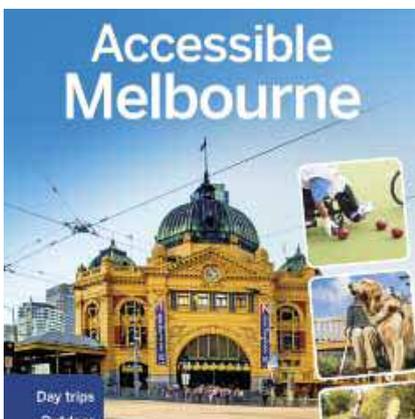


Spire is a service division of AQA Victoria Ltd



## Spire: the new look to our peer facilitated services

10



Accessible Melbourne - free eBook

INFORMATION

06



Regional Networks Program

REGIONAL NETWORKS

14



Buchan Caves Stairclimber

TRAVEL

15

## Can-Do Musos

“Musos” or “musos” are terms used widely in parts of the world to describe a musician or group of musicians with passion and dedication to their music.

‘Can-Do Musos’ was established by a group of musicians with challenges to be a new global voice for musicians and bands with disabilities from all over the world. A Can-Do Muso is a musician with challenges who is very passionate about their music. They use the word “challenges” with Can-Do Musos because quite often disability gets misinterpreted as inability. People with challenges can overcome them and be empowered and successful. John Koumourou, a NewsLink contributor, is just one of the Can-Do-Musos.

The below profile is published on the Can-Do Muso website and can be accessed at [www.candomusos.com/profile-john-koumourou.php](http://www.candomusos.com/profile-john-koumourou.php).

**John Koumourou** is a Melbourne-born ‘muso’ – flugelhorn player - who won’t let his disability be a roadblock to anything he wants to do. His love for music has driven him to try different instruments to find one ‘that fits’ his ability. With his limited finger movement he had to be creative on how to get around this challenge.

John had a diving accident when he was 19 that left him a quadriplegic in a wheelchair, in his 20’s he wanted to play an instrument but with very limited finger movement and the love for jazz and blues the obvious answer to him was the trombone.

Over the course of the following years he progressed to play in local council brass bands, church bands, and some ‘home grown bands’. He got involved in a work band back in 1994 which fitted the style he loved - ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=fH-vmYtU\\_Ro](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fH-vmYtU_Ro)).

John played with The Predicaments for a few years, playing at venues like the St Kilda National Theatre ‘foyer’ & The Tower Hotel at Alphington.

He stopped playing in his early 30’s with other life endeavors absorbing his time like family, sport and work. Married to Robyn who plays piano, sings and composes, 2 daughters who have also taken on instruments, music is never far from the family environment

Now in his ‘very’ early 50’s, over the last several years the passion to get back into music has grown and with the love for the flugelhorn and with his limited finger movement he had to be creative on how to use his hands to play. With playing only 2 valves on the flugelhorn and by using alternative note/finger positions he got around the roadblock of playing.



The flugelhorn being quite a reflective sounding instrument, and with influences like Mark Isham & Ibrahim Maalouf, he now enjoys playing to a different style music. This recent piece was heavily influenced by Ibrahim [www.wikiloops.com/backingtrack-jam-22419.php](http://www.wikiloops.com/backingtrack-jam-22419.php)

John uploaded his first improvised piece [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mU3PL34d2U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mU3PL34d2U) to YouTube playing to a backing track. He will soon load a YouTube clip to show how he actually plays, to hopefully show/encourage others with limitations to see what can be done and have fun doing it by being a little creative with what movement we have.