



TAS VIC NEWS

Tasmanian Visually Impaired Children's Support Group Inc.
'Helping Tasmanian Families who have a Blind or Vision Impaired Child'

★ DECEMBER 2006 ★

Christmas Greetings

The executive wishes to extend it's best wishes to all members, families and friends of the association for the forth coming Christmas Session and hope that one and all have a Safe and Happy New Year.

Looking at Family Camp for 2007

Since conception of the group it has been an extremely strong and beneficial component of the support group's activities offering the hosting of family camps for its members and families.

This has always given many families a great opportunity to meet others who have a blind or vision impaired child on a very informal basis, giving them an opportunity to discuss with each other issues pertaining to their children, including issues such as education, socialisation and day-to-day activities.

We are currently looking at submissions for funding to assist with the reintroduction of lease camps in 2007. The Funding we are seeking is to assist with some of the costs pertaining to the camp and some appropriate activities for children who are blind or vision impaired, and this may mean gaining the assistance of groups that do similar camps from interstate such as RVIB.

We will need to establish some information from families on how many will avail themselves of the opportunity to attend a weekend camp, either in the North or South of this State depending on the availability of camp bookings being made.

It is also hoped that at some stage with the introduction of the Royal Guide Dogs Life Skills Program for our blind and vision impaired youth commencing sometime in the not too distant future, that this may be part of one of our camps programs.

Therefore a form has been enclosed to assist us with establishing some critical information prior to submitting grant proposals, to give us some indication of what type of camps families would like to have whether it may be sporting, music etc.

Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible so that we can establish your requirements.



Blind Citizens Australia

<http://www.bca.org.au>

1800 033 660



<http://www.twd.org.au>

(03) 62788023



**Royal Guide Dogs
Tasmania**

<http://www.guidedogstas.com.au>

(03) 6232 1222

AUDIO DESCRIPTION

helps you see the action

WHAT IS AUDIO DESCRIPTION?

Audio description (AD) is access to the visual images of theatre, television, movies and other art forms for people who are blind, have low vision, or who are otherwise vision impaired.

AD guides the listener through an audiovisual presentation with concise, objective descriptions of new scenes, settings, costumes, body language, and "sight gags," all spoken between portions of dialogue.

Anybody can use audio description, but there are groups of people who will particularly benefit:

- Blind people rely entirely on audio description to convey the visual elements of a scene.
- Vision impaired people use audio description to understand subtle action they would otherwise miss. The large majority of sight loss is caused by degenerative conditions that are accompanied by visual memories of colour, beauty, clothing and other visual elements.
- People who are trying to do two things at once.

The audio description option can be found in the language specifications on the back of the DVD and can be listed as '**English for the vision impaired**', '**Audio Described for the Visually Impaired**', '**Descriptive Video**', '**Audio Description**' or '**English descriptive audio**'.

Look out for the logo on the back of the slick:



The audio description can be switched on from a sub-menu, usually **Language**, **Sound** or **Setup**. No special equipment is needed to access audio description, and every copy of the audio described title in Australia is available with the description

AD Titles available in Australia

Title	Distributor	Released
Aladdin two-disc special edition	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Are We There Yet?	Sony Pictures	2005
Bliss	Roadshow/Warner Bros	2005
Bride and Prejudice	Roadshow/Warner Bros	2005
Bright Young Things	Warner Home Video	2004
Brother Bear	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Bringing Down the House	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Casanova	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2006
Chicago	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2003
Chicken Little	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2006

AD Titles available in Australia

Title	Distributor	Released
Cinderella Man	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Cold Creek Manor	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Crimson Tide Special Edition 95	Fox Home Entertainment	1995
Daredevil two-disc special edition	Fox Home Entertainment	2003
Dark Water	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Dead Poet's Society Special Edition	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2002
Derailed	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2006
Deuce Bigalow European Gigolo	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Enemy of the State Special Edition 98	Warner Home Video	2002
Everything is Illuminated (not on cover)	Warner Home Video	2006
Finding Neverland	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Five Children and It	Warner Home Video	2005
Flight plan	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Frida: Collector's Edition	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Garden State	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Girl with a Pearl Earring	Roadshow	2004
Hero Ying Xiong	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Hitch	Sony Pictures	2005
Home on the Range	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Hotel Rwanda	Roadshow	2005
Kill Bill Volume 2	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
King Arthur Director's cut	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Kinky Boots	AV Channel	2006
Kiss Kiss Bang Bang	Roadshow Entertainment	2005
Million Dollar Baby	Roadshow	2005
Moulin Rouge two-disc special edition	Fox Home Entertainment	2002
Munich (not on cover. Menu item is DVS.)	Universal	2006
National Treasure	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
North Country (not on cover)	Warner Home Video	2006
One Point 0	Magna Pacific	2005
Party Monster	Magna Pacific	2005
Peter Pan 1953	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2002
Piglet's Big Movie	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2003

AD Titles available in Australia

Title	Distributor	Released
Pooh's Heffalump Movie	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Poseidon (not on cover)	Warner	2006
Pulp Fiction Special Edition	Roadshow	2005
Raising Helen	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Ransom Special Edition 96	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2002
Resident Evil: Apocalypse	Colombia Tristar	2005
Road to Perdition	Fox Home Entertainment	2003
Santa Clause 2	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2003
Seabiscuit	Buena Vista	2004
Secret Garden Dreamcatcher: A night with Secret Garden	Universal	2002
Shanghai Knights	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Sin City	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Sleeping Beauty	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Spanglish	Sony Pictures	2005
Stage Beauty	Magna Pacific	2005
Syriana (not on cover)	Warner Home Video	2006
The Alamo	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Pooh's Heffalump Movie	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Poseidon (not on cover)	Warner	2006
Pulp Fiction Special Edition	Roadshow	2005
Raising Helen	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Ransom Special Edition 96	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2002
Resident Evil: Apocalypse	Colombia Tristar	2005
Road to Perdition	Fox Home Entertainment	2003
Santa Clause 2	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2003
Seabiscuit	Buena Vista	2004
Secret Garden Dreamcatcher: A night with Secret Garden	Universal	2002
Shanghai Knights	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Sin City	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2005
Sleeping Beauty	Buena Vista Home Entertainment	2004
Spanglish	Sony Pictures	2005
Stage Beauty	Magna Pacific	2005
Syriana (not on cover)	Warner Home Video	2006

AD titles can be rented from most DVD outlets, including:



AD titles can be purchased from:

Dick Smith
KMart
David Jones
Myer
Big W
Target
Sanity
Virgin
HMV

And other leading DVD retailers.

AD on Video

The majority of videos lack the capacity to carry an integrated AD track. However, some audio described videos are available for hire from the Vision Australia all imported from either the USA or UK.

Pterygium

What is a pterygium?

A pterygium (pronounced te-ri-gi-um, plural: pterygia) is a triangular-shaped lump of tissue which grows from the conjunctiva (the thin membrane which covers the white of the eye) on to the cornea (the clear central part of the eye). Pterygia often occur in both eyes, usually on the side of the eye closer to the nose. A pterygium is not a cancer. People sometimes confuse pterygia with cataracts. A cataract is a clouding of the lens inside the eye and cannot be seen easily with the naked eye.

What causes pterygia?

The exact causes of pterygia are not known, but they are strongly associated with exposure to ultraviolet radiation and hot, dry environments. Pterygia are more common in the Northern parts of Australia and among people such as farmers and surfers who spend a lot of time outdoors, but anyone can develop a pterygium.

Are pterygia dangerous?

Pterygia are not dangerous, although they can look ugly and cause some discomfort. The main problem with pterygia is that as they grow on the cornea they distort it, interfering with vision. If the pterygium grows on to the central part of the cornea it can begin to block light from entering the eye.

Although a pterygium is not dangerous, it should be checked to make sure that it is not something more serious. If you have any area of tissue on or around the eyes that changes rapidly you should consult an optometrist or eye surgeon (ophthalmologist) immediately.

How can pterygia be treated?

In cases where the pterygium is not actively growing on to the cornea, protecting the eyes from ultraviolet light often will stabilise its growth. In many cases, provided it is not threatening vision and it remains stable, this may be all that is required.

In cases where the pterygium is actively growing on to the cornea and threatening to distort the vision, the only effective treatment is surgical removal. Fortunately this is relatively minor surgery that is usually performed under a local anaesthetic. It is best to have surgery before the pterygium progresses to the point where it interferes with vision. Your optometrist can assess the pterygium and refer you to an eye surgeon if it requires removal.

How can pterygia be prevented?

The best way to reduce your risk of developing a pterygium is to protect your eyes from ultraviolet light. UV radiation can also cause cataracts and other eye diseases, as well as skin cancers, so reducing exposure is a wise move. The best ways of doing this are to:

- Avoid the sun: in summer, three-quarters of outdoors UV exposure occurs between 10 am and 4 pm. Staying out of the sun between those times will significantly reduce your UV exposure.

- Wear a hat: a broad-brimmed hat will not only protect your head from sunburn, but will reduce by at least half the amount of UV radiation reaching your eyes.

Wear sunglasses: a good pair of sunglasses will reduce the amount of UV reaching your eyes and cut the amount of glare. Wrap-around sunglasses are best as they block UV radiation that can slip around the sides of conventional sunglasses

Please take a look at our TAS VIC Website if you haven't done so already,
you will find us at

<http://www.tasvic.org.au>

Family Camp Information Form

Your Name: Address

..... City: P/c

H/phone: () Mobile:

E-mail: @

If attending a TAS VIC Family Camp in 2007 how many adults and how many children under the age of sixteen would be attending?

Adults Children attending

Please indicate what type of activities would your family like to participate in?

Return form to the Secretary TAS VIC, C/- 1 Brent Street, Glenorchy TAS 7010