**THE 13th WBUAP ONKYO WORLD BRAILLE ESSAY CONTEST – 2015**

This contest is for people who are blind or vision impaired living in the Asia Pacific region. The Project is sponsored by the Onkyo Corporation Ltd. and The Braille Mainichi Newspaper in Japan, in collaboration with the World Blind Union-Asia Pacific WBUAP.

The **Onkyo World Braille Essay Contest** is a worldwide initiative planned and sponsored by Onkyo Corporation Ltd. and the Braille Mainichi in Japan, and is implemented by the World Blind Union-Asia Pacific (WBUAP). It is administered locally by the Australian National Onkyo Selection Committee for the World Braille Essay Contest. The Committee comprises representatives from Blind Citizens Australia, the Australian Braille Authority, the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities, and Vision Australia.

The purpose of the contest is to promote Braille literacy and encourage the reading and writing of Braille; and to encourage cultural and social interaction among blind and vision impaired persons through their writings. To that end, the top 5 entries will be made available in the Vision Australia Information Library service (dependent on individual agreement) for members of the community and will be sent to the WBUAP Onkyo Selection Committee for final consideration.

This is an annual project with cash prizes awarded to the best five entries received from within the WBU Asia Pacific Region. The main prize, “the Otsuki Prize” is $US 1000. Other prizes are for “Excellent Works” ($US 500) and “Fine Works” (either $US 300 or $US 200) depending on the age group. Participation in the contest is open to people from 14 years of age, living in the World Blind Union-Asia Pacific Region. Entries are divided into two age groups: persons between the ages of 14 and 25 years; and persons from the age of 26 years upwards.

Essay topics:

* Changing What It Means to be Blind with Braille and Mobility Aids.
* How Braille and Audio Devices are Helping Me to Lead a Normal Life.
* The Challenges and Solutions for a Blind Person Aspiring to be a Musician.

Closing date is 15 May 2015. Winners will be notified in November 2015.

Essays must be between 700 and 1,000 words and presented in hard copy Braille or in computerized Braille provided you can provide proof of your Braille literacy. This can be in the form of a letter from your Braille instructor, teacher or other professional who can vouch for your skills.

Read about last years winners: <http://www.euroblind.org/projects-and-activities/activities/nr/210>

When submitting your essay to BCA, you must also provide:

An electronic photo of yourself, a cover letter stating your full name, address, and contact details, your date of birth, your status ie. Student, home maker, worker. If a student state what school you are from including the name, address and email contact for your school.

Please submit entries to BCA at:

Ross House  
Level 3, 247-251 Flinders Lane   
Melbourne VIC 3000

Remember the closing date! Your entry, along with the required accompanying documentation, must reach the BCA office by close of business on 15 May, 2015.