



Artist, Sue Anderson (centre) and Co-ordinator, Bronwyn Evans (right) with three proud young muralists from the Werribee Youth Arts Program.

Splash!

Youth Arts Mural Launched

It was almost business as usual at the Laverton Fitness Centre for the launch, on May 5th, of the first completed project of the Werribee Youth Arts Program.

Swimmers splashed, kicked and dived while above them a colourful mural exploring marine themes reflected the energy and value of artistic activity. Constructed of many small, painted components, the mural literally swims with bold aquatic imagery – bold expressions of water

and sea life, including shoals of fish, octopus, sharks and other creatures of the briny deep.

The mural, which was much appreciated by the management of the Laverton Fitness Centre, was the result of the first term of the Werribee Youth Arts Program. The program is a major initiative of Arts Access, involving socially disadvantaged young people from throughout the Werribee municipality.

Operating throughout 1993, the program creates attractive, enjoyable arts workshops including music, visual arts, performance art, and other art forms appropriate to the interests of young people. The program is also designed to increase participants' awareness of health and lifestyle issues and develop the capacity to make healthy life choices. The program is supported by the Werribee Young People and Alcohol Committee and links have been forged with other local youth support agencies.

To produce the mural, 11 participants, aged 11 to 16, undertook visual arts workshops with artist Sue Anderson, developing sketches, drawings and photographs during the design phase. After choosing their marine theme a series of images were painted on wooden panels which were later bolted to a wall at one end of the pool to form the large, colourful mural.

It was a whimsical pool-side launch, with speeches on the public address system acoustically drowned by the energetic and playful swimmers. But the aquatic energy underscored the aim of launch – to celebrate the lively work of the young artists. Launching the mural, Councillor John Gibbons, the Mayor of Werribee congratulated the participants on their fine achievement.

Arts Access' Executive Director, Judith Isherwood warmly thanked the City of Werribee and the Management of the Laverton Fitness Centre for their assistance throughout the project; and Project Co-ordinator, Bronwyn Evans presented each participant with a small memento of their contribution to the project.

The Werribee Youth Arts Program is a partnership between Arts Access, the City of Werribee and the Commonwealth Department of Health Housing, Local Government & Community Services. It is managed by Arts Access.

Briefs

Arts Access welcomes new Patron and new Honorary Life Member

Mrs Jean McCaughey has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her services as Patron of Arts Access during the period 1987-1993. Arts Access President, Judy Morton and Executive Director, Judith Isherwood presented Mrs McCaughey with a framed life membership certificate as a token of the appreciation of the Management Committee, staff and members. Mrs McCaughey was Patron of Arts Access during her time as Lady Governor of Victoria and for a short time following the retirement of Governor Davis McCaughey. Early in 1993, Mrs McCaughey recommended that the incoming Lady Governor, Mrs Lesley McGarvie, should be approached and asked to consider taking over the role of Patron. Arts Access is honoured and delighted that Mrs McGarvie has agreed.

Cinema Fundraising Event

Later in 1993, Arts Access will present a fundraising premiere of the new Australian film, *Hammers Over the Anvil*. With the date yet to be fixed, we can simply report that Village Roadshow have generously donated the use of a cinema, staff for the event, and all proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Arts Access Trust. The film, which stars Charlotte Rampling and Russel Crowe, is based on stories by Alan Marshall, whose famous novel, *I Can Jump Puddles* inspired a Czech film and an Australian television series. Full details will be announced when tickets are ready for sale sometime during the next two months. The premiere of *Hammers Over the Anvil* will be a major Australian film industry event and a wonderful fundraising opportunity for the Arts Access Trust. Further details will be available once a firm date is fixed.

Advertising Agency Campaigning for Arts Access

Arts Access is pleased to announce that Luscombe & Partners Advertising Pty Ltd, a leading Melbourne marketing and advertising consultancy, have agreed to provide their services on an in-kind sponsorship basis. The support of Luscombe & Partners will greatly assist Arts Access' in raising public awareness of the value of the artistic activity and cultural participation of special needs groups. The agency will provide expert advice and assistance in the planning and production of major promotional campaigns and materials.

Annual Report Sponsors

The quality production of Arts Access' Annual Report is dependent upon the generous in-kind support of a number of sponsors, who are now well known to Arts Access members. Our 1992 Annual Report, which was distributed in May, was once again supported by: Robin Goodall of Inkwell Studios (design); Peter Ingham of Craftsman Press (printing), Brian Longmore of Spicers Paper (stock) and Graham Berry of Typographical Services (linotronic printing of artwork).

Strategic Planning

During the first half of 1993 Arts Access initiated a strategic planning process in which staff, committee members and close associates of Arts Access have reviewed achievements, identified problems, formulated problem solving strategies and envisioned the direction of the organisation into the 1990s and beyond. The meetings have been facilitated by Helen Woods and Jane Sargent of The Strategy Team, a professional management and fundraising consultancy. Subjects examined during the meetings include: Arts Access' mission and public profile; our 20th Anniversary in 1994; current & future premises; and fundraising issues. The strategic planning meetings have been funded through the Victorian Community Foundation.

Trust Appeal Function

Clare Murphy of Dan Murphy Cellars and Barbara Cakebread of Armstrong Street Foodstore donated wine and food, respectively, for a fundraising function held at Isi Plack's home in May. The function introduced Arts Access' work to a number of prospective donors to the Arts Access Trust. The Arts Access Trust Appeal Committee and the Arts Access Management Committee thank both our sponsors for their generous support which helped to make the evening a great success.

Creative Arts Brochure

Arts Access has produced and distributed a full colour information brochure promoting the Arts Access/H&CS Creative Arts Program for people with intellectual disabilities. The program operates from the Linden Gallery in St Kilda. The brochure was designed to be used by both Arts Access and H&CS staff in recruiting new participants to the program. Raleigh Paper kindly donated a quantity of its brilliant Harvest stock, which is produced from waste fibre from the sugar cane harvesting process. Arts Access wishes to thank Raleigh Paper for their generous support of our work.

Arts Access - Developing National Networks

Arts Access is now co-ordinating the development of the national network of organisations working in the field of arts and disability/disadvantage, formerly known as DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts Australia). Over the last two years Arts Access has played an important role in the development of this national network at a state and national level. Locally, Arts Access is working with the network's Victorian Committee to map the range of organisations that offer arts activities for people with disabilities and people disadvantaged by social conditions. A survey, conducted by mail, is continuing throughout 1993.

China Cultural Exchange Development Program

One of Arts Access' most exciting ventures is developing following discussions in China on the feasibility of a foreign cultural exchange program. In March this year Arts Access' Executive Director, Judith Isherwood, and Program Manager, Bobbie Hodge visited China to begin discussions for the development of a Cultural Exchange Program with China's Jilin and Jiangsu provinces.

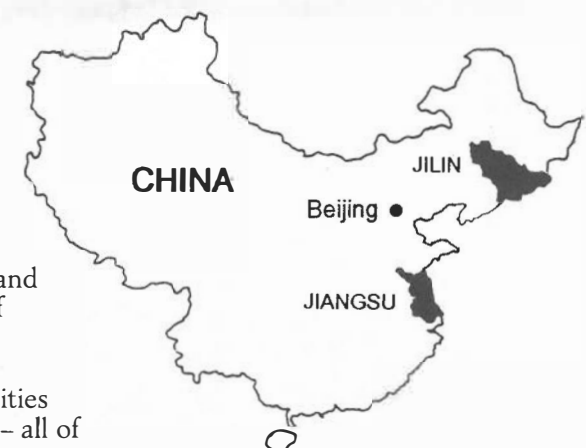
Their consultations with national and provincial disability and arts organisations revealed great interest in Arts Access' proposals for an artist-in-residency exchange, artistic workshops, conferences and touring exhibitions of works from Chinese and Australian artists with disabilities. Since returning from China, Judith and Bobbie have progressively developed proposals and further links to support the planned Cultural Exchange Program planned for late 1994. The starting point for these developments was the 'bridge building tour' in March, taking in Jilin and Jiangsu provinces, and the national capital, Beijing. During their 17 day visit, Judith and Bobbie had many opportunities to learn about the development of support and services for people with disabilities in China.

Central to the development of China's disability services is the China Disabled Person's Federation (CDPF). This national organisation has local branches throughout China at provincial, municipal and county levels and community branches in neighbourhoods, townships and villages. The CDPF conducts programs in advocacy, rehabilitation and cultural services.

According to a 1987 national survey, 4.9% of the total Chinese population has some form of disability - this represents 54.6 million people. Those people with hearing and visual impairments represent the highest proportion of people with disabilities. In late 1990, the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons was adopted. This law protects the rights and interests of people with disabilities,



Bobbie Hodge (left) and Judith Isherwood (right) with visually impaired music students at Changchun University, Jilin.



ensuring their equal and full participation in the social life and cultural and material wealth of Chinese society.

In Jilin and Jiangsu Judith and Bobbie visited schools, universities and recreational organisations - all of which include arts-based activities as a major part of their programs with people with disabilities. Many of the staff in these organisations and schools were keen to learn of the creative models and approaches used by Arts Access in undertaking arts projects with people with disabilities. Discussions for the proposed Cultural Exchange Program in both provinces focused on the exchange of visual arts exhibitions and the exchange of artists. Australian community-arts practitioners, for example, could work with local artists and communities, providing fertile ground for undertaking new models and approaches for involving people with disabilities in arts activities.

Chinese delegations to visit Arts Access

Later this year, two Chinese delegations will visit Melbourne - one from Jilin and one from Jiangsu. The purpose of these visits will be to acquaint our Chinese contacts with the extent of Arts Access' work, the overall field of art and disability in an Australian context, and to further develop plans for the Cultural Exchange Program.

In the meantime, Arts Access is developing a major proposal for Australia's contribution to the program. This proposal is based on

the development of a multi-sensory visual arts exhibition, with the working title, *Start Making Sense*. The exhibition will feature artworks by Australian artists with disabilities that allow people to interact with the art through all of the senses, not just sight.

Arts Access believes such an exhibition will be of great interest to wide cross-sections of the community, regardless of disability or cultural background, and will be successful in breaking down the barriers of language. Further, Arts Access believes that through the development of cultural exchange programs such as this, many people in both countries may come to value and appreciate the enormous contribution people with disabilities can and do make to the cultural life of the community.

Arts Access' visit to China was funded by the Community Cultural Development Board of the Australia Council.



Led by musician, Neil McLaughlan (squatting right), *Feast of Art* participants explored percussion instruments and movement.

Oh What a Beautiful Feast of Art!

The third annual *Feast of Art* event was held at the Arts Access Studio on June 11. The Feast of Art is a day of celebration for participants in Arts Access artistic projects, featuring performances, displays of artwork, opportunities to contribute comments on Arts Access activities and ideas for future projects, and the traditional feast of refreshments. Among the 40 people in attendance were groups from Kew Cottages, ARBIAS, the North/West Creative Arts Program and members of the Sightless Visionaries.

Michael Norris' piano playing accompanied a sing-a-long of popular songs such as 'Oh What A Beautiful Morning' and 'Yellow Submarine,' warming-up everyone in preparation for the activities to come. Arts Access Program Manager, Bobbie Hodge showed slides outlining the diversity of recent Arts Access projects. Musician, Neil McLaughlan involved the group in musical performances using a collection of percussion instruments, many handmade by Neil.

Two dynamic dance performances followed – one from the North West Creative Arts Program, another from the Kew Cottages Dance Group. Each were enthralling and highly appreciated by Feast participants.

The planning and staging of the *Feast of Art* is an effective way for people with disabilities to be directly involved with Arts Access programs at a participatory level – through the planning committee, and through the feedback process. Its success relates to its capacity to create a highly enjoyable celebratory atmosphere, enhanced by the involvement of a wide range of groups with active artistic interests.

Disability Anti-Discrimination Act

With the recent enactment of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 there is now a strong, Commonwealth driven incentive for Australians to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities. A key aspect of the Act is its recognition of inaccessible buildings as a factor discriminating against many people in the community.

For many years Arts Access, has lobbied for improved access to entertainment, cultural and sporting venues, particularly through the advocacy work of the Entertainment Access Service (EASE). The Disability Discrimination Act is a welcome development, introducing a complaint process and the appointment to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of a Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Hastings.

Arts Access will work to make venue managers aware of the terms of the Act and advise them on the best way to meet their obligations and provide the best access and facilities for people with disabilities.

The object of the Act is to eliminate as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the grounds of disability in the areas of work, accommodation, education, access to premises, goods, services and facilities, land, clubs and incorporated organisations, administration of Commonwealth laws and programs, and also covers harassment.

The Act includes 'disability standards', has the power to order enforcement through the Federal Court, but includes exemptions on the grounds of 'unjustifiable hardship'. This is a major initiative that requires all organisations to assess their provision of access. The full terms of the Act are too extensive to be reported here.

Copies of the full text of the Act, can be purchased for \$9.20 (includes an amendment) from the Australian Government Publishing Service, 347 Swanston St, Melbourne VIC 3000. Telephone (03) 663 3010. Postage is \$5.00 extra.

For information on the role of the Disability Discrimination Commissioner contact the Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission, 365 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000. Telephone (03) 602 3222.

Artistic Program Update

Creative Arts in Sunbury & Glenroy

Our second **Creative Arts Program** funded by Health & Community Services, was established in late 1992. Based at community venues in Sunbury and Glenroy, the program is energetically providing a variety of arts workshops for people with intellectual disabilities. A focus of the program this year is to diversify the range of arts options in the regions. Artists who have conducted workshops with the program so far in 1993 include Lindsay Mason, Alex Pinder, Neil McLachlan, Rachel McKay, and Kerreen Ely-Harper.

Chronic Fatigue

Funding has been received for a media project with young people with Myalgic Encephalitis (ME) otherwise known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) the project is planned to operate in the later part of 1993 and the young participants are keen to produce an artistic product, for example a video or publication, to be distributed nationally, that explores issues for young people with ME/CFS.

Making a Mark in Frankston

An exciting selection of paintings and drawings entitled, *Making a Mark* were displayed at the Frankston City Library from April 26 to May 7. The exhibition developed from a project co-ordinated by Arts Access during late 1992, instigated by the Nepean Centre for Physically Handicapped. *Making a Mark* provided opportunities for people with physical disabilities living in the Frankston/Westernport Region to participate in an enjoyable, creative activity and foster their interests in the visual arts. Artist, Charles Farrugia undertook two terms of Saturday morning art classes over seventeen weeks, working with the participants to develop their skills in drawing, painting, collage and mixed media. The artworks in the exhibition represented the range of media and themes explored by the group. *Making a Mark* was supported through a grant from the E. M. Butler Bequest.

Thursday Writers

Also funded through Health & Community Services, the **Thursday Writers Project**, marks the return of writing as an Arts Access project medium. Writer, Bev Roberts will work over two terms of workshops that will focus on creative writing and poetry. Thursday Writers will target residents with psychiatric disabilities living in Fitzroy and Collingwood and will be based at the Holden Street Neighbourhood House in North Fitzroy.

Young Street Music

Ten men attending the **Young Street Psychiatric Clinic** will collaborate over 16 weeks with musician, David Juriansz in workshops that will focus on composition, song writing and recording, leading to a final performance.

Supported Residential Services Project.

This year, project co-ordinator, Jedda Bellham will develop networks with service agencies in the St. Kilda/South Melbourne area where 20 SRS houses are located. Jedda is currently planning two visual arts and environment projects in collaboration with residents, local agencies and artists for the St. Kilda Garden Festival in November.

Puppetry Research

This research project is investigating the feasibility of developing a new puppetry production targeting Victorian child-care centres. Playworks, a key Victorian agency supporting and promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities in local child-care services, has commissioned this study and engaged Arts Access as the consultant. The study examined the use of puppet theatre as a creative medium for increasing awareness, within Victorian child-care centres, of issues concerning children with differing abilities. Puppeteer, Andrew Hansen has researched and written the report for Arts Access.

Trainee Appointed

Colin McKinnon has commenced as Trainee Arts Project Officer. This position is providing an opportunity for a member of the Koori community to develop a range of community arts management skills. Colin will work with Arts Access staff and will develop specific arts projects with a range of Koori groups.

New Directions for Environmental Design at Turana

Environmental design has emerged as an art form with great potential for Arts Access projects. Following the success of a project at Turana in 1992, the current **Turana Youth Training Centre Project** is being mounted on a significant scale as a major part of the redevelopment of the Turana site. Glenn Berrill, professional landscape architect and designer, has been engaged by Arts Access to identify the potential for site-specific artworks and permanent facilities. Glenn's report is nearing completion and a range of opportunities have emerged including an amphitheatre, a community playground, site specific sculptures and a range of outdoor furniture.

Prison Mural

The **Melbourne Metropolitan Reception Prison Project** is a multi-media arts program with long-term male prisoners. Visual artist, Eamonn Scott has commenced a large scale mural with D Division prisoners, on the theme of 'Sporting Heroes and Heroines' which will be mounted in the new activities centre.

Textiles in Moorabbin

The **Southern Community Mental Health Services (SCMHS) Project** is based at the SCMHS Centre in Moorabbin, where textile artist Rose Marie Szulc has conducted workshops with local women with psychiatric disability who regularly attend the Centre.

The Tree of Life branches out in Royal's Oncology Ward

The Tree of Life, was the inspiring theme chosen for a large textile work completed on the Oncology Ward of the Royal Melbourne Hospital in late April 1993.

Under the direction of artist Claire Humphrys-Hunt, patients, outpatients, family, friends, and the nursing and medical staff developed the textile which expresses positive aspects of patient's lives. The 'tree' features leaves, drawn by individual patients and decorated in distinctive ways that tell stories of their personal experiences.

The project received the full support and enthusiastic co-operation of the oncology ward nursing staff, who gained valuable first hand experience of the benefits the arts can bring to patients who are facing life threatening illnesses and undergoing traumatic therapies.

The Tree Of Life was the second stage of project established at the Royal Melbourne's Oncology Ward in September 1992. Again, Claire Humphrys-Hunt developed a textile project with patients, staff and families, to produce a four-panel textile mural featuring scenes from participants' lives. The success of this project led the hospital to extend the creative program to a second stage, operating over six months until April, 1993.

Funds for the project were secured through the fundraising activities of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the ward nurses, and the Australia Council, the federal government's arts funding and advisory body. It is hoped the hospital will eventually develop an arts program that will build on the work of the projects within the Oncology Ward.

Arts Access is keen to establish pilot projects within hospitals and encourage their development to a stage of ongoing, independent management. In 1987 Arts Access established a model arts project at the Larundel Psychiatric Hospital. The success of the project led the hospital to establish a long term arts program employing two staff artists based in a studio within the hospital grounds.

Jeff Thomson Workshop

Known as the 'corrugated iron man of Australasia,' New Zealand artist Jeff Thomson works with one of the most common building materials, corrugated iron, producing sculptures that suggest the material has a life of its own.

Thomson conducted a two day workshop with members of the Sightless Visionaries artists group, in the Arts Access Studio. The two day workshop concentrated on developing ideas in screen printing and simple sculptures made of wire.

During his time in Melbourne, Jeff undertook workshops with similar artists groups based at Footscray Community Arts Centre and the Exchange Centre, Coburg.

Jeff began the workshop by showing slides and speaking about the evolution of his work with metal, which began during a walking tour of the South Island. Jeff, who was studying a painting at art school, would make small whimsical sculptures for local farmers to decorate their metal roadside letterboxes.

Soon Jeff was producing larger works, such as his famous herd of grazing cows (there's a small herd in the garden at Museum of Modern Art, formerly Heide Gallery), elephants and later excursions into corrugated iron cars and architecture-based work.

New Resources

Below is a selection of significant new materials received by the Resource Unit since January, 1993. For all Resource Collection inquiries contact Carol Downie on 699 8299.

ISSUES – ACCESS

Accessible Buildings for People With Disabilities: Information Kit
Comprehensive kit of information on access issues for use by community groups, government officials, architects and designers

ARTS – HEALTHCARE

Arts in Health Care – first steps for managers
First in a series targeted at managers and senior staff about arts in healthcare settings.

Capitalising on Creativity
A guide to starting an arts program with models of good practice. Targeted at health services

Celebration: the arts and terminal care – first steps for managers
Ian Hague and Jenney Barnett. Second in a series of publications targeted at managers and senior staff about the arts in health care settings.

Environmental Design Quality in Health Care
Peter Sher.
Discussion paper raising questions concerning identification and evaluation of positive and negative environmental qualities and their relationships with curing, healing and caring.

Pyramids of Light and Other Stories: The Arts and Mental Health – First Steps for Managers
Lee Corner.
Third in a series of publications which look at the role of the arts in health care.

Living Proof: Views of a World Living with HIV & AIDS
Nicholas Lowe and Michale McMillan. A four year photographic and writing residency which enabled individuals directly affected by HIV/AIDS to creatively express their concerns, interests, hopes and fears.

In Through The Front Door – Disabled People and the Visual Arts: Examples of Good Practice.
Jayne Earnscliffe. The Arts Council of Great Britain. Beautifully designed and illustrated overview of arts programs and artistic developments involving people with disabilities in the UK.

Continued over...

Resource Unit Update

Continued from opposite page...

ARTS – GENERAL

Looking Forward to Looking Back
Roger Sim.
Guidelines on reminiscence and the arts in the care of the elderly.

Then and Now: A Training Pack for Reminiscence Work
Patricia Duffin
Contains five training units, case studies booklet, poster and memories book. Includes setting up a group, planning and implementing a program.

ARTS – DISABILITY

Handshapes: A Guide to Using Sign Language Interpreters in the Arts
A guide for artworkers, staff of theatre companies and venues, who are interested in increasing the accessibility of their events for deaf people.

Person to Person
Linsay Gething.
In depth description of 12 disabilities plus an appendix of disability organisations in Australia for professional training or general reference.

DAM – Disability Arts Magazine
Vol. 3, No. 3, 1993
Focuses on works by people with disabilities and issues related to arts and disability.

ISSUES

Disability Arts and Culture Papers
Sarah Lees.
Transcripts of a disability arts and culture seminar 1991.

The Art of Reminiscence Workshop

This promises to be a valuable day with presentations on a wide range of issues related to reminiscence work plus two practical artistic workshops.

Date: Thursday, August 26, 1993
from 9am to 4pm at the Arts Access Studio.

Book as soon as possible by contacting Carol Downey or Samantha Marsh on 699 8299. Bookings must be confirmed by receipt of the \$35 workshop fee.

Staff Training Workshops

The role of the Resource Unit is to assist groups to independently plan and manage their own arts programs. Staff training workshops have proven to be a valuable component in achieving this objective and remain a key activity during 1993.

Two two-day workshops, **Multi Arts** and **Music & Movement**, were recently offered for staff who work with people with intellectual disability. The response was overwhelming, with waiting lists being made for those who could not be accommodated. Repeat workshops may be possible later in the year. 60% of participants were from country Victoria, confirming the need for resources in regional areas. Both workshops aimed at broadening the range of creative arts options available to people with intellectual disabilities by introducing staff to a variety of approaches and activities which they in turn can modify or extend with their own groups.

Each workshop involved:

- developing a sequential arts program rather than isolated activities
- experiencing the artform at first-hand
- sharing resources, information and ideas
- discussing issues and concerns

Outcomes of the workshop were very encouraging; one participant is now running in-house training with other staff; an existing program has been extended to incorporate a variety of art forms; a service is to set up 'sensory rooms' for clients; client artworks and the benefits of arts activity are being promoted to service staff and management; and participants reported increased confidence in their abilities.

Comments:

"Time out to think and plan is really valuable. To do this with others from different places is a real bonus."

"Great workshop! Atmosphere was very relaxed and supportive."

"Self discovery as well as ideas for work."



Arts Access Studio

A capital works program has been completed on the Arts Access Studio, the low cost multi-purpose exhibition space within Arts Access' offices in South Melbourne. The studio is now a much improved facility for exhibitors, with new track lighting and renovations to the courtyard. A publicity campaign has increased overall usage of the Studio, for a wide range of activities.

For bookings contact Samantha Marsh on 699 8299.

Yes!

I want to do more to help Arts Access reach more people with more creative programs and services.

I wish to donate:

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Donations of \$2 or more are Tax Deductible

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☐ Arts Access General Fund

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ARTS Access

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

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

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Members are kept up to date with activities through the 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.

Arts Access acknowledges the financial support of Arts Victoria, a division of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism; and the Australia Council, the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body.



ARTS
VICTORIA



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