

A WORD

LYNNE PRICE,
PRESIDENT TRA

Already nearly half way through the year, activity and achievements have been intense since the last edition. By now you should have received the comprehensive Annual Report for 2005 and be impressed by the creativity, diversity and energy it represents on the part of you, the members, as well as Lucy's team at Head Office.

From my perspective in the past months not only are new initiatives developing this year but we are also seeing the satisfying completion of several long term projects - the type of which are often more challenging than those with a shorter life. I have joined with members, artists, communities, local government officials and politicians to celebrate and admire outstanding public artworks at Adventure Bay (Bruny Island), Meander Valley and Circular Head all of which had involved significant community consultation and discussions as part of the arts process. From a local council perspective this process is often the least understood but most valuable aspect of the overall arts project that has demonstrated many times the unlimited potential of the arts to make positive contributions to our communities in transition. Congratulations to everyone involved in all these areas.

The recent *Streets Alive 06* Youth festival in Launceston entitled "What's Your Subculture?" was another occasion on which I proudly admired the energy and inspiration of the young people involved in the organisation. Our officers joined with other talented creators to provide a stimulating, exciting and "pumping" event that not only brought the CBD and other areas in the city to life but also enabled young people to celebrate Youth Week in their own particular style with artistic flair.

Our next Tasmanian partnership involves Festival of Voices 2006. Running in conjunction with the ANCA Conference this year Tasmanian Regional Arts is sponsoring a Youth Choral event in Smithton with Mark O'Leary of Melbourne. Following the success of last year when Burnie Youth Choir and Voices of Youth, Smithton worked with a visiting youth choir and its conductor, the 2006 event will run along similar lines with Circular Head Regional Arts acting as host branch. (It is still rewarding to remember that this whole FOV concept was spawned by the "Choral Island" event in the Ten Days on the Island 2003 sponsored by our organisation.)

Finally I draw attention to the Regional Arts Australia 2006 Conference in Mackay. Entitled *The Pacific Edge* it promises to follow its predecessors in Mt Gambier, Esperance, Albury and Horsham offering unique opportunities arts inspiration, significant discussion, networking and entertainment to fully justify travelling all that

distance. (Not to mention a very attractive climate for Tasmanians in September!) Lucy has circulated details regarding TRA subsidies and I do hope we are able to have a full complement of branch member volunteers able to make use of the offer.

Meanwhile, thank you for the artistic energies you have expended this year to date and have an enjoyable, creative, winter.

Whale Pod Sculpture by Matt Carney - Bruny Island
photo: Allegra Biggs-Dale



HAPPENINGS

THE PACIFIC EDGE

Regional Arts Australia National Conference will be held in Mackay from 15 - 17 September 2006.

Part conference, part festival - all art! The Pacific Edge presents a unique opportunity for regional art enthusiasts to come together to discuss and debate current priority issues recently identified in Regional Arts Australia's 2006 National Directions: Regional Arts.

The Pacific Edge will be an opportunity for delegates from all over Australia to gather and find inspiration in the coastal city of Mackay in North Queensland. It will be an opportunity for performers, actors, musicians, artists, writers, volunteers, arts workers, local government staff, academics, students, arts researchers and the wider community to gather in Mackay to discuss, celebrate and

Low Tide - Brushia Beach
photo: Dean Whiting



experience the arts and cultural achievements of regional arts groups throughout the country.

The Pacific Edge was officially launched in Mackay on April 10 with the announcement of keynote speakers:

- Barbara Schaffer Bacon, Co-Director of Animating Democracy, Americans for the Arts,
- Bill Hauritz, Festival Director of Queensland's infamous Woodford Folk Festival

An exciting program is based around six key strands:

- People and Place,
- Youth Arts and Education
- Growing Audiences
- Festivals
- Arts Business and New Work
- New Ideas

Registering early is essential; to access discounted early bird rates and to go into the draw to win one of two great prizes that will allow you to explore the Whitsunday region, make sure you register before 24 July 2006. The fifth biennial Regional Arts Australia National Conference is produced by Queensland Arts Council on behalf of Regional Arts Australia and in partnership with Mackay City Council. CONTACT: Register online at www.thepacificedge.com.au or contact I AM EVENTS on (07) 3834 3333 for a Registration Form, places at the conference are limited.

INDIGENOUS PROTOCOLS DOCUMENT

Respecting Cultures - Working with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and Aboriginal Artists Arts Tasmania

This document promotes greater awareness of protocols needed to ensure that Aboriginal artists are acknowledged and their property is respected. The publication provides a specific Tasmanian perspective as a companion text for the Australia Council's five 'Cultures: Protocols for Producing Indigenous Arts' booklets which focus on Visual, Performing Arts, Writing, Song and New Media. An initiative of Arts Tasmania's Aboriginal Advisory Committee Respecting Cultures, was launched by the Minister for the Arts, Ms Lara Giddings MHA on the 6th of April 2005. The publication has been undertaken in partnership with Arts Tasmania, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council for the Arts, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and with support from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The guide is free and available to artists, arts organisations, local government and education institutions liaising with the Aboriginal Community for the use of Aboriginal content for all cultural projects. CONTACT: <http://www.arts.tas.gov.au/publications/respectingcultures>

FESTIVAL OF VOICES 10-16 JULY 06

festival of Voices
tasmania

JASPA WOOD, Festival of Voices

2006 will see the second Festival of Voices. This mid winter event is pitched as a winter school, a holiday and a festival all wrapped up into one week of master classes, concerts, performances and plenty of fun. This year's program focuses on 3 genres of the music: Gospel with master classes taught by internationally renowned Gospel conductor Dr James Abbington (USA) World Music Choir lead by national treasure Kavisha Mazzella (VIC) and the Festival Youth Choir directed by Mark O'Leary conductor of Australia's renowned Gondwana Voices. Special Festival Guests include Australia's leading Voice in Gospel - Tony Backhouse, Phil Heuzenroeder director of MSG (Melbourne Singers of Gospel who will be in Hobart for the Festival finale weekend 14/15 July) and World Music choral leader Moya Simpson from ACT. A new addition to this years Festival is the Stream 'Theatre of Festival and Celebration' lead by Neil Cameron and John Bolton (Australia's premier directors in this style of theatre). The Stream culminates in a one off performance at St David's Cathedral, Hobart, on Saturday 15 July. The Hobart premier of Pray Bells composed by Constantine

Koukais and played by IHOS Music Theatre and Opera will be the musical setting for a performance piece inspired by ritual and festival traditions. Following the performance there will be a procession through the streets to Salamanca Place and the lighting of the Finale Bonfire. Master classes for the Festival run daily in the morning (9am - 12 noon) followed by afternoon interest sessions (2.30 - 5pm) where participants can enjoy a range of activities learning anything from traditional Indian vocal techniques, constructing sacred objects to Singing in Mysterious Places. The Festival provides both formal and informal performing opportunities for groups/choirs with the special highlight being the Festival Club which runs all week (from the Long Gallery, Salamanca Art Centre) and features a nightly mix of short performance slots from local to visiting groups/choirs.
CONTACT: 6245 5441
www.festivalofvoices.com.au
festivalofvoices@netspace.net.au*

2006 FESTIVAL OF VOICES REGIONAL PROGRAM

Devonport - Gospel Train & Gospel Workshop by Tony Backhouse Devonport July 7-9th. Workshop sessions - Friday 7 July from 7.30pm - 9.30pm & Saturday 8th July from 10-4pm, Uniting Church Hall - 45 Steele St, Devonport. Presented by Tasmanian A Cappella Association. CONTACT: Michael on 0438 200 071 singfest@tasmail.com *

HAPPENINGS

continued

Ringarooma - Gospel Workshop with Tony Backhouse on Monday 10th July, 7.00pm, and we'd love you to join us for a light supper at 6.00pm. Proudly supported by the DHHS (Health promotion) the Ringarooma Community, Cultural & Heritage Association Inc. and singers in Dorset. CONTACT: Jenny Barns on 6352 3933*

Nubeena - Gospel Workshop with Tony Backhouse - Wed July 12th 1.30pm - 3.30pm at the Tasman (Nubeena) School Hall
Presented by the Out on a Limb Regional Arts branch. Contact James Parker on 6250 3258 or jamesdsparker@bigpond.com.au*

Smithton - Workshop with Mark O'Leary July 9th 2-4.30pm at the Uniting Church Hall on Sunday. Members of the Burnie Youth Choir and VOYS (Voices of Youth) choir have been invited to participate but the workshop is open to others as well. The workshop will be followed by a concert from 5.30-7pm in the same venue showcasing the pieces conducted by Mark O'Leary. This event follows on from the hugely successful workshop and concert held last year in Smithton with Noel Ancell and the National Youth Choir as part of the 2005 Festival of Voices regional series. Presented by Tasmanian Regional Arts through the local Circular Head branch, ChARTS.* CONTACT: Georgina Laan on 6452 1667 gleelaan@bigpond.net.au

(*for bookings and prices)

ANCA (AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION) CONFERENCE

2006 sees a partnership between the long established ANCA and Festival of Voices. As part of its program, ANCA will be holding lunchtime concerts at Hobart's City Hall on 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th July. Special subsidy is also being offered to Tasmanian delegates to attend this conference and TRA members are being offered free admission to each of these concerts. CONTACT: Joan Wright on 0428381144 www.anca.org.au

arts@work

TASMANIAN LIVING WRITERS' WEEK

Celebrating the Wealth and Variety of Tasmanian Writing and Publishing 11th - 20th August, 2006

arts@work is proud to announce an exciting new literary festival, Tasmanian Living Writers' Week (TLWW). Following on from three successful years of Tasmanian Living Artists' Week, arts@work will focus this year's event on Literature, with the return of Tasmanian Living Artists' Week in 2007. The Tasmanian Living Writers' Week 2006 program will include over thirty exciting events state-wide that will stimulate literature lovers from all walks of life.

Here's just a sample of the great events being held across the state:

- The first ever Tasmanian Book Fair - a must for book lovers

- Prominent Tasmanian and interstate journalists in conversations covering themes from gardening, history, Aboriginal culture and even truth!
- Peppermint Bay Sculpture Trail and Prize, with a unique text-based theme and celebratory lunch
- Literary Lunches with prominent authors including Robert Dessaix at Moorilla Estate
- Book launches including book signings and meet the authors
- Bellerive Oval Sports Dinner with guest of honour Tim Lane
- Script readings from renowned Tasmanian playwrights
- Workshops and writers in residence in schools across the state
- Events around the state: east coast, Launceston, Burnie, Devonport, Strahan, Hobart and Dover
- Workshops and writers in residence in schools across the state

TLWW events are designed to appeal to a wide variety of audiences, with the aim of showcasing and celebrating the state's vibrant literary culture. TLWW is a unique program unlike any literary festival held in Australia. It will provide the public with an opportunity to engage in literary events that they may not have otherwise been able to participate in. CONTACT: www.artsatwork.com.au

NATIONAL UPDATE

MESSAGES FROM THE GRASS ROOTS

LUCY KENNETH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRA

In 2005 through Regional Arts Australia, TRA took part in perhaps the most comprehensive ever consultation with country Australians concerning the nature, challenges and opportunities of their work in, and aspirations for, the arts in their communities. The consultation was conducted through questionnaires and forums with Anne Dunn compiling The Regional Arts Australia National Community Consultation Report May - July 2005. This has resulted in 2006 National Directions: Regional Arts publication, a policy document that highlights five key priorities and 22 strategic ideas for addressing what the sector itself has identified for action in the development of more sustainable arts practice and arts support across regional Australia. It is fertile ground for planning the priorities and activities of Regional Arts Australia over the course of the next three years. The 2006 National Directions: Regional Arts publication was officially launched in Perth, on Monday, 13 February 2006 by Dr Margaret Seares.

Regional Arts Australia represents the State-based organisations that manage the primary arts support and development programs that directly or indirectly touch the lives of the vast majority of the more than

6.7 million Australians who live and work in non-metropolitan Australia. Over 830 people from around 250 regional locations across the country took part in an initial consultation by completing a survey. This was followed by twelve Australia-wide forums held across a range of coastal, inland, rural and remote communities large and small between May and July 2005. These forums drew truly enthusiastic participation, with 400 individuals and representatives of nearly 300 organisations from 100 communities in attendance. Amongst them were artists, arts managers, arts volunteers, local government members and officers, regional development personnel, Indigenous leaders and those for whom access

to and enjoyment of the arts are fundamental parts of life. The level of participation and enthusiasm throughout the consultation process indicates both the great value of the arts to Australia's country communities and a desperate need for increased support. People travelled hundreds of kilometres to have their say and it is critical that this voice is heard.

The study found Rich pastures in communities' appreciation of the arts as a medium for finding and proclaiming unique identity, for exploring and resolving community issues, for celebrating heritage and for crystallising aspirations. It found a common commitment to using the arts to engage young people in community life and development, (despite the challenge that such an ambition represents when contemporary culture and "big-city" attractions are so strong).

Lee Cole
Tasmanian Living Artist Week 2005



Poor pastures in many communities' lack of appropriate facilities for creating and presenting arts activities. Poor too in some communities through the impact of rapid socio-economic change. The need to create new community bonds is critical as populations change: young and old move out, "sea-changers", hobby-farmers, retirees and new workers move in, creating different community dynamics that need new ways to promote acceptance and inclusion.

Resources aplenty in the ability, experience, innovation, creativity and commitment of the artists and arts supporters who are to the arts what their ancestors were to creating the essential asset that this vast part of Australia is to the nation and its identity, economy and character. Resources poor where money, services and facilities were insufficient to overcome the tyranny of distance and the tide of economic and community decline. The long tradition of regional communities sustaining themselves is under threat as drought, fire, flood, youth migration and the removal of services take their toll. Government support is critical to the expansion and development of the arts in regional communities - national, state and local governments.

The richly rewarding work of thousands of artists and arts volunteers with the success that comes from creating and presenting exhibitions, festivals, community cultural development projects and youth arts activities. The growing number of professional artists in

regional communities represents a great asset and there is immense will to support them in their development and in their capacity to work in their communities.

Work that was fruitless in aspiring to goals that could not be afforded or could not be accommodated by limited facilities and funding. The people who live in rural areas are deeply attached to their place, the natural environment and their communities. This finds expression in cultural activities both art and sport, but engagement in and support of the arts can lack the status and attention that sporting activities attract.

Hope lost on the long road from town to the rest of Australia where the desks of sponsors, governments and arts companies are seen to be cluttered with "big-city" arts issues and opportunities.

But most importantly, the study found a deep well of hope that reinforces the commitment of Regional Arts Australia, its member organisations and the Australian Government have demonstrated in establishing and maintaining their unique regional arts programs.

Backing that hope is the confidence, determination and track record of hundreds of regional, rural, remote and very remote communities that have established an arts landscape as distinctive and as "Australian" as the country itself.

People in regional Australia are resolute in their goal of building

strong communities through their own efforts and seek support that will empower them to achieve their goals.

The Anne Dunn Report - National Directions for the Regional Arts in Australia, National Community Consultation Report, 2005 was commissioned by Regional Arts Australia and undertaken by Anne Dunn with assistance from Norah Sykes. This article is a summary of 2006 National Directions: Regional Arts - To download a copy visit the Regional Arts Australia website CONTACT: www.regionalarts.org.au



Flash 15
photo: Zonna Black

FEATURE Youth Arts

KARLEE FOSTER, TRA

young people + art + community =
AMPT
ARTS MANAGEMENT PLAN TASMANIA

SmartArts!
Supported by Huon Valley Council and
funded by the National Illicit Drug Strategy
Community Partnerships Initiative



AMPT Update

What the heck? Ninja Monkeys? Rainbow slime? The attack of the fridges?! Southern AMPT forum Huonville went off with a bang on the 16th of March, with 4 Community Artists; Fin Kruckemeyer, Cath Leith, Magda Grubski and Matt Calvert and 27 young people present at the

Huonville Town Hall. Magda started with a run down of her job at Is Theatre as a Producer and the possibilities of employment in the theatre industry. Fin took over after a short break with a series of fantastic interactive group building activities. We tied each other into knots, made maps of Australia and drum kits with bodies, and found out

a bit more about each other through discussing our favourite music and the funniest things we'd ever seen.

The day also included the official launch of the SmartArts "Know what it is" project. Huge collages (that many of the AMPT participants were involved in creating) and a DVD around issues such as drugs and alcohol, peer pressure and vehicle accidents were put on display. During the lunch break, The Honourable Lara Giddings MHA was pleased and excited to launch the positive live life choices package, devised and executed by the SmartArts team of young Huon Valley community members and artists. The package consists of seven collages, posters and a DVD of visual stories conveying healthy life choice messages.

Cath led the afternoon, bags of miscellaneous goodies by her side. Clay, skewers, slime, umbrellas, toys with beeps??? What did Cath have in store for us? We divided into groups and were given the first bag of bits... We were put to work to create a Christmas present for our ex's! The slime was a big feature, while the clay and skewers took on many different forms. SCENARIO 2: You are to somehow gain access to the music played in shopping centres and change it! Toys with beeps and 'bang things' from the kitchen were used to create zany new sound tracks, with looks of surprise from our unknowing shoppers.

The afternoon wound down a bit and we sat down to discuss issues for young people in the Huon area and how we could form an arts project around some of these issues, involving the wider

community. Issues such as public transport timing were identified as a concern in the Huon area. Many of the young people at the AMPT forum were regularly travelling into Hobart for recreational and educational purposes and found it hard to get to buses in time to get there, and struggled to catch them of an evening. The conversation buzzed into after school activities or the lack of. Things like busking/roving street performing workshops, where the participants could learn about things like insurance and the correct legal procedures were discussed. There was also interest in airbrushing/stencilling on to things like skate board decks and techniques in the shaping of skateboards and the marketing of this as a fundraiser for future arts projects. Film making and other screen medias made for interesting discussions, following on from the creation of the 'Know what it is' DVD. We had great resource and knowledge in Cygnet locals Jeka Katt and Adrian McCann, who have big plans for a hip hop project 'Sub Base South'.

Overall the day was a success with the participants soon to be co-ordinators excited to have an opportunity to create and drive an arts project. The follow up workshops will happen sometime after the June school holidays. Special Thanks must go to the Huon Valley Council, Fiona Richardson and Fiona Barrett. I'm looking forward to coming back to Huonville and seeing the wonderful process of youth driven community art!

AMPT ARTIST BIOS:

Cath Leith is a well known community artist who dives headfirst into anything involved with arts - Chinese dragon and lantern parade spectaculars, graffiti art, air guitar competitions, paint-gun painting, sculptures, dance and music workshops - you name it!

In 2004, **Magdalena Grubski** relocated from Sydney to Hobart to undertake an EAT (Emerging Artists Tasmania) mentorship with is theatre ltd where she made 4 of her own works - one of which attracted a Playworks mentorship in 2005. She also worked for the Company as a tutor on the West Coast of Tassie and as the Company's Project Coordinator. In 2006, she became the Company's Producer to which she brings her experience in cultural heritage marketing and a BA Communications degree in Theatre and Media and a strong commitment to the development of community and culture in Tasmania.

Fin Kruckemeyer is 24 and has worn the hats of a teacher, playwright, actor and comedian. He has taught drama, dance and hip-hop in Australia and overseas since he was 15, in schools, regional areas, prisons, indigenous communities and disability organisations. He has had 16 plays performed around Australia and has just received the Jill Blewett Playwright's Award. Fin has been performing comedy since he was 16. He has MCed the Adelaide Festival, the Falls Festival, hip-hop gigs, comedy nights and hundreds of other events.

Matt Calvert was born in Smithton in 1969 Matt gained a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) from the University of Tasmania in 1993. He was subsequently a recipient of a Samstag Scholarship, which he took up in 1994 at Goldsmiths College, University of London, completing a Master of Arts in 1995. In the same year Calvert travelled to France to take up a residency at the McCulloch Studio, Cité International des Arts, Paris. In 1998 and 1999 he was awarded Asialink residencies in Kuang, Malaysia, and in 2000 he was an artist-in-residence in Sapporo, Japan. Matt Calvert lives and works in Hobart. In 2004 Matt undertook impact, a TRA initiative exploring attitudes towards car accidents and their impact on families and communities.

YOUTH ARTS CASE STUDY STREETS ALIVE 2006

KIM SCHNEIDERS, INTERWEAVE ARTS

Streets Alive Youth Arts Festival, is a festival of arts from schools and studios to the city streets and spaces of Launceston. The festival has successfully been held in 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006. This year the focus was on "What Makes Up Our Community?" What's your subculture? In 2006 the event ran concurrently with National Youth Week. Streets Alive directly had 6,000 young people involved in the various projects with over 7,000 audience members and many more members of the general public viewing activities. There were over 100 professional artists employed. Streets Alive Youth Arts Festival is not only for young people to engage in the arts, but a broad forum for them and the greater community to discuss, debate, explore and express their opinions in creative ways on issues of relevance to today's young people.

The festival, auspiced by Interweave Arts Association (a non-profit arts organisation), is an outstanding example of sound Events Practice with regard to concept development,

organisational structure, content and artist resources, project management and marketing. This was evidenced by the festival receiving financial support from local business, organisations and from all tiers of government. Each program in the festival highlighted the subcultures within the community whilst addressing some of the main issues currently affecting our youth. We see subcultures being defined as whatever brings individuals together. This festival aims to create an awareness of the existence of these subcultures, and celebrates the colourful diversity that makes up the culture of our city and state.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2006 FESTIVAL INCLUDED:

- Opening Event - Harajuku Street Party in the Brisbane St Mall - 550 young people dressed in Harajuku and dancing transformed Launceston's CBD into neo Tokyo
- shop@rt in 70 shops in the CBD and 100s of artists
- Raising the Curtain - Drug & Alcohol Forum - Moderated By Paul Dylan from National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre
- Flag City - 1300 flags literally moving throughout the CDB for 5 weeks - program included symbols placed onto: large flags, prayer style flags, cloud and triangular flags transforming the streetscapes;
- Silo Projection -15 hours of local video works combining short works and pieces specifically filmed to project onto this massive surface
- Fringe Lounge - a highly creative environment that showcased local and interstate talent with Hip Hop, Random Acts of Cabaret, Show us your culture? (dance, African, queer) & Sound Lounge

- Cinema Bus held workshops with 20 young people, collected over 60 short works for the program and had over 250 people viewing these.
- Master Classes - Beat Boxing & Breakdancing, Emceeing, Stencil Art, Promoting Your Band, Zine, Podcasting & Responses to Visual Arts.
- Treasure Hunts - in Prince's Square
- Monoxide Monologues - script writing workshops, and 6 cars with 6 actors performing
- Betta Jive Urban Beat had 2000 youths beating to their rhythms for an incredible finale of this 11 day event.

"What crossed my mind as I was caught up in the foot-stamping fever of Streets Alive's 2006 opening ceremony was that, if this is the talent that abounds among our young people, us oldies can go home and relax. These kids have the talent and skills to do it on their own." (Alison Andrews, *The Examiner* newspaper April 4, 2006)

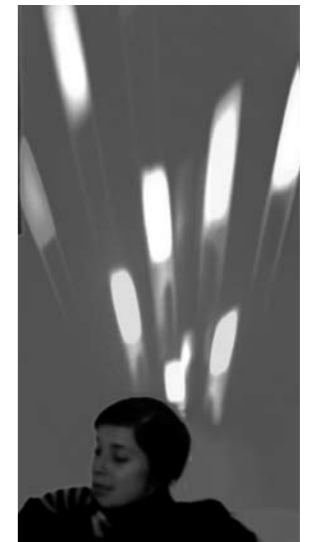
"What you will see is thousands of young Tasmanians demonstrating that they are very much a positive part of a vibrant community... Streets Alive gives young people a chance not just to show off their creative talent, but to be involved in discussing their concerns and even suggesting ways of dealing with them... For those who too often lament the direction of today's young people, an event like Streets Alive shows that they are very much focused on helping to shape their society in a positive way." (Dean Southwell - *The Advocate* newspaper)

"It's Rayne here, the youth week reporter from The Examiner. I would just like to say, thank you so much for everything you helped me out with during the week. And everything you let me be a part of. The whole week really helped me experience so much more than I thought it would. And I came away with a much better view on so many things. You did a great job with organizing everything. I hope to see you around and perhaps work on other

things together in the future, who knows." (Rayne Sweet - Riverside High School grade 10 Student)

"Just want to say we have had a great time with the bus. Created lots of fun and chaos. Love to have it again sometime... hope it is around next time Also can you pass on to Allan just how great he was yesterday. Anyone who can keep Cody and Mathew engaged in art appreciation for 40 mins has to be a star." (Jenny Willie - Art Teacher, Prospect HS)
<http://www.streetsalive.com.au/>

Supported through the Regional Arts Fund - an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional and remote Australia



Cinema Bus QVMAG and Fringe Lounge Streets Alive photos: Kim Schneiders

FLASH 15

KARLEE FOSTER, TRA

You've heard about speed dating, speed networking well here is a speed arts, speed youth engagement, youth consultation mechanism.

"You have 1 disposable camera you have 15 minutes to take 5 photos:

- something you are concerned about,*
- something that you want,*
- something that you identify with,*
- something that you need & the last photo is of you, ask the next person to take your photo or take a self portrait."*

Flash 15 is an interactive consultation with young people through out Tasmania, utilising a photo voice process, where young people were invited to express their issues by taking photographs with disposable cameras and suppling accompanying text. 76 young people, aged 7 to 28 submitted around 300 photographs and accompanying text. The photographs came from all areas of Tasmania, from Derby to Deloraine, Currie (on King Island) to Glenorchy (on Hobart's fringes), Bicheno to Spreyton.

The photographs have also evolved into multi media form with the help of Manic Productions and will be touring to schools and communities along with a hanging exhibition. This what they had to say:

ISSUE OF CONCERN	%
Land Use/Environment	37
Safety	18
Housing	11
Confidence/Self Esteem	9
Time Management	5
Cars/Petrol	5
War/Violence	3
Mass Marketing/Consumerism	3
Substance Abuse/Addictions	3
Poverty	3
Other (Services & Isolation)	3

"I'm concerned about no hay for the cattle. No rain means no grass, which means no hay and hungry stock" (St Mary's, female, 15yrs)

"I'm concerned about logging in Tasmania. It affects our waterways, wildlife and health" (Bridport, male, 14yrs)

"I'm concerned about Tasmania's medical services." (Latrobe, female 13yrs)

"I'm concerned about the alley way in King Street. It's dark and dangerous on Friday and Saturday nights". (Devonport, male 21yrs)

"I'm concerned about homelessness and no-where for young people to go." (Glenorchy, female 17yrs)

"I'm concerned about gun bullets and if they will kill me. I found this cartridge on the road near our farm." (Reedy Marsh, male, 7yrs)

"I'm concerned about obesity. A lot of kids are overweight here and I know a friend of a friend who had a minor heart-attack because of his weight." (Currie, male, 16yrs)



photo: Bohdi Aulich Croll

ISSUE OF WANT	%
Cars/License	21
Money	16
Recreation	8
Choice	7
Comfort/Security	7
World Peace	7
Relationships	5
Accommodation/Housing	5
Happiness	3
Material Goods	3
Time	3
Chocolate	3
Travel	3
Attention	3
Pets	3
Other	3

"I want my P's. I can't wait to be able to drive!" (Devonport, female, 15yrs)

"I want the king of all cars!" (St Mary's, female 16yrs)

"I want accommodation." (Moonah, male, 15yrs)

"I want a house." (Devonport, male, 15yrs)

"I want a cute guy, but not too cute." (Latrobe, female, 15yrs)

"I want variety and choice" (Bridport, male 14yrs)

"I want to travel. I want to see the world before it or I goes." (Derby, female 14yrs)

"Every Wednesday I lethargically walk to 60 different houses. At each house lives 60 different families. The old woman in this photo is one of them. Every week she tells me a story, a memory of her life. She tells me that you're never too old to do anything." (Bridport, female, 14yrs)



photo: Ashley Richelme

ISSUE OF IDENTITY	%
Environment/Place	32
Self Identity/Personality	19
Recreation/Technology	9
Family/People	7
Other	7
Music	6
Colours	6
Possessions	6
Workplace	4
Food	4

"I identify with the rock in this picture. We live on an island and are surrounded by water. I can identify with the isolation." (Bridport, male 14yrs)

"I identify with my family's butchery as I spend a lot of time there." (Latrobe, female 14rs)

"For over four years I have worked with Food-Rite, it's like a second home! Everyone is like a big family, we all work together to help one another. It's a warming environment." (Currie, male 16yrs)

"I identify with my mobile phone." (Bicheno, male 16yrs)

"I identify with filming because it's a way I can express what I'm feeling." (Moonah, male 16yrs)

"I identify with music. When I play the piano I feel relaxed and happy and I can be myself. This photo is of a piece of music from a piano book that I use quite often. My favourite type of music is classical." (Hadspen, female, 13yrs)

"I identify with a tree. The tree is growing and changing and so am I!" (Devonport, female, 15yrs)



photo: Katherine Bloom

ISSUE OF NEED	%
Family/Community	14
Car/Vehicle	14
Food/Water	14
Pets	10
Time/Peace/Quiet	10
Clothes	7
Home	7
Other (Art, Environment, Fitness/Wellbeing, Medical Services, Money, Sleep, Travel)	24

"I need transport because I can't drive." (Female, female, 15yrs)

"I need a computer." (St Mary's, male, 16yrs)

"I need to follow my dreams. I really want to be a lawyer to help people." (Latrobe, female, 14yrs)

"I need accommodation." (Moonah, male, 16yrs)

"I need more security, both physically and emotionally." (Deloraine, female, 16yrs)

"I need time. Time for me. Time to breath. Time for family, time for friends. Time for homework. Time to live my life to the fullest." (Derby, female, 14yrs)

"Something I need is a home. When I am at home, I feel secure and comfortable. I have a sense of belonging, family and I feel love. It is a place where I can be myself." (Hadspen, female, 14yrs)

"I need my mum. I love my mum and I couldn't live without her." (East Launceston, female, 13yrs)

"Something I need is art - because it is fun to do and I love it. Art is fun." (Deloraine, female, 12yrs)



photo: Jasmine Santamaria

FLASH 15 ARTISTS

Annie Miller	Bohdi Aulich-Croll
Fernando de Campo	Ebony Jackson
Kesheie Guring	Andrew Campbell
Brigitte Mitchell	Anthony Hales - Muir
Jesse Pettigrew	Alix Berne
Sophie Piscitelle	Jessica Leonard
Teena Gill	Kaare Payne
Corey Floyed	Saan Ketelaar-Jones
Michael Dawson	Alanna Sheehan
Tamara Mason	Joshua Brown
Tim Petrovich	Melissa Groom
Zach Darley-Collis	Taya Ketelaar-Jones
Ashley Richelme	Cindy Clarke
Wade Goss	Grace Richards
Erin Gleeson	Zona Black
Bianca Archer	Afton Kenneth
Bree Bromhall	Isaac Doust
Caitlin Burk	Kyle Forrest
Hayley Cashion	Liana Forrest
Gregory Brooks	Hannah van Galen
Kyle Stennings	Jasmine Santamaria
Laura Burgess	Carolyn Scott-Burgess
Leah Chettle	Luka Ulbrich
Sarah Munro	Sarah Harrington
Dane Leonard	Tully Ulbrich
Hayley Brown	Jessica Buchanan
Kristy-Ann Weeks	Stacey Claridge
Larrissa Munday	Critt Parker
Simone Stewart	Harley Tuleja
Dan Firgona	Caitlin Kilbride
Tara Harrington	

This project was initiated by TRA and funded through the FRRR and the Australia Council for the Arts.



photo: Ashley Richelme

YOUTH CASE STUDY

CIRCULAR HEAD RURAL HEALTH MURAL
Circular Head Arts, 2005

This 2005 community building project involved creating a mural adjacent to the Circular Head Rural Health Services. The project was initiated by local mural artist Fran Joyce and grew out of a 2004 youth arts mentorship project. The mural is located in a prominent site on the main street of Smithtown in North West Tasmania. The mural has been complemented by the installation of a native garden on the site. Fran worked with three young artists to develop the mural and coordinate the volunteer participants. Participants came from the High School, Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation, the local vacation care and the general community. The mural has become a focal point to visit on the main street and provided an unexpected catalyst and a forum for debate surrounding an upgrade of the central business district.

"everyone in the community has been totally positive and come up regularly to compliment and encourage our team." Fran Joyce

"Being part of the mural team was great for me because I love art and it was good to see how interested the community was and to get the community involved." Emma Parkinson

FUTURE ACTIVITIES & ONGOING BENEFIT

The dynamic of the team process has now given ownership of the project to the wider community, with young adults promising to look after the mural and to protect it against vandalism.

This was recently demonstrated when the rural health building suffered a graffiti attack but the mural remained untouched.

"Having the young mentorees Bridie, Emma and Nikki is a huge drawcard for attracting younger people to the mural. They have a lot of friends! Not only that, they work well with the school groups and make young people feel comfortable." Fran Joyce

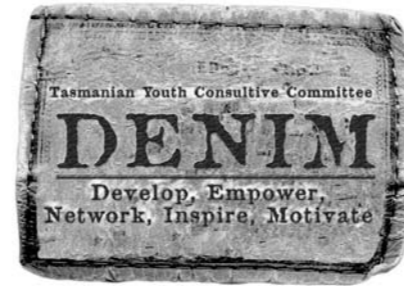
KEY PEOPLE

Fran Joyce (coordinator, mentor artist)
Nicki Lassam (mentored artist)
Bridie French (mentored artist)

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation
Smithton High School
Circular Head Rural Health

Supported through the Regional Arts Fund- an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional and remote Australia.



DEVELOP, EMPOWER, NETWORK, INSPIRE, MOTIVATE DENIM

Tasmanian Youth Consultative Committee (TYCC's) DENIM 2006 conference is fast approaching and will be held at Camp Clayton on 1-3 September 2006. If you're a young person and want to attend a weekend conference with sixty other young people like you - and build skills, networks and have a great weekend, then fill out the form, and keep visiting this site for more information about DENIM! TYCC is also really eager to ensure that DENIM 2006 is run by young people, for young people. So if you've got an experience or skills you'd like to share, please let us know! The first DENIM youth participation conference was held over two days in late August 2004. It was attended by 56 young people aged 15 - 25 who represented over 30 different organisations, with registrations from young people in 21 of Tassie's 29 local council areas. DENIM was developed from whoah to go by TYCC members. Workshop presenters from the government, non-government and private sector travelled from across the state to present 16 workshops, with each participant attending 4. Workshops covered everything from how the youth sector works, to community development,

to working with the media. Workshop areas were determined by a survey consultation TYCC did with young people in the planning stages.

Workshops for the 2006 conference are likely to include:

- Applying for Funding
- How the Youth Sector Works
- Group work and Facilitation
- "Get your Arts into Gear" - Using the Arts as an Activism Tool
- 'LoudSpeak' - Working with the Media & Public Presentation for Community Groups.

DENIM was also an opportunity for participants to skill share and to form strong networks. Conversations at DENIM inspired participants to start up great projects such as the 'Colour the Noise' from QVMAG Youth Advisory Committee (featured in Tactics Winter 04) and Manic Productions. Another project on the go for TYCC during 2006 is the creation of a DVD highlighting some of the fantastic events held as a part of National Youth Week 06. TYCC members received filming and interview training from well know Launceston film maker Kim Reynolds and were then let loose across the state with video camera's. Many events were covered and the tapes are now ready to be cut and polished. The DVD is due to launch at DENIM and will be available to Youth Groups, Councils, and schools later in the year.

The online Expression of Interest form for DENIM can be filled out by going to the 'Come to DENIM' menu at www.tycc.org.au. Alternatively, if you'd like to be involved in helping to plan and run DENIM, why not nominate yourself to be on TYCC!
CONTACT: tycc@tycc.org.au

ARTS + HEALTH

NETWORK UPDATE

ANGELA BARRINGTON, TRA

Over the past 4 years, the strong partnership between TRA and the Department of Health and Human Services has proven successful. The Think Outside the Box skills and network development program has reached out to many regional areas across Tasmania facilitating forums and community based workshops around issues of arts, health and wellbeing. These sessions have inspired the development of community based arts programs from Funky Feet in the Tamar to Public Seating in Meander. Today we have a strong and diverse Arts + Health Network comprised of many health, community and arts workers across the state. Following on from local and regional developments, a Statewide Steering committee has formed to assist in the promotion of Arts + Health at a state level. In our aim to achieve a sustainable outcome for this program, the Arts + Health Network applied for a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund to develop a Community Arts and Wellbeing project. The good news is that we have been successful in this submission and look forward to appointing a Statewide Community Arts and Wellbeing Coordinator. This role will assist in the progression of a sustainable arts, health and wellbeing sector in Tasmania and contribute to healthy connected communities. In the near future we will host a State wide Arts + Health Symposium to

strengthen the network and reflect on our achievements thus far. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jen Sharman (Network Development - TRA) for her dedication and expertise in this area. As Jen moves interstate we wish her the best and again thank her for her input into the development of Arts + health in Tasmania. To join the Arts + Health Network or the Statewide Steering Group CONTACT: TRA's Network Development Officer Angela Barrington angela@tasregionalarts.org.au or Jacquie Maginnis (Health Promotion Coordinator - South District) jacquie.maginnis@dhhs.tas.gov.au

ARTS 2U...TOURS

TERESA BECK-SWINDALE
CULTURAL / TOURING OFFICER,
TRA

Bashing a huge drumskin with a pair of hefty wooden mallets is guaranteed to help get rid of angst quickly. Combine that feeling of satisfaction with team effort, cooperative listening and a physical workout and you have the Taiko drumming experience.

I was privileged to participate in part of the workshop at Burnie football clubrooms with master Taiko instructor, Art Lee on 20th January. Just a morning's worth of drumming wore me out physically and mentally so I take my hat off to the folk who made it through the weekend. It was a great coup to have secured such a world master of his standing for workshops and performances; this was facilitated by a partnership between Burnie City Council and the University of Tasmania Taiko Society with assistance from the Regional Arts Fund through TRA. Thanks to Maria Perez-Pulido at Burnie Council for organising the event and maintaining the local Taiko group. They continue their program with the June 10th/11th sessions on drumming and drum making as well as regular weekly sessions.

Drumming is a feature of several other events in the coming winter months with a tour by Tetrafide Percussion 13-16th July and a huge community drumming event in the Devonport Jazz Festival during the last weekend of July. This Jazz weekend has become known for its focus on a particular instrument each year. It started with trumpet, progressed through saxophone, voice and clarinet and now its time for rhythm to take over.

DEVONPORT JAZZ WEEKEND

DRUMMING EXTRAVAGANZA WITH CARLOS FERREIRA

Master Classes with Carlos Ferreira
- Friday 28th July
BATERIA - D.E.C.C.
- Saturday July 29th 2006, 12 noon
Why let the professionals have all the fun ? Carlos Ferreira will lead a large scale workshop in group percussion or "baterias", with youth, and the wider community at the Devonport Entertainment & Convention Centre. Carlos is a leading Brazilian drummer, based in Melbourne. His "baterias" around the world have included 400 UK percussionists in Cornwall and 100 percussionists in Taupo, New Zealand. In terms of scale, Carlos likes things BIG!

THE DRUM SUMMIT

Devonport Entertainment & Convention Centre - Saturday July 29th 2006, 3.00 - 4.30pm
9 drummers + Devonport Jazz house band = infinite possibilities. The fifth instalment of the Summit series will be a percussive extravaganza. Demonstrations in latin, washboard and ensemble percussion will be a highlight. Featuring Allan Browne, Carlos Ferreira, Ben Vanderwal, Konrad Park, Allan Park, Cameron Scott, Bruce Innocent, Steve Hill & Andrew Dennis supported by Jamie Oehlers' Quartet.
Event Manager - Elsa Kat, Musical Director - Viktor Zappner

TETRAFIDE PERCUSSION

In July Tasmania plays host to Australia's hottest young percussion group. Their east-meets-west, power-packed concerts have left audiences worldwide awestruck. Tetrafide has performed in many different venues around the world in some of the world's largest festivals including The World Expo, The City of London Festival, Rhythmsticks Festival and the Perth International Arts Festival and for organisations such as Musica Viva and the ABC. 2004 also saw Tetrafide Percussion release their debut self-titled CD to critical acclaim.

"Tetrafide had the audience leaping to their feet to dance."
(*The Australian*, Victoria Laurie)
"As well as supplying a cornucopia of rhythm [Tetrafide] also tackles melodies... creating mood, texture and dynamics. In short, real music."
(*Rhythm Magazine*, Adam Jones)

Their 2006 show titled "Stick It" is a combination of musical styles from around the globe, brought together in a furious and frantic action-filled concert event. Music from Africa, Latin America and Australia combine with industrial junk choreography to provide an experience that is necessary for anyone with a pulse. As well as being an international hit, Tetrafide has toured extensively throughout regional Australia, with successful tours in WA, Queensland and the Northern Territory. Thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds have attended Tetrafide events and keep coming back for more. Children are particularly 'big' fans.

Stick It will appeal to all sorts, but particularly to those who are up for a fun, energetic and mind-blowing night of percussion madness. "No one goes home from a Tetrafide concert without feeling like they have been on the funnest and wildest musical ride of their life," says manager/performer and founder of the group, Neville Talbot. "We love what we do, and we want everyone to share in the fun!" The other three performers are Iain Robbie, Steven Richter and Louise Conroy.



July's tour of Stick It will include seven venues across Victoria (Portland, Nunawading) Tasmania and New South Wales (Taree) with the assistance of a grant from Playing Australia.

Deloraine Community Complex
Thursday July 13th , 8pm
Bridport Ex-Services & Community Club
Friday July 14th, 8pm
Wynyard Wharf Hotel Theatre
Saturday July 15th, 8pm
Zeehan Gaiety Theatre
Sunday July 16th, 7pm

SHIMMER AUSTRALIAN STRING QUARTET

ASQ and clarinetist Paul Dean celebrate Mozart's 250th birthday in style with the sublime Clarinet Quintet. Mozart wrote this quintet for basset clarinet and Paul's beautiful and mellow tone is a testimony to his original intentions. Mozart's 250th just couldn't be celebrated without playing this key chamber work. Shimmer also features acclaimed Australian composer Brett Dean's powerful Eclipse for String Quartet and works by Beethoven and Haydn. Eclipse was written in 2003 in response to the Tampa boat crisis and is a particularly evocative work with an atmospheric, watery soundworld. The ASQ look forward to playing such a powerful Australian work written this century alongside works of the old Viennese Masters - Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

Pontville, Epsom House
Friday 4th August, 8pm
Port Arthur Historic Site
Saturday 5th August, 8pm
Bruny Island, Adventure Bay Hall
Sunday 6th August, 2pm
St Helens Portland Memorial Hall
Monday 7th August, 8pm
Latrobe Memorial Hall
Wednesday 9th August, 8pm
Burnie Civic Theatre
Thursday 10th August, 8pm



ARTS 2U...TOURS

ANNUAL REPORT ROD QUANTOCK

As a pioneer of stand up comedy, Rod Quantock has more than thirty years experience working in cabaret, theatre, television and radio. For an old boy, Rod is still doing extremely well, thank you very much. Audiences can expect hilarious but true updates on the current news and views from around the nation and the globe, brought to you by one of the country's comedy forefathers. Rod's uniquely wise yet wonderfully ridiculous brand of stand up has his audiences in hysterics one moment and pondering the way of the world the next.

Nubeena Tavern
Wednesday 11th October
Bruny Island, Adventure Bay Hall
Thursday 12th October
Oatlands, Kentish Hotel
Friday 13th October
Triabunna Community Hall
Saturday 14th October
Deloraine Little Theatre
Sunday 15th October
Burnie Civic Theatre
Monday 16th October



IMMACULATE CONFECTION

The boy and girl next door have never faced such a challenge. It's the summer of love and the ice-cream is beginning to melt...In a desperate attempt to maintain their innocence, they must undertake a battle of Neverending Story proportions. It's the Wonderbra versus white bread values and the outcome will change everything. Almost. Australia's youngest up and coming music theatre writer and the country's brightest new leading lady bring to Tasmania a limited season of "immaculately infectious" entertainment direct from hit seasons in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

Devonport Centenary Court (DECC)
Wednesday 22nd November
Launceston Chalmers
Thursday 23rd November
Pontville Epsom House
Friday 24th November
Deloraine Gallery 9
Sunday 26th November



PROFILE

JEN SHARMAN

Community Legend

KIM SCHNEIDERS, INTERWEAVE ARTS

With her departure across the sea to the North Island we asked Jen Sharman to say a few words about her time as a community arts facilitator.

The most important thing I've done in my life is Arts Roar: bringing individuals with disabilities together creatively, focusing on their ability and addressing issues important to them.

Having worked as a support worker in the disability field, sexuality education and marginalised groups, I've seen the power of arts to build community - Arts Roar has fully reinforced this belief I believe art and disability in Tasmania is growing and developing and becoming better resourced for example, Arts Action. I've seen an increase in confidence in the Arts Roar group...there has been notable community acknowledgement and achievements. The ongoing success of the Big Wheel Challenge demonstrates this. The strong presence at Inveresk... in the heart of the arts community is important and the Access Arts Link studio reinforces this presence. Currently Arts Roar is in a healthy development ...so for me it is a good time to hand over ...bring in new energy and let it continue growing.

What are some of your biggest Memories - Being given a salary by Tas Regional Arts...feeling financially secure, supported and valued for my work...was a real plus. Thanks to Lucy for giving me this opportunity Meeting Emma Butler ...sense that she could be a spokesperson...seeing that impression develop ...now she has been Young Tasmanian of the Year, Southern Cross Young Achiever of the Year: Community Service Award. Given her a platform that she builds on eg Big Chair Challenge. Learnt a lot from the Arts Roar Group they are an amazing group...I've been humbled by their enthusiasm for life!!! They embrace opportunities with such a positive attitude.

Project Highlights - Arts Roar Unstuck Films (our second project): working with Rick Randel to make 4 incredible short films. A real team emerged from this project and was the foundation for Arts Roar. It demonstrated real integration, was lots of fun. Arts Roar was taken seriously by the community (e.g. University Arts Forums). Being situated in Launceston there is a sense that this is a community of real opportunity the doors opened easily and we have felt very supported, in a way that I don't think would have happened in larger cities. Arts Roar has been supported so strongly by the community particularly by: Tasmanian Reg Arts (being paid a wage was a real highlight), Interweave Arts Assoc QVMAG: especially Chris Tassell, Rachael French, Kaye Dowling, Arts Alive: Ralf Haertel, Northern Suburbs Community Centre. The Wonderful artists I've worked with especially Sandra Lancaster and Vicki West - Finally Thanks to everyone that has supported arts roar

and the community projects I have undertaken. (Jenni Sharman May 2006)

We then asked a few people to say a few words about Jen:

"In the years that I've known Jenni she has always been a caring sensitive person, and she has always tried to give me encouragement and support in everything I choose to do. Jenni can see the best in people and also see that they can go a long way." Emma Butler (Arts Roar president)

"Jen is an amazing beautiful special person whose energy and motivation have a positive impact on many people's lives and created social networks and opportunities. Her vision and practical implementation of including all people in arts making activities has led to increased access and a range of experiences available to many. I believe Jen's contribution to community arts has significantly enhanced the quality of many people's lives, directly and indirectly." (Sue Henderson Artist)

"Jen Sharman is a charismatic, caring, altruistic, creative individual who has lots of passion and energy for life and people. The Launceston community, Tas Regional Arts and Interweave Arts have been very fortunate to have Jen's focus and commitment these last few years as she has been instrumental in securing the Arts Roar community and the Arts Access Network as well as successfully coordinating many incredible projects that have linked communities and people together through arts processes. Thank you Jen we love you dearly." (Kim Schneiders Interweave Arts; Streets Alive Youth Arts Festival)

"Jen has one of those remarkable personalities that suits a community arts worker, her energy is infectious and she is passionate in her beliefs. It has been a privilege to work with Jen, her professionalism and adherence to process is finely balanced by a caring heart and creative mind. Jen has achieved fantastic outcomes for the arts in Tasmania and helped to put disability arts on the agenda. She has worked hard (in partnerships with DHHS) on establishing the arts & health network for Tas, this has been rewarded through the securing of two year funding for a dedicated position. It is with a sad heart that we say goodbye to Jen, but hey, you can't argue with love, although I did try." (Lucy Kenneth, Executive Director, Tasmanian Regional Arts)



Jen Sharman

HOT TOPIC

NOT ANOTHER LANTERN WALK!

LUCY KENNETH (TRA)

I am now nearly mid way into my third Tasmanian winter and it is now only beginning to dawn on me, that Tasmanians love a lantern in mid winter. I would not be the first person to say that Tassie folk are big on traditions and love a community celebration. The lighting of a lantern on the shortest day of the year is about as old as they come as far as traditional community celebrations go. While there may be some out there in the big art world who say "lantern making is so 'yesterday'" I have to argue that at least here in Tassie they look to be here to stay.

So why are lanterns so popular at Solstice? No doubt that special glow of little faces by lantern light is a big factor, lantern parades are about as warm and fuzzy as you can get in the arts. But I argue that this is not a bad thing, the lantern is an amazingly inclusive and sophisticated artform. BYO lantern is common practice at parades and there is ample opportunity for all community members to take part. Most parades include lanterns made through workshops in schools or arts centres. These are usually led by professional artists who have fine tuned their artform over many parades. They guide participants through 'decorate it yourself' individual lanterns as well directing community hands into creating spectacularly large luminous sculptures. In many communities around the world and in a number of regional Tasmanian towns the new age influenced lantern

parade has embedded community arts process into a traditional event construct.

Winter is a quiet time in Tassie; the tourists migrate to warmer climes and the streets of regional towns once again return to the locals. There is frost most mornings, snow on the mountains and ice on the roads at night. Travel is restricted and people tend to hibernate at home for the winter. While most folks seem happy there is an increasing body of international research to show that people living below 30 degrees latitude are susceptible to 'seasonal affective disorder' or the milder 'Winter Blues'.

"Throughout the centuries, poets have described a sense of sadness, loss and lethargy which can accompany the shortening days of fall and winter. Many cultures and religions have winter festivals associated with candles or fire." (Dr Carol Watkins: 2002)

Tasmania has some of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia with small local governments and a low socio economic base. In these communities costly fireworks displays in mid winter may not be an option, but a street parade with low cost materials and the involvement of many little hands is. The glow of lantern light and gathering of community is very appropriate in this cool climate. But where did this winter solstice celebration come from? Over history it has been widely celebrated with many of our Christmas traditions evolving

from winter solstice activities in the northern hemisphere.

Winter solstice is the shortest day and the longest night of the year, in the Northern hemisphere this is around December 21/22 in the Southern hemisphere around June 21/22 each year. Solstice is a Latin borrowing and means "sun stand still". Many cultures celebrate or celebrated a holiday near (within a few days) of the northern hemisphere winter solstice; examples of these include Yalda, Saturnalia, Christmas, Karachun, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Zamenhof Day.

Archeologists have attributed many ancient monuments to celebration of the winter solstice; dated at about 3,300 BCE Newgrange, in Brugh-na-Boyne, County Meath in Ireland is one such example. In Ancient Greece - the winter solstice ritual was called Lenaea, the Festival of the Wild Women. In very ancient times, a man representing the harvest god Dionysus was torn to pieces and eaten by a gang of women on this day. Later in the ritual, Dionysus would be reborn as a baby. The Romans called it Dies Natalis Invicti Solis, the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun. The Roman midwinter holiday, Saturnalia, was both a gigantic fair and a festival of the home. Riotous merry-making took place, and the halls of houses were decked with boughs of laurel and evergreen trees. Lamps were kept burning to ward off the spirits of darkness. It was called Alban Arthuan by the ancient Druids and the Germanic and Scandinavia

pagans celebrated 'Yule' from the Norse, Jul, meaning wheel. Great yule logs were burned, and people drank mead around the bonfires listening to minstrel-poets singing ancient legends. It was believed that the yule log had the magical effect of helping the sun to shine more brightly. Yuletide has also become a term for Christmas. In the Chinese calendar, the winter solstice is called doing zhi (winter's extreme). This celebration can be traced to the Chinese belief in yin and yang, which represent balance and harmony in life. It is believed that the yin qualities of darkness and cold are at their most powerful at this time, but it is also the turning point, giving way to the light and warmth of yang. For this reason, the Dong Zhi Festival is a time for optimism. Dong Zhi is celebrated in style. The longest night of the year is a time to put on brand new clothes, visit family with gifts and to laugh and drink deep into the long night.

The bringing together of lanterns and the winter solstice has been gaining in popularity in multi cultural western communities over the last ten to fifteen years. In Canada the annual December winter solstice lantern procession in Vancouver started as a three-month funded artist-in-residence project and is still going 12 years later. In our usual Aussieness we have made our own upside down version in June. From what I can gather the winter solstice is basically trusting in the wheel of the seasons to keep turning and that the sun will get warmer again and help the crops to grow. The historical celebrations also indicate that the winter solstice is about celebrating family and gathering your community close in the cold and dark.



Cygnest Solstice parade - photo: Nicki Den Exter

In 1994 the first Lismore Solstice Lantern Parade was held as a creative solution to anti social behaviour in the CBD of the regional Northern NSW town. The parade which started as a 'reclaim the streets' parade on the winter solstice is now a week long festival with an art and crafts fair, lantern making workshops, parade and performance after dark, 'artrageous after-party' and festival dinner. The parade grew from a few hundred people in 1994 to over 16,000 in 2005. The Lantern Parade themes are drawn from community sentiment and stories, creating a strong sense of place and ownership! The next festival begins on the 17 June 2006

In Tasmania you can celebrate the Winter Solstice through Tasmanian Regional Arts branches in St Marys, Cygnest and Lilydale. In Deloraine a large community arts project has been timed to coincide with the solstice.

TASMANIAN WINTER SOLSTICE EVENTS

Lilydale

"Other towns have taken up the idea of a 'Winter Solstice' some in a very big way, with fire dancers and huge bonfires, but we are content. Simple pleasures! The success of an event depends mainly on two criteria, organisation and participation. The Lantern Walk has been the most successful activity for us for the last 10 years, growing from about 30 walkers to about 180 a few years ago. We get everyone from babes in arms, strollers, teenagers, up to grandparents. Some with kids, some without. The main street looks like 'fairyland' and has in the past attracted a lot of attention. This year we are asking people in Station Road to decorate their fence posts as well. We were fortunate that the Fire Brigade and the Lions Club



ARTS ASSIST THE REGIONAL ARTS FUND

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative supporting the arts in regional and remote Australia and delivered in Tasmania in partnership with Tasmanian Regional Arts. *Creative and innovative regional, rural and remote communities in which participation in and access to cultural activities contributes to the sustainable cultural, social and economic capacity and wellbeing of individuals and communities.* (RAF Vision)

TASMANIAN GRANT CATEGORIES

NEAR - New & Emerging Arts Recipients - up to \$1,000*
 CARS - Community Activities Regional Support - up to \$2,000
 SOAR - Skills Opportunities for Artists Regionally - up to \$3,000
 ROADS - Regional Organisations Arts Development Scheme - up to \$10,000*
 LINKS - Longer-term Incentives Nurturing Knowledge and Sustainability - \$20,000/2yrs*
 Closing Dates: 18 August 2006 (for projects commencing 1 January 2007)
 & 16 March 2007 (for projects commencing 1 July 2007)* March round only
 Application forms are available on TRA website: www.tasregionalarts.org.au

were very co-operative when the 'risk factors' insurance came into being. They are terrific. They bring a tender for the fires, walk with the 'walkers' with fire extinguishers in case of accidents. The Lions do the fires for us. I think the attraction is that it's all FREE (we supply the drinks and marshmallows) its over in about 2 hours, and its something for the whole family" (Carol Charlton, Lilydale Regional Arts)

St Marys Winter Solstice

Saturday 17th June - Recreation Grounds, Harefield Rd - 4pm till late. Fires sculptures and fire dance, Balinese inspired mask dance, circus performance, shadow puppets, taiko drummers, lantern parade, gypsy dancers, funk dancing, line dancing, fireworks, hot food, warm fires, children's tent, Pete Cornelius and The Devilles, return bus from St Helens.

"My first experience of a lantern parade - I had facilitated the lantern making workshop and was playing music on the green to accompany the parade, I knew all the lanterns intimately but it was like a quantum leap when I saw them coming up over the green, it caught my breath it was so amazing I think that every kid who is in a lantern parade will remember it forever." (Eo Greensticks, Lantern Artist)

Cygnnet Community Arts Group

5th annual Solstice Lantern Parade and celebration on Sat 24th June and a dedicated crew of Arts Council volunteers have been busy working with all the classes at Cygnnet Primary School and Peregrine School. These workshops are focussed on the children making individual lanterns for use in the parade. In the lead up to the parade we are also holding two

community workshops for making large iconic lanterns as well as small individual lanterns. After our parade it's time for a bit of a Salsa Solstice celebration with 10-piece band Son del Sur keeping us on our toes for a night of dancing and feasting.

"The Cygnet Solstice lantern parade is in part about the community coming together to acknowledge and celebrate the shortest day of the year, bringing some light and warmth into the dark and cold of midwinter. But perhaps more importantly it's about the community being both a creator of and participant in their own artistic event. Whether at home or at community and school lantern making workshops, everyone can create a beautiful lantern and join the parade. And so the lantern parade is also about celebrating the diversity, creativity and vibrancy of our community". (Nicki Den Exter, President Cygnet Community Arts Group)

Call My Bluff - Art of the Wild June 22, 23, 24 and June 29, 30, & July 1. 7pm at Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre, Deloraine.

Call My Bluff is a project designed to express a community's relationship with its mountain, Quamby Bluff - an iconic landmark in the landscape of northern Tasmania, in the Meander Valley Municipality. Over a 12 month period, 35 artists have been preparing a piece of work in response to their own Quamby Bluff experience. The exhibition launch will be a major performing arts event involving many media: music, song, dance, poetry, spoken word, narrative, short story and oral history, illustrated by the visual arts (paintings, sculptures, ceramics, glass) through actual and projected film imagery. The exhibition will also invite and feature community members' work related to Quamby Bluff (poems, sketches, songs etc). The pieces will be completed by the Winter

Solstice and scoped in to a six night exhibition / event season that will be launched on June 22nd. The launch will be professionally filmed. This film, together with actual exhibits will form a community exhibition following the launch. This exhibition will be based in Meander Valley at a venue to be confirmed and will tour state wide and perhaps nationally.

"Call My Bluff brings together professional artists, non-professional artists, and community in an exploration which examines our relationship with "the land" - past, present and future. These pieces will form a community exhibition called CALL MY BLUFF- art of the wild, expressing the spiritual, historical and social importance of the monolith to Meander Valley communities." (Kim Clark - Arts Deloraine)

References:

www.ncpamd.com/seasonal.htm - Watkins, Dr Carol (2002) Seasonal Affective Disorder: Winter Depression
www.secretlantern.org
www.lismorelanternparade.com.au
www.en.wikipedia.org
www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Seasonal_Affective_Disorder

St Mary's Winter Solstice - photo: Rachel Harvey



NEAR - Entry level funding to an emerging Indigenous or regionally isolated artist or organisation. The aim of NEAR is to introduce arts activity as a tool for community development in isolated communities.
 > Tasmanian artist / worker or organisation
 > no previous Regional Arts Fund assistance
 > Indigenous or regionally isolated (outside Hobart, Launceston, Devonport & Burnie)
 > Project must include benefits (economic or social for local community)
 > Artist / organisation must link with at least one community organisation (eg. school / CWA)

CARS - Seed funding to facilitate partnership development between arts and other community organisations at the local level. The aim of CARS is to support the needs of organisations that are regionally disadvantaged.
 > Community Organisation
 > Project must include benefits (economic or social for local community)
 > Artist / organisation must link with at least one community organisation (eg. school / CWA)

SOAR - Funding to an artist or organisation for SKILLS DEVELOPMENT activities. The aim of SOAR is to increase arts skills, dialogue, employment & professionalism.
 > Tasmanian artist / worker or organisation
 > Demonstrated other funding or support
 > Employ professional artists/ workers

ROADS - Advanced level funding to an established arts organisation for a significant ARTS PARTNERSHIPS project. The aim of ROADS is to inspire community engagement, develops partnership dialogue and capability and promote the benefits of arts partnerships for non-arts groups, organisations or agencies.
 > Arts organisation
 > Record of high level arts practice
 > Demonstrated other funding or support
 > Evidence of building on previous activity
 > Employ professional artists/ workers
 > high quality outputs for specific art forms
 > Develop & expand participation / attendance
 > Previous recipients must demonstrate the need for consolidation of previous work. These organisations will only be funded for a maximum of three years

LINKS - Funding of two years to an established regional arts organisation with a history of outstanding arts practice. The aim of LINKS is to encourage sustainable development, organisational capacity, governance and improved longer-term planning .
 > Arts organisation not on recurrent funding
 > Outstanding and innovative arts practice
 > Functioning board / executive committee
 > Received (and acquitted) previous RAF \$
 > \$ for \$ funding from local govt / other sources
 > Evidence of building on previous activity
 > Time-line for project, plan for future
 > Employ professional Tas artists/ workers
 > Develop a 3 year Business Plan

PROJECTS FUNDED IN TASMANIA MARCH 2006

NEW & EMERGING ARTS RECIPIENTS

Arts Deloraine - Crossing Cultures with Textiles - \$1,000
 Guides Tasmania - Drum creating and performing workshops - \$1,000
 Huon LINC - Living Writers Week: Michael Schlitz Woodcut / Wood Engraving Workshop - \$1,000
 Queenstown - Portraits of Women - \$1,000

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES REGIONAL SUPPORT

Anglicare Tasmania Inc -
 HOME What's it to you - \$2,000
 Bruny Island Arts Adventure Inc -
 Bruny Island Christmas Pantomime - \$2,000
 Burnie Arts Council -
 Sand Sculpting Workshop - \$2,000
 Cygnet Writers' Group -
 Learning Links for Cygnet Writers - \$1,600
 Lucy Lewandowski -
 St Helens Foreshore Sculpture Mosaic - \$2,000
 Meander Valley Centre for Health and Wellbeing - Garden Creations - \$825
 Sages - Seniors Action Group Eastern Shore -
 Act your R Age - \$2,000
 Senior Momentum -
 Memories are made of this: a Tasmanian Quilt Exhibition - \$2,000
 Serpentine Studio Multicap -
 Art Smart Books - \$2,000
 Tas Regional Arts Kentish -
 Graffiti Art Workshop and Display - \$2,000
 Tasmanian Trout Expo Committee -
 Big Fish Arcade - \$2,000
 University of the Third Age -
 Music for the Huon - \$2,000

SKILLS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISTS REGIONALLY

Peter Battaglene - VERGE: National Ceramic Conference 2006 - \$2,100
 Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation for Womens Art and Craft - Kanaplila palawa Kanaplila - \$3,000
 Erin Collins - Maria: Island of Dreams - \$3,000
 Tasmanian Writers Centre Inc -
 Regional Mentorships for Emerging Tasmanian Writers - \$3,000

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Arts Action Tasmania Inc -
 Amalgamation - \$10,000
 Ten Days on the Island -
 Strung Out \$10,000
 King Island Youth Access Program -
 KI Youth Arts Project - \$10,000

LONGER-TERM INCENTIVES NURTURING KNOWLEDGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Arts Alive - Arts Alive Art-Space \$20,000

HOW TO WRITE A GOOD ACQUITTAL

FELICITY HARRIS, TRA

You've written your application, received the money, undertaken a fantastic project, what's next, another project, no not quite, before you begin the next project you need to finish off the last one by submitting a formal acquittal (project report). You've received funding, now you need to tell us how you spent that money, and show us that you spent it responsibly and the way you said you would in your application. This is called accountability and transparency and is very important.

We (TRA) also need to write an acquittal to our funding bodies, showing who we funded and whether they spent the money they were given appropriately. We also use this information, especially the stats about the number of participants and volunteers and target groups to try and improve community art access in Tasmania and to show how important it is. We also use acquittals to promote and highlight important community projects and use them as case studies of what can be done. (see Youth Arts Case Studies, pages 8 - 12).

To write a good acquittal here are a few tips:

- Keep a copy of your application form - this will remind you what it is you promised to do.
- Take quality photos - digital format with people in them, if they are good we will use them and promote you.
- Keep statistics - no. of artists, no. of participants, no. of audience (do this right away, you might forget by acquittal time).
- Good quotes - testimonials, these are fantastic in measuring the success of your project (short, sweet, name, role).

NETWORK NEWS

BRUNY ISLAND ARTS ADVENTURE

Bruny Island has had a busy start to the year. In January there was a Bronze Sculpture Workshop with Alaskan sculptor Wendy Croskrey. Currently here on a Professor exchange, together with Adrian Stabb, they had 12 busy apprentices making beautiful bronze sculptures, small enough to fit into the palm of your hand. Wendy also gave a slide show presentation of her own very beautiful and very big works. Around 100 people attended a Retrospective on the "1994 Circus Bruny"- an edited film on this time by Director Justus Neumann. With so many people in the community involved in the '94 event it was lovely to revisit and reflect on the project. In Feb, Tasmanian sculptor Peter Taylor held a lecture on 50 years of his work, involving an informal discussion beforehand. The lecture, 'Sculpture and the Sublime', was an inspiration to all who saw it and has spread seed for a follow up idea of the same concept- Sublime - with 4 artists working in the Visual Art, Music, Film and Literature arena. The 43 Degrees South Exhibition was held at the Adventure Bay Hall with great success for the 30 mixed media artists involved. Mayor Graham Bury donated \$500 towards canvas boards, upon which the Bruny Primary school children painted their ideas of 43 degrees south. Their contribution was displayed during the exhibition and was so well received there are plans for them to tour in the local community. Irish night with Collum Sands at the start of May featured an energetic night of all things Irish. 100 people enjoyed his music of everyday life and people,

as well as consuming much Irish stew and beer. Things here won't be slowing down too soon, as there is much more in the pipeline. Great to have lots to look forward to.

BURNIE ARTS COUNCIL

The Taiko group has been busy with regular workshops and performances, and are looking forward to their participation in the upcoming Burnie Shines 2006 Festival. Taiko is proving popular amongst the community with a request also coming from Hellyer College Health Day organisers. In March three of our members attended a Creative Volunteering Carry Out Business Planning Workshop with 13 members of the Burnie Youth Choir. We are also signing up for the Active After School Activity Program with Taiko starting in July. Our first Strings Outreach Program workshop was held on April 9th, sponsored by the Burnie City Council, with 25 people attending. It was a very successful day, with Peter Tanfield and Philip Nicholas being enthused and encouraged by the participation. Our next workshop on the 7th May will be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Burnie. The June program will include a quartet of Conservatorium students, both performing and teaching. The One Day Play workshop with Stuart Loone was held in Burnie with participants stating they gained much from the experience. The Festival of Voices approaches and the Burnie Youth Choir will be involved in a Smithton workshop with Mark O'Leary on July 9th. We are proud to announce that the Burnie Youth Choir have reached the semi finals in the ABC Choir of the Year competition held in Hobart recently. We

wait to hear the final selection later this year. The Choir also gave a performance at Campbell Town High School which was much appreciated. The Material Girl exhibition official opening attracted over 50 people at the UTAS Cradle Coast Art Space, with wonderful feedback from local community attendees. Cheers, Noelene.

CIRCULAR HEAD

Out and about in Circular Head. After a slow start to the year CHArts kicked off their activities with the Exotica Quilt exhibition going up at the local library. The quilts seem to get better each year and there were people still coming in to see them even as we were taking them down to send on to the next venue. Currently we are hosting the Divine Buildings photographic exhibition at Time Out on Emmett. This is a new venue for us on the main street of Smithton where many locals and tourists pop in for a coffee, chat and a bite to eat so it is getting good exposure. Our Secretary spent an hour or two spruiking on the TRA stall at Agfest on the Friday (a Public Holiday in Circular Head) with Karlee Foster who put in some long hours and did a great job. The folded Chatterboxes were a great hit! CHArts President Fran Joyce has finally seen the completion of the HUGE CCD project she has been working on. Fran is now enjoying some well deserved time off with her family. The official opening by Senator Richard Colbeck of the Mural and Garden project at the CH Rural Health Service was well attended and many thanks go to TRA President Lynne Price for taking the time to come along as well. Fran Joyce has also been involved in a small

sculpting project with a Living Skills Group at the same venue. On Saturday May 13th CHArts hosted the One Day Play Series workshop with Stuart Loone at the wonderful old Stanley Town Hall. Eleven people ranging in age from 10yrs to 51yrs worked with Stuart to create a short play. Beginning with the idea of 'I Dream of...' and having to include witches hats, torches and the words 'Good Morning Stanley'. Everyone worked well together and although the audience for the final performance was small the experience was really positive. More drama experiences please! Over the coming months CHArts will be involved in promoting several Free workshops for artists and craftspeople in Circular Head who are or would like to make a living from their work. These six workshops have been made possible through a grant from Women Tasmania and are being run by the CH Business Enterprise Centre. We are also looking forward to hosting Director Mark O'Leary who will be flying in to Circular Head to run a singing workshop on July 9th with our local Voice of Youth Singers and the Burnie Youth Choir prior to the upcoming Festival of Voices event. All 4 now. Kind Regards Georgina Laan (Secretary)

CYGNET COMMUNITY ARTS GROUP

As the dark of winter descends we Cygnetians are in the midst of getting ready for our 5th annual Solstice Lantern Parade and celebration on Sat 24th June. This year we have decided to take the lantern making workshops into the local schools and a dedicated crew of Arts Council volunteers have been busy working with all the classes at Cygnet Primary School and Peregrine School. These workshops are focussed on the children making individual lanterns for use in the parade. In the lead up to the parade we are also holding

two community workshops for making large iconic lanterns as well as small individual lanterns. After our parade it's time for a bit of a Salsa Solstice celebration with 10-piece band Son del Sur keeping us on our toes for a night of dancing and feasting. And if that wasn't enough to keep us busy, to while away the long winter nights Cinema Cygnet is also warming up for a winter program of 16mm classics. So there's no winter hibernation for us here in Cygnet Town - it's all action and activity to keep the blood circulating and the community vibrant.

DELORAINÉ

Arts Deloraine is enjoying another round of community engaging projects including the second year of Circus Supercillius/Meander Valley Youth Circus with new director/trainer Garry. We join with Deloraine Dramatic society and 35 artists of our region in celebrating the many aspects of Quamby Bluff- our local icon. Call My Bluff - art of the wild -a six night season of performance/exhibition June 22,23,24,&29,30 and July 1 7.30pm Little Theatre Deloraine. We have hired a helicopter to film our region and will bring the mountain to the theatre in film, song, dance, poetry, comedy, photography, and through paintings, and sculptures in metal, wood, paper, glass and fibres. Sarah Lloyd has produced a 40 page book on the flora and fauna of Quamby Bluff. Fiona Reilly has choreographed a 25 minute dancework for 6 dancers called Women of substance and whimsy. We have engaged film producer Mike Swinson to make a DVD doco on the project. Nancy Kowalski is curating the visual arts and Kim Clark is directing performing arts and artistic director. We're reclaiming the long winter nights with an all consuming flourish of rehearsal and preparations that snowballs people up as we are nearing the season's opening. A cast of 22 actor/dancer/singers and an

opportunity to unite the community in the appreciation of the Land and its Beauty. We are looking forward to various TRA tours including Tetrafide Percussion.

DERWENT VALLEY

Derwent Valley's fledgling theatre group, Valley Theatre have recently completed their first production, the piece Women of the Willow, was workshopped from an idea we hit upon to honour the past residents of the Willow Court building which now houses our RATS Centre. The women, largely of convict stock, were incarcerated in what was then a mental asylum, though some of them were not mentally ill. The script was written by Aldo Fabian, and based on characters developed from our research. We performed it on two freezing autumn nights in an outdoor venue at the barracks, Willow Court, New Norfolk, and it was a great success. Our Wednesday workshops continue at the Centre, with the last being a silk painting class and the next will be on felt making. On May 13th, we ran a very busy and successful Costume Making workshop for our budding Belly dancers, and everyone went home with the basis of a gorgeous outfit, ready for their first performance to be held at our Community House on June 8th. At our next meeting, we look forward to a talk from Lachlan leather artist Judy Stone, who recently returned from a Leatherworkers Conference in New Zealand, her participation was partly funded by a TRA RAF Quick Response Grant.

FAR SOUTH

Far South Regional Arts has had a HUGE couple of years, putting most of their resources and efforts into the push to save Recherche Bay. We feel vindicated that our initial efforts led to the bigger wider effort that eventually resulted in bringing on board a wider range of influential people, whose added contribution enabled the success in saving

such a unique area. This began with the Island Life Grant we were awarded to document using art to mediate a divisive issue within a community. It certainly was a dividing issue in our Far Southern communities, and indeed the state and world stage. We have documented the processes we went through to raise the profile of our fight using the arts as a vehicle. From Art in Conversation at Ten Days on the Island, through to On This Day in Recherche Bay in Feb 2005, using the visual arts, song, dance, written word and constant vigilance our fight to save a culturally historic landscape was successful. We are still waiting on the final edit of a DVD filmed by Joe Semesh and Troy Melville and are very excited about seeing the final product. It will truly be the documentary of a success story. All of us put a huge effort into this endeavour and to be honest we are all slightly burnt out.

We decided at the last meeting that rather than let the committee fade away, which it seemed it might due to lack of enthusiasm to start any new commitments, that we would have a skeleton crew and a quiet year. We are all individually working on our own mostly arts based practices, teaching and creating artworks. Including a recent exhibition at the Rosny Schoolhouse Gallery, 'Landscape and Layers: Textured Tales, an exploration of textures and surfaces in the landscape', featuring ceramics, paintings, collages, jewellery by Jane Thiele, Caroline Amos, Howard Whitehead and Reno Noble. Deb Wace is still working tirelessly with the Recherche Baybes and creating fabulous mosaics with Ogilvy High School. Wren Fraser is putting her creative efforts into her literary desires, and we wish her all the best for that first book/play?!!!!

GRASSY BOTTOM

This has truly been a jam packed 6 months! We were entertained by Circus Risqué in the January school holidays.

Our wonderfully painted marquee had been erected for the first time at the Fingal valley coal festival whilst two of our crew braved the original play station idea and brought creative play back to our kids in the form of clay play, sand play & charcoal drawing etc and cardboard box creations were enjoyed by many a child at the Back to Cornwall day. On April 1 we challenged the gale force winds and sporadic rain to hold an outdoor rock concert to raise funds for the Winter Solstice with locals Pete Cornelius and Convict Repercussion, Tassie band Nelly & the Fat band and from Melbourne BOMBA. The day was also blessed with the birth of little Mali, daughter of vice president Lila Meleisea. It was a cold, windy & wet day but the people came and a great time was had! And yes we managed to raise some money. Two weeks later we held a surf film night at the Falmouth community hall to raise some more, of course it does help when you have a treasurer who knows how to cook! The Winter Solstice planning has of course taken a large chunk of our years work with Bootscooters, a funk duo, Taiko drumming, more Lanterns than ever for a dusk parade, circus acts, a children's tent, gypsy dancers, the St Marys sesquentennial (150 years) calendar launch, Topeng Balinese inspired mask dance, fire dancing, a pack of flaming dogs (fire sculpture), fireworks and a band! The truly great thing about this event is the community involvement through workshops which are showcased in the program and of course our volunteers whom without their help we would not be able to have such an evening's entertainment & fun. Amongst all that planning we managed to squeeze in the beautifully rich and inspiring Exotica exhibition which was held by the newly opened Gone Rustic Quilt Gallery & Studio; everyone who visited this exhibition was impressed. Great work fellow bottoms!

GREATER GREEN PONDS

On Friday night the Branch hosted the 'Art Ability' exhibition in conjunction with the Bagdad Primary School. A wonderful array of colourful works including three beautiful silk banners. It looked and felt good. The School were thrilled that 60+ people came to enjoy the exhibition and to chat over hot mugs of tasty soup, finger food and refreshments. The exhibition was opened by Marianne Taylor from Arts Action. We learnt that in Tasmania 23.5% of the population identifies with having some disability but far fewer participate in arts or cultural activity. The Kempton Festival in February was a great success. The Branch assisted the Green Ponds Progress Association by taking on the job of planning the program of events and arranging for this to be published in an attractive program. The aim of promoting Kempton and the Southern Midlands happened. A full program with something for everyone. The Grand Parade led people to a hive of activity in the heart of the village. Snakes, sheep shearing, donkey rides, dog jumping, new and old cars and machinery, stalls and many other events, competitions and displays were the order of the day. Slipstream Circus was there. They were paid by the Festival, organised through TRA, and supported by a 'Kiki and Amelia' circus workshop paid for by a TRA RAF Quick Response Grant. The art connections were working. The key to the success lay with the decision to run the Festival as a business. Charge an entrance fee to create a working budget and from this pay for a strong program and the work required to support and manage the day. Contracts were made with local groups to take responsibility for managing aspects of the festival. Volunteers getting a return to their group for their effort. It worked well. The Branch hopes to work with the

Association to build on this process for the next Festival in February 2007. To help with this we will want to talk with the folks in Latrobe soon.

GREAT OYSTER BAY

Great Oyster Bay Branch has had a busy start to 2006. In February Cancelled by Popular Demand was performed in Swansea to a small but very enthusiastic audience. We even managed to kid the personable and innately funny Jeff Blake into returning to be the MC for Swansea's Common Games. It goes without saying his performance was impressive, comic and much appreciated. March saw 21 of our members board a bus and travel to Hobart to attend The Sydney Wharf Revue. Members had a good laugh and were impressed by the standard of acting. March also saw our oldest and still very active member, Vita Brown, awarded Life Membership at the TRA AGM. Vita has been involved with regional arts for nearly 50 years. CONGRATULATIONS VITA, we need more like you! During April The One Day Play Series -'The Australian Selection Tour'- came to Swansea. Brilliant was the feedback - both in execution of the plays and the genre selection. A few weeks later Stuart Loone directed a 1 day drama workshop in Swansea using the same concept. The participants were keen and were impressed by what they achieved in such a short time. Great Oyster Branch has another drama workshop coming up in early June - 'Think Outside the Box'. Kick-start will be running this workshop which was jointly initiated by our Branch and Regional Health and is funded by TRA. This workshop, along with drama activities will formulate how we progress a series of drama workshops called 'Drama Ties' that will occur later this year. The workshops will involve

youth to seniors and may lead to a production and/or an ongoing local drama group. Whilst being actively involved in the above activities a group of 15 or so people from the community have also found time to knit and sew together various items for the Knitting Room. Our group worked together to create a picket fence and a large garden wall that is about 2m x 4m. Some members of the group also knitted individual pieces. If you get a chance to see The Knitting Room exhibition do, you won't be sorry. Cheers Jenifer Crawford P.S. Thanks to the staff who put together the Touring Exhibition Kit - very useful and user friendly.

KENTISH

The Kentish branch has been very busy throughout the summer and autumn. Wow, now we know what we have got ourselves in for. As many know Sheffield hosts the National Mural Fest event each year and it was fantastic to have many of our members participating. Of course our autumn brought with it lots of wind and rain over the week but all managed to complete their master pieces. We were even able to put together a "group" mural with 12 artists from the Working Art Space coming together and having a go. It was a great opportunity and many believe they now have the confidence to fly solo or in pairs next year. We continue to work closely with the Local Council and the local Health Centre. Council have gratefully supplied us with a lovely Heritage building which we hope to be moving into in the next few months. From here we will develop our working studios and exhibition space, with a number of community projects coming up. Over winter we are holding a series of "Taste the Arts" workshops, run by local artists, for women to gain a friendly introduction to a variety of arts and crafts. Thanks to Women Tas. for the grant, Council for

the venue and Tandara Health Centre for their support. A big hello to all the other branches out there, we look forward to meeting up with you at some stage in the future. We can be contacted on workingartspace@yahoo.com.au. Cheers for now.

KING ISLAND

Sold out performances was again the case with our latest production "The Real Story of Puss in Boots" held over the March long weekend. Over 650 tickets were sold and the people of King Island and many tourists from the mainland were not disappointed by the very professional performance. A wonderful storyline combining the fairy tales of Cinderella and Puss in Boots. Our Annual Literary competition will be held again this year and will be administered by the Fellowship of Australian Writers with prizes totalling \$500 available to be won. We have also hosted an entertaining Dinner Concert night with the talented Sunwrae Ensemble and were lulled with the enchanting music of Rae Howell. We have been able to display the Exotica quilt display, which was very well attended by locals and tourists alike. The King Island Council has been very busy with Cultural Development projects over the Island. We now have a Cultural Centre combined with an Artists Residence located at our local Currie Harbour with artists able to display their artworks and also accommodation available for visiting artists. Our new Cultural Development Officer, again organised by the King Island Council is Sally Marsden who has recently moved to King Island. She has been able to organise a smaller version of The Knitting Room and that has been on display in the new Cultural Centre. We are looking forward to another busy year entertaining the people of King Island.

LIGHTHOUSE

Lighthouse Regional Arts were pleased to support local artist Judith Martin to paint a mural on the walls surrounding the ATM in Macquarie Street. Judith liaised with local Council, the building's owners and Star of the Sea College. Her ideas were wholeheartedly welcomed by all and, when the formalities were completed and the design chosen, Judith drew up the walls and door with a marine theme. With the assistance of three students from Star of the Sea College, the mundane and unattractive area was transformed into an underwater scene, complete with mermaid. Overall, costs were low and rewards were high, with students and other artists keen to participate in more public art. We are planning the set up of The Knitting Room, the first of our exhibitions in conjunction with TRA. Planning has commenced for a multi-venue art exhibition in November, coinciding with George Town on Show. A sculpture workshop is also planned for 2006.

LILYDALE

Lilydale TRA members welcome their new Committee members, who are learning the ways and wherefores of running a TRA Branch. The Committee are considering various workshops and getting the feeling for what will work in Lilydale in the future. Winter is of course one thing, the Annual Winter Solstice Lantern Walk and we are gearing up for a big one this year, which happens to be the 10th Anniversary of the Lilydale Lantern Walk. Ours is purely a 'walk' from the Court House, down the main footpath, up to the back gate of the school, through the school grounds and back to the Court House, where we have warm drinks and marshmallows. As it turned out, that first night, 10 years ago the weather wasn't the greatest and at

5.30 a decision had to be made whether to go ahead or not. The assembly point then was the swimming pool parking area, we decided that we would go down, have a look and see if anyone had turned up! We were amazed at the turn out and couldn't possibly cancel and that was the start of 10 years of the Lantern Walk. Over the years, the route has changed due to insurance requirements and safety procedures being reviewed. Some good friends came to our aid with the insurance requirements. The Lilydale Fire Brigade, agreed to provide 'duty of care' i.e. Brigade members accompanying the walkers, extinguishers available (for wayward candles), and a tender at the court room to extinguish the bonfires. We have some safety vests which are handed out to adults who walk on the road side of the footpath. Lilydale Lions Club set and supervised the bonfires which were now put in 44 gallon drums. LDS allowed us access through the Station Road gate and allowed thoroughfare through the school grounds and the ginger bread man gave way to Milo topped with marshmallows (a bit hit). The organizational side has met various challenges and adjusted, the participation is always the unknown factor. Ten years ago we were amazed that about 30 walkers turned out and we considered the event a success, the numbers kept on growing, hitting a peak a couple of years ago with close on 180 walkers. (That stretched the marshmallows!). We are looking forward to our 10th Anniversary Walk. A workshop will be held for lantern making on the Village Green on Saturday 17th June. Also on 5th August we will be hosting a Creative Volunteering Workshop at the Mt. Arthur Centre, Governance being the subject under discussion.

MERSEY

April saw the opening of the Material Girl exhibition at the Devonport Library for Mersey Branch. With such a great

location and good exposure and access to so many people it has been a great success. It is such an interesting exhibition that it's well worth taking the time to have a good look and read the artists statements. Coming up in Devonport a Shanty Night has been organized, to be held at the Maritime Museum. It's a Fancy Dress do...all things Nautical. The fun night will include a Shanty Band, who will teach the willing to dance Sailors jigs. Songs and poems are to be performed and a Sailors dinner served! Anyone interested in booking a table or making up a party give Bron Dickinson a call on 6424 3263. Also coming up is the Australian String Quartet, performing at the Latrobe Hall. Hope to see you all there.

OUT ON A LIMB

Out On a Limb was asked by the Port Arthur Historic Site Authority to help out with "meeting and greeting" the patrons who attended the concert at the Site performed by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra earlier in the year. We all enjoyed it tremendously and were glad to be of assistance. It's great when organisations can work together to bring entertainment such as this to our community. We had the quilt exhibition "Quilt the Blues" which was very well received and was enjoyed by all who saw it. We exhibited it at the local library so people from all walks of life could view it and, from the feedback, it was very successful. We will be receiving the exhibition "Divine Buildings" which will be exhibited in St David's Anglican Church in the Port Arthur Historic Site and I'm sure that will create a bit of interest. Apart from that, we are looking forward to a workshop with Tony Backhouse during the Festival of Voices and continue to encourage new members to join our group.

SOUTHERN BEACHES

At Southern Beaches the new mural for the Library is now ready to be erected. Painted by local artist Eileen Brooker, the mural is a historical picture of a day at the Sale Yards, with lots of animals and activity. The mural will be officially opened by the Mayor - dates to be advised. At the Surf Club at Park Beach the Mosaic on the Toilet Block is also nearing completion. Kathy Hall, Kerry Howlett and a bevy of other girls have been busy constructing the underwater scene featuring the Surf club mascot seahorse. It's been lots of fun and we've even had a little help from Nic. Exciting news for Sorrell is a new Arts Space that is under negotiation. The Sorrell Council is considering the renovation of the Old Railway Locomotive shed. Architect Helen Taylor, designer of the Queen Victoria Building renovation at Inveresk has submitted an innovative design to Council. This is a great opportunity for the Southern Beaches branch and we are looking forward to future decisions on the project. In August there is a Mask Making workshop with Tim Denton of the Terrapin Puppet Theatre. We hope that with this great workshop we can discover some trade secrets from the experts. Let Kathy know if you're interested in taking part.

HAPPENING WEB SITES

YOUTH ARTS

Streets Alive - This Festival brings the arts from schools and studios to the city streets and spaces of Launceston (www.streetsalive.com.au/)

Carclew Youth Arts Centre is a unique youth arts organisation (the largest in Australia) that provides young people with the resources and opportunities to develop as successful and innovative artists and arts workers. (www.carclew.com.au/carclew/)

Youth Arts Queensland (YAQ) is a membership organisation that celebrates, strengthens and responds to youth arts and cultural development in Queensland. (www.yaq.org.au/)

Propel Arts - Youth arts & culture in Western Australia (www.propelarts.org.au/)

Noise Festival - Media-based arts festival showcasing the creative work of young Australians. (www.noise.net/)

Yr 12 Perspectives - Western Australia - (www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/exhibitions/yr12art/)

Shopfront Theatre for Young People - (Sydney) (www.shopfronttheatre.com.au/)

Restless Dance Company - (www.restlessdance.org)

YouthArts.ie - An initiative of the National Youth Council of Ireland (www.youth.ie/arts/)

National Youth Arts Wales - (www.nyaw.co.uk/)

London Youth Arts Network - (www.youthartslondon.co.uk/)

Deviant Art - An online community of artists and those devoted to art. Digital art, skin art, themes, wallpaper art and heaps more. (www.deviantart.com/)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ccd.net This Australian Community Cultural Development site provides information about CCD, resources, links, on line forums and project outlines. (www.ccd.net/)

CANSA - The Community Arts Network (South Australia) promotes cultural development through community based art. (www.cansa.on.net/)

CDN - The Cultural Development Network is an independent non-profit group that links communities, artists and local government councils across Victoria. A useful resource for us here in Tassie as well. (www.culturaldevelopment.net)

VicHealth is the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, and is the peak body for health promotion in Victoria. Vichealth is a health promotion body which supports the use of arts in health and wellbeing projects. Several useful publications can be downloaded from their site. If you are running a community arts project, this site has a useful tool kit for evaluating community arts and community well being projects. (www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/)

Local Govt - Interested in developing partnerships with your local council? The Local Government Association of Tasmania site can point you in the right direction and outlines the priorities of Local Government which include Cultural Development. (www.lgat.tas.gov.au/)

Community Arts - Interested in an international view on community based arts, check out this site from California USA. They promote information exchange, research and critical dialogue within the field of community-based art. (www.communityarts.net/)

Culture & Recreation - An Australian Government site which has many links to Community based arts sites through the Culture and Recreation Portal. (www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/)

Artswork - develops and manages strategic research and development projects across the Arts Council England South East region and nationally, which are disseminated widely across the country. (www.artswork.org.uk/)

e-Mailout - UK based magazine featuring and celebrating all aspects of participatory and community arts, check out there Arts & Social Inclusion edition published in the June/July'04 (www.e-mailout.org/)

NNAH - UK Site for National Network for the Arts in Health - (www.nnah.org.uk/)

COMEDIA - UK site based on concept that cities can revitalize their public, social and economic life and how cultural activity might help this process. (www.comedia.org.uk/)