

BEYOND BLINDNESS

(BWA serving its Members for over 80 years)

**Magazine for Members
of BEYOND BLINDNESS**

SUMMER EDITION 2022

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Welcome

Season's Greetings everyone!

It is amazing how quickly time passes and here we are again putting together our last edition for this year, 2022.

As usual there is a lot to read about and news to catch up on and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the upcoming Festive Season and see you next year.

Feedback

Recently I was out and about with several Members of Beyond Blindness and I was privy to a conversation about a recent trip away to Port Pirie and its surrounding townships. From all accounts it was very well received and there are plans to venture back that way at some time in the future to explore more of the region. No doubt this kind of result would not be possible if it were not for Trudy and her band of Volunteers.

Talking about the Volunteers, I went out on an outing with several Members to visit Parliament House and again Beyond Blindness is so fortunate to have such dedicated and thoughtful people who think nothing of assisting Members and making sure they are not left to struggle. The tour itself was well presented and informative. Well worth the visit and thanks for making the arrangements, Marian.

Leonore Scott, Editor

A Message from the Board

Hello Members and Volunteers. I trust that everyone is looking forward to the coming Festive Season and hoping that the sun will shine for longer than two days this spring/summer.

Following is my Chairpersons Report that was presented at the recent Beyond Blindness AGM and included in our Annual Report 2021-22. This report details our achievements over the past Financial Year as well as providing some insight into future organisational planning and development.

I look forward to 2023 and the opening of our new Client Centre and Admin office at Campbelltown.

We will have many more opportunities to socialise next year, particularly with the arrival of our additional buses, anticipated to be delivered early in the New Year) currently delayed due to world-wide component supply issues).

On behalf of the Board and the entire Beyond Blindness team, I wish you a merry and safe Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Chairperson's Report – Beyond Blindness 2021-22 AGM

As Chair of Blind Welfare Association of South Australia (Trading as Beyond blindness), I am very pleased to present the Board's contribution to this year's Annual Report.

The past fiscal year has been highly successful for Beyond Blindness, not only in terms of our operational activity and financial performance, but we have also embarked upon an exciting period of growth and expansion for the next part of our organisational journey, aimed at increasing services for our members and securing our ongoing sustainability.

As we recover from the various restrictions of Covid, our services are now back to normal, but we still must comply with government directions as a Disability Community provider.

A major highlight to our growth and expansion for this year has been the establishment and opening of our Northern office at Gawler. This now gives us the capacity to provide equal access to our services for members across the whole of the metropolitan area and surrounding regional communities.

We have also supported this expansion by increasing our minibus fleet from two to four; one each of which will be located at our Northern and Southern offices, with the remaining two to be based centrally to support our members across the East and West.

We have also increased our property portfolio with the purchase of a new building at

Campbelltown. This two-storey building is currently being outfitted to create a new administration and member activity centre on the lower floor. The first floor will then be offered for commercial lease, this will in-turn provide income to maintain and assist with rental of our Christies Beach and Gawler offices. Following the relocation of our operations to these new premises, The Gilles Plains site will continue to provide income through the Rental of the onsite units and following discussions with advisors from the Property sector, the office and Social Centre facility is planned to be offered to the market for commercial lease to ensure we maximise the financial return on these assets.

I want to thank my fellow Board members for their dedication, time given and insight to allow Beyond blindness to achieve our vision and goal to reduce the impact of blindness and allow our members to participate in community social activities. Needless to say, we could also not exist or operate successfully without the support of our

wonderful volunteer team, and the generosity of the broader community.

As a South Australian community organisation with a history spanning more than eighty-five years, we remain committed to our mission of supporting independence and inclusion for blind South Australians now and into the future.

Tony Starkey, President

A Message from the Manager

Christmas is upon us once again and I am very much looking forward to catching up with members and volunteers at our numerous Christmas celebration events. Beyond Blindness is again finishing the year in a good position, financially secure and with new activities being run right across the metropolitan region.

Support is now being provided to members living as far as Victor Harbour and the Barossa, facilitated by dedicated staff and volunteers based at our new offices at Christies Beach and Gawler.

Upgrading work is well underway at our new Campbelltown centre; the main building work, installation of solar panels and more carparking is now complete. New fencing, gates and floor coverings are also currently being installed.

With cabinetry installation scheduled for early in the New Year, we are anticipating a possible relocation to the new facility in either February or March, with an official opening shortly thereafter.

In addition to the opening of our new Northern office at Gawler, the year saw the finalisation of our business restructuring plan, reallocating resources from administration to our community services, North, South, East and West of the city. The introduction of new finance and database software, along with a simplification of our volunteer reimbursement process, has all helped to reduce costs.

This, in turn, has enabled the Board to approve an increase to adaptive technology subsidies and no-interest loans to members.

A new guiding skills instructional video was also completed during the year, and the introduction of our regular six weekly overnight bus trips around the state have proven to be immensely popular.

While four new busses have been ordered, unfortunately, we have been at the mercy of international supply and demand.

Disappointingly, we have been informed that these buses will now not arrive until the New Year. We very much look forward to their delivery in early 2023.

An exciting New Year beckons for Beyond Blindness with the opening of our new Campbelltown centre and new buses arriving. I will be meeting in early January/February with the board to work on our next strategic plan that will guide our ongoing improvements to our services, subsidies, and social support for all members.

Following our Christmas celebrations, the office will be closing from the 16th of December and reopening on the 16th of January 2023.

I would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, and Board for the outstanding support they have given to members and the organisation throughout 2022 and wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Jim Colligan, Manager

Around the Office

In August, we welcomed Sandra Gesuato to the Beyond Blindness office team.

With a strong background in office administration, Sandra has settled quickly into her new position as Business Support Officer, taking on responsibility for all administrative tasks associated with

memberships and subsidy applications, finance and accounts, and a range of other administrative duties.

Prior to joining Beyond Blindness, Sandra worked with Unity Housing for two years, where she was involved with the Disability Housing Program that supported clients with complex needs.

“I was Interested in going back to something in the Not-for-profit sector and, with the Beyond Blindness office being close to home, it seemed like the perfect fit,” Sandra said.

“Everyone is really welcoming, happy to chat, but it’s busy. It has been really great getting to know and engage with the members... and I loved Oktober Fest.”

Sandra confesses that it has been a steep learning curve, “Lots to learn about accessibility and the various assistive equipment available.”

Outside of work, Sandra doesn’t appear to have a lot of spare time. With three active boys aged six, eight and nine, her weekends are taken up with “sport, sport and more sport,” including soccer, football, and basketball.

“My husband has his own commercial tiling business, so I help with that as well,” she said.

When Sandra does manage to find some free time, she loves getting out and meeting people, going to Italian festivals and clubs, as well as reading.

Sandra’s three day per week role with Beyond Blindness will find her at our Central office at Gilles Plains from Wednesday to Friday each week.

Adaptive Tech Corner

DOT PAD —TACTILE GRAPHICS DISPLAY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR VISION IMPAIRED

A new offering from Korean based Dot Incorporation Co, Dot Pad is the first smart tactile graphics display for people who are blind or vision impaired. It can display any visual content from any source because the innovative Dot Image Processing technology uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to analyse and understand visual input and present it accurately on Dot Pad's tactile display of 2,400 dots.

Dot Incorporation co-founder Ki Kwang Sung (who co-founded the company with Eric Ju Yoon Kim) explains: "In the 21st century, it did not make sense that people who are vision impaired cannot access graphical information in a digital way. There are a lot of innovations out there in every industry, including education, jobs, and social network services... the requirement of graphical information is getting higher, which means that people who are vision impaired are getting cut off. Even in the pandemic situation, remote work and education was mandatory... but they did not have any solution to do that."

Until now, the development of functional tactile graphics devices was hindered by both hardware and software. Conventional tactile devices use piezoelectricity to power their actuators, making them bulky and expensive. Furthermore, translation of a visual image into a tactile one is complex. Simple vectorization or edge detection algorithms are not capable of producing tactile graphics that are suitable for blind users. It requires intelligence to understand what is in an image and decide what is important to the audience.

Dot Pad solves these problems with a combination of innovative hardware and software. At the core of the Dot Pad sits the third generation of the innovative Dot actuator technology. While conventional tactile devices use piezoelectricity to power their actuators, Dot Pad uniquely relies on electromagnetism, which reduces size, weight, power consumption and price by more than ten times. This dramatically increases usability and makes the Dot Pad

affordable for the majority of blind and vision impaired users. While the Dot actuator technology is protected by thirty patents, it is licensed to other manufacturers to give as many people as possible the chance to benefit from it.

It requires intelligence to understand what is in an image and decide what's important to the audience. To create comprehensible tactile content, Dot Pad relies on the innovative Dot Image Processor. It is an AI that was trained with millions of existing visual and tactile graphics, to be able to analyse, understand and segment visual content, and translate it to tactile graphics most suitable for blind users.

Launched in early 2022, Dot Pad has earned huge interest from the media as well as public and private institutions worldwide, with millions of dollars in orders. The Dot Pad technology is even being shared with competitors to give people who are vision impaired all around the world access to tactile graphics.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DOT PAD VISIT

<https://pad.dotincorp.com/>

A Spotlight On...

Member – Angela Schiller

Long-term Victor Harbor resident and Beyond Blindness member, Angela Schiller, recently proved that blindness is no barrier to achievement when she was successful in her campaign to be elected to Victor Harbor Local Council during the South Australian Local Government Elections in November. Following is an extract from the media release that launched her campaign

VICTOR HARBOR: The City of Victor Harbor could become the first council in South Australia to have an elected member who is officially blind.

As nominations for the 2022 council elections in South Australia open on August 23, among the first to announce an intention to run is disability advocate and Victor Harbor resident Angela Schiller.

Angela, who has been blind from birth, has been providing a voice for people living with a disability locally, state-wide and nationally and is running with the unexpected slogan “Seeing things differently”.

She has held roles with Disability Elders of All Ages (DEAA), Queensland Disability Network (QDN), the Royal Society for the Blind (RSB) and the Guide Dogs Consumer Reference Group, as well as being part of the City of Victor Harbor’s Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for more than 10 years and being a representative on state and regional Local Government Association committees. The roles have covered advocacy, advice and also training and assistance with the development of adaptive technology.

She sees an elected member role as a chance to provide a better disability voice in local decisions, as well as showing that people with a vision impairment have much to offer.

“My lived experience of disability, using many of the community services provided by the council, will provide unique insights to help shape a more-inclusive Victor Harbor community,” Angela said.

“With more than 30 per cent of our community identifying as living with a disability, according to the latest Census figures, it is important they have a voice at local government level who understands their challenges and their dreams for the city.

But Angela’s interests go beyond disability too.

“My background in primary industry, as a small business owner and a mother will also give me greater scope for understanding the local needs of ratepayers and residents generally beyond those living with a disability.”

Having recently battled and survived breast cancer, Angela is confident in overcoming any challenges if elected in November.

“I’ve been through a lot in my life and always been able to adapt and contribute through finding alternative ways to tackle the issue, so my approach to being on council would be no different. I live by the motto where there’s a will there’s a way.

“I’ve confidently used adaptive technology to read documents, emails, messages and websites, as well as manage tasks and calendar appointments throughout my years serving on committees at local, state and national level,” she said.

“I’ll have Oreo (her guide dog) by my side, but other than that I intend to be able to operate independently and not have barriers to being a valuable part of the next term’s council.

“As someone without the sense of sight it means I have more focus on listening to people which I believe is an important trait for anyone in government. You don’t have to be able to physically see someone to listen, understand and voice their views.”

Some of the issues Angela wants to bring to the role include practical planning to enable better access to services and transport, affordable and accessible housing options, youth engagement and an even greater focus on positive ageing, particularly given the age demographic of the local community.

A Spotlight On...

Volunteer – Hedy Hendricks

Long-term volunteer, Hedy Hendricks, who celebrated her seventy-ninth birthday at the end of November, shares her story of almost nineteen years with Beyond Blindness.

Hedy, who is of British descent, was born in India and immigrated to Australia in 1987.

“I came to Australia on a family reunion visa as my two brothers lived here,” she said.

Prior to moving to Australia, Hedy had worked in India for the previous twenty-one years with McMillan publishing.

When she arrived in Australia, she started working in a factory where she was offered an office job in which she worked for over eighteen years.

“In 2004 I started volunteering with the Blind Welfare Association (Beyond Blindness) as well as Saint Vincent De Paul. With Saint Vinnies I would work on Fridays and as a Lavender Lady at the Royal Adelaide Hospital,” Hedy said.

When Hedy first joined Beyond Blindness, she would assist members attending the weekly craft group as well as helping in the kitchen and making lunches. Shortly after, she changed her days of work to Mondays and Thursdays.

“On Mondays we would have the Entertainment Group where we would have different entertainers coming to the centre, the Police Band, etc. to entertain the members. We would collect stamps and run raffles to raise money to cover the cost” she said.,

On Thursdays, activities would alternate between outings to places such as different museums and local attractions, and guest speakers from the zoo, galleries and museums coming into the centre to speak with members on topics of interest.

“The best part was that we would meet every Monday and Thursday over coffee and tea with everyone. We would chat and the members would put forward their suggestions for what activities they would like

to do. It was like an extended family. We would have a big group of between twenty and twenty-five on Mondays and about sixteen on Thursdays. We were all very close,” Hedy said.

Hedy continues to assist Beyond Blindness members every Thursday, as well as volunteering at Saint Vincent De Paul on Fridays.

“On Thursdays I help members, especially the ladies, on their regular outings... My whole heart and love is for the members. Without the volunteers there would be no Beyond Blindness,” Hedy remarked.

Along with her two brothers here in Australia, Hedy has six nieces and nephews, five grand nephews and one niece, all of whom she is immensely proud.

Of volunteering at Beyond Blindness, Hedy says, “I get a lot of encouragement because (the members) are so outgoing. It’s so encouraging to see the members helping and supporting one another despite their own disabilities.”

“I would encourage anyone thinking of volunteering at Beyond Blindness, it’s giving back to the community. I worked for so long that I want to give something back...”

Letters to Santa this Christmas

In a recent announcement from Australia Post, children who are blind or have low vision can now send their letters to Santa, and Santa will reply in their preferred format.

As part of Australia Post’s ongoing commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, the Santa Mail program will now feature simplified messaging and large print responses for children with low vision.

Parents and children who have low vision can receive a large text reply from Santa by sending their letters to:

Santa Mail (large text)

NORTH POLE 9999

Families can mail their letters right up until 2 December. Some Post Offices will also have a floor-standing Santa Mailbox for you to pop your letters into.

As Australia Post Head of Marketing Communications, Corrina says, “We want every child to be able to have the joy of contacting Santa, so this year, our program is open to any form of communication—be it a letter, drawing, song, or photo. In return, kids will receive a response from Santa that suits their accessibility needs, including large font and braille.”

Find out more @ <https://auspost.com.au/about-us/supporting-communities/literacy-education/santa-mail>

A message from....Northern Engagement Officer:

There are only a few scheduled activities out this way for the remainder of this year including joining the Beyond Blindness Gawler Low Vision group for Christmas lunch on Friday 9th December at the Southern Hotel.

An activity calendar for the first few months of 2023 will be available soon, thanks to the input of members and the many suggestions that have been collated.

I am grateful to the members in the north who have supported me in getting the Gawler Outreach off the ground by participating in activities or just by phoning or dropping in to say hello. It means a lot to me so thank you.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Kindest regards Deidre Gavros

Oaks Liberty Apartment

Everyone loves a holiday so why not take advantage of spending some time in the apartment at the Oaks Liberty Suites in Glenelg? This fully self-contained 2-bedroom apartment is the perfect place to relax, unwind and enjoy a break, either with family or friends. Members can enjoy up to 7 nights' accommodation each year at the greatly reduced cost of only \$120 for 3 nights and \$80/night thereafter. Limited dates are still available in late November and early December and bookings are already being taken for 2023, so make sure you get in quick. To ensure fairness only one stay during peak periods such as Easter, Christmas and New Year's Eve is permitted. Please call Deidre on 8166 3330 or email dgavros@beyondblindness.org.au

Editor's Comment

I hope you enjoyed this edition of your Beyond Blindness Magazine. If you would like to make a contribution to our next edition, please forward it on to the Beyond Blindness office or call **8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8**

E-mail: info@beyondblindness.org.au

Web site: www.beyondblindness.org.au

Beyond Blindness Activities Calendar

2022 activities end: Fri, 9 December 2022

2023 activities resume: Mon, 30 January 2023

TERM 1: January, February, March, April 2023

TRIPS

CONTACT: TRUDY, GROUP TRAVEL PLANNER: 0 4 8 8 1 0 4 3 5 4

Mon 6 Feb – Thur 9 Feb 2023:

3 Nights/4 Day Trip to Mannum, TO BE CONFIRMED DUE TO RIVERLAND FLOODS

Mon 13 March – Thur 16 March 2023:

3 Nights/4 Day Trip to Peterborough, TO BE CONFIRMED DUE TO RIVERLAND FLOODS

TRAVEL CLUB

CONTACT: CATHERINE BOTTCHER 8 3 9 5 1 0 0 5 or

BEYOND BLINDNESS on 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8

Sat 11 Feb, 8am onwards: Mt Barker Cinema, Lunch at Auchendarroch Tavern

Sat 11 March, 8am onwards: Tanunda Show. Bring money for lunch

Sat 8 April, 8am onwards: Monarto Zoo. Lunch at zoo

CENTRAL / EAST ACTIVITIES

**CONTACT: MARIAN, MEMBER ENGAGEMENT OFFICER
(CENTRAL/EAST): 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8**

Monday: Gentle Walk & Lunch, 10am - 2:30pm

Dates: 30 Jan // 6, 13, 20, 27 Feb // 6, 13, 20, 27 March // 3 April

Venues: Thorndon Park, Semaphore, Mawson Lakes, River Torrens, Brickworks, Oakden Park

Tuesday:

Activity 1 - Golf & Lunch, 10am - 2pm

Dates - 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb // 7, 14, 21, 28 March // 4, 11 April

Venue: Valley View Golf Course

Activity 2 – Singing (TBC), 1.30pm-2.30pm

Dates- 14, 28 Feb // 14, 28 March

Venue: Beyond Blindness Gilles Plains

Wednesday:

Activity 1 - Craft & Chat, 10am -1pm

Dates - 1, 8, 15, 22 Feb // 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March // 5, 12 April

Activity 2 - Bingo, 1pm - 2pm,

Dates – 1, 15 Feb // 1, 15, 29 March // 12 April

Venue: Beyond Blindness Gilles Plains

Activity 3 - Wed Walks (7km walk), 10am - 3pm – Various Locations

*Please note Wed walks will be cancelled when it coincides with week of Trips

Dates – 1, 15, 22 Feb // 1, 8, 22, 29 March // 5, 12 April

Thursday:

Dates - 2 Feb, 2 March, 6 April: 10 pin bowling at Woodville & Lunch at Tavern 540 10:30am - 2:30pm

16 Feb: Adelaide Desalination Plant, Lunch (Location TBC)

23 Feb: **Western Activity:** Tram ride to Glenelg, Lunch at Lighthouse Wharf, 10:30

9 March: Wittunga Courthouse Tour (with Mock Trial featuring BB volunteers as actors) & Slate Museum & Lunch at Willunga Hotel 10.30 – 4pm

23 Mar: Western Activity: Railway Museum, Lunch at Tavern 540, 10:30

13 Apr: (TBC) Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens Tour, 10:30am, Lunch - TBC

Friday:

Activity 1 - Friday Hike 9:30am – 2pm

Dates - 10, 24 Feb // 10, 24 March:– Various Locations

Activity 2 – How to Use Your Device Workshop, 10:30am - 12pm

Dates - 24 Feb // 24 March // 28 April: Venue - Beyond Blindness Gilles Plains

3 March: Stretch your Dollar Finance Talk & Light Lunch 10:30am - 1pm, Venue - Beyond Blindness Gilles Plains

10 March: Seniors Social Group & Tea 10:30am – 12.30pm, Venue - Beyond Blindness Gilles Plains

30 March: Cooking Classes with Leonore 10.30am – 12.30pm, Venue - Beyond Blindness Gilles Plains

NORTH ACTIVITIES

CONTACT DEIDRE, MEMBER ENGAGEMENT OFFICER (NORTH):

8 1 6 6 3 3 3 0 or 0 4 0 3 4 5 1 8 1 7

COUNTRY MUSIC

Sun: 15 Jan, 19 Feb, 19 March, 16 April: 9am onwards:
Playford Country Music Club, Elizabeth Downs

NORTHERN OUTREACH

Mon 13 Feb: Walking group - Fremont Park Elizabeth. Fish & chips for lunch 11am – 2pm

Mon 3 April: Orange Spot Bakery in Glenelg (optional walk around) 11am – 3pm

Mon 24 April: Day Trip to Farm Barn in Hahndorf & lunch, time TBC

Wed 22nd Feb: Lunch at Angle Vale Tavern 11am - 2pm

Wed 8th March: Day Trip to Clare and lunch, time TBC

Wed 22nd March: Melba's Chocolate Factory Woodside & lunch at the Oakbank Hotel, time TBC

Fri 14th April: Join the Beyond Blindness Gawler Low Vision Group - Pryer's on the Fleurieu Cabaret Show in Willunga 10am

BEYOND BLINDNESS GAWLER LOW VISION GROUP (BBGLVG)

CONTACT: JOAN SNOWBALL: 0 4 2 0 7 9 4 1 0 2

Alternate Fridays

Fri 3 Feb: Gawler Home Meeting, Elderly Centre Gawler 10am

Fri 17 Feb: Kies Family Wines Barossa Valley 10am

Fri 3 March: Gawler Home Meeting, Elderly Centre Gawler 10am

Fri 17 March: Day Trip to Mannum 10am

Fri 31 March: Gawler Home Meeting, Elderly Centre Gawler 10am

Fri 14 April: Join the Northern Outreach program - Pryer's on the Fleurieu Cabaret Show in Willunga 10am

Fri 28 April: Gawler Home Meeting, Elderly Centre Gawler 10am

SOUTH ACTIVITIES

CONTACT: JEREMY, MEMBER ENGAGEMENT OFFICER (SOUTH):

8 5 5 6 6 2 2 8 on Mon-Tues only

Monday

Dates - 13 Feb, 13 March: Victor Harbor Talking Book Club,
10.30am-12.00pm

Venue: Victor Harbor Library

27 March: To be confirmed - Southern Conversation Corner

Tuesday

Activity 1 Victor Harbor Men's Group Coffee N Chat: 10am-
11.30am,

Dates 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb // 7, 14, 21, 28 March // 4, 11 April, Venue:
The Crown Hotel Victor Harbor

Activity 2 Southern Social Group, 10:30am – 12:30pm,

Dates - 7 Feb: Venue: Woodcroft Christian Centre,

Dates - 7 March, 4 April: Venue: Christie's Beach Southern Office

Activity 3 Southern Craft, 10.30am - 1pm

Dates: 14 Feb, 14 March, 11 April:, Venue: Christie's Beach
Southern Office,

Activity 4 Southern Bus Outing, Venues: To Be Confirmed, 10:30am
– 3:30pm

Dates: - 21 Feb 21 March, 18 April

Wednesday

8 Feb, 8 March: Blackwood Coffee Group, Blackwood, 10.30am-
12pm

Venue: Akkerman & DyerWood Oven Bakery

WEST ACTIVITIES

CONTACT: FRANK, MEMBER ENGAGEMENT OFFICER (WEST):

0 4 8 8 1 1 4 6 2 6

Thursday:

23 Feb: Tram ride to Glenelg, Lunch at Glenelg, 10:30am

23 March: Railway Museum, Lunch at Tavern 540, 10:30am

Friday:

17 Feb: Walk then lunch at Lighthouse Wharf Hotel, 11am

17 March: Bowling and lunch at Tavern 540, 10:30am

21 April: Lunch at Mile End Hotel, 12pm

Saturday:

4 Feb: Walk then lunch at OG Hotel, 12pm

4 March: Lunch at Palais Hotel, 11:30am

1 April: Lunch at Woodville Hotel, 12pm

15 April: Young Person Group, Lunch at the Bartley, 12pm

Sunday:

12 Feb: Lunch & Music at the Lighthouse Wharf Hotel, 12pm

12 March: Lunch & Music at the Palais, 12pm

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note:

1. *Members from all regions are welcome to attend all activities*
2. *All activities are subject to change and a minimum number of sign up*
3. *Some activities may have entry fees involved*
4. *Transport may be provided for members living within predetermined radius. For members who are living outside of the radius, alternative central pick-up locations can be arranged, subject to availability*
5. *Term 1 School holidays are: 17th – 30th April 2023 – most regular activities will take a holiday break during this period – please refer to the calendar and contact the regional Member Engagement Officer for any clarification*
6. *For the health and safety of all members and volunteers, members and carers who participate in activities MUST be triple vaccinated for COVID-19*
7. *HOT WEATHER POLICY - If the temperature is forecast on the previous night's 6pm news as:*

32 Degrees Celsius or above, members who are assisted by guide dogs are reminded that it is recommended not to use guide dogs above 32 Degrees Celsius;

38 Degrees Celsius or above, all outside & non metro events will be cancelled;

40 Degrees Celsius or above, all Beyond Blindness member activities will be cancelled.