



Carclew's Big Draw receives international accolade

Carclew Youth Arts' *Big Journal – Big Draw 2010* project has been recognised internationally for its contribution to sustained arts learning in school communities.

The *Big Journal – Big Draw* project was one of three overall recipients of the *Drawing Inspiration Award* awarded by *Campaign for Drawing* based in the UK.

The Carclew project was selected from over 1500 activities that celebrated drawing throughout the UK, Australia and 19 other countries during October 2010.

The project was developed as a Creative Education Partnership Initiative and was delivered in partnership with Murray Bridge North Schools and Country Arts SA during '*Ripples*' – The Regional Centre for Culture Murray Bridge – in 2010.

Carclew's Arts and Education Program Manager, Leigh Mangin said she was thrilled to see the project acknowledged.

"The *Big Draw* was initially developed more than ten years ago by *The Campaign for Drawing* in the United Kingdom and has been embraced all over the world," Leigh said.

"The project was designed to encourage children and adults to draw and advocated that anyone can learn drawing techniques and have fun."

Carclew Youth Arts delivered its first *Big Draw* during Come Out 2009 and in 2010 extended this highly successful model through an Artist Residency at Murray Bridge North Schools.

As part of the project, artists James Parker and John Whitney, emerging artist Sebastian Humphreys and Project Coordinator Ella Pak Poy worked collaboratively with 120 Year 4-5 students, exploring drawing techniques and mediums over an intensive six-month period.

Drawing journals were kept by all students, teachers and artists which then became the focus of an exhibition at the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery in late 2010.

"Through the project, students had access to professional artists who were able to take the learning from the classroom to a new level through explicit exposure to a range of drawing techniques, giving balance and perspective to what constitutes art," said Helen Dean, Principal of Murray Bridge North Schools.

James Parker and John Whitney will travel to the UK to collect the honours on April 14 with the ceremony to take place at the British Museum in London.

"It's not often that these types of projects are recognised for the development opportunities they provide to young people and their artist mentors. John and I are honoured to be travelling to the UK to attend the award ceremony" said James Parker.

In addition to the international recognition for the project, Carclew will receive £750 towards future drawing projects and a certificate designed by highly acclaimed British illustrator and artist, Quentin Blake.

The prize money will be used to assist the delivery of future *Big Draw* projects developed for children in remote regions of South Australia.

Big Journal – Big Draw was facilitated as an *Artists in Schools* residency whereby Carclew develops and delivers arts programs with and for South Australian schools in partnership with experienced highly-skilled professional artists.

Carclew has been delivering *Artists in Schools* projects in South Australian schools for over 30 years and with funding from the Australia Council for the Arts (through Arts SA) *Big Journal – Big Draw* Murray Bridge was Carclew's second Creative Education Partnership Artist Residency venture. *Artist in Schools* residencies focus on long-term engagement between artists and students and provide opportunities for intensive, sustained learning through the arts.

Interview and Photo Opportunity – James Parker and John Whitney

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