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**Title:**  
Message for Kalori - Royal S.A. Society of Arts

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Article for the December issue of 'Kalori' by the Premier of South Australia, Don Dunstan. 10.12.74.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to contribute to this December issue of Kalori.

Your editor asked me to provide a piece that would be somewhat controversial! I hope what follows will fit the bill.

As the Minister overseeing the Arts Development Branch of the Government, and as Minister in charge of the Art Gallery, I am naturally keen to develop a proper understanding and contact with the various voluntary bodies promoting the arts in this State.

The Royal South Australian Society of Arts is one of the most well-known of these.

It has over many years established itself as a strong body of artists and associates very capable in the promotion of what, I suppose, should be called simply the conservative visual arts.

In this, it has had the singular fortune to be able to use at no cost one of the finest small galleries in the State.

This form of hidden subsidy of the Society has for many years gone unnoticed by the State Government, but is now the subject of policy research and consideration by the Arts Development Branch of my Department.

This is because of the general argument that in the State's provision of both indoor and outdoor gallery and exhibition areas, the widest possible RANGE OF public uses should be encouraged consistent with proper artistic and creative standards.

I have observed with interest over the past few months the dialogue that has been underway within the Society concerning its future role in the State.

Certainly it seems to me that the impact the Society once made in the development and promotion of the visual arts in Adelaide has diminished over the past twenty years.

It does not appear to have been able to continue to excite and stimulate as before, and it has often appeared to close ranks against aspects of the modern movement that have been with us for almost as long as the life of the Society.

Perhaps in all this, the most healthy aspect of the Society's activities today is its current self-examination of its future role.

Such self-examination is a salutary exercise for all bodies concerned with the arts, and I believe it will result in the Society being able properly to identify its role in 1975 and the years to come.