



# Arts Access® Aotearoa

WHAKAHAUHAU KATO A O HANGA

Level 3, Toi Pōneke Arts Centre, 61-63 Abel Smith St, PO Box 9828, Wellington 6141  
T: +64 4 802 4349 F: +64 4 802 4357 E: artsadmin@artsaccess.org.nz W: www.artsaccess.org.nz

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## Keeping in touch: March 2010

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Monday 8 March 2010

Kia ora koutou

Sharing our knowledge and resources, discussing challenges and new ideas, and supporting each other's events are some of the benefits of networking. Last month, Arts Access Aotearoa attended the launch of the Toi Pōneke Hub – a dedicated space where people involved in the arts in Wellington can connect. The Hub has arts information and reference material, computers and conversation boards. It also hosts discussion groups, skill-sharing sessions and artist talks.

Arts Access Aotearoa provides a national voice for creative spaces and an opportunity for creative spaces throughout New Zealand to network. Auckland has its own local network, which is busy planning a forum as part of the Interwoven conference in September. The forum is open to all creative spaces and practitioners, and I'd like to encourage you to attend. It will be a great networking and information-sharing opportunity.

Last month, we attended a quarterly meeting of the Auckland Creative Spaces Network and asked them about the benefits of having a regional network. I hope that other creative spaces will read the profile (see below) and consider setting up a similar informal network within their region.

Finally, I was delighted to learn that the Ministry of Social Development is renewing its contract with Floyds Creative Arts for another year. Its board, staff and the community have done a huge amount of careful planning, strategic lobbying and fundraising, and this is a great outcome. Good too to see Christchurch's local MPs working across party to ensure a future for this important Christchurch institution.

Warm wishes for a positive and productive month.

Marianne Taylor  
Co-Executive Director with Jan Hinde

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## Quote this month ...

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“What are the arts about and what is their role in society? One of the most powerful things about art is that it challenges our thinking and can influence society to become more inclusive.” – Marguerite Vanderkolk, Advocate Northern Region, IHC, speaking at the Auckland Creative Spaces Network meeting in February 2010

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## Interview this month ...

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We talk to Bernard Cherry, Director of Floyds Creative Arts, in Christchurch, about its successful one-year campaign to keep Floyds' doors open.

**Q: What's the mood at Floyds this week?**

**A:** It's one of cautious optimism. All the lobbying and momentum is proceeding at the same pace and the same amount of balls are still in the air – and nobody at Floyds is taking their eye off them.

**Q: In the end, what has saved the day (so far) for Floyds?**

**A:** It's the whole of community determination that Floyds must stay open and continue delivering core business, along with the unreserved determination and commitment of staff and board.

**Q: What was a key thing you learned about the process?**

**A:** That this place is the community of choice for all who come to Floyds. That delivering a service valued by the community is 75% of the equation; 25% is making absolutely sure the community knows that resourcing and funding does not keep pace with excellence. That the determined, collective will of the community drives those who control the purse strings into looking carefully at all the ramifications to the city should such a community disappear ... To sum up, it's service as usual.

*Floyds Creative Arts is the largest and one of the oldest creative spaces in New Zealand. For more information, please contact Bernard Cherry (T: 03 365 4849 E: [director@floyds.org.nz](mailto:director@floyds.org.nz)).*

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## Our news this month ...

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**Auckland Creative Spaces Network**

Auckland Creative Spaces Network (CSN) meets four times a year. Arts Access Aotearoa attended its recent meeting and asked its members about the benefits of a regional network. You can read a profile of the Auckland network [here](#).

### **Big 'A' Awards 2010: a call for nominations**

Don't forget to send us your nominations to Arts Access Aotearoa's Big 'A' Awards 2010. The four awards are the Big 'A' Creative Space Award; Big 'A' Community Partnership Award; Big 'A' Prison Arts Leadership Award; and the Big 'A' Winton and Margaret Bear Young Artist Award.

Each award has a nomination form. You are able to nominate yourself or others. For more information and nomination forms, please visit our [website](#) or contact Laura (T: 04 802 4356 E: [community@artsaccess.org.nz](mailto:community@artsaccess.org.nz)). Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 26 March 2010.

### **Exhibition opportunity at Mental Health and Addictions Conference**

Artists inspired or motivated to create as a result of mental health or addiction experiences are invited to submit up to four works for an exhibition running alongside the Building Bridges National Community Mental Health and Addictions Conference 2010. The exhibition will be presented in the Fletcher Challenge Foyer of the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington throughout the conference, which runs from 14–16 April. Participating artists will be invited to attend the conference reception where artworks will be on sale.

Artists have until 16 March 2010 to register. [Rosemary Stokell](#), a Wellington-based artist and art educator, is the exhibition convenor and the conference organisers welcome enquiries from artists throughout the country. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information and registration forms, or contact conference organiser Amy Fitzgerald of Flow Events Ltd (M: 021 948 801 E: [amy@flowevents.co.nz](mailto:amy@flowevents.co.nz)).

### **Interwoven: open to all creative spaces and practitioners**

Interwoven is a conference about arts for health in the community, co-hosted by the Australia New Zealand Art Therapy Association and the New Zealand Creative Therapies Association. The Auckland CSN will host a forum alongside the conference, which will discuss pathways to inclusion and what that means for creative spaces. It's open to all creative spaces and practitioners in New Zealand and will be held in Auckland over the weekend of 25 and 26 September. If you would like to receive information please [email](#) Arts Access Aotearoa or [Amanda Levey](#) with "Interwoven" written in the subject line.

### **Learning from our differences**

Auckland creative space Spark Studio is encouraging an inclusive society by running an "all abilities" session next term, starting on 26 April. *The Aucklander* reporter Valerie Schuler attended an art class for intellectually and physically

disabled people, and discovered there's a lot we can learn from our differences. Read her great story [here](#).

### **Profile: King Street Artworks**

Would you like your creative space profiled on the Arts Access Aotearoa website? If so, please [email](#) us with some background information. This month, we profile King Street Artworks in Masterton. [Read more](#).

### **Our people: all over the place**

It's business as usual at our office on the third floor of Toi Pōneke in Wellington. Iona and three mates are in training for the 100km Oxfam Trailwalker event in April. Tracey is counting the sleeps until she heads to India for a two-week holiday with her mates later this month. As summer draws towards its end (sob!), Laura has been very involved in her community gardening group. Marianne is introducing baby Olivia (now four months old) to the world of music at WOMAD 2010 in New Plymouth this weekend while Jan has been taking in some treats at the New Zealand International Arts Festival in Wellington.

### **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.

### **Contact us**

T: 04-802 4349

W: [www.artsaccess.org.nz](http://www.artsaccess.org.nz)

E: [community@artsaccess.org.nz](mailto:community@artsaccess.org.nz)

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P: PO BOX 9828 | Wellington 6141

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