

Access News

AAA

Access Audits Australia

disability access  advice  training

IATA

Institute of Access Training Australia

professional  development  training



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New Institute of Access Training Australia (IATA)

The **Institute of Access Training Australia (IATA)** is the new training division of AAA, the leader in disability and barrier free access consultancy, auditing and training services.

AAA Director Joe Manton said "This is a great day for us and for the many people who are responsible for improving 'access for all' across a wide range of organisations".

The Institute of Access Training Australia (IATA) was established to provide professional development and training in 'Access for All'. This is aimed at people with responsibilities for ensuring equitable access is provided to all services, facilities, communications, events, information, employment and the built environment, for people with disabilities and a range of access challenges.

IATA provides professional development and training for people wishing to gain and / or upgrade their skills and knowledge in relation to understanding, identifying and addressing an extensive range of access issues.

IATA programs offer education and support to people who are responsible for developing, facilitating and implementing disability access projects, policies and action plans as well as undertaking access appraisals of premises including buildings, streetscapes and outdoor spaces.

"Much work has gone into developing new courses and training sessions that will greatly assist people to feel confident in addressing access issues in their day to day work and that will provide practical 'tool kits' to support them" Ms Manton said.

The new IATA Training Courses and Publications Guide is available at www.accessauditsaustralia.com.au or www.accessinstituteaustralia.com or by telephone on 03 9431 3472 or SMS on 0419 134 849

Access Audits Australia

We provide a wide range of services including training, access projects, access audits, community consultations, evaluations and advice in relation to access for all.

New AAA Website

In conjunction with the development of our new training division the **Institute of Access Training Australia (IATA)**, AAA has developed a new website outlining our extensive services as well as our new training courses and programs.

www.accessauditsaustralia.com.au

www.accessinstituteaustralia.com

Access News

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**Certificate in Access Appraisal - Buildings
3 Day Course - 26 - 28 May 2008 Melbourne
See inside for details.**

AAA

Access News is available on line at www.accessauditsaustralia.com

IATA

New AAA Team Member

AAA is pleased to welcome **Nicole Maslin Research, Marketing and Community Engagement Consultant** to the team.

Nicole is highly skilled in community engagement and has worked extensively with businesses and organisations to develop and improve services, programs, facilities and events which incorporate access for all. She is a dynamic business strategist with a Masters in Marketing. Nicole is the President of Community Business Centres Victoria and has extensive experience in implementing a wide range of *Good Access is Good Business* initiatives. She has already undertaken significant work since the beginning of the year, including the review of the Melbourne Mobility Centre, and is looking forward to working on a variety of projects with the AAA team. We are all very excited to have her on board.

Certificate in Access Appraisal - Buildings - 3 Day Course - 26 - 28 May 2008 Melbourne

The Institute of Access Training Australia (IATA) is presenting a 3 day course - **Certificate in Access Appraisal - Buildings**. This newly developed access course is ideal for people who have responsibility for reviewing, planning, designing, managing or maintaining buildings, as well as those who are required to provide advice to others regarding access issues in the built environment.

Enrolments close in April. For further details or to book your place please contact accessinstitute@bigpond.com or phone 03 9431 3472 to talk with a Course Advisor.

Disability Action Plan (DAP) Awareness 2 Day Course

A requirement of the relatively new *Victorian Disability Act 2006 (VDA)* is that all Statutory bodies within the State must develop a Disability Action Plan (DAP).

AAA has been assisting organisations in DAP development for more than 12 years and recently assisted the Department of Planning and Community Development with training for an initial group of organisations in DAP development. We will also be presenting a 2 day course in July

which will provide participants with the framework for facilitating the development of an effective DAP within their organisation. The course will cover the key elements of effective DAP development to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and the Victorian Disability Act (VDA).

For further information regarding our support services in DAP development please contact AAAaxs@bigpond.net.au or phone 03 9431 3472.



AFL Awareness

As the AFL 2008 Season kicks off, it's interesting to ponder the fluctuating fortunes of football clubs with mobility impairing injuries.

From 14 players on their injury list early in the first week of March, the Brisbane Lions fielded their strongest team of the pre season NAB Cup on March 8 against Sydney to come away with a 10 point win.

Recovering from a plethora of knee, quadriceps and groin injuries, the story of Brisbane's injury list recovery is a useful reminder of how quickly a person's mobility can be impaired, whether for the long or short term.

With a growing emphasis on sport as a means of combating obesity and fitness issues in the community, it is not uncommon on a walk through the nearest shopping centre to see otherwise healthy people with casts on legs and arms, using crutches or wheelchairs as they come to terms with recovery from a sports injury.

Tried going up stairs on crutches? It's not easy. Is there a ramp? A lift? Can you fit along that pathway without falling?

As a consciousness raising exercise, a mobility injury has profound effects. Suddenly many people realise just what it means to be unable to access facilities with ease.

The old adage that you need to take a walk in someone else's shoes to fully appreciate their access challenges was never more appropriate.

Autism Animal Awareness



A recent development in the use of assistance animals has been the training of dogs to work with people with autism, particularly children.

Joanne Thorburn of Avondale Heights is currently looking forward to a new addition to the family, a Labrador to assist her two sons, Ryan and Connor, who each have autism.

Ryan, 13, has high functioning autism which has given him little sense of danger, either from people or machinery. "Ryan will walk into the street without looking, or stand behind a reversing car without awareness of the consequences" Joanne said.

The only facility in Australia to train dogs to work with autism, Righteous Pups Australia, prepares the animals to work with individuals. Ryan and Connor were videoed by Joanne to give the dog trainers an idea of the kinds of skills needed in their case to improve their safety.

Joanne is looking forward to the day when she can drop Ryan off at a cinema, and after informing staff, leave him there with his dog to watch a movie.

"The dogs are trained to alert people if there's a problem" Joanne said. "They will also physically block a person with autism from going out on the street."

Even with an assistance dog, Joanne recognises there will still remain issues for her two sons. She is preparing for the possibility of community misunderstanding as it is not apparent that her boys have autism.

"They will want to enter places with a dog and the staff there will probably question them about it. It's different to a person who is blind where it is much more obvious what the dog's role is" she said. "It's a fine line because you need to protect your children whilst also encouraging independence. It will be a challenge, but we're used to challenges." AAA has provided Assistance Animal Welcome stickers to Joanne to support awareness and acceptance of her new family member.



Access Action Awareness Darebin Kite Festival

It is estimated that more than 40,000 people attended the Darebin Community and Kite Festival on Sunday, March 2nd at All Nations Park in Northcote.

A wonderful sunny day with a light breeze, perfect for kites, greeted the crowd as they moved around the park. Movement along the paths and between stalls was easy for all, due to good access planning and awareness raising by Council.

AAA worked with the City of Darebin to develop strategies to support access for all to the event. These included the provision of two - metre wide asphalt pathways and the use of Pro Floor Access Matting to create further ease of access. Attendant Carers, Auslan interpreters, adequate seating, accessible parking and toilets and a rest and recharge area for people to 'power up' scooters, were some of the resources made available by Council.

A hearing loop was trialled on the main stage and a community bus, mobility buggies and access to public transport were also features of the day that helped guarantee a big crowd.

The colorful kites with the city skyline as backdrop, set to the tune of the music, dance, children's activities, food and merchandise stalls, made it a wonderful and successful day.

By raising the awareness of staff and the community in relation to 'Access for All' many people with a wide range of access challenges were able to participate in the festival as staff, volunteers and visitors. Well done Darebin on a great event.

Did you know ?

- That the Paralympics will be held this year from 6th - 17th September in Beijing.
- That 2008 will see the introduction of vibrating devices on the wrists of AFL umpires to alert them to the end of quarters during a game.
- You can get the AFL footy fixtures in Braille - Is this umpire's version?
- That Australian swimmers with a disability have broken world records during the recent Olympic swimming trials for Beijing.
- The Melbourne International Comedy Festival is undertaking an initiative to make a number of its shows accessible to patrons who use AUSLAN. See www.comedyfestival.com.au for details.
- The Melbourne Mobility Centre, located next to Federation Square along Princes Walk, hires mobility aids, has accessible toilets, accessible car parking and a TTY to make your visit to the city a more accessible experience.
- Allocating an SMS number is a great way for people with hearing impairment to contact you.

Asset Awareness - 2008 National Local Government Asset Management and Public Works Engineering Conference

Water and waste, urban design and asset management are all to be featured in this National Conference to be held at Telstra Dome on April 9th and 10th.

AAA Director Joe Manton will address the conference on 'Access for All', the need for universal access and what is required to sustain an ageing generation.

Contact the MAV at www.mav.asn.au/amc2008 for further details.



The Black Balloon

Insight into the challenges and rewards of being in a family with an autistic child is the subject of a newly released Australian film, *The Black Balloon*, starring Toni Collette.

Writer/Director, Elissa Down, grew up in a family with three younger brothers, two of whom were autistic. She says the title of the film is "a metaphor for a different childhood filled with moments of chaos, joy and sadness".

The film focuses on the Mollison family. Charlie Mollison is Tom's older brother. Charlie is autistic, has ADD and is prone to anti social behaviour. Tom is his primary carer and desperate to 'fit in' to his new community. Toni Collette plays the boys' mother and Aussie model, Gemma Ward, is Tom's girlfriend. Whilst he is loving and loveable, Charlie is also distant and prone to anti-social behaviour, testing Tom and the family. The film is utterly Australian in look and content and bound to be nominated for prizes at the AFI awards. We have 3 double passes to the Movies at Hoyts to give away to the first people to contact us and ask!!

Contributions

Contributions to Access News are welcome and can be emailed to AAA at any time. AAAaxs@bigpond.net.au

AAA Web site

Details about services provided by Access Audits Australia can be found on our website at www.accessauditsaustralia.com.au

Our site is designed to be accessible for all users. It has AAA W3C level compliance and is AAA Bobby approved. Earlier Access News editions can be downloaded and there are also links to other relevant access related web sites.

Information contained in **Access News** is intended to highlight the importance of improving access for every person

Disclaimer: Whilst every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, Access Audits Australia does not accept any responsibility for inaccuracies, omissions, incorrect information or action taken as a result of any advice given or information conveyed in this publication.