



arts access

Calendar of Events
Editorial
Profiles
DADAA
EASE
Information Service

news

2006
AUTUMN

ARTS
Access

Earlier this year the Arts Access Studio
was given a new coat of paint,
both on walls and doors.
It looks 100% better.

The Arts Access Studio is available for
booking in three season blocks this year
specifically for exhibition use.

The dates of these remaining blocks
are as follows:

24th June – 21st July

16th September – 13th October

The following artists have held
exhibitions in the studio:

4th March – 15th March

RichardENZINS Exhibition

1st April – 19th April

Miro Sindik Exhibition

21st April – 28th April

Annie Danby Exhibition

On either side of the exhibition blocks,
the studio is available for hire
for various purposes including:
meetings, conferences,
workshops etc.

Mixed Media Art

The first term of mixed media art classes
for people with a psychiatric disability
has been running on Saturday morning
from 10.00 am – 12.00 pm.

The remaining three terms
will take place
as follows:

4th May – 22nd June

27th July – 14th September

19th October – 7th December

On Thursday 28th of March the artist
Maria Filippow gave a presentation
on the findings of her
international research project
in 1995 when she visited a range
of community based arts studios
in England, France, Italy and Luxembourg.
Over fifty people attended the presentation.
This was the first of what is planned to be
regular program of artist presentations.
Please contact Arts Access if you would
like details of forthcoming talks

arts access news

calendar of events

April 29 – 30

Movement and Dance for
Older/Frail Adults
Arts Access Studio

May 4

Term 2
Saturday Morning Art Classes

May 14 – June 15

China Cultural Exchange
Program

May 15

Arts Access
Annual General Meeting
Arts Access Studio

May 21, 23, 28, 30

Everyone Can Dance!
Disability and Dance

May 24

Developing an Action Plan
Geelong Performing Arts
Centre

June

ACRACS Modules 7 & 11
Arts and Leisure and
Arts and Access
Arts Access Studio

June 17 – 18

Performance and Clowning
Arts Access Studio

Victoria editorial

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Arts Access News, the consolidated newsletter of Arts Access which takes the place of the previous Access and Ease Newsletters. We would very much appreciate feedback on both the design and the content so please do not hesitate to give Helen Bowman a call if you do have any comments.

1996 is already shaping up to be a very exciting year for Arts Access. Highlights include Arts Access' Cultural Exchange Program which will see two visual artists, Claire Humphrys-Hunt and Jennifer McCarthy travelling to China in May to undertake projects in Jilin and Jiangsu Provinces; the establishment of the Art and Health Program (we'll have more about this program in the next edition) and in October the launch of the Melbourne Venue Guide which will have comprehensive access information on more than 110 of Victoria's major venues. As you can see from the article on DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia) on page 7, there have been some major developments within the Australia Council stemming from their Art and Disability Report which was published recently. It is interesting and satisfying to note that this research project was a direct outcome of the 1993 DADAA National Conference. Arts Access is currently the national convener of DADAA. (Copies of the Australia Council report are freely available from Arts Access so do please ring if you would like us to send you one.)

Finally Vivian Carroll, who will be well known to many of you as the Public Affairs Manager, has left Arts Access. I want to thank Vivian for the very significant contribution he has made over the four years he has been with the organisation. We all wish Vivian the very best for the future.

by Helen Bowman

profile

profile



Administration is the oil that keeps the organisations running smoothly but its role isn't always adequately acknowledged. So to set the record straight it's a great pleasure to start

Administration is the oil that keeps the organisation running smoothly but its role isn't always adequately acknowledged. So to set the record straight it's a great pleasure to start our profile section with two key members of the Arts Access team – Samantha Marsh and Rhona Bester.

Samantha is Arts Access Administration Officer and Director of First Impressions. It is usually Samantha's voice that you hear first when you ring Arts Access and more often than not it is she who answers your enquiries. Samantha brings to her role a high level of skill and experience. She joined Arts Access in early 1989 and is currently our longest serving staff member. Besides her front desk duties, Samantha is responsible for co-ordinating the studio, compiling the monthly Arts Update bulletin and for the administration of the training program.

Rhona is also an invaluable and long standing member of the Arts Access staff having joined the organisation in 1990. As Administrator, Rhona is responsible for many aspects of the day to day operations of the organisation. She has established and maintains key administration processes which enable a high level of control and monitoring of finances and administration. Rhona is also responsible for the Arts Access volunteer program and for the development and implementation of our computer strategy which in 1995 saw the establishment of a networked system.

Arts Access is commencing 1996 with a range of exciting initiatives and projects:

The Art Day Programs are conducted with people with intellectual disabilities in community centres in Spotswood and Dingley. These two programs operate on an annual basis with two key artists on each program, Lyndsay Mason and Claire Teisen at Spotswood and Gali Weiss and Charles Robinson at Dingley. Barbara Doherty, the co-ordinator of the Art Day Programs, has produced a promotional brochure which provides details about these programs and the brochure is now available through Arts Access.

The Juvenile Justice Program established in 1994, will be completed this year with projects at the Malmsbury Youth Training Centre and the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality (MAPPS) which is based in Parkville. The MAPPS group will be working with visual artist Eamonn Scott, and plans are underway to conduct a creative writing project with trainees at Malmsbury YTC with Jenny Bright, a writer from Hepburn Springs.

The Supported Residential Services Program with house-bound residents in the western suburbs, will continue with a second stage this year and follows on from the pilot stage established in 1995.

The North Fitzroy Youth Refuge project with artist Maria Filippow will be completed in March and Maria has been conducting weekly workshops in a range of mediums including drawing, textiles, printing and wood carving.

The Heidelberg Hospital oral history project is now in the final editing stages. Linda Richter and Bronwen Beachey, through the RMIT Professional Writing and Editing Course, have prepared the material and stories of the World War Two veterans attending the Hospital's Work Rehabilitation Group. We are now working with Hospital staff on the design for this publication.

The Saturday Morning Art Classes are now running regularly throughout 1996 and are open to people with psychiatric disabilities who are interested in the visual arts. For further information and bookings please contact Sam at Arts Access.

The program for the proposed Art and Health Victorian Conference has been prepared by artists Maria Filippow and Sally Marsden. Arts Access is now developing submissions to funding bodies to conduct this conference in late 1996 or early 1997.

artistic program



Arts Access Library and Information Service
Internet to assist with information
Contact has also been made with
the arts and disability

Information service

Arts Access Library and Information Service has now added the new technology of the Internet to assist with information collection and dissemination. Contact has already been made with new organisations interested in the arts and disability both locally and internationally. There are many exciting artistic and networking possibilities arising from access to this technology. Information on all aspects relating to arts and disability/disadvantage may also be accessed by phone, fax, mail and personal consultation.

Throughout 1996, the Information Service will be developing a series of Fact Sheets which will provide answers to the most frequently asked questions.

New Additions to the Library

Disability Discrimination Act: Information Kit
(copies available through Arts Access)

Access to Excellence: A Review of Issues Affecting Artists and Non-Artists from Non-English-Speaking Background

Calendar of Festivals and Events: Victoria

95 Per Cent: Quarterly Magazine on youth arts in the UK

The Cultural Planning Handbook: An Essential Australian Guide – Grogan/Mercer/Engwright

Places Not Spaces: Placemaking in Australia – Winikoff

Inner Words Outer Spaces: Roberts, Bev (ed)

Report on the Support Needs of Artists Who Have Disabilities: Delany, Kerris

Evaluation of Community Recreation Programs:
Driscoll, Kate

For more information about accessing these publications contact Carol Downey on 03 9699 8299

EASE Ticket Service

EASE Ticket Service staff have been very busy already this year with ticket sales far exceeding expectations for the first three months. Going to the tennis and cinema, and attending the musicals "Beauty & the Beast" and "The Secret Garden" were by far the favourite ways in which EASE subscribers enjoyed their summer.

In March the Australian Opera and the Moscow Circus have proved to be big favourites. The fare is very inviting over the next few months with a feast of music, theatre, basketball and Ice Skating.

An exciting innovation for the Ticket Service is that the Ticket Update is now produced on audio-cassette. Arts Access will be looking at the possibility of this publication – Arts Access News – being on audio-cassette in the future.

EASE Ticket Service

EASE Venue Access Program – The Guide so far...Venue Guide co-ordinator Lisa McKoy is currently collecting information on access and facilities at the 100 plus venues that will be included the Melbourne Venue Guide. Assisted by a number of volunteers and EASE staff, Lisa is conducting on-site visits to venues as diverse as The Last Laugh, The Melbourne Cricket Ground, Como House and The Werribee Open Range Zoo. This is the second phase in the project, following on from a two month research phase which included questionnaires and interviews with EASE subscribers, disability agencies and other consumers of the Venue Guide. Results of the research were used to establish the look, content and "feel" of the Guide.

The 1996 Melbourne Venue Guide will not only give up-to-date access information on Arts, Sporting, Entertainment and Cultural venues, but will be an invaluable cultural resource for the tourism industry, venue managers and the general public. The Guide is due to be launched in October 1996. If you want to be contacted when it goes on sale, please call Lisa McKoy on 03 9699 8299 or TTY 03 9699 7636 to be put on the mailing list.

EASE Industry Development Program Disability Seminars 1996

Throughout 1996, the EASE Industry Development Program will be presenting three different seminars on access and disability and they are:

The Disability Awareness Seminar, The Developing An Action Plan Seminar, and The Experiencing Disability Seminar. The seminars target ticketing staff, ushering and other front-of-house staff work at arts, entertainment and sporting venues, as well as managers of these venues. For the first time this year, the seminars are more accessible to the regional areas of Victoria.

Disability Awareness Seminar

Friday 19 July
CUB Malthouse

Disability Awareness Seminar

Friday 15 November
Her Majesty's Theatre Ballarat

Developing An Action Plan Seminar

Friday 24 May
Geelong Performing Arts Centre

Experiencing Disability Seminar

Friday 20 September
Scienceworks

Areas covered across the seminars include:

The implications of the Disability Discrimination Act

A full understanding of what "disability" means

Strategies for servicing people with disabilities most appropriately

Experiences of a panel of consumers with disabilities

How to develop an Action Plan

Experiencing the challenges faced by people with particular disabilities

All seminars cost \$90 per person, excluding the Action Plan Seminar which costs \$150. Lunch and a resource kit are provided. The seminars are supported by Arts Victoria through the Community Support Fund. For more information and to receive a brochure on the seminars, please call:

Dean Michael

EASE Program Manager

03 9699 7636 (phone and TTY)

DADAA

The Australia Council's Art and Disability Program

In February this year the Australia Council held a one day meeting with the National Arts and Disability Network, DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts, Australia) at Council headquarters in Sydney.

Arts Access is both a member of DADAA and current national convenor of the network. The purpose of the meeting was for Council to consult with DADAA on the new Arts and Disability Action Plan which is being developed at the Australia Council. Both Jane Trengove and Helen Bowman attended the meeting from Melbourne.

The Action Plan is an outcome of recommendations made in the recently published Research Report on Arts and Disability tendered by the Australia Council in 1994. An Action Plan is a step-by-step way of addressing equity of access for people with disabilities in the receipt of goods and services and employment subject to the 1993 legislation the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). In the case of the Australia Council the issues are those that affect people with disabilities who are consumers or practitioners of the arts.

This process offers two effective outcomes for people with disabilities involved in the art. First is the Australia Council's review of their internal policies and practices on access within the organisation. Second is that this will provide a leadership model for all Australia Council funded arts organisations around the country.

It is an exciting development, that the Australia Council as the peak national arts funding organisation is responding to the DDA so promptly and that the DADAA National Network is recognised by Council as the primary consultative body which will advise on the Action Plan.

Arts Access Membership, EASE Subscriptions and Donations

You can join us by becoming a financial member or by making a tax deductible donation. Arts Access Membership is open to individuals (\$30 & \$15 concession annually) and organisations (\$50). Members receive the newsletter, Arts Access News, three times a year as well as being eligible for discounts on some Arts Access services and receiving invitations to special events.

Donations can be made to Arts Access or to the Arts Access Trust. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Annual subscription to the Ease Ticket Service is open to individuals (\$22) and organisations (\$50). Eligibility criteria applies.

If you don't need to use EASE services, please consider becoming an EASE Supporter. For minimum tax deductible donation of \$30, we will keep you in touch with EASE events, training and program developments.

For further information contact:

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Phone 03 9699 8299 Fax 03 9699 8868
TTY 03 9699 7636 E mail artsacc@vicnet.net.au
Homepage <http://vicnet.net.au/~artsacc/artsacc.htm>**



Elizabeth Connell as Abigail in the Australian Opera production of Nabucco

Arts Access

MISSION statement

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 is achieving this mission through:

Leadership – By being an active leader in the arts in creating awareness of the cultural rights of people with disabilities and experiencing social disadvantage.

Programs – By developing new initiatives and extending existing programs for people to participate in, create and access the arts.

Profile – By being acknowledged as a leading arts organisation that is integral to Victoria's cultural life.

Technology – By being in the forefront of the application of information technologies in our field.

Arts Access is an independent, non-profit arts organisation supported by federal and state governments, business, philanthropic and private sponsors, membership and user contributions. Additionally, the Arts Access Trust is building an ongoing, independent source of income for future administration, research, and pilot projects.



Arts Access is supported by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; Arts Victoria, a division of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism; and Health and Community Services.

Arts Access manages three core programs –

The Artistic program – Initiates practical artist-in-residence projects in diverse community settings, working with all forms of the arts to develop the artistic, social and physical skills of participants and to promote their personal well being.

The Entertainment Access Service (EASE) –

Develops equal access to arts, entertainment, sporting and other cultural events in partnership with its subscribers and supporters.

EASE consists of three programs –

The EASE Ticket Service, which provides subscribers with low cost tickets and a specialised seating service.

The EASE Venue Access Program, which promotes best practice in access through the Melbourne Venue Guide and is developing a series of awards to recognise best practice in access, service and facilities.

The EASE Industry Development Program, which provides information, training and consultancies to the arts, entertainment and cultural industries.

Library and information and the Training Services –

Provides organisations and individuals with information, material resources and training to assist the independent establishment and management of arts programs. Arts Access projects involve a wide range of participant groups and community settings and use all forms of the arts.

**Graphic Design by Rachel Terkelsen & Bree Cleal
Swinburne Design Centre**