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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FOREST REFLECTIONS ARTS GRANT

**Artist residency at a local primary school celebrates international year of the forest while teaching new media interactive art and technologies.**

The Forest Reflections project is an immersive experience for the students of Grovelly State Primary School in the landscapes of the forest of the D'Aguilar Range and the local Kedron Brook, with artist in residence, Jennifer Seevinck.

The project celebrates the United Nations International Year of the Forest 2011. It is funded by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body, and by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. This is through the Arts Queensland AIR (Artist In Residence) project which has granted \$16,650 of funding. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services also provide (in kind) support.

Jen Seevinck is a professional artist and researcher working with new media and in particular, interactive art. Samples of her work can be found online at <http://www.smArtnoise.net>. In *Forest Reflections* she is collaborating with 47 students aged 6-10, their teachers Jackie Semple and Katrina Mills and school principal, Vicki Baker. The project is being documented online at <http://forestreflections.wordpress.com>

Through this project students have been visiting, studying and reflecting on their experiences of the forest. They have undertaken many excursions to the forest, including a visit to the animals at Walkabout Creek Wildlife Centre, talks with their rangers and outings to the Kedron Brooke area behind the school. They have taken photographs with the cameras bought for the school through the grant, learning about art concepts as well as technology. During creek outings they also collected natural objects to animate back in the studio, wrote and drew in their diaries and did rubbings. Their learning and reflections on the forest and its inhabitants has informed the visual form and aesthetic concepts behind the artworks created: 2 interactive artworks; small forest creature sculptures; animations of these using stop-motion techniques; perspective maps; rubbings, drawings and written reflections on their experiences have all resulted. In addition to creative expression this project has contributed to science, technology and literacy education.

**FINAL PUBLIC EXHIBITION:** On Saturday September 10, 2011, the children are presenting the Forest Reflections work publicly at Walkabout Creek Visitor Centre in The Gap, 11.30-4pm. Kate Jones MP, minister for Ashgrove will be giving an official welcome at 12.30. The exhibition is a symbolic gesture where we are "returning" our work to the forest which inspired it; and where we are looking at it again but now more directly through the "lens" of the forest.



Queensland Government



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If you'd like more information about this project, or to schedule an interview with the artist, staff and children, please call Jen Seevinck on 0428 463 554, email [JenSeevinck@smArtnoise.net](mailto:JenSeevinck@smArtnoise.net) or visit us online at <http://forestreflections.wordpress.com>