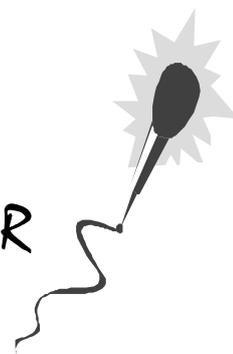


# MIC-ING ABOUT

A QUEENSLAND NARRATING SERVICE NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2017



Happy Chinese Lunar New Year!  
May the year of the Fire Rooster bring you much  
joy and happiness

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

### In this Newsletter

AGM 2016  
QNS in the Community  
News & Interesting  
Information  
Quality Assurance

### TO CONTACT QNS

P - (07) 3324 0004  
F - (07) 3324 2191  
E - qns@qns.net.au  
W - www.qns.net.au

### STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

General QNS email  
qns@qns.net.au

Jo Booth  
jo@qns.net.au

Nick Warren  
nick@qns.net.au

Aleho Valencia  
aleho@qns.net.au

### POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 1383  
Coorparoo DC Q 4151

### WE ARE LOCATED AT

Vision Australia Building  
373 Old Cleveland Rd  
COORPAROO

A successful AGM was held on Friday 18 November in the Alex Conference Room at Queen Alexandra Home. The morning was well attended by our volunteer base located in Brisbane and representatives from blindness organisations, with approximately 24 people attending and sharing in conversation over a lovely lunch. It was wonderful to have Paul Price, a volunteer with Radio 4RPH as our guest speaker. Paul shared stories of his childhood and living life without sight. Stella Haralampou - Queensland Blind Association, Terry O'Neill - Link Vision (formerly Aide for the Blind), Sue Wagner - Queensland Braille Writing Association and Bill and Jenny Smith - Clan MacKenzie Association were among the guests. Bill Smith presented QNS with a folder of historical documents dating back to the 1960's. The folder contains handwritten minutes of meetings, correspondence and newspaper clippings about the early days of the organisations work.

The Management Committee as elected for 2016 is:

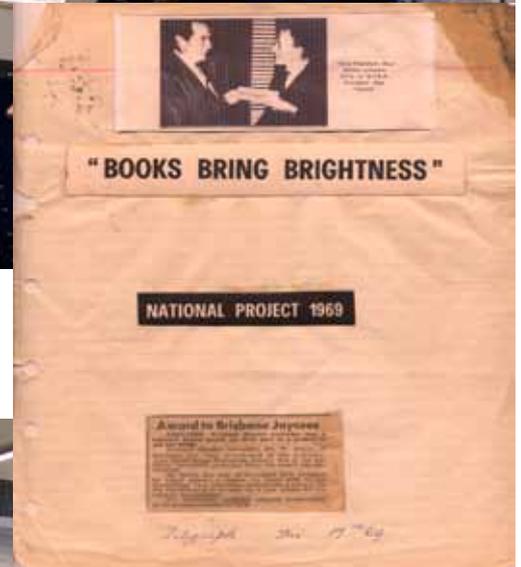
Hon President	- Janet Poole
Hon Vice President	- Pierce Bragg
Hon Secretary	- Kathy Kunde
Hon Treasurer	- Adrian Tavarayan
System Administrator	- Vacant
Narrator Representative	- Kaye Stevenson
Narrator Representative	- David Kennedy
Consumer Representative	- Peter Price
Consumer Representative	- Deirn Geard
Marketing & Promotion	- Katherine Howard

If you would like a copy of the 2016 Annual Report please contact the QNS office either by phone or email and a copy will be posted out to you.

# Photos from the 2016 AGM Courtesy Aleho Valencia



Bill Smith presenting the Historical material



Guest speaker Paul Price

## QNS IN THE COMMUNITY



### **CONGRATULATIONS HILDA REID ON BEING AWARDED THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL**

In June 2016 QNS was approached by Australian Honours & Awards Secretariat, Government House with regard to a nomination they had received for Hilda Reid.

Hilda commenced as a volunteer narrator with Queensland Narrating Service (QNS) in 1976. During Hilda's 30 years as a dedicated volunteer narrator she gave outstanding service to people with a print disability and to the community in general through her commitment to accuracy and quality when narrating texts. Her commitment ensured that the quality of life for those with a print disability was greatly improved and that their independence was enhanced. Hilda witnessed many changes at QNS during her time, particularly in technology.

Hilda was the pioneer of our first digital narration, a horse-grooming manual for Open Learning at TAFE. Hilda's grasp of the importance of digital audio to the future combined with her patience and tenacity in working closely with QNS staff to produce our first ever compact disc narration is evidence of her dedication. She actively helped to produce alternative formats and can be credited for leading the way, along with other volunteers, in aiding QNS to move from analogue to digital production, without which the organisation wouldn't be here today.

Hilda narrated a wide range of materials on a variety of subjects - novels, minutes of meetings, reports, government documents, educational materials, newsletters etc. QNS digital records only span four years of Hilda's involvement as prior to 2002 jobs were recorded by hand on narrator job cards which we no longer hold. Records from 2002 until Hilda's retirement in 2006 indicate that she produced 50 texts in audio equating to 1624 volunteer hours donated to the organisation. Her dedication to producing a quality audio recording and accurate

## CONGRATULATIONS HILDA REID ON BEING AWARDED THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL C'td

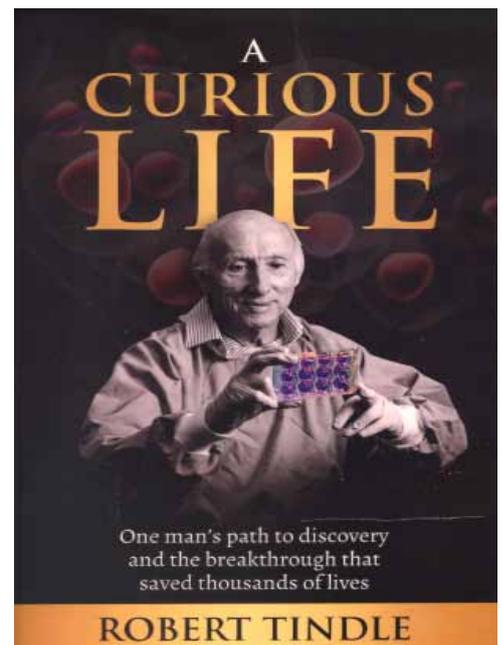
transcription of the printed text was outstanding, as was her dedication to ensuring people living in our community with print disabilities could access information and recreational reading material.

Hilda was awarded life membership of QNS in 2001. As part of the celebrations of International Year of the Volunteer in 2001, Hilda was nominated for an award by QNS. The awards were offered to organisations and individuals performing volunteer work in the electorate of Anna Bligh, Member for South Brisbane. Hilda was awarded a special award certificate in recognition of her excellent work in providing access to information for print-disabled people, her tireless commitment, skill and length of service.

### QNS IN THE COMMUNITY

## VIP Book Club

The next VIP book club event at the Brisbane Square Library will be held on Monday 24 April. It is hoped that Bob Tindle, author of *Curious Careers* will be our guest speaker. More details to follow shortly.



Have you check out and 'liked' the QNS Facebook page?

QNS has its own Facebook page - Queensland Narrating Service. We suggest that everyone with access to Facebook go online and "Like" the page. Please share our page and any of the posts. This helps to improve our profile in the community. Thank you!

## **QNS & THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was launched nationwide in Townsville on July 2016. This marked the beginning of the NDIS rollout in Queensland with full rollout of the scheme expected to occur by June 2019. The NDIS places not only QNS but many other small disability service providers in a precarious situation as State government funding will potentially be withdrawn from July 2019. QNS is currently in the process of registering as a provider under the NDIS, however the registration process is slow. We cannot market our NDIS services to people with disabilities who qualify for funding under the scheme until we are registered. This is quite frustrating. QNS will go through many challenges and changes over the coming months in the lead up to June 2019. As extremely valued members of the organisation we hope that you will come on the journey with us and support the changes and challenges ahead

## **A NEW QNS SERVICE FOR A NEW DIRECTION**

### **SELF-PUBLISHED AUDIO BOOKS**

Audio books are one of the fastest growing segments in the book publishing industry. Currently few options exist for indie authors to create and offer an audio version of their book for sale and as with all independent publishing options plenty of time, effort and money is required. Unlike writing a book it takes skill and technological know how to create and distribute an audio book. Like many industries authors are developing a strong DIY attitude when it comes to publishing their works. Many authors self publish a print version of their works so why not self publish an audio version!

Over recent years we have received a number of enquiries from self-published authors who are interested in producing an audio version of their work. QNS hopes to fill the gap in this segment of the market by launching a new service offering Self Published authors a complete package to produce their print book as an Audio Book.

QNS envisages offering a cost effective alternative to hiring a recording studio. The package will include training and support in all aspects of digital narration so that the Author can confidently use their skills to narrate and record their audiobook from home. Options exist for authors to use their own equipment or hire an equipment package from QNS. The author will provide QNS with the raw digital audio which will be mastered to suit online audio book distributor requirements and provided to the Author for their own purposes.

If you feel you know an author who may be interested in this service, please feel free to refer them on to us.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

### How to ensure that your Rode Podcaster Microphone is info on making sure your microphone is active

The laptops have an inbuilt webcam microphone that is located above the screen next to the webcam. If you find that you are getting an inconsistent sound between chapters/books, it may be because the computer is switching between the webcam microphone and the podcaster usb microphone. The reason this is happening is that if you unplug your usb microphone on the side of your computer so that you can plug in a usb stick for exporting your recording, the computer sometimes switches to the webcam microphone for audio input. If you plug your usb microphone back in and start recording another chapter/book, it may be using the webcam microphone instead of the usb microphone. The webcam microphone will have a lower volume and have a more "roomy", reverberant, distant sound compared to the clearer and more direct sound of the usb podcaster microphone.

The best ways to avoid this happening are-

1. Every time you plug your usb microphone back into the computer, save any information in Audacity (if you need to) by clicking on FILE at the top of the screen and then scroll down to SAVE. Then click on the Apple in the top left of the screen and scroll down to RESTART. This will reload the computer and give it a chance to detect the usb microphone.
2. Another way is to unplug the mouse instead of the microphone when plugging in your usb stick to transfer your recording to send it back to QNS. This all comes down to how comfortable you are with using the track pad below the keyboard for copying the files to usb.
3. A good way to check which microphone is active when recording in Audacity is to click record and tap the front of the usb microphone, then tap the top of the screen where the webcam microphone is. When you stop the recording you should see your recorded audio with some blue spikes from where you were tapping the microphones. The biggest spikes in the audio waveform will come from the active microphone.

## NEWS & INTERESTING INFORMATION

### Unique copy of first full-length audio book found in Canada

A unique copy of the first full-length audio book ever made, a set of four LPs recorded in 1935 with the full text of Joseph Conrad's 1902 novella *Typhoon*, has been rediscovered in Canada.



The hunt continues for surviving copies of more of the earliest titles, including *The Gospel According to St John*, and Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Selecting the books caused controversy at the time, with many blind readers complaining of censorship, and that books judged good for them were being selected instead of the kind of books sighted people were reading. Many titles were rejected for passages of sex, violence or profanity, or judged obscene – including classics like Muriel Spark's *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People, which now has a library of 25,000 titles available as digital downloads rather than the heavy fragile shellac records of the 1930s, began creating audio books in 1935. They were originally intended for blind veterans of the first world war, and it is believed *Typhoon* must have been taken to Canada by a former armed forces member.

The recording resurfaced through research by Matthew Rubery, a professor of modern literature at Queen Mary University of London, for his new book on the history of talking books – which he regards as an influential modern art form. A Canadian vintage record collector contacted him to say he had acquired the *Typhoon* set, but had no idea of its significance until he read of Rubery's work.

Rubery said he had all but given up hope of tracking down the recording. "This is a tremendous find for anyone interested in literature, sound recording or the cultural heritage of blind and partially sighted people."

Mark McCree, the senior manager of the RNIB's library and heritage services, said: "Last year was our 80th anniversary, and to find one of the original collection recordings after all these years is reason to celebrate."

The *Untold Story of the Talking Book* is published this month by Harvard University Press.

from *The Guardian* 22 November 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/nov/21/unique-copy-of-first-full-length-audio-book-found-in-canada>



Re-use or recycle this newsletter or pass on to a friend or family member