

Access News

AAA

Access Audits Australia

disability access  advice  training

IATA

Institute of Access Training Australia

professional  development  training



Access News Volume 2 2008

Certificate in Access Appraisal - Buildings Courses – A Great Success

The first two Certificate in Access Appraisal – Buildings courses have been presented by IATA with great success. The first course included participants from a wide range of organisations with excellent feedback. The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors (AIBS) hosted the second course and AIBS members are currently undertaking their access appraisal assignment.

Feedback from participants in the courses included the following:

- Thank you so much for conducting this fantastic course – every Rural/Metro/Deaf Access worker should complete this course
- Great course for access, would recommend highly.
- Valuable insight into legislation and technical understanding into meeting the DDA obligations
- Easy to follow, great material, very enjoyable
- A much needed course in the community especially useful for us in the disability sector. Thank you
- Provides a great insight with Anthony on the team. Gives an overview of difficulties in undertaking simple functions e.g. going to the loo!!
- Great course, was broad enough to cover the needs of our organisation and provided useful references and additional resources
- I can now walk into a facility and not take it for granted - I know what to look for!
- Information clear and precise. Easily understood - Thank you
- An excellent tool that will be put to great use
- Very informative and educational and gave me more contacts
- Really opened my eyes to the day to day needs and challenges faced by people with various types of disabilities
- This course helped me to be able to explain accessibility to clients in more depth and advise of business benefits associated with good access to buildings
- A fantastic course

July course now fully booked – Upcoming dates below

Certificate in Access Appraisal – Buildings

2 day course plus 1 day assignment

More dates for 2008

16th and 17th September - Wangaratta

27th and 28th October - Adelaide

24th and 25th November – Melbourne

Contact us or check our website for details

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.



Photo of IATA Presenters (L to R) Chris Porter, Architecture and Access, Kara Chun, Blythe Sanderson Group, Kellie Millar Access Audits Australia, Joe Manton IATA, Anthony Nichols, Access Audits Australia.

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Paralympics September 6-17th 2008 Beijing

Commencing twelve days after the close of the Beijing Olympics, the Paralympics will present considerable challenges for an Australian team keen to improve on its Athens tally of 100 medals.

The Paralympic Games will utilise the same sports facilities and athlete village used for the Olympic Games. The majority of sports will take place in China's capital, Beijing, with Equestrian and Sailing being held at sub-sites in Hong Kong and Qingdao respectively.

Australia's success in the Paralympics has fluctuated, rising from 8 medals in the first games in Rome in 1960, to a peak of 149 in Sydney 2000, before falling in a fiercely competitive Athens competition.

Athletes at both the Summer and Winter Paralympics come from 5 disability categories including, amputee cerebral palsy, wheelchair, vision impaired 'Les Autres' - French for 'the others' and contains athletes with a mobility impairment or other loss of physical function that does not fall strictly under one of the other five categories. Good luck to Team 2008.

Assistance Animal Awareness – Beijing Paralympics 2008

Awareness of the role played by Seeing Eye assistance dogs could receive an enormous boost in September during the Paralympics in Beijing.

Ping Yalli, China's first paralympic gold medalist, is hoping to use Lucky, her golden retriever assistance dog, in the running of a relay event.

Although a successful businesswoman and athlete (she is sponsored by BHP Billiton as one of their athletics ambassadors for the

Games), Ms Ping is finding that China still has a long way to go with regard to allowing assistance animals access to facilities. In China, all dogs are banned from entering public places. In Beijing, 'big' dogs are also banned from the city. Following a compromise with police, Ms Ping can now take Lucky onto the streets if she is accompanied by an able bodied person, but she cannot register her dog with authorities. Ms Ping first saw assistance animals being used at a previous Paralympics in New York. She obtained Lucky from China's first guide dog training centre, where Australian staff helped prepare him for graduation. "There is greater acceptance that both able and disabled people live under the same blue sky and should enjoy the same rights" Ms Ping said.

However, talking her way onto a bus, subway or taxi with Lucky is still a challenge.



Olympics for Oscar

South African Paralympian, Oscar Pistorius, is hoping to compete in the Beijing Olympics after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) granted his appeal to compete in sprints on his carbon fibre legs. The CAS decision ruled that the carbon fibre

prosthetics did not give Pistorius an advantage over able bodied athletes. It is a decision that applies only to this specific prosthetic. Any other athlete with a prosthetic who wishes to compete would have to mount their own argument to the International Association of Athletics Federations, which has now accepted the CAS ruling.

Oscar, who had his legs amputated below the knee when he was 11 months old, is hoping to lower his personal best of 46.46 for the 400 metres to the minimum qualifying time of 45.95 so that he can participate. Another South African athlete, Natalie Du Toit, who lost her left leg in an accident when she was 14, has also recently qualified for the Open Water Swimming Events.



Easier Taxi Access

Beijing will provide 70 barrier free taxis for greater ease of access to people with disabilities, the purchasing company, the Shouqi Group, stated.

In a barrier free taxi, the seats can be rotated to provide easier access and more space for wheelchairs.

Costs for the barrier free taxis will be the same as for standard taxis. Following the Olympics, the taxis will remain on the road. Market demand would determine whether more were needed, said the Shouqi Group.



Paralympics to be Barrier Free

Sir Phillip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee has stated that the 'barrier free' Paralympics means barrier free for everybody, not just the disabled.' 'Easier access for someone in a wheelchair means easier access for someone pushing a stroller' he said. The Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage is also investigating further ways to build barrier free facilities without endangering the preservation of cultural relics. Wheelchair lifts have been installed at the Palace Museum, and other access facilities built at the Great Wall and seven other ancient museums.

Nearly 12,000 staff from 130 museums will also be taught sign language well before the Games commence, a spokesperson said.

Greenback to go back?

A US court has determined that US paper currency discriminates against people with vision impairment. The decision could change the size, colour and feel of American money. It could send vending machine companies back to the design table and relegate the term 'greenback' to the archives. Many other currencies have been modified to ensure people with vision impairment have equitable access to 'cash flow' and the Treasury Secretary in the US could not explain why the US should be any different, in an applicant for appeal.

Scholarships

IATA Access Improvement Scholarship

A number of the IATA team members are people with disabilities and we wish to provide support to other people with disabilities in gaining skills and knowledge with the aim of encouraging further development in the access industry.

To this end, IATA has introduced a Scholarship Program to assist young people with disabilities who wish to work in the access improvement area, to participate in the new Certificate of Access Appraisal courses. Applicants

need to be aged between 19 and 25 years of age and in receipt of an income less than \$30,000 per annum and either studying or working in the access improvement area. One Scholarship will be available for each course, with the tuition costs totalling \$1,300 being covered by the Scholarship. Contact us for further details.



Did you know ?

- The Victorian Access Consultants Network has now been formed and will meet every 3 months. Contact us for details.
- Association of Consultants in Access Australia (ACAA) National Conference is on 29th – 31st 2008 October in Adelaide see www.access.asn.au for details
- 'Dogs with Jobs' on Foxtel has all sorts of interesting information about assistance animals.
- AAA and IATA will be teaming up with some very interesting training partners soon. Stay tuned for details.
- Braille is a code in the same way that we understand Morse Code, sign language and short hand. It is not a different language.
- You can develop an accessible website for no more expense than a non accessible website.
- Disability Actions Plans are now mandatory for all Statutory Bodies in Victoria.
- 'Fluro' golf balls are designed to assist people with vision impairment.

AAA Project Update

In the first six months of this year we have been involved in a wide range of interesting and challenging projects. Our two new team members have been on a steep learning curve and our youngest member has been providing much needed input into 'new age' technologies that we have all been coming to grips with. As we often say in our training programs 'We are all on a learning curve with access' and I think we will also all continue to be on a learning curve with technology. It's all good fun and sometimes it even works!! Especially if we plug it into the power outlet!!

Some recent work has included:

- Access Appraisals of parks in metropolitan Sydney
- Communicating with People with Disabilities Project
- Access Appraisal of streetscapes in inner Melbourne
- Review of the Melbourne Mobility Centre
- Disability Action Plans for libraries and Councils
- Review of large scale urban renewal projects
- Development of access guidelines
- Training at Federation Square
- Review of Disability Advisory Committees
- Training of public transport staff
- Consultation projects
- Accessible Signage Project
- Positive Ageing Project
- Training at the Botanic Gardens
- Conference presentations
- Certificate in access appraisal

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 AAA and IATA can be found on our website at www.accessauditsaustralia.com.au

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

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, omission, incorrect information or action taken as a result of any advice given or information conveyed in this publication.