

Blind

the blind leading the



Julie and her husband in front of Louis Brailles birthplace

As featured in our March issue of *Her Magazine*, 'That Blind Woman' Julie Woods shares her experiences of her amazing trip to Paris, to celebrate the birth of a very important man in her life.

Wow, what a start to 2009 - in Paris celebrating Louis Braille's 200th birthday.

After a gruelling 30 hour journey my husband, Ron, and I arrived in Paris to then grapple with the Metro (Paris's rail system) and our fatigue. Re-energised by scrumptious croissants the following morning for breakfast, we began to enjoy Paris's offerings.

On January 4, 2009 the Braille world commemorated the 200th anniversary of Louis Braille's birth by hosting an international conference in Paris. We attended celebrations, including a visit to the Pantheon where Louis Braille's ashes are contained in the crypt, and a concert at Notre Dame where we listened to a recital performed by five blind organists, as Louis Braille too was a keen organist.

The conference itself commenced on January 5, 2009 at UNESCO's conference facilities. Over 400 delegates from 46 countries from all over the world attended, including 10 New Zealanders. The three days were full of the contributions Louis Braille made to the blind world through his system of reading and writing. Details of his life and code were shared and discussions were held about braille and its future.

The conference was punctuated by a dinner held in the City Hall of Paris on January 7, which was attended by the Mayor of Paris. The next morning involved a visit to Louis Braille's birthplace, a small village 40km east of Paris. This was a real highlight for me as we got to go into the Braille's family kitchen and I touched the board Louis's father had made for him to learn the shape of print letters. We even got to go into the workshop where Louis had his accident at the age of three while playing with his father's sharp saddle making tools. Upon leaving the Braille's house I knelt down in the front garden and placed a New Zealand flag containing the silver fern, just to let the braille world know Kiwis visited this special place.

This conference was indeed a celebration of the life of Louis Braille and was an occasion I felt privileged to be part of. The main thing I took away from attending such a conference was that braille is the key to unlocking the potential of blind people.

By Julie Woods

Visit: [www.thatblindwoman.co.nz](http://www.thatblindwoman.co.nz)

# PROVERBS



from school kids

A first-grade schoolteacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

1. Don't change horses... **until they stop running.**
2. Strike while the... **bug is close.**
3. It's always darkest before... **Daylight Savings Time.**
4. Never underestimate the power of... **termites.**
5. You can lead a horse to water but... **How?**
6. Don't bite the hand that... **looks dirty.**
7. No news is... **impossible.**
8. A miss is as good as a... **Mr.**
9. You can't teach an old dog new... **math.**
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll... **stink in the morning.**
11. Love all, trust... **me.**
12. The pen is mightier than the... **pigs.**
13. An idle mind is... **the best way to relax.**
14. Where there's smoke there's... **pollution.**
15. Happy the bride who... **gets all the presents.**
16. A penny saved is... **not much.**
17. Two's company, three's... **the Musketeers.**
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what... **you put on to go to bed.**
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and... **you have to blow your nose.**
20. There are none so blind as... **Stevie Wonder.**
21. Children should be seen and not... **spanked or grounded.**
22. If at first you don't succeed... **get new batteries.**
23. You get out of something only what you... **see in the picture on the box.**
24. When the blind lead the blind... **get out of the way.**
25. A bird in the hand... **is going to poop on you.**
26. Better late than... **pregnant.**

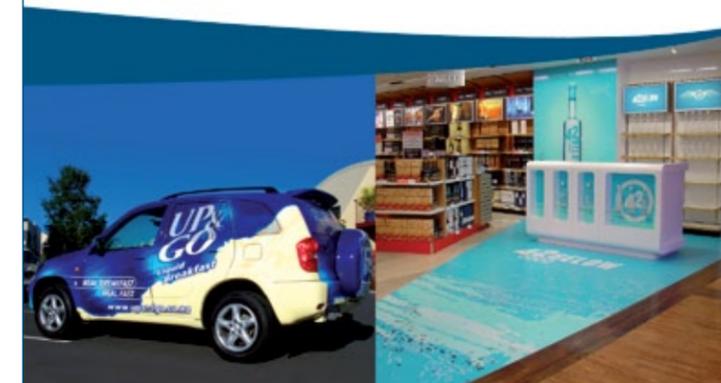
## VIVID images



- |                   |                     |                 |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Indoor Printing   | Promotional Prints  | Billboards      |
| Outdoor Printing  | Canvas Prints       | Vehicle Signage |
| Portable Displays | Lightbox Prints     | Truck Curtians  |
| Finishing         | Backlit Prints      | Adshell Prints  |
| Scanning          | Material Banners    | Signage         |
| Installation      | Retractable Banners | Flags           |

- A1 Posters from .....\$40
- Premium Retractable Stands from .....\$475
- A1 Framed Canvas from .....\$135
- 3m x 1m PVC Banner with Eyelets from .....\$165
- 3m x 6m Billboards from .....\$550

Prices are based on one print and exclude GST. Further discounts apply for multiple prints. Terms and Conditions apply.



Ph: 0508 4 VIVID • Web: [www.vivid.co.nz](http://www.vivid.co.nz)