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# Blind Citizens Australia

# National Convention 2017, Program

## “From Policy to Practice: Turning words into actions”

## Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October 2017

## Venue Details:

Novotel Melbourne Glen Waverley,

285 Springvale Rd Glen Waverley Victoria.

Ph: 03 8561 2345

**Hosted by:** John Simpson, President, Blind Citizens Australia

**Master of Ceremonies:** Rikki Chaplin, Advocacy Officer, Blind Citizens Australia

## Follow the BCA National Convention:

* On Twitter at #BCACONV.
* Remember to follow us on twitter @au\_bca
* Like us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/blindcitizensaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/blindcitizensaustralia).
* The convention will be streamed via the internet for those unable to attend in person. To access the stream, visit [www.bca.org.au](http://www.bca.org.au).
* You can text your comments or questions to 0488 824 623 throughout the weekend.

## Convention 2017 is proudly sponsored by:

### Major Sponsor:

### Vision Australia

**Blindness and Low Vision Services**



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

We support more than 27,500 people of all ages and life stages, and circumstances. We do this through 28 Vision Australia centres in Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia; 30 clinics; and through outreach programs in the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

### Supporting Sponsors:

Thanks to Virgin Australia for their support with air travel for Dr Fred Schroeder during his visit to Australia.



HumanWare Australia



Thanks to the Australian Government Department of Social Services for supporting the participation of first time attendees.



### We thank the following organisations for their support:

* Information Alternatives
* Quantum Reading Learning Vision
* The Novotel Melbourne Glen Waverley
* Guide Dogs Victoria
* NV Access
* Blind Citizens NSW
* RPH Print Radio Tasmania
* Radio for the Print Handicapped Network Stations
* Robert Stein Winery and the Central West NSW Branch of Blind Citizens Australia
* The Captioning Studio
* Description Victoria

## Access Information

### Orientation and Mobility (O&M)

O&M instructors will be on hand to assist with orientation to the hotel. They will be located in the main foyer on Friday from 10:00AM to 3:00PM and on Saturday from 8:00AM to 11:00AM. If you arrive from Friday onwards, but outside of these times, volunteers will be available to assist. Should you be unable to locate someone to assist you, please call 9654 1400 or text 0488 824 623 to request assistance.

### Volunteers

Volunteers will be on hand to assist throughout the convention. Please note that volunteers are unable to provide support with personal care tasks. If you need assistance with feeding, toileting and other personal needs, you should bring a support worker. Also note that we have a limited number of volunteers to assist a large number of people, so they will not have time to toilet dog guides.

### Dog Guide Facilities

A grass area is located just outside the main entrance to the hotel. Once you exit the hotel via the stairs, veer right and continue for a few metres across the driveway until you reach the grass area. A bin will be located at the entrance to the area. Please respect your fellow dog guide users by keeping the area clean. Water bowls will be located in the conference area.

### Audio Description

For the first time in 2017, the convention will be audio described. Information about how to access the audio description via your smart phone will be provided at convention. Headsets will also be available for people who cannot use a smart phone. The audio description will be provided by Description Victoria.

## Your Chance to Win!

Be part of our 2017 convention raffle.

Win and select from one of these fantastic prizes, generously donated by the following organisations:

**Victor Reader Stream (New Generation)**

Generously donated by Humanware: [www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com)

The Victor Reader is a handheld media player for people who are blind or vision impaired.

Features include:

* Plays DAISY books, MP3, MP4, EPUB, and many other formats. Easy access to over 36,000 web radio stations
* Wireless access to rich media content
* Records voice and media with built-in microphone or line-in
* Built-in, human-sounding voices for a pleasant text-to-speech experience
* Built-in wireless networking capability
* Weighs only 110 grams

**Two nights twin share accommodation In Melbourne**

Generously donated by Novotel Melbourne Glen Waverley

This package includes breakfast. The Novotel Melbourne Glen Waverley hosts 4-star comfort with indoor pool and fitness centre. Half an hour from Melbourne CBD, the hotel provides an excellent base for exploring the city and its surrounds. Within easy reach of a number of local attractions, including an array of golf courses, Century City Walk dining and entertainment precinct, Centro the Glen Shopping Centre and Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre. Guests can also explore the nearby Dandenong Ranges, Healesville, the Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula and Phillip Island.

**Vision Australia Shop gift card valued at $250**

Generously donated by Vision Australia: [www.visionaustralia.org](http://www.visionaustralia.org)

This voucher may be used to purchase any product to the value of $250 at any Vision Australia centre, or on-line.

Download Vision Australia Connect, our latest app, from the Apple app store or Google Play store.

**Myer gift card valued at $200**

Generously donated by Quantum Reading Learning Vision: [www.quantumrlv.com.au](http://www.quantumrlv.com.au)

This voucher can be redeemed online or in-store.

Quantum’s business model is all about you; providing professional services, understanding your needs and finding the right solutions that will ensure your success.

For over 30 years, Quantum has been providing products and services to people with a print disability (low vision, blindness or a learning difficulty).

**Woolworths gift card valued at $100**

Generously donated by Pacific Vision: [www.pacificvision.com.au](http://www.pacificvision.com.au)

This voucher can be redeemed online or at any of the following stores: Woolworth supermarkets, BIG W, Dan Murphy’s, BWS, Thomas Dux, Cellarmasters, Caltex Petrol.

Pacific Vision is a leading provider of hardware and software products for people who are blind or who have low vision. Our range includes the Braille Sense notetaker, Blaze daisy player and scanner, Openbook software, and the Topaz, Ruby and Onix HD magnifiers. We travel the world to source the best products that assist people with print disabilities.

### RAFFLE TICKETS will be sold throughout the Convention on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October. You can pay using cash or card. The raffle will be drawn after lunch on Sunday 15 October.

**Ticket Prices:**

**1 for $2;**

**3 for $5;**

**7 for $10**

All proceeds from the raffle will contribute to the ongoing work of Blind Citizens Australia.

## Associated Events

### Adaptive technology Exhibition

A range of adaptive technology suppliers and service providers will display their products and services during the convention. The venue is the Eureka Room, off the hotel foyer, and while exhibitors may be available throughout the weekend, you are encouraged to visit on Friday: 1:00 – 6:30PM or Saturday: 8:00 – 8:50AM and 4:00PM – 7:00PM

### Blind Citizens Australia Annual General Meeting

Friday, 13 October from 7:00 to 8:15PM in the ballroom. (See separate agenda or visit [www.bca.org.au](http://www.bca.org.au) for additional details.)

### Convention Welcome Dinner

Friday, 13 October from 8:15-10:00PM in the ballroom. Includes National Women's Branch raffle draw and an "open mic" where you can share a song, a stand-up routine or a poem.

### Youth Lunch

Saturday, 14 October, 1:00 – 2:00PM in the ballroom. An opportunity for people of all ages to discuss strategies BCA could use to better engage with young people.

### Dog guide handlers discussion forum

Saturday, 14 October, 5:00 – 6:00PM in Kulin 1 and 2. An open forum for discussion of topics of interest to dog guide handlers facilitated by Ramona Mandy.

### Convention Dinner

Saturday, 14 October, 7:00PM – 11:00PM in the ballroom. Includes presentation of Blind Citizens Australia awards.

### National Women’s Branch Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 15 October, 12:45 – 1:45PM in the ballroom. (See separate agenda for details.)

### Post-Convention Audio Described Film Screening and Q&A: “Defiant Lives” -: Sun, Oct 15, at 4:30 PM

**Where:** Village Cinemas, Century City (right next to the Convention hotel); 285 - 287 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley.

Defiant Lives introduces the world to the most impressive activists you’ve never heard of and tells the story of the rise and fight of the disability rights movement in the United States, Britain and Australia. Featuring exclusive interviews with elders (some now deceased) who’ve led the movement over the past five decades, the film weaves together never-before-seen archival footage with the often-confronting personal stories of disabled men and women as they moved from being warehoused in institutions to fighting for independence and control over their lives. Once freed from their imprisonment, disabled men and women took on the big charities, criticising the use of celebrities to beg on their behalf. They chained themselves to public transport around the world and demanded access “to boldly go where everyone else has gone before”; and they lobbied for support to live ordinary lives in the community with family, lovers and friends. Defiant Lives is a triumphant film full of extraordinary characters who put their lives on the line to create a better and very different world where everyone regardless of impairment is valued and can participate.

The event will be introduced by David Doepel, CEO of Demand Film, and Sarah Barton who is the producer and director of the film will stay for a Q&A immediately after.

This is an audio described and open captioned event with wheel chair access which is open to the general public. If you have any questions regarding issues of accessibility or acquiring a companion card ticket please email [sophie@demand.film](mailto:sophie@demand.film) There will be audio description headsets available, please contact Sophie to reserve a set. In addition, the free MovieReading app can be used to listen to the description using your own smartphone (both Android and Apple devices).

**Tickets:** Limited tickets will be available (cash or card) from the registration desk in the conference foyer. Prices are:

* Adult: $20.00
* BCA: Convention attendees $14.00

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## Friday, 13 October - Optional Workshops:

**1:00 - 1:30 Registration: conference foyer**

**1:30-3:00 Workshop 1:** Getting Results: The skills used by blind and vision impaired students to reach their potential:

Chair, Fiona Woods, BCA Director and parent of a vision impaired child.

Many blind and vision impaired students achieve outstanding results, even though many of the techniques promoted for study and exam preparation are visually based. Find out how successful students study, complete assignments, prepare for and produce their best work in exams. Hear how they manage at university and their lives outside it. Contribute your own hacks for getting the best marks for your work and meet and learn from others who know what it's like to be young, blind and studying.

**Speakers:**

* **Kim Black:** Following the completion of her VCE, Kim worked as an audio typist for an ophthalmology clinic. Kim is now in her first semester of a Diploma of Christian Studies at Melbourne School of Theology.
* **Russell Butler:** Russell has just completed a Case Management and Community Services Diploma at the Australian College of Applied Psychology. Prior to this, Russel was working as a shoe repairer.
* **Tess Wheelan:** Tess is a third year student in public health at Australian Catholic University.
* **Lauren Hayes:** Lauren has an undergraduate degree in Music Therapy, and has also completed a postgraduate Diploma in Theology. Lauren’s career path has taken a number of unexpected turns over the years. She is currently employed as an accessibility tester at AccessibilityOz, and also works as a tour guide at Dialogue in the Dark.

**3:00-3:30 Afternoon tea**

**3:30-5:00 Concurrent Workshops:**

**Workshop 2A:** Building self-confidence and communication skills:

Chair, Emma Bennison, CEO, Blind Citizens Australia

Self-confidence and communication skills can make all the difference to people who are blind or vision impaired at school and in the workplace. We will hear from speakers who are blind or vision impaired at various stages of their education and career journeys who will share personal stories and answer your questions about how they have developed these skills to help them achieve success in education, employment and daily life.

**Speakers:**

* **Fiona Woods:** Fiona holds honours degrees in Law and Arts from Melbourne University, is a parent of six children and a Director on the Blind Citizens Australia Board.
* **Prue Watt:** Prue is studying a Bachelor of Science at the University of NSW, has won numerous medals representing Australia in swimming and is a director on the Blind Citizens Australia Board.

**Workshop 2B:** A hands-on Introduction to audio editing:

A small group of up to ten participants will learn the basics of audio editing through this hands-on tutorial. This workshop will enable participants to produce simple podcasts and audio projects using the free Reaper audio editing software package.

* Presenter Tristan Hodson, BCA Member

**7:00 – 8:15: BCA Annual General Meeting**

Chair, John Simpson, BCA President

Please refer to separate Agenda

**8:15 – 10:00: Welcome Dinner.**

## Saturday, 14 October

## Registration: 8:00 – 8:50AM. Please be seated by 8:50AM.

## Session 1: Setting the Scene:

## Chair, John Simpson, BCA President

8:50: Call to Order and announcements: MC Rikki Chaplin

9:00 - 9:20: President's Welcome: John Simpson

Acknowledgement of Country: Stephen Belbin, BCA Director

9:20 - 9:30: Roll call

**9:30 – 10:10: Keynote address:** "The Blind of the World: Civil Rights, Human Rights, and the Quest for Equality." Dr Frederick Schroeder, President, World Blind Union

World Blind Union President Fred Schroeder will discuss the work of the WBU as it relates to the education, employment and social inclusion of blind and vision impaired people within the context of stereotypic attitudes about blindness. He will discuss the implementation of the Marrakesh book treaty, status of international regulations requiring a minimum sound standard for electric and hybrid quiet cars, the proliferation of shared spaces and their impact on independent travel, and other issues that affect the full participation of blind people into society.

Dr Schroeder is highly regarded in the United States and internationally as a strong and effective advocate for inclusive education and rehabilitation. He has a track record of implementing innovative rehabilitation programs and policies, including as the Commissioner of the rehabilitation services Administration in the US Department of Education. Dr Schroeder has also shown global leadership through his advocacy on the Marrakesh treaty and on the dangers of silent vehicles.

10:10: Vote of thanks:

* Maryanne Diamond AO, Past President, World Blind Union

**10:15 – 10:45: Morning Tea**

## Feature presentation: Chair, Daniel Stubbs, BCA Treasurer

10:45 – 11:15: T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More).

* Ron Hooton, CEO Vision Australia.

An interactive session focusing on getting a bigger share of NDIS funding for the blindness and low vision sector.

11:20 – 11:25 Vote of Thanks

* John Simpson BCA President

## Session 2: Blindness – an Information Disability:

## Chair, Daniel Stubbs, BCA Treasurer

11:20 – 11:40: The Marrakesh Treaty, Copyright changes and the

development of a centralised catalogue – what's it all mean?

* Tony Starkey, Royal Society for the Blind of SA & Vice President Policy, Australian Blindness Forum.

11:40 – 12:00 Emerging Information Technologies – ensuring they meet our needs.

* Lauren Henley, BCA Policy and Advocacy Co-Ordinator

## Session 3: Emerging Accessible Technologies:

## Chair, Francois Jacobs, BCA Member

12:00 – 12:25 Making the most of emerging technologies – a personal perspective

* Jonathan Mosen, Mosen Consulting New Zealand.

12:25 – 12:50: Driverless Cars – What will they mean for blind and

vision impaired Australians?

* Steve Hurd, Honorary Fellow, Centre for Eye Research Australia

12:50 – 1:00: Introducing BrailleNote Touch, the note taker of the future:

* Nelson Guevera, Regional Account Manager HumanWare

**1:00 – 2:00: Lunch**

**Youth Lunch**

## Session 4: Blindness - Navigating the Wider World:

## Chair, Emma Bennison, BCA CEO

2:00 – 2:30: Report from Australians who attended the Enchanted Hills Summer Camp in Califfornia, with support from BCNSW and BCA. Participants will reflect on their experiences acting as peer counsellors at this summer camp for young people who are blind or vision impaired and consider what opportunities there are to create a similar experience here in Australia.

* Sally Aurish, NSW,
* Tess Wheelan, VIC,
* Troy Gladwell, NSW
* Tyan Taylor, NSW.
* Krystel Malcolm, Executive Officer, Blind Citizens NSW

**2:30 – 3:40: Concurrent Sessions: Getting what you need in the new world of disability support**

**Session 4A:** My Aged Care:

This facilitated conversation will provide you with tips and strategies to help you to prepare to get the most out of My Aged Care.

* Facilitator: Lauren Henley, BCA Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

**Session 4B:** NDIS:

This facilitated conversation will provide you with tips and strategies to help you to prepare to get the most out of your NDIS package.

* Facilitator : Krystel Malcolm, Executive Officer, Blind Citizens NSW

**3:40 – 4:00: Afternoon-tea**

## Session 5: Blindness and emotional well-being

4:00 – 5:00: Chair Emma Bennison, BCA CEO

This session will look at the impact of blindness on emotional well-being and offer practical strategies for maintaining mental health.

Panel Members:

* Paula Hobley Student Researcher Deakin University
* Bonnie Sturrock, Clinical Psychologist, Centre for eye Research Australia
* Vanessa Ransley, Music Educator and BCA member, Tasmania
* If this session brings up difficult issues for you and you need to talk to someone, please call lifeline on 131114.

**5:00 – 6:00:** Dog guide handlers discussion forum:

* Facilitator Ramona Mandy

**7:00 Convention Dinner**

MCs Dan Stubbs and Doug McGinn

Includes presentation of Blind Citizens Australia awards.

## Sunday, 15 October

## Session 6: Getting “Life Ready”

Chair John Simpson, BCA President

8:50: Call to Order and announcements

9:00 – 9:10: Roll call

9:10 – 9:30: **Feature:** The work of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI):

* Frances Gentle President ICEVI

**9:30 – 10:30: Concurrent Sessions**:

**Session 6A:** Violence and abuse: staying safe and advocating for our rights:

Presented by the BCA National Women's Branch

Facilitators: Helen Freris and Zel Iscel, National Women's Branch

This workshop will offer an opportunity to safely discuss violence and abuse as experienced by people who are blind or vision impaired. We will share experiences, helpful strategies to prevent or minimise the abuse and, most importantly, recommendations for advocacy by BCA. These recommendations will be offered as part of the wider recommendations generated at Convention, to inform the organisation in its work to prevent violence and abuse of blind people generally.

* If this session brings up difficult issues for you and you need to talk to someone, please call lifeline on 131114.

**Session 6B:** We live in the country and we like it that way.

A facilitated conversation for people living in regional and remote areas to share experiences and find solutions to the challenges of country living.

* Facilitator Katrina Taylor, BCA member

**10:30 – 11:00: Morning Tea**

**Session 7 Getting “Life Ready”**

11:00 – 12:00: Getting a Job: What Works?

Chair Dan Stubbs, BCA Director

A panel of speakers who are blind or vision impaired with recent experience of the job market will discuss innovative approaches to job seeking and employment, unusual employment stories and more.

Panel members:

* Krystel Malcolm,
* Mat Mirabella
* Michael Curran,
* Bonnie Mosen

12:00 – 12:45: Historical perspectives on blindness:

Chair Dr Lynne Davis, BCA Vice President

"The first blind teacher of the blind in Queensland"

* Margaret Klaussen

Employment Opportunities over time – a historic perspective;

* David Blyth AO, Past President World Blind Union

The origins and history of Orientation and Mobility Services;

* Dr Bronwyn Scott. Independent Options for Mobility.

**12:45 – 1:45 Lunch**

BCA National Women's Branch Annual General Meeting

* Chair Janene Sadhu, Branch President

## Session 8: BCA: what comes next?

* Chair, John Simpson, BCA President

1:45 – 2:45: Recommendations Session:

Recommendations from BCA members regarding the future direction of BCA will be discussed and voted on during this session.

2:45 – 2:55 "Getting to know you" an introduction to BCA's new U-Tube project

* Emma Bennison, BCA CEO

3:00 – 3:30: Q&A and closing remarks with John Simpson, President and Emma Bennison, CEO.

**3:30 Convention Close:**

4:30: Post-convention film screening with audio description: “Defiant Lives”

## 2017 Convention Planning Committee

* Dr Lynne Davis, Chair and BCA Director, NSW
* Prue Watt OAM, BCA Director, NSW
* Fiona Woods, BCA Director, NSW
* Paul Price, committee member, Qld
* Francois Jacobs, Committee member, Victoria
* Joyce Jones, committee member, Qld
* Lauren Hayes, committee member, Victoria
* Zel Iscel, Committee Member, WA

## Blind Citizens Australia

Level 3, Ross House

247 Flinders Lane

Melbourne Vic, 3000

Ph: 03 9654 1400 or 1800 033 660

Email: [bca@bca.org.au](mailto:bca@bca.org.au)

[WWW.BCA.org.au](http://WWW.BCA.org.au)