

artwork

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C O M M U N I T Y A R T S N E T W O R K S A I N C



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CAN is a non-profit, membership based organisation that promotes cultural development by supporting community arts.

- CAN**
- works towards a society in which cultural diversity, artistic expression and human dignity are valued and supported
 - promotes and supports excellent processes and practices in community arts
 - advocates for community cultural development and community arts
 - supports artists, artworkers and communities in work which supports these aims.

COMMUNITY ARTS

Arts practice and creative expression are at the heart of a community's vitality. People have always come together to sing, tell stories, enact rituals, to celebrate, to mourn and to mark significant events in their lives. Besides being able to see great art, people need to actively participate in these activities. This is what is meant by the term community arts, it might be a new name but it is not a new idea.

LOCAL CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

It is through the things we do together as groups and communities that we gain a sense of collective identity, a sense of place and a sense of belonging. When we value these things a positive concern for our social well being follows and we begin to take charge of our present and shape the future to meet our aspirations.

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CONTENTS

WATERWORKS

1 A complex and artistically ambitious undertaking linking communities throughout South Australia through their response to the state's scarcest resource is a unique community arts initiative. Cath Cantlon and Alex Reid examine the evolution of *waterworks*, South Australia's first state-wide regional arts project.

THE BIG ISSUE SOUTH WEST

7 A publishing concept that has given a voice, dignity and cold hard cash to many of Britain's homeless - and now to Australia's - is a style of activism that has much impressed Patricia Walton in Bristol.

MARDI GRAS

12 On the twenty-first anniversary of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Celia Moon takes time out from the party to examine exactly what this highly publicised and successful event has achieved artistically and politically and where it might be headed in the future.

CRIMINAL ARTISTRY: THE HUNTING IN PACKS PROJECT

17 Nick Hughes traces the development of a collaborative youth theatre project in Adelaide's southern suburbs that began as a novel approach to crime prevention but wound up contributing to a new found sense of purpose for the company involved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AT TCHARKULDA ROCK

23 In the last issue of Artwork Malcolm McKinnon wrote a critical review of the EPIC event devised and performed by communities in the Eyre Peninsula region in western South Australia. Here are some responses to the article.

water like art matters

water works

a state-wide initiative

CATH CANTLON & ALEX REID

A complex and artistically ambitious undertaking linking communities throughout South Australia through their response to the state's scarcest resource is a unique community arts initiative. Cath Cantlon and Alex Reid examines the evolution of *waterworks*, South Australia's first state-wide regional arts project.

Have you ever deliberately hung out a whole clothes line full of washing, silently watched it dry and then been too scared to bring it down again in case you scared the rain away? Or washed the car as the clouds thicken overhead in the hope that a bit of reverse psychology might encourage the heavens to open?

I have, because where I live, water, or to be more accurate, the exact amount of it, dictates how easily life ticks along. I know it often seems that those in the country are never satisfied and somehow keep changing the rules - too much, too little, wrong time, wrong place, however the truth of the matter is that our livelihoods depend on it.

In every conceivable corner of South Australia water does matter, and to quote Hannie Rayson at the Regional Arts Australia¹ conference of October 1998, 'art matters' too so it was a dynamic conjunction that the two would come together to form South Australia's first state-wide regional arts project.