



St Kilda SRS residents take their art to the gardens

Artist, Claire Humphrys-Hunt (back row, right) and project assistant Ruth Whittingham (back row, left) with participants in the SRS Mural Project conducted at Sacred Heart Mission, St.Kilda. Photograph by Collin Bogaars.

For the past two years the Arts Access Supported Residential Services (SRS) Project has been focused in the St Kilda area.

The project is a resource and advocacy program, identifying and promoting the creative and recreational needs and interests of residents living in supported accommodation.

In 1993 Arts Access has run two more arts programs for SRS residents: an eight week series of ceramics workshops in two SRS in East St Kilda, facilitated by

ceramicist Katie McCrae; and a 12 week mural project at Sacred Heart Mission.

The Arts Access Mural Project has involved the weekly transportation of residents (thanks to the Salvation Army's donation of a bus and driver) from up to nine SRSs to the Sacred Heart Mission, where they have collectively participated in the drawing and painting of two large mural panels, facilitated by community artist, Claire Humphrys-Hunt. The completed panels are now hanging in 'The

Meeting Places' at Sacred Heart Mission, St. Kilda.

The mural panels and other artworks from the ceramics workshops were later exhibited in the Arts Access SRS Mixed Media Exhibition at the St.Kilda Garden Festival. *See Page 6.*

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Looking ahead to '94

AS CHRISTMAS draws near, everyone at Arts Access is using this time to reflect on the year's work and make plans for the coming year.

In reviewing our activities in 1993, I am struck by the enormous number of people in the community who deserve our thanks for their commitment and support throughout the year. Our members, funding bodies, volunteers, committee members, sponsors and supporters have all played invaluable roles in allowing us to create many more opportunities for participation in the arts by disadvantaged people throughout the community.

Some of the highlights this year have been the development of programs with groups not previously involved with Arts Access, such as adolescents suffering Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, young people in the Werribee region considered to be at risk, and residents of rooming houses in the St Kilda Area. These, as do all Arts Access programs, demonstrate the way involvement in the arts can change people's lives for the better.

There were many other activities undertaken throughout the year which are worth noting.

The production of the *Healthy Arts* book by artist, Sally Marsden is a landmark for Arts Access and will advance the promotion of the arts in Australia's public health system during 1994.

Our initiation of a Cultural Exchange Program with China is a development that will promote the field of arts and disability both here and overseas.

Arts Access' Resource Unit and Entertainment Access Service also made great progress this year. For example, the Resource Unit significantly developed its Training and Advocacy role and is currently investigating the possibilities of providing a national information service in the future. The Entertainment Access Service totally reviewed its activities and is looking to new areas of development, such as the possibility of establishing a Companion Service for individuals with limited means of attending events.

Organisationally, Arts Access has had a very positive year with the consolidation of the Arts Access Trust through a number of successful fundraising activities and with the implementation of a comprehensive strategic planning process which has identified a number of clear directions for the organisation over the next few years.

Both of these activities are seeking to further establish Arts Access as a more secure, effective organisation, allowing us to develop and initiate many more programs throughout the community.

Already, 1994 is shaping up to be a bumper year, particularly with our plans for celebrating Arts Access' 20th anniversary. Some of the major initiatives already on the drawing board include the staging of a major Arts and Disability Expo day, the development of a touring sensory exhibition titled *Start Making Sense* and the implementation of a visual arts program in the Ararat region.

However, none of these programs could happen without your continued support and I invite you to continue your involvement in 1994. On behalf of all of us here at Arts Access, our very best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



Regards,

JUDITH ISHERWOOD
Executive Director

DADAA Update

Throughout the year, both the Victorian and national DADAA committees continued to operate, clearly defining their roles and plans for the coming year.

DADAA is the acronym of the network, Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia. DADAA was established to promote and lobby on behalf of the field of arts and disability/disadvantage. Throughout 1993, Arts Access has taken the role of co-ordinating both the national and state committees.

The Victorian Committee, whose members represent a wide range of communities and artforms, is working towards staging a state conference in late 1994 and is currently undertaking wide consultations with the field in order to develop a conference program that is both relevant and significant.



For example, recently the committee held a 'Psychiatric Disability and the Arts' discussion morning, looking at issues facing those who would like to follow a professional art career and issues facing those participating in recreational programs, workshops and classes. An enormous range of information resulted from this discussion morning which will be used in structuring the conference in 1994.

During 1993, the National DADAA Committee concentrated on lobbying governments on behalf of the field. Both the committee as a whole and individual members were able to bring arts and disability/disadvantage to the attention of Senator Bob McMullin, the Federal Minister for the Arts. The Committee also endorsed the Australia Council's plans to conduct a research project into the field of arts and disability. The results of this research will result in a clear policy position for the Australia Council in relation to funding arts and disability activities.

NEWS

China Cultural Exchange: Jiangsu Province delegation visits

Arts Access hosted a successful return delegation from Jiangsu province during early November.

The purpose of the visit was to gain a better understanding of Arts Access' work and meet with principal staff in key arts and disability organisations in Melbourne.

The delegation comprised: Mr Chen Peng Shan, Vice Director of the Division for Foreign Affairs, Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture; Mr Wang Xue Dong, Chairman of the Jiangsu Disabled Persons Federation; and Mr Zhang Wen Kui, Director of the Suzhou Disabled Peoples' Union. Suzhou City is the provincial capital of Jiangsu.

During the six-day visit, the delegates met Arts Access staff and committee members, were greeted at a reception hosted by Mr Paul Clarkson, Director of Arts Victoria, and met with the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Cr Watson.

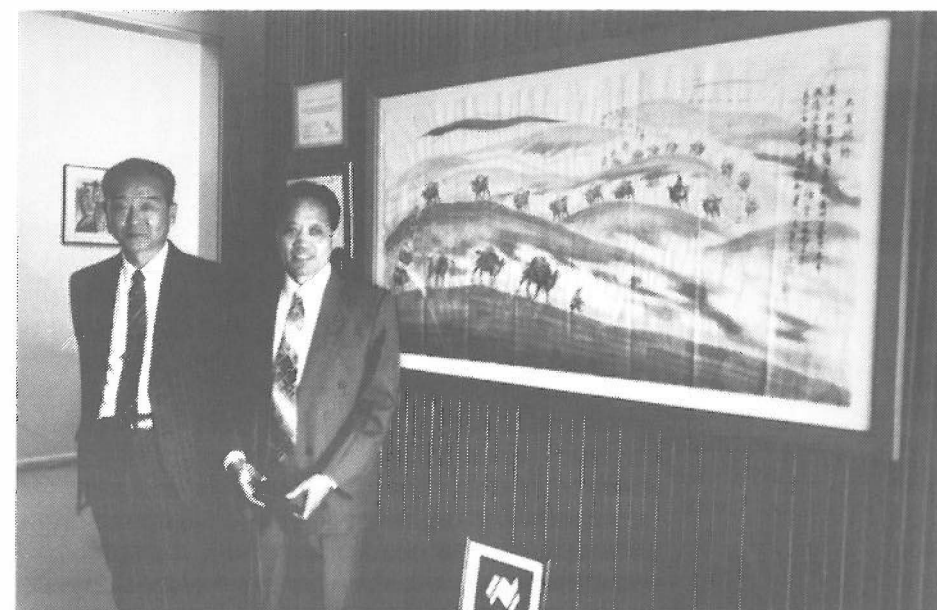
Visits were made to Arts Project Australia, the Linden-St.Kilda Art Gallery, Community Arts Network, Arts Training Victoria, and the Access Gallery at the National Gallery of Victoria.

A highlight of the visit was a tour of the art studio at the Larundel Hospital, part of North East Metropolitan Psychiatric Services, where the possibility of an exchange of artists between peer psychiatric services in both countries was discussed.

Some exciting initiatives have been canvassed during meetings with the delegation, and subject to funding, may begin late in 1994. A delegation from Jilin Province, expected in November, have postponed their visit until late February, 1994.

GREETING CARDS - \$2

Arts Access greeting cards are now \$2.00 each (no discounts) - postage extra. To order phone Samantha on 699 8299.



From left: Mr Wang Xue Dong, and Mr Zhang Wen Kui at Arts Access with the painting from Jiangsu Province presented to Arts Access during the March 1993 visit to China. The painting represents a camel caravan bringing good wishes from the disabled peoples of China to the disabled peoples of Australia.

Arts Access Trust Appeal

Throughout the year, the dedicated members of the Arts Access Fundraising Committee have continued their work on the establishment of the Arts Access Trust.

The first public fundraising event run by the committee was the film preview of *House of Cards*, at the Rivoli Cinema in November.

More than \$3,670 was raised - a mammoth effort. Arts Access thanks Roadshow Film Distributors, for their generous donation of all proceeds from ticket sales, hire of the film and the Rivoli Cinema.

Thanks also to our generous sponsors of lucky seat prizes: Myer Stores (gift vouchers), The Strategy Team (champagne), Functional Flowers (basket of exotic flowers) and Dinny Downie (tickets to *South Pacific*).

Our thanks go to everyone involved for their efforts in making the event such a success.

While the Trust itself now has a total of approximately \$180,000, including pledges, the Committee are hopeful that 1994 will see this total grow considerably.

Arts Access extends its thanks to the Chair of the Committee, Creighton Burns and to all Committee members for their hard work during 1993.

The Sightless Visionaries

The Sightless Visionaries group had an inspiring series of events during the Spring season.

In October there was the 'Art Maps' workshop where artists created personal collage maps to track their artistic direction. Each artist produced a highly individual visual understanding of where their art interest comes from and where it may be going.

In response to popular demand a second Art Salon was held in November. Artists brought two or three works on paper to display and discuss over lunch. The salons are proving to be very popular events. A salon will be held in February 1994 on the theme 'Religion and Ritual'.

The final event for 1993 was a visit to the Van Gogh Exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria - a major event for many artists for whom Vincent is an inspirational figure.

In 1994 the group will present monthly events including gallery visits, art salons and practical studio 'access' days.

The Sightless Visionaries is an informal group supporting the creative development of visual artists associated with Arts Access projects and others with an interest in visual art.

To join the mailing list contact Samantha at Arts Access on 6998299.

EASE forum a hit with entertainment industry



Speakers at the forum (from left): (seated) Catherine Brown, Wesley Central Mission; (standing) Trevor Chappell, Malvern City Council; (seated) Jan Doran, EASE consumer; George Fairfax, actor; and Dean Michael, EASE Project Officer.

THIRTY representatives from Melbourne's entertainment industry attended the Venue Managers and Promoters Forum presented by the Entertainment Access Service (EASE) on November 25.

The forum, held in the Arts Access Studio, gave a broad view of the work and value of EASE, which is the largest of Arts Access' three core programs.

EASE distributes low cost tickets for mainstream entertainment events and provides information about access and facilities at venues. EASE also acts as an advocate, lobbying government and the entertainment industry on access policies, and improvements to facilities and services.

Actor, George Fairfax spoke of the contribution EASE has made to the entertainment industry and about the extraordinary growth of the service, citing \$24,920 worth of Hoyts film vouchers sold from January to September, 1993 and sales of \$15,149 for **Phantom of the Opera** tickets from January to June. George stressed the financial and ethical value of

increasing audience sizes through EASE and encouraged the industry to look at how they could increase their input to these developments.

... the Disability Commission is considering setting its own standards, distinct from the Australian Standards currently used to guide new and modified buildings...

EASE consumers, Jan Doran and Trevor Chappell gave personal views on EASE's valuable role. Having no central vision, but having peripheral vision, Jan's ideal seating point in a venue is within the first few rows. She described some of her dealings with front-of-house staff - having been treated variously with disbelief (Jan does not 'appear' to be legally blind)

and how once she was almost 'carried to her seat'.

Trevor Chappell, Youth Development Officer with the City of Malvern, spoke of EASE's contribution to the lives of isolated, at risk, or otherwise socially disadvantaged young people, emphasising the difficulty of raising \$200 or \$60 to attend a major rock concert.

The forum also provided information about the new national Disability Discrimination Act. Catherine Brown, the director of legal and public relations at the Wesley Central Mission spoke on the Disability Discrimination Act, explaining the complaint process, the need for action plans for venues in case of a ruling of discrimination, and explained 'unjustifiable hardship' as a form of defence. Catherine also explained how the Disability Commission is considering setting its own standards, distinct from the Australian Standards currently used to guide new and modified buildings.

Finally, EASE Project Officer, Dean Michael requested that promoters consider structuring an EASE price into their ticketing as a matter of course (as some promoters are beginning to do) and offered EASE's assistance with the formulation of disability access policies during 1994.

Membership of EASE is by annual financial subscription.

For further information about EASE membership call: 699 8497 (TTY and bookings) or 699 7636 (administration).

Artistic Program Update

Young Street Clinic

Extensive collaboration over 16 weeks with musician, David Juriansz and clinic clients and staff, has resulted in the production of a recording of compositions and songs written by the group, called *Psychotic Mix*. This very successful project culminated in a performance at a local Frankston venue and the audio cassette is available from the clinic. Arts Access is undertaking discussions with the clinic staff to examine opportunities for extending the program.

Werribee Youth Arts

Video maker, Dennis Smith and visual artist, Swee Leng Lim are currently working on the final projects of the Werribee Youth Arts Program. Dennis has been based in Hopper's Crossing and has involved participants in all aspects of video production. Swee is based in Wyndhamvale and has developed an environmental design project, with local youth designing and mounting artworks on power poles.

Parkville and Malmsbury Youth Arts Projects

Arts Access has been conducting a series of visual arts and design workshops with trainees at Parkville Youth Residential Centre and Malmsbury Youth Training Centre. At Malmsbury, artist Jeff Stewart has worked with trainees to create murals in the recreation area, design a logo for the music program and produce screen-printed T-shirts. Discussions are now underway with centre staff to extend the program in to 1994.

Greenvale Hospital

Artist, Jenny McCarthy is currently working with patients through the Occupational Therapy program to produce artworks that can be mounted in the main corridors of the hospital. The project will continue into 1994.

Lewisham Road

Working with residents of a rooming house in Lewisham Road Prahran, artist Claire Humphrys-Hunt is conducting a range of workshops in drawing, painting and printing. The group will produce Christmas cards and decorations and it is anticipated that the project will continue into the new year.

William Anglis College

Arts Access is planning to pilot a visual arts program specifically with young students with intellectual disabilities through the Work Education Department, William Angliss College. It is anticipated that the program will operate across terms one and two in 1994 and that students will have the opportunity to develop skills in a range of media and also undertake visits to galleries and studios.

Creative Arts Program (Nth West)

To celebrate the completion of this program in Glenroy, participants, artists, friends and families gathered on December 16 for an afternoon of performances and presentations - the 'Gorgeous Gala'. In 1994, the program will focus on the western region, with the workshop program based at the Kingsville Community Centre in Spotswood.

Creative Arts Program (South)

In 1994 the southern program will also operate on Saturday mornings at the Arts Access Studio, as well as all day Friday at the Linden/StKilda Arts Centre. Co-ordinator Linda Murrow, participants and artists are currently working towards a major exhibition at Linden in the New Year. The exhibition will represent works created over the two years the program has run, and more recent works produced specifically for this exhibition.

1994 Program

A number of projects and events are in the planning stage for 1994, including:

* Continuation of the **Supported Residential Services (SRS) Project**, with a possible extension of activity into the Prahran region.

* **Writer in Community Project** - possibly the largest ever community based writing project for people with psychiatric disabilities. Bev Roberts, who led the Thursday Writers group in 1993, will facilitate the project, which is hoped to begin in late March or April, 1994.

* The national launch of the **Healthy Arts** booklet, produced by Sally Marsden will promote the introduction or extension of arts programs within Australia's health system,

* The launch of an entertaining and informative video work produced during the **Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Video Project**, will demonstrate the creative talents of young people debilitated by the physical and social effects of this little understood illness.

* A series of projects funded through **Health and Community Services, Psychiatric Services** will continue in 1994.

* The **Community Arts Development Program** will promote arts opportunities to local government arts and recreation officers and continue to develop projects such as the Sightless Visionaries artists group.

* A proposed one-day **Disability Performance Festival** will showcase the creative talents of visual and performing artists with disabilities living in Victoria.

* Arts Access is seeking funding for an **Open Access Studio** to provide supported art studio facilities in an inner suburb of Melbourne. The studio would be available to people with psychiatric disabilities living throughout Melbourne.

Resource Unit Update

Workshop Reports

More Reminiscence in 1994?

With a full compliment of enthusiastic participants attending the second **Art of Reminiscence Workshop** in September, and the continued popularity of this form of work, there is a strong possibility of a third reminiscence workshop sometime in 1994, most probably focussing on the needs of nursing home staff.

To be placed on a mailing list contact Resources Officer, Carol Downey on 699 8299.

Regional Workshops

Wodonga

Eighteen intellectual disability workers attended a two day workshop in Wodonga in October. 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 the former residents and others.

Resources Officer, Carol Downey said having the same group for two days allowed for greater

development of artistic experiences and skills, reinforcing the value and effectiveness of the workshop outcomes for clients of the workers who attended.

Sale

In contrast with the Wodonga workshop, this mid November series in Sale consisted of two separate one-day workshops - one for intellectual disability workers and one for aged care workers.

Ms Elisabeth Clay, the Regional Manager of Sport & Recreation Victoria expressed interest in further work in 1994 that could involve psychiatric services staff and include reminiscence work with aged care workers. Arts Access has maintained contacts with agencies in the Gippsland region since 1988 and has a continuing interest in encouraging the development of more creative opportunities throughout the region.

The success of all regional workshops in 1993 is directing much of the Resource Unit's work. The Unit will focus on regional workshops that introduce or extend arts activities, and other initiatives such as the formulation of staff development packages for services in regional areas.

Malmsbury and Parkville Staff Workshops

In late 1993, Youth Training Officers and a range of other staff within Malmsbury and Parkville youth training facilities took part in staff development workshops focussing on artistic opportunities. The workshops were run as staff training sessions by artist Sally Marsden in conjunction with the artistic programs concurrently operating at the units.

Outcomes from the Parkville workshop include: the possibility of drama work using video for instant playback and the development of a news bulletin produced by the trainees to include their writings and artwork. At Malmsbury, staff proposed that further finding be sought to allow the contracting of community artists to facilitate evening arts programs within the unit during 'free time'.

There is considerable space at Malmsbury for outdoor sculpture, driveway totems and other site-specific art works.

For information about future Resource Unit events contact: Carol Downey Downey (03) 699 8299



Left: The SRS Mixed Media Exhibition reached a large audience in the Blessington Gardens, St Kilda bringing the work of artists with disabilities to attention of a wider community. Photograph by Collin Bogaars.

run by visual artists, Claire Humphrys-Hunt and Katie McCrae, which created group-devised artworks, including sculptures, for temporary display in the gardens during the festival.

The SRS residents exhibiting were involved in eight separate arts and recreation projects concurrently operating in St.Kilda, including the Arts Access Mural Project and the Arts Access Ceramics Workshops.

The exhibition, organised and co-ordinated by Arts Access, revealed the creative energies of SRS residents and demonstrated how the arts can be made more accessible for disadvantaged groups in local communities.

Arts Access thanks Whiting & Company Pty Ltd, for their generous sponsorship, which allowed the exhibition to be mounted under extra canvas; and thanks to Visyboard/Pratt Industries for their generous donation of mounting board.

Mixed Media Exhibition blooms at St Kilda Garden Festival

Arts Access organised two colourful arts events for the St.Kilda Garden and Multicultural Festival held on Sunday, November 21st - one to feast eyes upon, and one to join in.

The SRS Mixed Media Exhibition, featured paintings, drawings, murals and ceramics, created by residents of supported Residential Services (SRS) in the St.Kilda area.

This unique exhibition featured paintings, drawings, murals and ceramics, created by residents of Supported Residential Services (SRS) in the St.Kilda area. SRS provide residential accommodation and personal care services for older, frail or disabled adults.

Visitors could also participate in a practical community arts workshop

New Resources

Below is a selection of significant new materials recently added to the Resource Collection.

All inquiries to: Carol Downey, Arts Access Resource Officer on 699 8299.

PUBLICATIONS

ARTS - HOSPITALS, HEALTHCARE

The Oakland Model - Arts in Health Philosophy in the Private Sector. by Kate Jones Madill.

Illustrated overview of the Creative Expression Program at Oakland Hospital and Rest Home, Tauranga, North Island, New Zealand. Published by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of NZ, 1993.

A Picture of Health by Marcy Craigie & Roger Higgins.

Illustrated overview of the Hospital Arts Program in New Zealand's, Canterbury Health and Healthlink South. The program focusses on the installation of art works in public hospitals. Published by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of NZ, 1993.

Pictures and Memories

by Anna Antolic

A powerful collection of poems and visual art works, many produced during hospitalisation, by a promising art student who died of cancer at the age of 22.

ARTS - GENERAL

Handbook for Victorian Writers. Third revised edition. Published by the Victorian Writers' Centre.

Revised and edited by Bev Roberts and Caroline Richardson. Up to date information on the business of writing: agents, publishing, markets, rights, services, etc. A great starting point for all writers in Victoria.

AUDIO/VIDEO

ARTS & DISABILITY

Heart'n Soul

Video and pamphlet promoting Heart'n Soul, a UK based theatre and music performance, training and advocacy company working with performers who have learning disabilities.

Psychotic Mix

Audio cassette featuring 12 rock oriented compositions by participants in a music project for people with psychiatric disabilities, facilitated by musician David Juriansz. An Arts Access project with the Young St Clinic, Frankston.

Dolly

Video by Geelong-based 'integrated' rock band, Big Bag. Based on their most recent CD album, *Dolly*.

Arts Access Studio

Miro Sindik Exhibition

During December, Arts Access mounted an exhibition of colourful expressionist works on paper by Miro Sindik, a participant in the Sightless Visionaries group, at the Arts Access Studio. Where possible Arts Access supports the development of emerging artists associated with its various programs through appropriate exhibition and training opportunities.

Arts Access STUDIO

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* seminars * rehearsals * meetings

in 1994

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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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