

29 September 2010

## **Big results as SA artists and Murray Bridge students reflect on the township**

Last week marked the culmination of an artistic journey spanning six months for students from Murray Bridge, as the opening of the *Big Journal, Big Draw* exhibition took place at the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery.

*Big Journal, Big Draw* is a Carclew Youth Arts Artist in Residence initiative, at Murray Bridge North Schools from April through to the opening on September 24. Students completed the program under the leadership and watchful eyes of South Australian artists John Whitney and James Parker, and emerging artist Sebastian Humphreys.

Drawing workshops provided over 120 Year 4/5 students the opportunity to experience various mediums and techniques and to fill their journals with thoughts, feelings, dreams, ideas and reflections.

Artists lead students and teachers through a developmental process, involving them in all stages of the project from research, concept, planning and design through to creation, exhibition and evaluation.

The students were ecstatic to finally see their hard work on display in the newly renovated Murray Bridge Regional Gallery.

"The children had a unique opportunity to learn new visual art techniques and worked hard over the period to record and artistically interpret their heritage and environment" said Carclew Project Manager, Leigh Mangin.

Carclew implemented the initiative in a Creative Education Partnership with the Australia Council and the South Australian Government - to provide creative opportunity to students and show them how under the guidance of a professional artist they too can be an artist, using drawing techniques to express their feelings and interpretations.

Carclew Chief Executive, Tricia Walton said "the works exhibited are truly reflective of the students' sense of place and surrounding, strongly influenced by their heritage, schooling and the township of Murray Bridge and show their development over the residence period. The exhibition is fantastic".

Only two rules applied when the students were in the workshop: no erasers and there is no such thing as a mistake. All of the children's developmental work is on display in the exhibition.

*Big Journal, Big Draw* is a Carclew Artist in Residence initiative, in partnership with Murray Bridge North Schools, Country Arts SA and Ripples.

The exhibition is now showing at Murray Bridge Regional Gallery until Saturday 16 October.

**For further media information please contact Allison Kane, Marketing Manager, on 8267 5111 or [akane@carclew.org.au](mailto:akane@carclew.org.au)**