

2014-16 RAP HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the Sydney Opera House's 2014-16 RAP illustrate the reach and impact of the Opera House's programs, and its deepening relationships and connection with community.

Homeground

Homeground, the Opera House's annual free outdoor festival celebrating First Nations music, dance and cultures from around the world, was launched in 2014 to an audience of more than 10,000 on the Opera House's Western Broadwalk. Since then, *Homeground* has played host to many world-class international and domestic artists including Archie Roach, Paul Kelly, A Tribe Called Red, Dan Sultan, OKA, Excelsior and Tenzin Choegyal.

Dance Rites

Dance Rites, a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance competition designed to revitalise vanishing cultural practices, was launched in 2015 with more than 150 participants from 10 communities across NSW, Queensland and the Torres Strait Islands. The competition culminated in a breathtaking final round watched by a capacity crowd on the Opera House's Western Broadwalk during *Homeground*. A detailed case study is provided on page 24.

Homeground Talks

The inaugural *Homeground Talks*, a new forum for provocative conversations about contemporary First Nations issues, took place on the 2016 anniversary of Australia's 1967 Indigenous referendum, with influential artists, activists and academics debating economic opportunity and sovereignty for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Career Paths

From 2014 to 2016, the Indigenous Work Experience and Traineeship Programs gave 66 young people the opportunity to learn practical skills across a range of Opera House business areas. A detailed case study is provided on page 28.

Songlines

Songlines, the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander work commissioned exclusively for the Opera House sails, was a feature of Vivid LIVE and Vivid Sydney 2016. A detailed case study is provided on page 30.

Bangarra

In 2014, Bangarra Dance Theatre celebrated its 25th anniversary and its 10th year in residence at the Opera House with a free performance on the Opera House Forecourt as part of Corroboree Sydney. The Opera House also presented a photographic exhibition of Bangarra's work on the Western Broadwalk.

Digital Tour

The interactive digital creative learning tour *Guwany Walama: To Tell and Return* was launched in 2014 and explores the history of Bennelong Point and the Gadigal lands of Sydney Cove before 1788. A detailed case study is provided on page 26.

Staff Immersion

An Opera House staff member was appointed Head of Ceremonies at the 2016 Boomerang Festival, an annual multi-arts and multi-venue event within Bluesfest on Bundjalung lands in northern NSW. During this two-week, cross-organisational learning and mentorship opportunity, she shared her production and technical expertise and cultural knowledge.

Tri Nations

The Opera House, with support from the Australia Council for the Arts, partnered with Active Events (Scotland) and Taranaki Arts Festival (New Zealand) in 2014 to present the *Tri Nations Boomerang Concert*, a unique collaboration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Maori and Gaelic/Celtic indigenous artists. The concert was presented at WOMAD in New Zealand, the inaugural *Homeground* festival, and at the Commonwealth Games Arts Festival in Scotland.

Teaching Aboriginal Perspectives

Developed in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education in 2014, the Opera House launched an annual forum, *Teaching Aboriginal Perspectives*, designed to provide teachers with guidance on cultural protocols and support the teaching of Aboriginal perspectives across all subjects. More than 90 teachers have participated in the program so far.

Redfern Talks Back

In 2014, the Opera House partnered with the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence, the Redfern Area Command and Tribal Warrior Association to develop *Redfern Talks Back*, an engagement program for young people at risk. Participants created a forum theatre show, which is a format designed to generate debate and audience participation. It explored the issue of crime prevention, and culminated in a performance to 160 people at the Opera House.

Cultural Awareness

Each year, Opera House staff participate in cultural engagement activities during National Reconciliation Week. To increase staff understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and achievements, a cultural awareness e-learning module was launched in 2016.

Careers Day

An annual Careers Day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students was launched in 2014 to develop relationships with students and encourage them to consider a career in the arts and cultural industry. A detailed case study is provided on page 28.