

# **ACCESS ARTS INC (QLD)**

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## **2009 ANNUAL REPORT**



Tuesday, October 07, 2014

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## Message from Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO

### Governor of Queensland

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2009 was a very special year for Queensland and Queenslanders, as we celebrated our State's Sesquicentenary. For Access Arts also, it was an especially lively and successful year, as the organisation pursued with characteristic vigour and enthusiasm its many programs and activities to develop the creative arts in Queensland and to tap into the creative talents of individuals and communities across the State.

For some members of the community, involvement with the arts is easy: a natural, accessible aspect of their lives. For others, it is less so: their interest needs to be nurtured, their capacity for creative expression to be identified and encouraged. And it is here that Access Arts comes to the fore, offering a unique pathway to simulate and develop artistic talent and ability.



Access Arts is itself highly creative in the way it works. Through the past year, with the continued support of committed and generous volunteers, it's approach of working through innovative partnerships with other organisations, of targeting particular social groups, and of designing special outreach programs, has continued to pay dividends, helping many more individuals, groups and communities to become involved in the arts, including those in the more remote parts of our large and diverse state. The award winning "Sound Circles" was a wonderful demonstration of this effective outreach, as was "The Salaam Project", raising awareness of the richness of Islamic Art, in partnership with the Islamic Women's Association of Queensland.

As Patron, I congratulate everyone involved with Access Arts-members, staff, management committee, volunteers-on another year of hard work and successful effort to enrich and enhance the quality of life and the opportunities available to all Queenslanders, to enjoy and contribute to the Arts in our State and I wish the organisation an even more rewarding year in 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penelope Wensley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Penelope Wensley**  
Governor of Queensland

## President's report 2009

It would be easy for the Management Committee to simply iterate all that Access Arts has achieved over the past year, but in many ways these accomplishments have little to do with us - they must be attributed to the dedicated staff and volunteers who deliver the organisation's many programs, workshops and projects.

So I'd like to start by offering my congratulations to all staff and Members, past and present, who have contributed so much, and direct you to the Executive Officer's report for details of Access Arts' achievements of the past year.

The task of a Management Committee is to monitor the affairs of an organisation and set its strategic direction – activities that are less visible but no less important, given they underpin the viability of the organisation.



**Victoria Lister**  
**President**

As relative newcomers with a fresh perspective, the 2009/10 Committee's sense was of an organisation under some strain, perhaps, like many nonprofit organisations, trying to do too much with too little and possibly over-stretched. Situations like these, although worthy, place a rather large burden on staff, who usually end up taking on additional work without the commensurate pay. It was, and is, of particular concern to us that this possibility be reversed. We also had a sense that although the organisation had taken the time to develop a strategic plan, it perhaps needed to re-visit and clarify its direction, and examine whether it was on track in terms of purpose, intent, and the needs of Members and the marketplace. To this end, we engaged an arts and nonprofit specialist to guide the creation of a new strategic plan.

As part of this process, we participated with staff in two workshops and formed a working party to draft the core documents. We are currently engaged in an honest and in-depth examination of key concerns and challenges, and are looking at issues related to service delivery, marketing, income diversification, staff remuneration, board tenure, infrastructure funding and our capacity to research, evaluate and report.

A draft plan will be completed by early April and will form the basis of our submissions to our major funding bodies, and our operations. Ultimately, it is anticipated the new plan will bring increased clarity - and simplicity - to the organisation, providing a strong foundation for the future.

In other areas, and in addition to the regular monthly and other duties associated with our roles, I can report the Committee undertook a variety of tasks on behalf of the organisation. These included:

- providing advice and support regarding relocation to new premises
- investigation of alternate revenue streams, such as asset acquisition
- formation of a recruitment sub-committee to oversee the appointment of a new Executive Officer
- engaging legal support to provide a template for the organisation's employment contracts in line with the Modern Awards
- review of the Constitution in line with the changing needs of the organisation
- steering the new Management Committee Member search and selection process
- on-going participation in professional/arts board development workshops and seminars
- liaison with funding bodies and support organisations such as Arts Queensland, Disability Services Queensland, BoardConnect and the Australia Business Arts Foundation (AbaF), and
- attending Access Arts functions, exhibitions and performances.

I'd like to thank my Committee colleagues for their contribution and steadfastness over the past year. It's no mean feat combining voluntary work with paid work, family and other commitments, particularly where travel is involved. I'd like also to thank the staff who have supported us so wholeheartedly - especially Julie, who ensured we were kept fed and happy at all our meetings!

Finally, for those returning or commencing in 2010, a warm welcome. It promises to be an exceptionally rewarding year as we continue to play our part in shaping the affairs of this very vibrant, and important, organisation.

## Executive Officer's Report

2009 was a year of challenge, change and growth for Access Arts. Looking back, the numerous positive outcomes which have emerged from 2009 in spite of the upheaval are indicative of the strong commitment to, and belief in the organisation by the Management Committee, staff (both past and present), volunteers and members. I would like to reflect on some of the changes and challenges and then briefly highlight some of the successes.

In May, our Brisbane Outsider Artists Studio moved to a new home at SWARA at Dutton Park providing the artists with a cool and comfortable working environment. We also farewelled several staff, including Executive Director, Ross Barber whose leadership and passion had a transformative effect on Access Arts, particularly in terms of improving service delivery to Members in regional Queensland and increasing the number of artists, arts workers and administrators experiencing disability employed by Access Arts.



**Emma Bennison**  
**Executive Officer**

I thank Ross for sharing his knowledge and skills with myself and Access Arts' staff and members over the years, it was a privilege to work with him. I would also like to sincerely thank former staff members Sally Josephson, Karen Roberts, Renae Burton and Mick Byrne, all of whom have made very significant and lasting contributions to Access Arts and its Members. We look forward to working with them in the future.

Whilst reflecting on farewells, I would like to remember Lyn Flanagan and Kristy-Lee Lindsay, two active Members of Access Arts who sadly passed away in 2009. Both had a passion for song and dance and are missed very much by those of us who had the privilege of enjoying creative time with them. Both were regular attendees at Access Arts' Brisbane Sound Circles workshops which we also farewelled in 2009 due to decreasing workshop attendance. Many participants have moved into other workshops and Sound Circles continues to be utilised as a catalyst program to inspire the development of creative activities which meet community need.

2009 saw Access Arts launch and partner in several new creative initiatives which were an outstanding success. For example, Access Arts is partnering with a number of organisations including the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health to deliver the Creative Recovery project funded by the Department of Communities (Disability Services) which encourages Indigenous people living with mental illness in remote communities to participate meaningfully in community life through engagement in the arts. The project commenced in Lockhart River in Far North Queensland with the first exhibition, "New Beginnings" launched in October. The launch also featured a documentary on the workshops and was attended by forty members of the community. The project has now extended to the Aurakun community who are creating a mural.

Song Quest was a partnership between Access Arts, Breakaway Post-school Service, Redcliffe and Spiritus Enable Lifestyle Support Roma. The program enabled people experiencing disability to develop skills in song-writing, audio production and performance and culminated in a compilation CD of original songs by both groups. As a result, five representatives from Enable Lifestyle Support Spiritus (Roma) became the first song-writers from regional Queensland to perform at the 9th Asia Pacific Wataboshi Music Festival gala concert at the Gyeonggi Arts Centre to an audience of 2000 people.

Bling Bang - An Australian Hipopera was the energetic and cutting edge conclusion to Access Arts' Keepin' it Real hip hop program funded by the Australia Council for the Arts and supported by the Brisbane Powerhouse. An audience of over 300 became part of a riveting hip-hop journey where young Australian's from various cultures and all abilities shared their search for identity over two nights on 5 and 6 November at the Brisbane Powerhouse.

Equally significant, behind the scenes, as a result of funding from the Mental Health Council of Australia and the tenacity of our IT Administrator, we now have a custom-built membership database. This is a significant achievement which will enable us to improve service delivery to Members. Access Arts also passed its maintenance audit against the Disability Services Quality System and I thank those Members who gave up their time to provide feedback on the organisation and its services.

A number of our longer-term programs also yielded positive outcomes during the year. In its final year of a two year pilot funded by the WestPac Foundation, Crossing Divides expanded its delivery of programs to provide opportunities for skill development, community engagement and increasing self-confidence of young people in the transition from school into vocational training and employment. Crossing Divides has now become an incorporated entity and Access Arts has commenced working with communities in Far North Queensland to conduct research into providing similar programs there.

The SAFE Fund is the latest addition to Access Arts' range of professional development programs which support emerging and professional artists. The program was launched in 2009 when four applicants received funding to further their artistic practice. I would like to sincerely thank those artists who so willingly volunteered their time to be on assessment panels, Peter Vance for his ongoing support of and vision for the program, the donors whose generosity has enabled the fund to grow and most of all, the applicants who have benefitted from and provided us with invaluable feedback on the program.

I am sincerely grateful to the Staff and Management Committee for their support during what was a year of transitions for Access Arts. I also thank our partners and funding bodies for their ongoing support and assistance. I look forward to working with all of you as Access Arts launches a new strategic plan in our new home at Dutton Park in 2010.

## Treasurer's Report 2009

Overall Loss 2009	(\$78,532.82)	Overall Profit 2008	\$30,32.91
Total Equity 2009	\$80,674.23	Total Equity 2008	\$159,207.05

Positive for 2009 (figures are approximate):

- Significant growth in grant income.
- Growth in receipts from Activities, Projects and Fundraising.
- In nonprofit accounting unexpended grants are treated as liabilities. At the end of 2009 Access Arts accumulated \$51,000 in unexpended grants.
- Although we showed a loss on the income received, we were able to utilise our cash reserves to meet these demands.

Expenditure that directly contributed to the loss and decrease in equity (figures are approximate):

1. Rental increase \$20,400. As of April 2009 we are now paying commercial rates. This is now a fixed cost for the organisation.
2. Wages - back pay and general increases \$11,000. Due to changes to Award classifications and an increase wages in October 2008, the decision was made to back pay staff to January 2009. This included leave loading and entitlements.
3. Legal fees \$6,700. Our operating expenses included unexpected legal fees.
4. Crossing Divides \$34,000. Support provided to Crossing Divides before and after their incorporation.
5. Keepin' it Real \$12,000. This amount was spent in addition to the \$25,000 grant for this project.
6. Due to lowering of interest rates there was also a reduction in interest income for the year.

Overall, a result such as this is 'business as usual' in terms of nonprofit enterprise. In 2010 our task will be to reverse this outcome, with the acquisition of additional revenue streams and replenishment of reserves the immediate tasks.

**Sjivonne Grimsey-Smit**  
Treasurer



## Quality Assurance

Access Arts is funded by Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) and must comply with the DSQ Quality Service Standards. In line with this system, Access Arts was audited by Global-Mark and received certification on 23 September 2007. Our annual post-certification review for 2009 was held in September. This review ensures that we are regularly updating and improving our quality systems, and ensures our continued compliance.

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

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:

[www.accessarts.org.au/quality\\_assurance.htm](http://www.accessarts.org.au/quality_assurance.htm). 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.

This certifies Access Arts Inc, client ID 100559, as Global Mark QDSS compliant, effective 23 September 2007, subject to continued compliance.

Access Arts will undergo a full recertification through Global Mark in September 2010.

## Indigenous Projects

In 2009, Access Arts supported a range of Indigenous projects. These included Professional Development for Emerging Indigenous Artists, Arts and Cultural Workers (see Professional Development report); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland; Keepin It Real Hip Hop program and consultancies with Indigenous elders.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland (ATSIDNO)**

As a small group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people, we have come together to develop a Network of people with disability who share our cultural background. The Steering Committee has taken on the role of bringing together a strong core of people who share a passion to address the impact of disability and associated issues that affect our people and our culture.

Since 2005, the idea of this Network has been supported by leaders in the community who formed the Steering group. The building of the Network has been supported by other organisations including Access Arts, QDN (Queenslanders with Disability Network Inc), LifeTec, and interested individuals who work in the disability sector.

With our supporters, we have developed a vision for the Network to be a strong presence across Queensland and link our people, who have a disability, together.

### **Achievements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland in 2009:**

- The Network gained further support from Access Arts in the form of funding for a Network Development Worker for 5 hours a week in return for cultural advisory support from the Network
- Continued support from QDN through partnerships and venue support
- Presentation at Shared Visions Conference 2009 in early April
- Disability Action Week event in September
- Attendance at the National Indigenous Disability Leadership Conference in Sydney in September
- Presentation at Home and Community Care Indigenous Gathering Conference in early September
- Involvement in Queensland University of Technology Disability Awareness Day in early June
- Involvement in NAIDOC Week in July (over 100 people attended)
- Presentation at the University of Queensland on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disability issues in early July
- Meeting with State Government Ministers and Members of Parliament to discuss funding and partnerships

## **Bling Bang: An Australian HipHopera**

Access Arts presented *Bling Bang: An Australian HipHopera*, which ran for two nights (Thursday 5th and Friday 6th November, 2009) at the Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse, to an audience of over 300. Born out of the Access Arts Keepin It Real program, this awe-inspiring performance follows the Australian Urban Hip Hop journey where young Australians from various cultures and all abilities come together and share their experience searching for their identity.

A powerful performance packed with real stories and emotion as young people speaking from their hearts captivated its audience. The audience were able to share insights of young people, rooted in the experience of Sudanese refugee camps, physical disability and drug rehabilitation.

Young people were challenged by questions of identity and their own sense of the world.

The dancing, rhyming, lyrical and theatrical journey throughout the performance helped to bring the stories to life, which thrilled its audiences through the many unforgettable moments.



Access Arts would like to congratulate and thank all performers, the Keepin It Real Crew, Tigemoth & Suckaphish, Soul Purpose, Unearthed Indigenous Fashion, the Behind the Scenes Crew and all those involved. Thanks also to Brisbane Powerhouse and The Fort Arts Space for providing performance and rehearsal venues. The project would not have been possible without funding and support from Australia Council for the Arts, Office of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health, and the Queensland Government through Disability Services Queensland & Arts Queensland.

Also a special thank you to Director Toby Gough, Producer Hana Alhadad and Project Co-ordinator Sam Tracy for planning, preparing and developing a spectacular production.

## **Visual Arts Report**

The Outsiders Touring exhibition formed a significant component of the 2009 Access Arts exhibition program. This diverse exhibition showcased selected works by local and regional artists from the Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio. The exhibition showcased a broad range of contemporary works including photography, sculpture, ceramics, mixed media and works on paper. The featured artists explored a range of styles in the works on show, including portraiture, abstract expressionism and figurative work. Other works reflect aspects of contemporary culture.

The Outsiders exhibition was launched in March at the Art of Difference Conference, Gasworks Arts Park, Melbourne. The exhibition was very well received and went on to tour to the Bauhinia Bicentennial Regional Gallery at Springsure from 20<sup>th</sup> April – 15<sup>th</sup> May and Gallery Nona at the Brisbane Institute of Art from the 30<sup>th</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> August.

The exhibition concluded at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery from the 28<sup>th</sup> August to 27<sup>th</sup> September. Ms Sandy Pottinger, retired lecturer in visual arts, artist and arts writer, officially opened the exhibition at the launch on Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. Ms Pottinger is currently the art critic for the Toowoomba Chronicle. The launch celebrated the artistic achievements of the 13 featured artists.

The Outsiders Touring exhibition was the first touring exhibition organised and curated by Access Arts. The exhibition formed part of the professional development program for members of the Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio, experiencing disabilities and mental health conditions and aimed to raise the profile and awareness of Outsider Arts.

An exhibition tour kit accompanied the exhibition and included a full colour catalogue, DVD interviews with the artists and an article by Ms Karleen Gwinner on Outsider Arts in Australia. Tour guides were available on request to provide descriptions of the work to blind and visually-impaired visitors.

Access Arts received financial assistance for this exhibition from the Queensland Government through: Disability Services Queensland, Arts Queensland, Museum and Gallery Services Queensland. Freight sponsorship was gratefully received from CEVA and AFB Storage Solutions.



Alex Crombie-Van Ewyk, Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio member, held her second solo exhibition at the Art Factory Gallery from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> September. This exhibition showcased 58 original works, including paintings, drawings and sculptures and displayed Alex's passion, interest and ability in using a variety of mediums. The exhibition was very successful, both personally and professionally, and was received very well by the community.

Brisbane Outsider Artist studio member, Karla Duvey, had art work selected by Disability Services Queensland to be featured on the 2009 Minister for Disability's Christmas Cards. Each year Disability Services Queensland selects artwork from a local artist that reflects DSQ's chosen theme.

The work of several Brisbane Outsider Artist studio members was selected to be shown in *Art Works!* an exhibition organised by the Kith and Kin Association, and shown at the Umbrella Studio of Contemporary Art, Townsville. Several BOA members received awards in recognition of the quality of their work.

A strong focus of the Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio is on skills development, identifying relevant professional development opportunities and creating employment opportunities for members. Selected visual arts community events throughout 2009 that provided these experiences included:

- Come and Try Workshops, Access Arts, Brisbane Powerhouse, April
- Big City Draw Project, Q150 Event, Queen St Mall, Brisbane, July, was an initiative of the Brisbane City Council and the Q150 Project
- Solo visual arts exhibition, Garden City Library, July
- Disability Action Week Launch Visual Arts workshops, Ipswich, September
- Young Carers Open Day, Sunnybank, December
- Professional Development Training - Screen printing workshop with Nancy Brown, SWARA, Dutton Park, December
- Gallery and industry visits, Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland Art Gallery and Urban Art Projects
- QUT Student Guild Disability Awareness Day Banner – courtesy of BOA members.
- The Churchie National Emerging Art Exhibition, (BOA member selected, Louis Leigh Lucas).
- Art from the Margins, exhibition invitation, (courtesy of BOA member, Stephen Corti-Griffiths), October.
- Youth Arts Queensland, Coffee Table book, (BOA members featured, Alex Crombie-Van Ewyk and Peter Hughes).
- Life Tec exhibition, BOA Studio members, Life Tec Offices, Newmarket.
- Access Arts Open Day Exhibition, Brisbane Powerhouse, December

<b>2009 Exhibition Program</b>	
<u>Outsiders Touring Exhibition</u> Gasworks Arts Park – Art of Difference Conference 10 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	<u>Art Stuff 2 – Alex Crombie-Van Ewyk</u> Art Factory Gallery, South Bank 10 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> September
<u>Outsiders Touring Exhibition</u> Bauhinia Bicentennial Regional Gallery, Springsure 20 <sup>th</sup> April – 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<u>Art Works Exhibition</u> Umbrella Studio of Contemporary Art Townsville
<u>Outsiders Touring Exhibition</u> Brisbane Institute of Art 30 <sup>th</sup> July – 12 <sup>th</sup> August	<u>Art from the Margins Exhibition</u> Inala Community Art Gallery and Albert St Uniting Church 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> October
<u>Outsiders Touring Exhibition</u> Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery 28 <sup>th</sup> August - 27 <sup>th</sup> September.	<u>Access Arts Open Day Exhibition</u> Brisbane Powerhouse 28 <sup>th</sup> November



*Art Stuff 2* - Alex Crombie-Van Ewyk's solo exhibition at the Art Factory Gallery, South Bank. Photo courtesy of Jasmin Jacobson



*Nine*, mixed media on canvas, Michael Mulvey, launch of the Outsiders touring exhibition, Gasworks Arts Melbourne, March, 2009  
Photo courtesy of Jasmin Jacobson



QUT Student Guild Disability Awareness Day Banner, courtesy of Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio members, Louis Leigh-Lucas (above L) and Stephen Corti-Griffiths (above R) and Karla Duvey.

Photo courtesy of Menessia Nagie



Screen printing workshop with Nancy Brown, December 2009  
Photo courtesy of Jasmin Jacobson

## Professional Development Report

Access Arts assists members with professional development in the arts sector in a number of ways. Professional development planning is offered to all members, and members are encouraged to update their professional development plan yearly. In doing this, Access Arts has had discussions with many members to identify and progress their plans and goals. This involves considering a complex range of factors including artistic skill development, business development and management, exposure to one's chosen art form, budgeting, sustainable career development, support needs and transport issues. It is inspirational to work with members as they pursue their creative dreams and an honour to assist with these endeavours.

### SAFE Fund

Access Arts' SAFE Fund was launched in April 2009. Between April and December 2009, 4 emerging artists experiencing disability or disadvantage received a grant from the SAFE Fund for assistance with their professional development. Specifically these were:

- Grant to a visual artist for tuition and art materials
- Grant to a visual artist to hold a solo exhibition
- Grant to a musical writer to present the premiere season of a children's musical
- Grant to a visual artist for arts business development and curatorial assistance.

The SAFE Fund is clearly filling an immense need and has attracted a great deal of interest. Access Arts has had numerous meetings with artists to explain the SAFE application process and assist them with developing their project or preparing their application.

### Professional Development Day Services Program

This program offers support to up to sixteen artists who have the potential to build a career in the arts, or artists already working professionally who want to improve their existing skills. Funded by Disability Services Queensland, this program is open to people who experience a disability, live in the Greater Brisbane Region and are between the ages of 16 and 30. This program is tailored to meet individual needs and could include a combination of individual mentoring, skills development and training opportunities in any art form. 2009 outcomes include:

- Supporting an emerging visual artist to hold a solo exhibition ( in conjunction with a SAFE grant)
- A playwright and actor received personalised mentoring in script-writing and dramaturgy. The play was performed by the team from the Access Arts' drama workshop
- An actor and writer received individual mentoring in acting and script-writing to prepare for performances at the 2-High Festival and at the University of Queensland
- A dancer received one-on-one mentoring in dance and performed with her mentor at the Community Showcase in June
- A new media / visual artist with a particular interest in computer graphics and animation received personalised drawing tuition.

### Indigenous professional development program

This program is also for artists who have the potential to build a career in the arts, or artists already working professionally who want to improve their existing skills. Funded by the Federal Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, this program is open to people who identify as Indigenous, of any age, from anywhere in Queensland. 2009 outcomes include:

- A visual artist received one-on-one tuition in painting techniques and art materials
- A media artist / producer and aspiring director was supported to attend a media industry course in selling concepts to television networks
- A visual artist was supported to attend a TAFE course
- A singer received private voice lessons
- A jewellery designer received personalised tuition in jewellery design and manufacture techniques, printed business cards and web page establishment assistance.

### Professional Development Forum

Access Arts hosted a professional development forum in December which celebrated the achievements of the 4 2009 SAFE Fund recipients and provided information about making a SAFE application, including a question and answer session. Featuring live music and a visual art display, the forum was attended by about 20 people and attracted positive feedback from guests, members, staff and performers.

## Creative Respite Options Program

This program provides an opportunity for up to 6 families to participate in respite with a creative focus. Delivered in partnership with Life Without Barriers, this program is open to parents aged over 65, or over 45 if they identify as Indigenous, who are caring for a person with a disability. Examples of creative respite activities for 2009 participants included:

- a program of entry-level drawing activities
- personalised tuition in script-writing and dramaturgy
- art and craft activities including making mobiles, painted plaster moulds, lead lighting, beads, photo collages, woodwork, making musical instruments and greeting cards.
- participating in Access Arts' drama and hip-hop workshops
- music activities focussing on percussion.

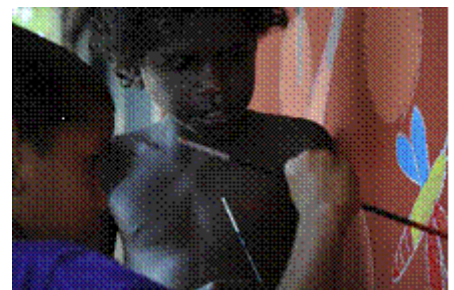
Three staff were employed to coordinate Access Arts' professional development programs in 2009. Others who have made important contributions to the professional development programs in 2009 are the arts workers, support workers, artists / members and their support networks. Sincere thanks are extended to all of these people.

## Creative Recovery – Far North Queensland

The **Creative Recovery Project** represents an innovative partnership approach to mental health recovery in remote indigenous communities. Participants in the project are indigenous consumers of mental health services who are living with severe and complex mental health issues. It has been piloted in the community of Lockhart River in Far North Queensland, operational since 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008. The evaluation component of the project will add to the body of evidence around Art in Health Initiatives; their impact on social inclusion and potential for improving community wellbeing. Access Arts auspices the project which is funded by Disability Services Queensland and Department of Communities.

The **Project** has reached some significant milestones since its inception including:

- **New Beginnings** – Art Exhibition and DVD launch in Lockhart River – 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – The artworks produced during the first year of workshops featured in the inaugural exhibition in the Lockhart River community. The first Creative Recovery documentary was also presented back to the community at this event. Special guests attending the launch included Emma Bennison (Access Arts Inc) Jennifer Bowers (CRRMHQ), the Mayor, CEO and Chief Engineer of Lockhart River Council, staff from the local School and Health Clinic as well as groups of children from the Lockhart River School. The crew of Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways (TKRP) filmed the event for documentary purposes. The Launch was a huge success and provided an opportunity for the project participants to positively engage with their local community

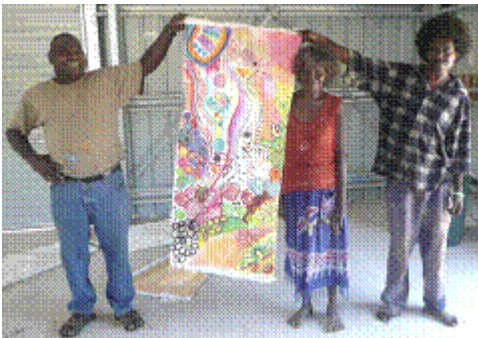


- **New location for Creative Recovery** – The project has taken over the lease of the newly erected Art Shed across the road from the Lockhart River Art Centre as a dedicated space for Creative Recovery workshops. This will allow for an expansion of the project to reach the wider community. A **Second Art Workshop** will be offered in new the location for which the target participants are people experiencing mental health issues, with lower support needs than the Friday morning group, who will focus on larger scale art projects like themed exhibitions and public art projects. We are currently scoping out the possibility of doing two large scale collaborative public art pieces, a men's and a women's mural art piece, in significant locations in Lockhart River to each of the groups.

- Project Extension to Aurukun** – We have begun our extension to the Far North remote Aboriginal Community of Aurukun by completing a mural on the front wall of the local store. Participants of the mural project were young men from the community assisted by two local Indigenous artists and Zane Saunders, a Cairns based Indigenous Artist. TKRP filmed the process and have compiled a documentary to be launched in the community in early 2010 The mural work has attracted a lot of positive attention locally as the community were delighted to see the young people creatively engaged during the school holidays. This has resulted in a request from the community to involve the young women in mural project on another wall of the local store to rival the artistic talents of the young men!



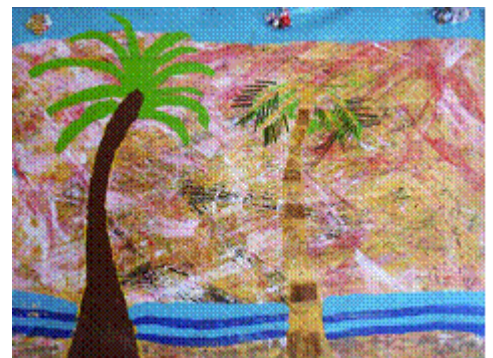
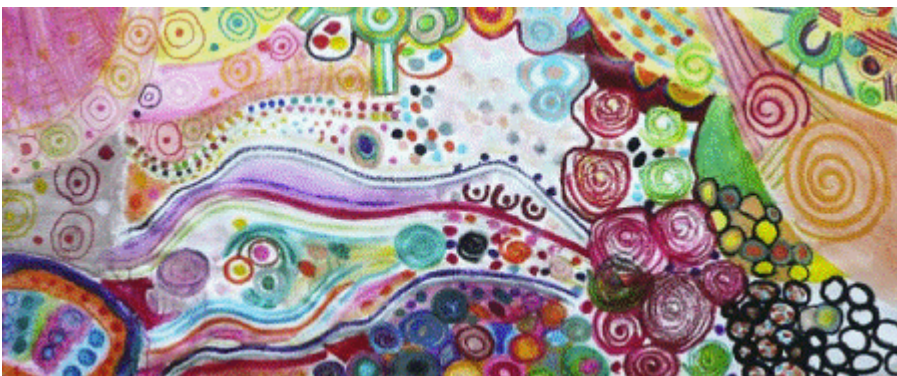
Left: Artist Patrick Butcher preparing the works for exhibition  
Above: Black and White series and Painted Coconuts



Patrick, Kevin and Elizabeth show results of Pastel artwork series



The Cairns based Indigenous Artist, Zane Saunders, with finished mural



Above: Group Collage

## Crossing Divides Report 2009

The second year of a two-year pilot, 2009 saw Crossing Divides continue to deliver flexible and responsive pre-vocational / post-school creative industries training programs using cultural processes across performance, movement, music and visual art to develop the skills and abilities of young people experiencing disability or disadvantage. In response to feedback from the young people and their families, in 2009, Crossing Divides focused on projects in addition to the delivery of weekly workshops. Outcomes from 2009 included:

- Implementation of professional development jam sessions funded by the Regional Arts Development Fund
- X-TV multimedia project.
- Art camps
- All Abilities Playground co-ordination for Gold Coast City Council.

Access Arts gratefully acknowledges the Westpac Foundation who funded the project and Westpac staff who volunteered their time to contribute to the project. Access Arts looks forward to continuing our relationship with Westpac into the future.

In July 2009, Crossing Divides became an incorporated entity. Access Arts has now devolved its management of the program to the Crossing Divides Management Committee. However Access Arts continues to support Crossing Divides.

The following statements from Sam Tracey and Jessica Townsend, Crossing Divides' Project Co-ordinators encapsulate the impact of the program on the young people and their families and the arts workers involved:  
SAM TRACY: Crossing Divides has truly done just that. Crossed divides. From humble yet visionary beginnings as a regional initiative of Access Arts Brisbane, this project has reached far beyond its goals. It has succeeded in creating a hub, developing pathways, encouraging artistic expression and filling the need for options in post school gap years for young people experiencing disability to create positive social changes.

Crossing Divides has become a dynamic, vibrant, adaptive, participant driven, and progressive project. Reaching out into the wider community and acting as a central point for uniting young people's lives it has developed strong roots and a vibrant future.

For every participant, for all the families and for us as staff, it has become a real collective working together to achieve access to arts and has thus achieved ... Crossing Divides.

JESSICA TOWNSEND: Looking back at photos from two years ago it is amazing to see the transformation that has occurred in the lives of these young adults. There is something really different about all of these young adults from when they first began in the workshop program. They all look more focused, more confident, more settled, they have developed their own strong identities.

The supportive, safe, creative and inspiring environment that Crossing Divides has set up around these young people has allowed them all individually to develop into confident young artists and adults and an important part of their community. Each young person has made their own discoveries about their capabilities and their passions. Each young person has developed new skills that have assisted in other areas of their life. It might be learning how to cut out, how to play the 12 bar blues, how to blend colours beautifully, how to take a great photo, how to write songs, how to edit films, how to make animation, how to recite a poem.

It may be less tangible - it may be an added confidence when ordering lunch at the corner store from all the improvisation activities in theatre or standing up straighter and breathing deeper from all of the music warm ups - it may be working as a team member or as part of a family due to working so collaboratively as part of a 12 piece band - it may be getting a new camera for Christmas and feeling passionate about it because you identify yourself as an artist.

These are all very important outcomes ... there is no question that creative skills have been developed and in turn the personal life skills have also developed but the most important element that has developed in the group and each individual is ... identity.

In those gap years after school when everything around you is changing and you are not sure what next when all of a sudden those social networks and supports are no longer there. In particular for some of the young people in the program who are not yet ready to transition into employment and/or study there is a great deal of isolation.

This project has given a group of young people an identity. They are artists. They are part of Crossing Divides. They are a member in the Bandits. They are a painter. They are a bass player. They belong. They are valued. They are respected and accepted. They are challenged and encouraged.

They are individuals and they all have their own identities.

Crossing Divides has celebrated and encouraged the development of these identities.

They are creating. They are out in the community creating. They are telling their stories and people are sitting up to listen. That is a powerful experience to be involved in.

The way that the project has been planned and implemented has truly fostered the individual skills of each young person and the program delivery has released potentials. The art that is being created is innovative and powerful not because it has been created by fantastic artists but because it is being created by a group of fantastic individuals and identities who have a fantastic time expressing themselves. The sharing that has occurred between the artists, young people, families, communities and other groups has been the true driving force behind the success of the project. The sharing of art and experience.

### **Access Arts Events:**

Community Showcase - Barbara Fielding room Brisbane Girls Grammar – June 2009

Song Quest – Song Writing and CD production project - Breakaway, Redcliffe; Enable Spritus, Roma – July - September 2009

Keepin It Real – Bling Bang – An Australian Hip-hopera – Visy Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse – November 2009

Access Arts Open Day – Brisbane Powerhouse – November 2009

SAFE Function – Pathwayz Hall, Windsor – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

### **Performances:**

Brisbane Post School Options Expo – stall and drumming performance – Convention Centre - April 2009

QUT Kelvin Grove– Disability Awareness Event – a range of performances and Banner project – 18th May 2009

Fete de la Musique - IF performance – 21 June 2009

Shanghai Week– Drumming & IF Performances – Suncorp Piazza SouthBank - 24 – 30 June 2009

Big City Draw– IF performance, BOA & Visual Arts banner & Exhibition at Westpac Bank – Queen Street Mall - 8th July 2009

Disability Action Week State-wide Launch – IF performance and Visual Arts demo- Ipswich - 13 September 2009

Disability Action Week - Queen St Mall performance Breakaway Song Quest – 17th September 2009

Asia Pacific Wataboshi Music Festival Gala Concert, Korea - September 2009

Song Quest - Roma Community Gardens opening

ATSIH Disability Network meetings and events

**Workshops with Partners:**

Art From Heart – visual arts workshops - Sunshine Coast

Digital Storytelling project – Breakaway Redcliffe

Logan Community Renewal Sound Circles program – June 2009

Deaf Youth Arts School holiday program – September & December 2009

Young Carers Family Fun Day – Drumming & Screenprinting workshops - December 2009

**Events:**

Salaam Exhibition- July – August 2009

Creative Recovery Launch – Lockhart River – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Community BBQs with SWARA – Drumming performance - August & October 2009

Endeavour Disability Action Week event - drumming & Visual Arts workshop - 18th September 2009

Disability Action Week celebrations – stall at Strathpine – 15th September 2009

**Conferences / Seminars / Presentations:**

Shared Visions Conference – presentations – April 2009

Griffith Conference – 15-17 April 2009

ACPET Seminars – presentations at: Disability from the Classroom to the Workplace; and From Good Will to Good Business

Harmony Place Young African Mentoring consultation

Presentation at Pine Rivers Mental Health Unit

Arts & Health Consortium meetings

**Training:**

Disability Awareness Training – Reclink, April 2009

Presentation to ‘The Song Room’ on inclusive program delivery, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

QPAC consultancy / training



## Workshop 2009- Annual Report

(Some workshops were based at the Brisbane Powerhouse and some at Access Arts' visual arts studio at SWARA)

- Drama (4 x 8 week terms throughout the year, an average of 6 participants per workshop)
- Sound Circles (1 x 7 week term throughout the year, average of 7 participants per workshop)
- The B Naturals Music Workshop (ongoing weekly workshop throughout the year, an average of 8 participants per workshop)
- Contemporary Dance (3 x 7 week terms throughout the year, an average of 6 participants per workshop)
- Contemporary Visual Arts (4 x 8 week terms throughout the year, an average of 7 participants per workshop)
- Drumming (4 x 8 week terms throughout the year, an average of 12 participants per workshop)
- BOA (4 x 8 week terms throughout the year, an average of 13 participants per workshop)
- Wheelchair Dancing (1 x 2 week throughout the year, an average of 7 participants per workshop)
- Keepin It Real (1x 6 week throughout the year, an average of 5 participants per workshop)

Come and Try Day workshop (one off workshop, 5 art form workshops throughout the day, total number of participants was 29).

## Partners

Access Art Link – Tasmania

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland

Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts

Accessible Arts, NSW

Art from the Heart

Art from the Margins

Arts Access Australia

Arts Access Victoria

Arts & Health Consortium

Arts Nexus

Arts Qld

Breakaway

Brisbane Girls Grammar School

Brisbane Post School Options Expo

Brisbane Powerhouse

Caboolture CentaCare

Cairns Regional Council

Cassowary Coast Regional Council

CentaCare

Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, Queensland

Commonwealth Respite Care link Service

Communify

Community Renewal, Logan

Conservatorium of Music - Griffith Uni

Creative Recovery, FNQ

Crossing Divides Inc.

The Culture Concept

Deaf Services Qld – Youth Arts Program

Disability Action Week

Disability Services Qld

Earth Vision

Enable Lifestyle Support Spiritus, Roma

Enhanced Care Association

Expressive Ground

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

Griffith Uni

Guide Dogs Qld

Gyeonggi Cultural Foundation, Korea

Indigenous Elders

Islamic Women’s Association Qld

Kyabra

LifeTec

Mamre

Monte Lupo

New Farm Neighbourhood Centre

Queenslanders with Disability Network

Qld Music Festival

Qld Performing Arts Centre

QUT

Reclink

ROPE -Redcliffe

SCAIP – (previously ArtSync)

Shanghai Disabled Persons Federation

Sporting Wheelies Association

Stanthorpe Art Gallery

SWARA

Tableland Regional Council

Tanpopo-no-ye (Nara, Japan)

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

Urban Arts Projects

Vision Australia

WestPac Foundation

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 2009, we had 30 volunteers who helped out with our workshops, events, programs, mail-outs, and office administration. Approximately half of these 30 volunteers experience a disability.

## **2009 Management Committee**

Victoria Lister – President

Caitlin McMorrow – Vice President (resigned)

Paul Turnbull – Secretary

Sjivonne Grimsey-Smit - Treasurer

Evan Jones – Ordinary Member

Cheryl Gardner – Ordinary Member (resigned)

Florence Watson – Indigenous Member

## **2009 Access Arts Staff**

Emma Bennison- Executive Officer (current)

Ross Barber- Executive Director (former)

Renaë Burton- Visual Arts Assistant (former)

Mick Byrne- Professional Development Co-coordinator (former)

Emma Galea- Project Officer (current)

Jasmin Jacobson- Visual Arts Coordinator (current)

Angela Jaeschke- Administration Coordinator (current)

Julie Jones- Membership Services Officer (current)

Sally Josephson- Project Coordinator (former)

Marissa Ker- Professional Development Coordinator (current)

Nick Reilly- IT Administrator (current)

Karen Roberts- Administration Assistant (former)

Jan Spinks- Finance Officer (current)

Sarah Strange- Visual Arts Assistant (current)

Sam Tracy – Project Officer (Crossing Divides and Keepin It Real) (current)

Jessica Townsend – Crossing Divides Coordinator (current)