

## Creating Artistic Opportunities in 25th Anniversary Year

Arts Access' 25th anniversary year is shaping up to be the most colourful yet for the artistic program, with a number of new initiatives already off the ground. These add to an already diverse and exciting range of projects across a variety of art media. Outlining the program for 1999, Artistic Program Manager Ruth Whittingham said, "Collaborative partnerships with other organisations have become a real feature, offering shared resources, access to a wider range of opportunities for participants and greater artistic input and output. I'm excited that Arts Access can offer such diversity!"

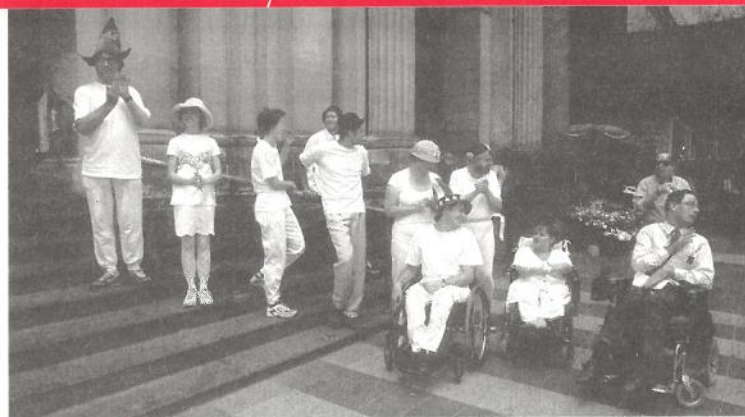
Ruth heads a busy team of staff in the artistic program, comprising Anne Riggs - Saturday Morning Art Class / Western Region SRS Coordinator; Jo Cohen - Breast Screen / Art Day Coordinator and Alex Prior - Rural Health / Arts Online Research Coordinator. The program also employs up to sixty artists and fifteen support workers, all of whom make a professional contribution to the provision of a quality program.

Arts Access' regular programs continue in 1999 with increasing success. The Saturday Morning Art Class for people with a psychiatric disability continues to move around Melbourne term by term, providing broad opportunities for people to acquire new visual art skills or expand on existing talents. Art Day also returns this year, resuming its regular Friday time slot. This program for adults with an intellectual disability is located in Spotswood and Dingley and still has some places available. People interested in either of these programs should contact Arts Access.

In addition to the regular programs, Arts Access is undertaking some new projects this year, creating more opportunities for the participation of all people in the artistic and cultural life of the community. The following are some of the highlights...

### Breast Screen in partnership with Arts Access

Arts Access has established a partnership with Breast Screen Victoria to coordinate four visual arts projects for women over fifty in the Monash, Maroondah, Northern and Bendigo regions. These women (many from non-English speaking backgrounds) will create collaborative art works which promote images of healthy breasts, aiming to dispel the fear which has been generated about breast cancer, encourage women to think



**Weave Movement Theatre**

positively about their health and raise awareness of the services provided by Breast Screen.

### Weave Movement Theatre

This group has evolved from the Arts Access Moveable Dance Project which commenced in late 1997. After giving their first major public performance in Bourke St Mall at last year's celebration of International Day of People With A Disability, the group is now looking forward to receiving more training and has secured \$5,000 from the Myer Foundation to assist with the process. We look forward to seeing a lot more of Weave Movement Theatre.

### Arts Access online

Arts Access is currently conducting research to examine the extent to which digital artwork is being created by people with disabilities and which arts or disability based organisations offer computer services for this purpose. The aim is to develop an exciting online space in which people with disabilities can create and display visual and performing arts. If you have an interest in creating art online or know of any individual or organisation currently doing so, we would like to hear from you.

### The FadeAways

Established in 1998, this rock'n'roll band has been rehearsing and performing regularly, injecting new energy into golden oldies from the early Rolling Stones era and never failing to get their audiences grooving. Pete Lawler from the band Weddings, Parties, Anything is currently working with The FadeAways to develop their song writing and performance skills.

AF  
700.  
9945  
AC2AR



*Executive Director Jane Haley*



## From the Executive Director

It's only April but it feels like the year has been much longer already. Perhaps it is a sign of age but I suspect that it has much more to do with the enormous amount of work in which Arts Access is engaged.

The year commenced with a fantastic strategic planning session with the Board. It is a great testament to their commitment to the principles and programs of the organisation that they would devote an entire Sunday to reviewing the direction and planning the future of Arts Access. I believe that Arts Access is really privileged to have such capable and dedicated Board and I thank them for their time and efforts.

On a less joyful note, Arts Access accepted the resignation of Janice Florence and Kerry Martyn from the Board. Both have taken on professional responsibilities which make it difficult for them to contribute at the level which they would prefer. We thank them for their time and efforts.

The Board strategic planning day was followed by staff strategic planning - an exhausting but uplifting two days at the Footscray Community Arts Centre at which we examined almost everything we do and considered ways in which we can become more effective. All staff are commended for their energy, ideas and contribution to the development and growth of Arts Access. Their commitment to ensure that our brief to facilitate opportunities for participation in arts and cultural activity for people with disabilities and people who are disadvantaged is admirable and the standard of work achieved is exemplary.

Arts organisations are often characterised by a seemingly high turnover of staff and Arts Access is no exception. In February we farewelled Dean Michael and Martin Wurt who had been with Arts Access for 6 and 3 years respectively. I take this opportunity to thank them most sincerely for the valuable contribution they made to the development and achievements of Arts Access and to wish them well in their future work. Eating cake will not seem the same without them!

Caroline Cowley, whom you have 'met' previously, has become fulltime Public Relations Manager. The additional hours will enable Caroline to expedite the implementation of our new logo and promotional materials and to pursue some media coverage for Arts Access.

When you phone or visit Arts Access you will be greeted by Sharyn Dawson (Mondays and Tuesdays) or Rachel Devine (Wednesdays - Fridays). Between them, these two highly efficient office managers are improving systems and operations which means that other staff can focus on program and project management.

Barbara Doherty has taken leave from her position as Coordinator of the Art Day projects to care for her new daughter, Banashree. Jo Cohen has taken up the reins of Art Day as well as coordinating the Breast Screen projects from January to May.

I am still not able to confirm details of our new location - there is a prospect on the horizon which will be most exciting if it comes to fruition but has not been finalised at the time of writing. We must be out of these building by July, so a decision on where we will be is imminent.

In conclusion, I would like to remind you about Arts Access' major event to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Final details are dependent on how much funding we are able to secure, but I can confirm that we will host Verve! the national symposium on arts and disability in October during the Melbourne Festival. As plans are completed we shall provide more detail but if, in the meantime, you wish to find out more, please call us. We do hope that you will keep the dates (18-20 October) free and that we will see you then.

**Jane Haley**  
**Executive Director**

*...continued from Cover Article*

## Creating Artistic Opportunities in 25th Anniversary Year

### Club Wild

Club Wild was initiated in 1998 by Rob Gador, Artistic Director of the Big Bag Band, an integrated band from Geelong. During last year, Club Wild attracted large audiences and generated a lot of support for the bands featured in the musical line ups. In 1999, Club Wild continues to grow with additional funding to complement each event. Dates for Club Wild this year at the North Melbourne Town Hall are 25 April and 10 October (Sunday afternoons from 2.30 to 5.00pm) and 17 July and 20 November (Saturday evenings from 7.30 to 10.30pm) so mark these in your diary now!

## Letters

*Please address correspondence to:*

*Caroline Cowley, Editor*

*Arts Access News 109 - 111 Sturt Street Southbank, Vic, 3006*

### Saturday Morning Art Class success

*"We are artists first who may or may not suffer from psychiatric illness..."*

Last year I attended an Arts Access Saturday Morning Art Class in Mount Waverley run by artist Gali Weiss. I found out about this program through Groundworks employment agency in Ringwood. Being a participant in this stimulating art class helped me find the courage to "do art again" after suffering clinical depression and psychosis with a stay in hospital the previous year.

I have always been artistic, but the isolation of depression and resulting lack of self esteem caused my artistic confidence to shrivel up. Gali's enthusiasm for the art making process, and her sensitive encouragement of everyone's creativity in this class allowed me to see myself as an "artist" again! In a surge of newfound confidence, I put together a folio of past artworks produced over my life prior to my illness and contacted several tertiary art institutions for an interview to enter one of their courses full time. I immediately received two interviews and was accepted on the spot into the Diploma of Visual Arts at Box Hill Tafe.

I am now embarking on a professional career in the visual arts via this course. I wish to be recognised on the strength of my art and not because of my illness - past or present. We are artists first who may or may not suffer from psychiatric illness from time to time. Thankyou Saturday Morning Art Class for nurturing artists!

Anon.

### SMAC Calendar

*"It is important to create and important to share one's creative works with an audience, or a sense of community."*

As an artist employed by Arts Access to facilitate a Saturday Morning Art Class I attended the launch of the calendar at the CUB Malthouse in December 1998. I experienced an overwhelming response from the participants about the calendar.

### Create a Poster Workshop

Arts Access is coordinating a one day visual arts workshop for people with mental illness who are interested in submitting a poster into the Mental Health Foundation 99 poster competition. Arts Access will employ two artists from the Saturday Morning Art Class to provide assistance for the creation of individual works and one collaborative work. The workshop will take place on Monday 3rd May, from 10am - 4pm and will cost \$5.00, all materials included. Spaces are limited for this workshop so people interested in participating should contact Arts Access to register.

These are just a few of the many projects being coordinated by Arts Access in 1999! Others include arts programs at the Supported Residential Services in Footscray and Moonee Ponds and an extensive research project investigating rural health. For further information about the artistic program, please contact Ruth Whittingham, Artistic Program Manager on 9699 8299.

It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm and pride that participants wore on the day of the launch. Fortunately, there was not an expectation for everyone to have their images included in the calendar. Rather, participants conveyed encouragement and good will for their colleagues whose works were reproduced.

The launch also provided a suitable forum for artworks to be sold. Several participants expressed the joy they experienced in the acknowledgment this process provided. I congratulate Anne Riggs on the quality of presentation of the calendar. The diverse choice of artworks has created an interesting overview of creativity, and the quality of colour in the reproductions has done justice to the original works. It is important to create and important to share one's creative works with an audience, or a sense of community. This calendar has reinforced both these fundamental processes.

Sarah Metzner  
Artist In Residence at Splash Studio, NEAMI Inc.

### From the Editor

If you are a regular reader of Arts Access News, you will have noticed a dramatic improvement to the presentation of this issue. I am pleased to present the new Arts Access image! - stylish, contemporary, eye-catching, and complete with a new logo. It's a look we hope will convey the strong artistic flavour of Arts Access and better illustrate the professional standards we maintain throughout all our programs.

Our new image will help smarten up our external communications, thus assisting with the establishment of new partnerships with government, business and community while also attracting more individuals to our network of supporters. It also demonstrates our commitment to meeting new challenges as we sign off on our first quarter of a century and enter a new era.

I once again thank Richard Henderson and team from FHA Image Design who have worked tirelessly on creating Arts Access' new image. We are delighted to have the support of such a talented and highly regarded design team.





**Artist Gali Weiss**  
**Participant - Stephen Burgess**



**Queenscliff Arts Access Experience**



**Jojo the clown at the celebration of International Day of People with a Disability 1998**

## Arts Focus

### SMAC Is Back

The first term of Saturday Morning Arts Class is drawing to a close after a successful eight weeks at the Kingston Arts Centre, Moorabbin. Many thanks to Kate Gifford, newly appointed SMAC tutor, whose passion for drawing and love of art has certainly rubbed off on participants! These visual arts classes are for people with a psychiatric disability and offer participants the opportunity to learn new artistic skills and develop their own creativity. Term two will commence on 1st May at the Footscray Community Arts Centre and places are still available.

The future of SMAC may see the program expand into other areas of artistic practice including music, drumming, and creative movement, offered in a one-off eight week project during term 2. SMAC Coordinator Anne Riggs is keen to receive expressions of interest from people who would like to participate. Please contact Anne at Arts Access on Monday or Tuesday.

For anyone who missed out on purchasing a SMAC 1999 Calendar, they are still available from Arts Access. Both practical and beautiful, this spiral bound calendar featuring artworks by the Saturday Morning Art Class is a great buy for all art lovers. Just \$10.00 if you mention that you read about it in Arts Access News.

### ART DAY - Meet Jo Cohen

Jo Cohen has been coordinating Art Day since the departure of Barbara Doherty at the end of January. Jo previously worked at the South Central Migrant Resource Centre as Cultural Development Officer for three years where she was directly involved with assisting migrants in the many aspects of making the transition into Australian life, such as language, different lifestyles and for many, basic issues of survival. This involved the promotion of artists and art programs devised for people disadvantaged by social conditions.

Jo has been working in mainstream and community arts for the last ten years, both as an arts worker and performing artist. Trained as a classical singer, Jo will perform in a song cycle later in the year. She brings to Arts Access tremendous enthusiasm for the arts and a detailed understanding of art practice and will be a great asset to the organisation.

Until the end of May, Jo will also coordinate the Arts Access Breast Screen project. Four groups of twelve women over the age of 50, will work with two artists on the creation of an art work, focusing on a positive image of healthy breasts. The aim of the project is to dispel the fear which has been generated by the media about breast cancer and encourage women to think positively about their health. We look forward to seeing some highly original work as a result of these workshops.

### Queenscliff Arts Access Experience

Queenscliff Library was a hive of activity last October at the opening of the 'Seasational Mystic Mariner' exhibition - the culmination of a

collaborative exercise between Arts Access, the Salvation Army, Barwon Disability Resource Council, Bellarine and District Community Health Centre, Queenscliff Library and Queenscliff Lodge SRS.

The participants had worked on a distinctly seaside theme alongside Lynden Bobbitt and Lauren Leviston, a local artist who donated her time and talent to the project. All were proud to see their works of art so professionally presented and hung on the library walls. Each received a certificate and a flower in acknowledgment of their achievement.

The interest in art which this project has inspired among participants has since been reinforced through visits to art galleries and other Arts Access exhibitions. All seem to have a renewed sense of the world around them, enjoying the many features of the wonderful Queenscliff environment. The project has also allowed the strengthening of relationships between residents of the SRS, Community Access and Health Centre staff and the local community.

As a direct result of the Arts Access project in Queenscliff, the Community Access team will continue to provide further arts experiences to people with psychiatric disabilities who live in the local area and those who are residents of the local SRS. The Queenscliff Neighbourhood House has kindly donated the use of their art room and Lauren Leviston once again will give her time and talents to the arts workshop. The Queenscliff Arts Access project was a perfect launching pad for further projects, thanks to the enthusiasm and professionalism of the staff and artists from Arts Access.

Dianne Schmittke  
Salvation Army Community Access Support Worker

### VERVE! - Arts and Disability... a Source of Energy for the Arts in Australia

Planning is well under way for Verve! - a two day national program of events and forums designed to celebrate the achievements of professional artists with a disability and provide focussed investigation and examination of the critical issues for professional and community based practice in the sector. As the major focus of Arts Access' 25th anniversary, Verve! will incorporate a symposium which explores the philosophies and practice of arts and disability.

Forming part of the Melbourne Festival program, Verve! will be held from 18th - 20th October at Gasworks Arts Centre. The first day of the program contains a full day's examination of models of exemplary practice, featuring performances, exhibitions and demonstrations. The second day will be devoted to structured investigation of critical issues taking the format of presentations by leading thinkers and practitioners, followed by facilitated group discussion. Some of the issues for consideration include professional careers for artists with a disability, disability culture and the criteria for the assessment of art. Look out for more detail in the next issue of Arts Access News.

### Congratulations Moomba

Congratulations to Moomba who this year made an exemplary effort in the provision of access for people with a disability at Moomba events. The arts program featured many groups which included performers and other artists with disabilities. Back to Back Theatre offered its unique perspective on Melbourne in a short film shot especially for Moomba. The film, a five minute adventure featuring insect people, a string of Melbourne icons and some serious underpants, was shown on Family Day to appreciative audiences.

The Night Parade featured dynamic and original entries from three groups of performers with disabilities. The Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE entry teamed Photo with DVA - an ensemble of actors with disabilities from Greensborough to explore the notion of "surrendering to vanity" and echoed the 1950's in its design. Kew Residential Services' entry came from a fantasy world and featured a huge, red, smoke-breathing creature. A live band accompanied sequined performers in decorated wheelchairs and on foot as they danced the length of the Parade route. The drama divisions of Northcote Preston Adult Training Support Service and the Northern TAFE Arts and Basic Education Program collaborated on an entry featuring the transformation of wheelchairs into glittering mobile thrones to create a courtly procession of Kings and Queens adorned in self designed robes of authority and leadership.

All entries for the Parade were selected for their innovation, production values, musicality, visual imagery and cultural uniqueness. Any groups who would like to participate in the 2000 Night Parade should contact the Moomba office before October 1 1999.

### LEFT WRITES ALTERNATIVE FESTIVAL

#### in conjunction with the Maribyrnong Festival

The Left Writes alternative festival for readers and writers is scheduled to occur in November. Readings, performances, workshops and other events will be held in the West in conjunction with the City of Maribyrnong festival and in Carlton at the New International and trade union venues. The Left Writes festival theme is "Making Space" for the inclusion of readers and writers outside the mainstream.

The Left Writes Making Space Festival Committee includes representation from Overland and Arena magazines and the Melbourne Workers Theatre. Community writer Wendy Lowenstein has indicated an interest in working with the committee. Further representation is sought from indigenous and other cultural groups. The Left Writes Making Spaces Festival will work on the principle of collaboration between established writers and those of marginalised and oppressed communities who also have stories to tell. Topics for examination could be issues of general community significance such as health, mental health, education and public transport. Contact Thea Calzoni 9384 1566 or Nathan Hollier 9689 7275 or 9365 2302 to discuss ideas.

In the last issue of Arts Access News, the contact details published for Jojo were incorrect. To contact Jojo or to make a booking please call Gerard Langridge on 9726 6442 or 0409 192 430.

### State Library Tour for People with Disabilities

The State Library of Victoria is conducting a tour of its collection of treasures from Rare Books, Manuscripts, Pictures and Maps, for people with disabilities. This free tour will take place at 10am on the 17th May at the State Library of Victoria, cnr. LaTrobe and Russell Streets. RSVP is essential by 30th April to Patricia Convery, Disability Services Librarian, tel 9669 9065, TTY 9669 9035 or email pconverv@newvenus.slv.vic.gov.au The Library is wheelchair accessible. Please indicate if Auslan or loop is required.

### The Hacketts

The Hacketts are an exciting new rock'n'roll band that supports musicians and performers with a disability. The Hacketts are looking for other musicians with a disability to rehearse and perform with the group. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at the Footscray Community Arts Centre between 4.00 - 6.00pm. Interested people should call Rob or Chris at FCAC, Tue 4-6pm on 9689 5677.

### Change in style for the Training and Professional Development Program

After 12 years providing training and professional development to staff and students working or studying in the cultural and entertainment industries and the community services sectors of disability, health, education and welfare, the Arts Access training and professional development program has redefined and broadened its services to include:

- a training consultancy service
- a training needs assessment service
- a training delivery service customised for individual workplaces
- annual training seminars, events and practical arts training
- a speakers program

To launch the training and professional development program for 1999, Arts Access is going regional with a half day seminar, entitled 'Marketing the Arts to People With A Disability' which will coincide with the release of the Australia Council's new publication *Access All Areas*. Developed for staff and volunteers of arts and entertainment organisations and venues and local councils, the seminar will detail the benefits of marketing to this target audience which comprises 18% of the population. When business associates, family, friends and carers of people with disabilities are added, we are referring to a sizeable portion of the marketplace. As well as being offered in Melbourne, the seminar will tour regional Victoria from 19 - 30 April, going to Sale, Wangaratta, Hamilton, Horsham, Swan Hill, and Bendigo. The cost of the seminar is \$30, which includes lunch.

If you would like a brochure outlining services and / or a calendar of training programs offered in 1999, please contact Jedda Bellerjee, Training and Professional Development Manager at Arts Access, from Tuesday to Friday.



## Audio Described Performances

### MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY

*Born Yesterday* by Garson Kanin  
Saturday 17th April at 4pm • Thursday 22nd April at 8pm

*Longday's Journey Into Night* by Eugene O' Neill  
Saturday 15th May at 4pm • Thursday 20th May at 8pm

**RENT**  
Saturday 1st May at 2pm • Thursday 6th May at 8pm

# EASE

ENTERTAINMENT ACCESS SERVICE

## Entertainment Access Service

EASE (Entertainment Access Service) offers subscribers reduced price tickets to many of the major arts, entertainment and cultural events in Melbourne and throughout Victoria. A special feature of the Service is personalised seating for members with particular requirements, such as seating on the aisle, in the audio loop or near the front.

EASE Manager Fiona Hanrahan said we create equal opportunities for people who otherwise could not attend any cultural events, either due to physical access barriers or through lack of incentive. By advocating for improvements to facilities and services, we aim to encourage all people with disabilities to attend the show of their choice."

A large part of Fiona's work at Arts Access involves negotiating ticket prices with producers and promoters and raising access issues. "Venues managers are starting to see that people with disabilities are a significant audience at arts and entertainment events, and are learning ways to better accommodate these people," Fiona said. EASE membership costs \$25 (individual) or \$55 (organisation). To become an EASE member, call Fiona Hanrahan on 9699 8497 or send an email to [ease@vicnet.net.au](mailto:ease@vicnet.net.au)

### Coming soon!

*EASE Membership cards. In order to facilitate a more personalised approach to service, each EASE member will soon have their own membership number and card. In some cases, EASE members will be able to use their card when purchasing tickets directly. An exciting new direction for EASE, membership cards will be distributed in the coming months.*

### I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE - Cygnet & EHJ Productions

*Tuesday 2nd March (Preview) Review by Caroline Cowley*  
Down to earth, well performed and very funny, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change is a very accessible piece of theatre for a wide range of people including anyone who has ever been on a date, been married with kids, been baffled at the quirky side of human nature or appreciates the funny side of dating and mating. The staging is simple and effective, and the scenes flow smoothly due to remarkably prompt costume changes.

Currently in its third year on Broadway, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change is a fabulous new vehicle for some fresh talent. Julia Morris, the obvious draw card for the show, is truly impressive, and manages with ease to hit the high notes and grind through the lows while maintaining impeccable comic timing. Matt Hetherington is another great talent with natural stage presence who seems to breeze through his performance. The other two 'newcomers' Elizabeth O'Hanlon and Tim Wood are also superb and between these four, the complete breadth of human shapes, sizes and personalities is covered in the one night.

The first act concentrates mainly on the early years of dating. If you thought you'd seen as much of men and women poking fun at each other as you could handle, think again. After interval, the second act looks at married life, children and, later, death and being alone,



**EASE Member Rachael Walmsley (left) with EASE Manager Fiona Hanrahan**

finishing with an inspiring message to all of us punters in the game of love. There is enough subtlety to keep an intelligent audience entertained and the comic moments are adequately weighted with the sensitive to allow for the rollercoaster effect to take place. Well worth seeing. EASE is offering members tickets to I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change for \$17.00. Phone the EASE office on 9699 8497.

### VIC VENUE GUIDE

The *Vic Venue Guide*, produced by Arts Access in 1998, was a breakthrough for people interested in attending arts and cultural events in Melbourne and around Victoria. A definitive guide to Melbourne's cultural venues with detailed information about access, parking, public transport, toilet facilities and booking procedures. Arts Access is now selling copies of the *Vic Venue Guide* for \$10.00 (normally \$19.95). A postage fee will also apply. If you already own a copy, consider buying one for a friend! Mention this special offer when you call. Only until the end of April.

### RENT

The show to look out for in April is the Broadway hit musical, *RENT*. Playing at the Comedy Theatre for a limited season, this show is not to be missed. Based on the story of Puccini's La Boheme, *RENT* is a classic love story set in the 90s. Tickets are available for EASE members at the great price of just \$45.00 Mon-Thur, 8pm and Sat, 2pm.

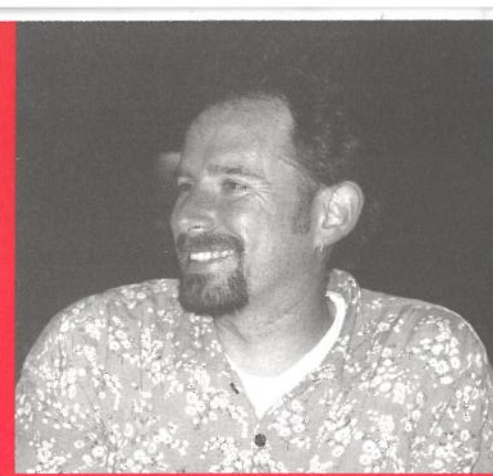
### The Old Melbourne Gaol

Arts Access would like to commend the National Trust and staff at the Old Melbourne Gaol for the introduction of their guide for the vision impaired. Specially designed booklets with enlarged print are available for various levels of vision impairment. Individual Walkmans provide practical directions for independent movement around the Gaol, as well as details of the site's history and stories of its more notorious inmates. Raised numbers and braille are placed next to each cell and a 3D tactile plan of the original site has been installed. Visitors are able to handle artefacts such as locks, a silence mask, handcuffs and a replica of Ned Kelly's death mask.

With a few small changes to access and service, this venue has greatly enhanced the enjoyment for its visitors and has created a terrific opportunity to market the site to a broader section of the community. Bravo! The Old Melbourne Gaol is in Russell St, City. It is open 7 days, 9.30 - 4.30. For bookings or information, phone EASE on 9699 8497 or the Gaol on 9663 7228.

### Vision Australia Foundation

The Association for the Blind has become the Vision Australia Foundation from 1st February 1999. The Association for the Blind has served Victorians for more than 100 years. It began in 1895 when society was largely confused about capabilities and potential of people with vision impairment and their rights were few. Today while the organisation still protects the right of blind people to live as independently as possible, the overwhelming majority of customers have some sight. The new name recognises this and is more encouraging to people using the services for the first time.



**left to right: Barbara Doherty with new Art Day Coordinator Jo Cohen, Dean Michael and Martin Wurt**

### Barbara Doherty goes on leave

Barbara Doherty, or Babs, as she has affectionately been known around the office, is one of the longest serving staff members at Arts Access. She has now begun an amazing adventure of a totally different kind! In February, Barbara and partner Mark travelled to Orissa, India to meet their newly adopted daughter Banashree who then returned with them to Australia to start a life with her new parents.

Barbara joined Arts Access in August 1992 as the coordinator of a new art program for adults with an intellectual disability. Through Barbara, Art Day became a mixed media program, where a number of artists were invited to collaborate from several specialist areas. A more developmental approach was adopted and projects were designed to culminate in an 'event', as determined by the participants themselves.

Barbara originally comes from a corn and soy bean farm in Illinois, USA. Her career in the arts started at age 5 as a tap dancer which later became a full blown passion for contemporary dance. "Dance taught me to concentrate, to stay focused and really relaxed." After many years dancing, Barbara came to Australia in 1987 to accept the position of contemporary dance lecturer at Western Academy of Performing Arts, Perth. Five years later she heard about the position coordinating the Art Day program, and transferred to Melbourne.

Barbara and her partner Mark decided a few years ago to adopt a child after realising the alternative ways to construct a family. India was their first choice of country because of its long and magnificent culture, of which they had both enjoyed many aspects - classical Indian music and dance, yoga, meditation and film. Banashree, who is now 20 months old, is from Cuttack, Orissa which is the next state south of Bengal. Barbara is enjoying the privilege of a new intimate relationship with her daughter. "Mark and I have extended our unit, and feel really satisfied. We hope Banashree grows up happy and confident in Australia!" Good luck to the new family.

### Farewell Dean Michael and Martin Wurt

Arts Access was sorry to see Special Projects Manager Dean Michael and Library and Information Manager, Martin Wurt depart the organisation in February.

The name Dean Michael is synonymous with Arts Access in the broader community, as Dean is a very active member of the arts community and a passionate advocate for disability awareness. He started with Arts Access in 1992 as EASE Officer, taking responsibility for managing the program until the end of 1997. Since then, Dean has been Special Projects Manager, overseeing planning and project fundraising for major Arts Access events.

Martin Wurt has been Library and Information Manager at Arts Access since 1996. He came to the organisation with an active interest in social issues, bringing knowledge and experience from working at organisations like Greenpeace and HazChem. Martin has managed the library with great skill which he has been able to combine with his

interest in multimedia and new technologies since the inception of the Arts Access Website. We will miss Martin's ready willingness to assist staff, members and public with information inquiries as well as his cheerfulness.

Good luck to Dean and Martin - we wish them well in their new endeavours.

### The Arts Access Board

The Board at Arts Access is a group of nine individuals who collectively bring an impressive range of skills to the governance of the organisation. These individuals are nominated for the positions for the professional skills and personal qualities they offer, including knowledge of arts administration, management consulting, disability awareness, finance and law.

**ALAN MOOR** *Chair* - Director of Performance Improvement Conferences and Seminars, a national training company specialising in human resource and information management. Alan has a background in adult education, publishing and local government.

**ROBYN CHARLWOOD** *Deputy Chair* - Executive Director, National Heart Foundation (Victorian Division). Accredited practising dietitian with professional experience in clinical nutrition at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Deakin University's Department of Human Nutrition and the Heart Foundation.

**COLIN PIDD** *Deputy Chair - Director*, Iles - Pidd Consulting. Background in industrial psychology, administration, business law and adult learning; practises in area of 'whole system change,' providing consultancy and training services to corporate clients in Australia and overseas. Award winning broadcaster who created ABC series "Managing Matters" and "The Business Report."

**CECILY TANGE** *Treasurer* - Finance Director, Melbourne Theatre Company. Background in commerce, previously worked with Ernst and Young and Bank of America.

**JO RAPHAEL** - Lecturer in Drama Education at Deakin University. Arts educator with expertise in arts and disability; formerly artist-in-residence with Arts Access project at Kew Cottages.

**MARK ROBINSON** - Marketing Manager with W.I.S.E. Employment Service, a company which specialises in placing people with a disability. Extensive experience in business development and management, staff training and counselling, industrial relations and industrial Award interpretation.

**ANDREW SANDERSON** - Director of Morris Walker Disability Management. Has technical experience in development, modification, implementation of design recommendations and access programs for people with disabilities in both private and commercial sectors.

**SANDRA TAYLOR-BOWMAN** - Marketing Director, Invetech. Formerly Business Development Director, KPMG Management Consulting Asia Pacific and Sales Executive for Argyle Diamonds.

**JANE TRENGOVE** - Professional artist who has worked in various capacities with Arts Access since early 1980s; curated Arts Access' Body Suits exhibition of contemporary visual art works which toured nationally in 1997/98.

### ARTS ACCESS NEWS - DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE

Advertising Friday 7th May • Editorial Friday 14th May

Arts Access News is edited by Caroline Cowley, designed by Danie Pout, FHA Image Design and printed by Vaughan Printing.



# Advertising in Arts Access News

Advertising space will be available in Arts Access News from the next edition, due for circulation in June. Arts Access News is a publication which reaches a broad and expanding audience, including peak arts organisations, disability organisations, government, community agencies, individual artists and people with a disability. By advertising in the Arts Access News you can directly target a specific audience. To arrange advertising in the June edition of Arts Access News, contact Caroline Cowley, PR Manager. The advertising deadline is Friday 7th May.

	Non-Members	Members
Full Page	\$160	\$130
Half page	\$90	\$75
Quarter page	\$50	\$40
Eighth page	\$30	\$25

Vic 3000

Arts Access is supported by  
the Australia Council, the Commonwealth's arts funding and advisory board  
and the Victorian Government, through Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet.



ARTS ACCESS

109-111 Sturt Street Southbank Victoria Australia 3006  
Telephone 03 / 9699 8299 Facsimile 03 / 9699 8868  
TTY 03 / 9699 7636 Ease Booking Line 03 / 9699 8497  
e-mail artsacc@vicnet.net.au http://www.vicnet.net.au/~artsacc

Arts Access Newsletter  
Registered by Australia Post  
Print Post Publication No. PP 325649/0005  
ISSN N 1329 0517

Ms Anne Sedgley  
Serials Librarian  
State Library Of Victoria  
328 Swanston Street