

27/05/25 | Media Release – National Reconciliation Week 2025

Children's Perspectives on History and Our Future

An eye-opening collection of children's artworks is the subject of **"Perspectives"** an exhibition on display now in the foyer of **Tutu Karalakanungku** (Carclew) for **SA's History Festival**. The exhibition showcases a collaboration between the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Carclew that invited children to explore First Nations perspectives in the context of Colonel Light's plan.

The artworks are the result of a unique experience students from six Adelaide primary schools undertook as part of Carclew's regular OSHC school holiday program to Montefiore Hill, guided by Narungga, Kurna, Wirangu and Wotjobaluk woman and arts leader, Lee-Ann Tjunypa Bucksin, and Surveyor General, Bradley Slape.

The conversations with the young people that followed explored the dual and complex histories of Colonel Light and the Kurna People. Through imagining conversations, carefully led in discussion with Bradley and Lee-Ann, the children considered what these would have been about, particularly in relation to shaping Adelaide's built environment.

The children were eager to imagine the animals that roamed the surrounding grasslands in large numbers and had many questions that covered a breadth of topics exploring cultural layering, bi-cultural relationships, migration, map-making, friendship, fixed and changing history, stories of significance, dreaming, and caring for country.

After exploring the topic at the statue, the children were asked to create artworks in response.

Guided by facilitating artists Emmaline Zanelli (Exhibition Lead) and Adrienne Semmens (Australian Dance Theatre) the children spent the day creating inspiring artworks and responding in dance to what they had discussed, producing a collection of thought-provoking works of art that show us shifting perspectives on our shared and complex First Nations and colonial histories.

"Perspectives" will be explored by cultural and arts experts in a **Bridging Now to Next** panel discussion being hosted by Carclew for **National Reconciliation Week**. Guest panellists, who will include arts leader Lee-Ann Tjunypa Bucksin; Attorney General, Bradley Slape and young First Nations artist, Zoe Kopp, will explore what today's young people have said about Colonel Light's statue and the interconnection it offers us between the past and future as seen through their perspectives and expressed through their artworks.

Quotes attributable to Robyn Jones, Acting Chief Executive, Carclew

Carclew is dedicated to connecting children with the world of creative possibilities, whether as artists, learners, or audiences. One of the ways this is achieved is by collaborating with artists to help children explore and understand their surroundings. This collaboration is just one example of how Carclew uses focused, innovative solutions to address large-scale challenges.

**Commissioner for
Children & Young People**

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Quotes attributable to Mimi Crowe, Acting Commissioner for Children and Young People

Children are not adults becoming. They are individuals in their own right; at the exact age they should be. Reconciliation is ongoing, complex, and too important to wait until children become adults to start. By engaging with young children on both histories: Colonel Light, through his statue, and sitting on Kaurna Land, we helped very young children consider shared history and complex truths - we are inviting children to be part of a more informed, more unified and connected future.

Quote attributable to Lee-Ann Tjunypa Buckskin, Arts Leader

During Reconciliation Week, we honour the strength of our shared history and the bright future our children will carry forward. Through their artistic expression—whether in painting, dance, song, or story—young ones become keepers of memory and truth, reminding us that Reconciliation is not only about the past, but the stories we nurture today for generations to come.

Quote attributable to Bradley Slape, Surveyor-General

Telling the children the stories of Adelaide's colonial and mapping history while sitting on Kaurna land beneath Colonel Light's statue was an amazing experience. The questions posed by the children demonstrated their interest and their existing knowledge of the topic. I am very much looking forward to viewing the artwork created by the children to see the stories through their eyes.

Artworks were created by students from the following six schools:

St Anthony's Primary OSHC, Nailsworth Primary OSHC, Murray Bridge Community Children's Centre, Norwood Primary OSHC, Trinity Gardens Primary OSHC, Dominican School OSHC.

Acknowledgements

The exhibition and panel discussion have been made possible through funding support from the former Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly. Special thanks to the Attorney General's Department, Australian Dance Theatre, Dr. Kiera Lindsey, and Carmen Evans for their involvement and support.

Background:

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is responsible for promoting and advocating for the rights, interests and well-being of children and young people across South Australia. The Commissioner is an independent role established under the [Children and Young People \(Oversight and Advocacy Bodies\) Act 2016](#).

Carclew is South Australia's home of youth arts and creativity. It connects all children and young people to a world of creative possibilities, as artists, learners and audiences. As Australia's largest multi-artform cultural institution dedicated to children and young people, Carclew is a vital part of Australia's youth arts sector.

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Event Details:

“Perspectives” Exhibition 2025 South Australian History Festival

Monday 18 May to Friday 30 May 2025

Entry FREE: Check opening hours [here](#).

Bridging Now to Next - Panel Discussion National Reconciliation Week

Date & Time: Friday 30 May from 4-6pm

Location: Carclew, 11 Jeffcott St, North Adelaide, SA, 5006

Cost: FREE. Bookings: Essential via [Humanitix](#)

(Book early to avoid disappointment as venue has strictly limited capacity.)

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