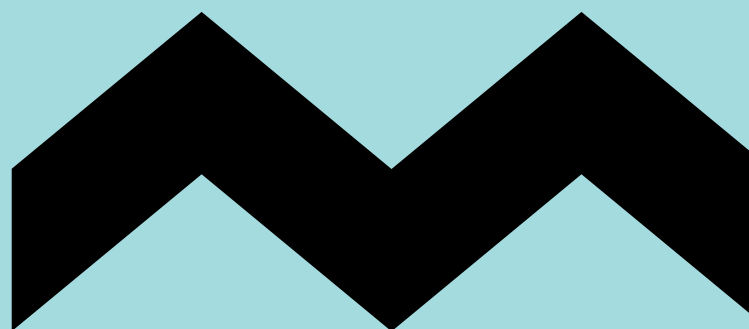


Guide Dogs.

Connected Together

**Community and peer
groups directory**

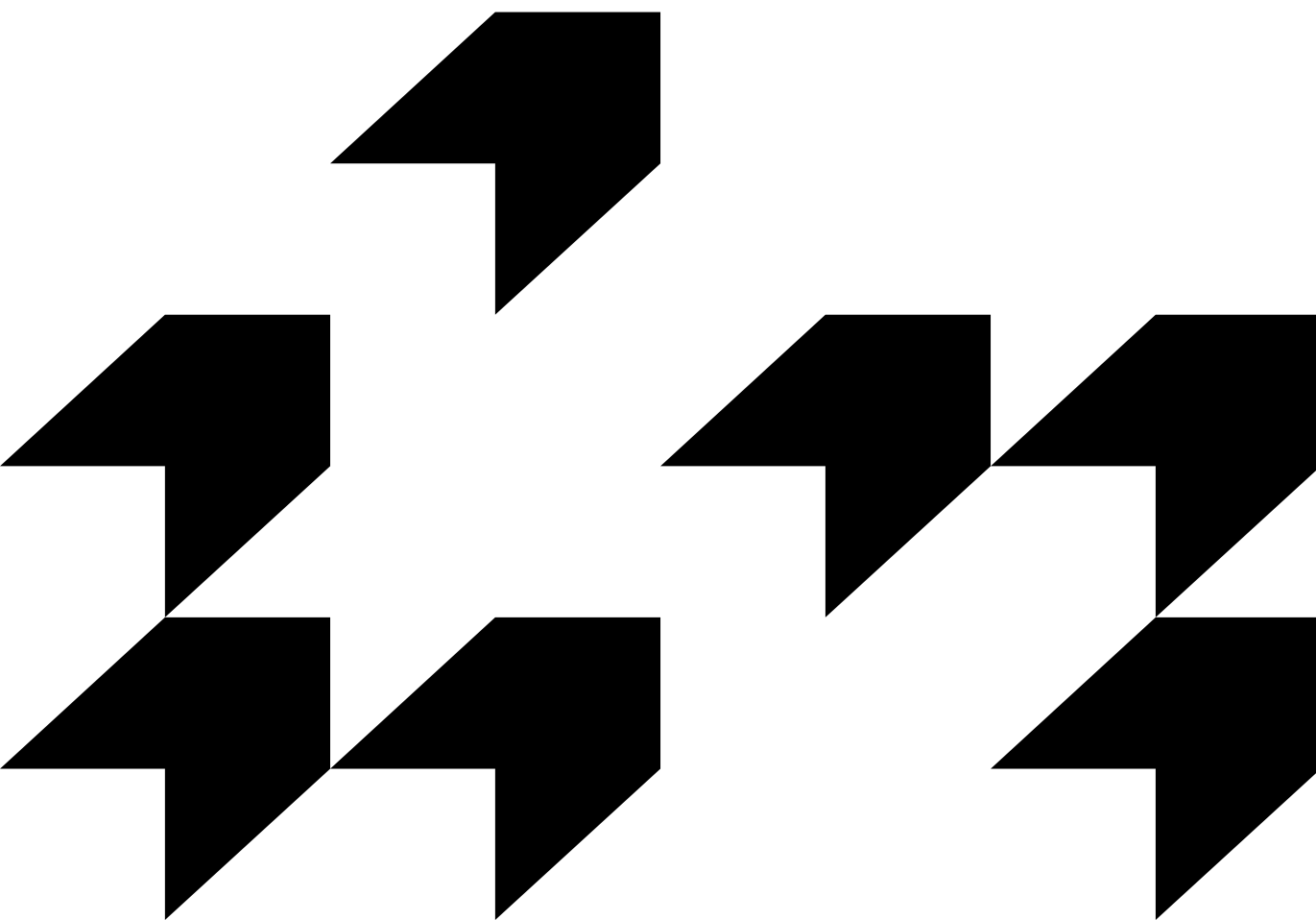


Community and peer groups directory

The community and peer group directory has been developed in collaboration with people living with low vision and/or blindness to promote community connections and linkages.

The directory provides information on peer groups across Australia engaged in art and culture, sport and recreation and social and community initiatives.

Please get in touch with connections@guidedogsvictoria.com.au, if you would like more information about the peer groups, if you would like to be included in this resource, or you need to provide updates for your group.



National

Albinism Fellowship of Australia (AFA)

AFA is a national, non-profit organisation run by volunteers who have albinism or been personally touched by albinism in some way. The AFA's key purpose is to provide support, education and fellowship to those with albinism, parents of children with albinism as well as their families and friends.

Location: National

When: Various – visit website or Facebook page for further information

Phone: 1300 221 619

Email: membership@albinismaustralia.org

Website: albinismaustralia.org

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/albinismaustralia

Art Play in the Kitchen

We are a group of families exploring ways to bring visual art to life with our young children who are blind or have low vision. We always love to hear from other families on this quest!

Location: Online

When: Various – visit website for further information

Contact: Via contact form on website

Website: art-play.com.au

Australian Blind Football

Australian Blind Football is an initiative of Blind Sports Australia and is working with Football Federation Australia (FFA) to be the recognised national pathway by for people who are blind or vision impaired to play football for Australia.

There are two versions of the game of blind football. Blind football (B1 or 5 a side football) is played by athletes who are totally blind. Vision impaired futsal (partially sighted futsal) is played by athletes who are vision impaired.

Location: Check under state entries for State based teams.

Email: football@blindsportsaustralia.com.au

Website: ausblindfootball.com.au

Blind Golf Australia

Blind Golf Australia was formed to promote the game of golf amongst blind and vision impaired people and to co-ordinate blind golf between the states of Australia.

Contact: David

Phone: 0414 514 575

Email: secbga@gmail.com

Website: blindgolf.com.au

Braille House

We aim to support the development of Braille literacy skills.

Location: Queensland based. Service Australia wide

Contact: Margo

Phone: (07) 3848 5257

Email: admin@qwba.org.au

Website: braillehouse.org.au

Additional information: The Braille Literacy Challenge is hosted annually to support the development of students' Braille literacy skills. Traditionally it is held on the second last Friday of Term 3 (of the Queensland school year).

The Challenge provides an opportunity and context for social networking and peer support for students who learn braille. The event also captures the significant contribution of Braille House to the educational access, participation and achievement of braille reading students. Attending students have the option of participating in relation to reading, writing or both and they can take part remotely if circumstances do not permit attendance at Braille House.

Deafblind Australia

We represent and advocate for Deafblind people around the country. We are committed to diversity, inclusiveness, self-determination and advocacy.

Phone: 0427 006 890

Email: info@deafblind.org.au

Website: deafblind.org.au

Facebook: [Deafblind Australia](https://www.facebook.com/DeafblindAustralia)

Additional information: We work to improve supports and services and to empower Deafblind people to be self-determining and self-advocating.

Dog Guide Handlers Australia

About DGHA is an independent non-profit association of dog guide handlers and is not affiliated with any dog guide organisation.

Our mission is to foster, represent, promote, enhance and protect the interests of Australians who are dog guide handlers.

Our key objectives are to draw on the experiences and varied knowledge of our members, to provide peer support, systemic advocacy and information for Dog Guide Handlers throughout Australia.

Location: Online

Contact: Greg

Phone: 0408 396 333

Email: dgha@dgha.org.au

Website: dgha.org.au

Facebook: [DogGuideHandlersAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/DogGuideHandlersAustralia)

Additional information: We hold a biennial conference and regular members teleconferences through the year and welcome members to join the [DGHA community on Facebook](#) and follow the [DGHA Facebook page](#).

New South Wales

Blind Bowls NSW/ACT Association Inc.

Blind Bowls promotes the sport of lawn bowls for vision impaired players

Location: Various – New South Wales

Contact: Sue

Phone: 0416 268 248

Email: admin@nswactblindbowls.com.au

Website: nswactblindbowls.com.au

Additional information: As well as playing locally there is an annual National Championship held in a different state each year

Blind Golf NSW

Blind Golf NSW provides a social, friendly and learning environment for blind and low vision people to play blind golf.

Location: Barnwell Park Golf Club and other Come N Try golf courses

When: Blind Golf NSW plays every Saturday morning at Barnwell Park Golf Club. Come N Try days are held on various other days and are notified to the BLV community.

Contact: Michele

Phone: 0414 466 404

Email: secbga@gmail.com or despadstow@yahoo.com.au

Website: blindgolf.com.au/nsw

East Maitland Community Blind Bowlers

We meet to have a game of lawn bowls; we are also a social and peer support group.

Location: 23 Banks Street, East Maitland, NSW, 2323

When: First and Third Wednesday of each Month

Contact: Mick

Phone: 0431 974 925

Email: mpbaker52@gmail.com

Additional information: We meet around 9.30am for a coffee and chat prior to getting out on the green for a friendly game of bowls which is followed by lunch at the club. We are always looking for new members of all ages and abilities to join the group and share their experiences.

Maitland Vision Loss Support Group

Social group offering support and friendship to people with blindness, low vision and their carers.

Location: The Bellmore Hotel, High Street Maitland

When: 10 am first Friday of month

Contact: Graham

Phone: 0417 385314

Email: get@activ8.net.au

Additional information: Morning tea provided. We enjoy social activities, lunches and day trips.

Australian Capital Territory

Achilles Running Club Canberra Inc.

About Achilles Canberra is a club for people with a disability who get together with volunteers to enjoy the health-giving benefits of walking and running. Trained volunteer guides are provided, particularly for members who are vision impaired.

Achilles facilitates training and participation in running and walking events in a supportive social environment where people with disabilities can achieve life changing goals.

Location: Canberra

When: Parkruns at 8:00 am every Saturday. Training 1st , 3rd and 5th Sundays at 8:00 am. Enter fun runs frequently.

Contact: Peter

Phone: 0414 831 649

Email: achillescanberra@gmail.com

Website: achillesaustralia.org.au/canberra.html

Facebook: [AchillesCanberra](https://www.facebook.com/AchillesCanberra)

Eyes for Life/Canberra Blind Society

Assisting people with vision impairment to maintain independence in their lives

Location: The Griffin Centre, 6/20 Genge Street, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6176 3470

Email: info@eflc.org.au

Website: eflc.org.au/contact

We provide:

- Information, advice, counselling and assessments
- Advice on home modifications
- Training in daily living skills
- Advice on equipment and visual aid products
- A range of community and peer support groups for people who live with low vision or blindness.

Fitability Tandem Cycling

Provides cycling opportunities to Canberrans with vision impairment or other disabilities. It brings the joy of riding to people who would not otherwise be able to cycle.

Location: Canberra and surrounds

When: Variable

Contact: Lindy

Email: fitability.act@gmail.com

Website: pedalpower.org.au/fitability

Additional information:

- Periodic come and try days.
- Regular training rides as well as social rides and participation in wider community cycling events.
- Volunteers welcome to become a tandem pilot.

Queensland

Gold Coast Blind and Visually Impaired Association (BAVIA House)

BAVIA offers a comfortable and caring environment for visually impaired people to share ideas, experiences and connect with others in a similar situation. Registered volunteers also help to increase confidence and overcome challenges.

Location: 14 Kalimna Drive, Broadbeach Waters, Gold Coast Queensland 4218

When: Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm Weekly Social Club, Friday 9 am – 1 pm.

Drop in for games

Contact: BAVIA

Phone: 0452 537 459

Email: baviahouse@gmail.com

Website: bavia.org.au

Facebook: [baviahouse](https://www.facebook.com/baviahouse)

Additional information: Guest speakers, musical entertainment, monthly lunch, excursions.

Blind Fishing

Social fishing on a calm inlet, and possibly eating our catch!
Out for lunch of fish and chips afterwards.

Location: North Brisbane

When: 9:30 am – 2 pm Thursday fortnightly during school term.

Contact: Debbie

Phone: 0424 545 424

Additional information: Pay for your own lunch.

All equipment and bait is provided. There is a volunteer who assists with baiting hooks and helps as needed. Contact Debbie for transport arrangements.

Boyne Island Low Vision Group

Meets for morning tea 4th Tuesday of the month 10 am – 12 pm.
Local transport available.

Location: Boyne Island Community Hall, Corner Wyndham and Hayes Avenue,
Boyne Island

When: 10 am – 12 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month

Contact: Cecily

Phone: 0493 287 574

The Bundaberg Talking Newspaper (Sponsor of the Vision Impaired Friendship Group)

Promote social interaction for people with short - or long-term vision impairment

Activities:

Swish games with morning tea

Location: Bundaberg and District Family Centre, Kensington Street, Bundaberg,
Queensland 4670

When: 9 am – 11.30 am on the 1st and 2nd Thursday of each month
and 9 am – 11.30 am on the 4th Monday of each month

Contact: Gail

Phone: 0467 593 262

Cost: No cost for Swish

Social meeting, games, morning tea and lunch

Location: Bundaberg and District Family Centre, Kensington Street,
Bundaberg, Queensland 4670

When: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month

Contact: Gail: 0467 593 262 or Joyce: 07 41544149

Cost: Morning tea and lunch is \$10.

Additional information: Transport can be organised.

Connectionz Sensory Garden

This community garden can be visited to experience plants through touch, feel and smell. Have a go at planting seeds and seedlings and harvesting herbs. This can be followed by morning or afternoon tea.

Location: 119 Haynes Road, Jensen

When: By appointment only

Contact: Chris

Phone: 0409 403 744

Email: bydahl@bigpond.com

Additional information: If you wish to become involved in the future development of the garden and its maintenance contact Chris for more details.

Atherton Tablelands Eye Connect (ATEC)

Connect, Advocate, Inform, Enjoy.

Group for adults who are blind or vision impaired.

Location: The Stump Function Room. Atherton Hotel, 90 Main Street, Atherton, QLD.

When: 10:30 – 12.00, Third Tuesday of the month (February – November)

Contact: Linda

Phone: 0427 968 111

Additional information: Lunch available to purchase from the bistro/dining room. Stay and connect.

Low Vision Support Group - Donald Simpson Community Centre

Social group for those living with low vision or blindness. Chance to interact and socialise while providing support and friendship to each other.

Location: Donald Simpson Community Centre, 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland, QLD, 4163

When: 10 am – 12 noon 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Phone: (07) 3821 1089

Email: contact@thedsc.com.au

Website: donaldsimpsoncentre.com.au

Additional information: Hearing Impaired Group also meets 2nd Saturday of the month 9:15 am – 11 am.

Maryborough Vision Impaired and Blind Persons Group

Social

Location: The Meeting Place, 115 Steindle Street, Granville, Maryborough

When: 10 am, 1st Monday of each month

Contact: Kath

Phone: 0437 282 360

Additional information: Evening 3rd Monday of month Trivia, Carriers Arms Hotel – contact Kath for details.

Northside Low Vision Support Group Nundah

Regular social interaction and friendship for people living with low vision

Location: Nundah & Geebung, Brisbane

When: First Wednesday of each month

Contact: Richard

Phone: 0417 076 731

Email: richard.stephens88@gmail.com

Southside Blind and Low Vision Support Group

The blind and low vision support group provides information, support, advice, friendship and a social outlet for the vision impaired and their families, friends and carers.

Location: Library Meeting Room, Garden City Shopping Centre, Corner Logan Road and Kessels Road, Upper Mount Gravatt

When: 2nd Tuesday of each month

Contact: Peter

Phone: (07) 3345 7421 or 0402 034 749

Wynnum/Manly Low Vision Group

Social group

Location: Brisbane Bayside, Wynnum / Manly Leagues club

When: Third Tuesday of each month, 12 pm

Phone: 0411 574 840 or 3396 0637

South Australia / Northern Territory

Beyond Blindness

Beyond Blindness aim provide high standard welfare, support and advocacy services to people who are blind or vision impaired, to promote independence, dignity and quality of life.

Location: Adelaide, Gawler, Christies Beach

When: Most days

Contact: Marian

Phone: 08 8367 6088

Email: mphuah@beyondblindness.org.au

Website: beyondblindness.org.au

Additional information: Beyond Blindness provides unique opportunities for South Australians with vision impairment to join activities which are customised to suit people with vision impairment. Eg, tours are sensory with touch and feel and more descriptive elements.

Activities are also organised for members to socialise and share knowledge and experiences with fellow vision impaired members. Members are encouraged to conduct peer-support programs for fellow members. For example: Walking groups, cooking classes.

Beyond Blindness Wednesday Walking Group

If you want to improve your fitness then join us for a walk. Volunteers guide us in a safe manner whilst still allowing the freedom to explore. Approximately 7km walk.

Location: We walk at various locations but some of our favourites are along the beaches or linear park

When: Every Wednesday except summer school holidays

Contact: Beyond Blindness

Phone: 08 8367 6088

Email: info@beyondblindness.org.au

Website: beyondblindness.org.au

Additional information: There is also a walking group on Mondays for people who prefer a shorter more casual stroll.

See with Me

A volunteer run, self-help group, aimed at people who are blind or those with vision impairment.

Location: South Coast – Meet ups in Victor Harbor

Cost: Free

When: Monthly meetups – consisting of meetings with cake and coffee. Lunches and games. Face to face meet ups with people at their homes, in a public space or over the phone, for counselling, a friendly ear or just a catch up.

Contact: Lauren

Phone: 0405 424 265

Email: info@seewithme.org.au

Website: seewithme.org.au

Facebook: [See With Me](#)

Additional information: Transport can be arranged if you are from the local area.

Darwin Blind and Vision Impaired Club

Free community group for Darwin blind or vision impaired people to socialise, share information and support each other.

Location: Darwin and Palmerston

When: 10 am – midday last Saturday of month

Contact: Sarah 0439 885 604 or Paul 0412 385 529

Facebook [Darwin Blind and Vision Impaired Club](#)

Additional information: this new group always welcomes new members for fun, support and social connection.

Victoria

Blind Golf Victoria

Blind Golf Victoria is an organisation for vision impaired and other golfers that promotes participation in social and competitive golf.

Contact: Doug

Email: blindgolfvic@gmail.com

Website: blindgolf.com.au/vic

Facebook: [Blind Golf Victoria](#)

Additional information: Whether you're looking to improve your swing, compete in tournaments, or simply enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded golfers, Blind Golf VIC is your place to thrive in a supportive and inspiring environment

Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria – Annual Origami Program

Teaching Origami and contributing towards a charitable donation

Location: Vision Australia 454 Glenferrie Road Kooyong

When: To be announced each year

Contact: Rob

Email: robletcher1@hotmail.com

Choice Voices Choir

Choice Voices is an inclusive community choir based in Bendigo. The choir includes people who live with physical, intellectual and mental health disabilities, their supporters and carers, and others who simply love to sing! The choir meets for 30 weeks in the year and performs publicly in places including libraries, hospitals, nursing homes, farmers markets and for civic events.

James Rigby, a well-respected local musician and choir leader, rehearses and directs the choir. The choir is managed and run by volunteers. Golden City Support Services is the host organisation for Choice Voices.

People who are blind or with low vision are encouraged to join and provision is made for their needs.

Location: Anderson Room, St Paul's Cathedral, 8 Myers Street, Bendigo

When: Thursdays 4.45 pm to 6 pm

Contact: Suzanne (Choir Manager)

Phone: 0408 179 382

Email: bsgould@bigpond.net.au

Facebook: [Choice voices Choir](#)

Additional information: Please contact Suzanne prior to visiting the choir for the first time.

Dandenong Low Vision Group

A local community support group providing social activities, encouraging independence and involvement in community events.

Location: Dandenong

When: Social lunch on second Tuesday of the month and an outing on the fourth Tuesday of the month (excluding January).

Contact: Carol U

Phone: 0416 605 906

Email: grahamunger@bigpond.com

Deafblind Victoria

The purpose of the groups is to encourage Deafblind group advocacy; creating changes for better accessibility and overcoming barriers for deafblind people and community members.

Location: Victoria wide

When: Deafblind people are invited and meet regularly for group activities.

Please get in contact to find out when we are next meeting.

Contact: Trudy

Email: trudy.ryall@bigpond.com

DIVAS

The Divas are a group of Mature Women who meet monthly. Discussion is usually around living life with vision loss. We occasionally have day outings and hopefully we can get back to our annual trip away for a few days. Lots of laughter and the occasional tears. Sharing our lives, trials and tribulations. Most of all, our success stories.

Location: Betty Amsden Education Centre, Guide Dogs Victoria, 2/6 Chandler Highway, Kew

When: 10-2pm on the last Monday of every month except December and January.

Contact: Dorothy: 0401 887 149 or Pam: 0414 406 449

Email: dorothydoc@hotmail.com

Additional information: Bring your own lunch or buy at the cafe. Tea and coffee are provided.

Cost: Free

Living it Up in Bendigo

Connection through regular coffee catch ups, morning teas, craft activities and adaptive technology classes

Location: Bendigo

When: Bi-monthly coffee at local cafes. Weekly craft/morning tea. Adaptive technology classes

Contact: Susanne

Phone: 0408 179 382

Additional information: Those interested in activities should contact Susanne prior to attending to confirm arrangements.

Our Vision Works

Peer support group for blind and vision impaired visual artists.

Location: East Coast of Australia

When: Occasional

Cost: Free

Contact: Claire

Phone: 0428 256 140

Email: clairehogan000@gmail.com

Additional information: Participants offer hints from their own experience on how to get around the challenges of low vision in the visual art world. Can offer phone sessions with an art challenge to brainstorm solutions.

There are occasional get-togethers to discuss work. The group works informally with no formal meetings, red tape or joining costs.

Flinders Street Coffee Club

Social catch up for coffee, tea, hot chocolate and a chat

Location: Clocks, Flinders Street Station, Melbourne

When: 11 am, Third Thursday of the month

Contact: Kathy

Email: kathyjowitt@hotmail.com

Additional information: Chance to meet other blind and low vision community members and provide support, friendship and information to each other.

South Melbourne Football Club and Vision Impaired Football (Soccer)

The South Melbourne FC Blind Football Team trains on a regular basis to prepare players for National Team Training Camps and for the future introduction of a competitive league. The squad trains under a qualified Blind Football coach on a fortnightly basis between April and October. While we actively support our players to reach the standard to join the national squad we place great emphasis on welcoming new players to the sport. We provide an environment for social football and those who want to learn the game. We have a number of participants, including children, who are trying the sport for the first time or join us for some casual activities. To achieve this we run free come-and-try sessions at least monthly in Albert Park.

Location: Paul Wade Field 7/8, Aughtie Drive, Albert Park

When: Sundays from April to October

Contact: Skip Fulton

Email: skip@smfc.com.au

Website: smfc.com.au/all-abilities/blind-football

Victorian Goalball Association

Goalball is an all-inclusive sport for the whole family. It is played primarily by people who are blind or who have low vision however, anyone can play or volunteer. The sport of Goalball encourages physical fitness, strategy and offers a fair playing field.

The objective is to throw the ball; which is filled with bells; into the opponent's goal area while the opposing team's players slide along the floor to block the ball with their bodies. As all players must wear a blindfold, players use their hearing, teamwork skills and the tactile floor markings to navigate the court and achieve a strategic victory.

Location: Scotch College Junior School Gym, Hawthorn

When: Saturday afternoons March – September

Contact: for program dates and time.

Cost: U15s (Junior) Program \$80. Women's / Beginners Program \$80. Seniors \$180. Volunteers Free.

Website: goalball.org.au

Facebook: [Vic.goalball](https://www.facebook.com/Vic.goalball)

Email: info@goalball.org.au

Additional information: Goalball is not an adapted version of a mainstream sport, as it was uniquely crafted for people who are blind or who have low vision. It's also unique in that all participants must wear a blindfold. You can bring along your family and friends, no matter whether they are fully sighted, have low vision or are totally blind.

Vision Impaired Peoples Aid Foundation

Assists Vision Impaired People, their families and carers to socialise in a safe and secure environment

Location: Uniting Church House, 49 Railway Parade, Seaford (Diagonally opposite Seaford train station)

When: Monday 1 pm – 3 pm

Contact: Leanne

Phone: 0458 831 313

Email: vipafoundation@gmail.com

Website: seafordcc.org/VIPA

Additional information: Open to Vision Impaired People, their families, support workers as well as anyone who would like the chance to meet and socialise on a regular basis. Volunteer Drivers are available for transport in certain areas.

VITTA Frankston

Vision impaired table tennis

Location: High Street Uniting Church, 16-18 High Street Frankston

When: 1 pm – 4 pm every Wednesday (weekly)

Contact: Jenni

Phone: 0418 341 003

Email: jenni.forbes@vitta.org

Additional information: \$2 weekly contribution. All welcome.
No experience necessary.

VITTA Kooyong

Vision impaired table tennis

Location: 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong, Tilly Aston Conference Centre

When: 1 pm – 4 pm every Saturday (weekly)

Contact: Robyn

Phone: 0417 159106

Email: robin.bousie99@vitta.org.au

VITTA Mooroolbark/Boronia (alternating)

Vision impaired table tennis

Location: Mooroolbark Table Tennis Club, Unit 1, 40 Felix Grove,
Mooroolbark 3138, 67 Beresford Drive, Boronia

When: 7 pm – 10 pm every Tuesday (weekly)

Contact: Liz

Phone: 0428 061135

Email: liz.sullivan@vitta.org.au

VITTA Brunswick

Vision Impaired Table Tennis

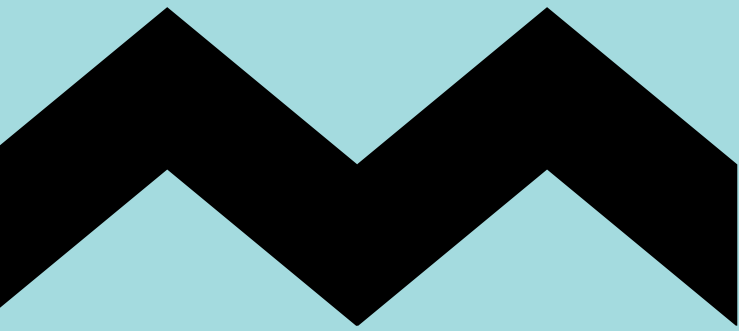
Location: Scout Hall 14A Jolley Street West Brunswick

When: 11 am – 2 pm the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

Contact: Adua

Phone: 0408 336 304


Additional information: Will commence also playing in Coburg shortly,
every second Monday. Contact Adua for details.



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We're here whenever you need us.

We understand that your experience, goals and needs are unique. Our team is always on hand to provide individual support, information and advice.

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 vic.guidedogs.com.au

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