Canberra Blind Society Logo


**April 2023**

**Announcements**

# Art by Description – Onsite Tour - National Gallery of Australia

**Sunday 2nd April - 11am- 12 noon - Free**

Visit the gallery for a social live descriptive tour in March. Enjoy shared discussion and tactile resources responding to major works of international art featured in the *Worldwide* display.

**To RSVP, please email** [**access@nga.gov.au**](mailto:access@nga.gov.au) **or call Adriane on**

**6240 6632.**

**Audio Book Group**

The Audio Book Group will meet on **Wednesday 6th April** for discussion of a recently released audiobook, and for a friendly chat about things of interest to book lovers, and much else beside. New members are always welcome.

Our April book is “Limberlost” by Robbie Arnott. It is about a boy growing up in Tasmania during WW2 while his older brothers are serving overseas. It is the story of a boy and his boat lovingly set on the Tamar River.

Call the Eyes for Life/CBS office to learn about accessing talking books, transport to our meeting, and how to become a book club member.

Thanks all - Bob

**Easter Lunch - Thursday 7th April – 12noon to 2pm**

The first social lunch for 2023 will be held on **Thursday 7th April** in Room 6, Level 1 of the Griffin Centre from 12.00noon to 2pm.

This lunch will be our Easter celebration, so get creative and design an Easter Bonnet. Prizes will be awarded to members wearing Easter clothing or hats.

EFLC-CBS members and clients are all welcome to come along and share a light and tasty lunch with your friends at the Griffin Centre.

Call Debra at the office on 6247 4580 and put your name on the list, or email [events@canberrablindsociety.org.au](mailto:events@canberrablindsociety.org.au)

If you require transport you will need to contact [Volunteers@canberrablindsociety.org.au](mailto:Volunteers@canberrablindsociety.org.au)

**Music at Midday – Canberra Theatre Centre**

**Tuesday 11th April – 12noon**

The Royal Military College Band is one of Australia’s premier military bands, performing at historic occasions including the Centenary of Federation celebration in London in 2000 and ceremonial duties at Gallipoli on ANZAC Day.

[Registration is FREE](https://tickets.canberratheatrecentre.com.au/event_dates/ctc_music_midday_22.aspx) and is now open for this performance.

On the day of the performance entry is by a gold coin donation, with all proceeds going to Cancer Council ACT.

**National Archives Webinar Series – Descriptive Discovery**

**The webinar being held on Wednesday**[**19th April**](https://us17.mailchimp.com/mctx/clicks?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.naa.gov.au%2Fvisit-us%2Fevents-and-exhibitions%2Fdescriptive-discovery-0&xid=823f8c50eb&uid=144317717&iid=49f0b3cb57&pool=cts&v=2&c=1678319869&h=fa4e7167c388af094ea56b8782197a9e060e33c96a8c688536f6c3e1ec9d3ec7) **is open for registration now.**

National Archives is running a monthly webinar series called ‘Descriptive Discovery’, which is specifically designed for blind and vision impaired audiences across the country. Each month, we will share stories from the national archival collection along with insights from our curators and other archives specialists.

Join a National Archives team member and be part of an accessible community conversation.

Hear untold stories from the national archival collection which includes descriptions and materials designed for blind and vision impaired audiences.

The National Archives Office in Canberra will be hosting this webinar. Please remember the time difference when joining this event.

This webinar will be hosted using the Microsoft Teams platform. A link to join the webinar will be sent two hours prior to the event, and attendees can enter the webinar as a guest without an account.

Start times around Australia:

Wednesday 19th April

* Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart (AEST): 2 pm
* Brisbane (AEST): 2 pm
* Adelaide (ACST): 1:30 pm
* Darwin (ACST): 1:30 pm
* Perth (AWST): 12 pm

**Donation**

The Canberra Flower Club has very generously donated $500 to the Canberra Blind Society.

The Members of the Canberra Flower Club used a bring and buy, a raffle and a cash round up to put together this very charitable donation.

The Canberra Blind Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Members of the Canberra Flower Club for their continued and valued support. It is appreciated by all.

**Occupational Therapist – Shilo Preston-Stanley**

I am an occupational therapist and operational manager with 20 years’ experience working with people with disability in the community in Australia and the UK.

I work in partnership with people to work out how they can do the things they have to do or want to do more easily. This might include changing the environment or the way a task is done, using equipment, or providing information to other people, including support teams.

When I am not working alongside people in this way, I am spending time together with my family, including Sinbad, the 3-year-old Labrador. Sinbad started life with me as a trainee guide-dog. Despite our best efforts and 16 months of training, he decided he would prefer a life of chasing balls and hanging out with me. Not quite what we had planned, but valuable none-the-less.

I am looking forward to working with the team at EFLC to provide holistic support to people living with vision impairment or an eyesight problem.

**Guide Dogs vs Uber**

Scott Grimley, long time society member and guide dog handler, is seeking help from other dog guide handlers in Canberra.

In September 2020, Scott took action against Uber in the ACT Human Rights Commission (HRC), Uber drivers had refused Scott and his guide dog Dudley access to their services. An ACT HRC agreement was reached in July 2021. Uber was to implement seven actions, with only some being met by 2023.

Scott has taken further action against Uber in the ACT Civil Administration Tribunal to have the 2021 agreement enforced in full. Both Uber and Scott have been instructed to create briefs of evidence for their claims.

If you are a dog guide handler, and have been refused by any Uber driver since July 2021, would you consider writing a statement or statutory declaration to help Scott? If so please email him at [scott.grimley@gmail.com](mailto:scott.grimley@gmail.com) or call him at 0401 563 939 for a chat and more information.

**Scotty says:**

If you are looking for an alternative transport option to UBER, ACTCabs or Community Transport he now uses DriVision Australia.

They offer Disability Support Transport services.

DriVision believe that if you can't drive because of a disability or you are of an age where driving has become too difficult, reliable transportation service should be assessable and cost-effective.  Having a child with a disability has given us this inside experience so we have set up a team of drivers in the Canberra area to assist you with an alternative transport option.

You need to register with DriVision Australia online prior to making a booking. Their website address is [**www.drivision.com.au**](http://www.drivision.com.au)

When booking an inner city transfer you let them know that you have a disability. They are more than happy to transport Guide Dogs if you have one.

You will be invoiced monthly and if you have a transport component in your NDIS plan then a discount will apply.

Their contact details are [bookings@drivision.com.au](mailto:bookings@drivision.com.au?subject=Website%20Enquiry) or phone [1300 374 847](tel:300374847)

**COTA Seniors Expo in Autumn - 15th March 2023**

On Wednesday the 15th March Prue and Deb attended the COTA Seniors Expo in Autumn at the Canberra Show Ground. The event was a great success with many store holders expressing curiosity and interest in networking with Canberra Blind Society/Eyes for Life Canberra. We were very busy all day as we interacted with the public and shared who we are and what we do. It was encouraging to hear positive feedback from many attendees about how Canberra Blind Society had assisted either themselves or a loved one.

The feedback received was that the attuned and client focused care provided by Canberra Blind Society had a reputation for “giving people hope” during a time of fear and uncertainty. This is a wonderful premise to launch future programs and to model service delivery. Our uniqueness in how we support clients sets us apart and draws interest from other community groups who are keen to refer to our service because of the caring and attuned care we can provide their clients.

There was great interest shown in our magnifiers and other assistive technology we had set up at our stall. We distributed all the information we took along as well as completed sales and informed people how they could purchase our showcased items.

As well as housing a great many service providers and produce vendors, the COTA exhibit also provided entertainment in the form of Elvis and Johnny Cash impersonators. The entertainment was fun and engaging with attendees keen to listen and have a dance.

COTA provides a fun and informative program to interact with the public in an informal setting. All in all, it was a positive experience and one we should engage in each year.

**Birrigai Camp 25th & 26th March 2023**

CBS held a “Weekend to Remember” at Birrigai Outdoor School on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March 2023. 24 happy campers enjoyed the weekend filled with a range of recreational and sporting activities.

Everyone joined in helping to make the weekend a warm and friendly event for each other. Those who could, helped as volunteers making it easier for the rest of the campers.

The program this year included a Trivial Pursuit Quiz with those sitting round tables making up a team with questions delivered by Deb and Robin. Sporting and recreational activities included: acrylic pouring, clay craft, line dancing, board games, a performance by the Rachel Hore Pop-up Choir, Blind Cricket game and the usual Birrigai Challenges.

On Sunday afternoon there was a round-up of participants’ feelings and comments about the weekend shared below.

Lindy said: “I liked the combination of activities, great food.”

Belinda said: “I enjoyed most of the activities particularly the craft, food was great, I loved talking to people and interacting.”

Liz said: “There were no single negatives, I loved the Choir, it was inclusive and easy for people with vision impairment to be part of.”

Roz said: “I loved the Choir, I’ve been coming to Birrigai on and off for a number of years, I am able to relax here and meet up with people.”

Jenny said: “The Choir was a highlight, the Blind Cricket activities were fantastic, we were given the opportunity to experience how a person with vision impairment plays cricket. The clay activity was lovely to watch how people interacted, shared stories and I was pleased to meet new people.”

Kristyna said: “I enjoyed everything, art and craft activities, the Choir performance, great food and brilliant lodgings.”

Members/family and volunteers warmly thanked Deb, Robin and volunteers for such a marvellous weekend.

**ACT Blind Cricket**

In February Blind Cricket ACT joined forces with Inclusive Innovations Tasmania which is developing Blind Cricket Tasmania to launch our first-ever campaign at the National Cricket Inclusion Championships in Brisbane.

Bringing together ACT and TAS has been a sensational accomplishment with some major milestones along the way, including the rebranding of ACT which now aligns with TAS to make that long-term partnership viable. You will see this through our logos and uniforms.

The 2023 campaign was filled with some amazing achievements. While we did not win a game, we were incredibly competitive in most games and we earned respect from the other teams with our never give up attitude against some formidable odds. This was achieved through outstanding leadership from Captain Michael Hamilton who selflessly went above and beyond to support the newer players from Tasmania. This also resulted in some outstanding achievements from two players who came out of retirement; Daniel Searle who was the highest run scorer for a B1 and Mathew Kent who was the B2 player of the tournament.

This is just the start for Blind Cricket in the ACT as we support Tasmania to gain experience and momentum to attend the nationals independently.

If you are interested in playing or volunteering, please do not hesitate to reach out to [blindcricketact@gmail.com](mailto:blindcricketact@gmail.com).

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A reminder to all members, clients, volunteers and staff. If you are not well, then please **do not** come into the office, but stay at home.

We have several people who have underlying medical conditions and would ask you to consider their wellbeing and avoid coming into the office if you are unwell and experiencing any cold or flu like symptoms.

**Check our website and socials for all up to date information about what's happening at Canberra Blind Society.**

To give any feedback on this platform or unsubscribe please email vco@canberrablindsociety.org.au