



A life drawing class keeps students engrossed at the Community Arts Project Winter School

# Artistic greenhouse

By MAUREEN BARNES

WHAT DO a five-year-old karate 'king' and a 75-year-old learner weaver have in common?

At first glance the answer would seem to be nothing at all. However, there is a link — the Community Arts Project Centre.

Following the success of the Centre's first Winter School, they have had to turn away applicants this year because it was so popular and they just didn't have the space to cope.

The Winter Schools form just part of the Centre's year-round activities.

Based in Mowbray, it has become a greenhouse to raise budding artists in Cape Town.

The dilapidated building which houses the Centre has been made bright and cheerful with colourful murals painted by various pupils and each day in the holidays 60 teenagers — mostly from 15 to 19 years old — have gathered there to attend classes in drama, art and creative writing.

Director, Derek Joubert, is enthusiastic about the

project which is an extension of the normal activities of the Centre, which runs evening and weekend classes in subjects ranging from photography, sculpture and painting to Xhosa and karate.

Space is a limiting factor — the present building is old and the Centre is threatened with closure due to fire regulations. There is a possibility that the Project will be able to open a permanent and much-needed community centre in the near future if present negotiations to lease an unoccupied school in Observatory are successful. This proposal is receiving the sympathetic consideration of the City Council, says Mr Joubert.

Regular members who attend classes at the non-racial Centre range from a 5 year old who takes Karate to a gentleman of 75 who attends a weaving class. A larger venue would enable Mr Joubert and his staff to provide daytime amenities for pensioners, as well as additional facilities such as a pottery workshop.

This is the second year a Winter School has been organised. Last year the pre-teens were catered for, but this year, in view of the school boycotts, it was decided to provide tuition mainly for older children.