

artwork

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COMMUNITY ARTS NETWORK SA INC



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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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* This article is an abridged version of a presentation delivered at the 1998 Regional Arts Australia national conference, 'Regional Arts - A Changing Landscape' Mount Gambier, South Australia, October 1998. Permission to reproduce this paper has been granted by the speakers cited and Regional Arts Australia.

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