

# Access



*Season's Greetings*

Newsletter of Arts Access Society Inc.

Christmas edition 1988

## A celebration of ——— creation

**"Fantastic! Ace! Impressive! Extraordinary! These were just some of the comments from the visitors book at the 'Art Party' exhibition.**

Readers of our earlier newsletters will recall the visual arts workshops undertaken by Ruth Clarke and Tori de Mestre with children from disadvantaged backgrounds all over Melbourne.

The childrens' work — the culmination of the nine month project made possible through a Bicentennial Authority grant — was exhibited in community tents at the Bicentennial travelling exhibition early in November. Hung with festoon lighting, draped in ribbons and with flags flying, the exhibition lived up to its 'Art Party' title. Many thousands of children and adults passed through the four tents to view works of art, including a futuristic car, an enormous wall hanging, a golden city, puppets, costumes, dioramas, printed fabrics and masks.

Fierce winds on the second night of the exhibition meant that all the work had to be re-hung, but even this could not take the shine from the work. It was colourful and uplifting, and also showed viewers the achievements of the participants.

Often repeated comments were "how creative children are" and "I wish I'd had



*Some of the artists who took part in the best Art Party for 200 years.*

the chance to do this kind of thing". All the young artists whose work was exhibited visited the 't Party' tents, where they had their photographs taken and delighted in hearing others admire their work.

The public response to the exhibition, and above all the children's response to working with Ruth and Tori on the many

visual arts and construction activities convinces us that there must be more. Arts Access plans a 'Great Art Kite Fly' for 1989. Funds are still being sought for this project.

The visitors book provides us with the right word — ENCORE!

## Barbed Wire - Behind and Beyond



**Victorian Education Minister, Joan Kirner, praised all those involved in a poster-design and screen-printing project involving boys at the Turana Youth Training Centre.**

The Minister's words of praise came at the launching of the posters at Turana on Wednesday, November 30. The project came about following a grant from the Bicentennial Authority and Community Services Victoria.

It was supported by Turana school and its staff and employed artists Jeff Stewart and Jillian Gibb to work up a set of four posters and a display. The posters looked at life — inside Turana, outside Turana and into the future. The artists used photography, and worked with the boys on design and drawing skills, and taught the screen-printing process through the use of facilities at Redletter Press.

Roses, tattoo motifs, skulls, bars, boys, beds and street graffiti feature on the posters. The resulting work reflected the boys' perceptions and skills and will now be used in its display form as an educational tool. It will travel to other Youth Training Centres and schools and provide an insight into the boys' lives. The posters were launched by the Minister for Education, Joan Kirner.

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**A Christmas Gift — that lasts a year**

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# You can play a part

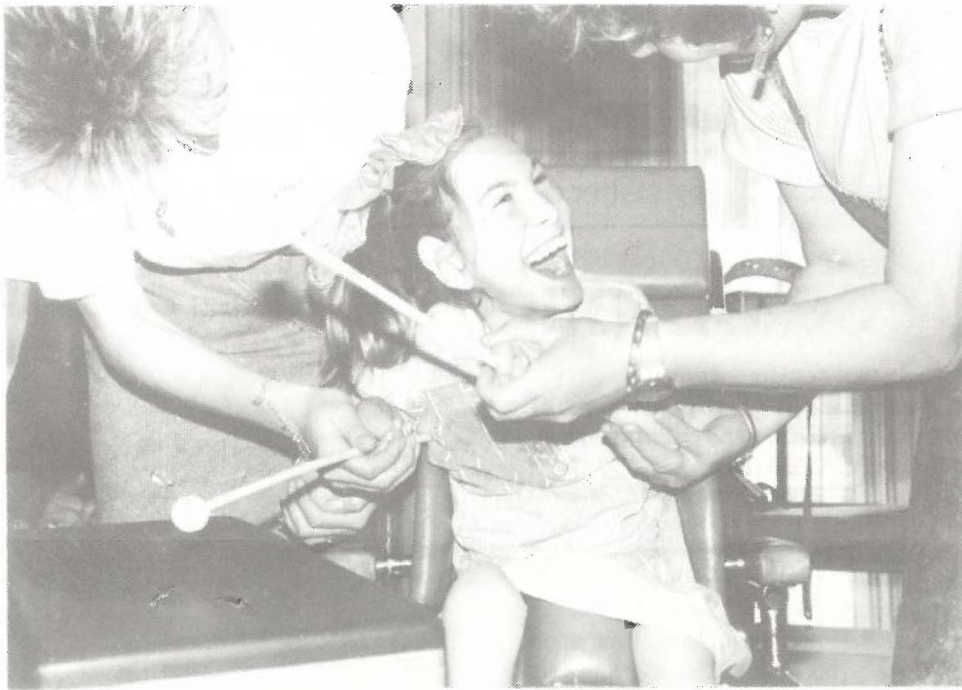
Christmas is always a time to draw breath, sit back, look at the year that is about to pass and plan for the next. All our readers will know of the changes and achievements of Arts Access in this the bi-centennial year. Achievements and changes such as – Dinny Downie's departure, the creation of the Development Officer position, the growth of the Entertainment Access Service (EASE) project and an ever increasing diversity of projects in the community.

As always the support of members, artists, programme-users and participants, committee members and staff has been crucial to the achievements of this year.

We look ahead to 1989 and the impact of an Arts Access poster and new information materials; plans for artists' residencies in remand centres, prison and institutions; integration with the CAE and the expansion of work linking special-accommodation-house residents to community services; a Great Art Kite Fly which will mirror the Art Party project; increased resource, consultancy and training work; a music video project; a photography exhibition; and much more.

But as the demand for our work grows, greater demand is placed particularly on our funding resources. For instance, the development of a residency project at Caloola centre in Sunbury means constant discussions with government and community support sources.

The Service Clubs of Sunbury and of Melbourne have been very open to hearing about ways in which they can support our work and there is support in principle from various parts of Community Services of Victoria for this project. Like



*Musical magic at Yarrambat SDS.*

many other of our projects however, the task is to galvanise this approval into action.

If you can play a more active part in continuing to maintain and develop our work, please get in touch with us, by calling 699 8299 or writing to us at 109-111 Sturt St., South Melbourne. 3205.

Financial support – although necessary – is not the only support you can give. You may know influential people (or be one!); you may have expertise in business, marketing and planning, you could attend the AGM, participate in small committee when needed, be a friend, volunteer, talk to people, invite us to your

club, initiate a project, talk to your local parliamentarian, or a minister in the government, let someone know about EASE, drop in, offer the services or goals of your place of work, assist with publicity or organise a function.

We hope that, 1989 will be as busy and fruitful a year for our members as it will for the staff and management committee.

In the meantime best wishes for the Christmas and holiday season – and many thanks for your membership and interest.

Kate Brennan  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Office gossip

**Judith Isherwood, former stage manager and tertiary college technical theatre lecturer, has joined Arts Access in the newly-created position of Development Officer.**

Judith has a wealth of experience in Australian performing arts. She graduated eight years ago at the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney and although born and bred in Victoria, has spent most of her working life in NSW and WA.

After graduating in Sydney, Judith moved to Perth, Western Australia to take up positions as stage manager for the WA Opera Company, the WA Theatre Company and the WA Ballet Company.

During her time with these major companies, Judith worked with some of Australia's best entertainers

including Jill Perryman, Judy Davis, Graham Blundell, Graeme Murphy and Kelvin Coe.

After teaching technical theatre to students at WA's Academy of Performing Arts she moved to Melbourne to broaden her administration and marketing skills with a national financial group before joining Arts Access.

**For some it is the City OR the Bush, but for Susie Dickson it is going to be the City AND the Bush. Susie, who has been our receptionist and invaluable photographer (and resident wit) is leaving Arts Access for a photographic position on a rural newspaper.**

Susie's cheerfulness, efficiency and photographic skills will be missed by everyone. However, we wish her many happy days, green pastures, rolling hills, and fresh air – NO BULL!

Arts Access Society Inc is a non-profit organisation committed to providing access to those who are disabled and disadvantaged.

Executive Director: Kate Brennan  
Development Officer: Judith Isherwood  
Project Officer: Carey Lai  
EASE Project Officer: Chris Milton  
Office Administrator: Leanne Sarah  
Office Assistant/Photographer: Susie Dickson  
Finance Consultant: John Paxinos  
EASE Administrative Assistant: Barbara Milne  
EASE Secretary/Bookkeeper: Jeanette Pierce  
Volunteer Office Assistant: Suzanne O'Dwyer  
EASE Volunteers: David Eustice  
Tracey Willis  
Christine Duncan

# Hats Hosts 'Beach Party'

Performances of EDAR's 'Beach Party' took place at Hats Theatre in Mont Albert on November 24th with a gala performance on December 8th. Participants in EDAR's drama group worked with artist Andrew Martin, to refine their own stories and improvisations into the public performance which was attended by friends, family, members of the public and invited guests.

The performance, based on the theme of "beach events", included mime, dance, games and audience participation, and provided an opportunity for the actors to showcase their creativity and independence.

Shirley Carlos and the staff at EDAR worked with participants outside the drama sessions to create costumes and settings for the performance. The first short performance left many performers and audience clamouring for more, and the gala performance a fortnight later



*Douglas Ewan and Darren Bray – on the beach.*

confirmed EDAR's commitment to the drama group. Arts Access is currently seeking funds to support a larger scale

project next year, which further integrates EDAR with its local community. (EDAR is the Eastern District's Association for the Retarded.)

## Programming Update

**Austin Hospital Mural** – a project about to commence with patients of the hospital's oncology unit.

**Moomba** – negotiations are underway to provide greater opportunities for participation in the Moomba parade.

**Closing the Gap Exhibition** – Sally Marsden Cath Land, Bernice McPherson and Pat Dale are working with eight groups of senior citizens' toward an exhibition of the art of older people to be held at the Moore Gallery CAE, Flinders Street, February 27th to the end of March.

**CAE Integration** – a multi arts project is currently being planned in conjunction with the performing arts department at the CAE. The project will invite enrolments from people with and without disabilities.

**Arts Disability Information Kit** – for all people wishing to explore options available to them through the arts. Production scheduled for early 1989.

**Bairnsdale Mural** – the Bairnsdale arts and recreation group have initiated a community mural as a result of Arts Access input and strong local support.

## A Christmas Gift – that lasts a year

**ARTS Access**

**Join Arts Access now, and you will help us reach more people in 1989.**

**By joining Arts Access you can play a part in the exciting range of programmes planned for the coming year. Memberships range from \$10 to \$45 and are tax deductible. To play a part, please fill in your name and address, enclose a cheque or money order and send it off to Arts Access, 109-111 Sturt St., South Melbourne, 3205. We will keep you in touch about our work in the coming year.**

**I wish to become a member of Arts Access, to help further your work.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

● **Membership is tax-deductible**

Memberships – Single \_\_\_\_\_ \$20

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_ \$45

Concession \_\_\_\_\_ \$10

Please send cheque/money order to:

**ARTS ACCESS**  
**109-111 STURT ST., SOUTH MELBOURNE. 3205.**



# Installing Designer Bricks and Totems



Three four-metre totem poles and a mosaic of personally-inscribed bricks installed in the grounds of Larundel form a lasting contribution by Arts Access trainee artsworkeer to the life of the centre.

Anne Marie de Jong dedicated her installation at Larundel's third celebration day late in November where she and artists Richard Bengel and Libby O'Neill co-ordinated a sculptural-food competition, a sculptural-hat parade, construction of enormous puppets and a performance, buskers, workshops and musical events, in a celebration of the Larundel community.

Anne Marie's special project commenced months ago with the donation of 450 unfired bricks by NUBRICK. Thus began workshops to inscribe and design bricks by hospital residents and staff. Even Arts Access' director appropriately inscribed a brick! The laying of 450 bricks was nothing compared to the engineering feat of mounting many large ceramic creations on steel pipes and embedding them in the Larundel clay.

However even the November deluges were conquered and Anne Marie was able to dedicate her work to the past, present and future of those who pass through the hospital.

*Photos by Susie Dickson*

*Thanks to Graham Berry and Typographical Services.*

## ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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