

## When the shortest day is the biggest



Photograph by Collin Bogaars

### Caloola Winter Solstice Festival

Storm clouds loomed above the hill at Sunbury. Below, a huge white bird figure, symbolising the return of Spring, led a colourful procession that snaked its way to the Caloola hall.

Earlier, Caloola residents, staff and guests dressed in bright costumes and face paint, transforming themselves into mythical 'folk on the hill'. Defying the chilly wind and darkening sky, they marched on, chanting and beating their drums and tambourines, calling for the return of the Sun and reminding Winter not to overstay its welcome.

To the tune of an accordion player, they sang, "here comes the sun." A stilt walker strode along with guests, family and

friends while a huge beaming Sun figure followed at their tail.

With the return of the sun still a long way off, 'the folk on the hill' at least experienced the return of pure fun during their **Winter Solstice Festival**.

Caloola, a centre for people with intellectual disabilities managed by Community Services Victoria (CSV), is scheduled for closure in October this year. Residents are being relocated to family members, Community Residential Units and other forms of accommodation.

Arts Access is currently negotiating a major arts initiative in the CSV North Western region, that will provide ongoing

arts activities for people with intellectual disabilities in the Broadmeadows, Sunbury and Bulla Shire areas.

Some former Caloola residents travelled to Sunbury to join in the celebrations. Once inside the hall the ceremonies unfolded with joyful processions around the dance floor. Individual residents made their presentations of decorative offerings to the Sun; then more songs, "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine"; plenty of energetic dancing to the brassy sound of the Salesian College Band and finally, the well earned feasting.

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# Arts Access Trust

**Arts Access has embarked on an exciting new initiative. For the past 12 months, staff and committee members have worked towards the establishment of the Arts Access Trust.**

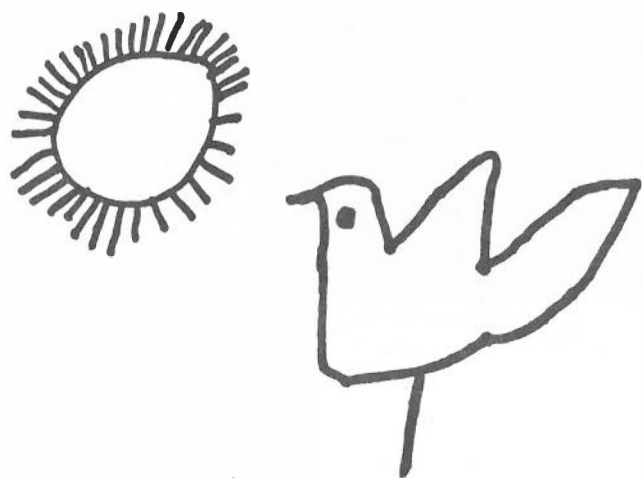
The Trust will provide a solid capital base for the future development of Arts Access' diverse activities.

With the future of funding for non-profit organisations like ours becoming less certain each year, the Arts Access Trust will provide an on-going, guaranteed source of income that is vital for forward planning and development.

A strategy is now in place for a major Arts Access Trust Appeal, to be launched into full swing later this year by the Trust Appeal Committee. The Appeal target is \$1 Million, to be achieved over a three year period.

Income from the Trust will be directed to the fixed costs and core operations of the organisation. This will have the effect of freeing resources – both staff and financial – for the development of programs, services and initiatives for people with limited or no access to arts activities.

We have been fortunate in enlisting Dame Elisabeth Murdoch as Patron of the Trust Appeal and Mr Creighton Burns, as Chairman of the Trust Appeal Committee. Dame Elisabeth has been a generous supporter of Arts Access projects for some eight years and is well known for her community work. Mr Burns is Chancellor of the Victoria University of Technology and is a former editor of *The Age*.



## Caloola ...

Five months of preparations, in the form of regular arts workshops managed by Arts Access, provided enjoyable activities and opportunities to develop social and living skills.

Artists, Lyndsay Mason and Phil Sumner worked with participants to develop the Winter Solstice theme. Painting and crafts workshops produced the costumes, hats, decorations and hand held figures that gave the festival its colourful symbols. Music, songs and movement aspects of the celebration were developed during performance activities.

Arts Access would like to thank everyone involved in the Winter Solstice Festival for making one of the shortest days of the year one of the biggest ever at Caloola.

Arts Access is already funded through a wide range of government and community sector bodies. But this is not enough. Demand for Arts Access services is increasing each year. There are several significant reasons for this.

- State and federal government policies mean there are, and will continue to be, more people with disabilities leaving institutions to live in the greater community.
- The number of people in crisis, particularly young, homeless or unemployed people, has grown.
- Cutbacks in government services mean these people have fewer opportunities for involvement in worthwhile and rewarding activities.

Every year the Trust will generate innovation, research and extended participation in Arts Access programs for special needs groups – those groups we recognise now, and those that will emerge in the future.

The Arts Access Trust has been established as a Sub-Trust of the Victorian Community Foundation and is administered by ANZ Trustees. Donations to the Arts Access Trust are fully tax deductible.

For further information contact Judith Isherwood, Executive Director, or Vivian Carroll, Public Affairs Manager at Arts Access (03) 699 8299.

## Arts Access' New Line-up

**Those of you who have been in contact with Arts Access over recent months will have noticed a few changes in the staff line-up.**

**Judith Isherwood**, formerly Arts Access' Development Officer, was appointed Executive Director at the beginning of the year following Kate Brennan's decision not to return to Arts Access at the end of her maternity leave.

**Vivian Carroll** commenced in April as Public Relations Manager with responsibility for a wide range of publicity, fundraising and communication activities. Vivian has returned to Melbourne after six years in Hobart where he was editor, community journalist and conference organiser for the Tasmanian Council of Social Service.

**Bobbie Hodge** was appointed to the position of Program Manager at the beginning of May and has already made a significant impact on Arts Access' program in 1992. Bobbie is no stranger to Arts Access, as a result of her previous position as Community Development Executive with the Victorian Ministry for the Arts.

## Senior Citizens' Hidden Treasures



*The Hon. Joan Kirner, Premier of Victoria, views textile works at the opening of Hidden Treasures.*

**One of the most exciting projects run so far this year was the Hidden Treasures exhibition held at the National Gallery of Victoria's Access Gallery, as part of Senior Citizens' Week.**

Sub-titled 'Innovation and Invention in Everyday Life', the exhibition was a selection of creative art and craft activities by older people in Victoria.

This exhibition differed from other Arts Access projects in that the works were not made specifically for the exhibition but were the result of people's everyday activities.

Artforms used to produce the works on display included embroidery, topiary, decoupage and woodwork.

Items were selected from a series of exhibitions and viewing sessions organised by local council and community groups in association with Arts Access.

A total of 20 exhibitions on the theme of 'treasures' were held throughout Melbourne and the metropolitan area, celebrating the unique contribution of older people to society.

Older people were encouraged to exhibit items of art and craft they or relatives had made as older people.

The idea behind the theme, Hidden Treasures was to emphasise the creative value of works awaiting discovery. The aim of the exhibition was to unearth this buried or lost treasure.

The exhibition was opened in conjunction with the launch of Senior Citizens' Week, 1992 by the Premier, Mrs Joan Kirner in the Great Hall of the National Gallery.

The exhibition was the result of the on-going relationship between Arts Access and the Senior Citizens' Week Committee. Previous collaborations have included the booklet, *Arts Alive* – a guide showing how the arts can work for older people – and the 'Times of our Lives' performance project, which featured the older person's performing troupe, the Tombolas.

The success of the exhibition has led Arts Access to begin planning now for Senior Citizens' Week 1993.

# Youth Arts Werribee

**Arts Access will soon begin a new program, Werribee Youth Arts, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health Housing & Community Services and managed in conjunction with the City of Werribee.**

The program will target 11 to 16 year olds – the group considered to be most disadvantaged or most at risk – including unemployed and homeless young people, offenders, early school leavers, young people with disabilities and young people in ethnic and Koori communities.

The Werribee Youth Arts program will provide opportunities for young people to undertake creative, challenging activities that are attractive to them.

One part time youth worker and two arts workers will be contracted for terms of ten weeks at different venues in the Werribee region. Each term will see a visual or performance artist working with young people on specific issues, incorporating local neighbourhood themes. At the close of each term a performance or visual arts work will be publicly presented to the local community.

Arts Access devised the program in conjunction with the City of Werribee, which will contribute office and venue space and administrative support. Funding is provided through a Commonwealth program, the Youth Activities Service (YAS).

The YAS program extends the Outside School Hours Care program to young people living in disadvantaged areas. Standard OSHC services find it hard to attract or retain people over ten years of age and there are few supervised non-sports activities for young teenagers after school.

Werribee has a high population of young people – approximately 20 per cent are aged between 10 and 19 years. Currently the region lacks recreation and entertainment options, has inadequate public transport and few services that specifically tackle youth health issues, such as drug abuse.

Youth workers employed on the project will provide information about a range of issues and link young people to other relevant agencies before a crisis point is reached.

## DADAA (Disability and Disadvantage in the Arts Australia)

**For 18 months, Arts Access has been actively involved in the move to establish DADAA, a national body for organisations and individuals interested in the arts, disability and social disadvantage.**

DADAA will act as an information exchange and lobby group to represent members' interests to both state and federal governments.

DADAA's philosophy states that:

- Everyone has an innate creative ability.
- It is a human right to have access to and respect for people's creativity through artistic expression.
- The arts can be an effective means of positive social change.
- People with disabilities and disadvantages have a right to self-determination of the form and means of their creative expression.
- People with disabilities and disadvantages have creative potential which can contribute to and enrich society.
- People with disabilities and disadvantages have the right to participate in the cultural life of the society.

A statewide meeting is planned for **August 28**, leading up to the national conference in October 1992. Interested individuals and organisations are encouraged to attend the August meeting, where state representatives will be selected for representation at the national conference.

For more information contact: Judith Isherwood or Bobbie Hodge at Arts Access on 699 8299.

## P-art-ICIPATE 1992

**P-art-ICIPATE is continuing to develop opportunities for people with disabilities to increase their involvement in arts activities.**

During 1990, the P-art-ICIPATE Committee ran a large conference over two days that was attended by more than 250 people interested in arts and disability.

In 1991, a series of one-off workshops were run in a variety of artforms, that were designed to extend people's interests in the arts.

1993 will see the staging of the first P-art-ICIPATE Expo. This Expo will take the form of a full day of arts workshops and seminars but will also include information and displays by groups running arts activities that are accessible to people with disabilities.

The aim of the day is to give people information and resources so that they can independently participate in activities in the community.

The P-art-ICIPATE Expo is scheduled for Saturday **October 10**. For more information contact Bobbie Hodge or Jane Trengove at Arts Access on 699 8299.

# Stormy Weather's Four Seasons

**Few local artists see their work purchased for an international collection even before their exhibition has opened, yet this was the case with Stormy Weather, a unique touring exhibition commissioned by Arts Access.**

Originally titled, 'Exposures' (as reported in the December edition of *Access*) the exhibition featured 50 artworks by artists who live with some form of disability or social disadvantage.

Eleven of the works in Stormy Weather were bought before the exhibition by the British based international pharmaceutical company, Smith Kline Beecham. The company has built new headquarters at Merseyside, Liverpool and chose to furnish its headquarters with art works by disabled or disadvantaged artists from around the world.

The eleven pieces from Stormy Weather are now hanging in Merseyside and the company is looking to purchase a further 30 Australian works for their burgeoning international collection.

Following its inaugural showing at the Malthouse Theatre early in March, the show went on tour later that month to the Warrnambool Art Gallery and to the Mildura Arts Centre in April.

The exhibition generated considerable interest during its tour and Arts Access was pleased to be able to arrange a short final season in Melbourne, at the Judith Pugh Gallery, Fitzroy during May-June.

Stormy Weather was curated for Arts Access by Jane Trengove and Juliana Engberg. Ms Engberg is Associate Director of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

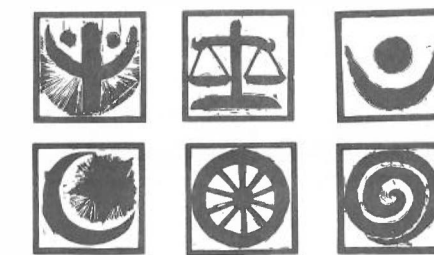
Jane Trengove also exhibited two paintings in the exhibition. She stressed that the artists in Stormy Weather wished to be defined by their work, rather than by their disabilities. Ms Trengove said there were intriguing connections linking the works of some 20 artists who came from a diverse range of disadvantaged situations.

Her paintings of emu eggs, denatured in the form of Victorian era drinking goblets were hung next to works by an aboriginal artist, who contributed a landscape painted onto a scrapped car boot lid and 'dot' style paintings on car wheel hub caps.

Artforms included painting, drawing, photography, sound collage, computer graphics and a glitzy new medium, holographic foil paper. This was used to construct hypnotic, figurative mosaics that contained messages about love and HIV/AIDS.

In his review of Stormy Weather's season at the Judith Pugh Gallery, Christopher Heathcote, the art critic for *The Age*, commented: "Seen together the exhibits are a curious mixture, but standards are high; in fact, the display is vastly superior to the current effort at a nearby public gallery."

Heathcote praised the work of Bruce Plant, who a few years ago, provided a striking red toned work for the Arts Access 'You Can Play a Role' poster.



*Some of the ten symbols that make up Pyramid (238X238cm), an installation of framed line prints by Tim Laurence.*

## Touch, hear, see: Living Paintings in Melbourne

**Blind, visually impaired and sighted people can touch, hear or view, six classical European paintings in Melbourne soon.**

The Association for the Blind's Lightfoot Centre in Kooyong is running a University of the Third Age (U3A) course featuring a display of special albums prepared by the Living Paintings Trust in London.

The albums consist of descriptive audio cassettes, colour slides and 'thermoforms' – raised representations of the works which allows the paintings to be 'felt'. Questions raised by the paintings will be discussed by the course group, to be led by the Rev Dr John Alexander. The six paintings include Titian's *Bacchus and Ariadne*, Caravaggio's *Supper at Emmaus* and Claude Lorrain's *The Enchanted Castle*.

"The high point for me, is Bruce Plant's stream of consciousness paintings which signify his experience of schizophrenia. They are composed from disembodied phrases which are disrupted in mid-sentence, set in differing colours and typefaces, and can appear spiralling around, upside down, or in mirror image.

Heathcote found "lucid, sometimes pleading messages," appearing in "spontaneous disarray." Gazing upon Plant's, "intricately organised" *The Metaphysics of Yes*, Heathcote recognised the introductory stanza to William Blake's poem, *Auguries of Innocence*.

"I doubt if one will find more heartfelt works exhibited along the Gertrude Street precinct this month," Heathcote wrote.

Stormy Weather was funded by the Victorian Health Foundation through sponsorship from Life. Be in it.

It's worth noting that two Stormy Weather artists are involved in some exciting events in Melbourne later this year.

**Ruark Lewis** explores the spaces, forms and meanings within texts, including music with complex typographic drawings constructed with typewriter, pen and ink. He will exhibit his new work, *The Transcription Drawings* as part of the visual arts program of the Melbourne International Festival, at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in September.

**Marshall White** uses computers to generate electric, dream-like, colour images. He will provide the visual counterpoint for a multi media operatic performance piece, *Seduction of a General* and *The Heaven Machine* performed by the ensemble, Seduction Opera, at the Victorian Arts Centre in August.

The course involves six Tuesday meetings (August 11, 18, 25 and September 1, 8, 15) from 11.15am to 12.45pm.

Venue: the Lightfoot Centre, 454 Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong. Fee: \$20 for non-members of the U3A but payment grants you membership of any U3A.

Enquiries and enrolments: Mary Longman 808 3137 or Beverly Menzies (AH) 889 2791 or Rev Alexander 853 8511.





"When we meet a person whose speech is impaired by disability do we hear? When we pass a person with Downs syndrome do we look? Would we try to hear what they are saying or simply regard it as noise and relegate it to the margins of our mind..." - Big Bag

## One more out of the Bag

### Big Bag's new five track CD, *Dolly* was launched in Melbourne on August 6th

The group's first release, 'Red Red and Bushy' received substantial radio and video air play over a year ago. Arts Access was closely involved in the production of the 'Red Red and Bushy' video, so we were thrilled to see the arrival of *Dolly*.

Big Bag is being promoted as "Australia's premier integrated band" - referring to the fact that half its members have intellectual disabilities. They have demonstrated that all people can develop their talents regardless of 'disability'. Indeed, this band has one big bag-full of abilities.

Since their earlier recording they've supported Not Drowning, Waving and My Friend the Chocolate Cake, both bands being associated with David Bridie, an Arts Access project artist. Big Bag have played a few gigs of their own in Melbourne and home town, Geelong. They've also played live to air on Geelong radio and appeared at various musical events. Following the *Dolly* CD launch, the band are due to set off on their first interstate tour, along the Hume Highway to Sydney. Arts Access members are sure to hear more of Big Bag as they gradually develop a national profile in the music industry.

How to describe Big Bag's sound? Here are some impressions from rock writers and broadcasters:

"Rocky, dancy, hip hop influences... the music flows and grooves with an inventive subtlety that defies any specific label... a touch of innocence... a warm atmosphere... the unique, rappy, soliloquy style of storytelling is a feature all on its own... confident... hypnotic... funky and haunting... the rhythm is contagious."

A limited number of copies of *Dolly* are for sale at Arts Access at a special discount price of \$10 each. Add \$1.50 for mail orders. Cheques should be made out to Arts Access.

# RESOURCES

## CAN's New Broom

The Community Arts Network (CAN), has moved from East Melbourne to 'The Broom Factory' in Fitzroy (address below). CAN is a major resource organisation for community artists, individuals and groups wishing to extend their knowledge of, and ability to create, arts projects based in community settings.

CAN's new location is accompanied by a redesigned logo and new format for its newsletter, *ARTS Brief*. This is a useful publication providing information on events, projects, funding, workshops, meetings and resources.

The hub of CAN is its Resource Centre, which acts as both a library and an information service. The Centre's collection holds books, periodicals, slides, videos, audio tapes, papers, posters and project documentation - all computer catalogued.

The collection's major subject areas are: urban and public art; environmental art and design, and (in relation to the arts) youth, women, multiculturalism, disability/disadvantage, business, law, occupational health and safety.

The new building has provided more space for displays and has allowed a 'video corner' to be set up for viewing tapes. There is a small reading area and a photocopier for limited library copying.

*Arts Resource Review*, published quarterly by the CAN Resource Centre, lists and describes recent acquisitions. Recent additions to the collection include: *The Re-enchantment of Art*, by Suzie Gablik; posters from English environmental arts organisation, Common Ground, including its Parish Map Projects; titles from the Arts Extension Service, University of Massachusetts, such as *The Artist in Business: basic business practices*; *Community Cultural Planning Work Kit*; and *Fundamentals of Arts Management*.

The Centre holds Australia Council materials (including Community Cultural Development Unit publications) and documentation from Artists in Schools and Artists in Community projects.

Five items can be borrowed for three weeks and loans are free to CAN members. Borrowers who are non-members are charged an annual joining fee. Subject searches and print-outs can be arranged.

The Resource Centre is open on weekdays from 10am till 5pm. For further information contact Elizabeth Jamieson, Arts Librarian.

CAN's new address: Community Arts Network, The Broom Factory, 156 George Street, FITZROY 3065. Phone: (03) 417 1133 Fax: (03) 416 3538.

*Arts Access wish all at CAN every success in their new home.*

The Broom Factory hosts a growing number of arts and community organisations including: People Linking Art Community & Environment (PLACE), Public Broadcasting News Service (PBNS), Public Broadcasting Foundation, Community Aid Abroad, YWCA, Multicultural Arts Victoria, Express Media Power Workshops (EMPOWER) and Youth Workshops.

## NEW RESOURCES

Recent additions to the collection of the Arts Access Resource Unit.

### ARTS

*Raw Vision 5, International Journal of Intuitive & Visionary Art*, Winter 1991-92.

*Gamesters Handbooks 1 & 2*, Brandes & Phillips. Handbooks of games, activities and strategies for use in drama groups, training courses and adult therapy.

*Large Print Song Books*. (Arts Access, 1992)

A collection of published and compiled songs particularly useful in programs with elderly.

*Partners in Health: Arts Access in Hospitals* QE 11 Arts Council of New Zealand. 10 minute video with accompanying booklet.

*Crying out for Freedom: Arts Access in Prisons* QE 11 Arts Council of New Zealand. 10 minute video with accompanying booklet.

### MANAGEMENT

*Introduction to Basic Planning and Evaluation for Community Sector Mental Health Services*

(Silvester, Burger & Rowan) A guide to enable consumers, committee members, staff and co-ordinators to access concepts and strategies for using information effectively in planning an evaluation at the service level.

*Successful Submission Writing* by Jean Roberts. For business and non-profit organisations.

### ISSUES

*The Creatures Time Forgot: Photography and Disability Imagery* by David Hevey.

A critical examination of the representation of people with disabilities in advertising, including charity and advocacy advertising. His work creates a visual form which reflects a new social presence of people with disabilities.

*Continued on back page...*

## Training

**Planning is underway for the following Arts Access workshops:**

### Staff Working with Older Adults - October

Practical hands-on workshops in Visual Arts (textiles, painting, drawing, three dimensional work) and Creative Movement/Music.

### Artist's Development - October/November

a professional development session for community artists currently working for, or who are interested in working with, Arts Access' community groups.

For further information contact: Carol Downey, Resource Officer (03) 699 8299.



## RESOURCES *Continued*

### *Health for Youth*

Final Report Policy and Strategies Youth Policy Development Council.  
Background, consultation process and policy formulation.

### *Measuring the Benefits of Recreation* Driscoll Hamilton-Smith.

A review of the measurement of non-monetary benefits of recreation. For Australian researchers and policy makers.

### VENUES

### *Museums without Barriers: A New Deal for Disabled People*

(Foundation De France and ICOM)  
A guide to the best modern museum practice in respect of disability and an agenda for future action in museums worldwide.

### EDUCATION TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

### *The Arts Work: Employment Training Through the Arts*

(Warger, Cusaden) (Very Special Arts, USA)

Describes many successes achieved by project instructors using the arts to assist individuals with disabilities to reach employment.

### DIRECTORIES

### *Victorian Dance Directory 1992*

Directory of dance activities, teachers, artists, dancers, choreographers and a wide variety of allied services and industries.

### *Networking Directory: Community and Consumer Groups with an Interest in Health*

(Consumer Health Forum of Australia Inc.)

**ArtsAccess is a non-profit organisation committed to creating opportunities in the arts with people with disabilities or who are disadvantaged by social conditions.**

### Staff

Executive Director: Judith Isherwood  
Program Manager: Bobbie Hodge  
Public Affairs Manager: Vivian Carroll  
EASE Project Officer: Julie-Anne Willems  
EASE Bookings Assistant: Lisa McKoy  
Tasneem Allie - Bookkeeper  
Administrator: Rhona Bester  
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Marylou Bacolod  
Sue O'Dwyer  
Jan Smietanka  
Gay Walsh  
EASE Volunteer Assistants:  
Barbara Kitchen  
John Pidd  
Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

# ARTS ACCESS

### Membership

By joining Arts Access now you will help us reach more people with more programs.

Memberships are tax deductible and range from:

\$15 concessional

\$30 individual

\$50 organisational member

Members are kept up to date with activities through the quarterly newsletter, Access and the Annual Report. Members also receive discounts on all Arts Access publications and are invited to participate by attending public performances, exhibitions and special events related to our wide range of arts projects.

For more information, contact:

### Arts Access

109-111 Sturt Street

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3205

Phone: 699 8299

Fax: 685 5112

### Coming up in the September issue of Access

- The Healthy Arts Project
- The Launch of the St. Kilda Community Health Centre Mural
- A review of David Hevey's challenging book on photography and disability imagery, *The Creatures Time Forgot*
- Regular Resource Unit Update
- and more

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