

Issue Flyover – Disability Accessibility

In this Issue of CRAFT¹ we focus on the issue of ‘Disability Accessibility’ from the perspective of *practical hope*. We believe that in any forward looking society that seeks to offer all its citizens practical hope DA needs to be both a major policy and practical focus.

DA has a number of dimensions and in this issue we identify and explore six. These are individual, physical, psychological, social, linguistic and political. CRAFT has an ethos that locates us within the topic rather than say an academic ethos that locates the discussion ‘about’ the topic i.e. from a distance. In framing this Issue we asked ourselves the question: how come 30years after the International Year of the Disabled Person (IYDP), do we still find DA such a hot topic? It seems that in Australia in the interim much has been achieved yet much remains to be done indeed our achievements over this intergenerational period may well have served to reveal areas not yet considered for instance in the NDIS and areas where it has been considered yet not openly implemented.

Overall this issue has some thirty exhibits organised in several themes as outlined below.

Our Issue curator is **Meriel Sanger** who contributed a dozen exhibits. Meriel’s exhibits reveal a message of warm and caring practical hope even though as a differently abled person she has had to cope with much difficulty and even rejection when it comes to DA. Meriel’s exhibits cover a broad range from hotel accessibility, cruising, psychological aspects of DA and housing design. She is presently remodelling her home to increase its DA.

Another champion of DA included here is Maureen Davenport who helped DA for the vision impaired for decades in Brisbane Australia and how passed away last year. There are two *in memoriam* exhibits on her community work for the Vision Impaired in Queensland by **Jean Weaver** and **John Davenport**.

Then as we move to about the half-way point in this Issue we move to a more academic perspective with **Lesley Cheneoweth’s**, and **Jennie Harvie’s** work are introduced by my colleague **Jim Prentice**, while aspects of access and advocacy are explored in the final exhibit, by **Margaret McFarland**.

To round out the Issue with a range of related Exhibits from the arenas of disability arts (**Melvin Bragg**), systems approach (**Neil Davidson**), using learning circles for collaborative DA (**Paul Wildman**), ABI – acquired brain injury (**Ken Aitken**), overall wellness (**Les Spencer**), what then is normal? (**Hannah Ireland**), children whose parents have disabilities (**Judy Singer**), a great interview with **Prue Hawkins** about not being disabled enough, the word of men’s sheds (**Mark Ward**) and thanks to **Clea Prentice** for her contribution for our Disability Arts exhibit.. This shows the breadth of the DA issue as revealed in the ‘word’ of the issue by Meriel i.e. *Access For All - whether you are a person with disability, an older frail person or you are a parent with a young family, ACCESS is so important for physical and psychological well-being. Good ACCESS shows a proactive, inclusive, caring community which helps make a citizen feel safe enough to want to contribute to their and others welfare.*

In overview we reinforce our Word Of This Issue: *Access For All - whether you are a person with disability, an older frail person or you are a parent with a young family, access is so important for physical and psychological well-being. Good access shows a proactive, inclusive, caring community which helps make a citizen feel safe enough to want to contribute to their and others welfare.*

So it is our hope that this Issue¹ demonstrates that there is a re-empowering, a re-skilling, (please see: Featured Links section RHS column) an new political aware ness for self-help action we need as citizens that we need to do as citizens about DA without having to rely exclusively on Government to do it for us.

May we encourage you to read/surf/fly through our exhibits and send the ones you like onto your friends and also could you please send this flyover/flyer out on your distribution lists and to email colleagues. <http://www.crafters-connect.com/?p=155> for Issue 6 and for previous issues www.crafters-circle.com.

Meriel Stanger, Paul Wildman and Jim Prentice 01-10-2014

¹ CRAFT is a Not For Profit public domain publication provided free of charge all contributions are provided voluntarily in order to seek to ameliorate the Issues them in some concrete way towards Open Access For All (the Term of this Issue), in line with demonstrating today that our world can be a better place for our children’s children in line with the ideal of ‘practical hope’ embedded in the full meaning of CRAFT. All attributions where known are given if this does not occur please let the senior curators know and we will address immediately.