

Accessible Arts Inc.

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



*Helen Connors, Barbara Blackman,
Jim Longley MP, Sen. Bob McMullen
& our Patron, Peter Ross -
Arts Extraordinaire launch
at the ABC.*

1994

Mission Statement

ACCESSIBLE ARTS promotes access to and participation in all cultural experiences and art forms for all people with disabilities.

Accessible Arts finds that involvement in the arts can change people's lives for the better. Its focus is to provide opportunities for all people with disabilities to identify and develop their creativity.

Brief History

Beginning from an idea to make the arts more accessible to people with disabilities ACCESSIBLE ARTS started as an arts project of Community Activities Network, in 1986.

Support for the aims of the project grew and in 1990 ACCESSIBLE ARTS received financial support from state and federal governments to establish a state-wide service.

Limited resources required the organisation to develop services that catered for the largest number of people in NSW.

Today

ACCESSIBLE ARTS operates from the NSW Writers Centre in Sydney conducting programs and providing services in many communities throughout New South Wales.

ACCESSIBLE ARTS has developed partnerships with government, industry, community and individuals to create arts initiatives that enhance the lives of those people who often have the greatest need yet least opportunity to be involved in creative expression.

ACCESSIBLE ARTS is recognised as an innovator, developing new programs and services that are used as "models" by other organizations across Australia.

ACCESSIBLE ARTS' campaign to promote access and participation requires the organization to target four specific groups. Change and better integration is facilitated when ACCESSIBLE ARTS works with:

- people with disabilities
- disability services
- community art/art organizations
- artists with and without a disability.

Accessible Arts Currently

- provides an information service on the art facilities, venues, programs, training, activities & resources are available to people with disabilities in NSW.
- acts as consultant to assist the general community, people with disabilities and the arts industry to develop appropriate art programs and projects.
- supports & assists regional networks
- provides a resource reference library.
- conducts pilot projects in the field. Art activities may include painting & drawing, dance & movement, drama, singing, playing musical instruments, performing, art & technology. Due recognition is given to these artworks through exhibitions, performances etc.
- provides training seminars, conferences and workshops.
- provides resource material through the regular production of A.C.E. magazine and other publications.

Aims

- to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to identify and develop their skills for creative self expression.
- to promote integration in all arts/cultural activities, training, venues, facilities and resources.
- to educate the arts industry, disability services and the broader community of the creative needs, potential and artistic achievements of people with disabilities.
- to act as a peak advocacy service promoting cultural democracy in New South Wales.
- to initiate research and development projects in the field that are documented as resource material for both the disability and arts industry.
- to establish regional networks to facilitate the aims of the organisation at a local & community level.



The Significance of Art & Culture

As spectator, amateur or professional, the arts enrich our lives in many diverse ways. The desire for self expression is of fundamental importance to all people. People with disabilities are not the exception to this universal truth. They do however, presently face extreme disadvantage in all areas of the arts.

Creative expression can be of critical importance to people with disabilities. It provides the medium to reveal and develop positive abilities. From the position of passive recipient of care people can initiate, interact, use their own judgement and in the process take control over their lives.

Societies views and opinions are strongly shaped by the images and perspectives presented through the arts and its associated industries (eg media). Active participation within the arts industry enables people with disabilities to positively promote the broader issues of disability (health, employment etc.) to large sections of society.

Background

- People with disabilities comprise 16.1% of the population. 900,000 people in NSW have some type of disability. (ABS 1988 Disability Survey).

- In NSW art and disability is sadly under funded in relative and absolute terms.

- NSW has the largest number of people with disabilities but is currently one of the most under resourced states in terms of art and disability.

- The Arts industry is one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy an average annual growth of 5.7% since 1971 compared with 2% for the total workforce.

- The Olympics bid included an impres-

sive art/s cultural focus. The same should occur with the Paraolympics.

- In 1994 Sydney will host The Disabled People International World Assembly. The Australian component of this important international event is to include an arts/ cultural focus.

- The future role of the Australia Council, the federal arts funding body in the area of art and disability, is presently being researched by the Council.

- The Commonwealth is soon to release a policy statement in respect to Australias' cultural development. The future of art & disability will be directed by this document.

Chairpersons Report

Holman Cook

The services provided and the programs developed by ACCESSIBLE ARTS in 1993 received an extremely positive response from not only people with disabilities but also from disability services and arts organisations. Demand for services continued to increase.

With the implementation of the Disability Services Act, there has been a drastic increase in demand from disability services. In 1993 these demands stretched resources and staff time making it extremely difficult to provide core services at an adequate standard.

The challenge in 1994 is to find the means to service demand.

In addition to the core information and consultancy services ACCESSIBLE ARTS developed some exciting projects in partnership with other organisations and institutions.

The two most significant projects were:

House Gang :

a joint venture to produce a comedy drama series for TV.

Arts Extraordinaire :

the first multi-faceted festival in NSW that showcased the diverse skills and artistic talents of people with disabilities. With a budget of \$8,000 staff raised both kind and in-kind support to present a festival valued at \$65,000.

The programs of 1993 had impact of substantial numbers of people across NSW.

The success of 1993 has increased the profile of the organisation and ACCESSIBLE ARTS has gained support from significant arts institutions and disability services.

In 1994 ACCESSIBLE ARTS is well placed to establish further partnerships to present exciting and innovative arts initiatives.

Finally I must thank everyone who worked to achieve an outstanding and dynamic year for ACCESSIBLE ARTS.

Thank you to:

- Helen Connors, Executive Officer whose vision and management skills made it all happen.
- Sue Cramer, Jenny Barry, Helena Pollard who worked with Helen to make it all happen
- Our many volunteers who stepped in when the resources were stretched to the limit.
- The people, (over 200) who contributed to the Arts Extraordinaire festival.
- Our members who have shown strong support for the organisation and finally to the members of the Management Committee.

I look forward to another productive year at ACCESSIBLE ARTS and feel that the great achievements of 1993 can only be expanded in 1994.



Executive Officer's Report

Helen Connors

Last year must be described as the year when well over 200 people contributed skills, time, materials and enthusiasm to the yearly program. United in the idea that the arts and cultural experiences must become more accessible to people with disabilities, people worked to bring attention to the artistic skills and talents of this group.

ACCESSIBLE ARTS successfully achieved its two major priorities for the year. They were to:

- increase the profile of the organisation and its aims
- develop effective fundraising strategies.

Highlights of the year included the Arts Extraordinaire festival; the further development of the TV series House Gang and the fundraising event, the Cigar Box Auction. As innovative initiatives these projects gained broad based support and reached significant numbers of people in NSW. ACCESSIBLE ARTS was involved in over ten radio programs and three of these were over thirty minutes in duration.

An increased profile has certainly assisted to bring art and disability on the agenda for many arts institutions. It has also meant a further increase in the numbers of people now utilising the facilities and services of ACCESSIBLE ARTS.

The Cigar Box Auction successfully raised nearly \$10,000 for the organisation. All at ACCESSIBLE ARTS offer a big thank you to everyone involved. The funds have been used to fund a promotional video and have contributed to the 1994 arts program.

The Auction has provided the basis for an ongoing fundraising plan. ACCESSIBLE ARTS is being assisted by Tim McCarthy (consultant) to develop a three year PR /fundraising plan. The plan will be finalised mid year and will assist us to more adequately provide a statewide service.

In a year when ACCESSIBLE ARTS was presenting a number of major events the core services of the organisation continued to be increasingly utilised. The information/resource service continued to provide a unique service to NSW. It is only through the extreme hard work of staff that information was updated and maintained; enquiries investigated; arts and integration training sessions organised and arts projects developed for other organisations.

The figures for 1993 have not been collated but it is expected they will exceed the 1992 figures of: 783 enquiries, 568 people assisted, and ACCESSIBLE ARTS assisted to develop 46 arts/projects.

ACCESSIBLE ARTS also managed to organise and run a number of research and development projects. Two writer-in-community residencies. In 1993 the residency co-ordinated by ACCESSIBLE ARTS and the NSW Writers Centre provided creative writing opportunities for people with psychiatric disability at Rozelle Hospital. The 1994 residency will involve people with intellectual disabilities and the broader community in Wagga Wagga.

In 1993 the NSW Ministry for the Arts made the Writers Centre accessible. Functions can now be run on site and the programs of the Writers Centre are now available to our members.



*Reg Mombassa-
Space Monster
Chasing a Station
Wagon South*

In 1993 we continued our active involvement in the National Network - DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantaged in the Arts Australia). The national committee provided a valuable national perspective in lobbying for equity. The Network is presently providing information to the Australia Council's consultancy on art and disability & I am the DADAA representative on their reference committee.

In 1993 the federal government worked to prepare a cultural policy statement. D.A.D.A.A. lobbied government to include people with disability in this policy. The federal government commissioned ACCESSIBLE ARTS to prepare the paper on art and disability.

Considering the extremely limited financial resources of the organisation, I think everyone will agree, that ACCESSIBLE ARTS achievements in 1993 were most impressive. At this stage I must mention my fellow staff members who worked nearly double their paid hours to achieve the program.

1993 saw a number of people working in the position of Project Officer and Administrator. The skills of our staff were rewarded (a bit too quickly for my liking) and most people moved on to full time and better paid jobs.

Everyone at ACCESSIBLE ARTS wishes Jenny Barry, Helena Pollard and Susan Cramer all the best in the future.

ACCESSIBLE ARTS has now been joined by Suzie Walker who is an experienced and skilled worker in the field of community arts.

The success of 1993 was dampened by two breakins. Fortunately they were after the festival but due to the hectic workload during Arts Extraordinaire some data was lost. It was not till March 1994 that equipment was replaced and security improved.

The funding picture for 1994 is surprisingly even grimmer than 1993. ACCESSIBLE ARTS met with Mr. Jim Longley (DOCS) in early April. We encouraged him to support the organisation and meet the variance in funds lost from the Australia Council. At the time of writing his response does not appear positive. ACCESSIBLE ARTS may have to drastically cut the information/ resource service.

The 1993 program established many opportunities to further develop innovative and ongoing creative initiatives for significant numbers of people with disabilities. The challenge in 1994 is to gain adequate financial support for the staff time required to develop these arts projects.

With so many peoples assistance ACCESSIBLE ARTS was able to present an exciting and significant program. It is hoped that the efforts of 1993 will encourage government to more adequately support the participation of people with disabilities in creative pursuits not only as spectators, but as exhibitors and performers.

Finally, I want to thank everyone involved in the 1993 program: our sponsors & funding bodies, the Management Committee, contributors to the festival, my fellow staff members, members & a very big thank you to our volunteers. I hope we can all work together again in 1994.

Secretary's Report

Pru Jobling

Since I joined the Management Committee of ACCESSIBLE ARTS in 1986, I have seen many changes and each year building on previous efforts.

We still have many of the original committee members on the Management Committee, though this year Mark Purcell and Tannia Vassallo resigned to allow them more time for other commitments.

We have had a strong and energetic committee for 1993 and we hope to continue as a working committee with some new members in 1994.

ACCESSIBLE ARTS had 86 new members in 1993 bringing a total of 260 members to the organisation.

The focus of our energy this year was on the Arts Extraordinaire festival.

This was an ambitious project for such an under resourced organisation, and there was additional stress of many staff changes.

On behalf of the Committee I would particularly like to thank Helen Connors for her enthusiasm for the festival and for holding it all together under extreme pressure and additional work load!

The success of the festival has increased the profile of ACCESSIBLE ARTS, heightened the awareness of the creative abilities of people with disabilities, provided inspiration to many people, established and broadened networks and provided a forum for exhibitions, performances, workshops and discussions.

We hope to evaluate the festival and build on its successes in future and look forward to another exciting year in 1994.



John & Jenny Pollak & Luis Vidal at the launch



Guests at the ABC launch - photo by John Daly

Treasurer's Report

David King

ACCESIBLE ARTS receives most of its present funds from both the state & federal governments. In July 1993 ACCESSIBLE ARTS was transferred from the Federal Department of Health, Housing, Local Government & Community Services to the State Department of Community Services. It had taken several years of discussions & negotiation before the DHHLG&CS acknowledged the significance of the arts & the important role of ACCESSIBLE ARTS in NSW. There is concern that Department of Community Services (DOCS), has not recognised the right of people with disabilities to participate in the arts & cultural life of the community.

A change in the Australia Council policy has meant ACCESSIBLE ARTS no longer receives support for the organisation. Without funds for the organisations most vital resource - **Skilled Staff** - ACCESSIBLE ARTS will be unable to provide most of its present services & programs.

The NSW Ministry for the Arts continues to provide advice & assistance to the organisation. In 1993 the Ministry provided increased financial assistance for: the festival; modifications to the Writers Centre & the running of the organisation. However, while the Ministry support has increased the core funding has decreased.

The Management Committee extends its gratitude to these three departments & encourages their continued support. ACCESSIBLE ARTS aims to investigate & develop better partnerships with these departments. ACCESSIBLE ARTS also appreciated the support given by the major sponsors & Department of Employment, Education & Training for a one off project.

This year was significant for the organisations profile and for developing fundraising strategies. 1993 established the basis for ongoing initiatives. The consultancy PR/Fundraising plan will provide the strategies for future development. 1994 will be a critical time in the future of the organisation. The challenge is to gain the necessary support to maintain services at an adequate level.



Untitled by Judy Cassab

CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1993

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	1993	1992
INCOME	\$	\$
GRANT - DHH & CS	29,306	42,856
GRANT - DOCS	22,308	-
GRANT - MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS	20,000	21,000
GRANT - AUSTRALIA COUNCIL	40,875	25,040
GRANT - ARTS COUNCIL OF NSW	600	-
GRANT - BICENTENIAL YOUTH	-	1,180
GRANT - DEET	5,705	-
INTEREST RECEIVED	1,812	1,416
INSURANCE CLAIM	8,546	-
DONATIONS	950	600
GENERAL FUND RAISING	5,894	-
MEMBERSHIP FEES	1,366	2,215
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	383	3,314
TOTAL INCOME	137,745	97,621
EXPENDITURE		
ACCOUNTANCY & AUDIT	1,275	625
ADVERTISING	3,056	2,381
BANK CHARGES	374	352
BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS	83	80
COMMITTEE EXPENSES	849	-
COMPUTER EXPENSES	210	133
CONSULTANCY	6,502	413
CONSUMERABLES	326	546
EQUIPMENT	15,464	396
HOLIDAY PAY PROVISION	1,930	-
INSURANCE - WORKERS COMPENSATION	194	215
INSURANCE - GENERAL	1,286	1,414
LONG SERVICE LEAVE PROVISION	2,240	-
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	3,391	544
MOTOR VEHICLE EXPENSES	2,772	3,394
PHOTOCOPIER EXPENSES	632	440
POSTAGE	2,440	1,482
PRINTING & STATIONERY	2,554	4,200
PROGRAM COSTS	8,634	5,718
RENT	965	1,051
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	1,707	55
STAFF TRAINING	400	2,086
SUBSCRIPTIONS	22	150
SUPERANNUATION	1,746	1,770
TELEPHONE & FAX	5,000	4,814
TRAVELLING EXPENSES	280	2,355
TUTORS FEES	-	910
WAGES	73,288	62,463
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	137,620	97,987
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	125	(366)

NOTES TO & FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1993

NOTE 1 Statement of Accounting Policies.

a) The accounts of the Association have been drawn up in accordance with accounting standards of the Australian Accounting bodies, applicable approved accounting standards and the requirements of law.

b) Assets purchased are expensed in the year of acquisition. Any proceeds from disposal are classified by the source of funds used to acquire the assets initially.

c) A provision has been made in these accounts for statutorily conferred employees' entitlements.

NOTE 2	Cash.	1993	1992
		\$	\$
	Cash on Hand	100	250
	ANZ Bank Cheque Account	(130)	48,854
	ANZ Bank Cash Management Account	23,269	21,912
		-----	-----
		23,239	71,016
		-----	-----

NOTE 3	Creditors & Borrowings.		
	Trade Creditors	918	Nil
		-----	-----

NOTE 4	Provisions		
	Provision for Holiday Pay	3,930	2,000
	Provision for Long Service Leave	2,240	-
	Provision for Vehicle Replacement	2,000	2,000
		-----	-----
		8,170	4,000
		-----	-----

NOTE 5	Other Current Liabilities.		
	Advance Funding - DHHLG&CS	-	10,787
	- Dept of Community Services	3,718	-
	- Ministry of Arts	-	20,000
	- Australia Council	-	25,875
		-----	-----
		3,718	56,662
		-----	-----
	Accrued Expenses:		
	• Group Tax	2,859	4,320
	• Wages	2,415	-
	• Consultancy	4,000	-
	• Letterhead Brochures	-	1,000
	• Arts Extraordinaire	1,000	-
	• State Conference	-	5,000
		-----	-----
		10,274	10,320
		-----	-----
		13,992	66,982
		-----	-----

NOTE 6	Accumulated Funds.		
	Balance 1st January 1993	34	400
	Surplus (Deficit) for year ended 31 December 1993	125	(366)
		-----	-----
	Balance 31st December 1993	159	34
		-----	-----



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1993

	1993	1992
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH	100	71,016
	=====	=====
TOTAL ASSES	23,239	71,016
	=====	=====
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
CREDITORS & BORROWINGS	918	-
PROVISIONS	8,170	4,000
OTHER	13,992	66,982
	=====	=====
TOTAL LIABILITIES	23,080	70,982
	=====	=====
NET ASSETS	159	34
	=====	=====
REPRESENTED BY:		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1993	159	34
	=====	=====

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the Accounts of ACCESSIBLE ARTS INC., for the twelve months ended 31st December 1993.

As an audit procedure it was not practicable to confirm income beyond accounting for amounts banked as shown by the accounting records of the Association.

Subject to the foregoing reservation, in my opinion:

- The accompanying accounts of ACCESSIBLE ARTS INCORPORATED have been properly drawn up in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 and so as to give a true and fair view of:
 - The state of affairs of the Association as at 31st December 1993;
 - The results of its operations for the 12 months ending 31st December 1993;

and are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and applicable approved accounting standards.

- The Grants have been expended in accordance with purposes approved by the funding bodies.

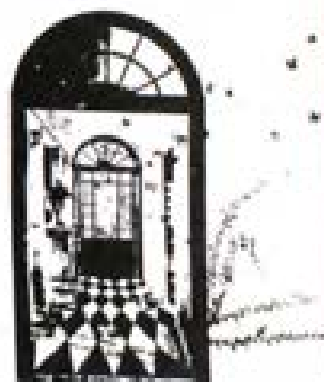
Alan Watson: FCPA, ACIS, ACIM
 Certified Practising Accountant
 Regd. Company Auditor
 Regd. Tax Agent
 Regd Office 22 Wallarah Rd, Gorokan NSW 2263
 PO Box 362, TOUKLEY NSW 2263

23/5/1994

HEALTHY ARTS

a guide to the role of the arts in health care

SALLY MARSDEN



Healthy Arts

*A guide to the role of the arts in health care
by Sally Marsden*

Healthy Arts aims to assist the continued growth of arts throughout the Australian health system - in public and private hospitals, community health services and support services. *Healthy Arts* provides an overview of what has and can be achieved, illustrates how the arts can be integrated into health services, and shows where information and resources can be found to create new arts programs.

Published by Arts Access, Victoria

Available: Accessible Arts
PO Box 1022,
Rozelle
NSW 2039

Cost: \$8 (includes postage)

THE CHILDREN THAT TIME FORGOT

Photography and Disability Imagery

Book by David Hevey

What is wrong with images of disabled people and what should be put in their place?

"Disabled people appeared either as one image at a time per book or one role per book. The use of disabled people is the anchor of the wierd, that is, the fear within. They are used as the symbol of enfreakment or the surrealism of all society".

Published by Routledge London & New York
With additional text and photographs by Jo Spence and Jessica Evans.

Available from: Accessible Arts Library

VIDEO COLLECTION AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS FROM OUR LIBRARY

ARTS EXTRAORDINAIRE VIDEO

15 minute promotional video with extracts from the Arts Extraordinaire Festival, background on ACCESSIBLE ARTS and the art & disability agenda.

Produced by Hatchling Productions

For sale from AA office: (02) 555 1022

Cost: \$12 non-members (includes postage)
\$8 members

CANDOO VIDEO

5 min colour video

British integrated dance company

(see page 3)

BUS STOP

14 min colour video

(see advertisement page 20)

Produced by Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A TAP DANCER -

Will go along way to dispelling some of the myths about disability for the community at large. But more importantly, it points the way for people with disabilities to participate as fully as they wish, to become involved, to find a way of doing things, to overcome the barriers, and to demand their rights.

Book, audio tapes and video

Produced by NSW Women's Advisory Council

DREAM BELIEVERS

Short colour video of participants from the Independence Centre Drama Group, documenting their performance from the Arts Extraordinaire Festival.

Produced by Independence Centre Drama Group.

Spastic Centre
189 Allambie Road
Allambie Heights
NSW 2100

Ph: (02) 451 9022

THE SPASTIC CENTRE

