Dancers kick off show

MOOROOPNA STUDENT DANCE GROUP TO OPEN VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

By Tammy Mills

Mooroopna Secondary College’s Wannik Dance Academy will open the Victorian State Schools Spectacular later this month.

Twenty Indigenous girls from the academy, together with students from academies in Eaglehawk and Ballarat, will kick-off the show with a traditional Indigenous welcoming dance.

The girls will join more than 2500 students from across Victoria who will showcase their talents at the song and dance show held at Melbourne’s Hisense Arena on September 19 and 20.

The Wannik Dance Academy is an educational program centred on dance and aims to engage Indigenous girls in years 7 to 10 with their schooling and provides opportunities for mentoring.

The girls from Mooroopna Secondary College will perform two other songs in the show.

Wannik Dance Academy director Scott Burton said the girls had been practising for the past eight weeks.

“They’re not quite sure what to expect. They’re excited about it but very nervous. It’ll come to life when we get there,” he said.

Mr Burton, who also teaches physical education at the college, said they were lucky to be selected to perform out of all the state schools in Victoria.

“It’s a huge honour,” he said.

Wannik dance student Taylah Jones, 15, said even though she was a little nervous about the performance, she’s looking forward to it.

“We’re a bit scared . . . but it should be good,” she said.

Taylah said out of the three dances, the welcome to the country dance was her favourite.

“Just because it’s different,” she said.
Spectacular: Taylah Jones, 15, Tahlia Voss, 14 and Brydie Simpkin, 14, from Mooroopna Secondary College are part of the 20-strong group performing in the State Schools Spectacular.