

Braille Tales



Meet Julie - inclusion teacher and braille literacy ambassador

Braille Literacy Challenge Outgrows Braille House

Ash Barty Foundation Joins the Challenge

WINTER 2026
VOLUME 5


Braille House
The world at your fingertips

The world at your fingertips

Since 1897, Braille House has been giving people who are blind or have low vision the world at their fingertips.

With your support, we provide braille and tactile books, expert tuition and a free national library service that make reading and learning possible for all.

Every page, every touch, every story matters.
Thank you to everyone who helps make it happen.



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Word lovers, rejoice!

Think Scrabble meets cards! Quiddler is a quick and entertaining word game that's now available in an accessible format through Braille House. It's the latest addition to our growing collection of tactile games, helping bring family and friends together around the table.

Did you Know...

Braille features in several Pokémon games, where players use braille-coded clues to solve puzzles and unlock hidden areas.

While the symbols are based on the real braille code, they are simulated visually on-screen rather than being tactile braille read by touch. For many players, it was their first introduction to braille and the idea of accessible reading.



Message from Richard



Growth is often measured in numbers, but its true value lies in the lives changed along the way.

This year, the Braille Literacy Challenge will move to a larger venue to accommodate more participants than ever before. While we're delighted to see the event continue to grow, what's most exciting is what that growth represents: more young people building braille literacy skills, more families engaging with accessible reading, and more opportunities for students who are blind or have low vision to develop confidence and independence.

That spirit of growth is reflected throughout this edition of Braille Tales. You'll read about our partnership with the Ash Barty Foundation, the inspiring journey of teacher Julie Hooker as she learned braille to support a student, and the continuing efforts of our volunteers, donors and partners who help make our work possible.

Each story is a reminder that braille is more than dots on a page. It is a pathway to education, connection and opportunity.

What gives me the greatest optimism for the future is the growing community of people who believe in the importance of braille literacy. Together, we are creating opportunities for children, adults, families and educators, ensuring that access to information and the joy of reading remain within everyone's reach. From local classrooms to global campaigns, more people are recognising that braille remains a powerful pathway to literacy, independence and opportunity.

Thank you for helping us create that impact. Your support ensures more people of all ages who are blind or have low vision can access information, enjoy reading and fully participate in the world around them.

Richard Barker
GENERAL MANAGER

2026 Braille Literacy Challenge

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Game, Set, Match for Braille Literacy

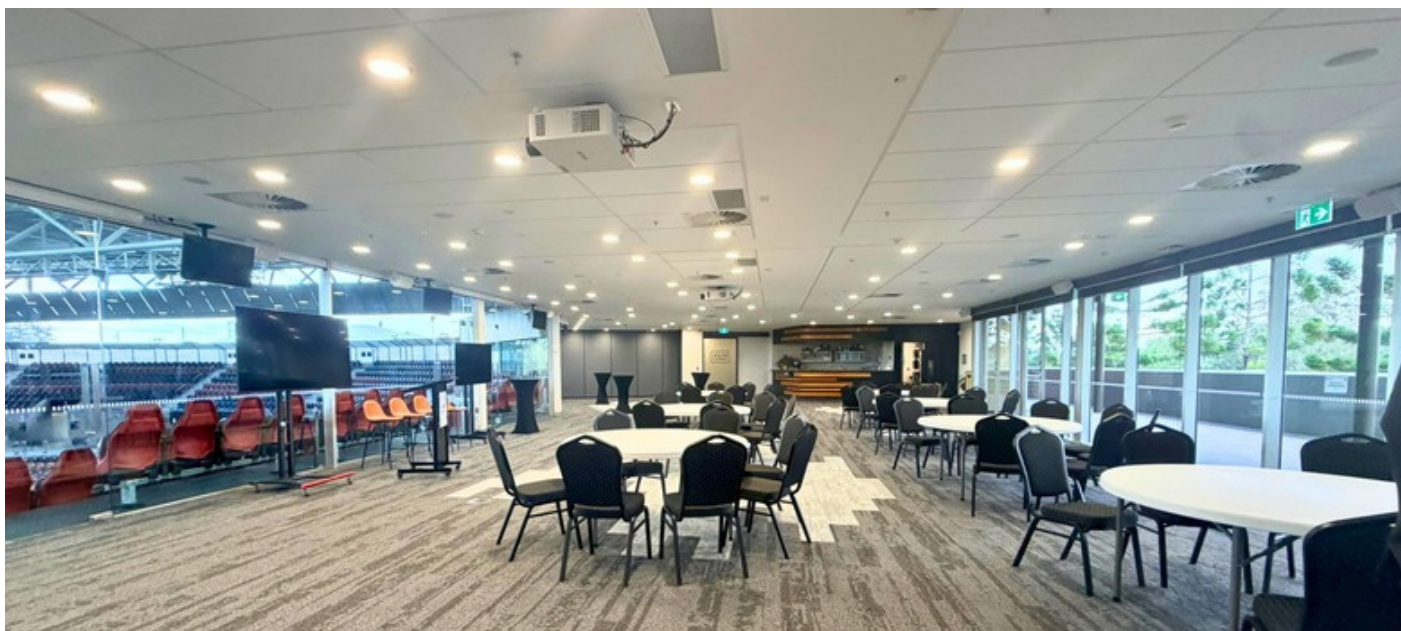
New venue, more space to shine.

The Braille Literacy Challenge celebrates excellence in braille literacy, bringing together students from across Queensland to demonstrate their skills, challenge themselves and connect with their peers. This year, growing participation meant we needed more space than ever before to welcome competitors, families and supporters.

Much like coveted regional sporting or academic competitions, the Braille Literacy Challenge gives students the opportunity to showcase the skills they have worked hard to develop, while recognising the important role braille plays in education, independence and lifelong learning. It is a chance for participants to challenge themselves, celebrate their achievements and meet other young people who share their enthusiasm for braille.

"We've outgrown Braille House, and we couldn't be happier. Every extra participant is another young person embracing braille literacy."





Thanks to the generous support of Tennis Queensland and the Queensland Tennis Centre, this year's Challenge has found a new home. The larger venue will provide an exciting setting for students, families and supporters. It also offers the space needed to welcome a growing Challenge community.

Support from the Ash Barty Foundation is helping make this year's Challenge possible, reflecting a shared commitment to creating opportunities for young Australians. Like the Challenge itself, the Foundation recognises the value of dedication, perseverance and celebrating personal achievement.

Together with the Lord Mayor's Community Fund and Councillor Nicole Johnston for the Tennyson Ward, these partnerships are helping create an event where young braille readers can build confidence, showcase their skills and celebrate their achievements.

This event is made possible with support from:



DISCOVER ALL THE WAYS I SEE IN BRAILLE

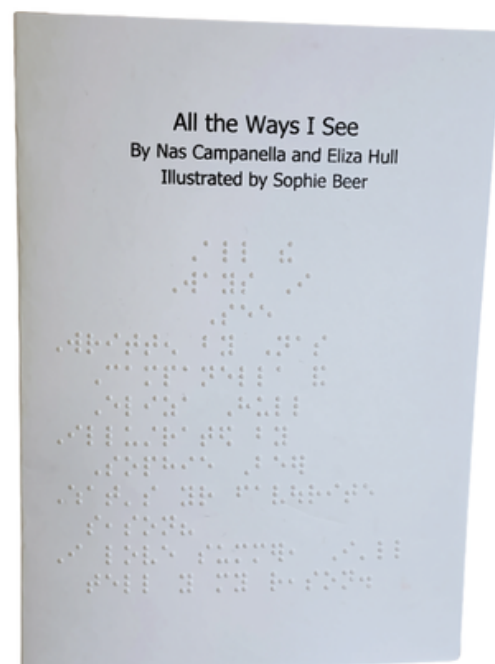
Now available for pre-order from Braille House

Braille House is proud to present the official braille edition of *All the Ways I See*, a beautiful children's book by acclaimed journalist and disability advocate **Nas Campanella** and award-winning writer and musician **Eliza Hull OAM**.

Through the sounds, feelings and experiences of a summer day, this uplifting story celebrates the many ways we experience and understand the world beyond sight.

"I can't see summer, but it's clear in my mind. I hear it, I feel it, in my heart all the time."

Specially produced in Grade 2 braille by Braille House, this edition enables children who read braille to enjoy the story independently while building literacy, confidence and a lifelong love of reading.



Every purchase
supports Braille
House



\$19.95 per copy
Pre-order now
Orders dispatched from
13 October 2026

Scan the QR code or visit
braillehouse.org.au to
order your copy.



Email: admin@qbwa.org.au or phone 07 3848 5257



A Fresh Look for an Old Friend

When scaffolding went up around Braille House, something beautiful and unexpected happened. The project quickly attracted attention in the local community and sparked conversations about our work.

Thanks to funding from the **Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust** and a generous paint donation from **Dulux Australia**, Braille House received a much-needed refresh. The project included repainting the façade, cleaning the roof, and enhancing the appearance of our historic Annerley home.

The makeover generated so much interest that Braille House was featured on **4BC Drive** and **Channel 7 News Sunny Side**, giving us the opportunity to share the importance of braille literacy and accessible information with a wider audience.

It was a wonderful reminder that Braille House is more than just a building. While our home is in Brisbane, the braille and alternative format materials produced here reach people across Australia, helping create greater access to information, literacy, independence, and inclusion.

Projects like this are only possible because of the support of grants, corporate partners, donors, and our community. We are grateful to the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust, Dulux Australia, and every supporter who helps ensure Braille House remains a welcoming place where life-changing work continues every day.

Curious to see the makeover? Watch our Channel 7 News Sunny Side feature and listen to our interview on 4BC Drive at braillehouse.org.au/about/news

The Ripple Effect of Braille

One teacher's journey into braille literacy.

When experienced inclusion teacher Julie Hooker was asked to support a primary school student with vision impairment, she knew that good intentions alone wouldn't be enough.

“You have to put me through a course. I have to learn this the right way so I'm teaching it the right way.”
That decision led Julie to Braille House's Braille for Print Users Course.

As an educator, Julie understands the importance of literacy. What she came to understand through the course was the unique role braille plays in ensuring people who are blind or have low vision can access information, education and opportunity throughout their lives.

The student Julie supports currently has some functional vision, but there is a possibility his sight could change in the future. Learning braille now means he is developing literacy skills that will stay with him, regardless of what tomorrow brings.



Julie Hooker, inclusion teacher and Braille for Print Users Course graduate

For Julie, that knowledge has been transformative.

“

He will have the skills now. Whatever happens in the future, he will always be able to read and learn.”

Braille is often misunderstood as simply a system of dots on a page. Julie has seen firsthand that it is something much more powerful. It gives her student the ability to continue learning, reading and engaging with the world around him. It provides confidence, independence and choice.

“

It's not about the words on the page. It's about ensuring he has the same access, opportunities and choices that every child deserves."

Through Braille House's training, Julie gained far more than the ability to read and write braille. She developed a deeper understanding of accessibility, inclusion and the challenges her student may face as he progresses through his education.

That understanding has changed the way she teaches.

Julie has already witnessed the impact. As her confidence has grown, so has her student's. Together they are building skills and preparing for the future.

The learning has also extended beyond the classroom. Julie now shares what she has learned with colleagues, friends and her wider community, helping others better understand the importance of braille literacy and inclusion.

"It has a ripple effect."

For Braille House, that ripple effect is at the heart of its mission. Every teacher, parent, support worker and community member who learns braille becomes better equipped to support people who are blind or have low vision, creating greater access to literacy, independence and opportunity.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Braille House can continue delivering education programs that empower people and strengthen communities.

Now 54, Julie describes learning braille as one of the most rewarding experiences of her life.

"The best thing I've ever done."

One Course. A ripple effect.

Julie enrolled to support just one student. Today she's an advocate for braille literacy in her school and community.

Our Braille for Print Users Course gives teachers, teachers' aides, parents and support workers skills and confidence to support people learning braille.

Learn braille. Bring the world to their fingertips.

Contact our team at 07 3848 5257 or scan the QR code to find out more.



2026 Life Membership Recipients

Life Membership is one of the highest honours Braille House can bestow. It recognises members and volunteers whose exceptional dedication, service and commitment have made a lasting contribution to our organisation and to people who are blind or have low vision. This year, we are proud to recognise two individuals whose decades of service have helped ensure access to braille and alternative formats for countless Australians.



Angela Davoli

Since joining Braille House in 1995, Angela Davoli has dedicated 30 years to creating braille resources that support readers' independence and access to information. From beloved children's stories to complex multi-volume works, her meticulous transcription work has helped countless people who are blind or have low vision. Angela's unwavering commitment, skill and generosity make her a worthy recipient of Life Membership and a treasured member of the Braille House community.

Sue Greenall

Sue Greenall (née Edwards) has a connection with Braille House spanning more than 35 years. After learning braille at Braille House under the guidance of Mercy Dickinson, Sue went on to make an extraordinary contribution as a transcriber and educator. From producing educational materials for students across Queensland to continuing her transcription work today, Sue's dedication has helped ensure that braille readers have access to quality resources. Her commitment and expertise remain a valued part of the Braille House community.





VOLUNTEERS LUNCH

Braille House recently came together to host volunteers from across our community for a special thank you lunch, celebrating the people who generously give their time and talent throughout the year.

Hosted by the Norman Hotel, the event provided an opportunity to connect, share stories, and enjoy a delicious meal while recognising the extraordinary contribution our volunteers make every day.

From transcribing, proofreading and library support, their dedication keeps our services running. Quite simply, without our volunteers, we would have a library with no books.

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers and to the Norman Hotel for helping us celebrate their invaluable work.

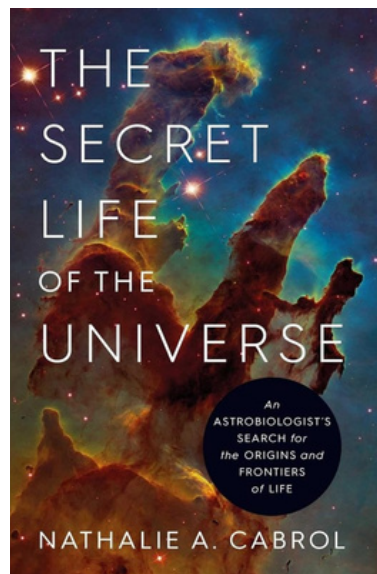


From Brad's Shelf

Thoughts and Recommendations from Our Braille House Librarian

Brad has the enviable job of being surrounded by books every day. With millions of titles published worldwide, careful selection helps us create a collection that reflects the interests of our readers while making the most of our resources. Through our book panel, reader feedback and borrowing trends, we continue to add books that inform, entertain and inspire.

Here, Brad shares his thoughts on two titles that recently captured his interest.



The Secret Life of the Universe by Nathalie A. Cabrol

If you've ever wondered whether life exists beyond Earth, *The Secret Life of the Universe* is a fascinating place to start.

Author and astrobiologist Nathalie Cabrol explores some of the universe's most extraordinary planets, including worlds where molten iron, molten glass and even diamonds fall from the sky. Yet the book's real focus is on life's potential beyond our own planet.

Drawing on decades of research in extreme environments, Cabrol argues that the conditions needed for life are far more common than we once believed. Her conclusion is clear: the existence of life elsewhere in the universe is a statistical certainty.

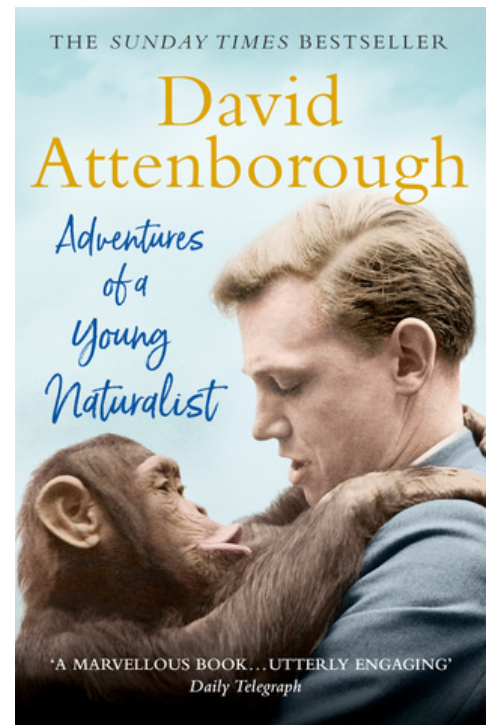
What I enjoyed most was the balance between wonder and responsibility. While inspiring readers to look outward, Cabrol also reminds us to care for the remarkable world we already call home.

Adventures of a Young Naturalist by David Attenborough

Like many people, I grew up watching David Attenborough documentaries and have always admired his ability to bring the natural world to life.

Adventures of a Young Naturalist combines three books originally published in the 1950s, recounting Attenborough's early expeditions to Guyana, Indonesia and Paraguay while filming the television series Zoo Quest.

The stories are filled with exotic wildlife, colourful characters and extraordinary adventures. What surprised me most was the sheer scale of organisation required for these journeys, often undertaken in difficult and remote environments.



One memorable passage describes a daily roster of biting insects in the Paraguayan jungle. As one species retreated, another took its place, ensuring there was little respite for the expedition team. Reading these accounts certainly put my own travel inconveniences into perspective.

An engaging and entertaining read that offers a glimpse into the adventurous beginnings of one of the world's most beloved natural historians.

Both titles are available from the Braille House Library in embossed braille volumes and BRF formats.

More Than Books.

From books and magazines to games and digital braille files, the Braille House Library offers readers more ways to enjoy information, learning and entertainment. As our collection of BRF files continues to grow alongside embossed braille, readers can choose the format that works best for them.

Thank you for helping us grow our collection.



Reccomended Listening

Produced by the BBC in the UK, this episode of In Touch explores the future of braille and asks an important question: when should children who are blind or have low vision be introduced to braille? The answer from the experts interviewed is unequivocal: the earlier, the better.

Through the voices of educators, braille users and young people themselves, the podcast highlights braille's enduring value for literacy, education, independence and inclusion. It also challenges the notion that technology will replace braille, with participants describing technology as a friend, not an enemy, of braille.

While the discussion is centred on experiences in the UK, the themes are just as relevant here in Australia and align closely with what we hear every day from the people we support.



Scan to listen



Thank You, Brisbane Lions Holland Park

We extend our sincere thanks to Brisbane Lions Holland Park for their generous donation of \$5,000 to Braille House.

Brisbane Lions Holland Park has been a valued friend and supporter of our organisation for many years, and we are grateful for their continued commitment to our work and the community we serve.

Partnerships like this help strengthen Braille House and support our ongoing efforts to empower people of all ages who are blind or have low vision through alternative formats.

Thank you to the members of Brisbane Lions Holland Park for their generosity, friendship and ongoing support.

A Global Voice for Braille

Braille House has long advocated for the power of braille. Today, we're helping advance that advocacy on a global scale.

Through the More Braille: More Empowerment campaign, led by the World Blind Union (WBU) and the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI), we're working alongside international partners to strengthen braille literacy and better understand the realities of braille access around the world.

This month marked an exciting milestone with the launch of the Global Braille Survey.

Designed to gather insights from people who use, teach and support braille, the survey will help build the most comprehensive picture yet of braille literacy and access worldwide.

As a member of several campaign committees, Braille House is proud to contribute to this important work and help ensure future advocacy is informed by evidence, not assumptions.

Together, we're helping ensure braille remains a pathway to literacy, independence and opportunity around the world.



Who should complete the Global Braille Survey?

Adults who are blind, have low vision or are deafblind, as well as parents, caregivers, teachers and braille transcribers, are invited to take part.

We encourage our community to take part in the survey and share their experiences at: tiny.cc/braillesurvey or scan below



Australia's Favourite Tactile Stories.



AUSTRALIA LOVES BLUEY. SO DO OUR YOUNGEST LIBRARY MEMBERS

For many Australian families, Bluey is part of everyday life. It's also one of the most popular collections in our Twin Vision library.

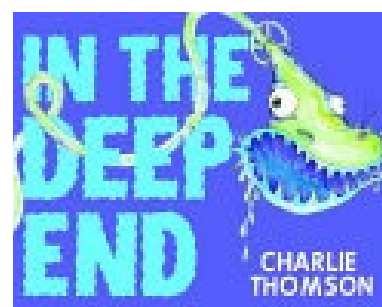
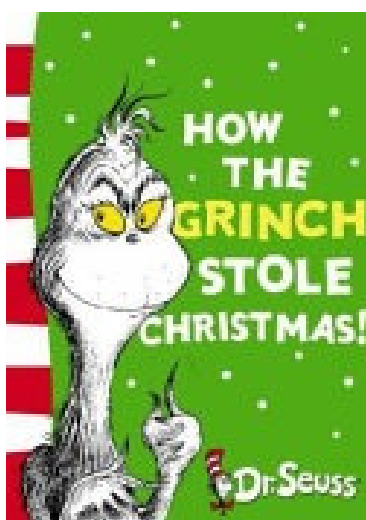
At Braille House, we believe children who are blind or have low vision should have access to the same stories, characters and reading experiences as their friends and classmates. Through our Twin Vision collection, we bring some of Australia's best-loved stories to their fingertips.

The Bluey collection includes favourites such as Camping, Zoo, Bedroom, Sleepytime, Daddy Putdown and Mum School. Of these, Camping has emerged as a standout. Not only is it our most borrowed Bluey title, it is also tied as the most borrowed Twin Vision picture book in the library.

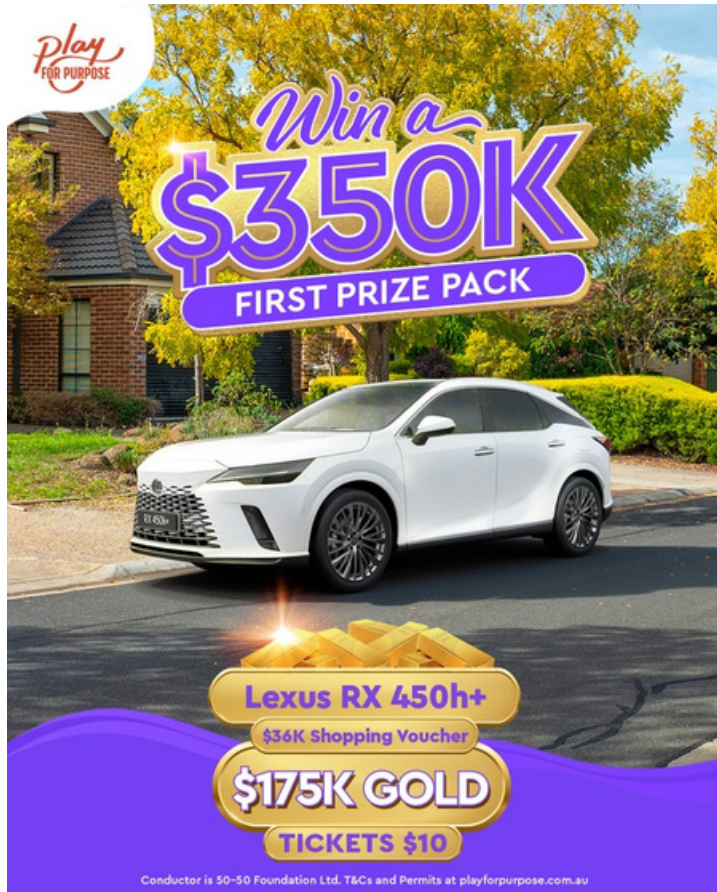
Sharing the top spot are How the Grinch Stole Christmas and In The Deep End, proving that our young readers enjoy everything from beloved Australian characters to timeless classics and homegrown stories.

Twin Vision books combine print and braille in the same book, creating opportunities for children who are blind or have low vision to share story time with parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers and classmates. By making reading a shared experience, these books help build literacy skills, confidence and a lifelong love of stories.

"Our Twin Vision Picture Book collection helps bring some of Australia's best-loved stories to the fingertips of children who are blind or have low vision."



Two other titles tied for most borrowed Twin Vision book.



Support Braille House for your chance to win!

Buy a ticket for \$10 and \$5 goes directly to Braille House.

395 Prizes will be won.

Closes: 8 PM (AEST), Thu 08 October 2026

Drawn: 10 AM (AEST), Mon 12 October 2026

Scan the QR code to buy your ticket



WE TEACH PEOPLE BRAILLE.

YES - SIGHTED PEOPLE TOO.

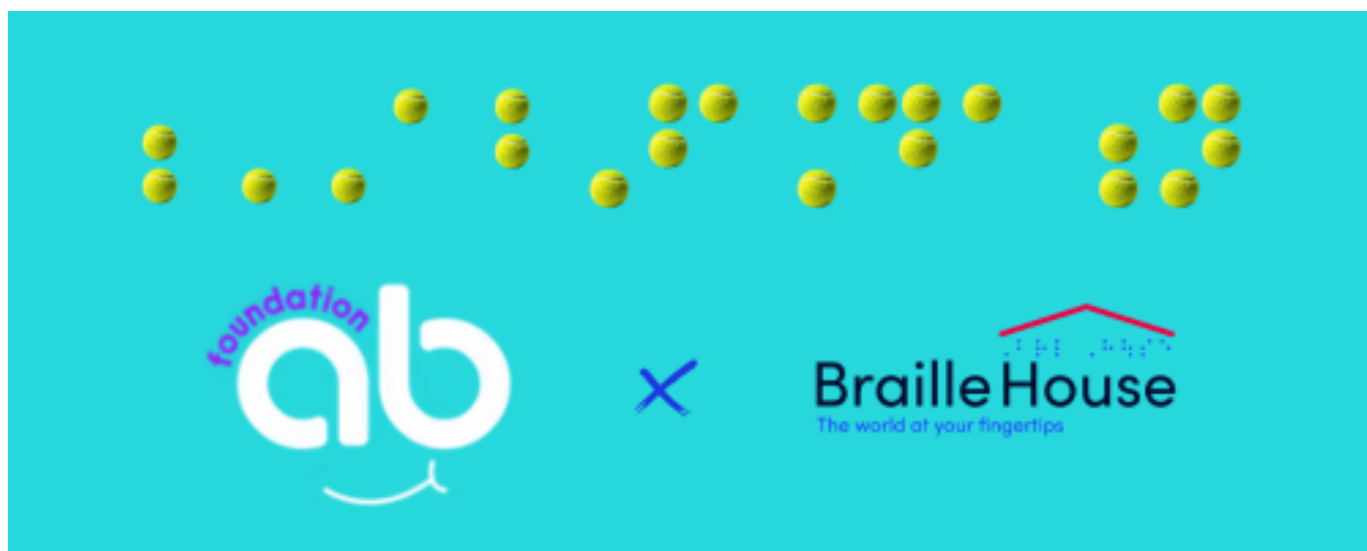
If you'd like to know more about learning braille, you can:

Call us: 07 3848 5257

Email us: admin@qbwa.org.au

or visit: www.braillehouse.org.au/education





A New Match-Up for Braille Literacy

Braille House is delighted to partner with the Ash Barty Foundation for the 2026 Braille Literacy Challenge, inspiring students who are blind or have low vision to build their braille skills, confidence and love of reading.

"We're delighted to partner with Braille House to deliver this year's Literacy Challenge. Creating opportunities for every child to learn, grow and chase their dreams is at the heart of what our Foundation stands for, and I'm incredibly excited to be part of this initiative.

Together, we're helping ensure more children have access to the resources and support they need to build a lifelong love of reading and unlock their full potential."

Ash Barty

As author of the Little Ash series, many of which are popular titles in the Braille House library, Ash shares our belief that every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive through literacy.

We're proud to work together to empower the next generation of braille readers.

Together, we're putting more books at their fingertips.

Because every reader deserves more than 5% of the shelf.


Braille House



For every 100 books available to sighted readers, only around five are available in braille.

Most readers can walk into a library or bookshop and choose from thousands of titles. For people who read braille, those choices are often limited to just a fraction of what's available in print.

That's why Braille House exists. With the support of our donors, we produce and share braille books and resources that help people who are blind or have low vision access stories, information and opportunity.

Every donation helps. Whether it's \$30 or \$300, your gift goes directly to helping people read, learn, and connect with the world around them.

- **\$30** can assist with creating pages of a children's twin vision picture book
- **\$50** can assist with the purchase of tactile toys and games to add to the Braille House Library
- **\$300** can support the cost of transcribing a book into e-braille
- **\$600** can cover the course fee for a person who has a family member who is blind to learn braille
- **\$3,000** will cover the cost of producing a novel in an alternative format.

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Donate at **braillehouse.org.au**, call 07 3848 5257 or scan the QR code below.



VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY



Bring the world to someone's fingertips

You don't need to know braille to get started - all you need is a little time to spare and curiosity to learn!

At Braille House, we provide braille and moon tuition, tactile resources, and a free library for people who are blind or have low vision.

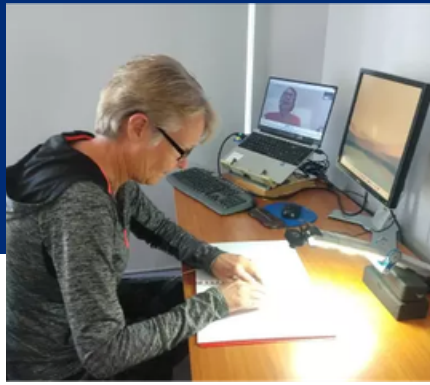
There are a variety of volunteer roles to suit different skills, interests, and schedules.

Join our amazing team of volunteers - students, parents, retirees, and more.

Contribute your time onsite or from home and empower people who are blind or have low vision.

**Register your interest in volunteering
by scanning this QR Code**





Volunteer Roles:

→ MS Word Transcribers

Convert books and documents into Microsoft Word, following simple formatting guidelines. Projects can take anywhere from a month to a year, and we provide guidance along the way. Your careful work helps bring content to life for people who are blind or have low vision.

→ Proofreaders

Review braille transcriptions to ensure they are accurate and clear. This role is ideal for remote work, giving you a quiet space to focus. We'll provide all the training you need - just bring your attention to detail and dedication.

→ Duxbury Formatters

Use Duxbury software to transcribe documents into grade 2 braille. Full training is provided, and volunteers see each project through to completion. Your contributions are essential to making braille materials accessible.

→ Book Binders

Assemble embossed braille pages into finished books. No prior experience is needed - we'll show you how. This hands-on role is a fun way to help create tactile books that will be used and loved by our community. This role is in-person only.

You can make the world more accessible, one dot at a time.

Your volunteer support helps Braille House expand services, create resources, and empower people who are blind or have low vision.

For more information and to discuss how you can get involved please contact our team:

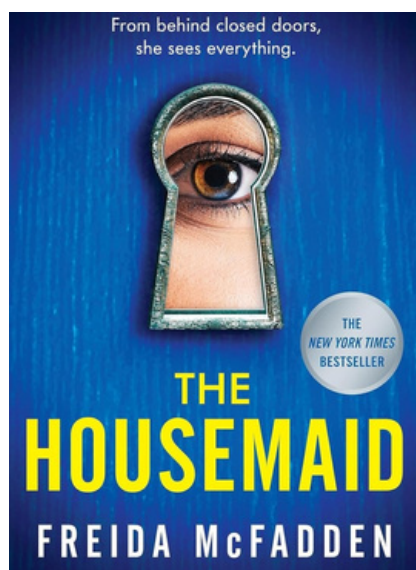
Email: admin@qbwa.org.au
Phone: 07 3848 5257

Web: braillehouse.org.au
Street Address: 507 Ipswich Rd
Annerley QLD 4103

**Braille House**

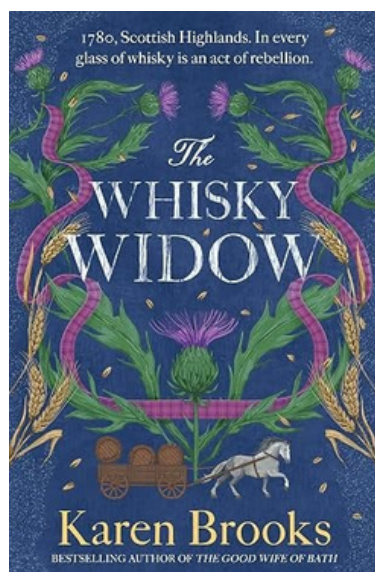
NEW READS AT BRAILLE HOUSE

Adults Library



The Housemaid - Freida McFadden

A gripping psychological thriller about a housemaid who discovers that the wealthy family she works for is hiding dangerous secrets.



The Whisky Widow - Karen Brooks

Set in nineteenth-century Scotland, this rich historical novel follows a determined widow who navigates ambition, betrayal and the male-dominated whisky industry to secure her future.



The Whole Truth - Jackie Henderson

Jackie O's candid memoir reveals the challenges, triumphs and lessons of her life and career.



Prevention Magazine

Packed with practical health, wellness and lifestyle advice, Prevention Magazine helps readers make informed choices for a healthier and more active life.



RecipeTin Eats: Dinner - Nagi Maehashi

A collection of simple, flavour-packed dinner recipes from one of Australia's favourite home cooks.

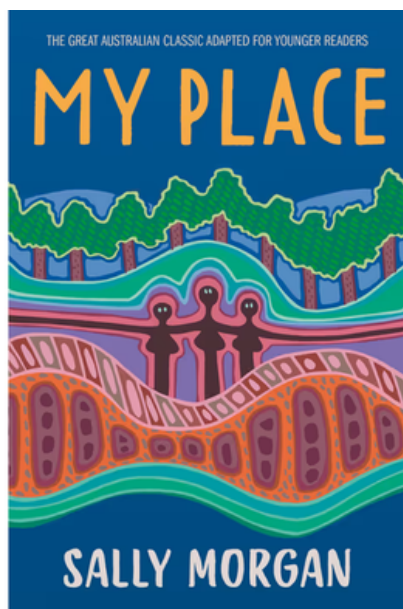


The Book of Lost Hours by Hayley Gelfuso

A captivating blend of history, mystery and time travel, following a young woman drawn into a quest that spans generations.

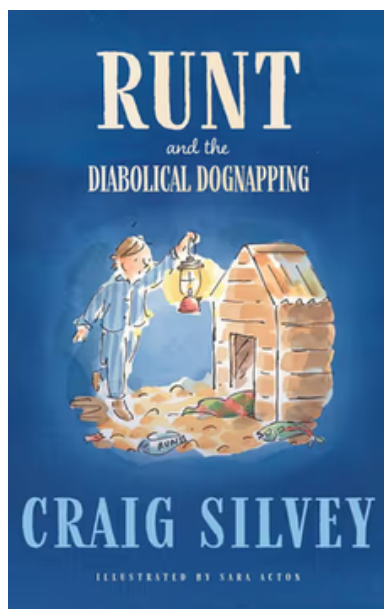
NEW READS AT BRAILLE HOUSE

Children and Young Adults Library



My Place - Sally Morgan

This powerful memoir explores identity, family and Aboriginal culture through one woman's journey of self-discovery.



Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping - Craig Silvey

Runt returns in a fun-filled adventure packed with mystery, friendship and one very clever dog.



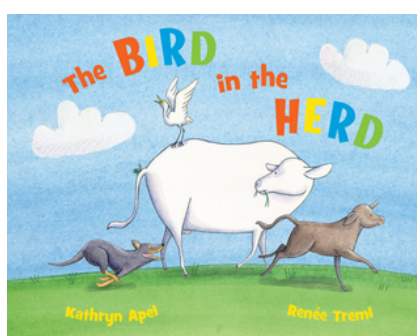
The Lost Book of Magic by Amelia Mellor

A magical historical fantasy where secrets, adventure and a touch of mystery await around every corner.



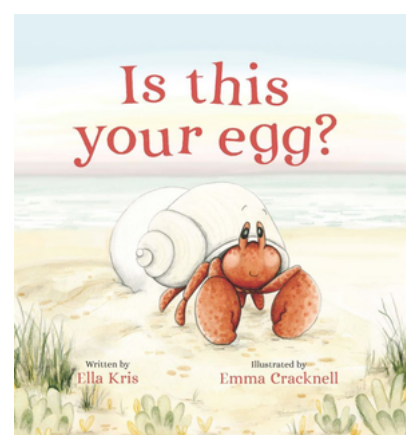
Bin Chicken: Feeding Time at the Zoo - Kate Temple

An entertaining Twin Vision picture book following a hungry bin chicken on a busy day at the zoo.



The Bird in the Herd by Kathryn Apel

A heartwarming Twin Vision picture book about finding where you belong and celebrating what makes you unique.



Is this your egg? - Ella Kris

A delightful Twin Vision picture book about discovery, curiosity and helping a lost egg find its way home.



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www.braillehouse.org.au
ABN: 93 456 085 512
Charity Registration Number: CH0028

