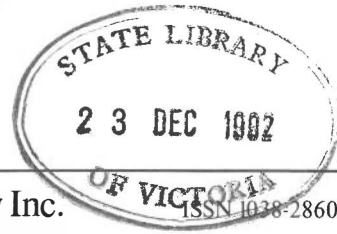


Access



ARTS Access

Newsletter of Arts Access Society Inc.

December, 1992

P-art-ICIPATE Expo '92

With 80 participants, support workers, family, friends and artists combining their energies, an exciting day of arts activities were enjoyed by all at the Participate Expo '92, held at Princes Gardens Recreation Centre in Prahran on December 4th.

Decorative platters were shaped from clay; stories rose from the sea, printed in vibrant colours; bodies and voices were set free to music, movement, drama and sound poetry and still lives were explored in lines, shapes, shadows and spaces. All P-art-ICIPATE activities aim to extend the artistic interests of people with disabilities, and emphasise a high level of individual participation and enjoyment.

The Expo involved six practical arts workshops, two seminars and an information display, providing opportunities for people with disabilities to try new art forms and explore ideas and issues in the seminars.

Workshops and artists were: Creative Movement (Pam Sullivan and the New Directions Dance Company, of Milparinka ATS); Drawing (Luciano Giardina, of Arts Project Australia); Ceramics (Jenny Harrington, of the Glenhuntly Centre); Stepping into Someone Else's Shoes – Drama (Rhonda Whittaker and Jedda Bellham), Table Talk, a Feast of Words – Sound Poetry (Maure-y-n Brees); Sea Stories – Printmaking (Julie Higginbotham).

A round table discussion on how the media perceive the art works of people with disabilities and how groups and individuals might gain better media coverage of their work involved valuable insights from guest panelists, Chris McAuliffe (arts writer and academic) and Vern Krastins (manager of the 'integrated' rock band, Big Bag).



Photography by Viv Carroll

Pat Holdsworth (left) and Helen Ash, inking found objects for printing during the 'Sea Stories' printmaking workshop at the P-art-ICIPATE Expo '92.

Judith Isherwood and Bobbie Hodge presented a seminar on the resourcing of arts projects, focussing on funding sources, sponsorship, budgeting, submission writing and related issues for groups wishing to establish their own programs. Arts Access has played a major co-ordinating role in the development of

P-art-ICIPATE events, which are organised by a steering committee of interested organisations and individuals including, Arts Project Australia, Yooralla Society, Milparinka ATS and Coburg ATSS. The committee will meet early in 1993 to discuss future P-art-ICIPATE activities.

China or bust in 1993

One of the most exciting developments for 1993 is Arts Access plans for developing a Cultural Exchange Program between Arts Access and China's Jilin and Jiangsu Provinces. Jiangsu is Victoria's sister-state in China.

In recent months, Arts Access has been liaising with the Jilin Foreign Cultural Exchange Centre and the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture in order to develop a Cultural Exchange Program that will focus on arts activities with disabled people.

While plans are still in their early stages, the program will probably involve an exhibition of artworks by

disabled people, a series of workshops run by artists with and without disabilities and a range of seminars that will look at the valuable role the arts can play in the lives of people with disabilities. Arts Access' Executive Director and Program Manager will visit China in March, 1993 to begin discussions and negotiations. They will visit schools and communities that work with people with disabilities in order to evaluate their interest in taking part in such a program. Discussions are also underway with the Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Beijing, as Arts Access is also hoping to make contact with artists and disability

organisations in Beijing during the initial visit.

The Community Cultural Development Unit of the Australia Council, the Federal government's arts funding and advisory body, has shown great support and enthusiasm for the development of this initiative, providing funding for the early stages of the program proposal.

Arts Access believes that activities such as this will be invaluable in raising the general community's awareness of the scope of the arts and disability sector, both here and overseas.

We will keep you informed of the progress of this initiative throughout 1993.

Christmas Message

This has been a year of change and review for Arts Access – a process that has resulted in a stronger, more secure organisation that will continue to create opportunities in the arts for the most disadvantaged sectors of the community throughout the '90s and beyond.

The year began with major changes to the staff, including the appointments of Bobbie Hodge as Program Manager and Viv Carroll as Public Affairs Manager. Recently, staff changes have included the appointment of Dean Michael as EASE Project Officer, following Julie-Ann Willems' decision to return to life as a stage manager.

1992 saw the establishment of the Arts Access Trust Appeal, a move which will ensure Arts Access financial security for many years to come. Our sincere thanks go to all members of the Appeal Committee who have worked so hard throughout the year.

Perhaps one of the most exciting activities for 1992 was the exhibition and tour of the *Stormy Weather* exhibition and the associated involvement in the global art acquisition project of the UK based, international corporation, SmithKline Beecham. As a result of this involvement, next year will see Arts Access encouraging Australian corporations to conduct similar projects when acquiring new artworks.

The year has not been an easy one for many of the groups and individuals with which we work and it is to everyone's credit that creative activities have continued to be encouraged and developed in a wide range of communities.

Some of these include arts programs with young people suffering from cystic fibrosis, with residents of the recently closed Caloola Centre and with disadvantaged young people in the Werribee region.

Arts Access Entertainment Access Service, known as EASE has had a bumper year, distributing more than 13,000 tickets to a wide range of entertainment events throughout Melbourne.

All of these projects demonstrate the way involvement in the arts can change people's lives for the better. Thanks must go to the many sectors of the community, including our members, who have supported these activities and made it possible for Arts Access to meet the many demands made on our services throughout the year.

On behalf of all of us at Arts Access, we wish you a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to working together in the New Year.

Regards,



Judith Isherwood
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bedrooms

The group exhibition, *Bedrooms and Other Places*, was launched by Kate Brennan, Manager Cultural Development, City of Melbourne on October 27 in the foyer of Arts Victoria. The exhibition was the culmination of a series of visual arts programs funded by Health & Community Services through the Office of Psychiatric Services and included a training program co-ordinated by Heather Graham. Artworks came from participants at programs run at Horizons, The Exchange, the St.Kilda Community Health Centre, and Arts Access.



DADAA Update

For 18 months Arts Access has been actively involved in the national move to establish DADAA, a national body for organisations and individuals interested in the arts, disability and social change.

In mid-October this year, Arts Access' Executive Director, Judith Isherwood along with Jan Doran, attended the National DADAA Conference in Queensland as Victorian delegates. The conference was a valuable opportunity for the national DADAA movement to review its directions and set some priorities for the coming year. One of the first issues raised was the appropriateness of the name DADAA (Disability and Disadvantage in the Arts Australia). After much discussion and debate, the name Art Ability Australia has been suggested and is currently being ratified by all state committees.

The conference also discussed the most appropriate national model for DADAA to undertake its work. It was agreed that the most efficient national model is the one used by the Community Arts Networks, whereby each state and territory is allocated a particular portfolio on which to work. The most important outcomes of the national conference were the range of recommendations made by conference participants for possible portfolios, which included: policy, access, funding, employment and training, marketing and information, and education.



Photography by Carol Downey

Pictured at the launch of 'Bedrooms and Other Places' are: (from left) Mr Lou George, Health & Community Services; Judith Isherwood, Executive Director Arts Access; Noah Kelly, exhibiting artist; and Heather Graham, exhibition co-ordinator.

Congratulations Renald

Arts Access extends its congratulations to Renald Portelli, who has been awarded a **Manuel Da Valena Award** for his cultural contributions to the Maltese community in Australia. The award is one of six presented annually by the Maltese Government. Renald has been a participant in many Arts Access activities and group exhibitions over the years, including the *10+10, Sightless Visionaries* and *Bedrooms & Other Places* exhibitions.

Access Studio – Book Now for '93

The Arts Access studio is a low cost multi-purpose space suitable for a range of arts activities, classes, rehearsals, small performances, workshops, seminars, meetings and exhibitions.

Many dates in early 1993 are still available. The Access Studio can be hired on an hourly, daily or weekly basis. Facilities include:

- exhibition hanging system
- kitchen facilities
- piano
- darkroom
- slide projector, video and cassette player
- trestles and chairs

For rates and booking information contact Samantha Marsh at Arts Access on 699 8299, or drop in and inspect the Access Studio, at 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne.

RESOURCE CENTRE UPDATE

NEW RESOURCES

Recent additions to the collection of printed materials at the Resource Centre include:

ARTS *Outwrite*

A catalogue of community writing publications compiled and edited by Cliff Smyth for Victorian Community Writers Inc, 1992. Includes a guide to publications and order forms, useful contacts and background information on community writing and groups in Victoria.

Rewind – Strategies for Integration in the Arts

Papers from a training seminar presented by Accessible Arts Inc. (NSW) in February 1992.

Healthy Localities

1992 Annual report of the Healthy Localities funded program of the City of Broadmeadows including three youth arts projects which promoted health messages to young people in the Broadmeadows area.

REHABILITATION

Back on their Feet.

By John Tipping. A history of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service, 1941-1991. Australian Government Publishing Service, 1992.

TRAINING

Creative Arts & Older People

Two 1992 workshops designed for workers in the aged care field have introduced a range of support staff to the benefits arts activities can bring. In late October, Heather Hill led a Creative Movement workshop for 16 staff from nursing homes, hostels and day centres. Needs addressed through the day included resources, networking, personal skill development, new ideas, music, and modifying or extending activities. Simple quality of movement and body awareness exercises were explored by participants and later developed using props and simple group dances.

In November, the overwhelming response to our Creative Visual Arts Workshop required a second day to be organised – with a total of 34 people participating. A session was

also held in Bendigo for 16 regional aged care workers organised by the Older Adults Recreation Network. Artists, Sally Marsden and Anne Marie Power opened the doors to a broad range of ideas, techniques and processes in the visual arts. Throughout the days, participants discovered and shared ways in which simple ideas and activities could be extended into longer term projects addressing skill sharing, reminiscence, socialisation and communication, while collectively or individually producing significant artistic works.

Ideas for future development that evolved during the workshops included:

- a photographic banner of centre participants;
- an exhibition of works at a local library;
- a recycling depot for waste materials for use in projects;
- a central poll of basic equipment;
- a program of monthly themes suggested by elderly people;
- a collage of significant events in the lives of participants;
- the requirement for more staff training days for inspiration and rejuvenation.

Artist to Artist Forum

The Artist to Artist Forum, held at the Access Studio on November 24, opened the way for groups to discuss ongoing needs and issues for community artists working with disadvantaged and differently abled people. The forum featured presentations by Linda Murrow, Ev Vynal and Rosalie Hastwell on work practises, approaches and philosophies. Among the needs discussed were:

- regular networking meetings for artists;
 - opportunities for artists to observe other artists working with groups;
 - professional development opportunities such as speakers on disability, communication skills, working with volunteers, program development and management;
 - a forum for artists and healthcare workers;
- Other issues discussed included:
- marketing enterprises;
 - income generation from limited production artwork of participants;

- future employment opportunities for artists;
 - information on current projects;
 - project evaluation processes.
- Community Arts Network and Arts Access will work collaboratively to address some of these issues and set up a framework for artists to meet regularly to pursue further aspects of professional development and networking.

Staff Training in 1993

Planning is under way for an exciting range of training workshops for 1993. Staff who work with people with intellectual disabilities, psychiatric illness and the aged, will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on sessions in music, creative movement, drama, storytelling and the visual arts. Project planning workshops will look at developing, resourcing and evaluating arts projects in your own community. Comments from the staff who participated in workshops during 1992 have been extremely positive and assisted with the planning for 1993. The workshops have been valued for the opportunities they offer for skills development, the enjoyment of discovering new approaches and sharing information with others in the field. Participants have seen the benefits to clients involved in community arts and the value in extending activities into projects that can have positive individual and group outcomes. Further information on specific 1993 workshops will be mailed to organisations in the New Year. In-house workshops can also be arranged. Contact Carol Downey on 699 8299 to discuss any training needs or for other information from the Resource Centre regarding arts and disability projects.

Christmas Closure

December 24-29 Closed
December 30-31 Open
January 1, 1993 Closed
January 4, 1993 Open

PROJECT UPDATE

Koori Womens Textile

Claire Higney is a director of Needleworks, a community based textile arts company in Glasgow. On a recent visit to Australia, Claire had expressed an interest in undertaking a workshop program with Koori women in Melbourne. Arts Access in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Arts Unit, MCC and the Council for Further Education organised a one day workshop, held in early November at the Access Studio. In six hours the group of ten produced a bold banner design exploring historical and contemporary Koori themes. The banner has been sent to Scotland as part of a major international exhibition called Threads of Life, which will be co-ordinated by Needleworks in March 1993.

Claire Higney (second from left) and workshop participants with the textile banner in the Access Studio.

Winlaton Youth Training Centre

Plans have now been confirmed with staff and trainees to undertake a mural project commencing in January 1993. Artist, Megan Evans, will work with trainees to design and produce a mural for the activities room at Winlaton, which is a remand and training centre for young offenders.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

STUFFED, is the acronym of a support group established for young people with chronic fatigue syndrome in Melbourne. Arts Access has just received funding, through the Reichstein Foundation, to undertake a video and media arts project with the young people in 1993. At this stage there is a limited medical knowledge of CFS, as there is community understanding and support for CFS sufferers. It is believed that STUFFED is the only support group of its kind in the world. The production of the video is an exciting initiative which has the capacity to be distributed to young people, many of them isolated across Australia.



Photography by Carol Downey

Janefield Adult Training Centre

Artist, Maria Fillipow and residents from Janefield have just completed a striking mural which has been mounted on the external walls of the Occupational Therapy Centre.

OPS Programs 1993

Planning is currently underway to review the 1992 arts programs undertaken with funding from Health & Community Services through the Office of Psychiatric Services. Arts Access is looking at a number of new initiatives under this program for next year. Specifically it is intended to expand the arts workshops offered to include creative writing, dance and drama, as well as visual arts. The Victorian Writers Centre in Fitzroy is looking forward to working with Arts Access to co-host the writing workshops. It is anticipated that workshops will also be undertaken in Brunswick and Moorabbin, as well as the continuation of the Saturday morning visual arts workshops held at the Access Studio.

Feast of Art

Twenty participants from a range of Arts Access projects gathered at the Access Studio in late November for the sights, sounds and tastes of the annual participants day, better known as *Feast of Art*. The aim of *Feast of Art* is to provide a forum for project participants to express their views on projects run during the previous year, and to celebrate their achievements.

Musician, Gary King, warmed up the proceedings and inspired the group to join him in making joyful Christmas sounds on a range of acoustic instruments. During the feed-back session the year's delights and future visions for Arts Access were shared. The process is a valuable contribution to project formulation and planning and all participants, contributions are welcomed. Entertainment continued with a stunning slide show of 1992 projects and, of course, the literal feast, savoured by all. *Feast of Art* occurs at least once a year. All participants and their friends are invited – so watch out for next year's event.

EASE Staffing Changes

After two and a half years guiding EASE to its current stage of development, Julie-Ann Willems has left the position of EASE Project Officer to pursue a career as a production and stage manager in the entertainment industry. Julie-Ann's time at EASE has coincided with regular record breaking monthly ticket distribution figures and initiatives such as the publication of the *Melbourne Venue Guide*, venue access assessments, formulation of venue staff training and the establishment of an EASE Consumers Group.

She is succeeded by Dean Michael, who also comes to EASE with a love of the entertainment industry, having experience as a director, performer, production and front-of-house worker. Dean also has a commitment to the community sector, borne out by his professional and volunteer work with the Victorian AIDS Council. Meanwhile EASE's bookkeeper, Tasneem Allie has left to pursue new career opportunities. EASE Project Assistant, Lisa McKoy will take on the bookkeeping role.

New EASE Booking Hours

With the staffing changes at EASE, booking arrangements have also changed. From January 1st, 1993 bookings can be made only from Monday to Thursday, between 10am and 4pm.

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 quarterly 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.



Staff

Executive Director: Judith Isherwood
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Public Affairs Manager: Vivian Carroll
Resource Officer: Carol Downey
Administrator: Rhona Bester
Office Assistant: Samantha Marsh
EASE Project Officer: Dean Michael
EASE Project Assistant: Lisa McKoy

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Access is published with the generous assistance of Typographical Services, South Melbourne 690 3655.

ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Registered by Australia Post

Print Post Publication No. PP 325649/0005

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