

**2011**

**ACCESS  
ARTS  
INC.  
(QLD)**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



# Table of Contents

Patron's Message .....	2
President's Report.....	3
Executive Officer's Report.....	5
Treasurer's Report .....	7
Quality Assurance .....	11
Community Arts Workshops .....	12
Professional Development Report.....	14
Visual Arts Report .....	19
Creative Recovery, FNQ .....	23
Indigenous Projects.....	24
Access Arts Events .....	25
Events: .....	25
Performances: .....	25
Workshops with Partners: .....	25
Events with Partners:.....	25
Conferences / Seminars / Presentations: .....	25
Training: .....	25
Partners .....	26
Access Arts Volunteers .....	27
2011 Access Arts Staff .....	27

## Patron's Message



### Message from Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC **GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND**

Creativity does not discriminate. The urge to express individual creativity through engagement with the performing or visual arts, as a participant, as an observer, or working in a chosen arts field, is surely as strong for Queenslanders living with disability and disadvantage as it is for the general community. Regrettably, it often proves more difficult for the former group to find outlets for the expression of their creative drive, and more broadly to engage with the arts and achieve their personal and professional artistic goals.

Access Arts is dedicated to redressing that situation, to providing the same level of choice and opportunity for those living with disability and disadvantage as that enjoyed by any other Queenslanders. Access Arts takes a holistic approach to this task and is active in as many elements in the spectrum of creative endeavour as its resources allow – among them the professional mentoring of developing artists, education of individuals and organisations about the need to provide access for all as artists and employees, offering training workshops, building pathways to larger audiences for artists, and providing its client group with opportunities to share in the joy of performance.

This Annual Report marks the end of another year of commitment and dedication by the Executive, staff, supporters and volunteers who, every day, strive to make Access Arts' vision and mission a reality. Guided by a three-year strategic plan, Access Arts has advanced its objectives during the past twelve months by, *inter alia*, expanding its reach into the community through electronic platforms, providing awareness-raising and training for the arts sector, and contributing to national strategies to improve access for those living with disability or disadvantage. Feedback from members and other stakeholders has been highly encouraging.

As Patron of Access Arts, I welcome these gains. I thank all those individuals who have devoted their time and energy to the cause of improving access for all to the arts in Queensland, as I thank the organisations that have worked with and supported them. Together, you are making a real difference in the lives of many fellow Queenslanders and at the same time, helping to enrich the cultural life of our State. I encourage everyone involved to maintain or increase their support in the future and I wish Access Arts every success for 2012.

# President's Report



Victoria Lister

## **PRESIDENT OF ACCESS ARTS**

What kind of year was 2011 for Access Arts? From where I sit, it felt like a year in which considerable advancements were made. It felt, for example, like a year of branching out, establishing new connections and renewing old ones, in terms of partners, programs and regions – locally, nationally and internationally. Much of this was the direct result of the work of our Executive Officer, Emma Bennison, who is to be commended for her skills in networking and relationship building. Emma will be the last to say this, but she is highly regarded in the sector and we are very lucky to have her.

It felt like a year too in which more has been done to raise awareness of disability as it relates to arts and culture, arts organisations, and the sundry public and non-profit organisations that have taken up our disability awareness training and related services. Here we have to thank not only Emma but Angela, who takes on much of the responsibility for promoting and rolling out the awareness programs. As General Manager Angela is also quietly responsible for so much of what happens behind the scenes at Access Arts and we thank her for her consistency and dedication of purpose.

We also took the time to reach out to 'friends' of the organisation – people we believed were willing to support Access Arts through donations and attendance at special events. We held our inaugural Friends of Access Arts function in May last year to great success; a second event took place in December. As a result, not only did we raise funds, several Members' works were purchased by attendees. We'd like to thank our new Friends for their generosity, and our long-term donors as well. Your gifts are much appreciated.

It also felt like a year where Members have taken their work increasingly into the public domain, via the groups such as the Camera Wonderers and their online marketplace, through the numerous exhibitions and performances that have taken place throughout the year - such as the Friends functions mentioned above - and through their participation in community workshops and events. Here, the hard work and support of Members by Jasmin Jacobson, Zane Trow and Joelene Scot is to be acknowledged, as is the work of the Members themselves.

Similarly, Nick Reilly, the organisation's IT Administrator, must also be recognised for his redevelopment of the AAI web site, which now more clearly communicates our purpose and scope to broader audiences. On a similar front, Access Arts has increased its presence via social media channels such as Twitter, another innovation in 2011. Indeed I'm pleased to report membership is now a very robust 450, up from around 200 in 2009 and I suspect this is in part due to our increased presence as a voice for arts and disability.

On the financial front, the calendar year concluded very well - the direct result of careful budgeting and monitoring by members of our Finance Sub-committee, principally our Treasurer Oddur Augustsson, Secretary Doug Ranie, Emma, Angela and Access Arts' Finance Officer Jan Spinks. The latter three are to be especially acknowledged for their willingness to review and implement the systems needed to more efficiently monitor our finances - as does Oddur and Doug's preparedness to consistently devote time to oversee the process. As the surplus indicates, these practices have more than paid off.

There are of course numerous others 'behind the scenes' at Access Arts, working as volunteers, on work placements or as interns, as admin staff, and as arts workers. Some of them I have met, many I don't know at all, but I have a sense of the commitment they bring to their roles and, on behalf of the Management Committee would like to thank them all.

I'd also like to thank my Committee colleagues: Doug, Oddur, Cate Farrar, Evan Jones, Margaret Hughes and Adrian Berry. With the exception of Adrian, who had to leave us due to work commitments, and Margaret, who has now been with us for a year; we've just completed our second year of working together harmoniously as a team. I suspect not many board members are able to say they enjoy their meetings but it is a claim I can happily make when it comes to Access Arts. And I include Emma and Angela in saying this, for their contributions play a large part in the smooth facilitation of our meetings.

However, I feel the goodwill we experience in the boardroom is echoed at all levels of the organisation: for when I consider the Access Arts today - as both organisation and as a group of individuals - that is how it feels.

I look forward to seeing us flourish further in the 2012 membership year.

# Executive Officer's Report



Emma Bennison  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Access Arts has continued to grow and develop in 2011. Overall, it has been a year where we have begun working towards the goals in our 2011-13 strategic plan in earnest. In particular, we have focused on reaching out to our members, the arts and cultural sector and the broader community in new ways and with renewed clarity of purpose.

A cornerstone of this work has been the development of our new website and social networking platforms.

These have enabled us to reach new audiences and have broader conversations. I am proud of our progress to-date and encourage you to visit our new site if you haven't already.

In 2011 we sharpened our focus on working with arts organisations across the sector to build their capacity to provide accessible programs and services to people with disability. For the first time in 2011, we offered quarterly disability awareness training sessions which attracted staff from arts and non-arts organisations and individual artists and arts workers. Feedback has been very positive and we are pleased to be hearing reports from members of increased awareness and access in some organisations. We look forward to delivering these sessions again in 2012 along with workshops on developing a disability action plan and individual audits of accessibility for organisations. In promoting disability awareness and access, we also continue to work with and learn from our colleagues in other states. To this end, we were delighted to host a meeting of state training staff in April to work towards a consistent, national framework for training delivery.

Also in relation to Access, we continued our partnership with Vision Australia and QPAC to deliver audio described performances at QPAC in 2011. Six performances were described by volunteers who were trained by Vision Australia. My sincere thanks to Vision Australia and to QPAC for their continued commitment to audio description. We look forward to continuing this work in 2012 and also to increasing captioned and Auslan interpreted performances.

We collaborated with Arts Queensland to host the Intersections Arts and Disability forum in Brisbane, an opportunity for the arts and disability sectors to come together, share information and be inspired by national keynote speakers. I also facilitated a conversation about strengthening the arts and disability sector in Cairns during the Department of Communities' Absolutely Everybody Disability conference. We also contributed to the Artspoken Regional Arts and Culture Conference in Bundaberg.

Through our Brisbane Outsider Artists Studio, Camera Wonderers and Artist Space workshops, our visual artists have continued to develop their work and showcase it in local, national and international exhibitions. With support from the Australia/Thailand Institute, we curated a national exhibition, Polyphonic: Many Voices Many Styles which was to be shown at the Asia Pacific Wataboshi Music Festival in Thailand in November. Due to significant flooding in Thailand, the festival was postponed to

February 2012. We look forward to showing the exhibition to a wider audience in the Asia Pacific region. Gold Coast song-writer and member of Crossing Divides, Jesse Paterson will also perform his song "Lightning Hits Me" at the Wataboshi gala concert on 29 February. Also at the festival, Access Arts will become the next host of Wataboshi, which will be held in Cairns in two years' time.

As you can see from this and other reports in the 2011 annual report, we have made a significant contribution to removing barriers to arts and cultural engagement for the one in five Queenslanders with disability. I am very proud of our achievements and of the fact that our members provided such glowing feedback in our audit against the Queensland Disability Service Standards in 2011. Strong partnerships are at the core of everything we do and it has been a privilege to continue to work with existing partners and develop new and fruitful partnerships in 2011.

As you will see from our financial reports, 2011 has yielded a more positive result than 2010. This is due in no small part to the prudent budgeting of our management team under the direction of our board, and in particular, our finance subcommittee. It is also due to the generosity of our donors and the support of our funding bodies. Thank you for believing in and supporting our work. I would like to particularly thank Victoria Lister, our Chair for her open, consultative and courageous leadership of the organisation and her support of me on a day-to-day basis. Finally, but perhaps most importantly, I am extremely proud of my staff, past and present and of our volunteers, all of whom have gone above and beyond to ensure members have every opportunity possible to achieve their artistic goals. I thank them all very much for their support. I very much look forward to a busy and productive 2012 when we will continue to move towards our vision that all Queenslanders are free to participate, create and work in the arts.

# Treasurer's Report



Oddur Augustsson  
**TREASURER**

This has been my first full year serving as Treasurer for Access Arts Incorporated. I am pleased to note that closer monitoring implemented during 2010 has continued to function well in the year following and it assisted with bringing about an operating surplus. This has brought an increase to the Incorporated Association's equity for the first time in three years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Overall	<b>\$15,377</b>	(\$39,372)	(\$78,533)	\$ 3,033
Equity	<b>surplus</b>	deficit	deficit	surplus
	<b>\$56,678</b>	\$41,302	\$80,674	\$159,207

Fundraising by members was a heartening and very welcome contribution to our income in 2011 – I am grateful to those whose talents went into the production, launch and sales of the CD 'The Truth'. There were other initiatives members led or contributed to which I am not directly aware of – but again I wish to thank you all for these activities.

The overall result is an achievement which the Executive Officer, General Manager and Finance Officer can be justifiably proud of. I congratulate their effort and oversight in managing expenses on projects, while still providing services and workshops that are valued by members and the general public alike.



## 2010 to 2011 Income, Expenses and Surplus/Deficit comparison

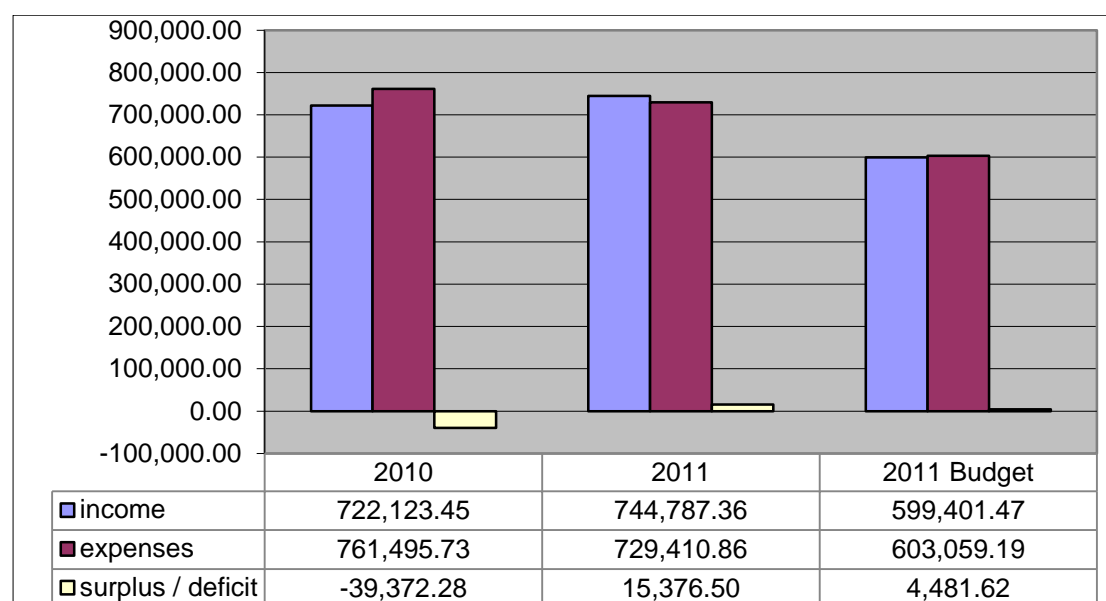


Table from graphic repeated for accessibility reader software	2010	2011	2011 budget
Income (first bar)	722 123	744 787	599 401
Expenses (second bar)	761 496	729 411	603 059
Surplus / deficit	-39 372	15 377	4 482

As a Treasurer and member of the Management Committee of Access Arts I know that this result could have been improved if our governance processes and activities in between monthly board meetings had been more closely focused on meeting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set out in our Strategic Plan.

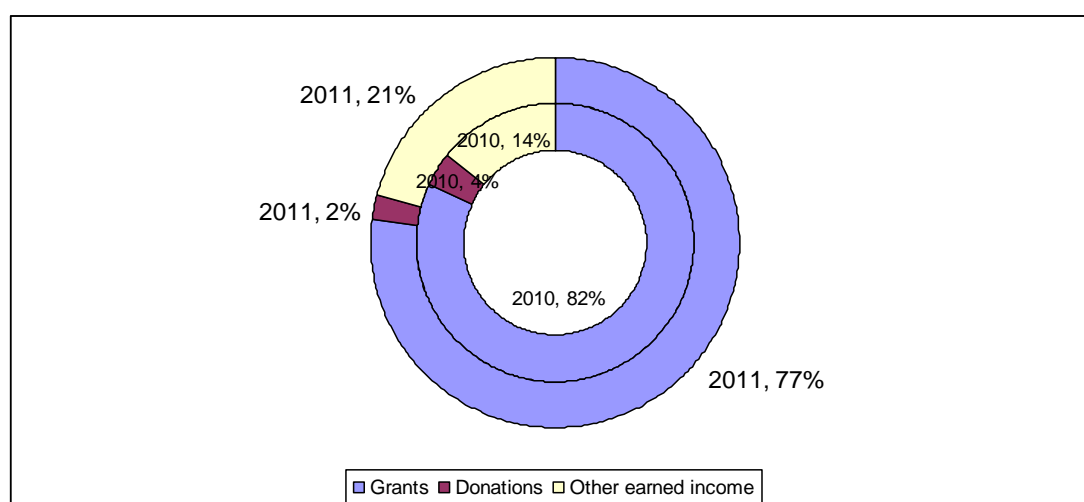
## 2010 to 2011 Income breakdown comparison

Year	2010	%	2011	%
Grants	591,752.19	82	573,238.34	77
Donations	28,796.43	4	16,929.20	2
Other earned income*	101,574.83	14	154,619.82	21

One measure of our effectiveness is reducing reliance on Government grants for income. Access Arts improved on this KPI in 2011 through support from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation (TFFF), shown in the figures above as a component of Other Earned Income\*. However, we did not succeed at increasing non-Government income through donations in 2011 – this proportion decreased over the previous year.

\* The TFFF grant is included in the table above within Other Earned Income and separate from 'Grants' to distinguish it as a different form of income to grants from Government sources (and better illustrate our KPI). However in the full *Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2011* the TFFF grant of \$10,000 is a part of the figures totalled under the heading 'Grants Expended' in the Income and Expenditure Statement.

2010 to 2011 Income breakdown comparison – circle graph of percentages from table



During 2011, the Marketing and Fundraising Committee launched *Friends of Access Arts* to market our organisation in a better way to individual donors and philanthropic entities. Additionally the Management Committee endorsed a partnership with grant application experts Red Tape Busters to maximise the potential for Access Arts to win new grants for existing and new project initiatives. These are important elements in the journey towards achieving our mission and vision for Access Arts. Further evaluation by the Management Committee will occur and future success is hoped for in 2012 and beyond to increase the proportion of income from donations and non-government sources.

Liabilities in 2011 include a provision for Long Service Leave; this is accruing for three of the longer-serving employees of Access Arts. This is a non-current (long term) liability which will become payable during the years 2013 to 2015.

The coming year poses fresh challenges with a likely relocation of our office premises and the associated costs involved. Planning for the Wataboshi Music Festival in 2013 will also require funding and project focus during the 2012 year. As

planned, the closing reserves for 2011 represent an improvement on the year-end figures for the Incorporated Association compared with 2010 and 2009. This outcome places Access Arts Incorporated in a sound position for the coming two years of change and growth.



## Quality Assurance

Access Arts is funded by Department of Communities, Disability Services (DS) and must comply with the DS Quality Service Standards. In line with this system, Access Arts had a post-certification business review by Global-Mark in September 2011. This provides us with a regular opportunity to update and improve our quality systems, and ensures our continued compliance.

Thank you to Members who were involved in the audit interviews and feedback. You provided valuable feedback to the auditors about the services that Access Arts provides to help us improve our delivery and processes.

Feedback was consistently positive and we were particularly pleased to learn of the arts and cultural opportunities and events Members participate in as a result of reading our newsletters. Members also commented on the positive outcomes of Access Arts' partnerships with arts, cultural and disability organisations and businesses.

We welcome feedback and suggestions from Members in order to improve our quality system. Access Arts' Policies and Procedures, which are the basis for our quality system, can be accessed via our website:

<http://accessarts.org.au/index.php/about-us/quality-assurance/>

The forms relating to and referenced in these policies are available in hard-copy and accessible formats upon request from Access Arts Inc. Individual policies, procedures and forms are also available in Braille, audio and large print formats on request.

# Community Arts Workshops

Joelene Scot

## COMMUNITY ARTS ADMINISTRATOR

Access Arts' community arts workshops provide members with a supportive, inclusive and creative environment to engage with various art forms, encouraging positive social interaction, a strong sense of community, and artistic expression of each individual.

This year we have offered dance, drama, performance, drumming and visual arts workshops, where members have developed both confidence and skills, often taking part in the exhibitions and performances that were a result of the workshops.

**Dance:** at Pathwayz Hall, Windsor

Mondays, 2 hr. sessions, 1 x 8 week term (Term 1) – average of 5 participants per workshop



Photos by Andrea Gonzalez 2011

**Drama:** at Pathwayz Hall, Windsor

Thursdays, 2 hr. sessions, 1 x 8 week term (Term 1) – average of 8 participants per workshop.

**Performance:** at Pathwayz Hall, Windsor

Thursdays, 2 hr. sessions, 3 x 8 week terms (Terms 2 to 4) – average of 11 participants per workshop.



Photo by Rowena Taylor 2011



Photo by Angela Jaeschke 2011



**Drumming:** at SWARA, Dutton Park

Fridays, 2hr sessions, 4 x 8 week terms (Term 1 to 4) – average of 23 participants per workshop.



Photos by James Clark 2011

**Visual Arts:** at SWARA, Dutton Park

Wednesdays, 2 hr. sessions, 4 x 8 week terms (Term 1 to 4) – average of 7 participants per workshop.



Photos by Nisveta Kospic 2011

**North Side Visual Arts:** at RCA, Redcliffe

Below photo by Rebecca Bradshaw 2011

Thursdays, 2 hr. sessions, 2 x 8 week terms (Terms 3, 4) – average of 6 participants per workshop.



# Professional Development Report

Zane Trow

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COORINATOR**

## **Access Arts Inc. Professional Development Program – an overview**

Access Arts Inc. provides professional development services through a range of activity streams

- Access Arts Inc. Mission
- Mentorships
- Camera Wonderers
- Writing & Performance
- Brisbane Outsider Artists Studio
- Artist Space
- SAFE Grants
- Membership, Criteria & Definitions
- Outcomes

### **Access Arts Inc. Mission**

To enhance opportunities by removing barriers to engagement with the arts.

The Professional Development Program addresses the mission by

- Demystifying the diversity and complexity of the Australian arts sector, opening up pathways for disadvantaged artists towards a sustainable arts practice, whatever their circumstances and whatever their art form.
- Creating and developing professional opportunities for artists experiencing disability or disadvantage, their families and support networks
- Extending practical knowledge of & lived experience in the diverse structures and of the Australian arts community through research, project development, partnership and advocacy
- To reflect on, critique and debate contemporary community arts and cultural practice

### **Professional Development Mentorships**

#### **Project Activities:**

Mentoring: to promote an individual's awareness and refinement of his or her own professional development by providing and recommending structured opportunities for reflection and observation.

The program has supported 12 artists across 2011 in career and skill development services. These have ranged from young artists working regularly on multimedia and computer art skills through to regular advice on tertiary and vocational study for older artists, assistance with grant application writing, assistance with exhibition and gallery submissions, budgeting, industry network development, script development and appraisal, brokering performance opportunities at conferences and offering hands on technique and skills development in an art practice.

#### **Art Forms:**

Visual  
Digital Media  
Writing  
Sound Art

Photography  
Web Art  
Music  
Multi art form Project Development & Management

**Outcomes:**

Significant professional development has occurred with participants extending skills and their own arts projects in the community.

Encouraging pathways and transitions: Two members of the 2011 mentorship program have now transitioned to the “Artistspace” Professional Development group and further into the Brisbane Outsider Artist collective. Two other mentorships have grown into a wider community project across Access Arts. Another has lead into further tertiary training.

**Issues:**

Time: each member has very specific goals; each mentorship must be open, flexible and responsive to members changing circumstances.



Photography by Camera Wonderer Robert Walmsley-Evans

**Access Arts Camera Wonderers**

**Artists:** Stephen Corti-Griffiths, Colleen Stevenson, Mathew Lys, Brendan Huddy, Robert Walmsley-Evans, Magda Labuda, Reg Lovell.

**Project Activities:**

The Access Arts Camera Wonderers are a group of dedicated photographers that meet once a week to discuss photography, techniques, and ideas. The Camera Wonderers critique and encourage each other's developing photographic practice in a supportive, non-competitive environment.

**Outcomes:**

Encouraging pathways and transitions: The Access Arts Camera Wonderers presented a major installation at the Brisbane Festival in 2011. Significant profile and regular sales of their work have occurred through their Red Bubble web site. Individual members have entered photographs in competition and exhibition – local, national, international. One member is now in TAFE Photography studies.

2012 projects include another Brisbane Festival project; the National Year of Reading and a major community photo documentation partnership with the Brisbane Jazz Club.



### Issues:

Time: each member has very specific goals; processes must be open, flexible and responsive to members changing circumstances.

### The Access Arts Writing & Performance Group

Access Arts Writing & Performance group are a collective of professional writer/performers experiencing disability who are working on the development of their individually written works, and collaborating in contemporary performance of those works.

All members have significant professional performance and writing experience. Text, monologue, performance poetry, live and on line soundscapes and music, social media, digital comics, video and still projected imagery, radophonics, design, visual theatre and movement theatre are investigated.



Image of Writing and Performance group member Damian Stewart in costume

### Current Project 2012-13

A multi-media work for live art installation and on line distribution:

*A dangerous and barbaric distorted mirror image of the world - insanely regulated, ridiculously controlled through endless meaningless workstations imposing an infinite bureaucracy through technological power. A Detective is hired by the New World Order to investigate a glitch in the system, what he discovers will change everything, forever.*

The current project is irreverently investigating an original combination of form and content drawing on individual experience and on cultural inspirations as diverse as: - Franz Kafka and his "Castle", ritual shamanism, Jorge Luis Borges and his "Library of Babel", Flash Gordon, European traditions of physical theatre, Ridley Scott, haiku, Jean Luc Goddard, Bon Jovi, anthropology, Karl Jung, his archetypal structures and his "Symbols and the Interpretation of Dreams", Mervyn Peake, Aldus Huxley; early radiophonics, the Brothers Quay and the Internet Archive.



The ongoing performance work is adaptable to a diverse range of live performance environments. The performers have designed selected works as episodes to be inserted into poetry readings, conference dinners and openings, cabarets, gallery launches, Access Arts functions and more unorthodox community and site-specific environments. Individual works have also combined into a revue style performance work by Maureen Connolly which was focusing, debating and challenging notions of individual alienation and exploitation in an *imaginary* world; performed at Access Arts Inc. Community Showcase in 2011 and well received by Access Arts wider membership.

The “Sir Ima Dumbasse” script development process with Ms. Maureen Connolly took the group through character development, mask, buffoon and parody. Scenes were dissected and worked through rehearsed readings over a 10 month period. Ms. Connolly is now further working the text in the Access Arts Professional Development Mentorship program working with dramaturge/script editor Ms. Carol Burns.

### **Brisbane Outsider Artists’ Studio (BOA)**

BOA is not like other workshops or projects at Access Arts or elsewhere.

The BOA studio acts as a partnership between the artist and Access Arts. At BOA, our goal is to work with the visual artist to ensure high quality training and professional development opportunities at a heavily subsidised rate.

As an emerging or professional artist, there is also an expectation that a commitment is made to furthering professional development by taking up opportunities as they arise. We also expect that BOA artists will work with Access Arts to assist us to raise the profile of BOA through events, exhibitions and other partnership opportunities, thereby developing experience in working as part of a team towards a shared goal.

### **The Artist Space**

The “Artist Space” is not for beginners; it is a weekly workshop and development space for visual artists to share and extend their practice in a supportive, non-competitive environment.

Facilitated by highly experienced professional visual artists, and designed for those who already have an arts practice, the workshop develops:

- painting and drawing techniques
- portfolio design and presentation
- competition entry
- exhibition proposal preparation
- best practice in health and safety
- project and grant application development

The group critique and support each other's development, and have established a meeting place for ideas and discussion, focussing on both individual and collaborative professional development.



Artwork by Cybele Bord de Bitche



Artwork by John Briggs

### **The SAFE Fund**

The SAFE fund has been established to provide fast, flexible assistance to emerging and professional [artists living in Queensland experiencing disability or disadvantage](#). The significant costs of attending conferences, training courses or events and the lack of timely funding options can mean that opportunities are missed. Often a piece of equipment or a short period of mentoring could make all the difference to artists seeking professional careers. SAFE provides timely, one-off funding of up to \$1000 for scholarships, grants or no interest loans throughout the year.

There is no closing date for applications.

# Visual Arts Report

Jasmin Jacobson

## VISUAL ARTS COORDINATOR

2011 saw the involvement of many members from the Brisbane Outsider Artists' Studio in a range of local, regional and international exhibitions. Significant international exhibitions include the series five of exhibitions curated by Prabbeli Gallery, Co-operations in Luxembourg: *Friends and Lovers*; *Famous People*; *Abstract World*; *Catastrophes and Landscapes*. The five exhibitions featured original works by artists experiencing disability from a number of countries including: Germany; Ireland; Denmark; Japan and Australia.

Twelve works of Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio member, Peter Hughes, were purchased by the Museum of Everything in London for an international exhibition of Outsider Art shown for one month in the centre of London. Peter Hughes was selected to be profiled as a key feature artist in this international exhibition. This was a significant opportunity for Peter's works to be viewed by an international audience and to receive positive reviews of his work in a number of UK art publications.



Museum of Everything Exhibition, Selfridges, London  
Photo by Selfridges, London

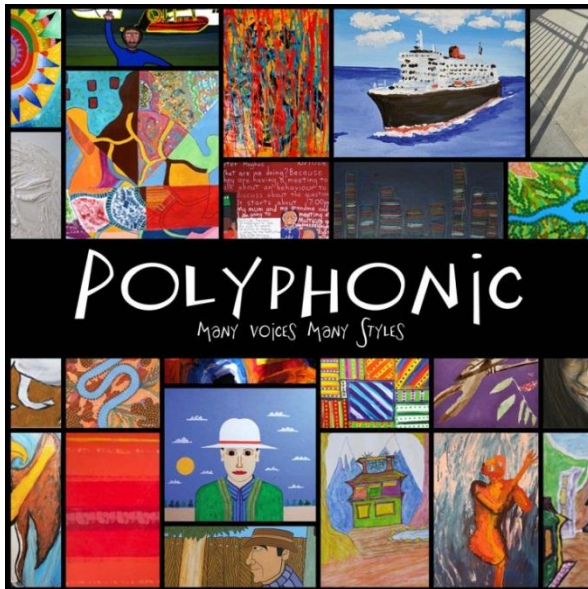


Museum of Everything Exhibition merchandise, Selfridges, London  
Photo by Selfridges, London

Another significant achievement for Access Arts in 2011 was the success in securing funding through the Australia Thailand Institute, (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), to support the group exhibition, *Polyphonic, Many Voices, Many Styles*, to tour to Bangkok, Thailand to be shown as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Wataboshi Festival. The exhibition featured the original works of 14 local, regional and interstate artists with disability and encompasses a range of mediums including: photography; acrylic and oil paint on canvas; charcoal; pastel and water colour. Due to the extensive flooding that effected many parts Thailand in 2011, the exhibition was postponed until February 2012.

Access Arts would like to particularly thank our project partner in Thailand, Mr Sawang Srisom, director of the Network of Music and Arts of Persons with Disabilities, for his commitment to the exhibition and logistical support. Her Excellency Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, also strongly supports the exhibition. Access Arts would particularly like to thank Her Excellency for writing the foreword to the Polyphonic exhibition catalogue and all the artists involved in the exhibition for creating such engaging and interesting work in response to the exhibition concept of Self Identity.





Polyphonic Exhibition catalogue cover  
Photo by Design Explosion

Access Arts partnered with the prominent Brisbane property development company, Neilson Properties and the Australia Business Arts Foundation to launch the photographic installation, *Travel Lines*, by Brisbane photographer and Access Arts member, Magda Labuda. The work was inspired by the dynamic movement which takes place around the Brisbane River and city. Magda Labuda was commissioned to create a series of photographs that reflected the Brisbane transport system. Access Arts would like to thank Neilson Properties and the Australian Business Arts Foundation for this professional development opportunity and Design Explosions for the high standard of service and professional printing and presentation of the photographs.



Centre: Photographer Ms Magda Labuda and Director of Nielson Properties, Mr Ross Nielson. Photo by Jasmin Jacobson



Travel Lines Photographic Installation launch, 420 George St, Brisbane City  
Photo by Jasmin Jacobson

The Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio provides high quality support to its members, in order to assist with artistic practice of solo and group exhibitions. As part of this support members have the opportunity to participate in a range of exhibitions, gallery visits, community projects and events throughout the year.

Some key exhibitions and projects for 2011 included:

- *Artworks Exhibition*, Umbrella Studio of Contemporary Art, Townsville
- *Friends of Access Arts Exhibition*, Brisbane
- State Disability Conference - *Absolutely Everybody*, Cairns Convention Centre
- SWARA Exhibition, Brisbane
- *Polyphonic*, Access Arts' end of year event and exhibition, Queensland University of Technology
- *Schizophrenia Annual Art Exhibition*, King George Square, Brisbane
- *Art from the Margins Exhibition*, Brisbane Institute of Art

# Creative Recovery, FNQ

Michelle Leenders  
**PROJECT OFFICER**

## Creative Recovery to Livelihoods – Project Update

### Funding secured for another year

We are pleased to have received some positive news about the continuation of funding for this worthwhile initiative from the Queensland Department of Communities – Mental Health Branch. Access Arts Inc. brokered the funding which will enable the project to continue in two of the communities, Lockhart River and Aurukun, for a year in order to continue to build a business case for future long term sustainability. The project team have been planning the next phase of creative activities which are due to begin in February and seeking further financial commitment to continue the project in other remote Indigenous communities who have expressed interest.

In Lockhart River we will be partnering with the Arts Centre who have employed a Cultural Retention Officer, they will assist us in coordinating Creative Livelihoods activities in the community. The original participants are very keen to begin painting again and will be creating a large mural for the outside of the workshop space which has become known as the “Red Shed”. Other options to be explored include jewellery making, cultural artefacts, traditional weaving and pottery with the possibility of building a niche enterprise so participants can create ways of earning an income from their artistic creations.

Artist in Residence, Gina Allain, will be delivering a series of 4 two week visits to Aurukun to work with the elder women artist she has previously engaged, along with local artist mentor Mavis Ngallametta, who has been supported by Access Arts’ Indigenous Arts Mentor Scheme. They will be encouraging some of the younger women to participate in the arts residencies which will involve a visit to some of the traditional story places around Aurukun where the women can collect materials (pandanus, seeds, clay, bark etc.) to use in making their artworks. They plan to paint their traditional stories to preserve local culture and lore for future generations.

### Exhibitions

Two Exhibitions are planned this year: the first in August in Cairns, as part of the Mental Health Services (TheMHS) Annual Conference; then in October in Perth in conjunction with The Seventh World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and the Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders (Clifford Beers Foundation).

### It’s Not Just Art...It’s A Healing Thing – Evaluation report and documentary

The Final Report and Documentary of the evolution of Creative Recovery to Creative Livelihoods has been released and will be publically launched in Lockhart River and Aurukun in late February. Titled “It’s Not Just Art... It’s a Healing Thing” this is the culmination of 3 and ½ years of evaluation of the pilot project in Lockhart River and follows the growth and expansion of the project to Aurukun, Mornington Island and Doomadgee. This represents a significant milestone for the project and these evaluation products add to the growing body of evidence validating the positive impact arts and cultural engagement can have on the health and wellbeing of people, in particular those living in remote Indigenous communities. We have previewed the documentary at an arts industry conference (Artspoken in Bundaberg) and a QIAC SEWB Workforce Forum in Townsville and received extremely positive feedback from both sectors.



# Indigenous Projects

In 2011, Access Arts was very pleased to partner with a range of organisations, to link their members in with our workshops and professional development programs.

Access Arts was able to support these artists through 'Artist Space' and through the SAFE fund. Artist Space member Roy said, of the benefits of art: "when I am painting, it stops me from smoking 24/7 and I feel like I am wanted and doing something positive"

Some of the organisations Access Arts partnered with in 2011 included Reclink, Footprints Inc, Link-Up Qld, Micah Projects and Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health.

The final evaluation of the three year Creative Recovery project has now been completed (see Creative Recovery Report above) and we are very excited to be involved in the next stage of this successful program.

Access Arts looks forward to working further with these organisations in 2012 to ensure that all Queenslanders are free to participate, create and work in the arts.

# **Access Arts Events**

## **Events & Performances**

Community Showcase – July 2011

Friends Event - May 2011

Polyphonic - end of year event – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011

## **Projects / Events / Workshops in Partnership**

Brisbane Festival - Camera Wonderers – Under The Radar projections – September

M2M sensory trail launch – 20 June – Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, McDowall – performances, info stall

Dept. Public Works - performances - art projections – Disability Action Week

Girl Power demo w/shop – 24 August – Disability and Community Care Services, Upper Mt Gravatt – drama and movement workshop

Burnie Bray w/shops – 5 February – Burnie Brae Centre, Chermside – Drumming workshop

Burnie Bray w/shops – 27 October – Burnie Brae Centre, Chermside – Drama workshop

Young Carers - w/shops – 17 October – Sunnybank Hills – Drumming workshop

WWILD – DVD project – 4 Access Arts members actors for counselling DVD resource June/July 2011

Endeavour Foundation's Big Community Day Out – 15 May – Southbank, South Brisbane – performance by Drumming group

Audio Description of live theatre performances – Vision Australia & QPAC – throughout 2011

SWARA fair – 29 October – SWARA, Dutton Park – Merchandise and info stall, vis arts exhibition, performances by Performance Troupe and Drumming group

## **Info / Stalls**

Brisbane Post School Options Expo – 2 March – Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre, South Brisbane – Hip Hop demo workshop and info stall

Is Everybody Here? Moreton Bay Council Disability Action Week event – 21 September – Centenary Lakes, Caboolture – visual art workshop and info stall

Shared Care & Family support expo

## **Projects**

Song Quest

Pete Vance - CD project

DisabiliTea - Aug 2011

Creative Recovery

## **Conferences / Seminars / Presentations**

Access Arts Project Forum

Absolutely Everybody - DSQ Conference- Cairns

Cairns Forum

Brisbane - Intersections Forum – Arts Qld

World Art & Culture Summit

Australia Disability Services Employment Conference

Artspoken Conference – 13 + 14 October – Bundaberg – panel presentation, Disability Action Planning session, We Are Alive presentation

## **Training**

Event Management Training – 28 September – Access Arts, Dutton Park – interactive training session

Workshop staff induction – 17 February – Access Arts, Dutton Park – induction session

Condensed workshop staff induction - April 2011  
 Volunteer Induction – August 2011  
 Access Assessment – Festuri, Caloundra - October 2011  
 Disability Awareness Training – 3 March – Access Arts, Dutton Park  
 Disability Awareness Training – 30 June – Access Arts, Dutton Park  
 Disability Awareness Training – 3 October – Access Arts, Dutton Park  
 Disability Awareness Training - Comepass Employment Service - October 2011

## Partners

Accessible Arts, NSW	Guide Dogs QLD
Art from the Margins	Indigenous Elders
Arts Access Australia	JUMP National Mentoring Program
Arts Access Victoria	Link-Up QLD
Arts & Health Consortium	Mental Health Association QLD
Arts Nexus	Mental Health Week
Arts QLD	Micah Projects/Historical Abuse Network
ArtSupport Australia	Monte Lupo
Breakaway Inc.	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Brisbane City Council	Nielson Properties
Brisbane Festival	Playback Theatre
Brisbane Jazz Club	Queensland Arts Council
Brisbane Post School Options Expo	Queenslanders with Disability Network
Brisbane Powerhouse	Qld Performing Arts Centre
Burnie Bray Centre	QUT – Creative Industries Precinct
Cairns Regional Council	Reclink
CentaCare	RedTape Busters
Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, Queensland	Regional Community Association
Cerebral Palsy League, Old	ROPE -Redcliffe
Community Links Day	Shanghai Disabled Persons Federation
Creative Recovery, FNQ	Stanthorpe Art Gallery
Crossing Divides Inc.	State Library of QLD
Deaf Services QLD	SWARA
Disability Action Week	Tableland Regional Council
Department of Communities, Disability Services	Tanpopo-no-ye (Nara, Japan)
Department of Public Works	Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery
Endeavour	University of QLD
Flying Arts	Vision Australia
Footprints Inc.	Vulcana Women's Circus
Girl Power (DSQ, Mt Gravatt)	WWILD
Griffith University	Young Carers

## **Access Arts Volunteers**

Access Arts would like to extend a big thank you to all of our hard-working volunteers. Without you, Access Arts' workshops, programs, events and office would not run effectively.

In 2011, approximately 35 volunteers helped out with our workshops, events, programs, mail-outs and office administration.

We were pleased to work with Vision Australia's 'Stepping Forward' program to provide a work placement in 2011. We also partnered with QUT, to provide placement opportunities for their Primary Education, and Creative Industries students, and UQ through the Health Science department.

## **2011 Management Committee**

Governor Penelope Wensley AC – Patron

Victoria Lister – President

Doug Ranie – Secretary

Oddur Augustsson – Treasurer

Adrian Berry – Ordinary Member (resigned)

Cate Farrar – Ordinary Member

Evan Jones – Ordinary Member

Margaret Hughes – Ordinary Member

## **2011 Access Arts Staff**

Emma Bennison – Executive Officer

Angela Jaeschke – General Manager

Jasmin Jacobson – Visual Arts Coordinator

Julie Jones- Membership Services Officer

Zane Trow – Professional Development Coordinator

Nick Reilly – IT Administrator

Joelene Scot – Community Arts Administrator

Jan Spinks – Finance Officer

44 casual staff were contracted in Access Arts' workshops, professional development programs, projects and events.

Access Arts would like to acknowledge our funding partners for 2011:

Queensland Government: Arts Queensland; Department of Communities - Disability Services.

Federal Government: Department of Health and Ageing - Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Queensland.

Donors and supporters of Access Arts Inc.





***Access Arts Inc. ® (Queensland)***

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Patron: Ms. Penelope Wensley AC Governor of Queensland