ANZAGG Meeting Notes

3.30pm Sunday 15 May 2016  
Round Table Conference

# 1. Welcome and Roll Call

Leona welcomed everyone to the meeting. We each introduced ourselves and gave a brief description of our interest in accessible graphics.

## Attendees

Annette Sutherland (NSW Department of Education) – working in Josie Howse's accessible formats production unit

Ayesha Patterson – accessibility consultant

Bill Jolley – serving on the Expert Reference Group for the Monash University study

Debra Lewis (Statewide Vision Resource Centre)

Debbie Cross (SPEVI) – Events manager for the upcoming SPEVI Conference. Interested in organising accessible maps of the venue.

Faye Rowbottam (Sensory Vision Education, WA Department of Education) – wants to learn about best practice

Galiema Gool (NSW Department of Education) – visiting teacher interested in teaching and learning of tactile graphics. Recipient of a scholarship to investigate these issues

Jane Wegener (Vision Australia) – Accessible Formats Production Manager, Sydney. Will encourage members of the transcription team to join the group. Interested in both quality and fast turnaround.

Joanne Chua – studied psychology and struggled with statistics and graphs. Also interested in tactile graphics as an accessible art form. Aware that she could access the 3D printers at the Adelaide City Library and is keen to use them.

Josie Howse (NSW Department of Education) – manager of accessible formats production

Karen Clark (Alternative Format Library, Education Queensland)) – Expecting an increase in demand for tactile graphics production after the Department of Natural Resources and Mining's recent announcement that they will no longer provide accessible maps. Also noticed an increased use of tactile graphics to accompany electronic text (rather than embedded in a braille volume).

Karen Stobbs (BLENNZ) – early educator, interested in what skills we need to teach vision impaired children so they can understand graphics

Karl Hughes (Vision Australia) – Accessible Formats Production Manager, Melbourne. Interested in standards for best practice and feedback from end users.

Kathy Riessen (South Australian School for Vision Impaired) – Accessible formats production manager and transcriber. Currently learning Illustrator and vector graphics.

Leona Holloway (Monash University) – conducting a study into access to graphics for vision impaired students in higher education and experimenting with new technologies to enhance access.

Ross de Vent – studying psychology and trying to access graphical content for statistics

Ruth Wedde (BLENNZ) – early educator, interested in how and when to teach tactile graphics

Samuel Maddimadugula (University of Canterbury) – production of tactile graphics for university students using embossers

Tom McMahon (Queensland Tactual Mapping Committee; Narbethong school) – User and proofread of tactual diagrams. Member of the QTMC since the 1980s.

Tristan Clare (RIDBC) – sole provider of tactile feedback for graphics being created by the RIDBC production team. Interested in standards for best practice.

Vaughan Bennison (Blind Citizens Australia) – enjoys using tactile graphics and wants to see more of them. Also interested in audio description of graphics

Wendy Sara (QBWA) – production of swell paper tactile graphics using a PIAF

Yuimei Lim (Visability) – occupational therapist. Considering purchasing a 3D printer.

# 2. Background

At the 2015 Round Table Conference, there was lots of discussion of accessible graphics but we were each working in isolation and wanting feedback from others.

Leona Holloway, Tom McMahon (Qld Tactual Mapping) and Nicole Thiessen (TABMAP) discussed priorities and developed Terms of Reference in consultation with Neil Jarvis and others interested in accessible graphics in Australia and New Zealand. The Round Table Executive approved the new TOR.

# 3. Committee Structure

As outlined in the Terms of Reference …

## Structure

3) The ANZAGG comprises:

a) an overall body (“The Trans-Tasman Committee”);

b) an executive; and

c) a network of Regional Accessible Graphics Special Interest Groups.

## Membership

4) Membership and participation in any level of the Trans-Tasman Committee is open to anyone residing in Australia or New Zealand with an interest in Accessible Graphics.

## Executive

13) The Executive will consist of the following:

a) Chair;

b) one representative for each active Regional Accessible Graphics Special Interest Group.

14) The Chair and other members of the Executive will be elected and the Secretary/Treasurer will be appointed as follows:

a) the Chair is elected by the Trans-Tasman Committee;

b) the Regional Accessible Graphics Special Interest Group representatives are elected by their Group, in accordance with their Operational Guidelines; and

c) the role of Secretary for the National meeting is appointed on a casual basis by the Executive from among the Trans-Tasman Committee members.

It was agreed that we are not ready to elect a formal committee. We should start small and grow as needed.

# 4. Done so far

## website

We have a web page on the Round Table website at <http://printdisability.org/about-us/accessible-graphics> with contact information and Terms of Reference. There is facility to expand the page and add additional pages.

## listserv

A listserv has been set up as the primary communication method for the group.

To join the group, send email to [accessiblegraphics-request@freelists.org](mailto:accessiblegraphics-request@freelists.org) with 'subscribe' in the Subject field. Alternatively, visit the list page at <http://www.freelists.org/list/accessiblegraphics>

The majority of meeting attendees were not yet on the listserv, and several reported problems joining. This may be due to an error in the address sent with the original invitation, or due to education department restrictions on freelist groups.

ACTION: Leona to re-send instructions for joining the listserv to ozbrl and the Round Table listserv.

All to join and contribute to discussions ☺

## facebook

A facebook discussion group has been setting for sharing news and images. To join, search for Australia & New Zealand Accessible Graphics Group. This is a group rather than a page, meaning that anyone can post items, updates and questions.

# 5. What next?

## discussion

Three main areas of discussion suggested. This can be done via the listserv.

1. **best practice for production of accessible graphics**
   1. **existing resources.** Attendees reported using the Round Table Guidelines on Conveying Visual Information, the TABMAP Guidelines and the BANA Guidelines. The BANA Guidelines must be used with caution as the formatting and maths content in the examples differs from Australian standards.   
      ACTION: Leona, Josie or Bill to report back on the proposed UEB version of the BANA Guidelines after the ICEB General Assembly next week.
   2. **standardisation of tactile symbols.** Perhaps a small working party could be set up. Tom McMahon reported that the Queensland Tactual Mapping Committee have developed an extensive list of tactile symbols for maps but would like feedback. Their work was based on the TABMAP guidelines. Leona reported that the Blind Foundation have been exploring the use of Moon for labels on public maps.
2. **sharing of accessible graphics masters**
   1. **identify existing resources:** a catalogue of existing tactile graphics and 3D models suitable for touch readers. Kathy Riessen recommended [www.d-maps.com](http://www.d-maps.com) for maps of any chosen area of the world in your preferred format to use as the basis for tactile graphics.
   2. **share our own masters** via an online repository of re-usable tactile graphics masters for producers. Examples may include Australian maps, anatomy, clock faces, etc. which have been designed for accessibility and are not subject to copyright restrictions. Josie Howse reported that the NSW Department of Education has a closed cloud-based service for sharing graphics masters with visiting teachers in regional areas. Round Table has an ftp site to house documents associated with its website.   
      ACTION: Leona to investigate current space on the ftp.
3. **Teaching tactile skills and graphic concepts.** Faye Rowbottam recommended "Touchdown Sheepville", which is an individual program to teach tactile reading.

## website

Outcomes of the above discussions to be added to the ANZAGG website.

## budget

The Round Table Executive have asked the group to submit a proposed budget for operating expenses.

Do we foresee the need for teleconferences? No, not at this stage.

If the current Round Table ftp is insufficient for our needs, a proposal and budget will need to be developed.

# 6. Meeting Close

Thanks were extended to all for their attendance, enthusiasm and expertise. We look forward to collaborating with you in the near future.