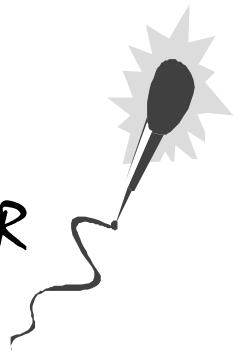


# MIC-ING ABOUT

A QUEENSLAND NARRATING SERVICE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011



## Newsletter @ a Glance

2011 AGM Notice  
VIP Book Club  
Disability Action Week  
Narrator Workshops &  
Training  
Quality Assurance -  
Website Additions

## TO CONTACT QNS

P - (07) 3324 0004  
F - (07) 3324 2191  
E - [qns@qns.net.au](mailto:qns@qns.net.au)  
W - [www.qns.net.au](http://www.qns.net.au)

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Aleho Valencia  
[aleho@qns.net.au](mailto:aleho@qns.net.au)

## POSTAL ADDRESS

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Coorparoo DC Q 4151

## WE ARE LOCATED AT

Vision Australia Site  
373 Old Cleveland Rd  
COORPAROO

## QUEENSLAND NARRATING SERVICE

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

Queensland Narrating Service  
requests the pleasure of your company  
at the

Annual General Meeting  
to be held on  
Friday 4 November 2011  
Meeting 10.00 am for 10.30 am  
Lunch 12 noon

at  
The Kingsbury Room  
Queen Alexandra Home  
347 Old Cleveland Rd  
(next to Vision Australia)  
Coorparoo

THERE IS ONLY STREET PARKING  
IN OLD CLEVELAND RD AND SIDE STREETS



RSVP

P 3324 0004

[qns@qns.net.au](mailto:qns@qns.net.au)

RSVP by 31 October

Lunch/No lunch

## VIP BOOK CLUB

The final VIP Book Club for 2011 was held on 3 October. The guest author was Lois Nicholls author of *Aussie Actually*. It's was really fabulous to see so many people attending. All participants received a complimentary copy of the book prior to the event, which provided an added dimension and was well received.

QNS would like to thank Maureen Davenport, co-ordinator of the Nundah VIP Group, Retina Queensland and Vision Australia for their valued support in helping to promote this event through various channels.

Lois is a Brisbane-based freelance writer. She was born in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and emigrated to Australia with her husband and young son in 1997.

Lois shared a humorous and honest account of her migration experience. She wrote the book in the hope that it would help others in a similar situation realise they were not alone in their struggles.

Helen Boardman, QNS volunteer, shared her experience of immigrating from Zimbabwe. Helen has given QNS permission for us to reproduce her account below.

## *Aussie Actually*

*Hi I am Helen Boardman and I have been asked to chat to you about my very similar experience to that of Lois Nicholl's. I have had the privilege of living two distinctly different lives, benefiting from the best in both. One, physically whole and sighted, able to see the raw beauty under a vast African sky and the other when I emigrated here and soon discovered I had RP.*

*You see as a child I was nicknamed Hawkeye for my ability to be the first to spot game from the roof of our rattle trap car or to see cheater munching on a kill, camouflaged in thick scrub. I saw, felt, heard and smelt the savageness of the animal kingdom in a land of spectacular sunsets, frightening thunderstorms and the world's largest waterfall. Victoria falls, or Mosi – au-Tunya. (The smoke that thunders.) That kind of smoke does not choke you but drenches you in a cold, fine mist. I was there to see Eleies getting drunk on the little marula fruit. I watched these Elephants behaving badly, turning black rinos on their backs and beating them with their trunks. I saw a male giraffe brought down by a determined pride of lions, who comically only came up to his ankles. I watched the mega herd, (Zebra, Wildebeests and Impala) chasing storms for new grass shoots. It was not on TV from my armchair that I witnessed these things but in person.. I also saw the blind beggar in the street, sitting on littered pavements, his voice to hoarse to sing, lips too cracked and rags hardly covering his sticking out ribs. Next to his rusty begging bowl sits a fresh bottle of milk and generous loaf of bread. Compassionate passes by doing what they can to help.*

*English is the official language of both countries and as we all come from similar cultures, we should find the transition easy; BUT this presumption could land you in hot water boiling as I and my husband, (not my partner,) found out and as I was reminded of by many amusing examples that you can read of in Lois's book. The culture and some terminology is vastly different. In fact even the written language is different here. Reading from top to bottom, left to right as taught in all good schools we came across written instructions in lanes on the road saying, 'Only Lane Busses.' What is a Lane Bus? Shocking signage and drivers, well that is another disturbing difference best left for another time.*

*We left Southern Africa for numerous reasons but there was one big plus we left behind and this was the fact that we had time on our hands. We tried to find an interested ear in our new friends. Talking about our life in Africa here was like trying to have a conversation in the heat of a battle. Though silent it is just as ferocious as any war and we realized that life in Australia is like trying to tread water with lead weights on, in a sea of work and bills and no one has time to entertain an interest in our past experiences. In fact, we have found time to be a very scarce commodity in Australia. In Africa dropping in on friends was common place. Here you make an appointment and it may be in a year's time that you can actually see them.*

*For me though ramps that turned into stairs as I careered headlong down them, bus stops that were really rocky slopes that could deposit you in the bottom of storm water drains before you could scream 'Crikey' and in a short space of time after seeking help for my mug breaking, walking into glass doors, clumsiness I was declared legally blind. So I am thankful to be a citizen of a country that offers a pension, low vision aids and all manner of help to keep ones independence and dignity. There is Mobility training, free public transport, medical assistance, graciousness and acceptance from the public. (Though 'stressed' Indooroopilly shoppers still swear as they fall over me and send my cane catapulting off under coffee shop tables.) In times gone by, in African countries if you made the effort to train as a massier or physio then life for you though difficult would at least be remunerable. Otherwise begging was your only hope. VIP's in this country have I believe always been privileged to be offered all manner of vocations and assistance in the work place is readily available.*

*I have asked for assistance at ATM's here in Brisbane. Blitsome in South Africa you would be helped alright. Helped quick as a flash to drain your card of every Rand and cent you have in your bank. Thank you very much!*

*I know all you wonderful people enjoy life to the full here. Thanks to QNS for making great book titles like this available on audiobooks for us all to listen to. Thank goodness for the lucky country where I am also Aussie actually and have been for over 13 years now. Thanks to Lois for reminding me of that tough but character building transition and making me laugh at myself once again through her great book. Aussie Actually.*

**Helen Boardman**

## DISABILITY ACTION WEEK

QNS recently attended a Disability Action Week Expo that was held at Guide Dogs Queensland, which located in Bald Hills. Held annually, the Expo allows Queenslanders who are vision impaired to learn about the aids, technology and support available from a selection of agencies. White Canes, Electronic Travel Aids, Adaptive Technologies, Daily Living Equipment and information about support groups, counseling, and welfare and social services were all on display. Guests also enjoyed a BBQ lunch and Devonshire Tea.



## NARRATOR WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

### Being in Voice - a mini workshop by Flloyd Kennedy

Please email [qns@qns.net.au](mailto:qns@qns.net.au) with your expression of interest in attending a Being in Voice workshop with Flloyd Kennedy (Performer, Director, Voice & Acting Coach). The workshops run commence at 10 am and concluding at 1pm with a light lunch. New narrators are encouraged to attend. Numbers will be restricted to 6-8.

The workshop will cover the following:

- Introduce participants to the concept of VOICE as a physical construct within their ability to produce, empower, enhance and control
- Vocal Function Exercise program
- Resonance exercises
- Prepared reading technique
- Relaxation exercises
- Cold reading technique

These workshops are extremely valuable and we highly recommend you attend one. If you would like to attend please phone QNS on 3324 0004 or email [qns@qns.net.au](mailto:qns@qns.net.au)

Several narrators have expressed an interest in a follow up workshop with Flloyd. A date will be set for this workshop once responses have been received. Please email [qns@qns.net.au](mailto:qns@qns.net.au) if you are interested in attending a followup workshop.

### Mac Computer and Audacity Training

We continue to offer any narrator who may still be experiencing difficulties, no matter how minor, the opportunity to come in to QNS to receive one-on-one training in any area you may be having difficulty with.

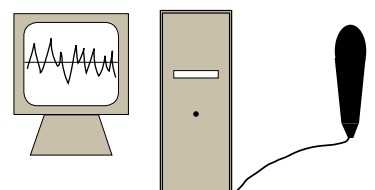
If you are interested please contact QNS either via email [qns@qns.net.au](mailto:qns@qns.net.au) or by phone 3324 0004.

There are some good Audacity manuals and tutorials available on-line. Try the following:

[www.guidesandtutorials.com/audacity-tutorial.html](http://www.guidesandtutorials.com/audacity-tutorial.html)

[audacity.sourceforge.net/manual-1.2/tutorials.html](http://audacity.sourceforge.net/manual-1.2/tutorials.html)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rQr5YVNqI04feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rQr5YVNqI04feature=related)



If you look at the bottom right of the screen 'related videos' for more. Tell us if you find a good one so that we can share it with other narrators.

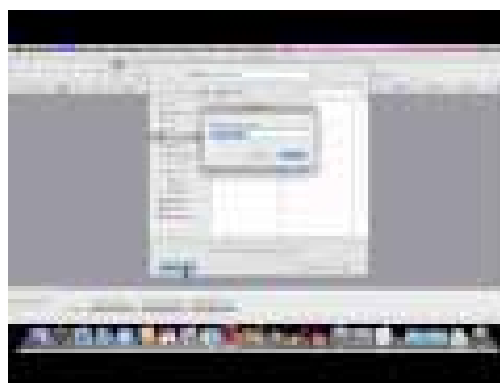
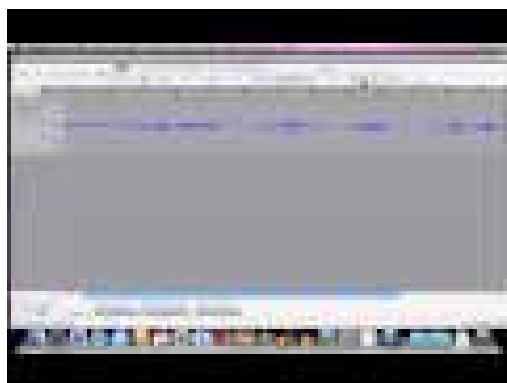
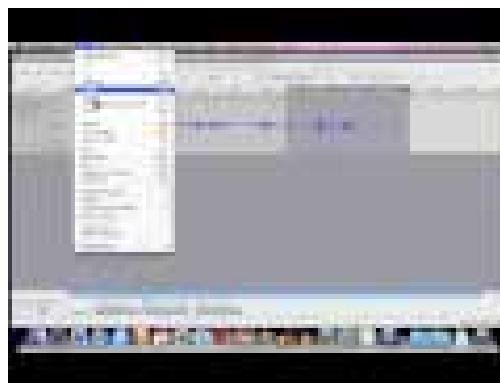
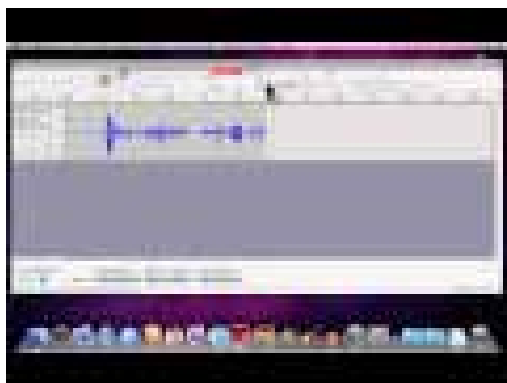
## ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

We would like to acknowledge John Sharpe's dedication and commitment to the craft of narrating. John travelled from Adelaide to Brisbane recently to receive training in the use of Macbook Laptop and Audacity software so that he could better improve the quality of his recordings for the print disabled community. He has successfully made the switch from analogue to digital recording and is currently narrating his third novel.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

## WEBSITE ADDITIONS

We have recently made some new additions to the QNS website. One of which is the Narrators Assistance page, accessed from the Our Narrators page. The Narrators Assistance page contains narrators guides, pronunciation guides, tips and hints, audio recording of a Being in Voice Workshop and a selection of tutorial videos, which have been compiled to assist the narrators recording using 'Audacity' software. Each video has a corresponding step-by-step document file.



There are nine videos so far and they are as follows:-

- 1/- Starting a book
- 2/- Setting your recording levels
- 3/- Recording and editing
- 4/- Exporting finished recording
- 5/- Following sections of book
- 6/- Copy to a USB drive
- 7/- Loading sessions
- 8/- Advanced editing
- 9/- HELP I've lost a file

These videos and other information can be accessed from the Our Narrators page by choosing Narrator Assistance section of the QNS website. Please check out the page and let us know if there is anything you would like added.

<http://www.qns.net.au/our-narrators/narrator-assistance/>

If you would like a copy of the videos and accompanying pdf instructions to load onto your Mac Laptop or are unable to access the QNS website, please contact us and we will organise a CD copy to be posted to you.

Also, if you feel there is an area of the 'Audacity' software that would benefit from having a tutorial video made about it, please let us know and we will look into adding it to the video collection.