



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 19 November 2014

## **Celebrating South Australian arts educators**

Carclew recognised three exceptional arts educators at the **2015 Education and Arts Ministers' Awards**, held this morning **Wednesday November 19** at Carclew.

These three leaders were awarded for their outstanding contributions to arts education and leadership within Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) schools.

Presented by Helen Wildash, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning Services, DECD, the recipients of the 2015 Education Minister's Awards are:

**Gail Carragher (Seaford Rise Primary School)**  
**for excellence in arts teaching and leadership at primary school**

**Judy Swan (Mitcham Girls High School)**  
**for excellence in arts teaching and leadership at secondary school level**

Presented by Carclew Chairperson Jane Doyle, the recipient of the 2015 Arts Minister's Award is:

**Meredith Russell (freelance artist in schools)**  
**for success as an artist working with teachers and students.**

Each recipient received \$5,000 to be used for professional development during 2015. Up to \$500 of each of the teacher's awards will be used to support arts activities within their school.

Before presenting the artist award Jane Doyle said, "Since the inaugural Education and Arts Ministers' Awards in 2003, Carclew has recognised 22 teachers and 11 artists for their valuable work with children in South Australian schools and today we add three more outstanding arts educators to the list."

"The 2015 recipients have demonstrated exceptional commitment and leadership by enriching the Arts curriculum and inspiring students to reach their creative potential."

Teachers working with Carclew often express the value they place upon partnerships with professional artists and specifically identify the benefits for disengaged students who become focused and inspired when working with artists.

Each of the recipients will use their award to pursue professional learning opportunities abroad, and are enthusiastic to share their learnings with their school communities.

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**For further media information please contact**  
**Allison Kane, Manager Marketing and Publicity, Carclew**  
**0413 042 639 [akane@carclew.org.au](mailto:akane@carclew.org.au)**

## Education and Arts Ministers' Awards 2015 Recipients



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### **Excellence in arts teaching and leadership at primary school level – Gail Carragher**

Gail has been an arts specialist teacher at **Seaford Rise Primary School** since 2001. Gail brings a wealth of experience, innovation and passion to her work whether it be as a classroom, special needs or arts teacher. Through the arts she has engaged students in a range of opportunities including: Rock Eisteddfod, Waikikirri, The Festival of Music and Come Out.

For her professional learning Gail plans to attend the 'International Conference on Communication, Visual and Performing Arts' in Paris in April 2015. While in Paris Gail will extend her learning by visiting exhibitions and galleries such as the Pompidou Centre. Her experience will inform the school's 'Arts Around the World in 80 Days' program through the exploration and incorporation of digital technologies. A portion of her award funds will also be invested in this program.

### **Excellence in arts teaching and leadership at secondary school level – Judy Swan**

Judy has been teaching dance in secondary schools for many years with the past four years at **Mitcham Girl's High School**. Judy has been an integral member of many curriculum writing teams and is Chief External Assessor in dance with the SACE Board. Through her genuine love for dance Judy encourages students with minimal confidence in the art form to those who achieve merit standard.

Judy's professional learning will see her visit New York City during 'New York Dance Week' in June 2015. Organised for charitable and educational purposes, this event promotes the diversity of dance. Participating in dance classes and events will allow Judy to observe a range of teaching methods and strategies while visiting performing arts high schools will enrich and inspire her. A portion of her award funds will support an Aboriginal choreographer to work with the students at Mitcham Girl's High.

### **Success as an artist working with teachers and students – Meredith Russell**

Meredith is a highly-skilled and experienced visual artist who has been working with children and young people in South Australian schools for more than 20 years. Meredith has worked in a diverse range of schools and communities sharing her skills in ceramics, visual art, set design and construction, and costume making. She is currently working on a long-term residency at Lyndoch Primary School where Reception to Year 7 students are designing and making ceramic artworks inspired by the school's garden project.

Meredith has a Masters in Visual Art and an Advanced Diploma of Live Design for Theatre and Events, and is committed to continually developing her skills and knowledge. For her professional learning Meredith will participate in a number of international arts opportunities including a two-week summer school at the London Slade School of Fine Arts and a one-week residential arts education program at Schumacher College in Devon. By selecting these two distinctly different areas of art Meredith will delve more deeply into life drawing and painting and expand her awareness of ecological approaches to art practice.