigenous performing arts company.

This is just one of the artistic development and community outreach initiatives generously supported by Bangarra's donors.

Join our incredible community of donors today to support the people and communities at the heart of our work.

**DONATE NOW** at [bangarra.com.au](http://bangarra.com.au), or by calling **02 9258 5102**



# Our Clan

## EXECUTIVE

### Artistic Director

Stephen Page

### Interim Executive Director

Tony Grybowski

### Executive Administrator

Laura Hough

## ARTISTIC

### Associate Artistic Director

Frances Rings

### Head of Design

Jacob Nash

### Rehearsal Director

Daniel Roberts

## BANGARRA DANCERS

Elma Kris

Tara Gower

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

Jye Uren

Kassidy Waters

Kallum Goolagong

Gusta Mara

## ADMINISTRATION

### Chief Financial Officer/ Company Secretary

Ashwin Rathod

### Human Resources Manager

Natsai Mutema

### Finance & Operations Officer

Sunil Timilsina

## DEVELOPMENT

### Director, Marketing & Development

Sarah Hunt

### Development Managers

Chloe Gordon

Anna Shapiro

### Capital Campaign Director

Kitty Walker

### Development Coordinator

Jacob Williams

## LEARNING & COMMUNITY

### Youth Program Director

Sidney Saltner

### Youth Program Leaders

Chantal Kerr

Leonard Mickelo

### Manager, Community Engagement

Libby Collins

### Education Consultant

Shane Carroll

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

### Director, Marketing & Development

Sarah Hunt

### CRM Manager

Thida Kyaw

## Marketing & Digital Manager

Sophie Raper

## Knowledge Ground Coordinator

Yolande Brown

## Office & Engagement Coordinator

Ivana Radix

## Ticketing Systems Specialist

Emily Windsor

## PR & Communications Manager

Belinda Dyer  
for Kabuku PR

## PRODUCTION

### Director, Technical & Production

John Colvin

### Production Manager

Cat Studley

### Manager, Touring & Redevelopment

Phoebe Collier

### Company Manager

Cloudia Elder

### Stage Manager

Lillian Hannah U

### Head Electrician

Ryan Shuker

### Head of Wardrobe

Monica Smith

### Head Mechanist

David Tong

### AV Technician

Emjay Matthews

### Assistant Stage Manager

Stephanie Storr



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# bangarra


DANCE THEATRE

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Barangaroo NSW 2000

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