



Arts Access[®] Aotearoa

WHAKAHAUHAU KATO A O HANGA

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Keeping in touch: July 2010

6 July 2010

Kia ora koutou

The Big 'A' Awards, established in 2006 by my predecessor Julie Donvin-Irons, are a highlight on Arts Access Aotearoa's calendar. It's a time to celebrate and showcase the achievements of the sectors we work with. Having the awards ceremony hosted by the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage in Parliament enhances the celebration.

One of the four awards to be presented is the Big 'A' Prison Arts Leadership Award 2010. We were delighted by the number and quality of the nominations we received for this award – each nomination of individuals committed to delivering arts activities to prisoners.

Arts Access Aotearoa has a rewarding partnership with the Department of Corrections to develop and implement a national prison arts strategy. As part of this work, we write stories illustrating the arts as a rehabilitative tool. This month's e-new includes two such stories: an exhibition of prison art at Mairangi Arts Centre in Auckland and the success of the Storybook Dads programme at Otago Corrections Facility. You can tune into Radio New Zealand's Nine to Noon programme at 9am Wednesday 7 July and listen to an interview with Dorothy Crofts, Programme Manager at Otago Corrections Facility.

My warm wishes for a great month

Marianne Taylor
Co-Executive Director with Jan Hinde

Quote this month ...

“Being part of the Attitude team has given me a unique opportunity to meet some truly amazing people. I feel privileged to share their stories.” – Tanya Black, researcher and reporter, Attitude TV

Interview this month ...

We talk to Max Riddle, who has been organising Touch Compass integrated dance workshops in Wellington for the past four years.

Q: What's on the radar for integrated dance in the capital?

A: After years of running workshops once or twice a year, we've just received fabulous funding from the Wellington City Council to run two six-week blocks of weekly dance classes, in conjunction with Touch Compass, starting this month.

Q: Who can come and how are you reaching them?

A: The classes are open to anyone over the age of fourteen, with or without a disability. We have a great young guy on our team who is using new media to reach a much wider community than we normally reach. It's been really gratifying to see interest in the classes from people we haven't had contact with before.

Q: What's the long-term plan for integrated dance in Wellington?

A: Well, we're hoping to establish the weekly classes on an ongoing basis, and we expect they'll lead to some inspiring performance projects. At the moment, there is no integrated performance company in Wellington. These classes are a step on the way to making performing arts in the cultural capital more inclusive and exciting.

The integrated dance classes will be held on Saturdays, starting on 24 July at Te Whaea National Dance and Drama Centre. For registration and more information contact Sumara Fraser (T: 04 905 4249 M: 021 050 1585 E: sumara@paradise.net.nz).

Our news this month ...

Attitude TV focuses on value of art

The value of art for people with experience of disability will be explored in a documentary being filmed for Attitude Television. [Read more.](#)

Congratulations to StarJam volunteer

A StarJam volunteer, Darryl Pascoe, has been named national Volunteer of the Year. Darryl has been volunteering at StarJam since 2005, when his 15-year-old daughter, Bonnie, who has cerebral palsy, got involved with the organisation. The annual Intrepid Travel Volunteer of the Year Awards celebrate volunteer work in a range of fields – from social services and international aid to arts and culture. Darryl's award is a considerable achievement: every year, more than one million volunteers donate 270 million unpaid hours to help more than 97,000 charities in New Zealand. StarJam is an Auckland creative space, working with disabled youth to provide performance opportunities.

Exhibition showcases prison art

Speakers at the opening of *InsideOut*, an exhibition of prison art at the Mairangi Arts Centre in Auckland, spoke eloquently of the role of the arts in turning around the lives of prisoners. [Read more.](#)

Storybook Dads teaches literacy and parenting skills

A programme that's been running at Otago Corrections Facility since 2007 in partnership with The Methodist Mission – Approach Community Learning has provided literacy and parenting skills to more than 140 prisoners. [Read more.](#)

Profile: Groovy new space for Magenta

Fiona Shaw “heaved a big sigh of relief” when a solution was found to the financial woes threatening the future of Nelson's Magenta Creative Space earlier this year. [Read more.](#)

Where art made a difference: Dianne Cadman

This page of our website has profiles of people whose lives have been enhanced through the arts and their contact with creative spaces. Here, we feature the story of Dianne Cadman, whose workspace at Sandz Gallery and Studio in Hamilton is lined with boxes. [Read more.](#)

Writer lets the monkeys out

I let the monkeys out, a picture book written by Avis Hunter and illustrated by Andrew Keogh, is based on Avis' childhood memories. [Read more.](#)

Our people: hotting up

While the current weather is tending towards wind and rain – at least in the fair city of Wellington – Arts Access Aotearoa staff are enjoying our warm new home, still in Toi Poneke but with an office space that opens out to the city and attracts the sun. Emma's dance troupe, the Real Hot Bitches, is also hotting up as it rehearses into the night for its new show, *The Fierceness*, running at Downstage Theatre from 5 to 7 August. We've booked our tickets and are rearing to go – as audience members!

Our partners

We value the support of all [our partners](#). We receive major, ongoing support from Creative New Zealand and the Department of Corrections, as well as support from a range of other philanthropic organisations, local councils, trusts and businesses/corporates.

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