

## Artists Talk: The International Perspective

Friday December 11, 2009, Multicultural Hub

CDN members and supporters gathered on a Friday afternoon for the annual end of year forum 'Artists Talk: The International Perspective'. This year, speakers were especially varied, encompassing arts management and fundraising, community choir, and cultural consultation. Speakers inspired many would be international travelling arts workers with exciting stories, from connecting with the Timorese community through song to Four Paths of Creation Spirituality

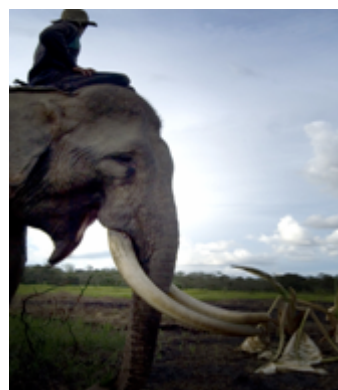
Therese Virtue kicked off the afternoon, talking about her time when she took her Thursday's Children Choir to East Timor. To celebrate the Choirs tenth birthday Therese instigated a major community cultural development project with the local primary school children in the new nation of Timor Leste. Through fundraising, hurdles of government bureaucracy and war, her choir connected with local communities through songs ranging from different cultures.



Jen Hughes discussed her time as a documentary maker in Suai, East Timor ([www.suaimediaspace.org](http://www.suaimediaspace.org)). In 1999 through working with a friendship between Suai and Port Phillip, she set up a Youth Media and media workshops in Suai. From 1999 til now Suai Youth Media has grown to be a very successful organisation for youths wanting to learn how make documentaries and using the media as

communication between Suai and Port Phillip. Through media Jen takes us to a journey of hope, community building and loss from the Suai Church Massacre.

Eva Collado a popular photographer, talks about her work in Indonesia. In 2007 she worked in North Sumatra with Australian Volunteers International, with the Leuser International Foundation teaching design and documentation photography to local counterparts. Eva then went on to documenting a



# Cultural Development Network

Cultures  
Communities  
Councils

series of cleft lip and palate operations in a small grass roots charity, The Children of Sumatra.



Jenny Macaffer, was last but not least on our line up of speakers. Jenny talked about her desire to travel to Italy, Scotland and Belfast and to find the connection of the world through creativity and art. She presented her 'fourth paths or creation spirituality' whereby people connect to one another through the emotional rapport that public art, music and cultural festival presents.

The afternoon concluded with afternoon tea and end of year drinks, allowing attendees to talk with speakers and meet up with peers.

Feedback from audience members indicated that they found the event worthwhile, with all those who provided feedback commenting that speakers were very informative. Many made new networks for the possibility of future collaborations and cultural development.