



Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc.

2021 Conference Booklet

Information Access – Innovation and Collaboration

Information access is important to all persons with print disabilities. Information access has many dimensions, including facilities (libraries, agencies, educational institutions, government bodies), modes of access (digital, interactive, electronic, online, mobile, wearable), and format (audio, braille, large print, eBook, etc.). In this dynamic context, the 2021 Conference will explore the ever-expanding opportunities presented to people with print disabilities for information access and creation, for communication and learning.

Dates:

Saturday, 15 May 2021 – ABA General Meeting

Monday, 17 May and Tuesday 18 May 2021 – Conference Proper

Wednesday, 19 May 2021 – Tutorial, Workshops and Round Table AGM

Virtual Event:

Please note: The conference program may be subject to change without notice.

Program Date: 14 May 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the 39th Round Table Conference “Information Access – innovation and collaboration”. Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities was established in 1981. Its aim is to facilitate and influence the production and use of quality accessible formats for and by people with print disabilities.

This will be Round Table’s first virtual conference since its establishment in 1981. We are privileged to have a wide range of topics in this year’s programme, which will be explored through a mix of presentations and keynote speakers.

Thanks

There are several people and organisations that have contributed to make this conference a success and it would be irresponsible of me not to mention them. I would like to thank:

- Marjorie Hawkings for the endless hours, thoughtfulness, enthusiasm and patience in making this conference possible.
- Phia Damsma and her team for the wonderful and time consuming work on the conference program
- Trudy Smith and her team at RIDBC Renwick Centre who have extensive experience managing online events.
- David Vosnacos for being our master of ceremonies.
- Blind Low Vision NZ, VisAbility and Vision Australia for producing the conference materials in various accessible formats.
- Member organisations who have contributed staff time and materials for the conference.
- The Round Table Executive Committee for their time and involvement.
- To all the presenters, delegates and sponsors without whom the conference would not be possible.
- Lastly but not least the organisations that have supported the 2021 conference - Next Sense and Vision Australia our platinum supporters, Quantum Reading Learning Vision and VisAbility our gold supporters, Pentronics and Humanware our silver supporters; Braille House and Monash University our bronze supporters.

Dinesh Burah

Conference Co-ordinator

April 2021

Conference Supporters

Platinum

NextSense



NextSense is a not-for-profit and registered NDIS provider that provides dedicated, innovative, and customised services aimed at breaking down barriers for children, adults and families of people with hearing or vision loss.

With the support of generous donations, NextSense provides vital support for children and adults, more cochlear implants than any other service in Australia, and is a world leader for research, technology and professional education in our field.

Visit: [NextSense: www.nextsense.org.au](http://www.nextsense.org.au)

Vision Australia



Vision Australia is a leading national provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia. They work in partnership with Australians who are blind or have low vision to help them achieve the possibilities they choose in life.

Vision Australia create equal opportunity so people who are blind or have low vision can get an education, get a job and be as independent as they choose. We do this through 35 Vision Australia centres in Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia; and through outreach programs in the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

They are a not-for-profit organisation and a major participant and partner in the international blindness community.

Visit: [Vision Australia: www.visionaustralia.org](http://www.visionaustralia.org)

Gold

Quantum Reading Learning Vision



Quantum has had a long association with Round Table, energized in particular by the passion and dedication of our founding Director Tim Connell. Our Mountbatten Brailier and our PIAF tactile image maker have become universal pieces of learning technology in - not just - our Australian classrooms, but around the world. We continue that passion for braille, literacy, curriculum engagement and better student outcomes; not just with great products, but also with the knowledge embedded in our experienced team. Whether it is working alongside specialist VI teachers, or mainstream teacher aides, with alternative format production centres, with families at home, or state Education departments, Quantum has always been focussed on improving outcomes and opportunities for blind and vision impaired people - first at school, and then in satisfying employment.

Quantum is investing considerable resources in blindness technology and research. A key area of interest is STEM, a particularly difficult curriculum; but a challenge that we are embracing – not just with new devices, but also with international research and collaboration. We want to build on and greatly extend the strong foundations laid by Tim Connell, Mike Ridley, and Trevor Boyd. As Gold Members, we want to demonstrate our commitment to Round Table, and to a future of equitable access in all areas of life.

Visit: [Quantum: www.quantumrlv.com.au](http://www.quantumrlv.com.au)

VisAbility

VisAbility

Every support at **any** stage.

For over 100 years, **VisAbility** has been providing practical, emotional and peer support services to people with low or no vision. Our professional therapy and support services are available to you at any stage of life, in homes, at school, at work and in the community. We tailor our support into personalised solutions that will nurture your skills and confidence so you can live your life to the full.

VisAbility's Accessible Information Services provide individuals and workplaces with access to information, facilities and services. This can range from providing students with vision impairment their study resources in an accessible format, to assisting workplaces in creating accessible websites or ensuring physical spaces are compliant and accessible.

Visit: [VisAbility: www.visability.com.au](http://www.visability.com.au)

Silver

Pentronics



Pentronics is the sole importer and Master Distributor of Index Braille products for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. With 40 years experience in braille production, Pentronics can assist with all your braille requirements.

Pentronics also provides service for a wide variety of adaptive technology devices from braille note-takers and displays to Perkins braille readers.

Visit: [Pentronics: http://www.pentronics.com.au](http://www.pentronics.com.au)

Phone: 02 4735 7355

Humanware



For over 30 years, HumanWare's inspirational vision has resulted in a range of highly intuitive and intelligent solutions that empower people who are blind or with low vision by giving them the independence to participate effectively within a sighted world.

HumanWare is the global leader in assistive technology for people who are blind or have low vision. HumanWare offers a wide range of innovative products, including the BrailleNote Touch, first Google certified braille tablet, the iOS compatible BrailleNote braille displays, Victor Reader®, the world's leading family of digital audiobook players, the unique Prodigy® family of desktop and portable vision and reading systems, and the ultra-portable explore line of electronic handheld magnifier.

Visit: [Humanware: https://www.humanware.com/en-australia/home](https://www.humanware.com/en-australia/home)

Bronze

Braille House



Braille House specialises in tactual literacy. Services include:

- braille and tactile graphics transcription for individuals (including books, NDIS plans, certificates, gift cards, maps and household item identifiers) and businesses (including business cards, restaurant menus, brochures, election materials)
- free lending library of braille books and braille and moon magazines
- tutoring in braille to newly blind adults locally in Brisbane or remotely
- “Braille for Print Users”; a 10 week course run twice a year at Braille House

Braille House relies on the assistance and expertise of its many valued volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome. Induction training is provided, after which time work may be conducted either on or off site.

Visit: Braille house: www.braillehouse.org.au

Location: 507 Ipswich road, Annerley, Qld 4103

Contact: Kay Kieu

Email: admin@qbwa.org.au

Phone: (07) 3848 5257

Monash University, Inclusive Technologies Group



Support

The support of the following organisations is gratefully acknowledged by Round Table. These organisations assisted in the production of accessible format conference materials.

- Blind Low Vision NZ
- VisAbility
- Vision Australia



Australian Government

Australian Government's Department of Social Services

Round Table proudly acknowledges the support of the Australian Government's Department of Social Services. The grant received from the department has enabled consumer participation at the conference.

Saturday, 15 May 2021

9:30am Registration opens

10:00am – 2:00pm: Australian Braille Authority (ABA) Annual Meeting

Chair: Jordie Howell

The agenda for the day will be circulated prior to the meeting. Further details will be made available through the OZBRL listserv.

12:00pm – 12:30pm Break.

12:30pm – 2:00pm ABA Meeting continues.

2:00pm ABA Meeting Finishes.

Monday, 17 May 2021

8:30am: Online Registration opens.

9:15am – 11:00am: Plenary Session 1

Chair: Sonali Marathe

9:15am – 9:30am:

Welcome and Commencement.

9:30am – 10:00am:

President's Introduction:

Sonali Marathe, President

Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc.

10:00am – 10:30am:

1a. Toyota Mobility for All.

Keynote Presenter:

Alex Lockie, Senior Intelligent Transport Systems Specialist, Advanced Planning - Toyota Motor Corporation Australia.

10:30am – 11:00am:

1b. Inclusive publishing in Australia: insights from the trenches.

Feature Presenter:

Dr Agata Mrva-Montoya, University of Sydney.

11:00am – 11:30am: Morning Tea break

11:30am – 1:00pm: Concurrent Sessions 2 & 3

Session 2 Chair: Jordie Howell	Session 3 Chair: Brian Conway
<p>11:30am – 12:00pm:</p> <p>2a. UEB Online: Did someone say “help”?</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Frances Gentle, President, ICEVI; Josie Howse, Adjunct Research Fellow for the RIDBC Renwick Centre and Craig Cashmore, Development Director, PeppaCode.</p>	<p>11:30am – 12:00pm:</p> <p>3a. No Accessibility, no buy.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Greg Alchin, Director, All Equal and Manisha Amin, CEO, Centre for Inclusive Design.</p>
<p>12:00pm – 12:30pm:</p> <p>2b. Virtual Music School: access for all through an online approach to braille music.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Dr Wendy Richards, Braille Music Specialist, BLENNZ.</p>	<p>12:00pm – 12:30pm:</p> <p>3b. Impact of Smart Speakers and Voice Assistants - Case study of Blind Low Vision NZ Alexa Library Skill.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Jarek Beksa, CEO, Sonnar Interactive Media Design School (Lecturer) and Thomas Bryan, National Technology Advisor, Blind Low Vision NZ.</p>
<p>12:30pm – 1:00pm:</p> <p>2c. I Can Do Braille.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Christine Casey, Head of Department, Braille Advisory Service, Statewide Vision Impairment Services.</p>	<p>12:30pm – 1:00pm:</p> <p>3c. The Vision Australia Online Library, re-imagined.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Sarah Bloedorn, Library Manager and Andrew Furlong, Library Technology Support Manager Vision Australia.</p>

1:00pm – 1:30pm: Plenary Session 4

Chair: Phia Damsma

4. Climate change: Human rights and empowerment of persons with print disabilities.

Presenter:

Dr Frances Gentle, President, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment.

1:30pm – 2:00pm: Afternoon Break

2:00pm – 3:30pm: Concurrent Sessions 5 & 6

Session 5 Chair: Maria Stevens	Session 6 Chair: Dinesh Burah
<p>2:00pm – 2:30pm:</p> <p>5a. 3D printing for accessible graphics: A Progress Report.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Professor Kim Marriott, Monash University.</p>	<p>2:00pm – 2:30pm:</p> <p>6a. How COVID-19 is Impacting Education in the U.S. and Canada: The Challenges, Successes and Unanswered Questions.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Dr L. Penny Rosenblum, AFB Director of Research.</p>
<p>2:30pm – 3:00pm:</p> <p>5b. Resources developed after researching Braille fluency rates around Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Tricia d'Apice, Lead Consultant: Vision Impairment, NextSense, Connected Services.</p>	<p>2:30pm – 3:00pm:</p> <p>6b. Digital Accessibility and Learning Opportunities.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Andrew Arch, Principal Consultant, Digital Accessibility with Intopia.</p>

Session 5 Chair: Maria Stevens	Session 6 Chair: Dinesh Burah
<p>3:00pm – 3:30pm:</p> <p>5c. Canute 360: A nine line revolution in refreshable Braille.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Ed Rogers, Managing Director, Bristol Braille Technology CIC.</p>	<p>3:00pm – 3:30pm:</p> <p>6c. The Place for Easy English for full information access.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Leone Carroll, Braille Production Officer, VisAbility.</p>

3:30pm – 4:00pm: Plenary Session 7

Chair: Brian Conway

7. Round Table's 40th Year Anniversary.

Panel:

John Berryman, Jan Smark Nilsson, Jennie Berryman (née Pitt), Bill Jolley and Mary Schnackenberg.

4:00pm: Close of Day One.

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

9:00am: Online Registration opens

9:15am – 11:00am: Plenary Session 8

Chair: Phia Damsma

9:15am – 9:30am:

Welcome and Commencement.

9:30am – 10:00am:

8a. Inclusive Technology Design to Support Students with Print Disabilities.

Keynote Presenter:

Troy Waller, Learning Delivery Specialist, Accessibility Lead, Microsoft in Education.

10:00am – 10:30am:

8b. A snapshot on where we are with audio description and what are the next steps.

Feature Presenter:

Emma Bennison, Chief Executive Officer, Blind Citizens Australia.

10:30am – 11:00am:

8c. Access to plots, charts, and graphics using sonification.

Feature Presenters:

Jeff Cooke and Dr Garry Foran, Swinburne University of Technology.

11:00am – 11:25am: Morning Tea break

11:30am – 12:00pm: Conference Supporter Session 9

9. Conference Supporter Session

- Next Sense
- Vision Australia
- Quantum Reading Learning Vision
- VisAbility
- Pentronics
- Humanware

12:00pm – 1:30pm: Concurrent Sessions 10 & 11

Session 10 Chair: Sondra Wibberley	Session 11 Chair: Frances Gentle
<p>12:00pm – 12:30pm:</p> <p>10a. BindiMaps - Wayfinding for everyone, everywhere.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Dr Anna Wright, CEO, BindiMaps.</p>	<p>12:00pm – 12:30pm:</p> <p>11a. The results of research in sonification, interfacing, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and astronomy.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Yuma Decaux, Recipient of the 2019 Holman Prize for Blind Ambition, Co-Founder of OSeyeris.</p>
<p>12:30pm – 1:00pm:</p> <p>10b. Access To Education: A consumer perspective.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Jane Britt, Acting General Manager Projects and Engagement, Blind Citizens Australia.</p>	<p>12:30pm – 1:00pm:</p> <p>11b. Action Audio: Accessible Sports Broadcasting.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Dr Chatai Goncu, Action Audio, Monash University.</p>
<p>1:00pm – 1:30pm:</p> <p>10c. Accessible Communications During a Pandemic.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Jamie Lowe, General Manager of Communications, Media and Marketing, National Disability Insurance Agency.</p>	<p>1:00pm – 1:30pm:</p> <p>11c. Discovering Sonification – Experience.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Phia Damsma, Creative Director, Sonokids Australia.</p>

1:30pm – 2:00pm: Plenary Session 12

Chair: Dinesh Burah

The future of digital access: what's nearly here and what's around the corner.

Presenter:

Dr Scott Hollier, CEO, Centre For Accessibility Australia.

2:00pm – 2:30pm: Afternoon Break

2:30pm – 3:30pm: Concurrent Sessions 13 & 14

Session 13 Chair: Maria Stevens	Session 14 Chair: Annette Sutherland
<p>2:30pm – 3:00pm:</p> <p>13a. Reach & Match Inclusive Learning Program (updates & endorsement by Australian Government DFAT).</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Mandy Lau, Designer and Founder, Reach & Match.</p>	<p>2:30pm – 3:00pm:</p> <p>14a. UV Printing, the future of Tactile graphics.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Peter Le, Transcription Team Leader, Vision Australia.</p>
<p>3:00pm – 3:30pm:</p> <p>13b. LEGO Braille Bricks – a new education tool assisting blind and low vision students to learn braille through play.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Tony Wu, DVA and Products Advisor and Patricia Izzard, Early Childhood Specialist Teacher, Vision Australia.</p>	<p>3:00pm – 3:30pm:</p> <p>14b. 3D Printing for Inclusive Classrooms.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Navkaran Viridi, Project Officer - 3D Print, Braille and Large Print Services, Inclusive Education.</p>

3:30pm – 4:00pm: Plenary Session 15

Chair: Sonali Marathe

15 Introduction to UK Association for Accessible Formats.

Presenter:

Roger Firman, Chair, UKAAF.

4:00pm – 4:15pm: President's Final Address

Sonali Marathe

President, Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc.

4:15pm: Close of Day Two

Wednesday, 19 May 2021

9:30am Online Registration opens

10:00am – 11:30am: Tutorial

Facilitator: Leona Holloway

3D Printing for Touch Readers: Guidelines and Discussion.

11:30am – 12:00pm: Morning Break

12:00pm – 1:30pm: Workshop 1

Facilitator: Annette Sutherland.

Introducing Round Table's updated Guidelines on Producing Accessible Graphics.

Presented by the Guidelines working group led by Annette Sutherland.

The Guidelines on Producing Accessible Graphics is an update of the Guidelines for Conveying Visual Information last revised in 2005.

It was well and truly time for these Guidelines to be revised to reflect the environment in which we are now producing visual information for touch readers, and the technologies available for both producers and end users.

Some of the updated features of these Guidelines are 3D Models, Logos, Banners, Icons and Emoticons.

1:30pm – 2:00pm: Afternoon Break

2:00pm – 3:30pm: Workshop 2

Facilitator: Jordie Howell

Australian Braille Authority Workshop

Braille Music Production.

The ABA workshop will highlight current innovations in music production converting XML files to braille music. We will examine how both manual and automated processes work together to achieve the finished score for use at school or in rehearsal.

3:30pm – 4:00pm: Afternoon Break

4:00pm – 5:00pm: Round Table Annual General Meeting

Chair: Sonali Marathe