

arts access news

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spring 1996

editorial

by Helen Bowman

The last three months have seen some significant developments both nationally and internationally for arts and disability.

The Arts Access Cultural Exchange program has had a major boost with the very successful project in China during May and June.

The project saw the visual artists Claire Humphrys-Hunt and Jenny McCarthy together with tour co-ordinator Barbara Doherty travel to the cities of Nanjing and Chanchun to conduct collaborative arts projects with local young adults and children with disabilities.

Travelling via Beijing, the delegation also had an opportunity for discussions with representatives of the China Disabled Persons Federation.

This project has consolidated a relationship with both the Federation and the provincial centres of Jilin and Jiangsu and offers significant opportunities for further projects including our hosting artists from China to work on projects here. There will be a public presentation on the China project later this year as part of our Artist Forum program.

Do let us know if you would like to be included on the mailing list by giving Samantha a call on 9699 8299.

The Art and Disability Program of the Australia Council has recently provided financial support to a national committee of DADAA. Funding will enable DADAA to have a half-time national co-ordinator and to undertake a number of specific projects. The first of these is the On-line Project which will put all of the DADAA members on-line. A major national communications strategy will be undertaken by DADAA over the next twelve months.

Finally, this month sees some changes within Arts Access – Bobbie Hodge goes on leave for one year and will be replaced by Ruth Whittingham who joins us from her role as director of Ausdance, while Carol Downey leaves after seven years as Information Services Co-ordinator to travel overseas. We welcome Martin Wurt who will take over her position in September.



Profile

Claire Humphrys-Hunt and Jenny McCarthy are two visual artists, both of whom have contributed significantly to the work of Arts Access, most recently in China as part of a cultural exchange program.

Claire's work in the field of community cultural development spans over a decade, initially in England with the Manchester "Hospital Arts" program and, since the early 1990s, in Melbourne with a range of community agencies including the Royal Melbourne Hospital's Oncology Unit, community health centres and, for over three years, the Larundel Psychiatric Hospital.

Claire has worked on a number of Arts Access projects over the last five years including the production, "Voices of the City", and the Saturday morning art classes.

"This area of work allows me to take people through an entire process from conception to conclusion. It is a wonderful way to learn how to work through things. This process equips people to do the same things in other areas of their lives. I do enjoy using my abilities and my own life experiences to help enhance the lives of others, and it also gives me an opportunity to

make people laugh – which is one of life's greatest gifts and healers – through the work."

Working in China gave Claire the opportunity to work with children which is something she does not often do. "Children are fresh and do not come with a lot of baggage. Because there was a language barrier it was remarkable to experience how easily we could communicate and relate with the children through our humanness as well as through our art," she adds.

Jenny had her start working in the field of community arts and disability in 1987 as a co-ordinator rather than as an artist, co-ordinating the "Painting, Prints and Poles" project for Arts Access.

With that project Jenny 'got the bug' and it launched her into working with a very wide range of communities including health centres, neighbourhood houses, juvenile justice centres and hospitals whilst continuing to maintain a strong link with Arts Access, working on a number of projects including the North West Hospital,

Southport Community Health Centre and the Art for Health Project at the Austin. For Jenny every project has been rich, full, powerful and exhausting. She loves "the creative dynamic, the evolution of ideas and the way in which groups feed together in the creative process."

The China project gave Jenny the opportunity for real cultural exchange. "It was very much a two way thing showing a new process – one that was unusual and unique in that everyone could have access – it didn't have to be too perfect to be something with real aesthetic – and how through that process, we communicated without a common language. It was an extraordinary opportunity and we learnt stacks."

arts access news

The Arts Access Studio is available for one more exhibition season this year, from 16th September to 13th October.

The following exhibitions were held during the last season, finishing on the 21st July:

Fred Collia Exhibition
23rd June – 29th June

Institute for the Blind Exhibition
15th July – 21st July

On either side of the remaining exhibition block, the studio is available for hire for various purposes including conferences, workshops, meetings etc. Call Sam at Arts Access on 9699 8299.

Mixed Media Art Classes
The third term of mixed media art classes begins on 27th July and runs every Saturday morning until 14th September

Saturday Morning Art Classes
Term 3 will run every Saturday morning until 14 October. Bookings are still open for term 4, beginning on 19th October until 7th December.

Creative Movement Classes
One term will run every

Friday afternoon from 25th October to 13th December.

For bookings and information on the above classes, please call Arts Access on 9699 8299.

Wandering and Wondering
On Thursday 8th of August, Sally Marsden's presentation was held in the Studio at Arts Access. A recipient of an Australia Council fellowship, she discussed her collaborative creative work, including her trip to England, Russia and Europe as part of her fellowship.

Dream Journeys
An exhibition from 5th – 28th September. This exhibition represents the dream journeys of a group of people with an intellectual disability. The exhibition is a project of the Art Day West Program led by artists Lyndsay Mason and Claire Teisen.

During July, Jedda Bellham ran the very successful ACRACS program as part of Arts Access' training for 1996. The two modules offered covered Researching and Resourcing on Arts project, and developing and facilitating an arts project. For more information about the Training Program, contact Arts Access on 9699 8299.

Calender

Dream Journeys Exhibition
5th – 28th September
Provisions Cafe Gallery
Williamstown

Experiencing Disability Seminar
20th September
Scienceworks
Spotswood

October China Presentation
details TBA

ACRACS
Certificate Presentations

Disability Awareness Seminar
15th November
Her Majesty's Theatre
Ballarat

Mixed Media Classes
Term 3
27th July – 14th September

Creative Movement Classes
25th October to 13th December
Every Friday afternoon
2pm – 4pm

Saturday Morning Art Classes
Term 3
27th July – 14 October
Term 4
19th October – 7th December

EASE

Ease Ticket Service

It's official, EASE is a millionaire! June 1996 marked a milestone in the EASE ticket service with total ticket sales passing the \$1 million mark. That works out to well over 100,000 tickets distributed since 1987 to hundreds of arts, sporting and cultural events.

From Jeff Fenech to Oscar Wilde, and even the odd Elvis Impersonator, EASE has worked to provide subscribers with a broad range of entertainment options at low cost prices.

Of course EASE could not have achieved this without the collaboration and support of the vast number of promoters, venue managers and ticketing agencies in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and New Zealand, and without the great commitment of EASE staff and volunteers, past and present.

We look forward to the next million, and with the number of EASE supporters and subscribers growing rapidly, this shouldn't be too far in the future.

Industry development program

The EASE training program goes from strength to strength with two successful seminars in the last two months.

An exclusive training seminar, Developing an Action Plan, was given to Museum of Victoria staff in June. The museum is currently in the process of policy formation for the new Carlton building. The seminar, which is based on the Disability Discrimination Act, provided development staff with the perfect opportunity to focus on access issues at their venue and begin the process of formal policy development. The Malthouse Theatre played host to the July Disability Awareness seminar which was well attended by staff from venues such as Melbourne Park, Melbourne Cricket Club and Olympic Park. With a focus on understanding disability and servicing customers with disabilities, sessions were an introduction to the Disability Discrimination Act and a panel of consumers with disabilities talking about their venue experiences.

Participant feedback was positive. Irene Pagram from The Shire Of Campaspe in Echuca said "The panel...had real people living real lives



Photo taken from South East Melbourne Mag, who first used a fully free copyright of EASE.

giving us the benefit of their experience". Fiona Hanrahan of Melbourne Park commented "This is the area that I have not had the opportunity in the past to discuss. I found today informative and very helpful in the issues I deal with each day".

For those who have missed out so far on training, we still have places available in the last two seminars for this year.

These are:

Experiencing Disability Seminar
Friday 20th September
Scienceworks
Spotswood

Disability Awareness Seminar
Friday 24th November
Her Majesty's Theatre
Ballarat

Each seminar costs \$90 per person which includes lunch and a resource kit. For more information or to enrol please call:

Dean Michael
EASE Program Manager
03 9699 7636
(Phone and TTY)

artistic program

artistic program

Now that we have reached the half way mark of the year, most of the projects through the artistic program are underway:

The Juvenile Justice Program has commenced with Jenny Bright taking creative writing workshops with the young men at the Malmsbury Juvenile Justice Centre in the first stage. The second stage involving visual artist Anton Hasell has just commenced, and Anton is working with participants through the Intake Unit. He will take two workshop sessions each week between July and October.

The Special Residential Services (SRS) program – southern region. Following an initial review of the scope and scale of SRS services in the Prahran and Malvern areas, Jemma Bellham, the SRS co-ordinator, has established a visual arts project with artist Maria Filippow, working with the residents of the Anderson House and Langdale SRS's over a period of twelve weeks. It is anticipated that the project will culminate with a presentation of the residents' art works.

Term Three of the Saturday Morning Art Classes has commenced with Claire Humphrys-Hunt, and Term Four will be held from October to December.

This year we are also introducing a term of Creative Movement with movement artist Sue Mullane. Sue will be taking these classes between 2pm and 4pm on Friday afternoons, between Friday 25th October and Friday 13th December.

If you wish to book a place for Term Four of the Visual Art Class or Creative Movement please contact Arts Access.

The St Kilda Drop in Centre project has been specifically designed for women with psychiatric disabilities residing in the St. Kilda, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne areas and who are isolated or lack creative options. Artist Margot Rosser is working with the women, between June and September, with a focus on textiles, and they are designing and creating a range of works for the Centre.

The China Cultural Exchange Program conducted by Arts Access with a range of Chinese host agencies has proved an outstanding success. Visual artists Claire Humphrys-Hunt and Jennifer McCarthy, with tour co-ordinator Barbara Doherty, spent four weeks in Jiangsu Province, Jilin, Province and Beijing during May and June. The focus of the Program was to establish a relationship between the Australian artists

and Chinese students, educators and disability agencies to explore collaborative and contemporary art practice and techniques. Claire and Jennifer were based in schools in Nanjing and Changchun, and worked with students with intellectual and physical disabilities, teachers and families to create two large textile works, 4 metres by 3.5 metres in size. Both works reflect the themes of cultural identity, icons and place. The Arts Access team also met with a broad range of cultural and disability agencies, artists and performers, including the National China Disabled Persons Federation in Beijing. If you are interested in further details about this program, the report will soon be available through the Arts Access Resource Centre, and we are planning a presentation by Claire, Jenny and Barbara later in the year. Our thanks to Qantas for their sponsorship support.



Information and training service

Information Service New Catalogue Items June - July 1996

Ian Parsons & Sue Tait Acting Against Disability Discrimination.

A practical manual for using the disability discrimination act. It identifies and defines areas of disability discrimination complaint and is an essential reference for legal advocates, community education or development workers, advocacy organisations or anyone providing support or advice to people with disabilities

National MS Society U.S.A. The Creative Will: Project Rembrandt

Project Rembrandt was a juried national contemporary art exhibition for professional artists who have multiple sclerosis. This publication documents the works and profiles the artists who were selected to exhibit in this tenth anniversary exhibition.

Peter Scher Patient Focused Architecture For Health Care.

This study aims to promote the public's understanding of architecture in general and in the field of health care in particular. The basic elements of health care and of architecture are brought together by focusing sharply on the needs of the patients. The book has an accompanying video.

CANDO Dance Company

An information kit on Cando Co, a professional integrated dance company in England. This company also operates an extensive education and training program. Different promotional videos are available.

Peggy Hutchison & Judith McGill Leisure Integration And Community

The first Canadian textbook in the field of leisure and people with disabilities. A resource for people who are facilitating integrated leisure opportunities in the community including recreationalists working in community settings, health care settings and institutions.

Deldre Williams Creating Social Capital: A Study Of The Long Term Benefits From Community Based Arts Funding

The information in this report was collected by surveying a national sample of community based arts projects funded by the Australia Council in 1991, and is derived from nine case studies within that sample. The findings show that community arts-based projects deliver substantial benefits in social, educational, artistic and economic terms.

Queensland Community Arts Network News: Youth Arts

The first edition for 1996 of the CANQ features Youth Arts

in Queensland. It documents a range of projects in a variety of art forms throughout the state.

Workguide - How to Establish an Artist in Community Project

The Workguide takes the reader through a logical sequence of project development from an initial concept through the organisational and financial considerations to the selection and employment of an artist. A series of insert sheets are also included, giving further contacts for peak arts and legal organisations, unions, funding bodies and materials suppliers. Developed to answer the most frequently asked questions of groups, organisations and artists, this practical and comprehensive publication is a revised and updated edition published by and available from Arts Access for \$10 (includes postage and handling).

Arts Access Reference Library

Is a major collection of materials which support and inform on arts practice, management, issues, events, access, training and projects as they relate to people with disabilities and people disadvantaged by social conditions. Assistance in searching for specific information is available.

Internet Information

The development of the Arts Access homepage allows us to use the latest technology to fulfil our mission in regards to creating opportunities for people to be involved in the arts, even from the home computer. Arts Access' homepage has its first birthday in September, and to celebrate, it is getting a facelift from web editor Neil Blankiron. Currently, the homepage contains information about Arts Access – who we are, what we do, events and exhibitions and where you can reach us. There are also links to other sites, such as DADAA, educational institutions and providers, software for people with disabilities, and other arts sites. Over 200 people have visited our homepage, many of them responding with e-mail messages requesting further information, sometimes from as far away as North America! The future holds improvements for the homepage, with the inclusion of Training Information, Artistic

Program news and artworks by artists working in the community. There is also the potential to put the library and information data base on-line, which would make our unique collection more accessible to both members and the general public.

Surf the net with EASE

The most recent addition means that EASE subscribers who have access to The Net can now book tickets, receive their monthly ticket update and request entertainment or access information via e-mail. To register simply drop us a line at artsacc@vicnet.net.au or phone Lisa on 9699 8497.

To get more information on Arts Access and the EASE Program through cyberspace you can visit the Arts Access home page on <http://vicnet.net.au/~artsacc/artsacc.htm>.

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

This vision of equal access, choice and active participation will be achieved in partnership with people with disabilities and people disadvantaged by social conditions and through leadership in the broader arts community. Arts Access achieves this mission through: The Artistic Program creating access to artistic practice through a wide range of programs, many of which are practical artist-in-residence projects in diverse community settings working with all forms of the arts to develop the artistic, technical and social skills of participants and to

promote their personal well-being; The Entertainment Access Service (EASE) developing equal access to arts, entertainment, sporting and other cultural events in partnership with its subscribers and supporters achieving this through three programs - the EASE Ticket Service, the Venue Access Program, and the EASE Industry Development Program; Information and the Training Services provides organisations and individuals with material resources and training on arts practice, management, policy, policy development, education, employment and access to the arts as they relate to people with disabilities and people disadvantaged by social conditions.



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