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PD events

The 2021 [Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available on the SVRC website. Most professional learning will continue to be online. Events are now on Eventbrite.

Tuesday Oct 19 [Preparing your school for inclusion of a student who uses Braille](#)

Online professional learning day on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 9.30am to 1pm

This workshop aims to provide practical support for school staff preparing to include a new student who will be learning via braille. It is aimed at schools welcoming a Foundation level or Year 7 student. We will discuss the implications of being a reader and writer of braille, how braille works (including braille maths, music and languages), what inclusion looks like, and how to obtain resources and support from SVRC and your Visiting Teacher (Vision).

Please encourage school staff to [register for this PD on our website](#)

Tuesday Nov 23 [EXPO: Assistive Technology for students who are blind or partially sighted](#)

Showcasing & demonstrating assistive technologies that can promote inclusion & achievement for students who are blind or have low vision

From the Manager

Source: Kim Foley, SVRC

As restrictions soften and we emerge from lockdown, SVRC staff are continuing to plan fabulous events and activities for term 4. Important events include our fortnightly VT Community Practice sessions, DOT Power sessions, SSP weekly sessions and the Technology Expo on November 23, via the ZOOM platform. More details to follow. The Transcription team are also keen to receive requests for alternative format for 2022 as soon as possible.

If you plan on visiting SVRC you must register your attendance using the Service Victoria QR codes for electronic record keeping as it is now mandatory in all schools to enable the effective contact tracing of any COVID-19 cases. Essential visitors to school grounds and SVRC must comply with density limits, face mask requirements, QR code check-ins and practice respiratory etiquette and good hygiene.

Charlie Roberts has worked at SVRC in the SSP for a number of years. Due to family commitments, he has decided to resign from this position at the end of the year. We certainly wish Charlie all the best with his future teaching endeavours. Consequently, we have advertised a SSP Physical Education position. Interviews for this position are being held and we will be able to announce the successful applicant in the next Bulletin.

The VT Project Phase 1 recommendations will be tabled at the end of November. We are all keen to read the Executive Summary of recommendations which will certainly influence Phase 2, the implementation of the recommendations. The project has generated many opportunities to discuss and reflect on service delivery, capabilities building, evidence based practices and sourcing feedback from a wide range of stakeholders. SVRC continues to value and build strong connections with the VT Service as we seek to support the important work that they do for our students who are blind or have low vision.

May you and your families remain safe and well over the coming months.

PL and Dot Power Calendar – 2022

All PL activities online unless specified otherwise

Term 1 (27 Jan to 1 April)

New VT day - Tuesday February 1 (on-site)

Inclusion of students who are blind - Tuesday February 8

Inclusion of students with low vision - Tuesday February 15

Inclusion of students with VI and additional disabilities - Tuesday February 22

Term 2 (19 April to 25 June)

Braille music - Wednesday May 4 (on-site)

Inclusion of students with VI in Art - Wednesday May 11 (on-site)

Dot Power - Tuesday May 17

Dot Power - Tuesday May 31

Inclusion of students with VI in PE - Tuesday June 7 (on-site)

Term 3 (12 July to 17 September)

Inclusion of students with low vision - Tuesday August 9

Dot Power - Tuesday August 16

Dot Power - Tuesday August 30

Term 4 (4 October to 17 December)

Preparing for a braille-reading student - Tuesday October 18

Dot Power - Tuesday October 25

Expo - Tuesday November 22

A different Dot Power online

Source: Marion Blaze, SVRC

Being online, Dot Power on October 5, 2021 looked a little different but was still (hopefully!) as much fun as always. 7 students, 4 parents, 4 teachers/ES staff in schools, 6 VTs - Vision, 1 Early Childhood Educator from GDV, and 6 SVRC staff were online to sing, read, and share in the braille fun. The focus was on braille numbers so we talked about how braille book page numbering works, and our focus book was 'Ten Little Figs' by Rhian Williams. The best part about this Dot Power Day was seeing the year 3 students who we have not seen since 2019, due to the pandemic. And their fingers were flying over the braille! A package of braille was posted to all families and only one didn't arrive necessitating a last minute dash to deliver it.

Thank you to Michael Kelly (tech support and recordings), Jordie Howell (who recorded all the songs and a wonderful demonstration of expert braille reading technique) and Di Bennett and the Dot Power Team for all the planning. Also, thanks to the magnificent transcription team at SVRC for producing all the braille books with gorgeous illustrations.

The image below shows Marion in the 'Green Screen' room, with a green wall behind her, sitting at a table with headphones on and a microphone nearby.



Creating Audio Description Short Course

Source: via [ANZAGG Facebook page](#)

Explore how to design and create audio descriptions and audio introductions that fully represent a film, play, or TV programme.

Course is free, join at any time and learn at your own pace through the [Future Learn website](#)

VT Wanted

Independent school in Caulfield North is seeking the services of a Visiting Teacher to support the learning of a partially sighted Year 5 boy. Regular visits are preferred but will also accept ad hoc sessions. If interested please email hong_nee_neoh@yahoo.com

Also being sought is a private tutor to teach the boy Braille. Home is located in Malvern East.

Please email the above address if interested.

Accessible QR Codes

Source: via ozbrl email list

QR codes are everywhere, but they can be difficult for people who are blind or have low vision to access. Braille House now has a [Tactile QR Code Indicator](#) available for purchase that can be stuck over a QR code to identify it for tactile readers. In the Service Victoria app, you can choose to save a location as a favourite when you check in so when you check in again, there is no need to scan the QR code.

Blind Cricket Open Day

Source: [Victorian Blind Cricket Association website](#)

To celebrate the 99th Birthday of Blind Cricket here in Victoria, an all-ages open day is being held. Enjoy the All Day BBQ, meet the teams and players and learn about the game of Blind Cricket.

Event details

- **Date:** Saturday the **27th of November**, 2021 (previously scheduled for November 6th; rescheduled due to Victorian lockdown restrictions)
- **Time:** 10:00am to 4:00pm
- **Venue:** Behind Vision Australia at 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong
- **Cost:** Free Entry – Includes All Day Barbecue. Snacks and drinks are available from CASH BAR.
- **Who can attend:** Open to all!

If you are interested in playing, volunteering, or even just a local to the area, come along and meet the team. Various activity stations will be set up from T20 Matches and coaching clinics for adults and teens to a Junior Blast Zone for youngsters and little ones. Opportunities to learn how to Volunteer in roles such as Umpiring and Scoring are also available. All activities are open to all.

To find out more information about the Blind Cricket Open Day, families can head to the Facebook event at www.facebook.com/events/850606659221962 or go direct to the webpage at www.vbca.org.au/2021-blind-cricket-open-day. For any questions, Daniel can be contacted directly by email at dan.pritchard@vbca.org.au.

Netflix Global Casting Search – All the light we cannot see

Source: Mitchell Casting via UsherKids Australia

Australian/New Zealand residents

A new Netflix Limited Series based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning bestselling novel from 21 Laps Entertainment, the producers of Arrival, Stranger Things and Shadow & Bone

Seeking: Role of a teenage girl who is blind. Actresses who are blind or low vision are encouraged to apply. Must speak fluent English. Shooting slated for Europe 2022

To audition: Please email submissions@mitchellcasting.com for more information on how to submit

And finally...

Today, October 15, is White Cane Awareness Day, first established in the USA in 1964. Over the years the focus has changed from safety to independence. Go to the [National Federation for the Blind website](#) for more information.