

Access

Newsletter of Arts Access Society Inc.

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Spring 1993

ARTS
Access

Photograph by Cate Acin



Heaven's Above!

The Arts Access H&CS Creative Arts Program (North) is one year old - and what a year it's been!

Based at venues in Sunbury and Glenroy, the program is funded by Health & Community Services, through Intellectual Disability Services. Like its successful sister program in the Southern region, based at the Linden/St. Kilda Arts Centre, it offers exciting arts workshops in a variety of artforms for people with intellectual disabilities.

Groups meet at Sunbury and Glenroy on two mornings per week - one morning focussing on visual arts, with the second morning concentrating on performing arts.

Many participants in the program are former residents of the Caloola centre at Sunbury, which closed at the end of 1992 and now live in community residential units in the local area. Arts Access projects at Caloola stimulated great interest in the arts among participants who keenly took

There was magic, mystery, song and dance at the Heavens Above Cabaret. Here, singer Aubrey Jones teams up with guest artist Kerry Gilmartin on the accordion.

up the opportunity to continue their arts activity beyond the institutional setting.

Program Co-ordinator, Barbara Doherty, reports that during the year each group of participants has developed cohesion and a particular group identity.

"New friendships have been created, and greater self trust and decision making abilities have developed. Barriers between people have dissolved, allowing members of the group to interact more readily and group work to be more supportive, with greater dynamics."

"Self expression and involvement in dance, drama, and singing has increased and people demonstrate a greater range of expression, freedom in movement and understanding of artistic concepts."

The Glenroy program has hosted the popular 'Dance-Up!' sessions on Wednesday nights. These highly energetic, creative dance jam sessions are led by David Wells, attracting twenty

people a night for a 'sweaty' 'get down' evening of dance boogie!

An accomplished dancer herself, Barbara has brought a strong performance art sensibility to the program while developing the visual arts component in a number of interesting directions.

A recent project at both Sunbury and Glenroy involved a series of photography workshops led by Cate Acin and Vivienne Mehes. Participants rotated the roles of subject and photographer. Modelling for the camera included the creation of tableaux (composed group arrangements representing scenes) and the use of costumes constructed during other workshops.

In Sunbury, the Heaven's Above Cafe was a combined cabaret and art exhibition, held in September at the Goonawarra Community Centre. This was the culmination of a year's work, with displays of ceramics, paintings, drawings and collage works. A one-hour cabaret show was performed to an invited audience of 40 people.

Some of the Sunbury artwork was entered in an art competition at the Sunbury Show Day in early October and will be exhibited at the Sunbury Square Shopping Centre from November 8-13.

The Glenroy group will present an exhibition performance day in December to celebrate a year of working together. Members of the Glenroy group have joined in at the 1992 Participate and 1993 Feast of Art events organised by Arts Access.

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NEWS

SmithKline Beecham Collection Launched

New Horizons, the SmithKline Beecham Collection, was officially launched by Prince Charles at the company's new offices (also named New Horizons) near London in July.

Last year SmithKline Beecham, the international pharmaceutical company, acquired 26 artworks originating from the Stormy Weather exhibition, which was initiated by Arts Access. The works are now installed in the company's international collection of art works by people with disabilities. The works from Stormy Weather comprise the major Australian component of the collection.

A video, *New Horizons Artworks*, was recently received from the company. It shows a cross-section of the artworks in the collection and outlines the program of activity SmithKline has initiated in the United Kingdom to acquire new works and encourage the artistic activity of people with disabilities.

What is unique and significant about SmithKline's arts venture is that the company's new international corporate identity is based around the New Horizons concept. Arts Access is keen to promote their example as a model to Australian companies that may wish to create similar specialist art collections or cultural programs.

The video is available for viewing in the Resource Unit at Arts Access. Contact Carol Downey 699 8299.

It's a...FAX!

Thanks to a capital equipment grant from Health & Community Services, Arts Access now has a facsimile machine! Our many thanks go to the CUB Malthouse (Playbox Theatre Company) whose fax we have shared for some years now. **Please note our new fax number (03) 699 8868.**

Social Disadvantage Research

In all its program areas, Arts Access is increasingly targeting people who are disadvantaged by social conditions. To help us more effectively communicate the many issues of cultural access for people in this target group, a comprehensive and well considered definition of social disadvantage is essential.

Louise Merrett, a research student from RMIT's Department of Social Work, has been working on attachment to Arts Access on a 14 week research project looking into the broad definition of social disadvantage and the effect of disadvantage on access to cultural activities. The research project is due for completion in October.

Louise has prepared a discussion paper that takes into account many related issues, and will develop draft guidelines that can be utilised by Arts Access for a number of purposes. Louise's work will provide a framework for policy development and will inform our program planning and review processes. It will also assist in promoting Arts Access work with socially disadvantaged groups to governments, funding bodies and the general public.

Strategic Planning

The third in a series of Strategic Planning Meetings, facilitated by Helen Woods of The Strategy Team, will be held on November 25th in the Arts Access Studio. Helen will lead staff, management committee members, and close associates of Arts Access in discussions of future directions for the organisation and plans for the 20th Anniversary celebrations in 1994.

ARTS ACCESS

Greeting Cards

Arts Access will soon publish a series of high quality, full colour greeting cards, featuring vibrant artworks by participants in Arts Access projects. The artists have generously donated their work to support Arts Access' fundraising program. The cards will be blank on the inside so they can be used for any special occasion.

The cards will be available in late November. The price will be \$2.50 each or \$25 per dozen including postage. Place your Christmas orders now. Contact Samantha, on Tel: 699 8299 or Fax: 699 8868.

Glenhuntly Centre's 'Workspan' show spans two galleries

The Glenhuntly Centre's Workspan program provides pre-vocational training, case management and supported employment for people with psychiatric disabilities. The program has promoted the development of a group of artists whose work will be exhibited at two major galleries beginning during Mental Health Week.

The Workspan program encourages participants to develop their skills and, through their art, build bridges into the wider community. Works on show include paintings, ceramics, sculpture, prints and handcrafts. For further information contact the Glenhuntly Centre on: 528 3422.

Where & When:

October 24 to December 5
McClelland Art Gallery,
McClelland Drive, Langwarrin.
Hours: Tues-Fri 10am-5pm,
Sat-Sun 12noon-5pm.
Tel: 789 1671.

October 13 to 31

Caulfield Community Gallery,
Caulfield Arts Complex, Corner
Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads,
South Caulfield. Hours: Tues
10am-7pm; Mon-Fri 10am-5pm,
Sat-Sun 1pm-5pm.
Tel: 524 3287.

Photograph, Joseph Mastroianni, Western Independent



Werribee Station Mural Completed

Is the forest overwhelming the car or is the car devouring the forest? This conundrum occupied the thoughts of passers by who watched the evolution of a bold, painted mural at Werribee Railway Station. The mural was the second project of the Werribee Youth Arts Program and was completed in late August.

Professional community artist, Megan Evans produced sketches developed from images taken from popular culture sources. These were enlarged onto the wall of the railway underpass at Werribee Station. The basic outline was elaborated further by the participants, and detailed in paint during the ten week project.

One sketch was transformed into a portrait of one of the

artists, Ms Tasiana Taii. A massive Holden car, which generated a great deal of interest among the boys in the group, appears to burst through the surface of the wall, which is covered in a painted rainforest, engulfing the underpass in green foliage.

The Werribee Youth Arts Program is a major initiative of Arts Access, involving socially disadvantaged young people from throughout the Werribee municipality in exciting arts workshops at a number of locations.

The program creates attractive, enjoyable arts workshops including music, visual arts, performance art, and other art forms appropriate to the interests of young people. The program is

Just some of the many young people who participated in the mural project at the Werribee Railway Station, with artist, Megan Evans (fifth from left).

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also designed to increase participants' awareness of health and lifestyle issues and develop the capacity to make healthy life choices. The program is supported by the Werribee Young People and Alcohol Committee and links have been forged with other local youth support agencies.

On September 9 the achievements of the muralists were celebrated at a recently opened youth venue, the Station Cafe which is opposite the mural in the railway underpass. The cafe is a focal point for young people in the area and provides information about employment and training opportunities.

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Above: Kathleen Turner as Ruth and Asha Menina as Sally in *House of Cards*.

Werribee

Continued from previous page...

The mural has stimulated a great deal of social interaction in the vicinity, becoming a conversation piece for locals, and attracting many young people in the area who were encouraged to drop in and make a contribution to the artwork. Some participants in the first WYAP project at the Laverton Fitness Centre became involved in the new mural, and one young artist was inspired to paint the garage at home.

Two more arts projects will be co-ordinated by the Arts Access program in the Werribee region before the end of 1993. A video project for young people in the Hoppers Crossing area is now being planned.

The mural project at Werribee Station received the enthusiastic co-operation of the Victorian Public Transport Corporation. The Werribee Youth Arts Program is a partnership between Arts Access, the City of Werribee and the Commonwealth Department of Health Housing, Local Government & Community Services. It is managed by Arts Access.

'HOUSE OF CARDS'

A special movie preview for the Arts Access Trust on November 22

The best way to support Arts Access' work during November is to bring family and friends to our first cinema fundraising night.

On Monday, November 22, Arts Access will present a special movie preview of *House of Cards*, starring **Kathleen Turner** and **Tommy Lee Jones**. Village Roadshow has donated the use of the Rivoli Cinema and all proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Arts Access Trust.

We had originally planned to present the new Australian film, *Hammers Over the Anvil*, but the release of the film has been held over till 1994. *House of Cards* is a fitting replacement. Fans of Kathleen Turner will see her in the unmannered performance that won her a Best Actress award at the Houston International Film Festival. Anyone who was impressed by Tommy Lee Jones performance as the federal policeman tracking down Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive* will see yet another side to this great screen actor in *House of Cards*. This is a chance to see the film well in advance of its general Australian release.

The story of *House of Cards* concerns Sally, a six year old girl traumatised by the accidental death of her father, an archaeologist, who falls from a Mayan pyramid while on an expedition. A Mexican Indian friend counsels that her father is, "living in the moon", and also tells her, "it is easier to see without words". Sally stops speaking and retreats into an increasingly bizarre world. So distressing is her behaviour that school authorities call for an investigation by a specialist psychiatrist, played by Tommy Lee Jones. Sally's mother, played by Kathleen Turner, becomes obsessed with her daughter's most extraordinary feat (you'll have to see the movie to find out what it is) and is convinced Sally is trying to communicate something. While the psychiatrist keeps working with Sally, her mother uses her archaeological skills to search for a way into Sally's world. This engrossing, stimulating, warm hearted film will make a great start to your week on November 22.

The evening begins from 6.30pm with the opportunity to meet Arts Access staff and committee members, view our display, sign up new members for Arts Access, or make a donation to the Arts Access Trust. Refreshments will be on sale in the Rivoli coffee shop in the foyer. The screening will begin at 7.00pm, and you'll have a chance to win one of several fabulous prizes.

Bookings

You can book your tickets using the Order Form enclosed with this newsletter or purchase tickets directly from the Arts Access office during normal business hours. Tickets will not be sold through the Rivoli box office. Credit card payment is welcome. You can book by phone or fax if you quote your Visa, MasterCard or Bankcard number. Our Fax number is 699 8868. Otherwise post your completed booking form with payment to Arts Access 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne 3205.

Bulk Bookings

If you can sell a large quantity of tickets through a club or workplace, please let us know. All booking enquiries to Rhona Bester, Samantha Marsh or Viv Carroll on 699 8299.

Artistic Program Update

Saturday Morning Art

The popular **Saturday Morning Art Classes** have been completed for 1993. Artists, Ev Vyhna, Jane Trengove and Claire Humphrys-Hunt conducted one term each, working with participants who have psychiatric disabilities. The ongoing support of Health and Community Services, Psychiatric Services has enabled Arts Access to continue these successful classes during 1993.

Trainee Update

Colin McKinnon, the Trainee Arts Project Officer and Program Manager, Bobbie Hodge have met with a range of Koori cultural groups and artists during Colin's collaborations on specific Koori arts projects. These have included: visual arts workshops with artist, Bill Brunett and participants from the Enmaraleek Association in Broadmeadows; project development with the Aboriginal Community Elders Services in Brunswick; and liaison with the Bogong Moth Festival at Mt Beauty.

Sensory Exhibition

Start Making Sense is the title of a major exhibition planned for 1994. Start Making Sense will include works by artists with disabilities and will uniquely explore the sensory nature of the exhibits and the sensory nature of the process of experiencing art works. Although still in the early stages of development it is envisaged that the exhibition will tour nationally and internationally as part of the proposed Chinese Cultural Exchange Program.

Thursday Writers

Also funded through Health & Community Services, Psychiatric Services is the **Thursday Writers Project** in which writer Bev Roberts is leading two terms of workshops focussing on creative writing and poetry. The project targets residents with psychiatric disabilities who live in Fitzroy and Collingwood and is based at the Holden Street Neighbourhood House in North Fitzroy.

Greenvale Hospital

Arts Access has received support through the hospital to undertake an arts program with patients in the hospital's rehabilitation program. Artist Jenny McCarthy will work with patients - all older adults - to create artworks that can be mounted in the hospital or placed in the gardens.

Parkville and Malmsbury Youth Arts Projects

Arts Access has been planning with staff at Parkville Youth Residential Centre and Malmsbury Youth Training Centre to undertake two arts projects prior to Christmas. At Malmsbury, artist Jeff Stewart will conduct a series of visual arts and design workshops with trainees. The group will produce a range of murals and art works to enhance the centre. At Parkville, visual artist, Sally Marsden and musician, Rob Gador will undertake a range of creative activities with young men and women at the centre.

Fairfield Hospital Continuing Care Unit

Staff from Arts Access and the hospital are planning an extensive multi-media arts program for people living with AIDS, planned to begin in 1994. The artist will work with patients, staff, families and carers through the Continuing Care Unit. It is anticipated that a range of individual and collaborative works will be produced and that many of these works will be mounted in wards and public areas of the hospital.

Melbourne Reception Prison Stage 2

With the completion of the D-Division mural, visual artist Aemonn Scott will now commence workshops with prisoners in K-Division to create a series of smaller works for mounting in the K-Division recreation area.

Prahran Community Health Centre

A pilot arts program funded by Health & Community Services, Psychiatric Services, will commence in late 1993. Writer, Bev Roberts and visual artist Ev Vyhna will undertake multi-media workshops with people with psychiatric disabilities who attend the health centre.

Chinese Delegations to Visit

The next phase of the Arts Access-China Cultural Exchange Development Program swings into place in November with visits by delegations from Jilin and Jiangsu provinces.

The purpose of the visits is to acquaint our Chinese contacts with the extent of Arts Access' work, provide an overview of the field of art and disability in an Australian context, and continue discussions on Arts Access' proposals for cultural exchange programs with each province.

While in Melbourne the delegations will visit Arts Access and a range of arts agencies and disability organisations.

In March this year Arts Access' Executive Director, Judith Isherwood, and Program

Manager, Bobbie Hodge visited China to begin discussions on the feasibility of a foreign cultural exchange program with Jilin and Jiangsu.

Ongoing consultations with Chinese national and provincial disability and arts organisations have confirmed great interest in Arts Access' proposals for an artist-in-residency exchange, artistic workshops, conferences and touring exhibitions of works from Chinese and Australian artists with disabilities.

The Jiangsu delegation will visit from November 9th-14th; followed by Jilin from November 20th-24th.

For details of the March visit to China, see the Winter, 1993 issue of *Access*.

Prahran City Parish Mission Exhibition

The 10th Annual Prahran City Parish Mission Art and Craft Exhibition will run from October 19-30 at 211 Chapel St, Prahran. The exhibition features over 150 art and craft works by people with psychiatric disabilities produced through the Prahran Mission's Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Programs. Participants are

involved in all aspects of planning and staffing of the exhibition, including framing, sales, publicity and administration. The opening times are: Mon-Fri 10am to 4pm; Sat 11am to 3pm; and Sun 1pm to 4pm. Admission is free. All works are for sale. Further information call Prahran Mission on 521 2711.

Sightless Visionaries Salon Day

As in the great Parisian tradition, the Sightless Visionaries hosted an Art Salon at the Arts Access Studio in July. The Sightless Visionaries is an informal interest group which supports the continued artistic development of people who have participated in Arts Access projects. Through the Community Linking Program, co-ordinated by Heather Graham, the group meets for exhibitions, discussions, gallery visits, and special events.

The value of the Salon event lay in the opportunity it provided for artists who live and work in socially isolated circumstances to speak

about personal artistic interests, share in the work and ideas of the group, and enjoy a stimulating social occasion. Thirteen people brought examples of their work for viewing and discussion about where their ideas had originated, the kind of art work they enjoy doing, and what future direction their work might take. The day was capped off in true Parisian salon style with a delicious lunch.

The next Sightless Visionaries event is called Art Maps, and will be held on October 22. A report will appear in the next edition of *Access*.

New Resources

Below is a selection of significant new materials received by the Resource Unit since January, 1993. For all Resource Collection inquiries contact Carol Downie on 699 8299.

PUBLICATIONS

ARTS - HOSPITALS/HEALTHCARE

How the Arts Make a Difference in Therapy

Warren Lett (ed).

Arts educators and therapists address the issue at a national conference hosted by Ausdance and Latrobe University.

ARTS - GENERAL

The Ausdance Victorian Dance Directory 1993

Diary of dance activities, artists, teachers, dancers, choreographers, therapists, allied services and industries.

But Where Do You Get Your Ideas From?

A resources book for writing groups. Advice on starting a group, publishing, and includes a list of contacts in Victoria.

ISSUES

Pride Against Prejudice
Jenny Morris.

Book challenging the notion of difference, covering the representation of disability, institutionalisation, feminist research and the politics of the disability movement.

ARTS - DISABILITY

What Colour is the Wind?

Sue Bladgen and John Everett. Offers insights into art and visual impairment, what it means to be visually impaired, and confirms that young people are no less creative because their sight is impaired.

Contact Quarterly: Dancing with Different Populations

Special feature edition on dancing with people with disabilities.

VIDEO

The Seagrass Story

Environmental awareness through a major community arts project involving puppetry and outdoor theatre at Hastings on Westernport Bay.

Continued over...

Resource Unit Update

Continued from opposite page...

A Dancer Still

Documentary of dancer/choreographer Rinaldo Cameron who contracted motor neurone disease. Cameron was a community artist whose work was based in the environment.

Broad Shots

A video made by young women from Broadmeadows about domestic violence, sexual harassment and assertiveness. Aims to inform and challenge young people. A Healthy Localities Project.

This Way Please

Comedian Ronnie Corbet introduces issues of access to the arts for people with disabilities. People with disabilities discuss their needs and barriers that prevent access.

Regional workshops

Wodonga

A two day workshop for intellectual disability workers over two days from October 27-28. With many people having left the Mayday Hills hospital to live in the community, there is a need in the Wodonga region for more information about arts activities for this target group.

Sale

In mid November, Arts Access Resource Unit will hold two workshops in Sale - one for intellectual disability workers and another for aged care workers. Arts Access has worked in Gippsland and maintained contacts with agencies in the region since 1988.

Enquiries: Carol Downey
(03) 699 8299

Workshop Report: The Art of Reminiscence

This has proven to be a most popular workshop. This series was developed in response to the demand from workers in the field throughout Victoria for comprehensive information on reminiscence work. The format was based on personal presentations by experienced practitioners on a wide range of issues related to reminiscence work, plus practical artistic workshops. Now that the *Art of Reminiscence II*, planned for November 9th is fully booked, a third workshop is being considered for 1994.

The direction taken in the workshops, has developed from the work of Roger Sim in the UK, and identifies applications of reminiscence work across all ages, not just older adults, and across a range of programs. These workshops linked reminiscence into various art forms, taking reminiscence work beyond discussion groups and indicated extensive possibilities for work in this area.

Although the presenters had each come from different training and worked in different settings, they had come to a common philosophy of reminiscence that emphasises the fundamental aim of tapping people's creative potential by providing a variety of means of expression for remembrance - be it verbal or visual.

Outcomes from the workshop identified by participants:

"Confirmation of the value of reminiscence."

"Confidence to be bolder in ideas."

"I surprised myself by finding it so easy to join in the activities."

Artist Anne Marie Power (left) and a workshop participant discussing progress on a textile artwork during the Art of Reminiscence workshop.



Photograph by Carol Downey

ARTS ACCESS STUDIO

The Arts Access Studio is becoming a popular venue for a range of activities. There are still bookings available for November and December 1993. Contact Samantha Marsh on 699 8299 and book early for 1994!

Yes! I want to do more to help Arts Access reach more people with more creative programs and services.

I wish to donate:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$.....

Donations of \$2 or more are Tax Deductible

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

☐ Cheque enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card

☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Number:

Name on Card

Expiry Date / /

Signature

Please direct my donation to:

- ☐ Arts Access Trust
☐ Arts Access General Fund

Return with payment to:

Executive Director

Arts Access

109-111 Sturt Street

South Melbourne 3205 VIC



Arts Access is a non-profit organisation committed to creating opportunities in the arts with people with disabilities or who are disadvantaged by social conditions.

Membership

By joining Arts Access now you will help us reach more people with more programs.

Memberships are tax deductible and range from:

\$15 concessional

\$30 individual

\$50 organisational member

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Members are kept up to date with activities through the quarterly newsletter. Access and the Annual Report. Members also receive discounts on all Arts Access publications and are invited to participate by attending public performances, exhibitions and special events related to our wide range of arts projects.

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ARTS
VICTORIA



Staff

Executive Director: Judith Isherwood

Program Manager: Bobbie Hodge

Public Affairs Manager: Vivian Carroll

Resource Officer: Carol Downey

Administrator: Rhona Bester

Office Assistant: Samantha Marsh

EASE Project Officer: Dean Michael

EASE Bookings Officer: Lisa McKoy

Volunteer Assistants:

Bela Greenwald, Roisin Johnson,

John Pidd, Gaye Walsh,

Nerida Weller

Mary Brogan

For more information, contact:

Arts Access

109-111 Sturt Street

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3205

Phone: 699 8299

Fax: 685 5112

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Ms Michelle Hosking
State Library Of Victoria
328 Swanston Street
MELBOURNE 3000

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