

# Blind Citizens Australia

# NSW/ACT State Division Convention 2018

# Program

# “Enjoying Our State: Living the good life in NSW and the ACT”

# Friday 26th to Sunday 28th October 2018

## Masters of Ceremonies:

Graeme Innes AM, Secretary / Treasurer, NSW/ACT State Division

Joana d’Orey Novo, Chair, NSW/ACT State Division

## Overview:

In our first Convention as a newly formed State Division we take time to look at the things that help us live a good life, from tips for everyday living to gadgets and technology that make our lives easier. You will get a chance to share ‘diverse experiences of parenting’ and hear and reminisce about attending camp. You can network during Friday night welcome drinks and Convention dinner. And, if you’re so inclined join in our drum circle on Saturday afternoon!

## Venue Details:

Travelodge Newcastle

Address: 12 Steel Street, Newcastle NSW 2302

Phone: (02) 4926 3777

Website: [www.travelodge.com.au](http://www.travelodge.com.au)

To book, please phone the hotel directly. We have secured a room rate of $165.00 per night for convention attendees from Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights (Breakfast not included).

## Follow the BCA NSW/ACT 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.

## Major Sponsors:

The NSW/ACT State Division, Spring into Action Organising Committee and BCA Branches in NSW and the ACT would like to thank Vision Australia and Guide Dogs NSW/ACT for their support of the 2018 NSW/ACT Convention.

## Convention Highlights:

Welcome Function – to be held in the Travelodge Bar from 5:00pm on Friday, 26th October. Light refreshments will be made available with drinks available for purchase.

Mini-TEXPO – to be held in the Newcastle room from 1:00pm – 6:00pm on Saturday, 27th October. Come along and meet with suppliers of products for people who are blind or vision impaired to see what exciting things they have to offer.

Drum Circle – to be held in the Hunter room from 4:00pm – 5:00pm on Saturday, 27th October.

Convention Dinner – to be held in the Hunter Room from 7:00pm – 11:00pm on Saturday, 27th October.

## Raffle:

Tickets in the raffle will be available for purchase with your registration or, throughout the weekend at Convention. Both cash and EFTPOS payments are available.

Tickets are:

1 for $2

3 for $5

7 for $10

Proceeds from the raffle will be divided between local branches in NSW and the ACT to enable them to continue to provide their valuable support to members.

### Prizes include:

* Victor Reader Stream (New Generation) from Humanware. The Victor Reader is a handheld media player for the blind and those with a vision impairment. Features include: plays DAISY books, MP3, MP4, EPUB, and many other media 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, two built-in, human-sounding voices for a pleasant text-to-speech experience. Built-in wireless networking capability and it weighs only 110 grams. For more information on Humanware, visit: [www.humanware.com](https://apac01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.humanware.com&data=01%7C01%7Cjoana.doreynovo%40humanrights.gov.au%7C147ce97bb86d4aa3f75d08d607b93e96%7Cea4cdebd454f4218919b7adc32bf1549%7C1&sdata=j1Kh43RV%2FiFHzc7pWTSTKggeiVNb0qS168QTj4NPI0I%3D&reserved=0).

### A braille Monopoly board game from Lisa Hayes.

* Buzz Clip from Pacific Vision. The BuzzClip is a small and discreet wearable device for people living with blindness or partial sight. It uses ultrasound to detect obstacles that may lie directly in one's path. It then notifies the user of these obstacles through intuitive vibrations, allowing the user to safely navigate around any objects that they may encounter. The BuzzClip offers essential head level obstacle detection and can be easily held or attached to many forms of clothing, making it a highly versatile and useful device. More information about the BuzzClip is available at <http://www.lowvision.com.au/index.php?-route=product/product&product_id=164>. Pacific Vision is a leading provider of hardware and software products for people who are blind or who have low vision. Its range includes the Braille Sense note taker, Blaze daisy player and scanner, Openbook software, and the Topaz, Ruby and Onix HD magnifiers. For more information on Pacific Vision, visit [www.pacificvision.com.au](http://www.pacificvision.com.au).
* $100 Myer Gift Card and 4 hours of JAWS training from Quantum Reading, Learning, Vision. For over 30 years, Quantum has been providing products and services to people with a print disability (low vision, blindness or a learning difficulty). Quantum was the founding sponsor of the Macular Disease Foundation and is an approved supplier to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the NDIS. It also collaborates closely with eye care professionals (ophthalmology and optometry practices) and vision support agencies such as Vision Australia, Guide Dogs, and the Royal Society for the Blind. For more information about Quantum, visit [www.quantumrlv.com.au](https://apac01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.quantumrlv.com.au&data=01%7C01%7Cjoana.doreynovo%40humanrights.gov.au%7C147ce97bb86d4aa3f75d08d607b93e96%7Cea4cdebd454f4218919b7adc32bf1549%7C1&sdata=%2F40f4opAbO%2BJY3JhOdEEak52DD4BgKvMIrGjY5%2BCMHY%3D&reserved=0).
* 2 nights’ accommodation with breakfast included from Travelodge Hotel Newcastle.This little get away can be used at any Travelodge Hotel in Australia.
* $250 Westfield gift voucher from Vision Australia. This gift voucher may be used to purchase any product to the value of $250 at any Westfield Centre. Vision Australia is a leading national provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia. Vision Australia supports more than 27,500 people of all ages and life stages, and circumstances. It does 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. You can download Vision Australia Connect, a Vision Australia app, from the Apple app store or Google Play store.

## AIRA at Convention

Aira is pleased to support the Convention by making the hotel an Aira Access location for the duration of the convention. Aira is a service for your smartphone that connects you with professionally-trained human agents to assist you with any tasks.

If you are an Aira Explorer at present, using the service at the hotel during the convention will be free, and will not be deducted from your plan.

Even if you’re not using Aira at the moment, if you have a smartphone, you can download the iOS or Android app for free. Use Aira for free for such tasks as finding a hotel room, a conference room, reading a hotel menu, describing exhibit hall tables, description during the conference/workshop sessions, or calling an Uber to get to public transportation.

We advise guests to download the free Aira app prior to the event so they will be ready to take advantage of this opportunity to experience Aira as soon as they arrive.

You can search for Aira in the iOS App Store or Google Play Store. Alternatively, go here: [www.aira.io/app](ttp://www.aira.io/app). You will find a banner at the top of the app that says, “Tap to use Aira as a Guest for Free.” Register with email and phone number on "Sign Up as a Guest." Then you will get a text message confirming your phone number. Double-tap on the link in the text message and you've signed up as a Guest!

# Friday 26th October 2018

5.00–8:00pm: Welcome Function **(Travelodge Bar)**

For those who arrive on Friday and feel like being social, light refreshments will be served in the Travelodge bar area with drinks available for purchase.

# Saturday 27th October 2018

8:00–8:45am: Registration **(Hunter Room)**

Please be seated by 8.50am for a 9.00 am start.

## Session 1: Convention Opening

### 9:00–9:10am: Welcome and Housekeeping

### 9:10– 9:15am: Welcome to Newcastle and Acknowledgement of Country.

### Stephen Belbin, BCA Director and president of the Newcastle Branch, will welcome attendees to Newcastle and acknowledge Newcastle’s traditional Aboriginal Custodians, the Awabakal and Worimi Peoples.

### 9:15–9:35am: Convention Opening

Nuatali Nelmes, Newcastle Lord Mayor

### 9:35–9:50am: Roll Call

**9:50–10:10am: Aira: What’s it all About?**

Jonathon Mosen, Vice President Explorer Communications, Aira

Jonathan Mosen is well-known internationally for his popular books and podcasts, as the founder of ACB Radio and for his roles with adaptive technology companies, HumanWare and Freedom Scientific. In his first Australian appearance since he commenced in his new role as Vice-President, Explorer Communications and Australasia with Aira, Jonathan will speak about his new role and give attendees a glimpse into the exciting future opportunities Aira offers people who are blind or vision impaired in relation to information access.

### 10:10–10:30am: Preview of Mini TEXPO

In this session, Mini TEXPO exhibitors Guide Dogs NSW/ACT, Pacific Vision, Quantum RLV and Vision Australia will provide information about the products they have available and those being shown at the Mini TEXPO.

**Chair:** Stephen Belbin, President, Newcastle/Hunter Branch, BCA Director

### 10:30-10:45am: Tech Life

Join David Woodbridge as he discusses how he uses apps, wearables, smart home and a variety of other gadgets to live the good life.

### 10:45-11:15am: Morning Tea

## Session 2: BCA, A New Era

### 11:15–11:35am: NSW/ACT Branch Updates session 1: (Newcastle and the ACT)

Representatives from each branch will provide an update on the branch activities and plans for the coming months.

**Speakers**:

* Stephen Belbin - President, Newcastle/Hunter Branch, BCA Director
* Peter Granlese – Vice President, ACT Branch

### 11:35–12:05pm: Where We Are and How We Got Here

This session will look at the background to the establishment of the NSW/ACT State Division, how the Division fits into BCA more broadly and the Division’s strategic directions. There will be an update on the work of BCA nationally and in the Division, as well as a report on the Shirley Fund.

**Chair:** Joana d’Orey Novo – Chair, NSW/ACT State Division

**Speakers:**

* Graeme Innes, Outgoing Chair of Blind Citizens NSW
* John Simpson, President, BCA
* Sally Aurisch, NSW/ACT State Coordinator

### 12:05–12:25pm: Presentation from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT

BCA and Guide Dogs NSW/ACT have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work in partnership to improve the lives of people who are blind or vision impaired living in NSW and the ACT. Guide Dogs NSW will present on the work the organisation does to support blind and vision impaired residents of NSW and the ACT live the good life.

**Speaker**: Annette Clarke

**Presenters**: TBC

**12:25–12:40pm: The Importance of Train Guards in NSW**

Martin Stuart, a long-time member of BCA experienced an horrific accident while travelling via train in Victoria. He has recently shared his story with BC News (available here: <https://www.bca.org.au/bcnewsoctober2018/>). The NSW State Government has recently announced they are considering removing guards from some NSW trains. In this session BCA’s NSW/ACT Coordinator, Sally Aurisch would like to highlight the significance of this decision with members ahead of a proposed statement to the NSW Minister for Transport, calling on the Government not to withdraw this important role.

## 12:40–1:40pm: Lunch

## 1:00-6:00pm: Mini TEXPO (Newcastle Room)

* Pacific Vision
* Quantum
* Guide Dogs NSW/ACT
* Vision Australia

## Session 3: Living the Good Life

### 1:40–2:25pm: Women’s Branch Session: “Life Hacks” for Cooking, Grooming and Housework

Join an amazing panel of speakers to discuss the challenges of living an independent life and the strategies that they use to stay organised, manage family life and career commitments.

**Chair:** Lisa Hayes

**Speakers:**

* Susan Thompson
* Emma Bennison

### **2:25–3:25pm: Updates, Changes and Information on the Banking Sector**

A lot has been happening in the banking and financial services sector. This session will give participants an opportunity to hear what banks and other financial institutions are doing to improve access to their services by people with disability and the work BCA is doing in this space. You can read BCA’s submission to the Royal Commission that is currently underway to inquire into instances of misconduct in the banking, superannuation and financial services industry at [https://www.bca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/180817-Banking-Royal-Commission-Sub-BCA.docx](https://apac01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bca.org.au%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F08%2F180817-Banking-Royal-Commission-Sub-BCA.docx&data=01%7C01%7Cjoana.doreynovo%40humanrights.gov.au%7Cb2ec34f936d24e9f9c6108d6175d28d4%7Cea4cdebd454f4218919b7adc32bf1549%7C1&sdata=IcqHc8Z%2F8WMUV1KVg0zQw7j3dUO3U%2BYG6k0fiKE8hIU%3D&reserved=0). To read BCA’s position statement on touch-screen EFTPOS terminals, visit: [https://www.bca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Position-Statement-Touchscreen-EFTPOS.docx](https://apac01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bca.org.au%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2018%2F08%2FPosition-Statement-Touchscreen-EFTPOS.docx&data=01%7C01%7Cjoana.doreynovo%40humanrights.gov.au%7Cb2ec34f936d24e9f9c6108d6175d28d4%7Cea4cdebd454f4218919b7adc32bf1549%7C1&sdata=DJxzOgZ4F7z1w%2B7m51ISCwH1D9XmFoxudaAEDnytDtU%3D&reserved=0).

**Chair**: Joana d’Orey Novo, Chair, BCA NSW/ACT State Division

**Speakers**:

* Australian Banking Association
* Katrina Enos, NABility Chair, National Australia Bank
* Nathan Turley, Business Lead, Customer Led Innovation, Bendigo Bank
* Emma Bennison, Chief Executive Officer, BCA

## 3:25–3:55pm: Afternoon Tea

## 4:00–5:00pm: Drum Circle (Hunter Room)

A fun filled hour of drumming and percussion led by Rhythm Connect. No experience or musical ability necessary! Find out more about Rhythm Connect at <http://www.rhythmconnect.com.au/>. To participate in this activity, you must book your spot when you register.

## 7:00–11:00pm: Convention Dinner (Hunter Room)

Stephen Belbin will be our Master of Ceremonies for the Convention Dinner, the perfect opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends while enjoying a delicious meal.

# Sunday, 28th October 2018

## 9:00–9:15am: Registration

Please be seated by 9.20 am for a 9.30 am start.

## Session 4: Day 2 Opening

### 9:30–9:40am: Welcome and Housekeeping

### 9:40–9:45am: Welcome to Newcastle and Acknowledgement of Country

Stephen Belbin, President of the Newcastle Branch and BCA Director, will welcome attendees to Newcastle and acknowledge Newcastle’s traditional Aboriginal Custodians, the Awabakal and Worimi Peoples.

### 9:45–10:00am: Roll Call

### 10:00–10:20am: Presentation by Vision Australia

BCA and Vision Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work in partnership to improve the lives of people who are blind or vision impaired. Vision Australia will present on the work the organisation does to support blind and vision impaired residents of NSW and the ACT live the good life.

**Speaker**: Michael Simpson, General Manager NSW/ACT Client Services, Vision Australia

### 10:20–10:50am: NSW/ACT Branch Updates (cont.): Tweed Valley, Central West and Sydney branches.

Representatives from each branch will provide an update on the branch activities and plans for the coming months.

**Speakers**:

* Tarhnee Wilson, Member, Tweed Valley Branch
* Graham Hedrick, President, Central West Branch
* Susan Thompson, Sydney Social Group

## 10:50–11:20am: Morning Tea

## Session 5: What the good life is all about

### 11:20–12:05pm: Why We Love Camp

Join us for an update on what BCA is doing to support members to experience many aspects of camp life and for a group discussion on why we love camp and the role it has played in shaping our lives.

**Chair**: Sally Aurisch, NSW/ACT Coordinator, BCA

**Speakers:**

* Tyan Taylor
* Prue Watt

### 12:05–12:50pm: Diverse Experiences of Blind Parenting

In this session we’ll take a look at some of the less frequently considered aspects of blind parenting. We’ll hear from a single parent about her experiences in raising her children: what particular challenges she faced, and what was important in dealing with them and bringing up two fine human beings. Then we’ll turn the focus around and talk about being parented by people who are blind, from the perspective of the children in those relationships.

**Chair**: Fiona Woods, BCA Director

**Speakers**:

* Ros Martin
* Jennifer Parry

## 12:50-1:50pm: Lunch

The major raffle will be drawn during lunch. So make sure you buy a ticket or two to be in with a chance to win one of the fantastic prizes on offer.

## Session 6: Human Rights and Technology

### 1:50–3:00pm: Technology and Human Rights: Overview and Consultation Workshop

Join representatives from the Human Rights Commission to examine the challenges and opportunities to protect human rights in an age of rapid technological development. The project is focusing on responsible innovation. This involves meeting Australia’s international commitments to protect human rights alongside the pursuit of technological advances in driving our economic growth and social development. One of the key issues that the Commission is seeking feedback on is accessible technology for people with disability. The Commission wants to hear from stakeholders across the public and private sectors to inform proposals for a Discussion Paper, set for release in mid-2019.

**Chair**: Sean Murphy

**Speakers:**

* Zoe Paleologos, Australian Human Rights Commission
* Katerina Lecchi, Australian Human Rights Commission

### 3:00–3:20pm: The Convention That Was and Close

Time to reflect on the Convention that was… The things that inspired us, the things that made us laugh and the things that made us think. It is also the time to acknowledge the people who made it all possible: the organisers, the presenters, the volunteers and the participants.

**Chair:** Joana d’Orey Novo, Chair of the NSW/ACT State Division and of the Spring into Action Organising Committee

**Speakers:**

* Lynne Davis, BCA Director
* Prue Watt, BCA Director
* Sally Aurish, NSW/ACT Coordinator, BCA
* Stephen Belbin, BCA Director

# Special Thanks

The Spring into Action Organising Committee would like to extend a special thank you to Nathan Burford and the team at **Guide Dogs NSW/ACT** for providing orientation and mobility instructions around the hotel for members, and sighted guide training for hotel staff and volunteers. And, to Peter Graham and the wonderful members of the **Newcastle Lions Club** for providing volunteers to assist members throughout of the convention.

We would also like to thank our major sponsors, Vision Australia and Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and all of our prize donors for their kind contributions.