

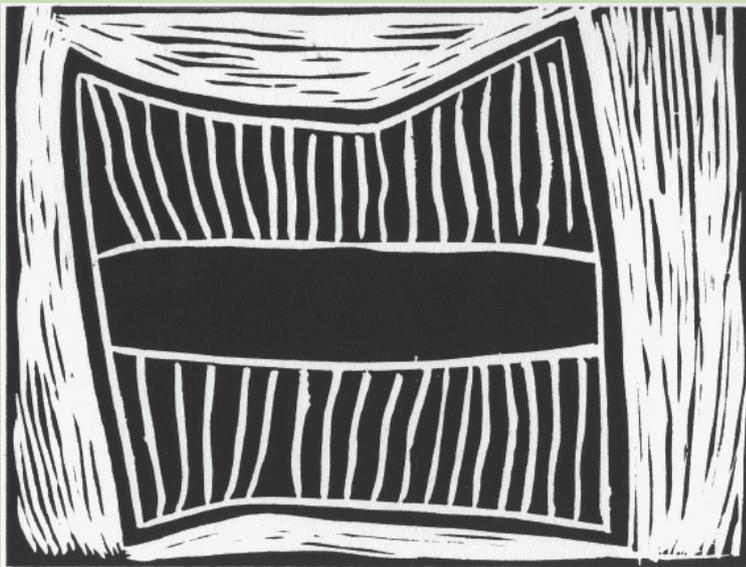
The Cultural Development Network in partnership with City of Ballarat, Department of Human Services: Grampians Region, Rural Access, Deaf Access, and McCallum Disability Services

Present this one day conference

Communities, Accessibility and the Arts

Responding to and embracing differences in arts and cultural contexts

Exploring the challenges and opportunities of inclusive arts. Presentations, discussions and workshops, performances and an art display will inform, inspire and energise participants.



Sunstripes, Katie Jean McKenzie, 2003

How can we enrich our communities by increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in arts and culture?

Wednesday May 7, 2008

9:30 am – 5 pm

Ballarat Fine Art Gallery
40 Lydiard Street,
North Ballarat

Steering group

Kim Dunphy, CDN; Jo Heaney, DHS, Grampians region; Sahn Cramer, City of Ballarat; Deb Whitecross, Fiona Strahan, Gilda McKechnie, Rural Access; Amanda Lines, artist, and Sandy Cook, McCallum Disability Services

Presented by:



MC: Kim Dunphy, Manager, Cultural Development Network

Welcome by Brrr Theatre

9.35

Welcome

Welcome to Country Wathaurong elder Ted Lovett

Stephen Jones, Mayor of Ballarat and Chair, Ballarat Disability Advisory Committee

9.45

Aims of the Day

Gilda McKechnie, RuralAccess Coordinator, Grampians Community Health Centre

9.50

The Victorian Government's commitment to inclusive and creative communities

Peter Rademaker, Community Engagement Manager

Grampians Team, Dept Planning and Community Development

10.05

Creative Pathways: opening the doors to more inclusive arts

Keynote speaker: Ross Barber,

Executive Director, Access Arts and visual artist

10.35

Question and answer session

10.45

Small Discussion Groups

If we are to improve opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in arts and culture in this region, what can you do?

- One challenge for you: barrier or difficulty
- One opportunity for you: a skill, a resource or an asset

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11.00 Morning Tea
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11.30- 1.00 pm Lead speakers

Local government supporting inclusive arts practice: challenges and opportunities

Cathy Horsley, Access Arts Development Officer, City of Port Phillip

Making art with people of different abilities: creative partnerships

Kate Sulan, Artistic Director and member Paul Mately, Rawcus Theatre Company

Panel of local speakers:

Joel Gills - multi-talented local Ballarat artist

Pam Farey – Ballarat based mouth-painter, currently exhibiting at Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

Felicity Morton – Geelong based artist, art instructor and Ballarat Uni Masters student

Followed by a **Question and answer session**

Survey: Mapping arts and disability across Victoria, Office for Disability project
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1-2 pm

Lunch at the Mining Exchange, next door to the gallery

1.45 -2 pm **Performance:** Sweet Justice Choir

2.00 - 3.15 pm **Concurrent Workshops:**

1. Kate Sulan: Inclusive Theatre

Facilitator: John Smithies

Venue: The Mining Exchange

This workshop will offer an introduction to the process and approach to Rawcus creative development. The workshop will be participatory and will include exercises used by Rawcus to develop ideas and concepts.

2. Jodie Ahrens: Taste, Touch and Smell Tell Stories Too

Facilitator: Gilda McKechnie

Venue: The Call Room, The Mining Exchange

Participants will experience alternative perspectives on communication methods and gain insight into some of the issues faced by people with sensory impairment, working with blindfolds to stimulate all the senses for increased physical and spatial awareness. Small groups will work together telling stories using only taste, touch and smell.

3. Amanda Lines: Picturing a creative self: A creative arts therapy workshop

Facilitator: Deb Whitecross

Venue: The Mining Exchange

Participants will be guided through familiarisation with art materials towards the development of a picture/sculpture. A wide range of materials will be offered, and various creative methods shared. The philosophical basis of this workshop is that creativity is fundamental to human life, and is a necessary and central consideration for good mental, physical, spiritual, and community health.

4. Discussion group: Increasing participation of people with a disability in arts and culture:

What can we do? What changes do we want to see? This session will form part of our response to Office for Disability Research project being undertaken by CDN. **Facilitators:** Sahn Cramer and Kim Dunphy **Venue:** Gallery Function Room

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3.30 **Quick cuppa**
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3.45 **More discussion at the table:**

Brainstorm ideas for a creative activity involving people who have a disability that is missing in your local area. In an ideal world, what would you like to see happen?

4.00 **Wrap-up session:** Bringing all the ideas together.

Led by Ross Barber and Fiona Strahan

Local and other resources – in two minutes present your idea, resource, project or organisation. What does our Tree show? What are we doing with what we have? What more could we do? What else do we need? Developing sustainable projects- funding and resources

5.00 **Close** Thank you for joining us today. We hope you found the day worthwhile and have found the inspiration and information you need to make things happen.

We welcome your feedback on form provided – give it to Andrea for another choccy frog.

Speaker and Facilitators' biographies

Jodie Ahrens works in theatre as a producer, director and designer. Driving the multi-sensory work of Roundangle for the past four years, she has recently been investigating smell as a tool for theatre. Roundangle's first performance, 'Source/Sauce' won several awards at the 2006 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Ross Barber is experienced in the development and management of inclusive arts and community cultural development practice and programs. Appointed the Executive Director of Access Arts in 2004, Ross brought an entirely new philosophy of staff employment, development and regional engagement, and has raised in Arts Access Qld's reputation as leader in the development and employment of administrators, artists and cultural workers experiencing a disability. Ross maintains his professional practice as an artist, regularly exhibiting new installation work. He is a recipient of the Commonwealth Centenary of Federation Medal for Distinguished Service to the Arts.

Brrr Theatre aims to provide an opportunity for appropriately skilled disabled people in Ballarat to work together in a professional theatre group, developing and presenting quality drama performances.

Pam Farey took up mouth painting as a hobby after she was no longer able to play sport due to a rare neurological disease. Pam taught herself to paint and became a member of the Mouth and Foot Painters Association. Her exhibition, *In the Spirit of Tibet*, is on in this gallery until May 11

Future Film Program, BRACE Education Training and Employment, has moved from being an interest-based program to a structured formal course with specific outcomes run by professional filmmakers. Over the last few years many students have undertaken additional study in the area of editing which has enhanced their overall learning of the film making process.

Joel Gills is a multi-talented local Ballarat artist who is actively involved in a wide range of art forms in the community. Joel comes today to share the experience of a person living in the community with a disability.

Cathy Horsley, Access Arts Development Officer, City of Port Phillip is a practising artist and dedicated Community Cultural Development Worker. Cathy oversees a number of high profile accessible arts projects and partnerships which promote arts participation opportunities for people with mental illness and disabilities.

Amanda Lines is a creative arts therapist, artist, and arts/community worker who recently completed her Masters in Arts Therapy at RMIT. She is a painter, drawer and collager, a "dabbler" in drama. Amanda has worked with people who have disabilities for the last 18 years, and embraces a personal focus on creative relationships and expression in support of people's right to self-determination.

Felicity Morton is an instructor at Art Unlimited studio for artists with a disability in Geelong, and a practising artist who has exhibited her work extensively. Through her MFA at Ballarat University, she is investigating the representation of Down syndrome through art history.

Kate Sulan is Artistic Director of Rawcus Theatre Company, a dynamic exchange between artists with and without disabilities that produces some of Melbourne's most vibrant and original theatre. The company collaborates with professional arts practitioners and devises new work that gives voice to an imaginative world of the ensemble. *Not Dead Yet*, Rawcus' collaboration with Born In a Taxi, won the Most Outstanding Production in the 2005 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Sweet Justice community women's choir from Daylesford, is a joyous, inclusive and supportive environment for women of all ages and abilities to sing together. Sweet Justice is facilitated by Anni M. Coyne, supported by Hepburn Health Service and the Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre.

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Tree of Transformation: artistic process Amanda Lines

What do we need to make this tree grow?

Exhibition: Pam Farey 'In the Spirit of Tibet' An exhibition drawing influence from elements of Tibetan culture and art. Reflecting Farey's experience of Tibet through her many visits to the country and incorporates the vibrant colour, intricate design, symbolism, people and scenery of Tibet and China.

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Thank you also to Gordon Morrison, staff at Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, and Best Café catering