

MEDIA RELEASE
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BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE RELEASES 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

[Bangarra Dance Theatre](#) released its [2017 Annual Report](#) at its Annual General Meeting yesterday and announced the strongest financial and artistic results in its history of the company due to sustained growth in development income, record-breaking box office results, and the most highly praised new Australian dance work to emerge from Bangarra.

Bangarra's continued increase in development income and fantastic box office results reduced the company's reliance on its core government grant as a Major Performing Arts (MPA) company to 34%, down from 50% in 2014 – a strategic goal achieved three years ahead of schedule.

Extraordinary audience engagement was achieved in theatres across Australia and overseas, as more than 54,000 people experienced Bangarra in 2017.

The world premiere season of *Bennelong* became the most successful production in the history of Bangarra. This powerful full-length work connected with more than 39,000 people nationally, with ticket sales surpassing the previous attendance record held by *Patyegarang* in 2014 by more than 3,000.

The company's regional tour of *Terrain* across Victoria and Tasmania also generated one of the strongest results in the company's history, with 78% paid capacity, as audiences in the regions embraced the company's work.

Bangarra Dance Theatre, Executive Director, Philippe Magid, said the company is proud to announce the positive result, which is due to a number of factors.

"The creation and presentation of a monumental new Australian dance work, which is testament to Stephen's vision; the implementation of a robust development strategy; and the execution of tactical data-driven digital campaigns have all been influential in this outstanding result," he said.

"We are incredibly proud to have achieved these milestones while maintaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment at 66% and working closely with various Cultural Leaders who enrich our storytelling and support our cultural integrity."

The landmark year saw Artistic Director Stephen Page accept an appointment by the Commonwealth as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to the performing arts and contemporary dance, and for presenting Indigenous arts to the

For all media enquiries, please contact:
Sarah Shields, Media & Communications Manager
Bangarra Dance Theatre
M: 0408 283 091
E: sarahs@bangarra.com.au

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world – which he accepted with mixed feelings, in celebration of the strength of First Nations People. Stephen has also awarded the esteemed Australia Council Award for Dance, in acknowledgement of his outstanding and sustained contribution to Australian dance.

As part of the Bangarra's role as ambassadors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the company delivered a milestone 25th international tour to Copenhagen, Bonn and Berlin. While on home soil, the company travelled to the Torres Strait Islands to bring the 2015 work *I.B.I.S.* back to Country, performing for the community that inspired its creation.

Off the stage, Bangarra delivered a range of initiatives aimed at supporting the development of future cultural leaders, which is vital to the success and longevity of the company. The David Page Music Fellowship was launched and awarded in memory of the musical heartbeat of the company, David Page, who passed away in April 2016.

Bangarra's Youth Program Team travelled to 10 regional and remote locations in NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC, and WA to deliver the renowned Rekindling program, which aims to inspire pride, kinship and strength in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through intensive dance residencies.

This year, audiences can see Bangarra perform the major new dance work, *Dark Emu* from June to September in Sydney, Canberra, Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne. Inspired by Bruce Pascoe's award-winning book of the same name, *Dark Emu* explores the vital life force of flora and fauna in a series of intertwined dance stories directed by Artistic Director Stephen Page. Tickets are on sale now at www.bangarra.com.au.

Download the 2017 Annual Report [HERE](#).

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