

Heidi Victoria MP

Member for Bayswater District

Minister for the Arts

Minister for Women's Affairs

Minister for Consumer Affairs

2/40 Station Street, Bayswater 3153 Ph: 9729 1622 Fax: 9729 0912

E: heidi.victoria@parliament.vic.gov.au

www.heidivictoria.com.au



25 March 2013

Students encouraged to tell their stories on stage

Member for Bayswater District, Heidi Victoria has called on local students to get their entries in and take centre stage in the Wakakirri Secondary School Challenge.

The Wakakirri Secondary School Challenge replaces the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, following the Rock Eisteddfod Foundation's announcement late last year that it would not be hosting the annual nation-wide competition in 2013.

Mrs Victoria said the Victorian Coalition Government had stepped in to find a new partner for Victoria's secondary school students to enable them to continue to show off their creative talents.

"Our local schools have shown an enormous wealth of talent in the past and I encourage all government and non-government schools to engage these creative and artistic talents and take advantage of this opportunity for our young people to show off their immense talents on the Wakakirri stage" Mrs Victoria said

Minister for Youth Affairs Ryan Smith has welcomed the opening of entries for the Wakakirri Secondary School Challenge.

Mr Smith announced early this year the establishment of the new partnership with the Wakakirri Association, along with \$200,000 in funding to support the association's running of the event.

"While it was disappointing to hear that the Rock Eisteddfod would not run this year, what we have been able to achieve in partnership with the Wakakirri Association is incredibly exciting and an entirely fresh approach," Mr Smith said.

"This is a great chance for Victorian students to flex their creative muscles and explore the opportunity to produce a short stage production."

The Wakakirri Secondary School Challenge requires schools to work within set parameters to ensure a level playing field between schools, regardless of their budgets.

The Challenge also provides workshops for students on production, directing, set and costume design, acting, choreography, audio and lighting design and opportunities to meet professionals from the entertainment industry.

Mrs Victoria encouraged students to get involved and register before entries close on 17 April 2013.

Visit www.wakakirri.com for more information.