

Carclew Today Launches Ambitious Strategic Plan and Welcomes New Chair

Adelaide, Australia – Today at Carclew, the home of youth arts, the Hon. Blair Boyer MP launched Carclew’s 2024-2028 Strategic Plan with a refreshed new look, announced new Chair Megan Antcliff, and awarded the 2025 Carclew Fellowships.

Officially launching Carclew’s 4-year Strategic Plan, which marks a pivotal moment aimed at elevating and amplifying youth arts across the state, the Hon. Blair Boyer MP stated, “Creativity is essential for children’s development and the workforce of the future. This plan represents our government’s commitment to ensuring that every child, young person, and community has access to connect with their creative future.”

The plan outlines an ambitious period of growth for Carclew, with its core purpose being to have the greatest impact on the greatest number. To achieve this, Carclew will return its focus to supporting those working with children and young people through an expansion of its funding and schools’ programs, as well as a focus on activating its historic house in North Adelaide.

CEO Mimi Crowe commented on the ambitious strategy: “The future of creativity in South Australia will be defined today. Carclew is a unique organisation internationally, and South Australia has always been a world leader in youth arts. This plan will reignite our role as a public authority, maximising our government support to ensure that every child in the state has access to opportunities that will improve their lives. It also outlines our goals for partnerships with businesses, communities, and philanthropists to amplify our work for those who need it most. Arts funding is changing, and we have an obligation to lead entrepreneurial approaches to ensure that future generations of artists are valued for their contributions to our community. We welcome the next decade of work, engaging deeply with those South Australians who care about a creative, successful, and resilient future for young people.”

The launch event brought together key contributors from the youth arts sector, including SA Circus School – Home of Cirkidz, Patch Theatre, Runt! Records, and the Adelaide Youth Orchestras, alongside independent artists showcasing South Australia’s vibrant and internationally recognised youth arts scene.

During the launch, it was announced that Megan Antcliff has been appointed as Carclew’s new Chair. Megan is a creative and inspiring leader with a strong track record in bringing together genuinely high performing teams focused on value creation for the future. With a background in science and architecture, and experience in senior public and private sector roles, Megan brings a unique combination of creative and critical thinking and problem solving, literacy of national and international business drivers across multiple industry verticals, and a genuine ability to navigate commercial and governmental decision making to deliver meaningful outcomes.

In her current role as Director Infrastructure, Cities & Places with Turner & Townsend, a global, independent, market leading professional services company, Megan works on city making and urban regeneration programs, underpinned by large scale private investment, public sector social infrastructure investment, net zero transformation, and major events.



Megan is deeply motivated to respond to significant challenges—whether geo-political, societal, or technological—with a focus on fostering a sustainable and ethical path forward. “Megan’s unique skill set, coupled with her commitment to addressing crucial societal issues, makes her an ideal Chair to guide Carclew during this transformative period,” stated Carclew CEO Mimi Crowe. “Her dedication to addressing the big challenges we face aligns perfectly with supporting the future of youth arts.”

Megan responded to the announcement “I thank the Minister and Government for this opportunity and I look forward to supporting the Carclew Executive and Board in our Mission to connect all children and young people to the world of creative possibilities as artists, learners, and audiences.”

As Minister Boyer acknowledged, “Carclew is an incredibly important organisation in South Australia, and with the announcement of this strategic plan and new Chair, we are excited to see the future impact of young artists and creative thinkers.”

In a further highlight of the day, Minister Boyer announced the recipients of the 2025 Carclew Fellowships. This prestigious program provides financial support for emerging artists and cultural practitioners to advance their careers in various creative fields. “We celebrate the passion and dedication of those awarded the 2025 Fellowships, which will empower them to explore new techniques, gain significant skills, and immerse themselves in innovative environments,” said Minister Boyer.

The 2025 fellows include:

Abbey Murdoch - Visual Arts: \$7,542 for a year-long professional development mentorship with established Melbourne artist Elvis Richardson in 2025. Funding will cover mentorship fees, studio rent, exhibition costs, materials, and a personal artist fee.

Charlee Watt - Musical Theatre: \$10,000 to enhance her skills in vocal development, cabaret crafting/writing, and performance. A key component of her training will be mentorship with Michael Griffiths to help her craft cabaret while studying dance and movement-based practices to build confidence in the artform.

Grace Bosward - Dance: \$10,000 for tuition and living expenses while attending the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance in Austria (SEAD) for their renowned FIRE course. This year-long program is designed for professional dancers looking to nourish and advance their dance practice.

Joshua Barbaro - Film and Television: \$9,973 to refine his screenwriting craft through personalised mentorship with a professional screenwriter/director, along with intensive training in two 10-week AFTRS courses: Writing a TV Series and Screenwriting for Film. He will also gain hands-on experience in a writer’s room on a TV series through an immersive workshop.

Mischa Reilley - Theatre and Circus: \$10,000 to attend a handstand specialisation course at the Stockholm University of the Arts (SKH). This funding will cover the course costs and a portion of accommodation fees for the trip.



Nina Wilcock - Literature and Creative Writing: \$2,830 for a 10-week screenwriting course and mentorship with Gemma Salomon, as part one of a three-phase plan to kickstart her career as a screenwriter. This fellowship will also include memberships with the AWG and the Mercury, equipping Nina with essential tools for her professional writing journey.

Sophie Horvat - Visual Arts: \$10,000 to undertake two creative mentorships with Adelaide-based artist V Barrat and Melbourne-based artist Debris Facility from March to June 2025, focused on developing her skills in experimental writing and performance.

These initiatives exemplify Carclew's commitment to nurturing the next generation of creative minds - creativity is the future of South Australia and it starts now! The 2024–2028 Strategic Plan promises to enhance access to arts education while supporting industry connections that inspire young South Australians.

As the event concluded, attendees were invited to participate in joyful workshops and enjoy the day, highlighting one of Carclew's core values—Joy. The future of youth arts in South Australia is bright, and Carclew is thrilled to embark on this exciting journey as the home of creativity for a world of possibilities.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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About Carclew:

Carclew is Australia's largest multi-artform cultural institution dedicated to children and young people. The heart of Carclew is our historic house in North Adelaide, which the government of South Australia gifted in 1971 as a promise that all children and young people have access to art, culture, and creativity.

We believe in the power of children and young people as creators, innovators, and world shapers. Through participation in the arts, we inspire and nurture creativity and agency in children and encourage boldness and innovation as they grow.

Carclew exists to elevate the youth arts sector, amplify children's voices and provide opportunities for safe creative expression, access to audience experiences and career development pathways.

Vision

To be the home of youth arts and creativity.

Mission

To connect all children and young people to the world of creative possibilities as artists, learners, and audiences.

Core Purpose

To have the greatest impact for the greatest number.





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Link to Event Images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/d5wprggc3ojvbulclopdh/APE6p93UOvmJg4dpnOkjPro?rlkey=76n1rxgnqutdnxnjlu7i0Impr&e=1&st=xanlzptt&dl=0>

Link to 2024-2028 Strategic Plan:

<https://carclew.com.au/who-we-are/>



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