

annual report 97



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## mission

Arts Access facilitates opportunities for all people to fully participate in the artistic and cultural life of the community.

Our vision of equal access is achieved in partnership with people with a disability and people disadvantaged by social conditions through alliances with the arts industry, government and community agencies.

### For further information

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### Cover

(from top to bottom)

*Sleeplessness, 1997* by Colin Duncan  
*Body Suits*, Photography: John Brash

Three dimensional sculpture  
*Mixed Media & Textiles Training Course*  
Photography: Martin Wurt

*Sweet Revenge* in progress  
Actors: Jenny Porter and Mimo Martelli  
*Art Day West*, Photography: Angela Bailey

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## executive director's report

Ruth Whittingham, who had been acting in the position of Artistic Program Manager, was confirmed in the position and has initiated some exciting new directions, partnerships and projects.

Ali Dart became fulltime Administration Officer, bringing with her many years experience in arts administration and Norman, her engaging beagle, who spends some of his days in the office. A review of the Entertainment Access Service (EASE) determined that the achievements to date, in particular the publication of the *Vic Venue Guide*, required an altered focus and priorities. Dean Michael, who had been managing this program, was appointed to a newly

Where does one start to encapsulate a year in the life of an extraordinarily busy arts organisation? Changes there have been aplenty and achievements which continue the proud record of Arts Access over more than 23 years. I took up the position of Executive Director in July and was provided with an excellent orientation by Dean Michael who had been acting in the position following Helen Bowman's departure in May. As is often the case, the change of leadership prompted other personnel changes at Arts Access. The departing staff must be congratulated for the fine achievements realised during their time with the organisation. Their dedication and professionalism have established a great base and terrific standards for those who follow.

The staff changes have created opportunities to review operations and to introduce initiatives which provide the foundation for Arts Access' future.

Mario Agostinoni was appointed to the position of Administrator in October. He has assumed responsibility for financial management and reporting which was previously provided by an external agency. This represents a significant development in the maturation and independence of Arts Access.

One of my greatest challenges has been to resolve Arts Access accommodation 'crisis'. Living literally on the edge of the City Link tunnel construction has not been a particularly pleasant experience neither has it been conducive to realising the organisation's growth and development. In any case, the Sturt Street premises have had a limited life since the announcement of plans to develop the area known as the Malthouse Plaza into a contemporary arts precinct. Originally, Arts Access was to be included in these plans but time and cost have meant that this is not a viable option.



An original Chinese bowl at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London which is available for touching. Accompanying is a braille description and a raised line drawing of the dragon on the bowl. Photo: Dean Michael

Finding new premises is an urgent matter. Many plans for development have been placed "on hold" whilst we resolve this issue. When we do move into new premises, Arts Access will introduce a new corporate image and logo which has been developed by FHA Design.

The successes of a full and exacting year were considerable, including:

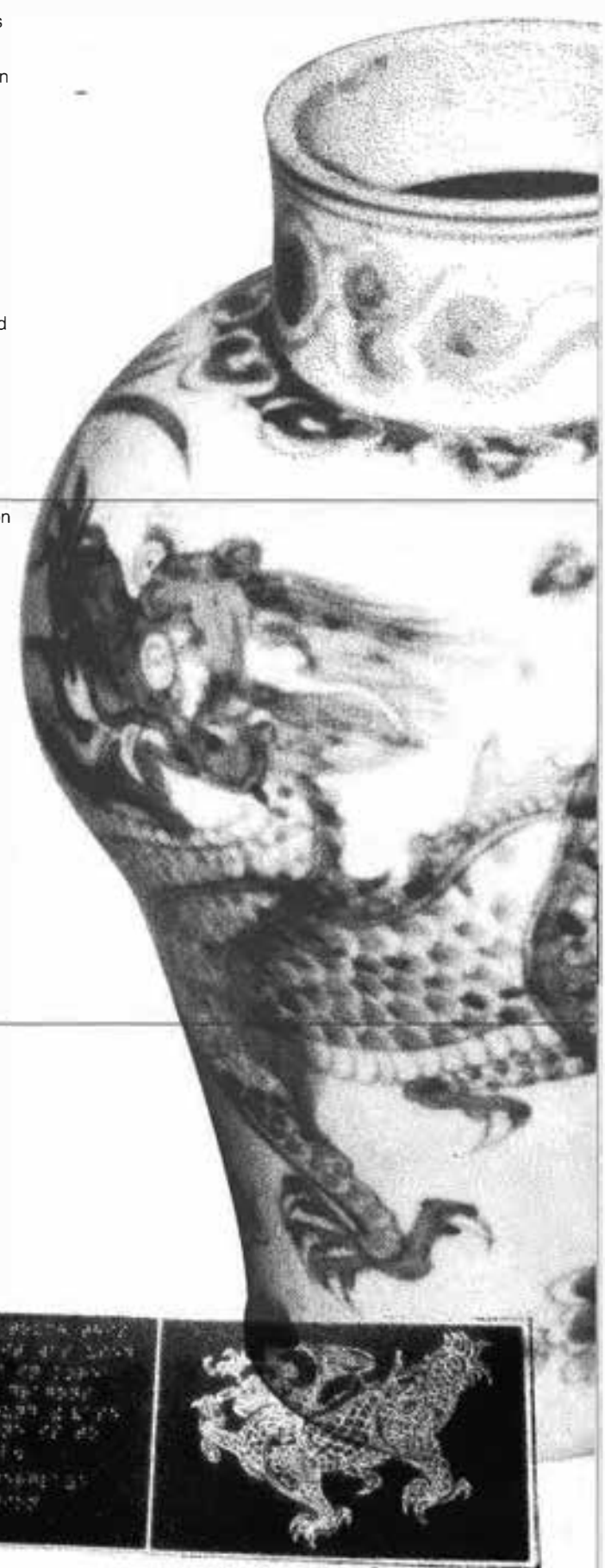
- major projects which have been in development for some time (including the Body Suits exhibition and the Vic Venue Guide) came to fruition;
- financial stability has been achieved and a new financial management system developed;
- new Board members, with a range of expertise, were appointed;
- policies, procedures and processes have been implemented to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation;
- and the completion of a new corporate image and logo.

Arts Access featured in *Not A Puppet*, an Australia Council publication which documents and celebrates the achievements of eleven nationally significant organisations working in the area of community cultural development. The demand for the programs and services which Arts Access manages is increasing. The respect for the organisation, its history and its achievements is considerable and

is manifest in the numbers of requests to which we respond each year, the numbers of people whose inclusion in the arts and cultural activities of the state we facilitate and the ongoing support of our members, funders and supporters.

Arts Access is on the brink of another era of its existence. The challenge is to ensure that the successes and achievements of this relatively small but powerful organisation are honoured and the possibilities realised. The shift in the notion of community and its role in meeting the needs of its constituents, the effects of socio-economic policies, the increasing acknowledgment of the rights of all people to equal access and participation - all represent opportunities in the changing and challenging environment in which Arts Access operates. I look forward to the opportunity of collaborating with the staff, Board, members and supporters of Arts Access to meet these challenges and accomplish the aims of facilitating arts and cultural participation of people with a disability and people who are disadvantaged.

**Jane Haley**  
Executive Director



## president's report

My last annual report provides an occasion for reflection on Arts Access' past and future, an opportunity to look back and forwards. The establishment of Arts Access in 1974 coincided with the flowering of a number of community development movements - community arts, various self-help bodies and welfare-consumer rights organisations. Arts Access drew inspiration from these movements, introducing arts programs into health and welfare settings and joining together the interests of both arts and the human service areas. These were exciting times, when new activities created a sense of seemingly unlimited possibilities and potential.

Since then Arts Access has changed and developed in every way, growing from a one-person project to a fully professional, nationally recognised arts organisation. The possibilities and potential of our early days have been realised in the development of a talented and experienced staff, the establishment of hard-working and effective board and management structures, and the provision of innovative and diverse programs, locally, nationally and internationally.

But while our operations and programs have changed over the years, the vision and philosophy that inspire them have not. Amidst all the change and diversity there have been two constants, perhaps best summed up as commitment and creativity. Since its establishment, all Arts Access activities have embodied a fundamental belief in the value of the arts for everyone and a commitment to full participation of all in the cultural and artistic life of the community. Arts Access has grown over the years, but has not grown old; never losing the original sense of enthusiasm, nor the ability to respond imaginatively and effectively to new challenges and opportunities.

As always, 1997 has been a year of challenges, opportunities and achievements. It has also been a year of considerable change. Executive Director, Helen Bowman left the organisation to pursue new interests leaving a valuable legacy in a renewed focus on training and development. We farewelled longstanding staff members Rhona Bester, Samantha Marsh, Bobbie Hodge and Lisa McKoy, each of whom has made an enormous contribution to Arts Access over the years.

John Paxinos who has provided financial services for the last ten years also completed his term with Arts Access at the end of 1997 and many thanks are due for his efforts and diligence. We welcomed Jane Haley as Executive Director to continue the Arts Access tradition of commitment and creativity, and who in a very short time has regrouped the Arts Access staff to meet new challenges, chief of which for the coming year will be to establish a new home for Arts Access.

I am pleased to report a continued improvement in our financial position with a modest operating surplus recorded for 1997. Arts Access programs continued to expand and develop. As well as the continuation of major programs such as Art Day, the EASE Ticket Service, the library and training, 1997 saw the fruition of a number of longer term projects such as the publication of the *Vic Venue Guide* and the national touring exhibition, *Body Suits*, and the commencement of significant new initiatives such as the dance project which was inaugurated with the visit of the dynamic CandoCo Dance Company from the UK. After almost 24 years of active involvement I leave Arts Access with mixed feelings. There is of course some sadness, offset by a great deal of pride and satisfaction in what has been achieved to date and equally great

confidence in the future expectations of achievements to come. I leave with inspiring memories and many warm and enduring friendships. Most of all I feel privileged to have had the experience of working with a group of committed and creative people - program participants, artists, staff, committee members and supporters - to build a unique organisation with a vital role to play in the arts. To you all, thank you so much.

**Judy Morton**  
President



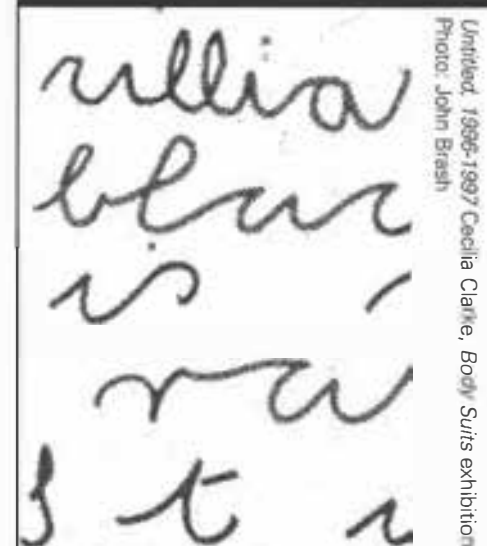
Creative Arts Programming & Events Management  
Course - Creative Documentation  
Photo: Angela Bailey

## artistic program

There were over twenty five arts projects throughout the year, working with over three hundred and fifty participants in 'hands on' arts projects and we reached thousands of other people through exhibitions, performances, publications, publicity and promotion. The Artistic Program made a difference in peoples lives by providing the opportunity to learn new artistic skills and techniques and to explore their own creativity in a positive and supportive environment. For some there were opportunities to consider perceptions of disability as they watched the CandoCo Dance Company challenge and confront every aspect of 'what is dance?'

or 'what is disability?'. For others it was the chance to think about 'difference' after reading *The Beatle Effect* by Kate Reeves in the *Body Suits* catalogue. In achieving its aims in 1997, the Artistic Program employed over sixty artists throughout the year - thirty were new to Arts Access. *Body Suits*, the Seniors Expo and the *Retirement By Design* projects generated extensive local and metropolitan media coverage, all assisting in promoting the aims of Access Arts and its participants. 'New' was the key word for 1997. New participants, new artists, new art forms, new international connections, new funding bodies, new partnerships, new promotional opportunities, a major new national project, new project structures, new staff, new procedures, new aims and objectives.

*"After the CandoCo Masterclasses and Workshops I was so excited about the possibilities for the Moveable Dance Project that I just couldn't shut up. My friends didn't understand how I could 'dance' so I showed them the CandoCo Dance Company video and they were just as excited as I was."*  
**Ashley Heenan**, Moveable Dance Project Participant. *Ashley has cerebral palsy and had not been involved with dance until this project. He has since enrolled into a dance course in Melbourne and is planning to spend several months in London with the CandoCo Dance Company.*



Untitled, 1996-1997 Cecelia Clarke, *Body Suits* exhibition  
Photo: John Brash



Belgrave House Supported Residential Service residents  
Photo: Katie Hamilton



#### Smartly dressed arts

One participant in the Saturday Morning Art Class surprised all by arriving for class dressed in a tuxedo. Apparently he had been out on the town on Friday night and did not want to miss the class so he dropped in before heading home!!!

#### Partnerships

A new partnership was established with the Seniors Expo 1997 and Arts Access coordinated an exhibition of artwork which had been created by frail and elderly residents in Supported Residential Services in the Western Region of Melbourne. The Minister for Aged Care, Rob Knowles, launched a poster for us at this event which showcased the art work. During the three days of the Expo, Arts Access distributed over two thousand copies of the poster. Another exciting new partnership included a venture into the corporate world of arts management. In conjunction with Retirement By Design Villages, Arts Access coordinated three one day visual arts projects with residents living in Fiddler's Green, Highvale and Peppertree Hill. The residents were inspired by these projects and since our visit these arts groups have continued.

#### Dance

We ventured into new artistic territory with the Moveable Dance Project - a project for people with a physical disability and/or vision impairment and professional dance artists. We successfully sought new funding from the Australia Council for this project and secured the internationally acclaimed British CandoCo Dance Company to present a series of workshops and masterclasses with participants of Moveable Dance. CandoCo performed at Gasworks Theatre as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival and were awarded the Best of the Fringe - Movement Award 1997. Moveable Dance participants continue to meet regularly and funding has been sought for 1998. Another new dance venture was the workshop presented by the Artistic Director and vision impaired members of the Natyanjali School of Indian Classical Dance. Arts Access invited people with a vision impairment and Melbourne based Indian classical dance artists to attend this informative and inspirational workshop presentation. The Natyanjali School of Indian Classical Dance also presented a series of performances in the outer suburbs of Melbourne whilst visiting Australia.

#### Art For Sale

Arts Access received a letter from the mother of one participant in the Saturday Morning Art Class to let us know how much her daughter enjoys these classes and to thank us for providing the opportunity for her daughter to learn and develop new artistic skills. Her daughter had just sold her first painting.

Art piece from Art Day South  
Photo: Katie Hamilton



#### Major touring exhibition

Body Suits, the major national visual touring arts project for Arts Access in 1997 was officially launched in June by the Minister for Communication and the Arts, Senator Richard Alston. Body Suits was curated by Jane Trengove. The exhibition, which will be on tour until early 1999, investigates and interrogates preconceptions of the 'normal body' in our culture. Body Suits showcases the contemporary art works of nine professional artists. In December 1997 the exhibition was launched at the Casula Powerhouse in Sydney.

#### Art Day South & Art Day West

Art Day South and Art Day West, coordinated by Barbara Doherty, continued to provide dynamic visual and performing arts projects for people with an intellectual disability. In 1997, Art Day South presented Scoring Expeditions, an improvised performance and visual art installation piece, utilizing sound, music and sculpture which transformed the space into a performance arena. Art Day West participants and staff were invited to join in this event - a total of seventy participants.

Art Day West presented a work in progress entitled Sweet Revenge - The Case of the Missing Shoes. This is a thrilling 'who dunnit' developed by the participants and staff, including the

design and construction of elaborate costumes. Participants proudly stamped their feet to the flamenco rhythm, tap danced together across the room, twirled their skirts whilst ballroom dancing, juggled plates with tremendous skills and impressed us all with their new shadow puppet skills. The final presentation of Sweet Revenge will be performed in May 1998.

Barbara also undertook a community development initiative in conjunction with Art Day West. Way Out West is a new information guide which lists artistic and cultural activities for people with an intellectual disability living in the Western Region of Melbourne.

Art Day West  
Photo: Angela Bailey

#### This program has given me

further insight into the many hidden talents people with disabilities have and how to create opportunities to unveil these.

Heidi-ann Losic,  
Support Worker Art Day

#### City of Stonnington

Anne Riggs, Project Coordinator, Supported Residential Services, City of Stonnington, coordinated two arts projects for residents from Belgrave House, Alvin House and The Avenue. In addition to this, Anne also produced a new guide to artistic, cultural and leisure activities for residents living in Supported Residential Services in the City of Stonnington municipality.

Ruth Whittingham  
Artistic Program Manager


Participants in Highvale Retirement By Design  
Photo: Angela Bailey

Mixed Media & Textiles Training Course -  
collaborative textile mural  
Photo: Jodda Belterlee



the entertainment access service  
(EASE)

**Vic Venue Guide**

*"It is an attractive and comprehensive publication  Accessing information about venue facilities is made so much easier by the Guide. Thank you again for this publication."*  
- Pam McCarthy,  
EASE subscriber, Kew.

**Vic Venue Guide**

One of the highlights for the year for EASE was the launch of the *Vic Venue Guide* in November. Sponsored by VicHealth and supported by Arts Victoria, it contains information on more than 75 different venues across Victoria, including theatres, galleries, museums, tourist destinations and sporting venues. The *Guide* is an innovative publication using specially designed icons to easily draw the reader to the information they require. It is the result of many months of collation by Project Officer, Lisa McKoy and was developed in consultation with a group of people with disabilities and their representatives. The *Vic Venue Guide* is available from Arts Access, and will soon be available on line.



Dancer with Natyanjali School of Indian Dance  
Photo: Katie Hamilton

**The EASE Ticket Service**

The most well known service offered by EASE is its low cost ticket and specialised seating service. Almost 400 subscribers, comprising a broad range of people with disabilities and social disadvantage, attended events such as classical music, cinema, theatre, ballet, basketball, tennis, cricket, festival events, and more. The Ticket Service will be streamlined in 1998, with the Ticket Coordinator directly negotiating with promoters and looking for new opportunities for events offered by EASE.

The EASE Ticket Update continued to be produced in large print and on cassette as well as being available via email.

**The Australian Ballet's First Impressions Program**

*First Impressions* is a collaboration between Arts Access and the Australian Ballet designed to introduce young people to dance. It was highly successful in its inaugural year, 1996, and in 1997, opening night tickets to three ballets were offered for the first time. Through this collaboration EASE (and the Australian Ballet) have been able to reach a wider audience of disadvantaged young people and give them an experience of what might previously had been considered an unattainable elite art form.

**Training seminars**

In February of 1997, a staff training seminar was presented to front-of-house staff at the Victorian Arts Centre. It is always of particular value to present a seminar in the venue at which participants work, as staff are able to relate the content immediately to their environment. This customised seminar is one that can be presented in any venue and it is anticipated that other venues will take up that option in 1998. In October, another seminar was held, this time attended by around 25 staff from different venues. For the first time there was significant attendance from the cinema industry and also from regional Victoria. It is anticipated that opportunities for improved access and for low cost ticket arrangements will come from some of these new contacts.

**Bench marking Project**

In September 1997 with funding from the Arts 21 Leadership Program, I travelled overseas on a bench marking project to look at levels of access offered to people with a disability in the arts and cultural fields. Generally, disability issues are much more at the forefront of the consciousness of the arts and cultural sectors in the countries visited, than they are in Australia. The audience with a disability, is accepted as a viable and important 'market'. I travelled to the UK and the US, and noted many impressive initiatives. At Sadlers Wells in London, a committee of people with a disability – *Free For All*, is consulted by management, designers and architects, at every step on the redevelopment

of the venue. For its production of *Molly Sweeney* at The Arena Stage in Washington, touch tours were conducted of the set and costumes before selected performances. People with a sight impairment were given the opportunity to meet the actors in the production and in some cases touch them. The Arena Stage calculated that the number of patrons with disabilities represents more than \$100 000 worth of tickets each year. In some organisations it is a person with a disability who is leading the changes from within and setting policy. As well, funding bodies, whether at federal, local or philanthropic level are encouraging this initiative by earmarking funding with an access criterion.

**Dean Michael**  
**EASE Program Manager**

Puppetry Making & Manipulation Training Course  
Photo: Jodie Bellerjoe



library and information service

The Arts Access Library celebrated its ninth year during 1997. The library's constant evolution and growth have seen it develop into what is arguably Australia best resource centre in the area of art and disability/disadvantage and access.

Collection Development in 1997

The collection continues to focus in the following areas:

- Disability, arts and culture
- Arts in prisons, hospitals and nursing homes
- Youth Arts
- Community arts management
- Policy development
- Arts training and employment
- Access issues

The collection consists of written texts, reference books, project reports, journals, conference proceedings, videos and photographic images. The area of the collection which is unique, and proves to be most valuable to visitors, is the Arts Access project reports. These reports, dating back to 1987, are an excellent information source for anyone setting up their own arts project. The reports contain information such as problems encountered, project aims and outcomes, activities used and artist statements. Most of the project reports are also accompanied by visual documentation, either in slide or video format.

During the past year another ninety-two items have been catalogued with another sixty-five items awaiting cataloguing. Many thanks go to Bridget Butler who has volunteered many hours to almost eliminating the backlog of cataloging.

Library Users in 1997

A major growth area in library use during 1997 was from participants of the Training Program, in particular students of the Creative Arts and Events Management Course. In 1998 this growth will continue as the Training Program continues to expand. Other users of the library were Arts Access staff including project artists and workers, students, artists, workers from the health sector and various other community organisations.

Library Services

Information requests to the Library and Information Service can be phoned, faxed, emailed or posted. Prior to visiting the library, bibliographies can be prepared on any subject and either faxed,emailed or posted to users, ensuring the best use of their time when visiting.

Arts Access On-line

*New web site*  
During 1997 Arts Access employed graphic artist Tobie Cameron to design a new internet homepage for the organisation. Our existing site had suffered from a lack of updating and was in need of a major overhaul, particularly in regard to accessibility and to reflect the fact that Arts Access is an arts organisation. The development of the new site will be a three stage process with the first stage now complete.

The new site can be found at:  
[http:// www.vicnet.net.au/~artsacc](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~artsacc)

Our new web site has been designed to allow the broadest range of people with disabilities to have access. The site incorporates features including a text only option for people using alternative technology such as screen readers. This option allows people with sight disabilities who use a screen reader, to access all areas of our site. For example, screen readers can have trouble interpreting images or graphics such as fancy headers or logos. The text only option overcomes any of these potential problems making the entire site accessible. The site also features a permanent menu to aid navigation around the site, colour selection that offers good contrast and use of a plain background. All these features make the Arts Access web site more accessible for people with sight, learning or cognitive disabilities and are simple features that any person or organisation can incorporate into their own web sites.

Related on-line resources

For people interested in incorporating these features into their own web site, they can find information on web accessibility at the following sites:

<http://trace.wisc.edu/>  
TRACE Research & Development Centre at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, offers information on web accessibility solutions

<http://boston.com/wgbh/pages/access/accessinstructions.html>  
WGBH offers information on how it set up its web site to make it more accessible to people with sight and hearing disabilities.

<http://www.flfsoft.com/bobbi/>

Free web based service that will help you make your web pages accessible to people with disabilities. Will also evaluate your site from an access perspective.

<http://www.igs.net/~starling/acc/index.htm>  
Canadian Company that offers services in accessible web page design. This site has an excellent tips page on web access.

<http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disabil/webguide.htm>  
Australian Disability Discrimination Act Advisory Notes on Web Access.

Library catalogue online

In conjunction with VicNet, our internet service provider, the library computer catalogue will shortly be available on-line. This means that our library catalogue will be available via the internet, enabling searches of the collection to be carried out wherever internet access is available.



Participant in Art Day West project  
Photo: Angela Bailey

Puppetry Making & Manipulation  
Training Course  
Photo: Jemma Bollerjee



Future Developments

*Lending library*  
Early in 1998 it is planned for the library to become a lending collection for the first time. Following the writing and acceptance of a lending policy many items will be available for loan directly from Arts Access or through interlibrary lending.

*Library access*  
It is hoped that in 1998 the Arts Access Library will become a model of best practice in accessibility. Our imminent move to new premises will be the catalyst for this change. New premises should allow an increase in floor area for the library which will allow increased space for low rise accessible shelving. Signage will be changed to incorporate braille users and will increase in size for people with a vision impairment.

Arts Access Publications

The following publications are available from Arts Access, in person or by mail order.

*The Vic Venue Guide*  
An illustrated guide to disability access and facilities at more than 75 Victorian entertainment, sporting and cultural venues. Includes information such as where to park, nearest public transport, seating plans and where to make bookings.  
\$19.95 + \$3.00 post & handling (Arts Access & EASE members \$14.95)

*I Remember When....Reminiscences of World War II Veterans and Widows*  
This publication is an outcome of a story telling project with the day visitors to the Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre in Heidelberg.  
Note: This publication will be available in March 1998  
\$7.50 + \$2.50 post & handling

*The Work Guide: How to Establish an Artist in Community Project*  
*The Work Guide* takes the reader through a logical sequence of project development from an initial concept through the organisational and financial considerations, to the selection and employment of an artist. A series of insert sheets is also included, giving further contacts for peak art and legal organisations, unions, funding bodies and material suppliers.  
\$10.00 (includes post)

*Healthy Arts: A Guide to the Role of the Arts in Health Care*  
*Healthy Arts* aims to assist the continued growth of the arts throughout the Australian health system in public and private hospitals, community health services and support services. *Healthy Arts* provides an overview of what has been and can be achieved. It illustrates how the arts can be integrated into health services and shows where information can be found to create new arts programs.  
\$5.00 includes post & handling

*Inner Words Outer Spaces*  
This publication brings together the work of some twenty five participants in the *Inner Words Outer Spaces* project developed by Arts Access in 1994. Participants were based at various inner Melbourne community agencies that provide support for people with psychiatric disabilities. The project, with writer in residence Bev Roberts, created an environment in which people could experiment with and develop their writing.  
\$5.00 includes post & handling

Martin Wurt  
Library and Information Manager

training program

In 1997 the Arts Access Training Program was the biggest and broadest ever offered. It featured two new initiatives – the Creative Arts Programming and Events Management Course and The Money Forum – whilst continuing the existing training components of Arts Practice and Artist Professional Development. These new directions were the highlights for 1997 and they form the foundation for development in 1998.

Money forum

"there is hope after all"  
"sessions were overflowing with practical information."  
Presenters were interesting and motivating."  
"I found the days well organised, invaluable, and entertaining."  
Thanks heaps"

The Money Forum

This two day forum was developed and organised by Arts Access in response to the numerous funding enquiries received from the community sector. Individuals and organisations expressed interest in existing options, future funding directions, ways to attract the corporate dollar and the ingredients that make submissions successful. Sixty five people attended the forum. The presenters were drawn from such diverse sources as major funding bodies (both government and private sectors), community based organisations, mainstream arts organisations and arts industry organisations.

Response from participants was overwhelmingly positive. It was clear that many of them were inexperienced in the area of funding and sponsorship and they found the two days of enormous practical benefit, inspirational and entertaining.  
For Arts Access it demonstrated the key role the organisation plays in educating and advocating within the arts and disability sectors. Further forums are planned for 1998.

The Creative Arts Programming and Events Management Course

The second new initiative, the Creative Arts Programming and Events Management Course comprised a two module program of 150 hours over five months. It has been adapted by Arts Access from the TAFE Diploma of Arts, Small Companies and Community Theatre, and offers students accreditation on successful completion. This course is designed for people wishing to learn the skills and knowledge required to plan and manage community arts programs and events which cater for people with a range of needs and abilities. Twenty-one students enrolled, forming a dynamic and highly motivated group of diverse background and experiences. Students responded fantastically to the opportunity to put theory into practice, to risk and challenge, to discuss and exchange, whilst working both collaboratively on group projects as well as pursuing individual interests. Due to the success of the course it will be extended in 1998 to include an additional module covering marketing, promotion and publicity in depth.

Greenhaven Supported Residential Service  
Photo: Lyn Pool



Two day forum on funding & corporate sponsorship -  
Dramatic Edge improvisation group plan a playback of  
the final day's proceedings.  
Photo: Jackie Bellorlee





*"As a visual artist I learnt more practical skills in 150 hours than in 5 years at Art School. Building a resource folder was of immense value as was the opportunity to practice in our groups the skills and knowledge we were learning in class."*

*"Career wise this course has opened up a whole lot of new directions. Personally I have become more confident and clear of my skills and capabilities."*

*"Comparing notes and the fabulous resource library were most valuable to me."*

*"Facilitation was excellent and allowed for everyone to participate both verbally and creatively. Very interactive and supportive environment to work and learn in – except for the chairs!"*

*"I loved the emphasis on being organised, being flexible, being creative and the sense of fun throughout. Thinking through ideas and developing business structures was most important for me."*

*"Well planned. Fantastic course to learn a lot and make contacts."*

*"I am applying the knowledge gained in class directly into my work situation."*

#### **Thank you Arts Access**

*"Arts Access played a major role in helping the Wimmera Region develop an 'Arts Profile' for people with a disability... the benefits of your support is continuing"* Paul Denson  
Wimmera Community Care  
May 1997. Arts Access coordinated an arts project in partnership with the Wimmera Community Centre in 1995.



Creative Arts Programming & Events Management Training Course – Final event presentation  
Photo: Jedda Bellerjee



Mixed Media & Textiles Training Course – three dimensional sculptures  
Photo: Martin Wurt

#### **Two day intensives**

This year saw the continuation of arts practice training - a series of two day intensives which focus on particular artforms. These days have always been very special. They trigger the creative juices of all concerned. The format is essentially hands-on practical, where new ideas and techniques are practised and exchanged and collegial networks formed and strengthened. Each workshop is informed by the wealth of experience and materials brought along by each individual artist/trainer. This year's trainers included: Claire Humphrys-Hunt, a visual artist who ran two series of mixed media and textiles workshops; Michelle Spooner, puppeteer who ran puppetry making and manipulation workshops; and a duo team of Chris Lesser, percussionist, and Ngami Greviz, creative vocalist and sound improviser, who ran a music percussion and creative voice workshop.

*"I enjoyed the workshops*

*immensely. Very energising and inspiring! Congratulations to both facilitators on the high quality of their teaching presentation and on their capacity to engage and inspire us all."*

*"Great workshop. Plenty of practical, useful knowledge to take back to the coalface. Always enjoy the workshops at Arts Access. A great resource. Keep me on the mailing list."*

*"I loved this workshop. I found watching the puppets we'd made come to life, truly magical.*

*Thank you so much."*

#### **Professional Development**

##### **Workshops**

In order to increase artists employment opportunities two professional development workshops were held in *Effective Promotion in the Workplace* and *Planning and Developing Your Own Creative Arts Program*. These workshops were very popular and reflected the artist community taking a more aggressive and business like approach to the market place.

##### **Disability Awareness**

An exciting new addition to the Training Unit for 1998 will be in disability awareness. This will take the form of a series of one day *Disability Awareness Training Seminars* scheduled at specific times throughout the year along with customised seminars available to individual organisations on request.

**Jedda Bellerjee**  
Training Program Manager

## DADAA

During 1997 Arts Access' role in and responsibility for the national network of arts and disability, arts and disadvantage, DADAA, developed quite significantly. As the largest and longest standing professional arts and disability agency in Australia, Arts Access has taken a key leadership function in the initiation and progress of the national network. Under the direction of Jane Trengove, as National Coordinator, much groundwork was laid for the future development and direction of DADAA. A Business Plan was completed which consolidated the network as a national body and identified strategic priorities for action for the next three years. Administration systems, including an internet communication process, were established and several national teleconferences coordinated. The annual meeting in Canberra resolved a number of critical issues for the national network, including the instigation of action to incorporate DADAA, the refinement of advocacy and lobbying strategies, and negotiation of procedures for the management of national projects (such as the *FactPack* which will be published by the Australia Council in May 1998). In July the position of National Coordinator rotated to Western Australia. Since then Arts Access' role, through the Executive

Director, has been to represent Victoria's interests and to provide expert assistance in policy formulation and performance management. There was a second (informal) national meeting in Brisbane during the DARE conference. This proved an excellent opportunity for new Network members to meet face-to-face and for a number of matters to be discussed in a more relaxed environment than teleconferences afford. DADAA will continue to fulfil a critical role in advocacy for arts and disability and arts and disadvantage, in particular supporting the development of policies and practices nationally which promote and assist the inclusion of people with a disability and people who are disadvantaged in the artistic and cultural life of the nation.

**Jane Haley**  
DADAA National Executive

Mixed Media & Textiles  
Training Course -  
a three dimensional sculpture  
Photo: Martin Wurt



Newport Lodge Supporter Residential Service  
Photo: Lyn Pool

## arts access board

**JUDY MORTON**  
President

Judy is the Manager, Research with the Arts Research and Marketing team at Arts Victoria.

**ALAN MOOR**  
Senior Vice President

Alan is a director of Performance Improvement Conferences and Seminars, a national training company.

**MIRIAM BASS**  
Junior Vice President (until May)  
Miriam is a business and management consultant who was once a dancer.

**ROBYN CHARLWOOD**  
Junior Vice President (from May)  
Robyn is Executive Director of the National Heart Foundation (Victorian Division).

**LAWRANCE REILLY**  
Treasurer  
Laurie is a Fellow Chartered Accountant and was the honorary auditor for Arts Access from 1974 until 1992.

**JANICE CARPENTER**  
Janice manages an ethical investment company.

**PETER HENGSTBERGER**  
Peter is Information Systems Manager for the Local Authorities Super.

**JO RAPHAEL**

Jo is a lecturer in Drama Education at Deakin University. She was formerly a visual artist working with performing artists at Kew Cottages.

**SANDRA TAYLOR-BOWMAN**  
Sandra is Marketing Director, Invetech and was formerly Business Development Director, KPMG Management Consulting Asia Pacific and Sales Executive for Argyle Diamonds.

**MARG WOOLLARD** (until July)  
Marg is a professional practising artist with experience as a health consumer rights activist.

## staff and volunteers 1997

### Staff

Helen Bowman	Executive Director (until May)
Jane Haley	Executive Director (from July)
Dean Michael	EASE Program Manager
	Acting Executive Director (June)
Lisa McKoy	EASE Ticket Coordinator
	EASE Research and Publications Coordinator
Ruth Whittingham	Artistic Program Manager
Barbara Doherty	Art Day Project Coordinator
Jane Trengove	<i>Body Suits</i> exhibition Coordinator
	DADAA National Coordinator (until July)
Rhona Bester	Administrator (until September)
Mario Agostinoni	Administrator (from October)
Sam Marsh	Administration Officer (until October)
Ali Dart	Administration Officer (from August)
Jedda Bellerjee	Training Program Manager
Martin Wurt	Library and Information Manager
Coral Tilley	Administration Trainee (April - October)
Lea Frydman	Development Manager (April - September)

### Casual staff

Andrew Williams	EASE Program
Anne Riggs	Artistic Projects Coordinator
Desiree Jacobsen	Administrator
Angie Jooste	<i>Body Suits</i> Assistant Curator and Coordinator

### Volunteers

Jill Cardiff	Artistic Program and Publications
Bridget Butler	Library and Training Programs
Lewis Ding	Administration
Peter Maley	EASE Ticket Update
Wenda Edwards	EASE Ticket Update
Roisin Johnson	mailout team
NADRASCA	
ATSS Nunawading	mailout team
Tracy Lenston	Seniors Expo exhibition

artistic program participants

Art Day South

Venue: Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre  
Length of Project: 6 hours x 46 weeks  
Target Group: Adults with intellectual disability (18 years and over)  
Coordinator: Barbara Doherty  
Art Form: Visual and Performing Arts  
Artists: Kim Baston, performing arts; Gali Weiss, visual arts.  
Guest Artists: Andrew Tranter, sculptor; Sue Mullane, dance artist; and Texicali Rose, music group.  
Support Workers: Abi Temby, Diane Zacanovsky  
Photographers: Angela Bailey, Katie Hamilton  
Number of Participants: 26

Art Day West

Venue: South Kingsville Community Centre  
Length of Project: 6 hours x 46 weeks  
Target Group: Adults with intellectual disability (18 years and over)  
Coordinator: Barbara Doherty  
Art Form: Visual and Performing Arts  
Artists: Lyndsay Mason, visual arts; Claire Teisen, performing arts.  
Guest Artists: Tim Curtis, tap dance; Elena Meerman, flamenco dance; Regina Pike, ballroom dance; Fiona Roake, shadow puppetry.  
Support Workers: Dee Buman, Janine Cording, Eva Marks and Kitty Owens.  
Volunteers: Sue Jacmenovic, Kaz Mitchell, Fiona Roake, and Saskia Schut  
Photographers: Angela Bailey, Katie Hamilton  
Number of Participants: 26

Saturday Morning Art Class

Venue: Arts Access Studio  
Length of Project: 4 terms x 2 hours x 8 weeks  
Target Group: Adults with psychiatric disability  
Art Form: Visual Arts  
Artists:  
Term One: Claire Humphrys-Hunt  
Term Two: Anne Holt  
Term Three: Louise Hall  
Term Four: Prue Flint  
Guest Artist: Four life models were employed throughout the year  
Photographers: Katie Hamilton  
Number of Participants: 48

Frankston Community Care Units

Venue: Frankston Community Care Units  
Length of Project: 2 hours x 15 weeks  
Target Group: Residents with a psychiatric disability  
Art Form: Visual Arts - environmental sculpture and mosaics  
Artist: Swee Lee Ling  
Photographer: Martin Wurt  
Number of Participants: 15

Drama, Music and Movement

Venue: Arts Access Studio  
Length of Project: 2 hours x 8 weeks  
Target Group: People with a psychiatric disability  
Art Form: Drama, Music and Movement  
Artist: Will Day  
Number of Participants: 12

Supported Residential Services - City of Stonnington

Venue: Belgrave House and The Avenue  
Length of Project: 2 projects x 2 hours x 12 weeks  
Target Group: People with a psychiatric disability  
Coordinator: Anne Riggs  
Art Form: Visual Arts, print making, paper mache sculpture  
Artists:  
Claire Humphrys- Hunt (The Avenue)  
Lee Manger (Belgrave House)  
Photographer: Katie Hamilton  
Number of Participants: 30

Moveable Dance Workshops

Venue: Dancehouse  
Length of Project: 2 hours x 12 weeks  
Target Group: People with physical disability and professional dance artists  
Art Form: Creative, improvisational dance  
Artists: Martin Hughes and Janice Florence  
Guest Artists: Hilary Elliott and Trevor Dunne (Stage 2)  
Photographer: Angela Bailey  
Number of Participants: 15

CandoCo Dance Company Masterclass

Venue: Gasworks Theatre  
Length of Project: 2 days  
Target Group: People with physical disability and professional dance artists  
Art Form: Creative, improvisational dance  
Artists: Adam Benjamin, Artistic Director, CandoCo Dance Company  
Number of Participants: 40

CandoCo Dance Company Workshops

Venue: Gasworks Theatre  
Length of Project: 2 days  
Target Group: People with physical disability and professional dance artists  
Art Form: Creative, improvisational dance  
Artists: Adam Benjamin, Celeste Dandeker, Helen Baggett, Charlotte Darbyshire  
Photographer: Angela Bailey  
Video Artists: Kate Toll and Helen Simondson  
Number of Participants: 40

Supported Residential Services Western Region Arts

Venue: Newport Lodge and Greenhaven Supported Residential Services  
Length of Project: 2 projects x 2 hours x 20 weeks  
Target Group: Residents at the Supported Residential Services  
Art Form: Visual Arts  
Artists: Lynden Bobbitt (Newport Lodge), Rachel Walker (Greenhaven)  
Photographer: Lyn Pool  
Number of Participants: 20

Seniors Expo 1997

Venue: Melbourne Exhibition Centre  
Length of Project: 3 days  
Target Group: Senior citizens  
Art Form: Visual Arts exhibition showcasing artwork from Supported Residential Services Western Region Arts Projects  
Curator: Lynden Bobbitt  
Assistant Curator: Tracy Leviston  
Photographer: Lyn Pool

Supported Residential Service Western Region Arts Project Poster

Graphic Designer: Andrew Hazelwinkel  
Photographer: Collin Bogaars

Retirement By Design Villages

Venue: Highvale, Peppertree Hill and Fiddler's Green  
Length of Project: 1 day in each Village  
Target Group: Residents at the Villages and local community residents  
Art Form: Visual arts, printmaking, silk painting.  
Artists: Claire Humphrys-Hunt (Fiddler's Green); Maria Fillipow (Peppertree Hill & Highvale)  
Photographer: Angela Bailey  
Publicity: Response Public Relations

Natyanjali School of Classical Dance

Venue: Bharatam Dance Company Studio  
Length of Project: 1 evening  
Target Group: People with a vision impairment & professional Indian Classical dance artists  
Art Form: Indian Classical Dance  
Artists: Ashok Kumar, Artistic Director, Natyanjali School of Classical Dance  
Members of the Natyanjali School of Classical Dance  
Photographer: Katie Hamilton

Body Suits

Venue: 200 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne & Casula Powerhouse, Sydney  
Length of Project: Body Suits on tour until early 1999  
Target Group: General Public  
Art Form: Visual Arts national touring exhibition  
Curator: Jane Trengove  
Assistant Curator: Angie Jooste  
Artists:  
Ross Barber, Ed Burton, Cecilia Clarke, Colin Duncan, Mikala Dwyer, Ruark Lewis, Susan Norrie, Bronwyn Platten and Jane Trengove.  
Other artists:  
Kate Reeves, writer,  
Photographer: John Brash, Bronwyn Platten, Bob Trengove  
Photographer at launch: Steven Wilkinson  
Publicity: Pan and Bacchanalia  
Catalogue Design: Divadata

Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre – Rehabilitation Work Group

Art Form: Storytelling project undertaken in 1995  
Artist: Lisa Jacobson  
Editors: Bronwen Beechey and Linda Richter  
Volunteer: Jill Cardiff  
Illustrator: Graeme Davis  
Publishers: Black Dog Books  
*I Remember When... Reminiscences of World War II Veterans and Widows* Book will be officially launched at the Seniors Expo 1998.  
Number of participants: 30

Independent Audit Report

to the members of Arts Access Society Inc

Scope

We have audited the financial statements of Arts Access Society Inc being the Income & Expense Summary, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to and forming part of the accounts. The Committee is responsible for the financial statements. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) and the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic) so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Society's financial position, the result of its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Associations Incorporation Act (Vic) the financial position of Arts Access Society Inc. as at 31 December 1997, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.



H.D. PATON & CO  
Chartered Accountants



H.D.PATON

DATED: at Melbourne (Victoria) 5 March, 1998.

income & expense summary

for the Year Ended 31st December 1997

	1997	1996
INCOME		
DHS Grants	320,264	322,171
Other State Government Grants	124,597	112,550
Commonwealth Govt Grants	130,897	113,035
Client Fees	18,310	8012
Charitable Contributions	16,325	10,045
Income from Investments	11,271	8,208
Fundraising Income	40,821	10,636
Business Undertaking Income	43,956	42,526
Other Revenue Recoveries	2,896	
TOTAL INCOME	709,337	627,183
EXPENSES		
Salaries – Services Provision	351,908	315,202
Salaries – Administration	106,523	121,168
Business Undertaking Costs	106,437	71,818
Finance Costs	1,122	111
Depreciation	11,829	16,474
Office Costs	41,782	29,582
Fuel/Light/Power	6,301	6,354
Motor Vehicle Expenses	10,193	6,174
Property/Equip/Maintenance	37,438	39,797
Staff Related Costs	13,242	5,302
Volunteer Costs	67	810
Fundraising Expenses	19,417	
TOTAL EXPENSES	706,259	612,792
OPERATING SURPLUS	3,078	14,391
Transfer to Fundraising Reserve		(10,410)
SURPLUS	3,078	3,981



## balance sheet

as at 31st December 1997

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Macquarie at Call	68,709	
ANZ - V2 Account	83,844	152,091
CBA Deposit Holding	10,862	10,456
Mortgage Investment	30,000	21,000
Petty Cash Imprest	400	200
Sundry Debtors	7,279	12,857
EASE Ticket Debtors	14,317	33,849
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	(1,627)	(1,000)
CBA Cheque Account	44,047	24,226
Prepayments	10,750	8387
Total Current Assets	268,581	262,066
ADD NET FIXED ASSETS		
DHS Assets	28,555	23,768
Leasehold Improvement	2,390	3,710
Motor Vehicles		1,579
Office Furniture & Equip	6,078	7,449
Total Net Fixed Assets	37,023	36,506
TOTAL ASSETS	305,604	298,572
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	8,269	4,190
Provision for PAYE Tax	(467)	(21)
Provision for Holiday Pay	5,522	12,646
Provision for Fundraising	23,766	44,159
Income in Advance	184,535	170,398
Capital Grants Unexpended		201
Total Liabilities	221,625	231,573
NET ASSETS	83,979	66,999
MEMBERS FUNDS		
Surplus(Deficit) at start	(104,408)	(108,390)
Surplus(Deficit) this year	3,078	3,981
Capital grants – prior years	171,408	158,882
– this year	13,901	12,526
	185,309	171,408
Total Member's funds	83,979	66,999

## statement of cash flow

for the Year Ended 31st December 1997

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Income	709,337	627,183
Less Operating Expenses	(706,259)	(612,792)
Add back Non-Cash items		
Depreciation	11,829	16,474
Provision for Holiday Pay	(7,124)	(1,914)
Provision for Doubtful Debts	627	
Provision for Fundraising	(20,393)	
Net cash provided from operating activities	(11,983)	28,951
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING		
Fixed Asset Disposals	1,579	
Fixed Asset Purchases	(13,925)	(12,578)
Capital Grants	13,901	12,526
Increase (decrease) in creditors	4,079	(3,272)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	24,666	(5,921)
Decrease (increase) in prepayments	(2,363)	9,098
Increase (decrease) in grants in advance	14,137	38,332
Increase (decrease) in capital grants unexpended	(201)	(599)
Net cash provided (used) from investing	41,873	37,586
Net increase (decrease) in cash on hand	29,890	66,537
Cash at beginning of financial year	207,972	141,435
Cash at end of financial year	237,862	207,972
MAKE UP OF CASH		
ANZ V2 PLUS - Term Deposit	94,706	162,547
Mortgage Investment	30,000	21,000
Petty Cash	400	200
CBA Cheque Account	44,047	24,225
Macquarie At Call	68,709	
	237,862	207,972



## arts access society inc

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1997

### Note 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are a general purpose financial report that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) and the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Vic). The financial statements have also been prepared on the basis of historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Society in the preparation of the financial statements.

#### (a) Income Tax

The society holds an exemption and therefore is not liable to income tax on any surplus that accrues.

#### (b) Fixed Assets

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the asset to the Society commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The carrying amount of fixed assets is reviewed annually by the Committee to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to their present values in determining the recoverable amounts.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

#### (c) Moneys Held for Specific Purposes

Unexpected grant or trust income in respect of specific projects and activities are treated as deferred income (a liability) at year end to enable matching with related expenditure in subsequent financial years.

#### (d) Employee Benefits

Provision is made in respect of the Society's liability for annual leave and long service at balance date. Long service leave is accrued in respect of all employees with more than 10 years service with the Society. Contributions are made by the Society to an employee's superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

### Note 2. SEGMENT REPORTING

The Society operates in the arts sector whereby it facilitates opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in the cultural and artistic life of the community within Australia.

### ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY INC

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the Committee the financial statements:

Present fairly the financial position of Arts Access Society Inc. as at 31 December, 1997 and the results and cash flows of the Society for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Arts Access Society Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President

Treasurer

Dated: at Melbourne (Victoria) 5th March, 1998

## acknowledgements

Arts Access acknowledges the following organisations for financial and in-kind support during 1997:

#### for major program activity:

Department of Human Services  
Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet  
Australia Council - the Commonwealth Government's arts funding and advisory body

#### for Body Suits:

The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation  
Visions of Australia  
The Sidney Myer Fund  
Arts SA  
Pioneer

#### for other artistic projects:

The Austin and Repatriation and Medical Centre - Rehabilitation Work Group  
Dancehouse  
Senior Citizens Week  
Chapel off Chapel Gallery  
Footscray Community Arts Centre

#### for the Training Program:

The Office of Training and Further Education  
Adult, Community and Further Education,  
Western Metropolitan Region

#### for the EASE Program:

the companies, venues, promoters, presenters and other organisations which provide assistance to enable subscribers to participate in arts and entertainment events.

#### for support of operations and general activities:

Playbox Theatre Company  
BHP Community Trust  
The Smorgon Family  
The Gandel Charitable Trust  
Lance Reichstein Foundation  
MediaWise  
Craftsman Press  
FHA Image Design  
Paterson's Cakes

Arts Access sincerely thanks the following individuals who have donated their services during 1997:

John Waters (Honorary Auditor)  
Chinka Steel (Honorary Solicitor)  
Richard Henderson (FHA Design)  
Jill Cardiff  
Bridget Butler  
Warren Hogan  
John Coe

and, most importantly, the members of Arts Access, artists, support workers and volunteers whose work, support and donations are an essential part of achieving our objectives.



This annual report was produced with the generous assistance of Craftsman Press and FHA Image Design.