

The RVIB *TALKING NEWSPAPER* "NEWSPAPER"

No. 1. June 1992

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From the Chief Librarian

Welcome to the first issue of our quarterly newsletter. We hope it will be an effective means of sharing information and ideas between all of us who contribute to this highly regarded service.

Please let us know what you think of the format of this first issue. We have included articles from a consumer, one of our technical staff and from our two Talking Newspaper co-ordinators, Jude Adcock and Sally Anne Hill. There is also a "News from the Newspapers" section to which I hope you will all contribute. I know that finding time to write to newsletters such as this can often seem a chore but I do hope that we can use this publication to spread the knowledge that exists within the Talking Newspaper network. If you have a "Handy Hint" to share or technical problem you need some ideas on, please write and let us know.

The big news within the Library and Production Department of RVIB at the moment, is our move into modern new premises at 85 High Street, Prahran in mid-July this year. We are very excited about this new venture and we would love to show you around our new building. Phone Jude, Sally Anne or me on our new High Street telephone number (03) 521 3400 and we can readily make an appointment with you. Incidentally our 008 number remains the same: 008 33 55 88.

I hope you enjoy this first newsletter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Linley Wallis
Chief Librarian.

News from the Newspapers

The Swan Hill Guardian

The Swan Hill Guardian was the first talking newspaper established in 1983 with the assistance of 3 volunteers - one a newsreader from 3SH and two volunteers from the Swan Hill Regional Library. One volunteer, Mrs Pat Salau, Librarian from the Swan Hill Regional Library has been enthusiastically supporting the scheme since its inception. Recently, the duplicating of tapes was successfully transferred to the Swan Hill Special Developmental School, allowing the pupils there to participate in this worthwhile community service. Pat and Tracey from the Library are still involved and are able to help out during the holidays.

Southern Cross

The Southern Cross newspaper which covers Toorak, South Yarra, Malvern, Caulfield and bayside suburbs is produced in the studios of RVIB. One of the volunteers most closely associated with this newspaper is volunteer Leo Hartman. This article appeared in the Southern Cross late last year.

Leo's labor of love honored after 50 years

CARNEGIE volunteer, Mr Leo Hartman, has been chosen as metropolitan regional runner-up in the 1991 AMP Community Service Awards.

Mr Hartman was nominated for the award by the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. For the past 50 years he has volunteered his time to the society.

Mr Hartman's commitment to helping blind people began while he was at school and continued throughout his working life. Now retired, Mr Hartman is more dedicated than ever.

His duties at the RVIB include clerical and administrative work, driving blind people to medical and dental appointments and to do their shopping and reading print material for braille transcribers.

Mr Hartman also raises funds for the RVIB.

The AMP Community Service Awards are open to anyone who has voluntarily worked for a community organisation and who has made a worthwhile contribution to the community.

Mr Hartman was one of four regional runners-up in the competition.



Vietnamese/Chinese/Cambodian newspapers - City of Springvale.

Since the early 1980's significant numbers of people from Indo-China have settled in the City of Springvale and now make up approximately ten per cent of the population.

A Vietnamese Audio Newspaper, The Viet Luan, was launched in 1990 and currently circulates to 98 readers.

Since November 1991 the Chinese Herald has been circulated to 123 readers and the Smaradey Kmer to 30 Cambodian speaking people.

New talking newspaper eases isolation in Springvale

LIFE hasn't really been that easy for Bau Nguyen. The 68 year-old Vietnamese refugee left her homeland a year ago and is now living in Springvale with her daughter and family. Not only has Mrs Nguyen had to cope with the language and culture barriers but she has also had to come to terms with her failing sight. In fact, in recent months her vision has deteriorated to the point where she can no longer read regular print.

Mrs Nguyen is one of around 50 people who are benefitting from getting the Talking Viet Luan on tape each week.

Mrs Nguyen says the talking newspaper is easing the acute loneliness and isolation often felt when



Bau Nguyen listening to the Talking Viet Luan on tape.

she is at home by herself during the day.

The Talking Viet Luan has plenty of Vietnamese news and an Australian section which Mrs Nguyen says is helping her learn more about her new country.

The Viet Luan is part of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind's State-wide network of 40 Talking Newspapers and is Australia's first ethnic paper available on tape. The new venture is a joint effort between the Insti-

tute, the City of Springvale and the Springvale Indo-Chinese Mutual Assistance Association.

Thanks to community support the Institute hopes to introduce additional ethnic talking newspaper in the near future.

The Talking Bendigo Advertiser

The Talking Bendigo Advertiser Newspaper Service has undergone a change in 1992. Since 21st April this year the paper has been read by volunteers at the 3CCC studio in Bendigo. Previously the paper was read by announcers at radio station 3BO

Although there have been some teething problems, the quality of the service is continuing to improve, thanks to the commitment of experienced and novice volunteers.

Jude Adcock
Talking Newspaper Co-ordinator

Talking Newspaper Workshops

Since February this year we have been conducting workshops at a different newspaper locality each month.

The workshops have been an enjoyable way of enhancing communication between everyone involved in producing and receiving talking newspapers and have provided an opportunity for narrators, copiers, library staff, consumers, RVIB technicians and Talking Newspaper co-ordinators to exchange information and ideas.

The workshops are informal and allow plenty of time for questions and discussion. Everyone attending a meeting is given an agenda, outlining what will be discussed over 1 ½ - 2 hours.

Topics for discussion may include:

1. the importance of Talking Newspapers (from a consumer's point of view)
2. the selection of articles and the use of track announcements
3. the use of recording equipment and gap and tone indexing.

Before a workshop, recipients of the newspaper are contacted by phone or by a message included on the talking newspaper and are asked to comment on the talking newspaper they receive.

One important development from the workshops already held, has been the introduction of local co-ordinators for some metropolitan talking newspapers. The task of putting in writing what a local co-ordinator is responsible for is also under way.

Set audition pieces for new narrators are also being put together. This will give new narrators an idea of what is expected of them.

The feedback we have received from people who have already participated in the workshops has been very encouraging.

If you would like any further information about the workshops, or you would like a workshop organized for your talking newspaper, please contact either myself or Jude Adcock.

Sally Ann Hill
Talking Newspaper Co-ordinator

High Speed Copying - Maintaining Your Equipment

It is true to say that the quality of a finished audio tape is as dependent upon effective copying as upon the creation of the master tape.

High speed duplicators are used to make quick and accurate multiple copies of master cassettes for distribution to borrowers. In the Talking Newspaper Service all centres use Telex brand copiers allowing volunteers to duplicate 3 to 7 copies of a master tape at the one time. This usually takes between 2 to 4 minutes.

To ensure high quality duplication the following factors are important:

1. The master tape must be of sufficient recording quality, with appropriate recording levels and clarity.
2. Copying equipment must be regularly cleaned and free from dust and humidity. The cleaning process should happen at the beginning of every session and after a minimum of every five runs. Hard cotton buds (not soft) are dipped into an appropriate cleaning solution (methylated spirits is fine) and lightly but firmly brushed against all mechanical elements within the tape path, that is, the record head, capstan and rubber pressure roller. More than one cotton bud could be needed during this process.
3. Cassettes must be effectively erased before duplication can begin and this can take some practice. Some copiers, for example, the Telex C.D. series, have an in-built tape erasing process, others, such as Telex copyettes, do not. The latter requires the operator to smoothly and slowly pass the cassette over the top of the tape eraser, **three or four times, turning the tape over each time.** This is best done using a circular motion ensuring that the turning over action happens close to the operator's body, away from the eraser and always in the same direction. It is vital that cassettes are completely rewound before this process begins.

In the next issue I will describe copying and checking procedures and I would very much welcome any questions about this topic or any technically related topic from any operators.

Dale Simpson
Audio Technician

Narration Hints

Jack Tattersall who records the South Gippsland Sentinel Times writes:

"My problem, with narration, is the correct pronunciation of names especially those of Middle European or Asian origin that are not readily recognisable to the English tongue. There is rarely time to check on the correct pronunciation during sub-editing and recording sessions."

Pronunciation of names in languages other than English can be a real difficulty especially when you haven't time to check beforehand.

One alternative, of course, is to spell the word after you have pronounced it phonetically, for example, "Mr Xerxes x-e-r-x-e-s has taken charge".

Knowing some general guidelines about the different pronunciations in some languages can be very helpful. At RVIB we have a very brief and basic guide which will give you an approach to pronunciation in the following languages: Arabic, Dutch, Greek (modern), Italian, Indonesian, Slavic and Vietnamese.

If you are faced with the pronunciation of an Italian name, for example, "Racina", the guide tells you that

- (a) most Italian words are stressed in the next to last syllable.
- (b) "c" followed by "i" is pronounced "ch"
- (c) "i" is pronounced "ee"

Thus, the word is pronounced "Racheeena".

If you would like a copy of the guide, please let us know.

Other sources of help may be dictionaries, the language department of a local school or a speaker of the language who lives in your area.

We would be very interested in finding out how other people approach this problem. Please write (or ring) and let us know, so that we can pass it on to others in the next issue.

Jude Adcock and Sally Ann Hill - Talking Newspaper Co-ordinators
Shaun McCarthy - Co-ordinator of Narrators

What the Talking Newspaper Service means to me.

I receive the "Talking Preston Post Times" newspaper on cassette and this means that I now can be kept up-to-date with the latest council news and changes to local by-laws, also local news, police beat and sports results. We as blind people do like to know if there is a special sale; if a local business shifts address or if there is a new eating place opening in our area. Letters to the editor are an important way for us to know what the opinions are on local issues.

My wife and I are both totally blind so this service is very important to both of us. We do enjoy receiving the tapes each week, and really do appreciate the work that the Narrators and people that copy the tapes each week do. We enjoy the paper more when it is read starting at page one, as the editorial staff of the paper put the most important articles at the front of the paper.

As blind readers, we do not have the advantage of scanning through the paper as a sighted person would, so we really appreciate gap or tone indexing at the start of each article. This makes it easy for us to locate a particular article, by scanning through the tape in fast forward.

I attended the workshop in my area and found it an excellent way of sharing ideas and for sorting out problems. It was also an opportunity for me to tell all of the volunteers how much I really appreciate the work they are doing.

Ray Bedson
Consumer

Country Newspapers		Co-ordinator
Albury/Wodonga	Border Morning Mail	Jude
Bairnsdale	Bairnsdale Advertiser	Jude
Ballarat	Ballarat Courier	Sally
Bendigo	Bendigo Advertiser	Sally
Camperdown/Cobden	Western District News	Jude
Colac	Colac Herald	Sally
Echuca/Deniliquin	Riverine Herald/Pastoral Times	Sally
Geelong	Geelong Advertiser	Sally
Hamilton	Hamilton Spectator	Sally
Horsham	Wimmera Mail Times	Jude
Korumburra/Leongatha	Sth Gippsland Sentinel Times	Jude
Kyneton	Macedon Ranges Telegraph & Midland Express	Sally
La Trobe Valley	La Trobe Valley Express	Sally
Mildura	Sunraysia Daily/Mildura Midweek	Jude
Mornington Peninsula	Frankston & Peninsula Independent News	Sally
Portland	Portland Observer	Jude
Sale	Gippsland Observer	Jude
Shepparton	Shepparton News	Sally
Swan Hill	Swan Hill Guardian	Jude
Wangaratta	Wangaratta Chronicle	Jude
Warragul	Warragul Gazette	Sally
Warrnambool	Warrnambool Standard	Jude

Melbourne Metropolitan Newspapers		
Brunswick/Coburg	Brunswick Sentinel/Coburg Courier	Sally
Caulfield/Brighton	Southern Cross	Jude
Dandenong	Dandenong Journal	Sally
Doncaster/Templestowe	Doncaster & Templestowe News	Jude
Essendon	Essendon Gazette	Sally
Footscray	Footscray Mail	Sally
Frankston	Frankston Standard	Jude
Heidelberg/Diamond Valley	Heidelberger & Diamond Valley News	Sally
Kew/Hawthorn/Box Hill	Progress Press	Jude
Moorabbin	Moorabbin Standard	Sally
Mordialloc/Chelsea	The Mordialloc/Chelsea News	Jude
Nunawading	Nunawading Gazette	Sally
Preston/Northcote	Preston Post Times & Northcote Leader	Sally
Prahran/Malvern	Southern Cross	Jude
Ringwood/Croydon	Ringwood-Croydon Mail	Sally

Languages other than English		
Vietnamese	Viet Luan	Jude
Cantonese	Chinese Herald	Jude
Cambodian	Smaradey Khmer	Jude
Italian	La Fiamma/Il Globo	Linley