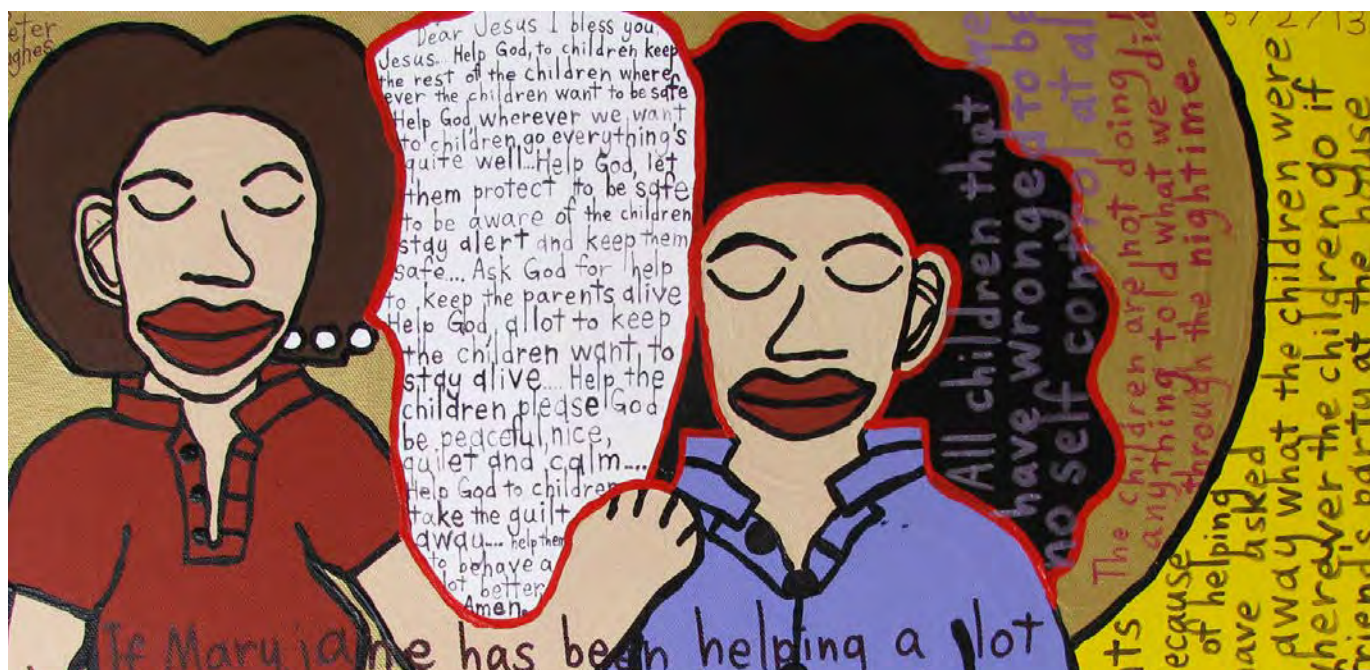


Access Arts

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Access Arts Inc. (Queensland)

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President's Report

A Year of Hard Work, Achievement and Celebration



Thomas Bradley
President

We began with renewal of the management committee: a new president, secretary, new ordinary members and, by November, a new treasurer. Our first task was a strategic plan to take Access Arts through 2014, 2015 and 2016. The management committee's draft plan was strong on vision and true to our roots. After consultation with staff, the fully formed draft was circulated to members for comments. A members' consultation day was held in November 2013. The final plan was posted in December 2013, in time for the New Year to begin. It could not have been accomplished without the very generous contributions of time and thought from our members, staff, board and our external pro bono advisers Hamish Doley of KPMG and Dr Rosemary Howell of Strategic Action.

Of course, all our plans depend upon Access Arts securing funding sufficient to create opportunities and remove barriers to engagement with the arts for our members and the community generally. It has been our very good fortune to have such loyal funders. It is our goal to have a few more.

In late October, our hard work in planning was rewarded when Arts Queensland approved Organisations Funding for Access Arts for the next three years. This supports the engine room that keeps our programs, services and projects running. In their assessment, Arts Queensland and the Arts Investment Advisory Board recognised the quality of the artistic work of our members, our community engagement, the reach and valued benefits of our work and our strong governance, resilience and viability as an organisation. Although we share with many arts organisations some



Member Damian Stewart draws a lucky dip prize with Liz Crawford from KPMG. Photo by Magda Labuda

reduction in organisational funding, we fared well overall and greatly appreciate the support and encouragement that Arts Queensland's decision represents for us. We look forward to continuing to work with Arts Queensland, drawing on their assistance as we develop partnerships with other

community organisations and links to philanthropic supporters and other sponsors over the next three years.

In July, in partnership with Arts Queensland, the Rising Star project entitled *Tiny Little Lies* allowed 23 talented artists and practitioners with and without disability to come together from as far afield as Cairns and Coolangatta, Mackay and Nambour, for a one and a half day master class led by Adelaide-based artist Gaelle Mellis, who proudly defines herself as an artist with disability. The participants shared some of their creative work with an audience at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts on the evening of 23 July 2013. Bursary funds for further professional development were distributed to two artists with disability as part of the project: to Racheal Missingham to explore circus artist skills in Victoria, Canada and the UK; and to Deb Chilton to support her Ipswich-based ArtISability program.



Rising Star participants – *Tiny Little Lies*

At about the same time, our entire human and physical infrastructure moved from Dutton Park to our new home at Teneriffe. We were very pleased to welcome the Hon. Tracy Davis MP, Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability, to officially “cut the ribbon”. Bust-A-Move performed a routine for the Minister in the new rehearsal space. Our friends from OATSIH, KPMG, State Library of Queensland, ArtsLink, Silverstone, and our colleagues from Vulcana Women’s Circus,

Queensland Ballet, and Ausdance Queensland were able to be present. Damian Stewart on the keyboard and vocals by Peter Vance and Janelle Colquhoun provided a musical welcome, while Magda Labuda and Colleen Stevenson of the Camera Wonderers documented the event, and Alex Crombie and Belinda Peel created artworks through live painting to mark the occasion.

We continue to value the substantial on-going contribution of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to our work, supporting our community arts workshops, artists' professional development and other activities. Their outstanding support has made a very significant difference to our work.



Left: The Honourable Tracy Davis MP and Belinda Peel, Member, cut the ribbon to open our new offices.
Right: Dancers from Bust-A-Move. Photos by Eli Walton

In August we underwent a full audit of our policies and procedures. This audit review was a full re-certification assessment against all six standards of the new Human Services Quality Framework (HSQF) by external auditor Globalmark. The quality standards in the HSQF are based on the principles of respecting human rights, social inclusion, participation and choice. Access Arts was awarded certification for the next three years. The Access Arts staff (past and present) and board member Susan Ball are to be congratulated on this excellent result.

In 2013, our long-standing relationship with Australian Government's Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) was renewed for a further financial year. The Commonwealth program may come to an end on 30 June 2014. Under the program Access Arts has been able to deliver a range of projects ourselves and in collaboration with indigenous organisations. We are grateful for the work of the many members, supporters, collaborators and staff members, and very proud of the extraordinary body of work that has been produced by indigenous artists during this long and fruitful relationship.

Access Arts continued to enjoy an ongoing relationship with McCullough Robertson Lawyers in Brisbane's CBD which enables our artists to exhibit their work on a rotating basis. In 2013 artists George Delaney, Colleen Stevenson, Irene Martin-Miller and Dion Halse exhibited their artwork in the McCullough Robertson foyer.



Colleen Stevenson's photographs *Light through the Grass*, *Delicate Leaf* and *Sunflower* on display at McCullough Robertson

We also acknowledge the invaluable support of Shadow Breakers and KPMG in 2013. Shadow Breakers and KPMG jointly made a significant difference to Access Arts, helping us to raise our profile in the business community and offering us the opportunity to hold a profile-raising

exhibition of our visual artists' artwork called *Colours of Change*, which opened last August in KPMG's prestigious offices in the CBD and hung for three months.

In September and November, we lost two early and important members of the Access Arts family, Liz Navratil and Di Hill. Very different from each other, they were two of the pillars that held Access Arts upright through its first decades. In the context of remembering with gratefulness these remarkable women, the time arrived to celebrate an important anniversary – Access Arts' 30th.



Left: Aunty Delmae Barton and William Barton performing *Didge Fusion*
Right: Mantist Oryem and Peter Vance. Photos by Eli Walton

The many branches of the Access Arts family came together at the Brisbane Powerhouse, itself part of our history. Aunty Delmae Barton and William Barton offered the very special welcome to country and led the birthday celebration with a performance of *Didge Fusion*. Our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC spoke about her interest in our work of promoting human rights and excellence in the arts, and expressed a keen understanding of our mission to support people experiencing disability or disadvantage to pursue their ambitions in the arts. The Hon. Ian Walker MP, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, spoke warmly

about our history and our work. After the formalities, vocal, instrumental and performance artist members entertained and challenged the audience in the Visy Theatre and upstairs in the Turbine Hall, where visual artists displayed their work. It was a night for sharing appreciation, laughter, talk, tears and memories.

In November we were able to announce the Access Artists Achievement Award, which will offer \$10,000 funding for the professional career of one talented Queensland artist who experiences disability. This new and prestigious Award is open to all Queensland artists with disability, working in any artform, and will run annually for the next five years. It is a result of the vision and financial generosity of Life Member and performer Peter Vance.



Thomas Bradley QC, *President of Access Arts*, Her Excellency, Ms. Penelope Wensley AC, *Governor of Queensland and Patron of Access Arts*, The Honourable Ian Walker MP, *Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts*, Peter Vance, *Life Member*, Pat Swell, *Access Arts Executive Officer*



Each year since 2009, six emerging and professional artists living in Queensland experiencing disability or disadvantage have benefited from the SAFE Fund, another initiative of Peter Vance, which provides fast, flexible assistance to further their practice and careers. Congratulations to artists John Briggs, Diane James, Paul Ryan, Deb Chilton, Richelle Spence and Cristina Youhanna who received this award in 2013. SAFE grants compliment Access Arts artists' professional development program.

In summary, it has been a year of hard work, achievement and celebration for Access Arts.

Thomas Bradley QC

President

Executive Officer's Report

2013 Highlights



Pat Swell

Executive Officer

- In 2013 - Over 30 artists with disability took part in Access Arts artists' professional development program for emerging artists. Our artists developed their practice across the art forms - film, theatre, literature, music, circus, photography and visual arts; and were based across Queensland: Cairns, Ipswich, the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Greater Brisbane.
- February - John Briggs achieved his artistic goal, successfully launching his first **solo exhibition** *Unframed* at the Jugglers Art Space gallery in Fortitude Valley, through the support of an Access Arts SAFE grant.
- March - Peter Hughes was selected to exhibit his artwork *Earthquake in Japan* as part of the **Heart Art Show**, coordinated by Variety - the Children's Charity of Queensland. This exhibition at Jugglers Art Space auctioned donated artwork and raised money for Queensland children in need.



Peter Hughes, *Earthquake in Japan*, Acrylic on canvas, 61 x 61cm

- April - Alex Crombie launched her fifth **solo exhibition** *Art Stuff at the Gardens*. Alex's exhibition was held at the Richard Randall Art Studio, Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. In association with *Art Stuff at the Gardens* Alex was interviewed on ABC Radio and by The Courier-Mail.
- May - Thirteen of Access Arts artists exhibited work as part of the **Mental Illness Fellowship Queensland Exhibition** held in King George Square. Exhibiting artists included Lisa Blake, Tanya Darl, Peter Hughes, Jerome Twigg, George Delaney, Dion Halse, Andrew Pemberton, Michael Mulvey, Alex Jack, Marten Forrest, Cybele Borel de Bitche, Levi Diball and Roy Close.



Alex Crombie Van-Ewyk at *Art Stuff at the Gardens* exhibition opening

- May – Five young Indigenous musicians from Inala took part in a Recording Project, a professional development program that extended their artistic and creative practice. The project gave them the opportunity to record broadcast-quality music through the **Stylin' Up Festival**, with Australian Government funding through the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.
- June – we joined the **Queen's Birthday celebrations at Government House**. Integrated theatre company InsideOutside Theatre came dressed as faeries and Greek nobles inspired by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They roves as performers, ran workshops and showcased their talents, and several pieces of artwork by our BOA artists were sold from our market stall.
- June – Our mid-year showcase called ***A Time to Celebrate!*** saw some 30 members performing and exhibiting their work to a packed audience of 80 people. Our twice-yearly showcases are part of our year-round program of community workshops held across Brisbane and Redcliffe that were attended by 67 people with disability in 2013.
- July – New workshop partnerships in 2013 included **Horizons Respite** and **Vulcana Women's Circus**. The partnership with Vulcana Women's Circus was a 16-week workshop program, titled *Stronghold* which engaged 10 Access Arts members, giving them the opportunity to learn skills in the areas of puppetry, performance, circus and theatre. The program

concluded with a show that was performed as part of Access Arts 30th Anniversary celebration at Brisbane Powerhouse.

- July – **The Rising Star project *Tiny Little Lies*** was a partnership with Arts Queensland. South Australian artist Gaelle Mellis led a master class that drew artists with and without disability from across Queensland and culminated in a public showing of the work at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts.
- August - Access Arts was given the opportunity to curate an exhibition featuring artists with disability at **KPMG** in Brisbane's CBD. For this project eleven members were commissioned to produce paintings and photographs, exploring their unique artistic style in vibrant autumn colours. The artists collaboratively selected the title ***Colours of Change*** to indicate how art making has created positive changes in their lives. *Colours of Change* remained on display for a 3 month period and 6 pictures were sold.



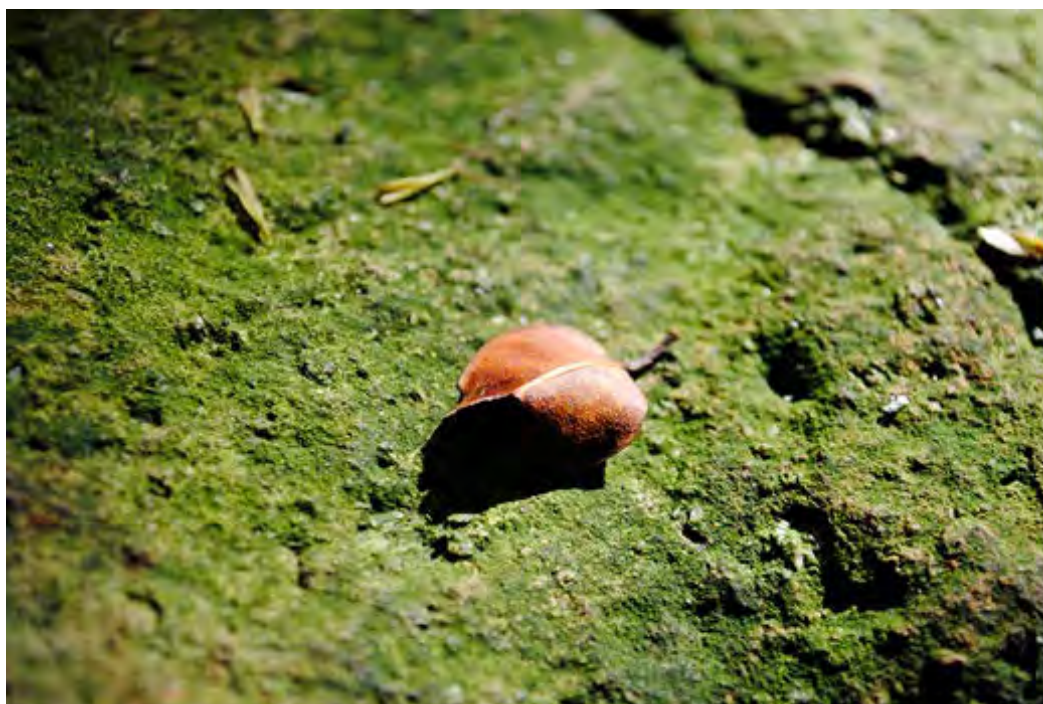
Top left: Irene Martin-Miller with her artwork *Autumn of Life; Nothofagus/Rhytide*

Top right: Guests enjoying the exhibition launch

Bottom left: Lisa Blake with her artwork *Birdwood in Autumn*

Bottom right: Alexandra Jack with her artwork *Colours of Autumn*

- September – To mark Disability Action Week and following our office move in July, **Access Arts' new office in Teneriffe was officially opened** by the Hon. Tracy Davis MP, Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability, at an exceptional breakfast packed with music, song, theatre and visual arts displays by our talented artists.
- September - Access Arts Camera Wonderers exhibited at the QUT Theatre Republic as part of **Brisbane Festival**. Featured photographers included Magda Labuda, Colleen Stevenson, Matthew Lys, Luke Cowan, Brendan Huddy and Robert Walmsley-Evans.



Photograph by Magda Labuda exhibited at Brisbane Festival

- September - Eleven Access Arts members exhibited their artwork as part of the **Art from the Margins** Exhibition. Artworks were exhibited in two venues: Brisbane Institute of Art (BIA) and Wesley House in Brisbane City. Several of Access Arts artists were award winners: Lisa Blake, Stephen Corti-Griffiths and Tanya Darl were recipients of the Heiser Gallery Emerging Artist Award, Peter Hughes received a Commended Award and Colleen Stevenson won the PBS building award.
- October – Our Artist Space workshop participants exhibited their artwork as part of the **Stages of Life** group exhibition in Fortitude Valley at Jugglers Art Space. This exhibition featured artwork by Levi Diball, Roy Close, Alexandra Jack, Martin Forrest, Cybele Borel de Bitche and John Briggs.

- October – Access Arts enabled InsideOutside Theatre Company’s Artistic Director Angela Witcher to run a master class in Mackay to support the **Dancing Together Initiative**, a Latin Dance program being developed for young people with disability.
- November - **Body Language**, an exhibition celebrating the artwork of 22 indigenous schoolgirls who came from rural and remote Queensland to attend school. The exhibition was attended by some 200 family members, community members and key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives. The exhibition was a poignant culmination of a partnership made possible through OATSIH funding between Access Arts, Kambu Health, BoysTown, Ipswich Girls’ Grammar and Ipswich City Council.



Ipswich Girls Grammar School students with their Body Language artworks

- November – **Let’s Talk**, a time when Access Arts’ members came together on a Saturday afternoon to consult on and discuss Access Arts’ draft plan and the proposed direction for the organisation in the forthcoming three years.

- November – **Community Café**, a conversation for performing artists with disability and arts workers who work with performing artists with disability, about their work and the future of the sector in Queensland. The Community Café was facilitated by Erica Rose Jeffrey and Tim Foote from PaCSIA, who guided the 22 participants through a series of questions that were discussed in small groups.



Discussions taking place at the Community Café



AUSLAN Interpreter Martin Randel and Facilitator Erica Rose Jeffrey
Photos by Eli Walton

- November – Almost 70 Access Arts artists performed and exhibited their work in a night of celebration attended by 180 people at Brisbane Powerhouse that marked **Access Arts' 30 Anniversary**. We were extremely honoured that our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, the Hon Ian Walker MP, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, and ABC presenter Spencer Howson took part in the festivities.



**Back: Spencer Howson Emcee, Damian Stewart on keyboard, Nicky Perry on drums,
Front: Mantist Oryem, Peter Vance, Harmonie Downes on flute,
Martin Randel AUSLAN interpreter, Photo by Eli Walton**

- December - Lisa Blake, Stephen Corti-Griffiths and Peter Hughes exhibited their work at **Bass Espresso Café** in Brisbane's West End.
- December - **Body Image Project Art Exhibition**, celebrating the torso artwork of ten brave and talented indigenous women who completed their individual "Body Image Story" in a project led by indigenous artist Janette Evans. Several of the women participating in this partnership between The Healing Centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre Health Service Brisbane and Access Arts, made possible through OATSIH funding, were women from the Stolen Generation.

- December – Access Arts joined in the State Library of Queensland’s celebrations for the **International Day of People with Disability** at The Edge Auditorium. DJ Jammers David Truong and Jack Murphy performed, as did the Kayzee Sisters Karen Lee Roberts and Tara Heard who formed the duo through Access Arts’ mentorship program, while Access Arts’ market stall sold several pieces of artwork created by our visual artists.



Left: DJ Jammers Jack Murphy and David Truong
Right: Kayzee Singers Tara Heard and Karen Roberts

- December – The year ended on a high note. In partnership with the Rotary Club of New Farm, Access Arts hosted a **Christmas Fundraiser** that featured musicians Pete and Andy Vance who brought music to touch the soul and stir the spirit. The evening not only raised funds for our SAFE Grants, it also built community within our new home suburb of Teneriffe.

Pat Swell

Executive Officer

Treasurer's Report

Highlights - Financial Results

Year ending 31 December	2013	2012
Revenue	\$723,130	\$823,517
Surplus	\$2,424	\$8,622
Total Assets	\$186,520	\$142,188
Equity (includes SAFE Fund)	\$97,725	\$95,301

The 2013 year end result for Access Arts shows a solid financial base with equity of over \$97,000. This equity position should provide solvency for the organisation for any future financial challenges.

Congratulations to the Executive Officer and her team for achieving the triennial funding from Arts Queensland in late 2013. Access to funding for the not-for-profit sector is a constant challenge for all those operating within the sector, so the confirmation of this three-year funding is a vote of confidence for our organisation. I can reassure members that the board, management and staff of Access Arts will continue the prudent management of our financial position.

A more detailed discussion on the annual accounts will be provided at the Annual General Meeting on 26 March.

Catherine Black

Treasurer

Patron: Her Excellency Ms. Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland

Board Members - 31 December 2013

Thomas Bradley: President

Catherine Black: Treasurer

Linda Langley: Secretary

Susan Ball: Ordinary Member

James Cunningham: Ordinary Member

Sam Nicolosi: Ordinary Member

Access Arts Team - 31 December 2013

Pat Swell: Executive Officer

Eddie Fitzpatrick: Organisational Development Coordinator

Rachel Gaffney-Dawson: Visual Arts Coordinator

Belinda Locke: Project Coordinator

Georgia Smith: Arts Administrator

Jan Spinks: Finance Officer

Harmonie Downes: Administrative Assistant