



NV Access

Annual Report
2010-2011

ABN 61 773 362 390

NV Access Annual Report

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President's Report

The past financial year for NV Access has been quite eventful. There have been some quiet times though we have certainly managed to keep the momentum going, thus ensuring the continuation of NVDA development and promotion.

The year started with the continuation of support from Adobe, which allowed us to focus on support for adobe Air, Flash and Reader X in NVDA. Mozilla also provided us with a small grant which covered work on NVDA's support for the then up and coming Firefox 4 release. The rest of the year development-wise also saw us make two major releases of NVDA, which included some extremely important features and improvements such as support for text written to the screen, and a much better input framework for handling keyboard and braille key presses.

In September Jamie and I were again asked to appear on ABC Television's New Inventors program, but this time for their grand final special, as NVDA was the recipient of the Less is More award. This award is given to an invention that makes a positive impact to disadvantaged communities or the environment. I missed out on going to the ABC studio back in March, so was rather thrilled to be able to do so in September, along side Jamie to receive the award. From this award we also managed to gain some related media coverage both on radio and in the press.

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) also picked up the story, as Jamie is an alumnus. They wrote a press release about NVDA and the New Inventors award, and over the next few days it appeared in many online news sources (one example being TVNZ). Jamie was also proud to receive the Special Excellence Award in the 2011 Queensland University of Technology Outstanding Alumni Awards for his work on NVDA.

NV Access made appearances at two Vision Australia expos this year in September. Myself and Mat attended one in Melbourne, and Jamie attended in Brisbane. There was lots of interest from people at both expos, from young children to people over 70. For these attendances we this year tried representing NVDA along side Vision Australia's technology and training services as they too in the past had had interest in NVDA from many of their clients. Although this worked ok, for future expos it has been decided that NV Access will maintain its own organisational presence as it helps to make our product more noticeable.

Mid this year we decided to focus our efforts on website and image-related issues. We finally settled on a new logo for NV Access (designed by Mathew Mirabella and Amy Curran), we spent time renewing (or in some cases removing) old text from the NV Access website, and we also moved the hosting of NVDA downloads over to

Source forge, as this took a great burden off our own web server, plus provided us with much needed download statistics including geographic data. While talking about Source forge, I should also note that NVDA was chosen as Source Forge's Project of the Month for March 2011, which was certainly a thrill for us.

In February this year, my family and I spent a month in Taiwan visiting my wife's extended family. Due to the nature of my work I was able with out too much difficulty to still work full-time from Taiwan. However, while I was there, I had the pleasure of speaking at multiple universities on the topics of NVDA and software accessibility in general. Also while there I was able to make many useful connections with people in the Taiwan blind community, including the Taiwan Digital Talking Book Association (TDTB) and the Hong Kong Blind Union. I would especially like to thank Jerry Wang from the TDTB for organising all the meetings and presentations. I very much enjoyed speaking directly with this particular blind community as I do not get too much of a chance to really talk with and understand the needs of a non-english speaking community in regards to NVDA. These meetings also spurred along some important developments in NVDA which were greatly needed by the non-english NVDA communities and is under way to making sure NVDA is a fully complete solution for Asian languages such as Chinese.

In the middle of my Taiwan visit I also travelled to the US. and met up with Jamie at the 2011 CSUN technology and persons with a disability conference. We again this year were glad to help out at the Mozilla booth to spread the word about the accessibility of their products, but of course it also gave us a place where others could come and find us to talk about NVDA. Although we did not choose to do our own full presentation this year, we did get to do a short presentation about NVDA and Adobe products thanks to Adobe, and we also attended several important meetings. It was a hard choice whether to attend CSUN this year as this was the first time we were not directly sponsored by an organisation to attend, and because around this time we were not seeing any new funding or contracts coming in to sustain us past the end of the current year. However, our attendance seemed to help along multiple contracts we were waiting for, and we did make quite a few new useful connections. In all I feel that this year's CSUN was as useful (or better than) past years. Though for Jamie and I, the new hotel layout did take a little bit of getting used to.

Although there have been some quiet times financially over this year, towards the end things certainly sped up for us. We have again entered in to a contract with Adobe to continue and improve support for Reader X and beyond, Digital Editions, and to provide consulting on some new accessibility architecture ideas in Flash. Yahoo! has again provided us with a small sponsorship in the interest of improving NVDA's support for ARIA in multiple web browsers in order to ensure compatibility with the new Yahoo! Mail web application. Finally, Mozilla Corporation has also provided another large contract, this time to the tune of US\$80,000 in order for us to work very closely with the rest of their accessibility team on identifying and solving issues in current and future developments of Mozilla Gecko over the next year. These contracts do not come at a better time than this, and the financial support they provide greatly ensures the ongoing existence of the NVDA project.

It's also extremely important that I acknowledge all the individuals that have donated to keep the NVDA project alive. We have decided this year to be a little more forward when asking for donations (e.g. in blog posts and even to a small degree in the NVDA product itself). Because of this, we have managed to receive over AU\$20,000 which is an extraordinary result in comparison to the \$1,600 or so we have managed to receive on average in past years.

As decided towards the end of the 2009-2010 year, we started organising to move NV Access to a new organisational model. This year we have done the hard leg work of creating a new constitution, registering a public company limited by Guarantee (NV Access Limited) and started working with lawyers to transfer assets from NV Access Inc. It was hoped that NV Access Limited may be able to gain DGR (deductible gift recipient) status, though having looked in to this further it is clear that we do not fit the requirements well enough, and instead may in the future consider some form of Australian-specific subsidiary for this purpose. Still, NV Access Limited (once everything is transferred) does allow us finally to run the organisation from anywhere in Australia, we will be using a much more understood and notable structure, and we have a much clearer constitution to follow. The work is far from over, though we're hoping that everything should be complete before the end of this coming year.

Finally I would like to thank the rest of the NV Access committee (James Teh, Mathew Mirabella, Amy Curran, Michael Sheppard and Geoff Shang) for a successful past year.

Michael Curran
President

Treasurer's Report

After reading through the president's report, the treasurer's report may appear somewhat uneventful in comparison. Unfortunately, we made a deficit this financial year of -\$29,399.71. This is mainly due to the unusually quiet December and January. The contracts for larger grants were only being finalised in the last quarter of this financial year. As the majority of the invoices for each respective section of work was not sent out until after June 30, these funds did not get calculated as part of the earnings for the period 1 July 2010-30 June 2011.

Before I go on any further, I too would like to thank the many, many individuals and groups who made a donation to keep the NVDA project alive! We received an amazing AU\$9,000 in the first few weeks of our donation drive in early 2011. And we received a total of AU\$20,000 within a couple of months! A big, big thank you to everyone who donated from the bottom of our hearts. It was very heart warming to see how everyone pulled together to help out in any way they could. We received donations ranging from \$2 to \$1,000. Every little bit counts and every single donation is appreciated.

This is the first financial year where we have been able to receive 2 large grants of over AU\$50,000 each. Which gave the committee the confidence to raise both Jamie's and Mick's salaries for the first time since they worked for us full-time. We were able to raise their salaries by just over \$5,000 each per year (before super).

It is an exciting time for us at the moment as we are now set up properly on the beautiful Gold Coast in Queensland, and as Mick mentioned in his president's report, we are slowly moving towards a company structure. We anticipate all of this to be completed by the end of the next financial year. We also have some more fund raising ideas that we would also like to be implementing by the end of the next financial year. The marketing, website design and logos are also not yet finished.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee for the past year and especially Jamie and Mick for their tireless work and dedication to both the NVDA project and to NV Access.

Amy Curran
Treasurer

NV Access
Profit & Loss Statement
July 2010 through June 2011

Income	Amount
Donations	\$23,789.58
Grants	\$72,226.27
Bank Interest	\$3,288.53
Total Income	\$99,304.38

Expenses	Amount
Salaries and Wages	\$121,090.32
Fees and Taxes	\$425.00
Bank Charges	\$811.64
Service Charges	\$335.44
Travel	\$4,098.01
Stationary	\$99.45
Bookkeeping	\$717.14
Legal	\$1,126.35
Total Expenses	\$128,703.35

Assets	Amount
Deficit for 2010-2011	-\$29,399.71
Retained Earnings	\$111,583.69
Total Equity/Cash	\$82,183.98