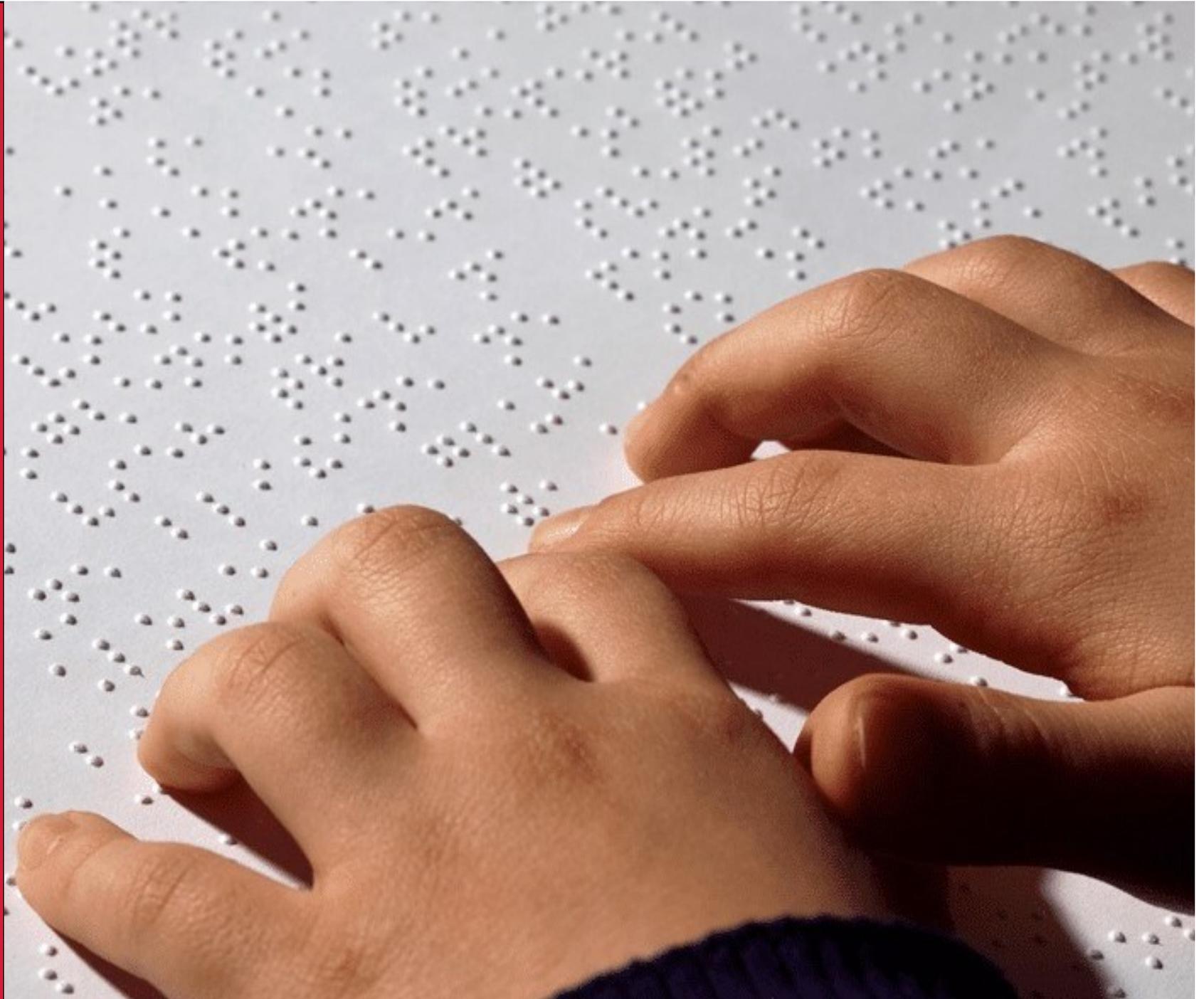




2020 ANNUAL  
REPORT







# CONTENTS

<u>Foreword from our Patron</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Chairperson's report</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>From the Management Committee</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Braille House and Cross River Rail</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Generals Manager's report</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition—Ready to celebrate 100 years</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Abridged financial statements</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Braille Tutoring</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Library in numbers</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Contributors</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Volunteers</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Interview with a mum of library user</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Corporate governance</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>NDIS and Braille House</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>How to get involved</u>	<u>23</u>



## Message from our Patron the Governor of Queensland



2020 will be forever remembered as the year COVID-19 and its restrictions so dramatically impacted everyday life.

Despite these limitations, it was most reassuring, as Governor, to learn of the many exceptional ways in which community organisations successfully confronted COVID-19 challenges to achieve remarkable results for those they support.

Braille House, of which I am so proudly Patron, is one such exceptional organisation.

By utilising new technologies, Braille House was able to continue its highly valued services like the Braille Library while transferring others, including tutoring, online.

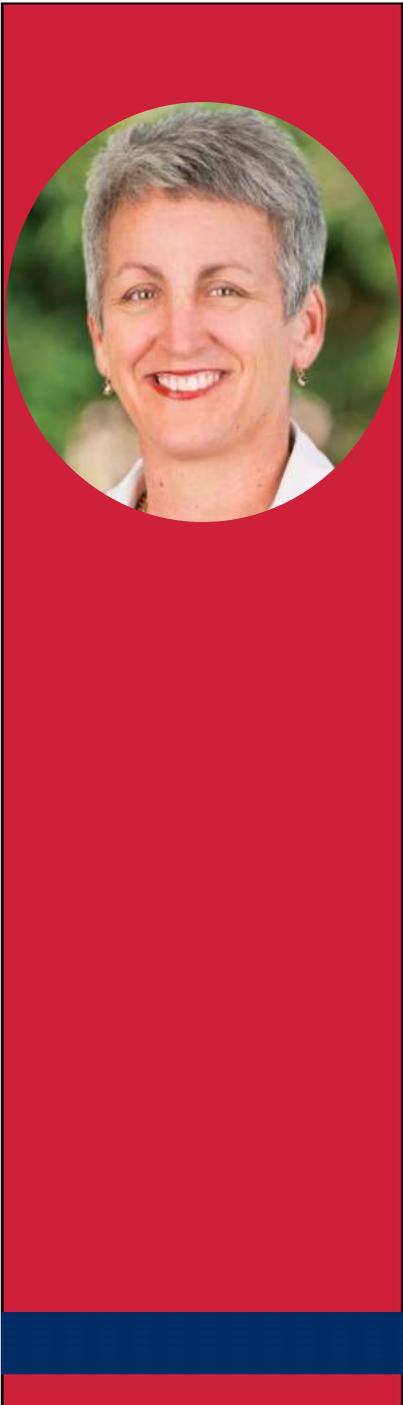
The organisation also successfully implemented compelling new initiatives like the 'Blind Minute' campaign and the 'Gift a Book' program to attract donations and wider community attention.

These are actions of a highly inventive and responsive organisation which is deeply committed to its core mission of meeting the needs of Queenslanders who are blind or live with low vision.

I thank the management committee, staff, volunteers and all supporters of Braille House for their efforts during a testing year. I join you in looking forward with optimism to 2021, when the organisation celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul de Jersey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC**  
Governor of Queensland



## President's Report

---

The world changed in 2020 as we were affected by a pandemic that had a huge impact on many organisations including Braille House.

We are lucky that we have had staff and volunteers that have stood up to the challenges and kept our library open to ensure our important reading material got out to our members. The library even grew in 2020 with transcribers working from home. These achievements have been made possible by our ability to adapt our technology to working remotely, and working together.

Now that we are all getting used to social distancing and other measures, we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Braille House and growing our volunteer numbers back to pre-COVID levels.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during 2020 and for being flexible to the requirements of Braille House. Your hard work has allowed us to keep the organisation functioning and the continuation of our services.

2020 saw the departure of 4 people from the Management Committee, David, Karen, Tony and Kylie, thank you for your efforts.

In 2020 we also decided that the role of General Manager would need to transition to a full-time role and unfortunately Sally Balwin, was unable to accommodate this change. We are lucky to be retaining Sally's knowledge and experience with her deciding to be a part of the Management Committee. I want to thank Sally for her time as General Manager and I look forward to her input on the Management committee.

As we look to the future, it is clear that Braille House has the members, volunteers and supporters to take us to through the next phase of growth and I'm excited to see what the future holds.

Jenni Erbel  
President



## From The Management Committee

The Management Committee of Braille House is proud to represent an organisation that has been producing and providing reading material for children and adults who are blind or have low vision since 1897. During this time there have been many changes and 2020 certainly presented some challenges, not only for Braille House but the whole world due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This has reinforced the fact that Braille House is extremely important to the communities we serve because many in our community have been isolated and access to reading material has connected people in profound ways that would not be possible without services like those provided by Braille House.

The Management Committee made the decision early in the pandemic to retain staff with the knowledge that this would contribute to a deficit. With areas like fundraising impacted by closures, we focused on investing surplus funds and re-searching options for our property to help us to achieve our goals.

There are almost 600,000 people in Australia who are blind or have low vision and every single one of them deserves equal access to reading material, whatever they want to read, whenever they want to read it, and as we continue to strive to achieve this, we know that we have the drive and determination to succeed.

The Management Committee are looking forward to 2021 so that we can continue to grow and strengthen the Braille House community and provide important resources to those who are blind or have low vision.



Jenni Erbel  
(President)  
MFP, BCom, BBus,  
DipEd, Cert IV TAE



Barry Oliver  
(Treasurer)



Jacqueline Parker  
(Secretary)  
BCom, Dip FP  
Cert IV TAE



James Grant  
MFP, Adv Dip  
Financial Services



Ben McFie



Karen Benson (R)  
BCom (Hons),  
MCom, PhD



Tony Crilly (R)  
LLB



Ben Whitehouse (R)  
BSc, MScQ, GDAcc, CA



David Balwin (R)  
FCPA, BCom,  
BEcon



Kylie Hancock (R)



## Braille House and Cross River Rail

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### **3D tactile model of Fairfield station for blind and low vision train users.**

Cross River Rail set a new benchmark in engagement with the disability sector in 2020 when they partnered with Braille House to create a 3D tactile model of upgrades to Fairfield Station that is being used as an inclusive consultation tool for people who are blind or have low vision to provide feedback on the design. Braille House also provided A4 braille fact sheets. These were used as an innovative accessible engagement tool enabling Braille House visitors and the broader Fairfield community to provide valuable feedback on Fairfield Station concept designs.

Travelling for people who are blind or have low vision is important to maintain an independent lifestyle. The Braille House team have attended Cross River Rail Accessibility Reference Group meetings to keep up to date with project progress and to provide feedback to the community and also to ensure that important aspects such as Braille are not overlooked in the planning and design phase of projects.

The innovative use of the 3D tactile model is demonstration of Cross River Rail's commitment to working with everyone in the community on the station concept designs and also a great way to show how Braille House works with various groups to ensure the best outcomes with regards to Braille in our community.

The project team have also partnered with Braille House through the Containers for Change Program, with collection bins installed at various locations around construction sites with all proceeds raised from containers collected donated to Braille House.

Braille House General Manager Sally Balwin said it is important for major infrastructure projects to include people living with blindness and low vision in their community consultation.

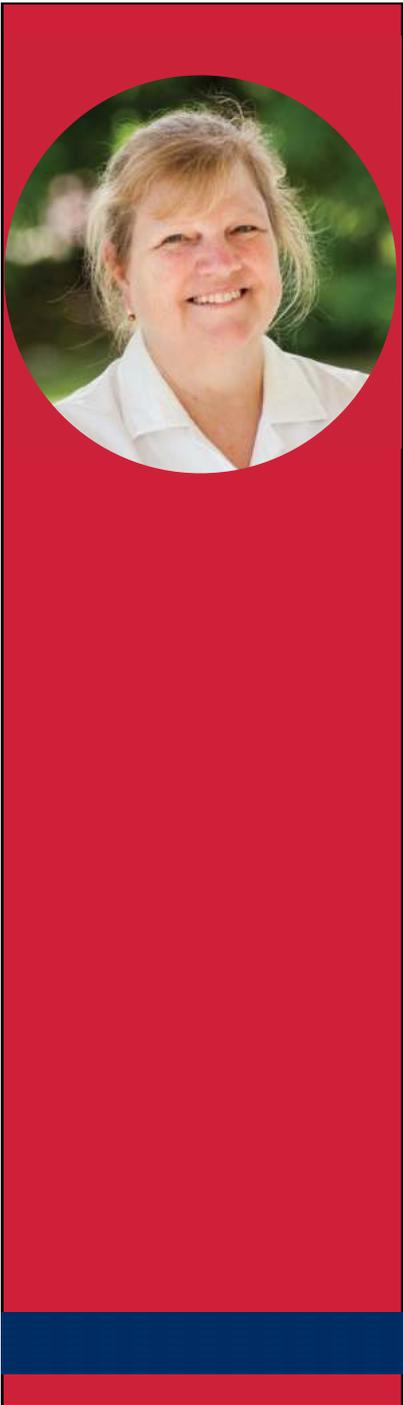
"We're pleased to have worked with Cross River Rail on the Fairfield Station concept design tactile model. Train stations can be a challenge for people using a cane or a guide dog to navigate, and it can impact their ability to access public transport," said Ms. Balwin.

Wendy Sara, Production Manager at Braille House assisted with the proofing and embossing the braille on the tactile model.

"As a blind person, it's important to be included in the consultation and to be given the opportunity to explore by touch the changes to be made to the upgraded station", said Ms. Sara.

"The provision of access to the tactile model will help blind and low vision people feel confident in navigating the upgraded Fairfield station once completed".





## General Manager's Report

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What do I say about 2020. It was a rough year for everyone including Braille House. However, many fared worse than us and we feel for them. As we physically closed the doors to Braille House for COVID the staff and volunteers didn't retreat in defeat but rather looked at how we could use this change for the best.

Firstly, we got the technology in place for everyone to have remote access. This enabled everyone who utilised the computer system to still be able to do those things, such as transcribe and communicate with each other. This kept the flow of much output going.

A COVID Management Plan was developed and put in place being updated (on a very regular basis) as new information and direction came to light. The Plan facilitated, among other things, the lending of our library books to continue almost uninterrupted which we and our clients were happy about as the world became more isolated.

Staff and I were able to Zoom meet on a regular basis to keep this fabulous not-for-profit going. However, unfortunately, our face-to-face tutoring and much of our fundraising (including Bookshop 507) had to cease.

Not to be deterred, the Braille House staff and I looked at this as an opportunity to see what we could do differently or introduce to support the organization through this unprecedented time. #BlindMinute campaign was developed and run where people were asked to video themselves doing something for a minute blindfolded and to raise awareness and funds in the process. It was pleasing the engagement this campaign received in its maiden outing and we look forward to running it again.

With Bookshop 507 closed we thought about what we could do with all the books donated and sitting on the shelves collecting dust. So we came up with the Gift-a-Book campaign where people could donate money which would purchase books from Bookshop 507 which would then be donated to retirement and aged facilities whose residents were some of the hardest affected with isolation due to COVID. Again, this program was well embraced and is the continuing giving program for the Bookshop as we look to expand the areas we can donate the books to. Donations can be made at <https://www.givenow.com.au/giftabook>

**Continued over page**



## General Manager's Report (Continued)

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As many know, I joined Braille House (on a part-time basis) some 5 years ago to help Braille House remain relevant and contemporary into the future. The success of everyone's work (staff and volunteers) has positioned Braille House well for the coming years and I thank everyone for your wonderful efforts through the journey.

Towards the end of 2020, the decision was made that it was time for a fulltime General Manager and due to my other work and commitments, this was something I was not be able to do. However, given my involvement with Braille House and my passion for its success, I agreed to step onto the Management Committee in 2021 for continuity, retention of relationships and so I could continue to contribute via this new role.

Recently, someone asked me what my take-away from the past 5 years is. The answer did not need much thought as I am very proud of the achievements of everyone in my time with Braille House and it has been an honor to be a small 5 year part of Braille House's 123 year history. This thought is quite surreal to me but one that is a standout in my career.

When I agreed to work with Braille House for 3 months, I never imagined the journey I would be privileged to be a part of and the achievements, successes, creativity and fun that would fill my time with the organization, as well as the amazing people I would meet and develop relationships with along the way. I believe this hard, persistent work has laid solid foundations for the organization to continue to grow from and achieve even more in its endeavors to support and empower children and adults who are blind or have low vision.

Sally Balwin  
General Manager



## Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition— Ready to celebrate 100 years

---

### Centenary celebrations of a unique literary competition

The Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition celebrated its 99<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020 and continues to be the only literary competition for people who are blind or have low vision in Australia.

This competition provides a unique opportunity for people with low or no vision to tell their stories and to share their amazing talents with other Australian's. Cash prizes are awarded in the following categories: Adult Short Story, Adult Poetry, Adult Article/Opinion, Senior Student Creative, Junior Student Creative and People's Choice. In 2020 we had many entries in all categories which is very encouraging for the future of this competition.

All but one of the categories are for people who are legally blind and there is one category "People's Choice" that is voted by the public and sighted people are also invited to enter this category.

The winners and second place holders are published each year by Braille House in a special Braille anthology which is available to borrow from the Braille House library.

With 2021 being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition, we are looking forward to welcoming many more entries from all over Australia with all states again represented.



Abridged financial statements

<b>STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
For the Financial Year ended 31 December 2020	\$	\$
Donations	86,066	213,048
Grants	146,895	57,938
Bequests	2,807	2,505
Braille House Market Income	635	1,425
Fee for Service Income	14,147	22,823
Investments Income	9,096	10,211
Membership Subscriptions	1,596	3,034
Other Income	3,788	10,053
Increase in Fair Value of Investments	14,810	-
<b>Revenue from ordinary activities</b>	<b>279,840</b>	<b>321,046</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>279,840</b>	<b>321,046</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Employee	196,608	177,404
Consultancy Fees	83,380	86,240
Computer Costs	9,476	6,353
Depreciation	30,461	30,986
Insurance	8,258	8,931
Other	74,318	85,215
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>402,501</b>	<b>395,129</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/LOSS FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-122,661</b>	<b>-74,086</b>



## Braille tutoring

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You can actually learn Braille from anywhere in Australia.

Learning to read and write in Braille is the way in which a person with limited or no sight is the primary method to achieve literacy.

Learning Braille is also a great way for anyone in the community to be able to communicate with someone that is blind or has low vision. For example, if you are a care giver for someone who reads Braille, you will be able to share information in a format that you can both understand.

To break it down, Braille is a tactile method of reading and writing developed by Louis Braille in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century using combinations of six raised dots arranged in cells. This configuration of dots can be made in different arrangements. Various combinations of the dots form the signs used in embossed text read by touch readers.

Braille tutoring is one of the services offered by Braille House and there are several courses throughout the year that you can join. These courses are available for everyone from beginners to more experienced Braille readers and are offered at Braille House (Annerley), and also by distance or remote access, this means that wherever you are in Australia, you are able to learn Braille.

Braille House offers tutoring in a number of formats, including:

- \* face to face tutoring at Braille House and at other Brisbane locations on a regular, individual basis.
- \* a certificate course of instruction in Unified English Braille specifically for print users who do not need to learn Braille by touch. This course is especially useful for carers, teacher aids friends/family or anyone wishing to learn Braille and can be accessed at Braille House with weekly, three hour sessions, over a ten week period.

The Braille course and print to Braille course is also offered by distance tuition with personal support by post, email and phone.





## 2020— LIBRARY IN NUMBERS

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### Library Books Transcribed

#### ADULT

150 books / 348 volumes - Braille

28 books - Ebraille

28 magazines - Ebraille

#### YOUNG ADULT

9 books / 42 volumes - Braille

9 books - Ebraille

#### JUNIOR FICTION

17 books/ 25 volumes - Braille

17 books - Ebraille

#### PICTURE BOOKS

144 books - Braille

320 Braille books / 615 volumes -

+

82 - Ebraille

**TOTAL - 402 new titles  
transcribed in 2020**

### Library Loans

**894 titles/ 2,238 volumes-  
Embossed Braille**

Adult Braille: 248 titles / 1350  
volumes

Adult Moon: 17 Titles

Young adult: 6 titles / 26 volumes

Junior fiction: 21 titles / 58 volumes

47 books - Ebraille

445 - Magazines

157 - Picture Books

**941 titles / 2,285 + total items  
across all volumes, Braille,  
Ebraille, and magazines in  
total borrowed by members  
in 2020**

# Thank you to all contributors to Braille House in 2020

## Grants

Brisbane City Council - Seniors  
Celebration donation 2020

Department of Education - SDSS  
(Specialist Disability Support in  
Schools)

## Trusts

The Norma Benporath Charitable  
Trust

Dr Ellice Dart Trust Fund

## Companies

HLB Mann Judd Advisory and  
Accounting

SANDOLL PTY LTD atf Sandoll  
Foundation

## Associations

Vision  
Australia

## Donors

John           Davenport  
Case &  
Kirsty        McCaul  
Burk         McCaul

Michelle     Auer  
Andrew     Backhouse  
Sonja       Baillie  
Sally        Balwin  
Paul         Bell  
Karen       Benson  
Helen       Boardman  
Mary        Byrne  
Margaret    Byrne  
Vera         Cahill  
Peter        Cliff  
Debra       Coombs  
Sally        Cooper  
Anthony     Crilly  
Catherine   Davenport  
Maureen    Davey  
Angela      Davoli  
Jackie      Dedekind  
Rosalie     Enstrom  
Jenni       Erbel  
Glennys    Fabbri  
Robert      Fraser  
Sarah       Gardner  
Ivy          Given  
Anne        Hampton  
Raquelle    Hannen-Williams  
Vicki       Hawes  
John        Hill  
Stella      Hinsbey  
Beau        Jones

Julie        Joyce  
Gina        Kerr  
Helen       Kinniburgh  
Jack        Knowles  
John        Langworthy  
Tom         Macmahon  
Rebecca     Maxwell  
Mark        McCarthy  
Lisa         Nguyen  
Barry       Oliver  
Julie        Paine  
Matt        Ryan  
Janene      Sadhu  
Dan         Seed  
Amanda     Shaw  
Doug        Shearman  
Sue         Sheldrick  
Phillip      Sheridan  
Irene       Sim  
Helen       Simon  
George      Smith  
Kate        Sunners  
Penny       Tangey  
Fiona       Tetsworth  
Carmela     Villones  
Sue         Wagner  
Jean        Weaver  
Michael     Whibley  
Brigit      Workman  
Jessica     Yarrow

Braille House relies on  
support from the  
community and can only  
continue to operate with  
the assistance of our  
generous contributors.

THANK YOU!

## Thank you to all volunteers of Braille House in 2020

Wendy	Alexander	Xinyan		Wendy	Sara
Vicki	Anderson	(Carolyn)	Huang	Sue	Schwartz
Andrew	Backhouse	Karen	Jones	Jackie	Searle
Jennifer	Baker	Joanne	Jurica	Dan	Seed
David	Balwin	Natthika	Kantee	Linda	Slemint
Sally	Balwin	Michelle	Kuang	Gail	Smith
Karen	Benson	Heather	Landers	Phoebe	Snow
Denise	Blumke	Rebecca	Lilley	Jackie	Sorensen
Ailsa	Boyd	Jan	Lorimer	Kate	Stephens
Vera	Cahill	Ben	MacFie	Max	Stephens
Meghan	Clark-McDaniel	Katrina	Mak	Aishwarya	Subramanian
Frances	Cooke	Karen	McClure	Denise	Summerscales
Anthony	Crilly	Helene	Merker	Simone	Tait
Angela	Davoli	Kerry	Moulton	Anne	Tann
Jack	Douglas	Denise	Munns	Graeme	Tann
Janet	Douglas	Mala	Nambiar	Bernadette	Vialle
Marget	Elson	Barry	Oliver	Sue	Wagner
Jenni	Erbel	Jennifer	O'Sullivan	Benjamin	Whitehouse
India	Francis	Jacqueline	Parker		
Jeannie	Gamble	Laura	Paterson		Braille House has a diverse and talented group of volunteers
Merry	Godwin	Kathryn	Pell		That work across all aspects of
James	Grant	Apollonia	Perry		Braille House from garden and
Sue	Greenall	Hanna	Pickersgill		ground maintenance, library
Mike	Griffin	Kerstin	Reimers		services, tutoring, production,
Julie	Hammond	Margaret	Rein		proof reading, binding and
Kylie	Hancock	Kay	Ridgers		bookshop 507.
Gwen	Hay OAM	Cathy	Roseman		
Margaret	Hinkler	Emma	Rough		To all of our valuable volunteers
Karen	Ho	Diana	Rule		we say THANK YOU!
Philly	Hoang	Erin	Sabransky		



## Interview with a mum of a library user

Andrew: How has Braille helped Eva?

Laura: Wow – it has really opened up a whole new world. So obviously a child with a vision impairment, one of the big things is how are they going to get exposed to literacy, how are they going to keep up with the school curriculum, how are they going to keep up with a social setting talking with their friends and making that connection with things such as books. When we started Prep there was a teacher there really pushing her to learn Braille just at the same time as her peers were learning to read and write. It was all through sight words and doing the old six egg carton and putting ping pong balls in for the letters so we all did that together and picked it up within a Term. Eva knew the alphabet and reading was little bit more challenging because knowing things like the “I” and the “e” is very similar and so she would get herself confused. So there was probably a year or two where she struggled with that and then suddenly it just clicked and then everything suddenly just went off and she just started to read everything. So I had to learn Braille and I had to type and translate Braille books for her – this was before we had a Mountbatten. So I had to on the Perkins try and learn how to Braille Possum Magic and all these other authors she loved. So really simple books because my Braille skills are very, very slow. So everything just went crazy from there and it has helped her keep up with her peers. You know learning is eighty to eighty-five percent visual and she is on par with her rest of the students in the grade which is fantastic and that’s through the Braille, through the reading, writing, through the mathematics she’s got to learn and she has been able to keep up with that because of that constant exposure that we have had to Braille.

Andrew: Yeah – Right, and I think that the really important thing is to learn at the same level as your peers is really important but having access to more material that gives her an idea socially as well like if Harry Potter is popular she can discuss that with her friends as well. What are some of the other opportunities do you think Braille has afforded her?

Laura: I don’t think you can discount the fact that her being able to learn alongside her peers, for an eight year old, it’s a big thing. You know they want to fit in, they want to be like their friends, they want to do everything like their friends, so for her to be able to sit in a reading group every Tuesday morning she goes into her reading and writing groups and the school brailles, usually a short story the same that the rest of her group is reading and they all have to read passages from it and then they do comprehension assessments from it and they have to go back and answer questions, that in itself is just huge for Eva because when she got given that book last year to her first reading group she felt so independent, and she wanted to go herself to the reading group and she put her hand up to answer the questions and she would be so excited that she would be part of something that she didn’t need that help, she didn’t need that teacher’s aide to read it to her – she didn’t need that audio – she could read it just like everybody else – that in itself has been monumental. You know going, you know being able to read signs now that Eva is fully proficient in Braille and in most of her contractions, going into a lift and saying “I want to press the button – let me see – what level are we going to” and we point things out to her and say “there’s a braille sign Eva” and she will go and read it. We went overseas last year, we went across Europe and we found at Trafalgar Square in London they have a sign in Braille and she got to read it out to us and at the Louvre they have a room, a tactile room and you could feel the size of the Louvre and the statue of Napoleon and she got to read all those things. That was just huge for her that she of the adventure not us just explaining to her but her reading it as well so just that inclusion that inclusion is the biggest thing for her.

To watch the full interview, please go to — [www.braillehouse.org.au/2021/02/19/we-talk-to-laura/](http://www.braillehouse.org.au/2021/02/19/we-talk-to-laura/)

## Corporate Governance

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Braille House's commitment to excellence in corporate governance, transparency and accountability is evident through the organisation's culture and behavior, underpinned by a quality system to ISO 9000. This quality system is continuously reviewed both internally and by external parties. Our policies and procedures ensure we meet the Australian Standards – AS 8000-2003 Good Governance Principles.

### **QBWA Management Committee Package and Composition**

The Braille House Management Committee Package exists to ensure sound governance of the organisation starting from the top. The document sets out the Management Committee's roles, responsibilities and Code of Conduct. The package also includes the Management Committee's competency matrix to ensure a competent and diverse set of skills, experience and knowledge exists amongst the Management Committee members.

The names of the Management Committee members including qualifications are contained on page 6. More details can also be obtained from the Braille House website.

### **Role and Conduct of the Council**

The Management Committee held 11 monthly meetings in 2020, as well as the Annual General Meeting. The Management Committee has organised itself to include the following sub-committee: Finance And Asset Management.

In 2020, the Management Committee enhanced the organisation's investment of surplus funds by utilizing two managed facilities for short, medium and long term investments to ensure better returns. It also, focused on options for better utilisation of the organisation's largest asset, the property making large inroads in relation to options for its use.

The Management Committee conducts itself inline with the Braille House Management Committee Package. The Management Committee works closely with the General Manager to whom it has delegated day-to-day responsibilities and activities whilst still ensuring appropriate governance and quality checks. The Management Committee receives a report from the General Manager at each of its meetings which includes, among other things, key performance measures.

## Corporate Governance continued

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### **Conflict of Interest**

Pursuant to the Management Committee's Code of Conduct, Management Committee members are required to:

- avoid real or apparent conflicts of Interest;
- not give preference to any person, organisation or other interest group as a result of any private association with that person, organisation or interest group;
- not solicit or receive any benefit in return for services performed as a Management Committee member;
- immediately on becoming aware of any conflict between private interests and official duty, whether real or apparent, disclose details to the Management Committee; and
- immediately disclose any connection whereby relatives, close friends or business partners are connected in any way with the functions of the organisation.

On receipt of a disclosure from a Management Committee member the Management Committee will determine the extent of any conflict of interest and direct any action required to resolve the conflict.

### **Ethical Standards and Performance**

In addition to the Management Committee's Code of Conduct and the quality system, there exists an organisational Code of Conduct which applies to all staff, contractors and volunteers. Braille House prides itself on the professionalism and ability of its employees and volunteers, including Management Committee members, to meet community needs. We strive to be a leading service provider and to provide a safe, healthy and happy workplace for all.

This Code of Conduct is designed to ensure that all Braille House personnel and community members are treated in a manner that reflects the mission, culture and legal obligations of the organisation. To this end, the Code of Conduct addresses, among other things, workplace health and safety, human rights, privacy/confidentiality and behavioral matters that must be adhered to.

### **Auditors**

The Management Committee has retained external auditors to audit the organisation's finances annually. All auditor reports are presented to the Management Committee for consideration and action if required. Further, Braille House's quality system's formal internal review is conducted at least every three years and outcomes provided to various external organisations for scrutiny in line with funding arrangements.



## NDIS, YOU AND BRAILLE HOUSE

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Braille House is a registered provider under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

We have supported, and continues to support, a number of NDIS clients in a variety of ways.

Sometimes it's learning to read Braille, or having material Brailled for work purposes, or it could be transcribing things like contact numbers into Braille to make things easier for you. We have also transcribed to Braille NDIS Plans, books including recipes, prayer books and much more.

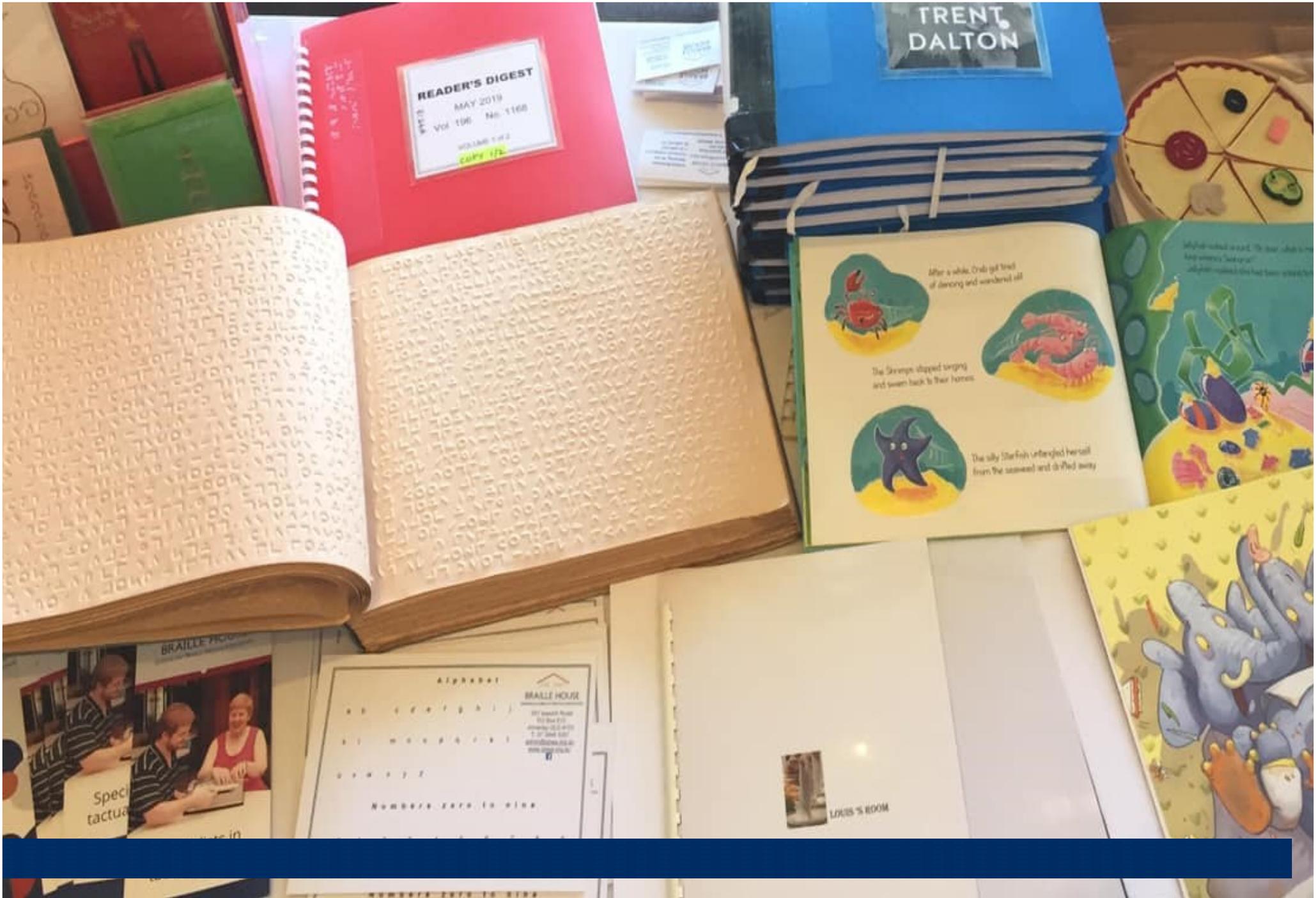
You and your family have control over choosing the services that work best for you and Braille House understands the importance of getting the support you need, which is why we offer to assist with this.

Our experienced people will work with you from the beginning to establish your short and long term goals, and the supports you will need to achieve them in preparation for your NDIS planning meeting. This pre-planning will give you the confidence and understanding to work with the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) to structure your plan from the beginning with the support to achieve your goals.

We have helped people to get supports that they didn't think they were able to access through Braille House. We helped one member to get cheesemaking recipes so that she could fulfill her love of the craft and enjoy her future.

You can nominate Braille House as your service provider for all your Braille needs.





## **How to get involved**

### **Volunteer**

Volunteer and benefit from developing new skills or updating existing skills whilst making new friends and feeling a sense of community and personal satisfaction.

### **Donate**

Approximately 70% of our funding comes from donations and fundraising. We greatly appreciate any one-off or ongoing donations to keep Braille House going. Please go to [www.braillehouse.org.au](http://www.braillehouse.org.au) and click on the "Donate" button to conveniently and simply give.

### **Fundraise for us**

Our "Dotty Program" enables everyone to fundraise for us. Whether it be a morning tea, sponsored team in a walk/run, an a-thon of sorts or an event like a wine tasting, fundraising is fun and satisfying. Don't want to organise a fundraiser? – then volunteer at Braille House to help out with the fundraising event organised by us.

### **Become a member**

Become a member of our community for the small annual cost of \$25 (individual) or \$40 per family. Membership provides our quarterly newsletter, a vote at the AGM, attendance at our Member's Christmas morning tea, as well as VIP offers, discounts and communication on all the other events and activities happening in our community and partners.

### **Shop**

Braille House has launched an online shop that sells a range of products like cards, soaps, pictures, knitted and crocheted items and other handmade clothing and homewares.

### **Corporate involvement**

Braille House works with all types and sized organisations to create mutually beneficial partnerships based on common values and shared objectives. Many of the involvement opportunities may provide a tax deduction/benefit. Please contact Braille House on 07 3848 5257 and ask to speak with our General Manager to discuss opportunities further.

### **Gift on your behalf**

Have everything you need? You can request that wedding or party guests donate to Braille House in lieu of a gift.

### **In Memoriam gift**

Commemorate your life and/or the life of a loved one by requesting donations be made to Braille House at the passing creating a lasting gift.

### **Make a bequest**

Your bequest to Braille House, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated and your legacy will support us and our community to continue our vital work.

### **Get involved**

Visit our website [www.braillehouse.org.au](http://www.braillehouse.org.au) for more information on how you can get involved or call us on 07 3848 5257 to learn more.





**BRaille  
HOUSE**

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