

'Bricked In', The Boys at Turana Perform



'When I get out I can say I'm a star!'

**'There are bars on the windows and
locks on the doors,
Everytime I go outside
I feel like jumping,
I feel like jumping,
I feel like jumping the wall.'**

Locked Up-Taken from songs from Poplar House. All words and music by the boys.

Words, painting and songs together with the boys, staff and artists at Turana, tell the story of what life is like for these kids.

After much hard work, the enthusiasm of all participants was apparent on the opening night of 'Bricked In', a performance by the boys at Turana.

The sixteen week project, funded by the Dame Elizabeth Murdoch Trust

involved artists Maud Clark, Gill Shaw and Greg Sneddon in a series of music, writing and mural workshops with a group of boys from Poplar House.

"Working with the boys was great, but it was not always easy. It has taken a lot of time and effort on everybody's part-artists, staff and boys to get the show together in the time we had but it was all worth it", said Gill.

Work on the show began in May. The boys started talking about what life was like on the inside, how they ended up at Turana and what they wanted to do when they got out. Not an easy process for the artists or the boys, but as a feeling of trust developed the stories were pieced together.

It was these stories that became the basis for the words and songs in 'Bricked In'. The first show was staged on July 18th and was initially called, 'Bricked

In-the Cornered Kids'. An audience of seventy people, a fabulous response and a great performance were the inspiration for the recent performances.

Two shows later and standing room only on both nights, indicated the success of the project. "The atmosphere was just fantastic. It just blew them away... It was a powerful experience for the parents of these kids to see them up there performing in front of a lot of people", said Greg.

The response filtered back to the office when a father of one of the boys rang to congratulate Arts Access for the great show. "He rang to say that the performance was great and that he was really proud of his son", said Susie Dickson.

The night ended with an informal supper provided by the staff and boys at Turana.

Staff challenged to be creative

"An opportunity to have fun, be creative and plan".

Such were the comments about the staff workshop run by artist Sally Marsden at Clarendon Clinic in July.

The day long programme was designed to give participants 'hands on' experience of innovative visual arts forms, give direction in how to go about setting up such activities by using drama techniques and to create an opportunity

to discuss resources and plan the development of their own individual arts based activities.

The workshops aimed to increase awareness of the options which the Arts Officer as part of a day programme could adopt, and the potential of these types of programmes in the lives of people of all abilities.

The most interesting comment of the day reinforced the value of such

activities. One participant, himself once a member of a rehabilitation support group took the perspective of a consumer. When asked to sum up the day his feelings were that such an opportunity allowed him to say to others that 'no' he was not 'sick' and 'mad' but that he was creative and able to create art objects of lasting interest. This outcome speaks for itself.

Kate Brennan

Health and Creativity Kiwi Style

On the weekend of July 29th Richard Benge, Artist-in-Residence at Larundel Hospital left for New Zealand to participate in a Creative Arts and Health 'Hui'.

Organised by the Creative Expression Unit of Cherry Farm Psychiatric Hospital, and funded by the New Zealand Health Department on an initiative of Ainsley Yardley, the Hospitals Arts Administrator, the conference involved artists from many disciplines in workshops and seminars.

A Hui, as was explained is a Maori term for meeting and over the weekend, 150 delegates would be sleeping together on the floor, would participate in the painting of murals, drama and other arts based workshops and spend time watching videos and being involved in seminars.

The objectives were many. It was hoped that by bringing these people together, the work practices and

philosophies of health workers and artists could be shared, networking could be developed and long term goals for the future could be set.

For Richard, coming from the Artist-in-Residence Project at Larundel Hospital, the invitation to conduct a workshop and seminar at the Hui meant connecting with several artists who have been developing work in this field.

For Richard, meeting Wolfgang Stange from London meant further experience in working in the area of drama. Wolfgang's movement and performance workshops conducted for people with disabilities are strongly influenced by eastern styles of dance and was one of the highlights of the conference.

Raggai Vannis from the Creative Expression Unit of Greylands Hospital in Perth told the Hui of the work his unit has conducted, training patients in various art forms over the last 17 years. The

patients of Greylands experience more traditional art therapy and can go on to be trained in individual art forms. The work of these people is on permanent display in the hospital.

Throughout the weekend the Hui was able to watch several scenes from a play that was written by one of the patients from Cherry Orchard before it premiered at Dunedin's Globe Theatre, and witness the construction of a dramatic wind sculpture by fabric artist Heather Martin.

"I know from the experience of this Hui that the coming together of artists, health workers and administrators is an invaluable way of communicating issues and sharing skills necessary for promoting a future for artists in the area of health. I learned a lot from this conference and think that the New Zealand model can offer us some very positive things and hope a similar exchange in the future will benefit us here in Australia", said Richard.

Artzday, after day...

Arts Access has successfully been working at Larundel Hospital for three years and the present programme is no exception.

After the success of the Wizard of Oz Parade last year, resident artists Richard Benge, Libby O'Neil and Arts Access trainee Anne Maree de-Jong have been running workshops and working towards what has become the hospital's annual arts day on November 23rd.

"Artzday", involves staff, patients and the community in mosaics, a mural workshop and a fabric sculpture co-ordinated by Tori de-Mestre. As well as these, the staff at Larundel have been involved in a series of workshops that has focussed on totem pole making. Each totem has a different theme and will

be used as part of a permanent installation at the hospital.

One of the highlights that has been planned for "Artzday" are brick decorating workshops where four hundred bricks will be used as a starting point for further creative exploration. Donated by Nubrik, the bricks will be decorated, fired and then used to create a path in the hospital grounds.

This years "Artzday" not only promises to be creative as far as the workshops are concerned but will also include some creative cuisine. The staff and patients have planned to have a selection of international fare available to tantalise the taste buds and add to the cosmopolitan air.

ARTS Access DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Arts Access Society Inc. is a non-profit organisation making cultural activities more accessible to disabled and disadvantaged groups and individuals. It is funded through government grants, trusts, private individuals and corporations.

Arts Access has grown rapidly and now wishes to appoint a Development Officer to an exciting new position. The Development Officer will be responsible to the Executive Director and will:

Develop and implement appropriate marketing and fundraising strategies. Maintain and develop the profile of Arts Access. Collaborate on the development of policy and program initiatives. Develop a specific media strategy and Be responsible for information dissemination regarding the work of Arts Access.

It is desirable that the appointee has experience in marketing and promotion, an understanding of public and private sector funding and an interest in the arts particularly in the context in which Arts Access operates.

Information about Arts Access and a job description can be obtained from Leanne Sarah on 699 8299.

Apply in writing to:

Ms Kate Brennan, Executive Director
Arts Access Society Inc.
109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne, 3205

Applications close Monday 19th September, 1988.

Marvellous Mural for Clarendon



The new mural to be placed at Clarendon Clinic

Since the renovations at Clarendon Clinic have been underway, the day centre has been situated in a disused Church in Williams Street, Richmond.

It is in this setting, where birds find their way inside and fly towards the stained glass windows that the new mural for Clarendon Clinic has been underway for several months.

Under the supervision of artist Suzanne Fagen, outpatients have been meticulously depicting scenes around Albert Park Lake and incorporating into the mural aspects of life in and around the clinic.

"We had several discussions about the subject matter of the mural and came up with the idea of putting in scenes that were important to the people who used the clinic", said Suzanne.

To be launched on Tuesday September 20, at the Clarendon Day Centre in William St Richmond by Dr. Cunningham Dax, the new mural is to be installed at the Albert Street site and will replace one of the original murals that has been destroyed due to the renovations.

New Visual Artists for Arts Access

Jenny McCarthy and Kerri Peters are both ex-teachers, both textile artists and have begun working together with Arts Access on a community visual arts programme.

Having worked as professional artists for several years before joining the staff at Arts Access, Jenny concentrated on her own fabric design and printing, while Kerri had been moving in a different direction- making costumes and developing her own line of millinery.

"The opportunity to work in the field of textiles with Arts Access is wonderful because it still leaves me a day a week to do my own work. Jenny and I work well. Her area is fabric printing and mine is more mixed media so our work complements each other beautifully...It's strange, for about a year I had been

driving past this building wondering what exactly it was that Arts Access did, so here I am and now I know," said Kerri.

Funded by the Visual Arts and Crafts Board of the Australia Council, the programme will run for ten months involving individuals and groups in textile and mixed media workshops and will result in an exhibition of the finished work to be held in April next year.

The driving force behind the Community Visual Arts Programme is the idea of involving people from communities who have previously been involved with Arts Access in workshops to develop their demonstrated artistic ability.

"Week one of the workshops has been completed and the response from

our participants has been fantastic... Part of the philosophy behind the project is to foster the artistic ability of these people through individual and group workshops and to create an opportunity for them to work not only on their pieces but to work towards an exhibition," said Jenny.

Participants involved in the programme come from a broad range of backgrounds and some of the initial workshops have included people from Mont Park Psychiatric Hospital, Coburg Day Centre and Park Towers Estate.

Jenny and Kerri are both confident that after their ten months work the resulting exhibition will be of a professional standard and those involved will have achieved recognition and status as artists.

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

Please contact us if you would like to become a member of the Society or know more about our activities.

Executive Director: *Kate Brennan*

Project Officer: *Carey Brickel*

Office Administrator: *Leanne Sarah*

Ticketing Project Officer: *Chris Milton*

Office Assistant/Photographer: *Susie Dickson*

Financial Advisor: *John Paxinos*

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O'Dwyer

Arts Access Society Inc, 109-111

Sturt Street,

South Melbourne 3205. Telephone

(03) 699 8299

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Programming Update

CRAFT RESIDENCY

A crafts programme that involves clients from varying backgrounds in a series of workshops and is moving towards an exhibition.

ST. VINCENTS

Drama workshops involving the boy and staff leading to a performance on September 14th.

CONCORD SCHOOL

A ceramics mural with severely disabled seniors at the school.

Photography by Susie Dickson

EDAR

Drama project with intellectually disabled adults. Workshops to result in community performances.

ST. JOSEPHS-SPRINGVALE

A drama project involving children in the integration programme and a grade of children of mixed multicultural backgrounds.

ASPENDALE SDS AND DANDENONG WEST SDS

A music programme involving children with disabilities.



Jenny McCarthy and Kerri Peters, new assets to the staff at Arts Access

Dates to remember

"Art Party" workshops have been continuing successfully throughout the year and plans have been made to incorporate the work into the Australia Bi-centennial Travelling Exhibition. "Art Party" - an exhibition of childrens' art, 1988 can be seen at Royal Park between the 6th and 12th November.

The project is supported by the Bi-centennial Authority.

Enquiries - Tori de Mestre



Arts Day

A day of workshops and activities at Larundel Hospital on November 23rd.

Enquiries Anne Maree de-Jong

Mural Launch

Dr Cunningham Dax will launch the new mural bound for Clarendon Clinic at 2.00pm on Tuesday September 20th at the Day Centre in William Street.

Performance at St. Vincents

A drama performance by the boys at St. Vincents to be held on September 14th.

Thanks again to Graham Berry and Typographical Services

ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No. VAW7218

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