

# ACE News

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Issue 3 Summer 1998



# Guest Editorial

Bernette Redwood

This is certainly an opportunity that I am pleased to have - being the guest editor for this edition of ACE news. I have been working as a volunteer here at Accessible Arts for six months and it has been a great time for me. Accessible Arts is an organisation that I absolutely believe is an important force in changing the lives of people with disabilities. Culture and the arts can change the quality of the lives of people with disabilities and the staff at Accessible Arts are strongly committed to seeing this happen.

Helen, Neridah and Robert have gone out of their way to include me in the day to day happenings of Accessible Arts and I have felt that I could genuinely make a contribution to the organisation. I have a severe psychiatric disability and being involved in Accessible Arts each week has made a significant difference to my belief in my ability to be involved in an important force for change in the lives of people with disabilities.

I hope that 1999 will be a great year for Accessible Arts and for everyone involved in its activities.



## Identity, Ability, Diversity

Neridah Wyatt-Spratt

Big, bold and celebrating the creative power of people with a disability the community art project Identity, Ability, Diversity saw exhibitions throughout the southwest region of Sydney in the first week of December. Part of the celebrations for International Day of People with a Disability, this project was coordinated by Accessible Arts and funded by 11 councils from Southern Sydney Region Organization of Council's.

Art works for the exhibitions were produced in workshops and arts programs that involved individuals and groups from Botany Bay, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Marrickville, Randwick, Rockdale, South Sydney, Southerland Shire, Woollahra and Waverley areas. Material for the project was generously supplied by Reverse Garbage, a unique community cooperative that recycles industrial material for use in creative endeavours.

300 art works were produced and for many people it has been their first exposure to creative expression. Postive outcomes were achieved in this project and for those participants whose appetites were wetted, AArts is planning an ongoing art class in 1999!

# Mid North Coast Artability Tour

Helen Connors

With financial support from the Arts Council of NSW, Arts Holiday Coast initiated a joint project with Accessible Arts (AArts) to tour the Mid North Coast region and consult with the local arts and disability communities. Helen Connors Executive Officer of the NSW arts and disability organisation, Accessible Arts traveled with Bruce Tindale from Arts Holiday Coast to Bellingen, Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Taree.

The reason behind the tour is that both the arts and disability communities are relatively isolated groups and there are few or no occasions when these communities come together or even cross paths. The tour provided a rare occasion to bring the communities together for discussion and the exchange of information'.

did not have the contacts or networks in the disability community to get the information to people with disabilities. For the disability sector there was often a frustration in the calibre of arts and cultural activities available to people with disabilities. They did not have the contacts or networks in the arts community and it was difficult to access trained arts tutors and appropriate information on artform practice or teaching methods.

Bruce Tindale described the tour as a first step towards the inclusion people with disabilities in local arts and cultural activities. "While brief, the tour provided the opportunity for dialogue and a start to setting up joint arts projects and a regional art and disability network." Collaboration can not be underestimated explained Helen. "It has been the experience of AArts that when the arts and



Local artists, disability workers, education and cultural officers and people with disabilities took part in discussions on the inclusion of people with disabilities in local arts activities and events. The meetings provided the opportunity for communities to discuss potential areas of collaboration and sharing of resources. Discussion with community members indicated communication and the exchange of ideas and information were major issues for the region.

Artists and arts administrators who wanted to include people with disabilities in arts program and events often felt frustrated in their attempts. People

disability communities start to develop communication networks there is a change of attitude. People start to work together and in the process exciting, innovative arts initiatives take place."

As a result of this visit Hastings Council in conjunction with Accessible Arts are looking to run a two day Artability workshop in early March 1999. For more information please ph AArts on (02) 9251 6499.



## AAAAArrrrttt Camp

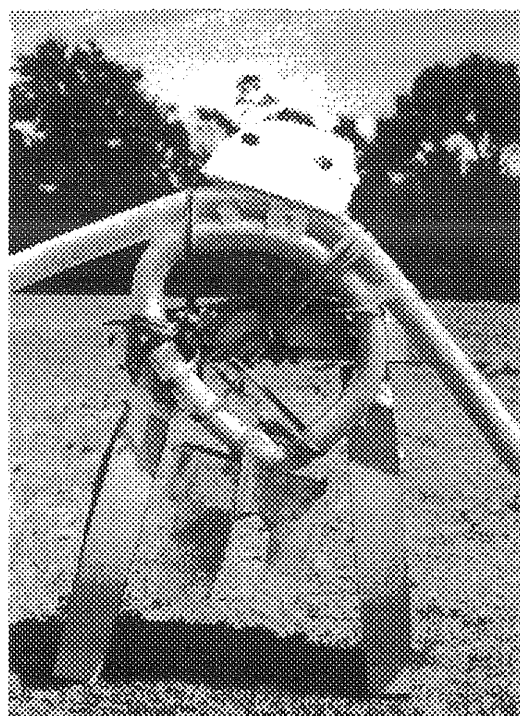
### Neridah Wyatt-Spratt

In mid November three arts workers and myself participated in a creative camp in the Blue Mountains at Springwood. Financially supported by the Spastic Centre, South South West Region and Accessible Arts the camp aimed to explore three creative mediums.

The enthusiasm and commitment of all who participated was fantastic and made the workshops of Phoebe Manning drama, Kate McCarthy and Camille Kersley visual arts and Lindy Morrison music, a pleasure although everyone worked hard.

The weekend was concluded with a performance and display of all the art works produced.

Accessible Arts would like to thank Brian Ayers from the Spastic Centre for his support and organizational skills and staff who got involved in the creative process.



Photos  
Bronwyn Rennix



## From deep in the Hunter...

### Jenny Brown

#### Newcastle Community Access Open Day

In September of this year Newcastle Community Access staged a play written, performed and directed by people with a disability. Several of the scenes in the performance dealt with disability discrimination including a job interview where the employer only focussed on an interviewee's disability and a doctor's consultation where the person who was accompanying the patient was spoken to rather than the patient who happened to have a disability. Artistic Director, Jackie Turton, worked tirelessly on this production creating an opportunity for everyone to share their individual artistic expression to a large audience of family and friends.

## Accessible Sculpture Garden Competition

Vacant land next to the Newcastle Community Arts Centre needs a new lease of life. People from communities in the Hunter are invited to submit ideas in plan or sketch form for this space. Ideas could include sculptures, walkways, water features, plantings and gardens.

A selection panel will look at the overall design for the land and choose submissions that people will be paid to develop.

Entries close Monday 1 March 1999  
To be sent to Accessible Arts Hunter,  
Newcastle Community Arts Centre  
PO Box 5276  
Newcastle West 2302

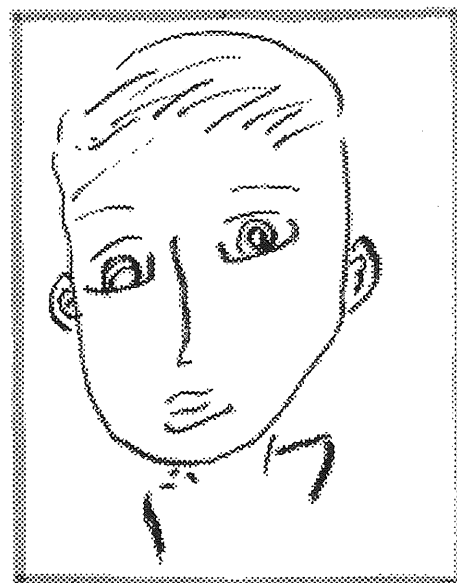
For more information the Project Coordinator  
Jenny Brown

Ph: 02 4967 7373

### Japanese Visit

Accessible Arts was asked by Mr Uchiyama, the director of the art program for the '98 Paralympic in Nagan to organise a study tour for a number of artists with disabilities visiting from Japan. Mr Uchiyama was recently in Sydney for a brief visit and came to visit AArts and Print 35.

The group was in Melbourne in November and I have organised a workshop at Arts Project Australia and a visit to the Vic Health Gallery in the Victorian Art Gallery. In Sydney I arranged a TheatreSports workshop, lunch and a visit to Print 35. There were 19 people in the group, seven with disabilities.



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# Hunter Orthopaedic School Artstart Mural Project

Marion Giles

Art Worker

Nadine Ross and I, as art workers, knew that creating a mural on the brick wall outside the school toilets needed to include the participation of students if it was to be more meaningful to them than just wallpaper. With the cooperation of staff we set up weekly half-day workshop sessions to find out what was possible and to allow the students to experiment (and have fun). It became apparent early on that clay was a successful and enjoyable medium for most and luckily the school owned a kiln, so clay became the best way we could involve individual pieces in the overall work. The project provided students with the opportunity to experience clay, painting, carpentry, paper-mache and construction.

Beyond nurturing the imagination and talents of this varied group, our task became devising a way to unify all our work. Early on an underwater theme was agreed upon and collective projects, for example, schools of fish, and groups of bubbles and seaweed that allowed individual interpretation within themes.

We were guided too. We found it was important that we include the navy ship, HMAS Newcastle, that has been a major sponsor of the school. It also became obvious that the personalities of all the students were greatly valued by the entire school population. We decided to include photographs of each young person inside a bubble. The importance of this struck home as two young boys did not live to see the completed mural. The mark of this mural's success, in my mind, is seeing the participants touch the three-dimensional surface to find their own and friend's faces amongst their artwork on the now busy and colourful wall.



James Gatt



Debbie Threlfo

# What's On & Info

## *Camp Creative Blue Mountains*

Jan 9 - 14, 1999

Brochures are available detailing 45 courses designed to suit people of diverse abilities, aged 4 - 84. You can experience the full gamut of creative endeavor from the visual to the performing arts through to cooking and permaculture. One to five day courses and experience range of activities with night exhibitions, concerts and readings, all at Katoomba High School in the Blue Mountains. For more information

Ph/Fax: (02) 4757 4768 or (02) 4757 4320

## *Theatre Drama Meeting*

AArts wants to hold a meeting with members and interested people who are involved or interested in drama, theatre and all types of performance. AAarts is looking to hold this meeting in mid February so get on the register.

Ph: 02 9251 6499

## *Company Chaos Classes*

Weekly Community dance and movement classes with Company Chaos will commence in the new year.

Byron Bay Tues 4.30 - 6.00pm commencing 2 March 1999

Lismore City Hall Friday 10.30 - 12.00pm commencing 5 March

Fee \$6.00 per class

Classes are open to all ages and all abilities.

For more information

Ph: 02 6621 4463

## *Funding, awards and training Opportunities*

### *Celebration of Ability Media Awards*

In a move to see disability issues represented in a more positive way, the NSW Ageing and Disability Department and peak disability organizations have collaborated to establish the Celebration of Ability Media.

The media plays a vital role in informing the general community about social issues and in constructing public opinion - or misconceptions about people with a disability. and media guide has been developed. George Negus and Heather Rose launched the Media Awards on 2 December at the Ministry office.

Guidelines for the awards will be out in February, contact AAarts for more details.

Ph: 02 9521 6499

## *Arts Access Awards*

The inaugural Arts Access Awards to be held in June 1999 will recognize exemplary practice in the provision of access for people with a disability and will be given to nominated organizations and individuals across a broad spectrum of the arts, cultural and entertainment industries.

Arts Access feels that it is time to recognise and reward those venues, which have responded by improving access to their services and facilities. There will be five awards including.

Exemplary new venue

Exemplary Customer Service and

Exemplary Policy and Programs

For more information contact Dean Michael, Special Project Manager

Ph: 03 9699 8299

## *NSW Writers Centre Project Funding*

Grants up to \$1,500 to pay writers' fees, accommodation and travel for writing projects such as seminars, workshops and readings. Applications close January 31. For more information.

Ph: 02 9555 9757

## *Festival Australia*

A Federal Government grants program, which provides assistance to regional and community Australian festivals for the presentation of quality cultural activities. There are two rounds per year with the next closing in 15 February 1999. For more information.

Ph: 02 6271 1661 Fax: 02 6271 1697

Freecall for messages 1800 819 461

festival@dca.gov.au

### *Carnivale Community Grants*

Annual multicultural arts festival, which is held throughout NSW in September. The grants program offers small grants to artists, community organizations and local government authorities in NSW to assist in staging events during Carnivale 11 September - 4 October, 1999.

Application close 20 February 1999, for more information.

Ph: 02 9251 7974

Email [carnivale@ozemail.com.au](mailto:carnivale@ozemail.com.au)

### *Asia Link Residencies 1999*

Applications are now invited for arts practitioners in various art forms to undertake 3 - 6 months' residencies in Asia.

Categories include Performing Arts, Literature, Visual Arts/Crafts and Arts Management. For more information.

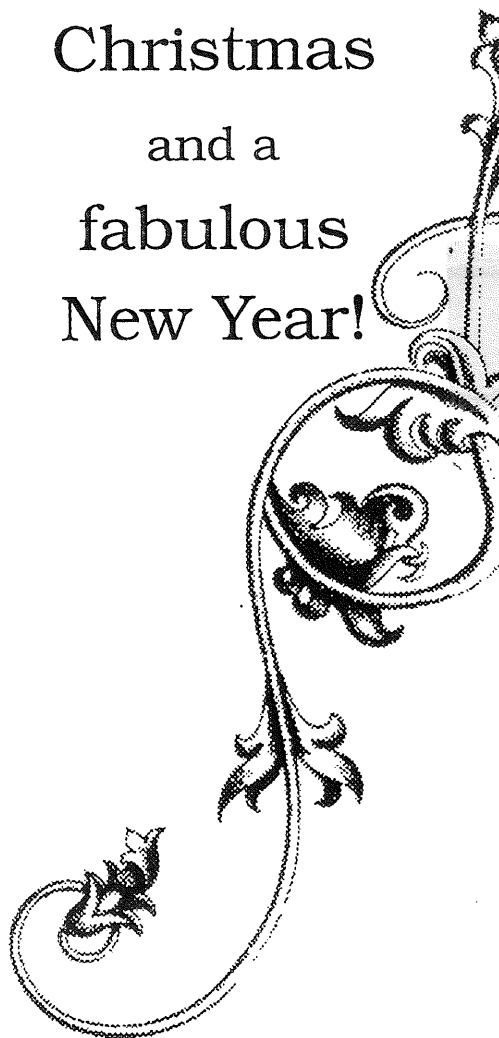
Ph: 03 9349 1899

<http://ariel.unimelb.edu.au/~asialink>

#### *cover credits:*

Jenny Brown, Bronwyn Rennix,  
Rhonda Nambucca Valley Phoenix

All at AArts  
wish you a happy  
Christmas  
and a  
fabulous  
New Year!



If undeliverable return to:

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**PIER 4, THE WHARF**  
**HICKSON RD**  
**WALSH BAY 2000**

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