



# VOLUME

## Welcome to new volunteers

In addition to the more than 1,000 people who help the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children through their membership of and participation in our Voluntary Fundraising Auxiliaries and our Parents and Friends Associations, at RIDBC we currently have around 220 volunteers who assist in a variety of ways. These include classroom help, clerical support, administration, proofreading, gardening, fundraising and driving. All our volunteers are a huge support to our staff and your efforts are greatly appreciated. The following volunteers have recently joined the RIDBC ranks. Please look out for them and make them welcome.

<p><b>RIDBC Alice Betteridge School</b> Mondays Heather Stapley Christina Huggett Nirmala Kalva</p> <p>Wednesdays Reuben Mourad Alison Kilgour</p> <p>Thursdays Thuy De Rossi Lynne Hammond Brian Hammond</p> <p>Fridays Robyn Conwell</p> <p>IT Tuesdays and Wednesdays Wayne Pan</p>	<p><b>RIDBC Garfield Barwick School</b> Mondays Courtney Roberts</p> <p>Tuesdays Clare Pritchard</p> <p>Tuesdays and Thursdays Margaret Hamaty</p> <p>Wednesdays Lisa Allen Gial Sugar</p> <p>Thursdays Juliet Schumacher</p> <p>Fridays Margaret Cooke</p> <p><b>RIDBC Renwick Centre</b> Mardi Kent</p>	<p><b>RIDBC Rockie Woofit Preschool</b> Wednesdays Roslyn Morral</p> <p><b>RIDBC Nepean</b> Wednesdays Krissey Amos</p> <p><b>RIDBC Hunter</b> Mondays Mary McLeod Karen Monteath</p> <p><b>RIDBC Thomas Pattison School</b> Mondays and Fridays Joanne Howard</p>
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## Welcome to the first issue of VOLUME!

RIDBC is pleased to introduce **VOLUME**, a newsletter for all volunteers at RIDBC who continue to make such a wonderful contribution. **VOLUME** will keep you up to date with recent developments and news at RIDBC, and also in the broader world of volunteering.

The RIDBC **VOLUME** will be published every term and will be available to volunteers where you sign the Volunteer Attendance Register and also online at <http://www.ridbc.org.au/aboutus/volunteer.asp>

Any suggestions, contributions or comments can be made to Diana Piper, Volunteer Co-ordinator at [diana.piper@ridbc.org.au](mailto:diana.piper@ridbc.org.au)

## RIDBC news

### RIDBC Auslan Tutor

The RIDBC Auslan Tutor is a new application that is set to make a big difference to families with a deaf child. It is a portable video-based Australian Sign Language (Auslan) teaching application developed specifically for the iPhone and iPod touch. It has been designed to assist families of young deaf children learn Auslan. More than 500 Auslan signs are included. These signs were carefully chosen as those most needed by families in their interactions with, and teaching of, their deaf children.

The RIDBC Auslan Tutor moves beyond the basic premise of teaching individual signs by including five corresponding entries for each sign. These five entries are:

- a photo of the handshape used to form the sign
- a video demonstrating the single sign
- a video of the sign used in a phrase
- a video of the phrase used in a sentence
- a text note about Auslan grammar that is pertinent

For more information about the **RIDBC Auslan Tutor**, please call 1300 131 923, email [auslantutor@ridbc.org.au](mailto:auslantutor@ridbc.org.au), or visit [www.ridbc.org.au/auslantutor](http://www.ridbc.org.au/auslantutor)

*'No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another'*  
- Anon



Volunteer Debbie McIntosh received her 5 year award at last year's Christmas luncheon.

## Building Works - RIDBC Renwick Centre

Through its Renwick Centre, RIDBC is Australia's biggest provider of training for teachers of deaf and/or blind children. It is dedicated to achieving the highest professional standards and influencing contemporary practice as widely as possible. Affiliated with the University of Newcastle, Renwick offers the Master of Special Education degree, Specialised Graduate Certificates and the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

With more than 440 higher degree graduates from the Renwick Centre so far, and some thousands of participants in its continuing education programs, the Renwick Centre has had a profound impact on the lives of deaf children and blind children, by raising the skill and knowledge levels of their teachers.

The Renwick Centre is currently housed in facilities that were converted 15 years ago to cater for a student load of 35. With higher degree enrolments in 2008 of 166, there teaching space is insufficient.

RIDBC has resolved to construct new premises to house the Renwick Centre and to provide it with more facilities to enable its influence to continue to spread.

The new Renwick Centre Building will incorporate a 220-seat lecture theatre, a substantial library, facilities for clinical research and for videoconferencing, other student and office facilities, an audiovisual production studio and flexible teaching spaces. Rooms will be equipped to enable access to both presenters and students in remote areas.

The skills of teachers and related professionals are paramount in determining long-term outcomes for children with impaired hearing or vision. RIDBC is committed to ensuring that we have both the capability and the mechanism for developing those skills in professionals across the broadest possible front, both nationally and internationally.

Construction of the new Centre is scheduled to commence in August. Most of the funding for the construction project has come from the very generous response of RIDBC donors to our appeal for capital gifts. We are very grateful to them.

## Matters of interest

Online job site SEEK has launched **Volunteering Unplugged**, a website that encourages volunteers to share their stories about volunteering and ultimately hope to inspire more people to devote some time to volunteering. This can be accessed at <http://www.volunteer.com.au/unplugged/>

## Training and information for RIDBC volunteers

**Back care/lifting training** - Courses are run from time-to-time and are available to volunteers. This is particularly necessary if volunteers wish to assist with lifting of students. Please speak to your department head or Diana Piper if you are interested.

**Renwick Centre Library** - Remember, RIDBC volunteers are welcome to access this library.

**Abilities newsletter** - A fully accessible version of the newsletter can also be viewed online at:

[http://www.ridbc.org.au/publications/abilities/abilities\\_2009\\_2\\_winter.asp](http://www.ridbc.org.au/publications/abilities/abilities_2009_2_winter.asp)

A PDF version can also be viewed at [http://www.ridbc.org.au/pdf/abilities\\_winter09.pdf](http://www.ridbc.org.au/pdf/abilities_winter09.pdf)

*Special thanks to Rashmi Balakrishnan for her assistance in launching this first issue of VOLUME*



**Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children**

*Australia's premier provider of educational services to vision and/or hearing impaired children*

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