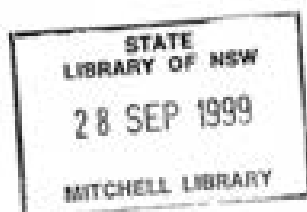


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Strategic
Plan

98Annual Report

ACE PRODUCTION TEAM

Committee:

Neridah Wyatt-Spratt

Desktop publishing:

*Neridah Wyatt-Spratt
Robert Keighley*

Printing:

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Patrons

*Barbara Blackman
Peter Ross*

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ACCESSIBLE ARTS

Management Committee 1999

*Erica Aronsten
Rayce Coyte
David King
Arabella MacKessar
Penny Miles
Monica Redden
Bernette Redwood
Wart
Barbel Winter*

**The views & opinions expressed in this issue of
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Accessible Arts**

*ACE is produced with limited time and resources. In
future editions we encourage members' contributions
in all forms. If you are interested in writing articles
submitting images please contact:*

Accessible Arts
Pier 4, The Wharf
Hickson Rd
Walsh Bay 2000

Ph: 02 9251 6499

Fax: 02 9251 6422

Email: aarts@ozemail.com

Accessible Arts Staff September 1999

Executive Officer:
Helen Connor

Project Officer:
Neridah Wyatt-Spratt

Administrator
Robert Keighley

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Hello everyone!

This is an issue dedicated to David King, who has served as a committee member and current chairperson for the organization for the past decade. While I have only known David for the last few years, I got to know him really well when we danced and performed together as part of CoMotion dance group. David has always been out there and I hope he always will be. A musician all out chicken fanatic, webguru and land owner his dry and meditative humour will be missed. His support and encouragement have seen AArts through the good and bad times and he leaves the organization on a high with increased staff, fancy digs and more recognition from the mainstream art community.

Personally I would just like to say thanks, Dave.

I know in the last issue of ACE News I said that this issue would report on Helen and my trip to Los Angeles. However due to the need to get notice of the Annual General Meeting out this has been put on hold till the newsletter in late November. For the first time we are holding our AGM at night, with several performances to round off the evening.

The coming 12 months are going to be an exciting time for AArts with a number of exciting events happening during the Olympic and Paralympic period. Keep watching our newsletters for details.

Hope to see you at the AGM on the 11 October.

Neridah Wyatt-Spratt
Project Officer

Strategic Plan

Introduction

In early 1999 Accessible Arts, the statewide peak body for art and disability in New South Wales, initiated the development of a five year Strategic Plan. The Management Committee of Accessible Arts commissioned a comprehensive round of stakeholder consultations over a three month period to prepare the groundwork for the Strategic Plan. The consultations and finalization of the Strategic Plan was undertaken by an external consultant, Ian Colley, Principal of Skill Strategies, under the direction of a Steering Committee established by the AArts Management Committee.

Following these consultations, the Management Committee drew up its Strategic Plan, outlining a range of initiatives to meet the needs of its diverse constituents and stakeholders. The Plan was revised and approved by the Management Committee of AArts in late June 1999.

This document outlines the Strategic Plan and summarizes contributions from the wide range of organisations and individuals participating in the consultations.

The members of the Accessible Arts Strategic Plan Steering Committee were:

Monica Redden – Convenor and AArts' Management Committee Member
David King – Chairperson, AArts
Bernette Redwood – AArts' Management Committee Secretary
Helen Connors – Executive Officer, AArts

The full Management Committee of AArts contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan. The consultant Ian Colley assisted Robert Keightley and Neridah Wyatt-Spratt. AArts would also like to thank the NSW Ministry for the Arts for its assistance with the consultations.

In particular AArts would like to thank all those who contributed to the consultations by participating in focus groups and responding to the survey.

Through the consultation process Accessible Arts has developed a new vision and mission statements



Mission Statement

All people with a disability will be able to fully and actively participate in Australia's arts and cultural life.

Vision Statement

Accessible Arts, as the peak body in New South Wales for people with a disability in the arts, will act as an agent for change to develop and provide expertise, facilitate communication, initiate collaboration, and strengthen the voice for people with a disability within the arts.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide Accessible Arts in choosing operational activities under the new Strategic Plan.

- Does the activity involve a partnership?
- Will it generate awareness of the needs of people with disabilities?
- Is it financially viable?
- Does it fulfil the vision and mission of Accessible Arts?
- Is the outcome achievable?
- Is the outcome sustainable over time?
- Does the activity empower and inspire?
- Does it promote the profile of Accessible Arts?
- Does the activity have a clear outcome?
- Will the activity have a significant impact?
- Does the activity duplicate other services?

Key Directions

The following four commitments were selected as the Key Directions for Accessible Arts' Strategic Plan:

Increase participation and access of people with disabilities in art and cultural activities.

Develop and provide expertise in inclusive art and cultural practices.

Facilitate communication and initiate collaboration between organisations and individuals.

Maintain and develop a responsible, transparent and accountable organisation.

The detailed strategies under each of these Directions are reviewed in the following pages.

Increase participation and access of people with disabilities in art and cultural activities.

- Target arts and cultural institutions to provide quality in the delivery of services to people with disabilities.
- Support networks of current workers who provide art programs to people with disabilities to enhance provision of activities.
- Develop and maintain an information service about art and cultural activities for people with disabilities.
- Promote and market Accessible Arts and its aims.

Develop and provide expertise in inclusive art and cultural practices.

- Develop, provide and maintain an up-to-date database.
- Develop links between arts organisations and other agencies to provide skill development opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Work with arts organisations to provoke initiatives that model new and best practice, inclusive arts practices.
- Work with disability organisations to provoke initiatives that model new and best practice, inclusive arts practices.
- Provide leadership in policy development to develop and provide inclusive arts and cultural practices.
- Develop and distribute resources on art and disabilities.

Facilitate communication and initiate collaboration between organisations and individuals.

- Implement and maintain a communication strategy, promoting collaboration to achieve Accessible Arts' mission.
- Build networking and learning opportunities across stakeholder groups- local, regional, state, and national.
- Identify and develop a network that will lobby for inclusive arts.

Maintain and develop a responsible transparent and accountable organisation.

Establish a regular planning review and monitoring cycle.

Undertake ongoing stakeholder consultation and feedback.

Meet the legal requirements for an incorporated organisation.

Maintain and develop transparent policies and procedures.

Maintain and communicate clarity and consistency in statements about Accessible Arts roles and activities- be clear and consistent about what Accessible Arts does.

Develop a comprehensive human resources plan
Be pro-active and strategic in seeking opportunities to generate new income sources for Accessible Arts.

A survey was distributed to almost 400 people and 98 replied. Key funding bodies were consulted including: Australia Council, and the NSW Ministry for the Arts.

From responses to the survey and the focus groups a number of major themes were identified. These are summarized briefly below.

- More activities and support for participation
People with disabilities were hungry for activity and participation.
- Many respondents wanted Accessible Arts to foster more accessible "activities".
- "Activities" referred to all and every opportunity for people with disabilities to engage in artistic practice, both as participants and audiences.
- In general people did not distinguish between activities which were directly run by Accessible Arts, or nurtured by Accessible Arts through other organisations.

Themes emerging from the consultations

Consultation Process

In preparing the groundwork for development of the Strategic Plan, Accessible Arts undertook a comprehensive round of consultations with its stakeholders.

The consultations involved a combination of: focus groups

- individual visits
- mail-out questionnaires and
- telephone interviews

Focus groups were conducted with five target groups:

- Art (audience) organisations
- Arts organisations in close contact with Accessible Arts
- Disability organisations
- Artists with disabilities
- Members of Accessible Arts



Vince Franz at the Training Camp



In the discussions, 'accessible' activities covered a range of meanings:

- More activities
- local activities
- time convenient (e.g. daytime)
- affordable
- activities which targeted specific needs

The demand for localized activity was probably the most consistent response. For a range of reasons associated with transport, physical access, support needs, costs, many people with disabilities find it easier to participate in local events.

There was a close link between accessible activity and the demand for appropriate 'support' to participate in art activities. 'Support' referred to experienced art workers, support/aid staff and appropriate physical support.

Information Brokerage

Across all the organisations and individuals, the consultations identified the need for a key role for Accessible Arts as an 'information broker' across the full range of interests of arts and disability issues. This information brokering role was not just about the supply of information, advice, and also expertise, but about making links and building connections and alliances between interested organisations and parties.

In the survey component of the consultations the strongest role identified for Accessible Arts was in taking a leading role in collecting, synthesizing and disseminating information and advice about the links between art and disability issues.

Making connections

Laced throughout the responses was an urgent sense of the need to 'make connections'. The core concept of Accessible Arts is, indeed, a bridge between two apparently disparate fields: the world of art and the world of disability. Respondents appreciated that Accessible Arts' purpose is to highlight this link. But they saw much more possibility for Accessible Arts as a site for connecting, brokering, liaising, networking and linking. Accessible Arts must be a kind of 'forum' where the disparate interests and needs of these two worlds can come together and make a difference. The work of Accessible Arts fundamentally is in making these connections come alive, between disability organisations, art performance agencies, artists, people with disabilities, health units and education agencies. The information and advisory role of Accessible Arts was part of this responsibility for making connections.

Advocacy and attitude change

The respondents were very keen to see Accessible Arts play a leading role in 'advocacy' and activities which promoted positive attitudes towards people with disabilities in order to promote inclusion and integration of people with disabilities in art and cultural activities.

Accessible Arts role here is unique, legitimate and also transparent to most stakeholders. It can lay claim to a leadership role in representing the coalition of interests pursuing such integration. The crucial issue then becomes how effectively the advocacy role is played, and what are the most viable strategies to pursue.

Skilful interventions

There were many responses from the survey and the focus groups that noted the importance of skill and experience in addressing the needs and interests of people with disabilities. They were looking for an agency to identify, foster and build experience and skills about the links between art and disability issues.

Accessible Arts was seen as a key site for developing suitable skills and approaches for those who taught art to people with disabilities at both amateur and professional levels. Respondents wanted people who had skills appropriate to clients with specific needs.

Such professional development activity would also be complemented by an information and advisory role in identifying people with suitable skills on demand. Many respondents wanted to be able to call on experienced people to assist with activities and provide advice. They needed an authoritative point of advice to get these kinds of referrals. They were also searching for an agency capable of brokering between demand and supply for such skills.

They wanted skills in advising art organisations about how to meet the needs of people with disabilities as 'audience'.

Artists with disabilities wanted more opportunities for professional development.

Profile and promotions

Many respondents thought that much more could/should be done to raise the profile of both Accessible Arts and the agenda which it represents.

Accountability

As a consequence of the leadership role which people were willing to grant to Accessible Arts, it is incumbent on the organisation to demonstrate a strong commitment to accountability for its mission and activities. This must apply to its key advocacy goals, encouraging the arts industry to meet the needs of people with disabilities, and have clear and communicable benchmarks for performance. But the organisation must also account for its own activity. It needs to be seen to set high standards for evaluating its own performance, accurately reporting its own achievements and failures, both against the organisations' strategic goals and best practice elsewhere- regional, interstate, international. Links to interstate bodies such as the DADAA Network (interstate sister agencies) is a crucial component of this accountability.



Information services

For Accessible Arts to play a leading role in brokering, networking and making connections it must build its data-base and information processing systems which are robust, reliable, super-efficient and accessible.

Clarity

There is a need for clarity about the role of Accessible Arts, and its promises. Among its stakeholders there are very mixed expectations about what services can realistically be expected. In the main, stakeholders expectations were surprisingly low.

The Strategic Plan is shaping up to be a significant one for Accessible Arts and for art and disability generally. Accessible Arts has invested a great deal of time and resources to actively consult with constituents and stakeholders to develop this plan. Analysis of the results from focus groups, questionnaires and individual interviews is of immense value to the organization and has directly informed Accessible Arts, Operational Plan.

While Accessible Arts is recognized as a progressive arts organisation that provides a diverse and innovative programme it is essential for Accessible Arts to be strategic. It remain a significant challenge to identify priorities and develop strategies that achieve the best results for all people with disabilities in NSW. Evaluation and planning are therefore important and it is essential Accessible Arts complete the current strategic planning process.

Consultation confirmed that both the arts and disability sectors require an organisation like Accessible Arts to be a 'bridge' between the two. Analysis of consultative data will inform the Plan. Areas identified as priorities will be reflected in the 2000 programme. For example, act as a resource and consultant to:

- The arts and cultural sector
 - audience development.
- To local and regional communities
 - Regional Arts Officer
- In 2000 the Cultural Olympiad
 - events manager

- The Harbour of Life Festival
 - inclusion of the Olympics and
- Paralympics in
 - the Cultural Olympiad for the first time.

The 2000 Cultural Olympiad provides opportunities to facilitate change within the arts sector and to establish ongoing mechanisms for the inclusion of people with disabilities (audience/ participant) in the arts and cultural life of NSW. With adequate support, the 2000 programme will demonstrate AArts ability to initiate activities and services of critical importance to art and disability in NSW.

To acquire a copy of the Strategic Plan call Robert, 02 9251 6499.



Accessible Arts

1998 Annual Report



Aims and objectives:

Our Mission

All people with a disability will be able to fully and actively participate in Australia's arts and cultural life.

Our Vision

Accessible Arts, as the peak body in New South Wales for people with a disability in the arts, will act as an agent for change to develop and provide expertise, facilitate communication, initiate collaboration, and strengthen the voice for people with a disability within the arts.

Creativity Expression Inclusion

Accessible Arts' (AArts) focus is to expand cultural diversity and initiate ways for people to identify, develop and promote their field of creativity and further awareness of artistic achievements and barriers to inclusion. We implement projects that establish 'new' approaches to specific art forms and these are documented as resources for training, advocacy and promotion.

AArts supports a society where all people are able to access resources and venues, and actively participate in the arts without discrimination. Strategies that bridge the gap between people with disabilities and the arts are therefore crucial. Accessible Arts advocates the rights of people with disabilities for self-expression and liaises with government, the arts and disability sectors on policy and programs that reinforce this vision.

AArts informs the arts industry, disability sector and broader community of the artistic needs, potential and contributions of people with disabilities. AArts develops extensive contacts, networks and alliances within both the arts and disability communities to initiate positive dialogue and collaboration. Through partnerships and collaborations we encourage the inclusion of people with disabilities in existing arts, culture and services.

AArts in achieving the aims of the organisation AArts provides: arts and community cultural development projects; programmes in Disability Awareness, art form training, research and development initiatives, 'ACE' magazine and resource

publications, new technology as an effective communication strategy for creative expression, information database, artist register, consultancy services and communication networks throughout New South Wales.

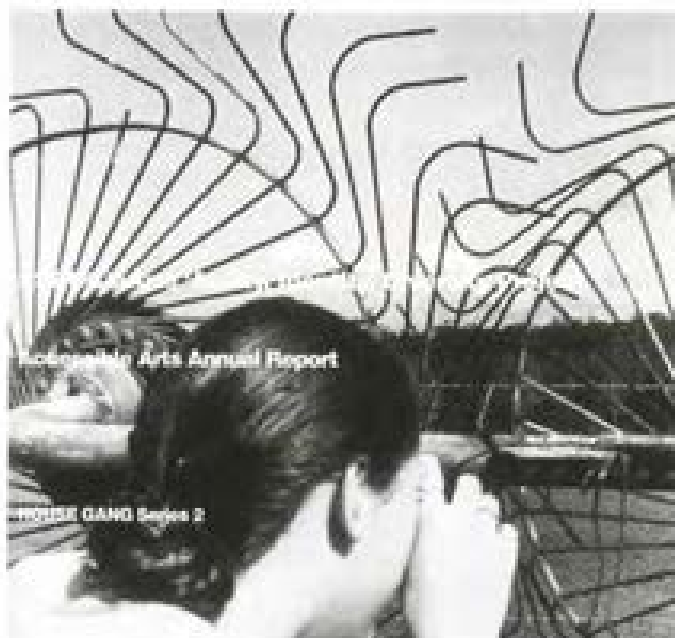
Brief history:

People with disabilities are members of every community and interest group, ethnic and social, regional and subcultural, within Australian society. People with disabilities have consistently been disenfranchised from the cultural life of the broader community. Statistics on the proportion of the population with a disability range from 18% to 25%. People with disabilities form a significant market audience for cultural products and services.

AArts began as an arts project of community Activities Network in 1986. Support for the aims of the project grew and in 1989 AArts became an independent incorporated association. In 1990 the organization received financial support from state and federal governments to establish a statewide service for people with disabilities. AArts is a community based non-profit organisation. Born of the idea to make the arts more accessible to people with disabilities.

ACE

Issue No. 18, October 1998



This significant change from an activities project required AArts to develop a clear strategic development plan.

State and Federal Disability Discrimination Acts have implications for the arts community. As AArts is NSW's only arts organisation focused on disability issues it plays an important role in facilitating the inclusion of people with disabilities in definitions of cultural diversity and identity. AArts builds partnerships, alliances and networks with arts and disability communities as a strategic tool for change and integration. Partnerships and collaborations deliver significant outcomes through a judicious use of limited finances and resources.

Art and disability is a relatively new area of interest in Australia. AArts conducts major research and development initiatives, pilot projects, adaptations of training modules and teaching methods and designs resource material. AArts is a provider of training and arts development programmes and committed to information and support services. AArts is the only arts organisation that advocates for the field of art and disability providing both a NSW and national (DADAA) cultural perspective. It is also one of the few Community Consultation Development organisations that visits regions building art and disability networks across the state.

For over a decade AArts has developed its expertise and knowledge and is currently recognised as a progressive organisation introducing innovative programs and services to a broad cross-section of the community as well as arts and disability sectors. In 1999 the organisation will continue as a vital resource to the arts industry and disability communities.

Chairperson Report

David King

In this report I turn to reflection, maybe this is. So for water and bedazzlements surround us on Pier 4. Churning ferries, shimmering architecture, blue green glassy belle-full 'Slessorisms' or maybe due to me stepping aside from committee duties after being a representative since the early days of this wonderful organization. (Though I will still continue to contribute as a volunteer and as an artist.) We've moved a long way from meetings in drafty buildings, where if you used two

bars on the electric radiator the fuses would blow and if you stayed in one place too long you could be hit by tiles falling from the ceiling. We've moved a long way from red bottom lines and only being able to update computer equipment when the insurance money comes in from the last theft. We've moved a long way from hand to mouth funding, we now receive the 'credits' we are due. We've moved a long way and we are moving still.

In this issue you'll find information about our new Strategic Plan. A lot of effort has gone into getting members and artists and associated organisations to 'have a say' in the directions for



AArts. We are nothing without our members and it was enriching to be part of that process. Many people have contributed heart n'soul over the years. Much has been achieved and much has been won and much has to be done.

AArts gives people choices to explore. Choices to experience. Expression strengthens identity and here people get the opportunities to access creative expression. We are now into our third year here at the Wharf and continue to consolidate our position as the peak Arts and disability organization in NSW.

I want us to recognize the commitment, expertise and passion of our staff; Helen Connors, Neridah Wyatt-Spratt and Robert Keightley. I want to thank my fellow committee members for contributing their time and skills to the management of Accessible Arts. Time is the most precious of resources and to be able to give such quality commitment is truly refreshing.

We are looking forward to contributing to next year's 'extravaganza', growing as an important and innovative player in all areas of culture, continuing to get out there and be 'experienced'.

Treasures Report

Penny Miles

Overall the financial status for Accessible Arts at the end of 1998 is very healthy. For those who have followed the financial trends over the past 4 years (or indeed this can be observed on 97/98 comparison) you will note a marked increase in the income of AArts.

This includes a substantial rise in the level of government funding. The funding consists of one-off grants for specific projects and also represents an overall increase signifying the recognition from both the Commonwealth and State governments of the importance and high quality of AArts work. This recognition also extends to individuals and arts organisations who have demonstrated their support and interest with an 85% increase in membership fees.

The area of project income has also received a boost, with the AArts team having more resources to coordinate innovative projects. Of course with the increased workload we would also expect an increase in expenditure. But through sound management the 1998 rise in expenses has not outweighed the income.

So what does all this mean for AArts heading into 1999? With a comfortable profit AArts has been able to restore a safety net in the area of retained earnings (reserves). As with all arts organisations the safety net is never fool proof as we are always faced with economic pressures in changes with funding, policies and indexation. But AArts have also been able to create some very prudent provisions thus strengthening the security of important projects like the Olympic Arts Festival.

Considering the success of the 1998 figures a special note of thanks and acknowledgment should be extended to our continued government support from the Ageing and Disability Dept, the NSW Ministry for Arts, other financial and in-kind con-

tributors, the long term and new members and of course the Accessible Arts staff.

Executive Officer

Helen Connors

At a time when the organisation is actively involved in the 1999 programme and plans for 2000, I couldn't help but observe, when



Identity, Ability, Diversity at Bondi Pavilion

preparing this report on the 1998 programme, how the organisation has developed and progressed. In providing an outline of key activities for the period I will also aim to identify their 'connection' to proposed initiatives in the future.

During 1998 AArts, catered for the cultural needs of significant numbers of people in both regional and metropolitan NSW. In introducing strategies for change and inclusive practices AArts developed networks and partnerships to present a diverse, innovative and successful annual programme.

In 1998 AArts received financial support for core operational infrastructure from the Ministry for the Arts and Ageing and Disability Department (ADD). During this period AArts successfully negotiated an increase in recurrent funds from ADD to support the Administrative Officer position. Management of AArts continued within the existing structure:

- Organisational Infrastructure
- Information Resource Service
- Arts Programme.

AArts received funds for the arts programme through a variety of sources including the

Australia Council, Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW and Regional Arts NSW. AArts is grateful for their support and plans to develop our working relationship further as we approach 2000.

AArts continued to provide its expertise to all levels of government, recreation, arts and disability organisations through the Consultancy Service. AArts managed to raise additional income through the consultancy services to a range of organisations in order to fund elements of the programme e.g. consultant to Film Australia- House Gang series 2 and the Southern Sydney Regional Organization of Councils-SSROC amongst others.

The size and scope of AArts mission and objectives means priorities must be identified and for 1998/9 period AArts worked to:

- consolidate the internal infrastructure
 - e.g. policy and procedures
- 'finish off' project documentation and research to a standard suitable for publication.

In 1998 AArts successfully provisioned support for 3 full-time staff and gained the assistance of a highly skilled and experienced person as a volunteer.

As art and disability remains a relatively new field of arts practice AArts recognizes the need to resource NSW- particularly regional areas, on innovative methods and techniques for training. AArts continued to design and present projects at the cutting edge of creative development and the process/ outcomes of these projects were documented: music, dance/ movement, new technology. AArts plans to refine and present this material as useful resources - seminar papers, publications - for inclusion in the Paralympic Arts Festival.

ACE Magazine and ACE News remained a valuable resource providing the 'public face' of AArts. It is expected ACE will be utilised as a promotional and marketing tool for the 2000 Games and the arts programme being proposed by AArts.

AArts has always considered it important to work with both the arts and disability communities and during 1998 time was spent developing a range of strategic partnerships and work collaborations with; Ageing and Disability Department for 'Celebrating Ability' Disability Media Awards; Arts Council of NSW in conjunction with Mid

North Coast Regional Arts Development Officer; to regional tour to consult with local communities; Spastic Centre, South South West Region; for a two day art camp; Southern Sydney Regional Organization of Councils (SSROC) for a visual arts programme that involved: Botany Bay, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Marriekville, Randwick, Woollahra, Waverley, South Sydney, and Sutherland Shire Councils.

The significant outcomes achieved through partnership and collaboration have encouraged AArts to establish a working partnership with Sydney Paralympic Organizing Committee and the



Olympic Arts Festivals. AArts' is currently in the process of negotiating AArts role and the presentation of a number of events and functions, visual arts exhibitions, performances, seminar presentations, artform master classes and workshops. Over the next few months AArts will keep readers informed on the development of these exciting initiatives and the opportunity they will present for Australian artists to work with professional practitioners from across Australia and overseas.

1998 marked the completion of the 1995-98 Strategic Plan. In 1999 the Management Committee undertook to develop a new five-year plan that is detailed in this magazine. The evaluation process included focus groups, questionnaires and interviews with 'key stakeholders and identified future directions and priorities for the organisation. The newly developed

1999-2004 Strategic Plan will directly inform the annual Operational Plan of the organization.

AArts has continued as a member of the national network 'Disability in the Arts Disadvantaged in the Arts Australia' (DADAA). From August 1998, AArts took on the role of host organization for the national network coordinator for a period of 18 months. AArts also continued to negotiate its role in the delivery of the Australia Council Disability Action Plan. During this period AArts worked with the Australia Council to provide Disability Awareness Training (DAT) and prepare 'Access all Areas' - Marketing the Arts to Audiences with a Disabilities', published in 1999.

Opportunities for training and professional development have been identified as priorities for people with disabilities. In 1998/9 AArts continued to provide DAT and workshops to educational, arts and community organizations in across NSW. In 1999 AArts will continue to refine, develop and package DAT and promote its training as a valuable tool for marketing and audience development. AArts is currently developing a joint training initiative with the State Library of NSW.

AArts is relatively unique in that it visits regional NSW each year developing contacts and networks. AArts is well informed on regional art needs and the regional arts initiatives undertaken by AArts have impacted so favorably that requests to provide training e.g. DAT and art form master classes, arts projects and to facilitate local networks, far outstretch the resources of AArts. At the moment AArts can only manage to visit and give on-going support to 3 regions a year.

The arts programme continues as an important component of AArts Annual Programme. As outlined throughout this issue of ACE AArts continued to develop and facilitate a diversity of arts initiatives across NSW. AArts plans to expand the program and deliver a cross section of innovative events and entertaining functions during 1999 and throughout 2000.

Finally, in summarising the 1998 programme I am very aware that the services and programmes of AArts would not be possible without the commitment and active contribution of staff, arts tutors, arts consultants, Management Committee, volunteers and members. I thank for your efforts during 1998; now in 1999 and in the future during 2000. I personally appreciate your contributions and look forward to working with you.

Project Officer Report

Neridah Wyatt-Spratt

In 1998 I was able to spread my imagination and in consultation develop several projects that stimulated and challenged me.

I was thrilled and still am, to be working with Jenny Pollak and Luis Vidal on Sydney's first accessible exhibition. Financially supported through what is now the Museums and Galleries Foundation, this exhibition tells a love story through art and text and lets the view wonder through different periods of the artists lives and artwork.

The visual art project with 11 Councils 'Ability Identity Diversity,' even with six months of planning was chaotic, slightly stressful and lots of fun. Great works were produced and hopefully you made it to at least one of the exhibition openings.

All of us in the office, including project coordinator Janelle McIntosh, acquire a reputation for our skill as concreters and the project generated a lot of interest from other tenants as the exhibits took shape.



The Art Camp in Springwood was fantastic and staff at Spastic Centre South South West worked hard to make sure that everything ran smoothly even though several bathrooms had been demolished the week before. Arts workers Lindy, Kate, Camille and Phoebe worked as a team to present an impromptu show to the camps 'King and Queen'.

As I become more and more involved with AArts, I continue to be excited about the possibilities and potentials that exist out there to include and develop art and disability issues.

An Overview of Accessible Arts 1998

AArts is recognised as a progressive arts organisation that provides a diverse, innovative and successful programme. The 1998 programme demonstrated AArts' ability to maintain and initiate activities and services of critical importance.

AArts provided a diverse, innovative and successful programme in 1998. The programme demonstrated AArts ability to maintain and initiate activities and services of critical importance.

Organizational Infrastructure

AArts must regularly identify priority area of work and these are generally set for an 18 month period. In 1999/ 2000 AArts expects the priority will be to negotiate support for AArts' proposed initiatives for the Olympic Arts Festival, focused on the Paralympic period of the festival.

AArts aim will be to co-ordinate and present public events, exhibitions, performances and an international conference during 2000 and 2001.

It is expected the demands on staff will continue to indicate a genuine need for additional staff. AArts will need to gain additional staff if it is going to deliver events planned

A series of on-going issues that are incorporated into AArts activities include:

Develop relationships with peak organizations and funding bodies. Working with a variety of strategic partners to achieve project outcomes. Negotiate areas of responsibility with peak organizations from all sectors.

Exploring aspects of disability culture through projects and identify issues involved with people identifying as a person with a disability. A particular issue is develop strategies that will encourage professional artists with and without

disability to participate in major events planned for 1999 and 2000.

Information Resource Service

With established art and disability networks throughout NSW the Information Resource Service continued to be viewed by members as core business or major services of AArts. Unique in establishing links between the arts and disability sectors, the various components of the service have been designed to encourage change and the development of new initiatives and partnerships.

During 1998 and 1999 to 30 May the number of enquires averaged 34.5 per week. AArts has observed a steady growth in employment referrals i.e. assistance to source experienced artists with and without disabilities. AArts has therefore identified the development of the artist register as a priority and implemented a strategy to locate appropriate artists and to inform interested artists about upcoming training, exhibition and performances. AArts has been responsible for the placement an average of 2 artists per month in paid employment. AArts also has a significant number of requests particularly from the disability sector, for artists with disabilities to perform /exhibit at specific events/ conferences. On average AArts would co-ordinate paid work for 1 or more artists for at least 10 events a year.

A growing facet of the inquiry service has been requests by individuals and organizations seeking arts programmes that include people with disabilities.

The inquiry service is viewed as core business by members and it gives AArts the ability to provide a state perspective in the field of art and disability. AArts has plans to update info and expand the artist register to identify suitable people to train as: contributors to panel discussions for Disability Awareness Training and as new technology 'access' consultants.

Consultancy Service

AArts continues to provide its expertise to all levels of government, recreation, arts and disability organizations. In general, significant time is spent resourcing arts organization that want to consider people with disabilities and in supporting disability organizations wanting to set up arts programmes. This involves assisting with grant applications and administrative support.

Other examples of types of consultancy include:

SSROC- A community art project 'Ability, Identity, Diversity'; working with the Southern Sydney Regional Organization of Councils and its 11 member Local Government areas to celebrate International Day of People with a Disability. The basis for this project was to encourage the disability community into 'thinking' about the existence of a disability culture through participating in an visual arts project that looked at individuals identity, ability and diversity.

Art Camp a weekend camp at which 65 people had the opportunity to experience a diverse range of art forms. AAarts undertook to organize the creative component while the Spastic Centre took responsibility for the day to day support and infrastructure logistics. Over the year a productive and efficient partnership was developed with a great deal of consultation and collaboration between organisations.

In association with Mid North Coast RADO, AAarts travelled in October 1998 throughout the region holding consultation meetings. This led to major regional seminars and workshops run on 23 and 24 July 1999.

AAarts as the New south Wales DADAA organisation is resourcing the Australia Council's Disability Action Plan. In 1999 AAarts is delivering Disability Awareness Training to Australia Council Staff.

Ongoing work Continue to resource the Cultural Olympiad and Paralympics and negotiate partnership for 2000. It is expected that the Cultural Olympiad will be the major activity of AAarts in 2000.

Regional Networks

AAarts continues its relatively unique visits to regional NSW, each year developing new contacts and networks. AAarts is well informed on regional art needs and the regional arts initiatives undertaken by AAarts have impacted so favorably that requests to provide training e.g. DAT and art form master classes, arts programmes and to facilitate local networks far outstrips the resources of AAarts. AAarts can only manage to visit and give on-going support to 3 regions a year. As demands on other AAarts services and programmes expand the organisation will have to be more strategic in its regional work e.g. administer but not coordinate Country Arts Support Programme grants- CASP.

In 1998 AAarts continued to support local networks already established in the Riverina (based in Wagga Wagga) and Central West (Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo) as well as groups and individuals from other regions with design and planning of projects, writing applications and letters of support.

The major challenge for effective regional networks is the need to identify key organizations and individuals in regional areas who will act as ongoing contacts and providers of information resources for the local area.

Central West & Riverina

AAarts has worked directly and indirectly in this region for a number of years. In 1998 activity was limited to the competition of the Country Arts Support Programme (CASP) projects in Dubbo and Orange and assisting with inquiries for the region.

In the Riverina AAarts continues to give advice and assistance with grant applications.

Mid North Coast

AArts worked in association with the Mid North Coast Regional Arts Development Officer at Arts Holiday Coast, on a regional consultancy to Bellingen, Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Taree; to bring the arts and disability communities together and visit key organizations throughout the region. After these meetings AArts has agreed to work with the Mid-North Coast region for 3 years. In July AArts in participation with Hastings Council, Arts Holiday Coast, Adult Education and funded by Regional Arts NSW, held regional planning seminars and artform workshops.

AArts is committed to work with this region during 1999 - 2002.

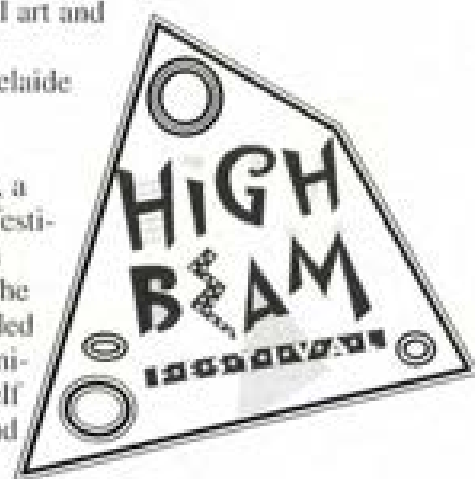
Hunter

During 1998 AArts continued to work on establishing a regional network in the Newcastle and Hunter region bringing the disability and arts sectors together through a number of community and public initiatives such as Carnivale. In 1998 AArts developed local partners such as Community Arts Centres and plans to expand these larger arts initiatives in 1999/2000 particularly with local government on a Sculpture Park.

In 1998 AArts, located a suitable regional contact and DADAA representative for the Hunter region. AArts is fortunate to have a local representative based in Newcastle, Jenny Brown- on a voluntary basis. Jenny has facilitated projects and built on AArts groundwork. This contact allows for a reliable and immediate exchange of information and resources for the local area. In the second year of contact there already appears to be ongoing interests in projects and programme with minimal AArts' support.

High Beam

This inaugural art and disability festival in Adelaide involved exhibitions, performances, a huge lantern festival and a film component. The festival included a two-day seminar on Art, Self Expression and



Identity, which explored issues surrounding disability culture. The programme included works from most States, New Zealand and Sweden. This was a great opportunity to attend workshops, build on skills, gain insights and share experiences with other people within the field of art and disability.

The DADAA national face to face meeting was also held during the festival

International Connections

Mr Uchiyama the director of the 1997 Paralympics arts programme in Nagano, Japan contacted AArts to assist in developing an art experience study tour of different aspects of art and disability in Australia. AArts coordinated a visit and art class with Art Project Australia in Melbourne, a introduction and tour around the VicHealth Gallery at the National Gallery of Victoria and a TheatreSports workshop and video presentation at AArts in Sydney.

Resources and Library

With the move to new premises AArts has been slowly reorganizing and developing its project resource information. 1998/9 has been identified as the year of upgrading organizational infrastructure. It is envisaged that this resource will be coordinated into a simple 'easy use' catalogue system by the middle of 1999, to allow members better access to reference material.

Partnerships

Strategic partnerships and work collaborations were further developed during 1998. Some examples include:

DADAA- Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia National Network.

Film Australia on the production of 'House Gang' series 2.

Australia Council and DADAA on the development and delivery of Disability Awareness Training packages.

Ageing and Disability Department 'Celebrating Ability' Disability Media Awards. AArts is represented on the Steering Committee.

Arts Council of NSW in conjunction with the Mid North Coast RADO, a regional tour to consultant with local communities.

Carnivale for multicultural projects in Sydney (music) and Newcastle (photography workshops and exhibition). These projects aimed to provide skills to arts workers from a multicultural background to enable them to work with people with disabilities.

Spastic Centre, South South West Region; coordination of a two day art camp held in the Blue Mountains for people from across Sydney.

Developing a working relationship with Southern Sydney Regional Organization of Councils (SSROC) via a visual arts programme that involved: Botany Bay, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Marrickville, Randwick, Woollahra, Waverley, South Sydney, and Sutherland Shire Councils.

With Access Plus and RAPS (Recreation and Peer Support), coordinated the first float in the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras specifically for and by people with a disability.

As a member of and in conjunction with DADAA (Disadvantaged in the Arts Disability in the Arts Australia):

Arts in Action, High Beam Festival - conference participation and workshop sessions for the inaugural art and disability festival in Adelaide.

Established a partnership with Sydney Paralympics Organizing Committee and Olympic Arts Festival. AArts is in the process of negotiating AArts' role within these organizations.

With the Australia Council to edit 'Access all Areas' - Marketing the Arts to Audiences with Disabilities', to be published in 1999.

Resource material Audience Development Guide

As a member of the DADAA National Network AArts won the tender to produce a Guide to Marketing the Arts to Audiences with a Disability, funded by the Australia Council as part of their Disability Action Plan. This publication was prepared in consultation with DADAA and involved research, writing text and editing the guide.

Accessing Creative Expression, ACE Magazine and ACE News

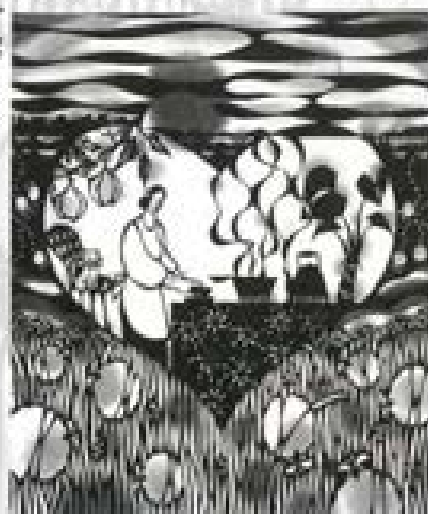
ACE remains a valuable resource providing the 'public face' of AArts. It not only provides a medium to promote training initiatives it provides the opportunity to document/profile arts initiatives and the works of artists. Two issues of 'ACE' magazine and one 'ACE News' were produced in 1998.

ACE is produced in house. During 1998 Staff finalized templates for both publications and changed the printer and the print ready process.

Training

Opportunities for training and professional development are identified priorities for people with disabilities. In 1998 AArts continued to provide Disability Awareness Training to educational, arts and community organizations and run artform training workshops in metropolitan and regional NSW.

With space at the Wharf AArts can consider running Disability Awareness and artform training programmes on site. While AArts receives many inquiries for arts activities, AArts is unsure of the feasibility/viability of a fee paying semester scheme. AArts in 1999 is 'trialing' the potential of a regular arts programme through the 'Integrated Performance Project' (IPP).



During 1998 AArts wrote up its Disability Awareness Training into modules as the next step toward accreditation. In 1999 AArts will continue to refine and develop its DAT and widely promote its training to cultural venues and arts organisations, as a valuable tool for marketing/audience development. AArts has been contracted to provide DAT to the Australia Council staff and fund members.

In the early part of 1998 AArts conducted DAT with representatives from Bangarra Dance Theatre, Echo Neighborhood Centre Gosford Youth Support, Sydney Philharmonic Choirs, Orange TAFE, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Sydney Theatre Company, to name but a few.

Art Programme Art Camp

A weekend camp at which 65 people had the opportunity to experience a diverse range of art forms. The Spastic Centre (South South West region) had the finances and approached AArts about developing an arts activity. For many people across Sydney involved in this project, it was their first experience of an arts programme. A concept of an 'arts camp' was therefore viewed as the most appropriate approach.

AArts undertook to organize the creative component while the Spastic Centre took responsibility for the day to day support and infrastructure logistics. Over the year a productive and efficient partnership was developed with a great deal of consultation and collaboration between the organisations. The Spastic Centre did 'good' groundwork ensuring that a highly successful and appropriate programme was developed, exposing a lot of people to a creative experience.

AArts gained experience in working with a major disability organization showcasing the benefits of the arts and collaborating with people from across Sydney. The Art Camp included the participation of trainees and arts worker who wants to develop skills work on projects with people with disabilities.

AArts employed a photographer to document the project with a focus on images for AArts publicity and publications. The camp ended with a creative performance that brought all the groups together and was attended by the Spastic Centres Regional Manager.

House Gang

A major initiative of the organisation over the past few years has been the 'House Gang' television series featuring people with disabilities. The second series aired on SBS TV in late 1998. AArts involvement was dramatically reduced. 'House Gang', however, remains a powerful media tool for the organisation and its' ability to develop long term strategic relationships within the arts.

The second series was not as closely associated with AArts, with a dispute over final payment between the organisation and Film Australia

Carnivale Newcastle

During AArts' second year in the Hunter region, under the guidance of Jenny Brown, AArts' involvement has gained a momentum of its own. AArts is committed to supporting and encouraging applications made by people in the region to funding bodies for grants.

The 1998 Carnivale funded project in the area was a photographic project where participants used disposable cameras to document and present



images of their lives, feelings and aspirations. All of the participants involved in the project are keen to continue developing skills through arts activities.

Held at the Newcastle Regional Art Gallery the high profile venue attracted radio coverage and the exhibition brought an isolated group into the broader community.

Carnivale Sydney

AArts is committed to developing programmes that directly bring the organization into contact with fellow tenants at The Wharf. A music workshop programme in the Fairfield area resulted in a public performance at Stockland Mall. The project involved young people with an intellectual disability living in group homes through the Post School Option programme and for some it was their first experience in a music programme.

This project had a specific aim of training an arts worker from a multicultural background to work with distinguished musician Lindy Morrison. Lindy who has many years experience working with people with a disability (artistic director Junction House Band). Everyone involved had a great experience, however the programme was treated more as a one-off which is unfortunate.

This project was assisted financially by Fairfield City Council.

Inte-Dance

AArts has been a leading force in the push for integrated movement practice and a regular contact improvisation dance workshop has been the mainstay of this approach. For the second year running AArts acquired funding from Leichhardt Council and classes were held at Lilyfield Community Centre.

These regular workshops have led participants to go on and perform with different groups including mainstream and has seen issues of disability included in Ausdance- Australian Dance Council training.

Three years after this programme started enthusiasm in the group has waned, it has failed to develop a life of its' own and remains reliant on AArts' organisational support.

Mardi Gras

AArts, RAPS-Recreation And Peer Support, Access+ and Sydney Employment Development Service came together to devise and coordinate a float by, for and about people with disability. Its aim to make people with disabilities a visible part of the parade to both the disability and gay/ lesbian communities.

A press release was produced and the float involving members of AArts was featured in Channel 10's Mardi Gras coverage and Access + spokesperson, Kali Wilde was interviewed by several newspapers. The float was designed and constructed by people with disabilities and was financially supported by Sydney Employment Development Service (Western Sydney region).

Novocastrians at Mardi Gras

Jenny Brown, AArts' representative and member in Newcastle, worked with the Kanurrah Day Care Centre - a support service for PLWHAs (People Living With HIV AIDS), turning a 1972 Bedford truck into a giant cicada. Reconciliation is the theme of the float. Jo Smith, a Novocastrian Koori artist, designed the spirit figure used as a motif on the float. The cicada was dot painted with 8 meter organza wings and was selected for the symbolic value of it's life cycle. Didgeridoo player Mini Heath helped musicians from the Community Arts Centre to record a soundtrack.

Accessible Exhibition

For a number of years AArts has been researching and lobbying for cultural institutions to take on board 'access' issues in the design and development of their exhibition. A lack of response has lead AArts to apply to the Regional Galleries Association- now the Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW to develop an exhibition based on two artists who have long been associated with the organization- Jenny Pollak and Lois Vidal.

This project has involved the research, development and presentation of a visual arts exhibition that demonstrates methods and techniques required to make an exhibition accessible to audiences with disabilities.

This exhibition has potential to be ground breaking and fabulous and involves art work of a high standard and suitable for alternate interpretations.

By providing development funding the Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW has recognized the importance of developing systematic approaches to exhibition accessibility. A great deal more work is required to encourage galleries, museums and exhibition spaces to view broad based accessibility into the curating and design of exhibition.

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

AArts established a important relationship through this project with the eleven local government authorities in the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils- SSROC. A community art project 'Ability, Identity, Diversity' was developed that celebrates International Day of People with a Disability. The basis for this project was to encourage the disability community into 'thinking' about the existence of a disability culture through participating in a visual arts project that looks at individuals' identity, ability and diversity.

The project involved a series of workshops in five locations throughout the SSROC region. On 3 December 1998 the works produced went on display in 5 community spaces. On 5 December, all works produced were brought together in a celebration of 'Ability, Identity, Diversity' at Bondi Pavilion.

These exhibitions were in general very successful and openings were attended by Mayors, senior local and state government officials and the odd celebrity, with lots of positive feed-back.

A large project for AAarts, it generated a great deal of interest and local media coverage. Over 380 works were produced and on public display for the week lead-

ing up to the 3 December in local government areas in SSROC group- Southern Sydney, the Inner West and the Eastern Suburbs.

At least one art class will be established as a result of the project in the South Sydney region.

Administrator Report

Robert Keighley

Well settled in at Pier 4 and consolidating our gains after the changes of the 1997, AAarts made sound gains in our financial base and 1998 saw a reinvigoration of enthusiasm reflected in the buoyant membership levels for the year.

Accessible Arts is its' members, friends and colleagues. Community organisations need a community to give guidance and direction, and take an active interest. Two ways to demonstrate your belief in AAarts are by being an active and financial membership and by sharing your experiences, knowledge and skill.

You are crucial to the vivacity, vitality and future direction of your organisation.



1998 Accounts

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1998

1997		1998
114,302.59	CURRENT ASSETS	129,408.99
2,537.99	Cash	3779.86
	Other	
116,840.58	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	133,188.85
14,334.52	NON CURRENT ASSETS	11,495.39
	Property, plant and equipment	
14,334.52	TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	11,495.39
131,175.10	TOTAL ASSETS	144,684.24
104,943.65	CURRENT LIABILITIES	39,525.99
27,929.95	Creditors and borrowings	85,309.05
	Provisions	
132,873.60	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	124,835.04
132,873.60	NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	124,835.04
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	
(1,698.50)	NET ASSETS	19,849.20
12,746.85	EQUITY	(1,698.50)
(14,445.35)	Retained earnings	21,547.70
	Current Year Earnings	
\$(1,698.50)	TOTAL EQUITY	\$19,849.20



Profit and Loss Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 1998

1997		1998
	Incomes	
70,000.00	Grants Received	80,000.00
0.00	- Ministry for the Arts- Core	5,000.00
0.00	- Ministry for the Arts- Information Resource	5,000.00
0.00	- Ministry for the Arts- Special Project	1,400.00
44,289.00	- Spastic Centre Art Camp	77,915.00
14,341.00	- Ageing & Disability Department	28,427.83
1,000.00	- Ageing & Disability Dept.- One Off grant	0.00
0.00	Administered grants	5,446.69
5,778.40	Administration Fees	0.00
1,824.95	Trainee wage subsidies	3,380.00
44,777.62	Membership subscriptions	58,013.19
2,240.00	Project income	220.00
1,394.20	Performance fees	2,412.87
4,400.20	Resource Sales	5,456.07
261.00	Interest Received	327.50
388.96	Consultancy fees	580.00
10.00	Sundry income	244.00
0.00	Donations	777.00
	Profit on Disposal of assets	
190,725.50	TOTAL INCOME	274,600.15
	Less Expenses	
40.00	Administered grant expenses	55.00
1,749.00	Audit fees	2,151.00
2,000.00	Asset replacement provision	25,999.92
275.81	Bank charges and govt tax	287.31
1,275.81	Computer expenses	17,289.99
0.00	Consultants fees	10,290.00
4,786.00	Depreciation	4,560.00
56.00	Documentation	701.91
63.60	Freight, cartage and couriers	168.60
487.10	General expenses	94.99
4,505.85	Insurances	5,478.45
0.00	Interest paid	6.56
0.00	Light & power	87.00
1,738.65	Management Committee expenses	583.30
2,258.80	Motor vehicle expenses	2,113.78
33.20	Office supplies	590.64
2,691.22	Printing, post and stationary	7,601.10
44,443.77	Project costs	31,083.48
5,379.83	Publications	543.95
10,116.47	Rent	12,015.00
4,505.60	Repairs and maintenance	3,133.02
105,338.09	Salaries and wages	111,598.28
3,211.41	Staff expenses	1,156.10
186.50	Subscriptions and donations	425.00
6,471.66	Superannuation	7,114.72
3,022.28	Telephone	5,234.03
174.20	Travelling expenses	2,689.31
\$205,170.85	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$253,052.45
(\$14,445.35)	NET PROFIT / (LOSS)	\$21,547.70

1997	CURRENT ASSETS	1998
	CASH	
8,932.97	Cheque account	19,618.20
105,269.62	Cash management account	109,672.69
100.00	Cash on hand	118.10
\$114,302.59		129,408.99
	RECEIVABLES	
0.00	Trade debtors	0.00
	OTHER	
2,537.99	Prepaid expenses	3779.86
\$116,840.58	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	133,188.85
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
	CREDITORS AND BORROWINGS	
18,195.40	Accrued expenses	19,754.30
86,748.25	Grants in advance	19,771.69
\$104,943.65		\$39,525.99
	PROVISIONS	
7,267.01	Provision for annual leave	8,609.05
3,986.91	Provision for long service leave	9,600.00
11,100.00	Provision for motor vehicle replacement	17,100.00
0.00	Provision for computer replacement	20,000.00
0.00	Provision database design & construction	15,000.00
0.00	Provision for Olympic Arts Festival	15,000.00
\$27,929.95		\$85,309.05
\$132,873.60	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$124,835.04

Page Harrison and Co Chartered Accountants

15 Northcote Street, Milsons Point NSW 2061
Independent auditors report
to the members of Accessible Arts Inc.

Scope

We have audited the financial statements of Accessible Arts Incorporated, for the year ending the 31 December 1998. The Committee are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statement and the information contained therein. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on it to the members. Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures include examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to

whether, in all material respects, the accounts are prepared fairly in accordance with Australian Concepts and standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view of the Accessible Arts Incorporated which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of AArts Inc, as at 31 December 1998 and the result of its operations and cash flows for the year that ended in accordance with applicable Statements of Accounting Concepts, applicable Accounting Standards and the Association Incorporation Act (NSW).

Jake Johnstone
A Partner of
Page Harrison & Co
Chartered Accountants Sydney



What's On & Info

1999 NICAN National Photographic Competition

NICAN is seeking colour and black and white photographs of people with a disability participant in all aspects of community life.

This competition aims to promote positive images of people with disabilities. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning photographs in a range of categories including: participation, friendship family community, achievement, access, tourism, adventure and more.

Entries close Sept 30. The Department of Family and Community Services sponsor the competition

To obtain an entry form contact NICAN on:

Ph: 02 6285 3713



Women and Mental Health Exhibition

Women and Mental Health Inc is coordinating an exhibition to be shown during Mental Health Week Oct 17 - 23. They are looking for artwork of all mediums on any subject that you want to be creative about.

For more information contact Roxanne at Croydon Living Skills and leave you name, address and telephone.

Ph: 02 9744 6788

Awakenings Performing Arts Festival

Awakening is a festival that gives people who are disadvantaged an artistic chance. This festival will be a melting pot of support, fun, achievement and encouragement.

The programme includes:
environmental sculpture activities
Tales in theatre
Life in movement
Awakajam- music programme
performing arts workshops and much more

Inquiries:

Awakenings

c/- Wimmera Community Care

PO box 2 Horsham Victoria 3024

tel: 03 5382 6789

fax: 03 5382 1566

email: wimnet@netconnect.com.au

web: <http://awakenings.horsham.net.au>