

ACCESSIBLE ARTS ANNUAL REPORT 2005



accessibleARTS
ARTS + DISABILITY NSW





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ABOUT ACCESSIBLE ARTS



CAMERON MOORE, IDPWD SHOALHAVEN

VISION

A society in which people with disabilities fully experience and participate in the arts and cultural life.

MISSION

To promote full inclusion, access and cultural opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities through advocacy, education and information.

OUR BUSINESS

We are in the business of arts and disability. We work towards providing the following services across NSW:

Expanding Audience Development by acting as a consultant to the arts and disability sectors to assist them with access, marketing strategies and significant initiatives.

Supporting people with disabilities who want to become professional artists by brokering supportive environments in which artists can develop their arts practice and acquire business skills.

Developing opportunities for people with disabilities to express their creativity.

Giving voice to the lived experience of disability by providing a forum for work produced for and by people with disabilities and about disability.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

- ▣ Disability arts workers
- ▣ Donors & partners
- ▣ State and Federal Government
- ▣ Arts venues in NSW and Australia
- ▣ Arts organizations in NSW
- ▣ Board of Directors
- ▣ The NSW Ministry for the Arts
- ▣ DADHC
- ▣ Australia Council for the Arts
- ▣ Associate members & subscribers
- ▣ Local councils
- ▣ Staff
- ▣ Federal Government
- ▣ Artists with disabilities
- ▣ People with disabilities
- ▣ Disability organizations.

CHAIR'S REPORT



The last year has been an exciting and very productive time for Accessible Arts. Having appointed a new CEO in early 2005 the organization has moved into a re-building phase. Key to this has been the development of a clear strategic directions document and a 3-year business plan which will help guide the organization into the future.

In line with the 2004 Review of Management, the process of changing the legal status of Accessible Arts from an Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee, was finalised. In terms of executive management the new Board of Directors has recently undergone some changes with the welcome addition of Chrissie Tucker (ABC) and Sarah-Jane Rennie (MAG). The valuable role played by Alice Tang as Treasurer unfortunately came to an end with her impending resignation.

The organization's financial position was stable and secure over the course of the year, and is set to move into an expansionary phase. A notable increase in Triennial Funding has been secured from the MFA as has an extension of funding from the Australia Council for one of the key positions within Accessible Arts. In a move to broaden Accessible Arts funding base into the future, preliminary actions have been taken in regard to identifying more diverse funding sources.

Within the year the organizational capacity of Accessible Arts has notably increased with the positions of Audience Development Officer, Training Officer and Information Co-Ordinator all being filled. This has allowed the continuation of valuable work such as the auspicing of IDPWD events and Intimate Encounters and the implementation of new projects such as AART BOXX; Sustainability Model for Western Sydney; and Sculpture AArts. New initiatives such as Embracing the Accessible Era Seminar; the Disability Arts Workers Network and accredited TAFE training modules have also been bought on line. An exciting future initiative planned is the development of a Cultural Action Plan for the Arts and Disability Sector for NSW.

In closing I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their ongoing commitment to Accessible Arts. Thanks also to the staff, in particular the CEO Sancha Donald, for all the hard work and energy dedicated to the organization through this period of re-growth. The Board looks forward to another year of exciting growth and development for Accessible Arts.

MARYANNE IRELAND
Chair

CEO'S REPORT



It gives me great pleasure to present my first annual report for Accessible Arts following my appointment in February 2005.

For 18 years Accessible Arts has provided guidance to the arts sector on how to provide access for people with a disability who wish to engage in the arts, often brokering projects with sustainable outcomes that are entirely independent of Accessible Arts.

Accessible Arts has a well-established tradition of advocacy by working closely with key organizations to bring about a change in attitudes and programs which potentially filters through the whole sector.

Change is often achieved at ground level and to this aim Accessible Arts provides programs such as Accessing the Arts to ensure that the arts and disability sectors are also interacting at the community level.

Of course this is achieved with limited resources, a committed Board and an energetic and professional staff.

Of paramount importance was the need to secure our funding and I am pleased to report that the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC) agreed to amalgamate our various grants and amended the Recreation and Leisure category to include cultural pursuits. Our triennial grant for 2006 to 2008 from the NSW Ministry for the Arts was also reinstated with a slight increase.

A key milestone for the organization was a change in status from an incorporated body to a Company Limited by

Guarantee. Accessible Arts was granted registration on 26 September 2005. On 20th December 2005 Accessible Arts Inc was wound up and the first meeting of directors of the new company took place. I offer my thanks to Minter Ellison for their guidance through this process.

As a result of our search for additional board members we are delighted to welcome Sarah-Jane Rennie who brings her knowledge of the Museums sector and Chrissie Tucker adds her Human Resources expertise particularly in the area of equity and diversity.

Early in the year and with the help of representatives from the disability and arts sectors a new three-year business plan with a revised vision, mission and strategic focus emerged to guide the organization through until 2008.

While much of the year has been spent on matters of governance I am pleased to report that Accessible Arts was able to continue to provide consultations to the sector to inform and improve their inclusive practices. Of significance was the research relating to audience development issues carried out by Kiersten Fishburn on behalf of the Museum of Australia and the National Museum of Australia.

Over the year a new team was put in place to provide ongoing and new services. Kiersten Fishburn, Audience Development Officer left the organization after five years of excellent service and Alison McLaren took over the role. The Information Officer and the new Training Officer position were filled by Tess McGowan and Katy Mercer respectively.

A new service of Disability Awareness and AccessTraining began this year. Both the arts and the disability sectors have responded positively to the new service and we are grateful to the OTEN business development unit for enabling us to provide the accredited course. Arts workers are also beginning to make use of the new network of disability arts workers (DAWN). DAWN was established to provide this disparate group of people with training and networking opportunities.

Support for rural and regional programs is currently limited so the chance to visit the Tweed Shire City of the Arts, meet with the Regional Arts Development Officers and provide a couple of small grants was welcomed. In the coming year we will develop our strategy to increase our support to these areas.

On the national front, ongoing involvement as a member of the board of Arts Access Australia enables us to contribute to the national agenda and the strength of the national network. My visits to Arts and Recreation Training, ACT, Arts Access VIC and Arts Access Queensland were a wonderful opportunity to meet, discuss and see the work being carried out by the respective state bodies and other organizations providing cultural programs for people with a disability.

SANCHA DONALD
Chief Executive Officer

ACCESSIBLE ARTS PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maryanne Ireland (Chair) BA (Hons) Psych, BAVA and Post Grad Dip in Vis Arts, MVA
Maryanne has been a practicing visual artist based in Newcastle for the last ten years. Working predominantly in photo-media Maryanne has exhibited in group and solo shows in both Sydney and Newcastle. In addition to a personal experience of physical disability and its related issues, she works in an advocacy role for ParaQuad NSW.

Lynne Hancock B.Arch (Hons), BA (Hons) (Oxford Brookes), Dip Mgt Studies (PCL), M Phil (Oxon)

Lynne is an urban designer with a background in management and marketing as well as architecture and design. She has experience working in both the public and private sectors. Much of her work focuses on equitable access to the experience of the public realm in our towns and cities. She has been a longstanding member and Assistant Conductor of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir.

Julia Pucci LLB, BA, MArt Admin

Julia is currently the General Counsel at Sydney Opera House. Julia has worked as a lawyer for about 15 years initially in London, Sydney and New York doing commercial work. In late 1996 joined Optus – now called SingTel Optus Pty Limited, as a corporate counsel. In 2002 Julia left Optus to begin a Masters of Art Administration at the College of Fine Arts (UNSW) full time and in 2004 joined Sydney Opera House.

Sarah-Jane Rennie B.A. (Hons), B. App. Sci (Cons.Cult.Mat), M.A (Public History),
Sarah-Jane has worked as a conservator in museums, galleries and private settings. In her current role she is involved in managing internal and external research related to specific aspects of the industry. Sarah-Jane manages Mgnsw's Access reference group and coordinates MGNsw's Museum Advisor program.

Alice Tang

Alice qualified as an Australian Chartered Accountant in 2000 whilst working at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. Since then she has been working at Macquarie Bank. During this time she assessed the internal controls and corporate governance structures in the Bank and reviewed the budgets for various businesses.

Anita Toft MA BVis Arts

Anita Toft has been working in museums and the education sector for many years and has experience in project and human resources management. Anita is currently working at the Australian National Maritime Museum developing programs for children and families. She has curated and exhibited in a number of exhibitions.

Chrissie Tucker

Chrissie Tucker is currently the Manager Diversity, a national position in the Human Resources Division of the ABC, located at Ultimo, Sydney. This position develops, implements, monitors and reports on the ABC's Equity and Diversity Management Plan. The areas covered include: gender, disability, race/ethnicity, Indigenous, work/

life balance, age and discrimination, harassment and bullying. She has tertiary qualifications related to Human Resources and is on the Executive of the NSW EEO Practitioners Association.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Auditor
Ernst & Young
Chartered Accountants

Honorary Solicitors
Minter Ellison

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer
Sancha Donald BPE, Dip Ed, MEd
11/2/05

Administrator
Stella Collier MA (UK)

Audience Development Officer
Kiersten Fishburn 30/6/05
Alison McLaren BA (Hons) 24/6/05

Information Officer
Tess McGowan 7/6/05

Training Officer
Katy Mercer (BEd Grad Dip Counselling,
MEd Adult Ed, Cert IV Workplace
Training & Assessment) 11/7/05



LEFT COLUMN
TOP TO BOTTOM
MARYANNE IRELAND
JULIA PUCCI
ANITA TOFT

RIGHT COLUMN
TOP TO BOTTOM
LYNNE HANCOCK
SARAH-JANE RENNIE
CHRISSIE TUCKER

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



Accessible Arts' has achieved strongly in 2005 against each key result area.

ADVOCACY

Aim:

The service aims to be an effective advocate for people with disabilities in the arts and cultural life in NSW.

Achievements:

- Informed ACROD on the standard to which relevant government departments are implementing disability action plans.
- Consulted with Sydney Opera House on their access policy; Willoughby City Council in relation to the development of Civic Place; and 'Sculpture by the Sea' for the use of access symbols.
- Forged links with City of Sydney Council managers of disability programs, cultural planners and councillors. Accessible Arts was invited to participate in the access forums on a regular basis.
- Established relationships with the Spastic Centre CAS, Miroma, Windgap, Autism Australia, the Sydney Observatory, and local politicians.
- Toured Intimate Encounters to Wagga, Albury, Tweed and Grafton regional galleries.
- Attended Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care Ministerial forums and quarterly disability sector meetings.
- Completed research for the Museum of Australia and the National Museum of Australia and provided a foreword for the publication.
- Provided secretariat to Accessing the Arts groups (ATAG) and rejuvenated the program.
- Provided advice to Lismore City of the Arts disability committee regarding lasting outcomes from the workshops in the form of a handbook for future Cities of the Arts.
- Reviewed and redesigned promotional tools and developed communication strategy to engage the arts and disability sectors.
- Upgraded E-bulletin to include images and focus on regional and national activities; re-subscription process initiated to update records and information; readership increased 90%; event listings increased 216%.
- Supported emerging and established artists with a disability by attending fifty exhibitions and performances, opening several exhibitions and providing forewords for research publications and program catalogues.
- Coordinated fifty cultural activities for IDPWD across NSW in 2005.



COMMUNITY MUSIC WORKSHOP

- Auspiced Club Wild program of events for IDPWD.

TRAINING

Aim:

To provide the most relevant and up-to-date training and educational outcomes to the arts community in response to identified needs.

Achievements:

- Held initial forum for arts workers working or wishing to work with people with a disability and developed agenda for future seminars.
- Employed Training Officer two days per week to deliver training courses and to manage DAWN.
- Established TAFE accredited Disability Awareness and Access Training courses on a monthly basis and marketed to the sector.
- Provided specific training to the MCA and STC.
- Held 'Embracing the Accessible Era' seminar at Richard Wherrett theatre as part of IDPWD.
- Marketed new training courses through distribution of training specific brochure

and extensive promotion in arts and disability newsletters.

- Upgraded the training room by purchasing chairs, tables, crockery and fans.

INFORMATION

Aim:

To share relevant up-to-date resources with all of our stakeholders and the community at large.

Achievements:

- Upgraded website to include current information about our services; DAWN, tutors, events, projects and fact sheets and significantly upgraded User manual.
- Employed an Information Officer 3 days per week.
- Embarked on schedule to upgrade information held about subscriber, members, and organizations.
- Engaged intern from the Spastic centre to catalogue video library.
- Conducted research, which was published on behalf of the Australian Museum and the National Museum.

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Aim:

To establish a sustainable, well-managed organization that effectively supports the staff and stakeholders.

Achievements:

- Held first meeting of the directors to approve change to company limited by guarantee, on 20th December, 2005.
- Secured two new directors for the board.
- Made successful application to the NSW Ministry of the Arts for re-establishment of triennial funding status for 2006 to 2008. Secured a 25% increase per annum in the grant.
- DADHC amended Recreation and Leisure category to include cultural pursuits and allocated AArts to this category for funding purposes.
- Undertook strategic planning process resulting in new three-year plan.
- Applied and received Charitable Fundraising Number.
- Completed all outstanding acquittals for three funding bodies.
- Instigated quarterly meeting with accountant to cover aspects relating to BAS; superannuation; payroll records; funds received in advance; asset depreciation; debtors; credit card payments; workers' compensation.
- Played active role at both face-to-face and teleconference board meetings.
- Budgeted for relevant staff training which is now encouraged.
- Contacted Associate members to update records, status and interest.
- Acquired credit cards and vehicle for organization.
- Carried out various small upgrades and repairs to the office.



RYAN MICALINA, AUTISM SPECTRUM

CLUB WILD MASTER CLASS



“We benefitted from your energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of the Disability Arts sector. We felt they were very relevant and informative sessions which gave us great practical strategies for the wide range of audiences we get.”



TOUCH TOUR ART GALLERY OF NSW


SERVICES

INFORMATION

Advertising Ourselves

A review of our promotional material highlighted the need for new tools. A new company brochure was designed and distributed widely to both the arts and disability sector. A promotional banner and PowerPoint presentation were also developed for use at functions, seminars and talks to various groups. E-bulletin subscriptions, volunteer interest and donations have resulted from the brochure distribution.

As a living cubbyhouse of information 70% of the pages on the website have been updated or are newly created in the past year. The remaining 30% (12/40) have been reviewed and are still relevant as they stand.



ANGELS IN THE ARCHITECTURE
SHOPFRONT THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



“Thanks so much for the information about places that might accommodate tactile art projects.”

Some key website improvements include:

- The Vision, Mission, Business and Services are clearly explained.
- A disability arts tutor can be found online.
- The “About Us” page presents biographies of the members of the Management Committee.
- Links are clearly categorised.
- The “Contact Us” page gives directions to and transport information about our office and training room.
- The “Menu” has been updated.
- The “Information Page” brings together all resources and our new Information Sheets.

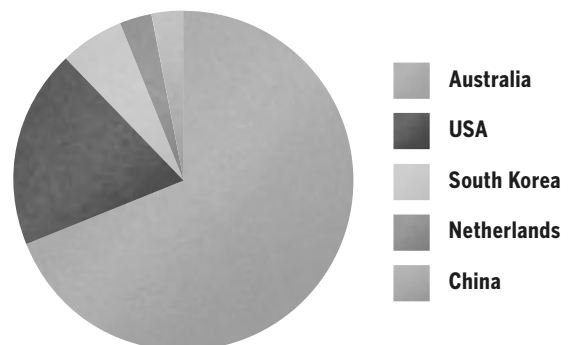
As Accessibility is our key message the website was reviewed against the online Bobby accessibility tool. As many of you know Bobby is an automatic checklist, which references the latest Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) standards.

WAI publish web design standards that outline a highly technical definition of website accessibility. Bobby provides easy-to-use feedback on accessibility errors and provides site re-design recommendations. If a site meets all the automatically generated WAI criteria, up to the highest level, it is entitled to carry the Bobby logo.

The Accessible Arts site, www.aarts.net.au, does not carry the Bobby logo. The Accessible Arts site was designed to allow non-technical Accessible Arts staff to easily update the Internet site, and accessibility. Some conscious design decisions are interpreted as minor accessibility errors by the automated Bobby tool.

This means that although www.aarts.net.au doesn't carry the Bobby logo, it is still one of the most accessible sites in Australia today.

WEB VISITS BY COUNTRY



Articles and Media

This year we have also turned our attention to gaining some media exposure. Articles have appeared in magazines in both the arts and the disability sectors, we have been successful in generating several

SERVICES

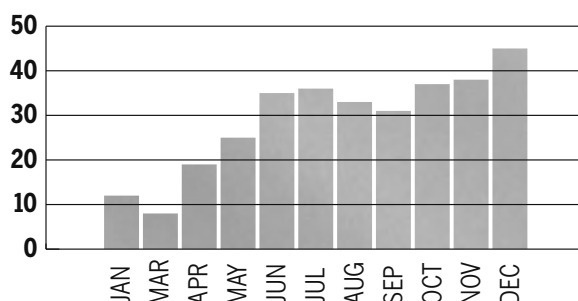
radio interviews and a number of articles have appeared in local papers. This exposure will hopefully continue to grow as a means of promoting our services and advocating for change.

E-bulletin

The newsletter now includes a small section highlighting the current activities of Accessible Arts. In some cases there will be additional information in the relevant section of the web site. The intention is to promote our own organization as well as the activities of others. The newsletter now includes images, links and Pdfs for ease of navigation and access to information. The relationships built with a greater range of organizations have contributed to a more comprehensive listing of events.

The process of asking recipients to re-subscribe began in October. Previously we only had a subscriber's email address. We now collect a name, address, region, telephone number, organization, sector, website, and how they found out about us. It is a slow process but highly valuable in determining who is or isn't receiving the e-bulletin.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO E-BULLETIN



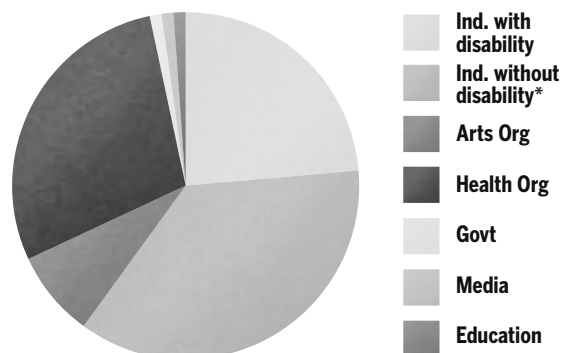
As the database is central to our information service, training was organised

for new staff and several functions were reviewed and improved to meet changing requirements. 25% of the records were upgraded with the help of additional staff and further records will be reviewed with the feed-back received from Associate Members.

Level of Service

Most enquiries were attended to within two weeks. Time spent on enquiries ranged from five minutes to one and a half hours. Information sheets can now be accessed on our website to assist with common inquiries i.e. finding a tutor, funding information, getting published, and disability/arts training (written by Katy Mercer).

ENQUIRIES



*People who did not identify as having a disability

Library

Attention was also paid to re-cataloguing our video library with the help of an intern, Fiona Bridger. This will be completed this year. The next step is to list all videos and books on our website.

A photo library of arts/disability events has been established and permission to publish procedures implemented.



DAWN WORKSHOP

TRAINING

Dawn (Disability Arts Workers Network)

In September 2005 the first forum and workshop were held for disability arts workers at Accessible Arts. Astrid Reinke, from the very successful CreateAbility program funded by Holroyd Council, spoke about the program and showed slides of different activities. A discussion was held to identify the needs of disability arts workers and what they thought DAWN could provide for them. Rosie Dennis, a local performance artist, ran a drama and movement workshop for participants in the afternoon. The forum identified three areas of need that DAWN could address for disability arts workers:

- networking opportunities.
- information.
- training.

A DAWN workshop and seminar program will run throughout 2006 at various locations in the metropolitan region. Speakers will be invited from various educational institutions to address training topics and speakers from various government bodies to advise on funding applications. A program will be held on how to run a creative art workshop for people with a disability.



DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

"I cant thank you enough for your time and help. I have contacted several artists and we are meeting soon about the project."

Disability Awareness and Access Training

Successful negotiations were held with representatives of the business development unit of the Open Learning and Education Network, TAFE, to secure the rights for Accessible Arts to deliver the Arts Accessibility course 9560.

It was agreed that all students would be enrolled using the TAFE documentation. They would receive course materials supplied by TAFE, a letter of attainment would be issued by TAFE on completion of the course and Accessible Arts could charge a small fee.

In November the first accredited TAFE Disability Awareness and Access training session was held in the newly refurbished Accessible Arts training room. Twelve people attended and the feedback was very positive.

In August two customised training sessions in Disability Awareness and Access training was provided for Sydney Theatre Company box office and front of house staff. Customised training was also held in August for educators from the MCA Education Team who facilitate workshops as part of the annual Bella Program. Bella is an arts program run every year for young people with disabilities at the MCA.

In December two customised training sessions in Disability Awareness and Access training was provided for twenty eight customer service staff at the MCA.

Training courses for 2006 are being promoted widely to disability and arts organizations throughout NSW to encourage arts administrators and managers to attend. These training sessions will now be conducted on a monthly basis. In 2006 trips are planned to regional areas to deliver Disability Awareness and Access training in Bathurst, Newcastle and Lismore.

The training room has been fitted out with new chairs and tables and a video player. A data projector has been identified as a desirable resource and added to the 2006 budget.

Various organizations and newsletters have been identified as appropriate to market the training program. These organizations are contacted on a regular ongoing basis to promote upcoming training courses and workshops.



CLUB WILD MASTER CLASS



CLUB WILD CHANNEL 10 WEATHER SEGMENT

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Event Development

Once again Accessible Arts was the program partner to the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) for International Day of People with a Disability (IDPWD) and was responsible for the program of arts events. 2005 was the second year of the three-year Don't DIS my Ability campaign that is gaining recognition and raising awareness within the disability community in NSW. The number of events in the IDPWD program has continued to increase to 110 events in regional and metropolitan NSW. 60 events made up the arts program including 28 regional events and 32 metropolitan events.

Accessible Arts was specifically involved in four events for IDPWD including Embracing the Accessible Era, Club Wild dance parties, the Club Wild Master Class and the launch of AART.BOXX.

Embracing the Accessible Era

Accessible Arts held Embracing the Accessible Era, a professional development seminar to celebrate IDPWD. The seminar provided arts and disability organizations with examples of how to increase access for people with a disability to arts venues, events and programs in the short, medium and long-term. The day was well attended and there was an

impressive range of speakers including keynote speaker Graeme Innes – Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner (Deputy Disability Discrimination Commissioner).

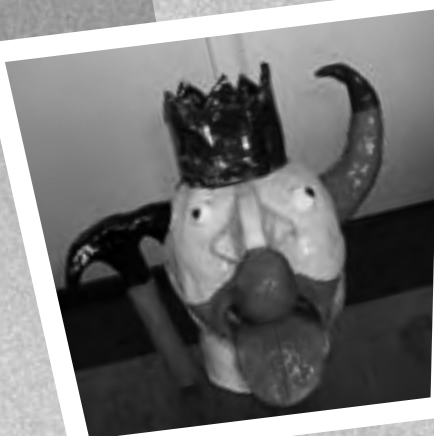
The seminar also included an exhibition of works by people with a disability including Michael Williamson (sculptor) and artists from the Autism Association of Australia (ASPECT).

Club Wild

On 2nd and 3rd December, The Studio, The Sydney Opera House and Club Wild held Sydney's hippest dance party celebrating IDPWD. Featured performers included Sidiki Conde (Guinean singer, drummer and dancer), MC Akash, DJ Vinnie and the Bipolar Bears.

Club Wild was held on two nights. These dance parties offered a unique opportunity for people with a disability to get out, have fun and dance the night away. Many audience members didn't want to leave the dance floor and some returned for the second evening as they had enjoyed the first so much. Volunteers, performers and audience members left the evening smiling with positive comments about their experience.

SCULPTURE BY MICHAEL WILLIAMSON,
EMBRACING THE ACCESSIBLE
ERA SEMINAR



NYMAGEE MUSIC FESTIVAL IDPWD



Club Wild Master Class

On 30th November, Club Wild and Accessible Arts presented a master class program covering three exciting areas:

- ▣ Song, Dance and Rhythm with international guest artist, Sidiki Conde from Guinea.
- ▣ Digital Music Technology and Disability with Club Wild's principal music artist, Akash.
- ▣ Making Art, Building Community with Phil Heuzenroeder, Artistic Director of Club Wild.

Artists with a disability, disability arts workers and CCD workers benefited from this unique opportunity. This master class enabled participants to gain close working relationships with Club Wild performers. Many participants also attended the dance parties.

AART.BOXX

NOISE and Accessible Arts have launched a call-out for young artists with a disability across Australia to submit media friendly works. Artists who submit will be provided with the opportunity for their art to be seen or heard through arts media outlets and may win one of the micro-grants available to make more art. Accessible Arts looks forward to seeing the submissions in 2006.

Other highlights included Nymagee Go For It! Music Project coordinated by the Mallee Hen Cooperation and the Creativi-Tee Workshop coordinated by Cowra Art Gallery.

“Thank you so much for the guidance as to where to find a drama therapist – I did not know where to begin”

Nymagee Go For It! Music Project

On 17th December, a night of music and dance was organised by the Mallee Hen Cooperation, with the band “Go For It”, who arranged free performance workshops to enable locals to perform on stage with the band. Musicians, singers and street theatre performers including people with and without disabilities welcomed the opportunity to showcase their talents.

For many of the one hundred people attending the festival, it involved travelling considerable distances on dirt roads. Nymagee is a remote outback community, 100km from Cobar, with a town population of only thirty five.

Creativi-Tee

On 2nd December Cowra Art Gallery held the Creativi-tee workshop facilitated by artist Nyree Reynolds for adults with a disability in the local area.

The workshops provided participants with the opportunity to create tee-shirts with their own design or a stencilled design. All materials were supplied and each individual took home a finished product by the end of the workshop. Those involved enjoyed their tee-shirt making experience and some wore their designs to the opening of the Colour of Life exhibition at the Japanese Gardens the following day. Many of the adults participated in the workshop in 2004 and enjoyed the new project for 2005.

Both the Mallee Hen Cooperation and the Cowra Art Gallery received funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) for their fantastic programs. This funding was particularly in support of arts and disability events taking place in towns with a population of ten thousand people or less.

It has been calculated that approximately two thirds of the arts events in the IDPWD program for 2005 will have sustainable outcomes for people with a disability and the broader community. Accessible Arts and DADHC have agreed that the focus on sustainable outcomes from IDPWD events will be re-emphasised in 2005. Event organisers will need to aim for long-lasting positive affects and ongoing opportunities.

On a broader perspective, Accessible Arts maintained representation on a number of key reference groups and committees including the ARTSTART Advisory Committee, the Accessing the Arts Group (ATAG), the DADHC Reference Group for “Remembering Yesterday – Caring Today”, the Museums and Galleries NSW Access Group and the IDPWD Reference Group.

Accessible Arts provided support letters to a selection of funding applications from a range of organizations aiming to undertake inspirational and ultimately beneficial arts and disability projects.

Future Directions

Accessible Arts will continue to provide ongoing support to arts organizations working to increase access for people with a disability and disability organizations wanting to expand creative and cultural opportunities for their clients and members.

Accessible Arts recognises the importance for people in the disability and arts communities to identify their own needs, interests and hopes for the future. Accessible Arts looks forward to undertaking a thorough research and consultation process over the next two years. This process will help to guide the strategic direction of projects in which we become involved and provide points of inspiration to help drive arts and disability projects across NSW. This will be an important cultural planning initiative for people with a disability and the community of NSW.

Intimate Encounters Disability and Sexuality

This exhibition is touring regional and rural Australia with a touring grant auspiced by Accessible Arts. The tour runs from 2004 into 2007 with enquiries to host the exhibition continuing.

In 2005 Intimate Encounters was exhibited at the following venues: Cairns Regional Gallery, Albury Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie Hastings Regional Gallery, Grafton Regional Gallery, Tweed River Regional Gallery, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery and Chapel of Chapel Gallery in Melbourne.

All galleries reported very high visitor numbers for each show, media attention was high and visitor feedback continued to affirm the high standard of the work and the level of impact it has in showcasing the stories and experiences of people with disabilities, that have never been seen in this context before. Many people said that the show had opened their eyes to the feelings and emotions expressed by the participants in their stories and through the images. Each gallery has held a public forum to accompany the exhibition and these have been attended by either the project Manager (Lisa Cahill), the photographer (Belinda Mason-Lovering) and participants from the show including Lismore based Kath Duncan.

A selection of images will be used by Family Planning New South Wales for a campaign aimed at young adults with intellectual disabilities.

The exhibition will be shown in Barcelona in September 2006 and St George Regional Gallery will exhibit the work in late 2006 to coincide with International Day for People with a Disability. Lismore Regional Gallery takes the show in early 2007 followed by Casula Powerhouse, again to coincide with International Day, in November 2007. A tour of New Zealand is being explored through Arts Access NZ and a UK tour is also in development.

PYT WORKSHOP, IDPWD





LEFT: DAVID ROLFE
(QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA)
DISABILITY AND SEXUALITY,
INTIMATE ENCOUNTERS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
BELINDA MASON-LOVERING

BELOW LEFT: CRYSTAL SANDERS
- IDPWD SHOALHAVEN

BELOW RIGHT: ILLUSTRATION BY
ROBERT SMITH OF "THE CLOCK"
WRITTEN BY VICKI MORGAN



Pier 4 The Wharf Hickson Road Walsh Bay NSW 2000
Phone: [02] 9251 6499 | Fax: [02] 9251 6422
info@aarts.net.au | www.aarts.net.au
ABN 48 116 402 192



accessibleARTS
ARTS + DISABILITY NSW