

# Access Arts

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Access Arts Inc.

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## **Access Arts Inc. Annual Report**

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## **President's Report**

### ***Highlights of 2014***



**Thomas Bradley**  
***President***

The goals of Access Arts might be summarised as the pursuit of great art and great access, and being a listening and resilient organisation. Here's how we fared in living up to these goals in 2014.

#### **Great art**

The inaugural \$10,000 Access Arts Achievement Award was a major highlight of 2014, made possible by the immense generosity of Access Arts Life Member Peter Vance. The award acknowledges the achievement of the successful artist and helps to fund a significant step in their career development. I would like to record our deep gratitude to the distinguished panel of judges: filmmaker, writer and Archibald Prize winning painter Davida Allen; opera/jazz singer, producer and entertainment agent Janelle Colquhoun; KPMG National Practice Leader Liz Crawford; author Robert Hoge; and Chris Kohn, until recently Artistic Director and CEO of La Boite Theatre Company. The standard of the 19 entries was so high I am sure it made the task of judging profoundly difficult. Congratulations to the winner, actor Doug Robins from Far North Queensland. So close was the competition that a special Highly Commended Award was made to visual artist Tanya Darl.

The Access Arts Achievement Award is a tremendous compliment to and extension of the professional development and mentoring work of Access Arts.



***Tanya Darl, artist from Brisbane Outsiders Artists Studio, demonstrating painting techniques at KPMG***



*The Honourable Ian Walker MP, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts “laughing” in Auslan as he launches the Living Flow Exhibition*

We thank Arts Queensland for presenting grant making workshops for our applicants. I would also like to acknowledge 2014 SAFE Award recipient Rachael Missingham, the award enabled her to take important steps in her artistic practice by attending the “Deaf Access” project at the Australian Theatre Forum in January 2015 as part of the Sydney Festival.

In 2014, for a second year, KPMG hosted an exhibition of the work of our visual artists from Brisbane Outsider Artists and Camera Wanderers in their offices overlooking the Brisbane River. The exhibition was opened during Disability Action Week by the Hon Ian Walker MP who was Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts. Over three months, the exhibition was seen by an estimated 15,000 people. A number of artworks were sold.

McCullough Robertson Lawyers again featured the work of our visual artists in their CBD offices. Among their many other exhibitions in 2014 our visual artists took part in the Brisbane Festival and Art from the Margins.



***Pat Swell with the Access Arts Achievement Award judges Liz Crawford, National Practice Leader, KPMG, Robert Hoge, author and Access Arts Board Member; Janelle Colquhoun, opera/jazz singer; Chris Kohn, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of La Boite Theatre Company with his son; and Archibald Prize-winner Davida Allen, artist, film-maker and writer***

Some less recent work returned to prominence. An original work by our former President, the late Liz Navratil, was given to Access Arts. It now hangs in our office and is pictured on the next page on the occasion when the Commonwealth Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, visited Access Arts in November 2014.

## Great access

Access Arts undertook an Access Appraisal of the 2014 Brisbane Writers Festival last September. In response to our appraisal report they wrote to us: 'Thank you very much to your team for putting together such a comprehensive report for us. I know I speak for all here when I say that we have gained many helpful insights from your appraisal and are looking forward to developing our policies and procedures further'.



***Commonwealth Attorney-General and  
Minister for the Arts, Senator the Hon George  
Brandis QC visiting the Access Arts office***

State Library of Queensland invited our Chief Executive, Pat Swell to sit on their Disability Action Plan Task Group to look at how our State Library might improve its access.

In 2014, David Truong, a visually impaired Access Arts member, was instrumental in the development and assessment of the new Access Arts website, working closely with the digital agency TwoCents to ensure that users with screen readers and visual impairment would be able to read and engage with the new structure and content of the website. Access Arts has had positive feedback from members about the new website's accessibility. In 2014 Access Arts used survey monkey to consult the Access Arts community about our communications. This survey told us that you find the website easy to use. We also found that members like the content of our newsletter and enjoy our regular information updates.

We also completed an access audit of our offices in the early part of the year which resulted in better signage in our Teneriffe premises for our visually impaired members.



## Listening organisation

In our member consultations at the end of 2013, we heard powerful voices from performing artists that you wanted us to develop career pathways so you could extend your artistic horizons.

We set to work to raise the funds for this new initiative. In the course of 2014 we secured a project grant from Arts Queensland, a Regional Arts Development Grant from Moreton Bay Regional Council and generous support from The Ian Potter Foundation to fund an exciting performing arts pilot program planned for 2015. You said, we listened, we acted; and thanks to a good deal of hard work and the assistance of these wonderful supporters, the pilot will culminate in a Disability Arts Festival on 26-27 June 2015.

## Resilient organisation

2014 brought many changes. His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland agreed to take over as Patron of Access Arts, when our previous Patron, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, stepped down as Governor of Queensland. We value this on-going Vice-Regal support and interest in our work.

In 2014 we worked hard to grow our funding base and successfully secured additional project funds and private sector support. Access Arts is especially grateful for a significant gift from Paula Porter, given in memory of her late sister, performer, founding member and Access Arts management committee member Diane Hill; and the continued generosity of Life Member Peter Vance. I would like to thank the Australian Government



***Singer, songwriter and Life Member Peter Vance launching the Access Arts Achievement Award at the Living Flow exhibition***

through the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for its continued support of our work with indigenous artists, undertaken with the guidance and support of indigenous community organisations. I acknowledge the support of the Queensland Government: through both Arts Queensland and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

The weather didn't faze us when venue damage from the fierce November hailstorm forced us to reschedule our community showcase Wonderland and our State Library of Queensland partnership for the International Day of People with Disability ALLtogether. Both events were rescheduled for early 2015.

Wonderland Revisited was a great success in February, ALLtogether will take place at State Library on Sunday 22 March 2015.

Our CEO, Pat Swell, continued to steer the Access Arts ship through the tides and turns of the year. Eddie FitzPatrick, Joelene Scot, Georgia Smith and Jan Spinks left our staff in 2014. Each of them will be remembered for their individual sense of



***Judith Baker's work on display at McCullough Robertson***



vocation and purpose that they made part of the collective Access Arts story. We welcomed Chris Collins and Mel Fawcett who have made their own important contributions to our work. Having balanced the books for another year, we were able to fulfil a commitment to review our staff contracts and improve job security and conditions, to further our goal to be an 'employer of choice'.

In 2014 we reviewed our Constitution to ensure it is fit for purpose, changes resulting from the review were agreed at the March 2014 AGM.

I should like to thank our former Secretary Linda Langley who left the Management Committee at the AGM in March 2014. The time, thought and responsibility of the person fulfilling the unsung role of secretary is key to organisations like Access Arts. I was very pleased that Susan Ball was willing to step into Linda's shoes. Our Treasurer, Catherine Black continued to improve our financial systems and controls, for which all on the management committee are very grateful. James Cunningham and Sam Nicolosi continued their excellent contributions as committee members and were joined by Patrice Mackay and Robert Hoge, broadening and strengthening the management committee team.

**Thomas Bradley QC**

***President***

## **Chief Executive's Report**

### ***Highlights of 2014***



**Pat Swell**  
**Chief Executive**

The achievements of our artists never cease to amaze me. The excellence of your work is impressive.

#### **Visual arts**

Peter Hughes, member of Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio, exhibited five paintings as part of *The Soft Knife Exhibition*. This major exhibition featured the work of iconic Australian photographer Carol Jerrems from the National Gallery of Australia and took place at the Casula Powerhouse in Sydney during April and May.



***Artist Peter Hughes with his work at Living Flow Exhibition***

In 2014 the artwork of our talented artists from our Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio and Camera Wanderers was exhibited in the CBD at McCullough Robertson Foyer, the Mental Illness Fellowship Queensland Exhibition, Brisbane Festival's Republic and Art from the Margins Exhibition in City Hall, *Living Flow* Exhibition at KPMG, *Spectrum Exhibition* and the Bass Espresso Café.



***Members of Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio on a gallery visit to Falling Back to Earth by Cai Guo-Qiang at GOMA***

We also supported artists in their group and solo exhibitions. Alex Crombie had her sixth solo exhibition. Matt Rees' *Dreamscape Exhibition* was shown at the Vera Wade Gallery, Brisbane, and Caboolture Regional Art Gallery.



***Matt Rees' artwork exhibited at the Caboolture Regional Art Gallery***

Lisa Blake had a solo exhibition called *Pets Portraits & Patterns. Unaffected Connected* looked at how three artists – Sam Bullock, Belinda Peel and Martin Edge – view the world.



***Artist Belinda Peel with two of her paintings after giving an artist talk***

***ArtISability artists participating in an abstract art workshop in Ipswich***

### **Professional development for individual artists**

In 2014 60 artists took part in our professional development, working in theatre, music, writing, film and visual arts. Carol O'Reilly, a Deaf writer in Cairns, worked in partnership with Tropical Arts to produce a follow up work to her remarkable Deaf Australian biographies. In Brisbane, Karen Lee Roberts was mentored by dramaturge and script writer Kathryn Kelly to create a dynamic cabaret that will feature Access Arts member and acclaimed blind keyboard artist, Jeff Usher. Maureen Connolly worked closely with Australia's film and television icon Carol Burns to develop a new theatre work focusing on her real life experiences in the world of academia. Rap and music artist Mantist Oryem has had great achievements towards producing and marketing a solo music career. Mantist has plans of making his new single available on iTunes. We assisted Peter Rowe, a children's writer and illustrator based on the Sunshine Coast, and supported Deb Chilton to run ArtISability in Ipswich, a program of professional development workshops for emerging visual artists.

During the year visual artist Lisa Blake completed a mentorship in graphic design under Neisha Phillips, Matt Rees completed his mentorship under artist Silvia Herranz-Gonzalez in exhibition planning and arts business, and Judith Baker completed her mentorship in oil painting with Marcel Desbiens. In August 2014 Carmel Drennan began a mentorship to develop her skills in portraiture. As part of this mentorship Carmel attended a Black and White Portrait Painting Workshop at Lilly-Lee Gallery in Brisbane and a Freehand Drawing Workshop with Brett A Jones in Gympie.



***Carmel Drennan painting at the Gympie Suitcase Market***

## **Community workshops**

Our community workshop program went from strength to strength. Our Access Arts Singers started in 2014 led by Annie Peterson most notably known for her Woodford Festival reputation. On 21 June they performed at the *Fete De La Musique*, St John's Cathedral.



***Access Arts Singers led by Annie Peterson at St John's Cathedral***



***Drumming Workshop, June 2014***

Our ever popular Drumming Circle continued, led by master-drummer Nicole Perry. Artwork created at our two community visual arts workshops was exhibited at our Community Showcase *Catch a Dream* on 14 June and some artwork was sold. We also ran community outreach programs for Oxley Day Service in photography, and drumming at Burnie Brae.

### **Indigenous work-program**

*Yarnin Time*, a storytelling project in partnership with The Healing Centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre Health Service, brought Elders and men and women of various ages together. Some were stolen generation children, some experienced mental health problems, some had general health diseases.



***Aunty Ruth Hegarty sharing her personal journey***



We worked with Inala Wangarra on a *Rite of Passage Ball* for young school leavers. *Celebrating NAIDOC* was a partnership with the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts.



***NAIDOC July 2014***

## **Events**

We were asked to advise on a wide variety of events. Access Arts was approached for performers to feature at the prestigious Queensland Disability Conference on 25 March, we brokered an engagement for Bust A Move dancers.



***DJ Jammers Jack Murphy and David Truong performed on 21 May at Kingscliff Career Expo "Connect to your Future"***

We organised for *The Dokboki Box*, a collaboration between Korean and Australian artists at Metro Arts on 5 June, to be an Auslan interpreted performance. One Deaf member of the audience said she had never seen a theatre performance before and hugely enjoyed the experience.

Our stall at Government House Open Day on 8 June featured live demonstrations by artists Carmel Drennan and Irene Martin-Miller

Mantist Oryem performed with the *No Pain No Gain Crew* Steven and Bolo at the Lord Mayor of Brisbane's official opening of the Botanic Gardens Access Playground on 22 June.



***Mantist Oryem performing with Steven and Bolo of the "No Pain No Gain Crew" at the Lord Mayor of Brisbane's official opening of the Botanic Gardens Access Playground***



***Irene Martin-Miller with her painting at Government House***

We made our debut appearance at the Teneriffe Festival on 5 July. Our stall was animated by artists Lisa Blake, Belinda Peel and Alex Crombie who demonstrated painting techniques.



***Artists Lisa Blake, Belinda Peel and Magda Labuda at the Teneriffe Festival***

Following a series of community arts workshops, Access Arts' *'Movers and Shakers'* were ready for *Brisbane on Parade*, a major street procession which was part of the G20 cultural celebrations that took place on Saturday 1 November.

The Wonderland Songwriters Group formed and rehearsed to perform a new song at *Wonderland*, our end-of-year Showcase event that was postponed until 2015 due to extreme weather.

The year started with Australia Council for the Arts asking Access Arts to host the Queensland launch of their new Artists with Disability Program. On 3 February, 67 Queensland artists attended this launch to find out more about the program.



***Anna Paas and Susan Ball at  
Brisbane on Parade***

A milestone moment was when our Project Coordinator Belinda Locke was asked to represent Access Arts at the State Reception in Brisbane on 16 April for their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. I am privileged to work among such talented people.



***Project Coordinator Belinda Locke representing Access Arts at the State Reception in Brisbane for their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge***

## **Thank you**

Without our funders, partners, supporters and donors we could not achieve the range and breadth of work that we do. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts and we are extremely grateful to our whole Access Arts Family for the wonderful way you support us. I should like to thank our very many donors who have contributed to our work. I should also like to thank A&G Holdings PTY Ltd; Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts; Art From the Margins; Beyondblue; Board Connect; BoysTown; Brisbane Festival; Caxton Legal Centre; Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland; Career Keys; Deaf Services QLD; Flying Arts; Inala Wangarra Inc; InsideOutside Theatre; Giuliana Bonel; Kambu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health; Karakan; KPMG; Lorelei Baum; McCullough Robertson Lawyers; Merthyr Village New Farm Shops; Minter Ellison Lawyers; New Farm Neighbourhood Centre; New Horizons Learning Centre (Brisbane); New Farm Rotary; Queensland Theatre Company; State Library of Queensland; SWARA; The Healing Centre, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health; and Vision Australia. I should also like to thank our core funders, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australian Government; and Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

**Pat Swell**

***Chief Executive***

## **Treasurer's Report**

### ***Highlights - Financial Results***

Year ending 31 December	2014	2013
<b>Revenue</b>	\$691,906	\$723,130
<b>Surplus</b>	\$55,036	\$2,424
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$321,153	\$189,464#
<b>Available Equity</b>	\$61,119	\$67,724

# Note: The figure in the 2013 Financial Report is \$186,520. The difference to the figure shown above for 2013 is due to payment received by Access Arts post balance date, for an input tax credit relating to the 2013 financial year.

Access Arts finished 2014 after a successful year for its members and the launch of a significant new award to support our artist members to achieve advancement in their field of the arts – the Access Arts Achievement Award.

Likewise Access Arts continues to strive to support our members by sound management of our financial resources. Our ability to deliver outstanding services and at the same time prudently managing expenses to ensure our financial sustainability is paramount. In 2014 the Access Arts team effectively managed the financial resources in an environment where there has been and no doubt will continue to be challenges to the funding arrangements for the disability sector and not-for-profit industry in general.

The organisation declared a surplus operating result of \$55,036. The importance of this contribution to the Retained Earnings is expected to be critical as Access Arts navigates these challenges in 2015 and beyond.

Of the very generous contribution of \$20,000 from Peter Vance to establish the Access Arts Achievement Award, \$10,000 was awarded to the inaugural winner in late 2014. This year's Award of \$10,000 will be made in late 2015. This donation has been deposited into a designated term deposit with our bank Bendigo Bank. This

Award together with the SAFE Fund and other funds held on trust gives a total of funds held on trust for the benefit of members through various programs of \$124,970 at financial year end.

In the 2014 Financial Report those funds held in trust have been highlighted to better reflect the purpose of these funds i.e., these funds are not available to support the core operations of Access Arts. To this end \$61,640 has been transferred from Retained Earnings to Reserves and comprises the 2013 \$30,000 SAFE Fund, previous building fund, SAFE donations and accrued interest. Cash at bank is held in Access Arts Inc Bendigo Bank Cash Management Account and Term Deposit. Cash at bank will be used for operations during 2015.

In 2014 the Management Committee was very pleased to be able to offer permanent employment contracts for core staff providing more sustainable staffing arrangements. This provides stability for the organisation which ultimately benefits the members. This was an objective of the Management Committee and CEO for some time. The financial impact of this change introduced from 1 July 2014 is reflected in the 2014 Financial Report for this six month period.

**Catherine Black**

***Treasurer***



## **Patron**

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland

## **Board Members - 31 December 2014**

Thomas Bradley QC: President

Catherine Black: Treasurer

Susan Ball: Secretary

James Cunningham: Ordinary Member

Robert Hoge: Ordinary Member

Patrice McKay: Ordinary Member

Sam Nicolosi: Ordinary Member

## **Access Arts Team - 31 December 2014**

Pat Swell: Chief Executive

Chris Collins: Finance and Office Coordinator

Jan Spinks: Finance Officer

Melanie Fawcett: Marketing Coordinator

Rachel Gaffney-Dawson: Visual Arts Coordinator

Belinda Locke: Project Coordinator

Joelene Scot: Arts Administrator

Harmonie Downes: Administrator

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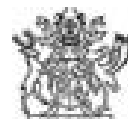
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Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



**Queensland  
Government**