



South Australian artists and teachers rewarded

Three of the state's emerging artists have received \$35,000 in scholarships and three South Australian teachers have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to Arts Education.

These were the highlights of the 2011 Education and Arts Ministers Awards – which were held last night (October 27) at the Mercury Cinema.

Administered by Carclew Youth Arts, the three artistic scholarships are among the largest on offer in South Australia and in the past they have been tremendously beneficial to the young artists who have received them.

The 2011 Carclew Youth Arts Board scholarship winners were:

- **Dame Ruby Litchfield Performing Arts Scholarship (\$12,500): Jody Fisher**
- **Ruth Tuck Visual Arts Scholarship (\$12,500): Lara Merrington**
- **Colin Thiele Creative Writing Scholarship (\$12,500): Stella Robin Tatlow-Lord**

"These winners have already shown a dedication to their art form and this money can be used for a wide range of activities, to help them go to the next level and beyond," said Tricia Walton, Carclew's Chief Executive.

"There are many talented young people in this state and we're committed to help these artists develop professionally through unique opportunities."

The other major awards granted last night recognise exceptional arts teachers and artists working in DECS schools, with the winners receiving \$5,000 to be used for professional development.

The winners of the 2011 Education and Arts Ministers Awards were:

- **Excellence in arts teaching and leadership at primary school level:
Belinda Robertson (Allenby Gardens Primary School)**
- **Excellence in arts teaching and leadership at secondary school level:
Penny McGuire (Orroroo Area School)**
- **Success as an artist working with teachers and students:
Jeremy Watson (Images from the Edge project)**

"Arts teachers play an important role as artistic mentors for young South Australians," Tricia said.

"This year's winners have truly dedicated themselves to ensuring that vibrant arts programs are fostered within the primary and secondary school system.

"Their enthusiasm has inspired children across the state to embrace artistic experiences and we're delighted to be able to recognise their efforts at these awards."

The Independent Arts Foundation (IAF) made the decision not to award the inaugural IAF Creative Writing Mentorship, with none of the applicants meeting the specified criteria. Feedback will be provided to applicants and the Mentorship will again be offered in 2012 to support SA's emerging writers.

New scholarship

Kate Gould, Chair of the Carclew Youth Arts Board and General Manager & Associate Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival, was MC for the award ceremony and announced that Carclew's scholarship suite is being expanded even further.

Thanks to the generous support of BHP Billiton, next year artists will be invited to apply for the following:

- **Film and New Media Scholarship** – worth \$12,500, the scholarship will help a talented young artist break into a notoriously hard field.

For further media information please contact Natasha Wade, Michels Warren PR, on 8267 6888 or nwade@micwar.com.au

About the winners

Excellence in arts teaching and leadership at primary school level – Belinda Robertson

Belinda is a dynamic teacher and passionate promoter of the arts as a medium for the development of confidence and self-esteem in children. Belinda has been the Arts Coordinator at Allenby Gardens PS for three years. She has brought about significant change in the knowledge, skills and application of visual arts, dance and drama and raised the profile of the arts across the whole school. Belinda leads by example and has worked collaboratively to mentor her colleagues and empower them to feel confidence in teaching the arts.

Excellence in arts teaching and leadership at secondary school level – Penny McGuire

Penny is the Visual Arts teacher at Orroroo Area School, a small regional school 300km north of Adelaide in a community which has struggled with drought conditions for many years. Since arriving in Orroroo, Penny has strived to develop and provide an engaging, relevant and well planned arts curriculum which includes a multitude of creative activities and programs for both students and staff at the School. As well as having a keen interest in using ICT to enhance the arts, Penny has been responsible for arranging for professional artists to visit the school and share their skills and experience with students.

Success as an artist working with teachers and students – Jeremy Watson

Jeremy Watson is a photo artist who has just completed a four-month arts in health project, entitled *Images from the Edge*. This project saw Jeremy sharing his extensive skill and professionalism with 40 primary and secondary students at Yalata Anangu, Koonibba Aboriginal, Ceduna and Streaky Bay schools. His experience has shown that photography can be an effective tool for building self-esteem and personal empowerment in young people.

Dame Ruby Litchfield Performing Arts Scholarship – Jody Fisher

The Dame Ruby Litchfield scholarship will assist Jody to undertake three month's private tuition with master classical guitarist Eduardo Fernandez in Milan and to undertake a two year Master of Advanced Studies, specialising in ensemble (chamber music) at the Zurich University, Germany.

Ruth Tuck Visual Arts Scholarship – Lara Merrington

The Ruth Tuck scholarship will assist Lara to undertake three professional development opportunities in Argentina and Colombia (gallery placements), based on furthering her knowledge and skills in curatorship and arts management and exploring her intense interest in Hispanic art and culture.

Colin Thiele Creative Writing Scholarship – Stella Robin Tatlow-Lord

The Colin Thiele scholarship will assist Robin to undertake a mentorship program with two award-winning writers for children enabling her to develop as a children's writer and illustrator.

