



access arts  
*news*

*We believe  
the arts are  
for everyone*

**NOVEMBER 2015**



# Save the date

access arts

# RHYTHMIC PALETTE

ACCESS ARTS' END OF YEAR SHOWCASE

28 NOV 2015  
2PM TO 5PM  
KURILPA HALL  
174 BOUNDARY ST  
WEST END QLD  
DONATION AT DOOR  
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL  
PHONE 07 3254 9585  
LOCAL CALL 1300 663 651  
ALEXANDRA@ACCESSARTS.ORG.AU

dance  
singing  
theatre  
culture  
drumming

choice | passion | life

Inside Outside

Proudly supported by the Australian Government

Queensland Government

Cover image: Theatre Ensemble performance at *Perception* private view, KPMG

**PAGE 4**     *A message from our Chief Executive, Pat Swell*

**PAGE 6**     *Meet Emma Le Strange*

**PAGE 7**     *End of year showcase: Rhythmic Palette*

**PAGE 8**     *NDIS New World Conference*

**PAGE 9**     *Access Arts Singers record an album*

**PAGE 10**    *Perception Exhibition*

**PAGE 14**    *Theatre program: This drama is affecting me*

**PAGE 15**    *Tanya Darl's exhibition, 5 ELEMENTS*

**PAGE 16**    *Within Without, group exhibition*

**PAGE 17**    *Access Arts Community Workshops*

**PAGE 18**    *Our work needs donors*

**PAGE 19**    *Getting ready for 2016*

**Proudly supported by the Australian Government**



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

*Pat Swell*

We are privileged that **The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Graham Quirk** will join us at our Christmas showcase ***Rhythmic Palette*** on **Saturday 28 November**. This will be the first time our Lord Mayor will see some of Access Arts' work. I'm absolutely delighted he has made time for us in his busy diary. I'm very much looking forward to our celebration of your artistic achievements – you never cease to amaze me with your creative excellence. See you there!

What an extraordinary year it's been so far. In February we started the year celebrating *Wonderland Revisited*. Then in April our Theatre and Music ensemble pilot began. "I improved my artistic skills", "I felt comfortable trying new things", "I did something I didn't know I was capable of", you said. In June we welcomed Dance Integrated Australia to Queensland who ran residencies in Moreton Bay and Brisbane - you were so enthusiastic that in August we partnered with InsideOutside Theatre for *Dance Fever*, an intensive weekend masterclass led by NSW choreographer Lee-Anne Litton.

June also saw our *Undercover Artist Festival*, Queensland's very first disability arts festival, at which we welcomed members of Back to Back Theatre and drew artists from across the Antipodes to Brisbane.

In September our visual artists excelled at *Perception*: two exhibitions, one part of Brisbane Festival and a second at KPMG's prestigious offices in Brisbane's CBD. The *Perception* exhibition at KPMG continues until 11 December - an excellent Christmas present-buying opportunity – you can view the artwork by appointment with Access Arts.

Our community visual artists are exhibiting twice at our showcases. Public performances by Access Arts Singers included the Premier's *Australia Day Long Weekender* and Access Arts Drummers' appearance at BEMAC.

Our Indigenous partnerships included work with Brisbane women from the Stolen Generation who created personal calendars for 2016 around stories they wove during a story-telling project, and supporting Blackrobats in Kuranda Far North Queensland to develop circus skills.

Recent successes of individual artists include Emma Le Strange winning our 2015 \$10,000 Access Artist Achievement Award, Bill Thomas publishing *Poems Written in Annerley*, and Indigenous artist Bert Smallwood being approached by St George Bank George Street to purchase one of his artworks.

Residents in aged care in Woodridge have been enjoying theatre-making, we are also working with Scenic Rim Regional Council to develop their accessibility. An action-packed year.

Don't forget to renew your membership for another exciting year ahead in 2016!



**Pat Swell**  
**Chief Executive**

## MEET OUR 2015 ACCESS ARTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

# Emma Le Strange



This year's Access Arts Achievement Award winner, Emma Le Strange, will use her \$10,000 award to produce a children's book *Tea Parties and Pillows*. The story will follow a mother and daughter's daily activities centred in the parent's bedroom.

We asked Emma, an artist who experiences chronic illness, why she was passionate about pursuing her project.

"I was kind of surprised to find that only a small handful of story books were out there for children with chronically ill caregivers. I am hoping to inspire other parents with chronic illness... [the book] will also be light hearted and aesthetically beautiful.

"My daughter gave me the inspiration and motivation to persevere in the creative industries. I decided that it was important to show her that no matter what obstacles, you can achieve your dreams."

We can't wait to see your book develop, Emma. All the best!

Emma Le Strange holding her new certificate.



# END OF YEAR SHOWCASE

## *rhythmic palette*



Join us on **Saturday 28 November**. You'll be taken on a colourful journey through theatre, music, dance, spoken word and the visual arts as our artists and performers explore the concept of how we relate and play with colour, and how the many elements formed by our individual presences combine to create a sensory feast at our end of year showcase, *Rhythmic Palette*.

With special guest **The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Graham Quirk**.

## RHYTHMIC PALETTE

- 🕒 Saturday, 28 November 2015  
1:45pm arrival for a 2:00pm start and ends 5:00pm
- 📍 Kurilpa Hall, 174 Boundary St, West End



# NDIS NEW WORLD CONFERENCE IN 2015

## *disability in the 21st century*



Brisbane was the Australian capital city selected to host the prestigious *NDIS New World Conference* last month from 27 to 29 October.

Access Arts was invited to work with the *NDIS New World Conference* to showcase a new vision to participants through technology, education and engagement.

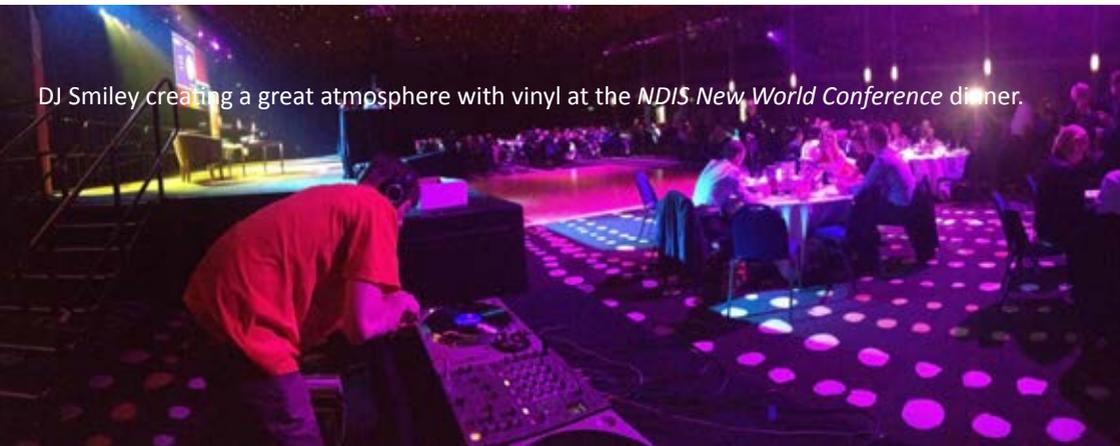


Donnelle Brookes and David Truong perform at the foyer of the *NDIS New World Conference*.

Brisbane musicians David Truong and Donnelle Brooks performed their new works from their debut album *Ambition Road* at the NDIS cocktail party. To keep the punters alive on their feet throughout the evening, DJ Smiley played his new set of infectious house music.

The event also provide the NDIA with a significant platform to engage people with disability in our community. We are excited Access Arts is part of this new national visioning.

DJ Smiley creating a great atmosphere with vinyl at the *NDIS New World Conference* dinner.



# ACCESS ARTS SINGERS RECORD AN ALBUM

## *making tracks in the studio*



Annie Peterson leads the Access Arts Singers at a rehearsal.

The Access Arts Singers are set to record their first album this term bringing together a year's worth of singing, learning and performing songs with producer, Mark Smith. Mark will be recording the group on 29 October with final takes done on 5 November. They'll be launching and performing their yet to be named CD at *Rhythmic Palette!*

"The Access Arts Singers were thrilled to record their first CD with jubilant cheer," Harmonie Downes says after their first recording session.

### **MONICA MOORE'S EP, FIVE FOR ME**

One of the great things about our workshops is the diverse range of talented artists who cross our path. Monica Moore is a Brisbane based song writer who has previously released an EP titled *Five for Me* in 2013. Monica's compositions are born from singing directly into a Zoom hand held audio recording device. We are looking forward to bringing one of her latest compositions to life as part of our Access Arts Singers program in 2016.

It was a momentous evening at the prestigious KPMG office at Eagle Street Pier. We were thrilled to have so many of our supportive community members attend and enjoy the artwork of our fine artists.

We were privileged to show our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland and his wife Mrs de Jersey, and The Honourable Coralee O'Rourke MP, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, our artists' work. They were all highly complimentary of your artistic skills and talent.

A big thank you to our generous partners at KPMG who hosted the event. We very much enjoyed their

hospitality, as well as the sensational view from the 16th floor. Looking forward to next year!

Visual artist Lisa Blake comments on the private view of *Perception* at KPMG:

“The KPMG *Perception* exhibition opening was a great night—particularly for me. I was asked to do live painting during the event and the finished artwork was given away at the end of the night. Lots of people came up to talk to me about my painting and see it progressing, and this meant I spoke to many people I wouldn't have usually met. I got a great deal of encouraging feedback, it was a fantastic experience.”

“I was also very surprised and delighted not only to sell my artwork in the exhibition, but to also have two complete strangers come up and ask me to do a similar commissioned piece for them. Thanks to Access Arts and KPMG for giving me these exciting opportunities,” Lisa Blake.





Nadja Bielmeier and Bert Smallwood enjoy the night by their artwork; painted by Bert and owned by Nadja.



Kerrie Grice was delighted to purchase Harmony Blyth's artwork.



Ruby Donohoe and Andrew Townsend

The artists very much enjoyed exhibiting their work and the number of artworks sold exceeded those sold last year. The exhibition remains open for private viewings until Friday 11 December 2015. Artworks are still available for sale and artists are taking commissions to create similar works.

For all enquiries and private viewings, please contact our office on 07 3254 9585 or [info@accessarts.org.au](mailto:info@accessarts.org.au).

# THEATRE ESEMBLE AT PERCEPTION EXHIBITION

## *wowing the crowd at KPMG*



Our Theatre Ensemble literally stopped guests in their tracks with the surprise ‘site specific’ performance at *Perception* exhibition, held in the KPMG foyer around a large table. We caught up with Theatre Ensemble member, Eleonora Ginardi, to find out first-hand what it was like to perform.

**Q As this was the second time the Theatre Ensemble has performed, how would you describe your performance this time around?**

A We decided to keep the performance rather loose and base the dialogue on impulse. This maintained an element of surprise which kept us exploring our performance topic of “when I’m at the table...” It was a little challenging, but most enjoyable as we explored new ideas on the night of the performance.

**Q How was this performance challenging compared with any other performance you have done?**

A I loved the challenge of playing myself and not being ‘on stage’ - with the audience only a few steps away, allowing a rather intimate setting.

**Q How was the performance received?**

A The audience were very engaged with our performance. I had a few people come up to me and say it was very enjoyable and asked how long we had been rehearsing it for. They were very surprised by how short our rehearsal period was. It was a credit to us all, so we raised our glasses and made a toast to finish the performance!



Camera Wanderers' photographer, Magda Labuda, comments on her experience of exhibiting in the *Perception* installation at QUT Theatre Republic, as part of Brisbane Festival:

**Q What was it like working with the theme 'perception'?**

A I have always had an interest in challenging our ordinary way of perceiving the world through photography, particularly working with macro photography to capture subject matter from unusual perspectives. This project has reawakened my interest in this specialisation. I would love to work toward having a solo exhibition featuring this body of work.

**Q What was the highlight for you of showing work as part of Brisbane Festival this year?**

A Brisbane Festival is a prestigious annual event where people are able to experience a great diversity of arts and culture for three weeks of the year. All varieties of artists, performers and musicians showcase their work and it's a great privilege to have a selection of my photographs included.

**Q How do you think being part of this exhibition will benefit your artistic career?**

A This project has helped me understand how conceptually to plan for an artistic project, a skill I will be able to draw upon time and time again throughout my photographic career.



Photograph captured by Magda Labuda.

“This drama is affecting me” said one of the participants in our new theatre program at Trinder Park Rest Home in Woodridge run by Lutheran Community Care. Angela Witcher is facilitating the program that will culminate in a showing for other residents, friends and family on Saturday, 21 November.

Angela says: “The program I have developed is a combination of theatre techniques and dramatherapy. It has been designed to be completely inclusive so that every participant can be fully involved. We are in the process of creating two new pieces of theatre inspired by imagery, song, discussions and emotions. I am extremely proud of what we have devised so far.

“I am working with two groups of residents and it is so exciting to see the characters they have created coming to life. These wonderful people have such a rich tapestry of experiences to contribute. I look forward to the workshops every week. It is challenging, inspiring and always rewarding.”

Leona Counsell, the Lifestyle Coordinator at Trinder Park, has been heavily involved in the program so far. She says: “The residents that have been attending are really enjoying participating in the program. They have been surprising me every week with what they can do. Other residents have been assisting in making props for the performance.”

Elise Mckenzie, Creative Activities and Arts Coordinator for Lutheran Community Care who has been proactively involved in the project from the beginning, added: “It is so wonderful to witness Angela facilitate the groups; especially the way she empowers individuals in the group to explore their own stories, ideas and experiences, and then draws them together to create a whole play.”

We hope that we can continue working with Lutheran Community Care and deliver our program in other residential homes in Queensland.

# TANYA DARL'S FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION

## 5 ELEMENTS



Visual artist, Tanya Darl, was highly commended for her 2014 submission to the Access Arts Achievement Award. As a result she held her first solo exhibition, *5 ELEMENTS*, at Graydon Gallery. The exhibition coincided with Mental Health Week. Tanya comments on her experience:

**Q What was the highlight of having your first solo exhibition at Graydon Gallery?**

A Having a solo exhibition at Graydon Gallery was a dream come true. It was wonderful having supportive and caring people surrounding me throughout the process. I was really happy that Peter Vance wrote a song based on the exhibition theme of *5 ELEMENTS* that I was able to play at the exhibition opening. I was also very pleased to receive lots of verbal encouragement.

**Q What have you learnt through the process of having a solo exhibition?**

A I have learnt what a huge job it is. The painting is the easy part, the administration, management, marketing, coordinating, curating and budgeting is the challenge! However, I certainly gained skills and knowledge in all these areas.

**Q How do you think this experience will benefit your artistic career?**

A The sales have encouraged me to keep on making art, and will help with buying more art materials. Having the solo exhibition has given me a sense of clarity that I am doing a good job – it has boosted my confidence.



Tanya Darl's artworks at her first solo exhibition, *5 ELEMENTS*.

Visual artist Belinda Peel comments on her experience of exhibiting her art as part of the group exhibition *Within Without* at Graydon Gallery, made possible with an Access Arts SAFE grant:

**Q What was the highlight of showing your artwork in the Within Without exhibition at Graydon Gallery?**

A The highlight for me was the positive comments I received about my artworks at the exhibition opening and throughout the week while manning the gallery.

**Q What have you learnt through being a part of this exhibition?**

A Trying a range of artwork arrangements before finalising the exhibition hang. Next time, I would have the exhibition opening on a Thursday night so as not to compete against larger galleries having their openings on a Friday night.

**Q How do you think this experience will benefit your artistic career?**

A It is fantastic to get my work out into the world to be seen by a larger audience.

Artists, Alex Crombie and Belinda Peel at their exhibition, *Within Without*.





## FAREWELL TO FELICITY KELLY-CRUISE

|||||

We farewell Felicity Kelly-Cruise after two years as facilitator for Extend Your Skills, so the gang said a very loud WHISKEY to say goodbye to Felicity at her very last workshop.

Photo above: Back row from left to right: Harmonie Downes, Helen Monaghan, Andrew Walsh, Jeff Blunt, Kate Blunt, Wendy Muche, Paul Gray, Saskia Levy, Gwyneth Jolly  
Front row from left to right: Noreen Wise, Jessica Hewish, David Godwin and Felicity Kelly-Cruise.

## SASKIA LEVY TAKES ON EXTEND YOUR SKILLS IN TERM 4

|||||

Saskia Levy has worked with Access Arts for three years as visual arts and drumming workshop assistant facilitator, and is thrilled to start this term as facilitator for the Thursday visual arts workshops. This year is her final year studying Fine Art at Queensland College of Arts where her focus has been on sculpture, jewellery, small objects and drawing. Saskia is excited to bring her varied skills as an artist and facilitator to Access Arts' diverse colourful workshop space.

# WE BELIEVE THE ARTS ARE FOR EVERYONE

## *our work needs donors*



We enable artists with disability to go from strength to strength, and we could not do it without you! We would like to thank our donors at *Perception*. These funds are critical in building and sustaining our core programs such as community workshops, master classes, performance opportunities and exhibitions.

As a valued donor, you can engage with our artists and discover insights into their work by attending prestigious exhibitions and performances. You can support programs that will help our members overcome barriers and achieve highly developed artistic skills.

All donations made in 2015 will be matched by Arts Queensland, and all donations over two dollars are tax deductible.

**To donate today, please visit <http://accessarts.org.au/get-involved/donate/>**





**BECOMING A MEMBER IN 2016**

It's that time of year again, with new beginnings in the lead up to the 2016 Access Arts program. All memberships expire at the end of 2015, so do join up for 2016. At \$10 for individuals, that's a real bargain. If you're part of an organisation, you can register for an Organisation Membership at \$100 for the year.

Membership sign up details are on our website at <http://accessarts.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member/>

**BENEFITS**

- a yearly artistic program
- arts development support
- an annual report
- professional/ artistic development advice
- invitations to public performances/ exhibitions
- workshops and events
- voting rights at our AGM
- creative involvement in events and projects
- state wide Indigenous projects

**CHRISTMAS CLOSURE**

Access Arts' office will be closed from Friday, 18 December 2015 and will reopen on Monday, 4 January 2016.

**WORKSHOP NEWS FOR 2016**

Term 1 workshops commence from Monday, 1 February 2016. 2016 sees our Access Arts Drumming and Access Arts Singers workshops move to Spring Hill - a large, accessible space backing onto a beautiful park. The weekday of the Drumming workshop will be changed to Tuesdays, the Singers remain on Thursdays as usual.

# OUT AND ABOUT WITH ACCESS ARTS

## *Perception Exhibition*



Guests enjoying the live entertainment.



Tony Hanmer viewing the exhibition.



Artwork lining the KPMG walls.



Artists' merchandise for sale.



The Theatre Ensembe delighting the crowd.



Colleen Stevenson with her photograph.



access arts  
inc.

07 3254 9585

[info@accessarts.org.au](mailto:info@accessarts.org.au)

[www.accessarts.org.au](http://www.accessarts.org.au)