

# Access News

## AAA

Access Audits Australia

disability access  advice  training

Volume 4 • 2001

## Footpath Trading

Vibrant, lively  
and colourful



shopping areas are attractive places to relax, socialise and.... to also spend money. Effective access through these public spaces encourages increased use by visitors, shoppers and traders, who all mutually benefit from such additional activities.

Many councils are involved in encouraging positive trading conditions and enhancing public amenity within local shopping precincts, while complying with their legal responsibilities, including those under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992). This requires provision of equal access for every person, regardless of age or ability.

Underlying this action is the fact that footpaths are public areas, which are made available for commercial type uses under prescribed conditions. These should not compromise or restrict community access.

In order to encourage consistent and safe use of footpaths and outdoor spaces, many councils have adopted, or are developing guidelines outlining appropriate footpath zones and use requirements.

Reasons for the development of relevant policies and guidelines include:

- creation of safer shopping experiences
- consistent arrangements for all traders
- minimisation of litigation for traders and councils
- encouragement of increased patronage of shopping areas
- creation of pleasant outdoor environments
- improved access throughout shopping centres for all users

Melbourne City Council recently released a comprehensive Footpath Trading Code for the range of shopping centres within the municipality.



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**Access Audits Australia** provides the following range of services to support improved access to the built environment and to the provision of goods and services:

- t Disability access training
- t Community consultation
- t Development and Review of Disability Action Plans, Development Control Plans, policies and procedures
- t Access Audits, Evaluations and Design Advice
- t Advice on improved access to publications, communications and web sites

AAA is pleased to advise or assist you with any access issue. Contact

Access News  
is published by

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**The team at Access Audits Australia**

**wish you a happy, safe Christmas**

**and a successful 2002**



**Our office will close on 21 December until 21 January 2002**

If you would like **Access News** emailed to you contact us at [AAA@hyp.com.au](mailto:AAA@hyp.com.au)

**AAA**

## Famous People

What does Tom Cruise have in common with Cher, Whoopi Goldberg and Walt Disney?

The same thing he shares with many famous people including George Washington, Winston Churchill, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, General George Patton and former U.S. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller.

*They all had, or have a learning disability.*

Even though Tom Cruise has dyslexia, which alters the way the brain processes written material, he was nominated for and won several awards for best actor. Nelson Rockefeller, the former U.S. Vice President and Woodrow Wilson U.S. President, from 1913-1921, also experienced dyslexia.



George Washington had difficulty learning, could barely write and had very poor grammar skills. Thomas Edison couldn't read until he was twelve years old and had a great problems writing, even when he was older.

The man credited with inventing the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, also had a learning disability. The famous Mathematician/Physicist, Albert Einstein, did not speak until he was 3 years old. He had a very difficult time doing mathematics in school and found it a challenge to express himself through writing.

## Footpath Trading



*continued from Page 1*

Suburban councils in Melbourne, including Boroondara, Stonnington, Yarra, and Banyule have also developed frameworks, and consulted with public and trader groups, to support consistent use of footpaths within shopping centres. Some other municipalities, such as Port Phillip, are currently reviewing existing guidelines and policies.

Prior to implementing a Footpath Trading Code of Practice, Bass Coast Shire Council undertook an extensive community consultation and education program that included all stakeholder groups. Public surveys of shoppers strongly supported footpath trading and they wanted displays, furniture and advertising to be uncluttered, safe and attractive. The surveys identified that displays and café tables attract shoppers, are good for business, provide advertising and add to the shopping experience. Major disadvantages were that footpaths could be over-crowded, too cluttered and with no room for pedestrians.

This council, like many others, requires that a pedestrian clearway is maintained along the building line at the front of business premises, in order for all users including visitors, customers, traders, delivery personnel, people with prams or shopping trolleys, older persons and people with disabilities to be able to travel easily and safely through shopping areas. Traders' displays, signs and tables and chairs are allowed to be placed towards the kerb line. A set back is required from the kerb to enable opening of car doors and for people to move though the trading area. These actions ensure that *Good Access is Good Business*.

## World Deaflympics



An Australian team competed at the World Deaflympics in Rome during July and August this year in a range of sports including athletics, badminton, basketball, swimming, tennis and ten pin bowling.

Melbourne will be hosting the next World Deaflympics in 2005, when there will be a significant number of officials and competitors attending from overseas and interstate.

## One Person's View

Paul Aziz works with wood and enjoys being involved with projects in his well

equipped workshop. He knows that the workshop is a dangerous place and is an absolute stickler about safety when working with equipment.

Paul is extremely conscious that some tools operate at extremely high speeds, blades are razor sharp and drills twist at lightning speed. Even though this may sound a risky pursuit, Paul says it should not make anyone afraid to go into the workshop to have fun.

He encourages people to respect the power and hand tools they use and to think through their intended actions before they proceed. Even try things several ways on a dry-run while thinking of any problems that might occur.



Paul is a woodworker who has a disability and knows first hand some of the issues when working in his workshop. He is a C-7 paraplegic, cannot stand, uses a wheelchair for mobility but has been able to find many ways to work around obstacles and barriers when it comes to woodworking.

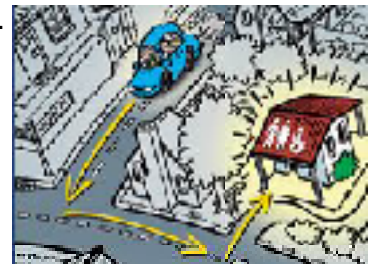
He has talked to many other woodworkers with disabilities who have a workshop and enjoy woodworking immensely. They also have their own, custom work-arounds and creative solutions.

Paul advises that woodworking can be dangerous and that each person's ability must be considered before any task is undertaken.

You can find out more about Paul and his pursuits at: <http://www.ableworkshop.com/safety.htm>

A Perth company has built a searchable on-line listing of Australia's public toilets. The National Public Toilet Map identifies the location of more than 13000 public toilet facilities in Australian towns, cities and rural areas, including along major travel routes.

Availability of the map through the World Wide Web enables simple and easy access to public toilet information, such as opening hours and access for people with a disability. Maps of specific locations can be downloaded and printed from the Website for later use. The development of the Map and Website was funded by the Commonwealth Government under the National Contenance Management Strategy. You can view details at <http://www.toiletmap.gov.au/whatis.html>



Although the Map will be of use to all persons requiring information about public toilets, the Map was designed specifically to assist persons experiencing incontinence with travel and daily living arrangements. The Public Toilet Website will be useful for a range of reasons. Members of the general public and tourists wishing to identify the nearest public toilet locations should find the Map and Website useful. People who do not have access to a computer will be able to request maps from councils, and potentially other outlets such as motor vehicle associations, tourist information centres and support services.

The Public Toilet Map can assist with:

- Finding toilets in a locality
- Identifying toilets with disability access
- Finding the opening hours of toilets
- Planning a trip or holiday by identifying suitable locations for a break
- Planning a trip around town for social or business purposes
- Improving the independence and quality of life for persons experiencing incontinence

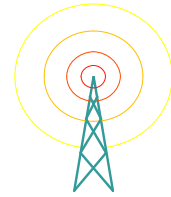
## Did you know ?

- That up to 1 in 4 people around the world experience a mental disorder, at some point in their lives, according to a report from the World Health Organisation.
- That the Queensland Government is actively promoting accessible caravan parks, tourist services and facilities throughout the state.
- That you can now access on-line a number of publications produced by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs, including: Living with Dementia, Back to basics (back care) and Home Front (falls prevention). at <http://www.dva.gov.au/media/publicat/publicat.htm>
- That a recently developed miniature electronic implant is claimed to offer people, with moderate to severe hearing loss, the ability to increase their hearing levels. It is so small that it can be inserted beneath the skin near the ear and not be easily detected. This may eventually offer an alternative for many people who dislike wearing traditional hearing aids.
- That an elevated boardwalk around the famous Queensland Curtain Fig Tree at Yungaburra, now provides barrier free (wheelchair) access, as well as preventing damage to the rare Mabi forest.

## Independent Wayfinding



Technology improvements are being investigated around the world to assist the independent wayfinding needs of people with vision impairment.



It is hoped that the emergence of new navigational aids and the ongoing development of existing technologies will enhance the way some people move around our built environment.

One system that is already established in Prague, in the Czech republic, involves the use of electronic beacons strategically placed at important wayfinding locations such as airports, public transport terminals and vehicles, shopping areas and medical facilities. Under legislation enacted in 1994, all new public buildings in the Czech republic are required to be fitted with these units.

The beacons respond to signals emitted from a small transmitter either carried by a person with vision impairment, or fitted into the handle of a white cane, and guide the user by emitting a series of audio tones or speech signals. Approximately two thousand people are now actively accessing this system to ascertain the location of buildings, entrances etc., or to obtain information on bus, tram and train services.

Another technology that has been extensively developed is based on the widespread use of the established Global Positioning Technology systems. This involves a person using a portable hand held device, which utilises signals from a network of satellites to ascertain the actual position of any location or destination.

### Celebration of Ability

The Victorian Government inaugural awards for the International Day of DisAbility were presented by the Minister for Community Services, the Hon. Christine Campbell MP on the 3rd December 2001.

Winners and finalists were acknowledged as leaders in including people with disability into the life of communities.

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

*Disclaimer:* Every effort has been made to ensure information contained in this newsletter is accurate. AAA does not accept any responsibility for action taken as a result of any advice or information contained herein.