

The Bulletin

Number 9, Friday 17 June, 2022

Inside this issue

Here's what you'll find:

- **From SVRC:** Message from the Manager, New 3D prints in the catalogue, New to the SVRC Library: Childrens' Bible Stories in Alternative Format, New to the SVRC Alternative Format Library – Touchdown Magazine (NSW Dept. of Education)
- **From the field:** Boroondara Disability Action Plan, Pop It Braille activity, Sharon's Shortcuts, AFL Blind, Sounds of the Sea, Adaptive Climbing Victoria – Because walls are for everybody!

PL events

The [2022 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is available on the SVRC website. Most PL will continue to be held online, but some are planned to be onsite. Please encourage school staff to [register for PL through our website](#).

Tuesday October 18 [Preparing for a student who reads braille](#)

Providing practical support for school staff preparing to welcome and include a new student who will be learning to read using braille.

The SVRC are pleased to announce that all of our professional learning workshops will soon be available as on demand workshops. Participants will be able to access all the videos and resources at a time that suits them. Instructions on how to register for access will be **coming soon!**

Message from the Manager

Source: Kim Foley, Manager, SVRC

Please note the SVRC building will be closed over the forthcoming school holidays as Heatherwood School is currently undergoing major building works during this time. All staff will continue to work from home and can be contacted via email.

On Tuesday 14 June SVRC staff held The Biggest Morning Tea with the theme of a Mad Hatter's Tea Party. SVRC staff celebrated by wearing zany and colourful hats and brought along scrumptious sweet goodies to eat for a high tea. We have so far raised over \$300 and we hope to surpass last year's total of over \$600.

The Visiting Teacher – Vision Community of Practice was held on Tuesday afternoon and Deb Lewis presented on the SVRC Ozzie Dots Reading Program. The program introduces braille contractions in a systematic way with interesting content supported by PictureBraille tactile illustrations. Teacher notes are included with each book to support the reading sessions. Organisations can purchase the Ozzie Dots program via the SVRC website and/or by contacting Deb Lewis at debra.lewis@education.vic.gov.au. Marion Blazé's presentation on 'Fingers on braille' described evidence-based best practice in reading braille. When exploring braille it is important to use two hands, the pads of the fingers and left to right movements across the page.

The **mental health and wellbeing** of our students will continue to be a priority. There is an immediate opportunity to support student health and wellbeing this term through the Positive Start program that provides additional camps, swimming and sports programs and cultural experiences at no cost to students, families or schools. Please look into securing camp and program places for your eligible students at the [Positive Start in 2022 website](#). Rural and regional schools are also able to continue planning for the rollout of the [Schools Mental Health Fund](#) in Term 3 this year. In addition, the [Diverse Learners Hub](#) is now live as part of the rollout of our [Disability Inclusion](#) initiative. The hub provides evidence-based advice, resources and guidance for schools and families on meeting the learning and wellbeing needs and goals of diverse learners.

Enjoy the school holidays and we'll see you next term!

New 3D prints in the catalogue

Source: SVRC Staff

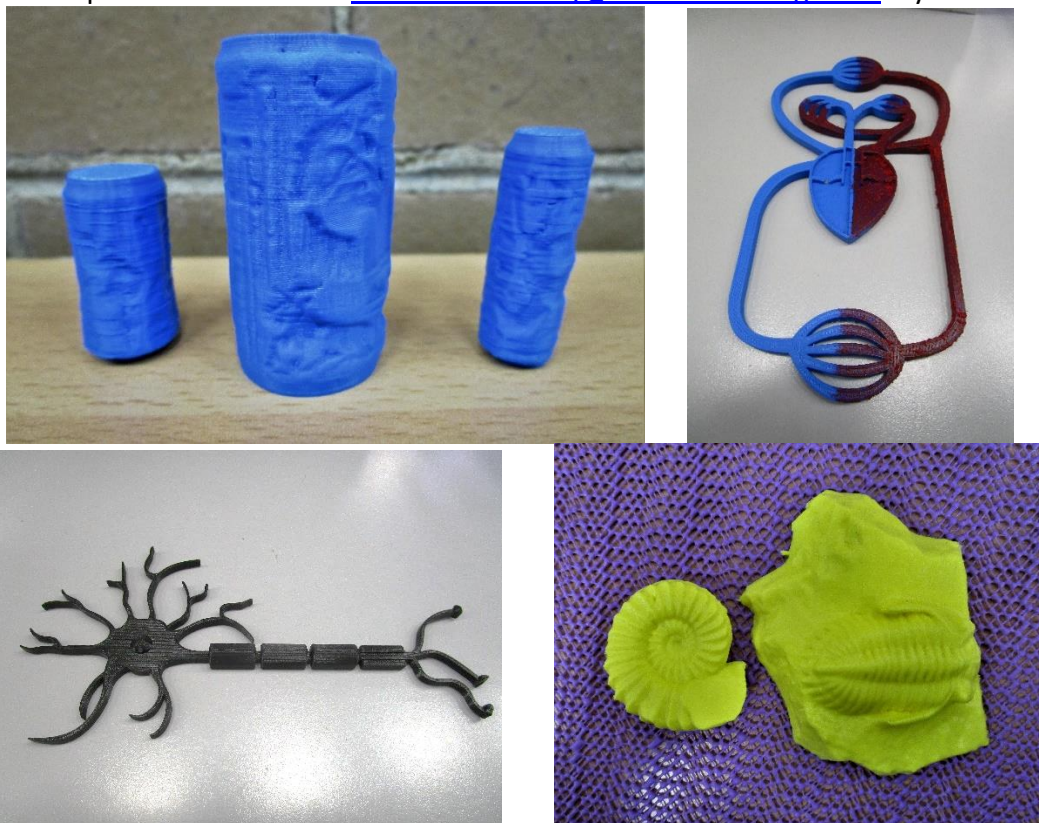
We have several new additions to the 3D print catalogue. You'll find a selection of new items below, or [check out the whole collection on our website](#). You can request these items using the Alternative Format request form.

We have several new prints in the field of Biology:

- A simplified circulatory system where colour/texture shows the difference between oxygenated and de-oxygenated areas
- A neuron or nerve cell, which could be paired with a tactile diagram from a textbook to label the different parts of the cell.
- Two fossils, taken from scans of items in the collection of Museum Victoria
- A series of artery prints, created by the University of Southern Queensland, which show how a healthy artery can become a blocked artery.
- "Mendel's peas" are a set of 4 prints with two different properties – there are two shapes of the pea pod and two colours/textures. Can be used when studying genetics.

We've also got some Cylinder Seals which were used in various Ancient Near East cultures. This set are from scans of a collection at the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Germany, and can be used with playdough, clay, or plasticine to roll out the seal, as would have been down thousands of years ago when they were made.

Our IT Tech Michael has been experimenting with a tactile meter that could be used for measuring things like voltage. We're looking for teachers and students who are interested in assisting us to develop this further. Email vision.tech.library@education.vic.gov.au if you'd like to be involved.



New to the SVRC Library: Children's Bible Stories in Alternative Format

At the request of several parents, we have recently transcribed four books of bible stories, suitable for primary-aged students, into docx format, which can be enjoyed via laptop, Polaris and Victor Reader. Available to eligible students, docx and other formats are available by request. The new books include:

The Children's Bible by Su Box

94 print pages; 42 stories

"The best Bible stories are here in this collection. Here are the adventures of God's people, the Israelites, and the dramatic events of Jesus' life. Su Box tells the story of the Bible with colour, emotion and excitement, while remaining faithful to the original biblical account."

My First Bible Stories retold by Nick Ellsworth

225 print pages; 60 stories

"All the traditional stories of the Bible are retold here, in this new collection of 60 tales. The Old and New Testaments are portrayed with the adventure, excitement and meaning that has made them classics, and make this book a perfect introduction to the Bible."

Stories from the Bible retold by Nicola Baxter

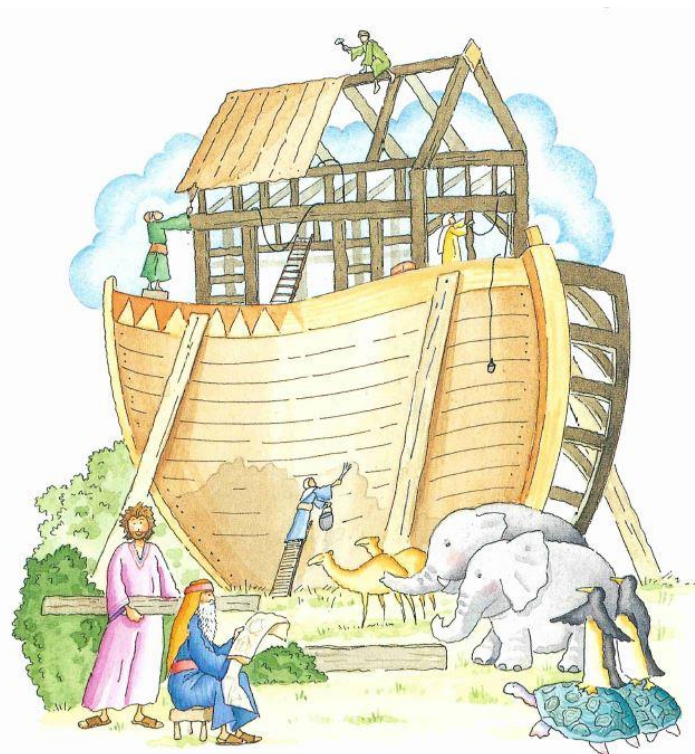
80 print pages; 22 stories

"This collection of Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments has been specially chosen and retold for children. It includes well-loved stories, such as those of Noah (illustration right) and Jonah, but also aims to give a sense of the richness of the Bible and encourage children to explore further."

The Usborne Children's Bible retold by Heather Amery

144 print pages; 46 stories

"The best-known and best-loved stories from the Old and New Testaments have been chosen for this retelling of the Bible for young children. Staying close to the traditional text, the stories are presented in a way that young listeners and young readers will find easy to understand and enjoy."



To request copies of these and other resources from the SVRC Alternative Format Library, please send us a completed form ... which can be found on the SVRC "submit a request" page.

New to the SVRC Alternative Format Library – *Touchdown Magazine* (NSW Dept. of Education)

Source: SVRC Transcription Team

We have recently been asked to transcribe the NSW Department of Education's school magazine into eText for a Year 7 student. The first three issues of *Touchdown* for 2022 are now available as docx files (with heading structure) and each issue features:

- articles (see right for example)
- stories (fiction and non-fiction)
- poems
- plays

These school magazines in alternative format may be of interest to Visiting Teachers wanting text passages aimed at the upper primary to mid-secondary student, or may be of interest to students, themselves.

Please request your copy of the scanned pdf and/or the docx file using the [request form available from the SVRC website](#)

Boroondara Disability Action Plan

Source: City of Boroondara

The City of Boroondara is refreshing its Disability Action Plan to make sure it meets the needs of our community and identifies opportunities to improve inclusion and access for people with disability. We want to hear from people with disability, their families, carers, advocates, educators, employers and, health professionals in the disability sector.

Our community survey is now open and closes 1 July. There are multiple ways to provide feedback to support everyone having their say. For more information and to have your say, please visit [Boroondara Disability Action Plan | Engage Boroondara](#)

Dossier of Discovery: What's the Big Stink?
article by Anne Renaud | photo by Alamy

The flower of the titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) plant can reach heights of more than three metres—taller than most Christmas trees! But that's not what is most impressive about this plant. You could say its claim to fame is imitating a dead corpse! How so? Its odour. YUCK!

There is a good reason for its perfectly putrid stench: to ensure pollination. Like many plants, the titan arum's flower is not pollinated by bees, but rather by flies and dung beetles.

The odour of decomposing flesh, which can be sniffed well over a kilometre away, is therefore very effective in attracting these insects. It is believed that the burgundy-purple colour of the plant also tricks the pollinators into thinking the flower is meat!

This giant, spongy plant flowers every three to ten years. When it does, the bloom only stays open for a day or two, making it a rare event. The titan arum is native to the island of Sumatra, in Indonesia, where it grows in rainforests on limestone hills. However, the destruction of the island's rainforests is affecting the number of plants that grow there. Fortunately, its cultivation in botanical gardens around the world is helping in its conservation. ■

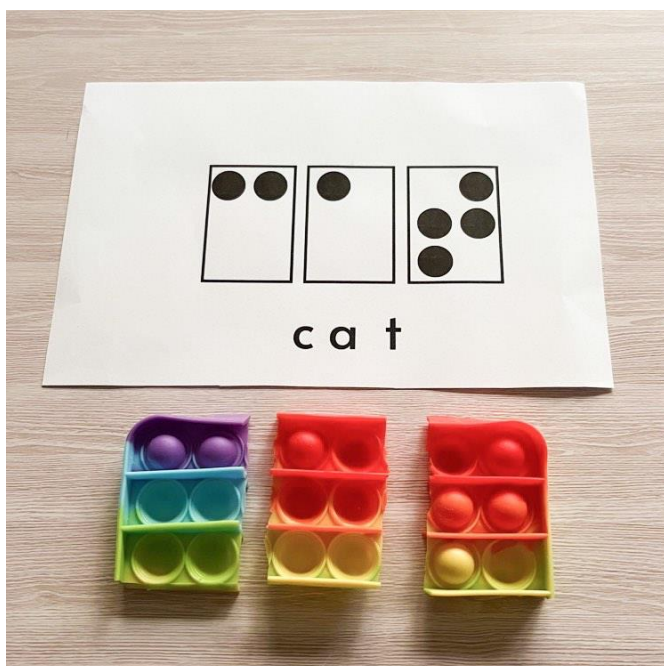


- The Indonesian name for the titan arum plant is *bunga bangkai*, which translates as corpse (*bangkai*) flower (*bunga*).
- The titan arum has appeared on both Indonesian money and stamps.

Pop It Braille activity

Source: Emily Rebecca from [@Include.ed](#)

The Pop It Braille activity is a fun and engaging way to promote awareness of Braille and also to practise braille letter formation and recognition. To create this resource you will need to cut a Pop It board into 6 separate 3 x 2 dots to represent a full cell. The learner can use the visual above to recreate the word on the Pop it sections. The learner is required to push down on the dots that should not be raised to create the uncontracted word. Not only is this activity great for exploring and creating the letters of the braille alphabet, but also is fantastic for fine motor skills such as finger isolation and finger strength. Pushing down the dots on the Pop It's works finger dexterity.



You can download a FREE copy of the Pop It Braille activity visuals from [Teachers Pay Teachers](#) and [find more activities on Instagram](#).

Sharon's Shortcuts

Source: [Sharon's Shortcuts](#) via [Paths for Literacy](#)

This website is a free resource for anyone who wants to use a PC without a mouse. There are sections on Word, Excel, File Management and Outlook. You can also sign up to get a "Shortcut of the Week". Here are some shortcuts I just learnt about while looking through the website:

- To reply to an email you're currently reading press Ctrl + R, and to reply all you can press Ctrl + Shift + R.
- To forward an email you're currently reading press Ctrl + F.

AFL Blind

Victorian Blind Football League Fixture

Round 4 – Saturday June 18

11am – St Kilda vs Bombers

12pm – Hawthorn vs Bulldogs

Round 5 – Saturday July 2

11am – St Kilda vs Hawthorn

12pm – Bulldogs vs Bombers

Round 6 – Saturday July 9

11am – Hawthorn vs Bombers

12pm – Bulldogs vs St Kilda

Round 7 – Saturday July 23

11am – Bulldogs vs Hawthorn

12pm – Bombers vs St Kilda

Round 8 + 9 – Showcase Round Saturday August 6

11 am - Hawthorn vs St Kilda

12pm – Bombers vs Bulldogs

1.10 – St Kilda vs Bulldogs

2.10 – Bombers vs Hawthorn

Semi-finals – Saturday August 20

11am – 1st vs 4th

12pm – 2nd vs 3rd

Grand final – Saturday September 3

Junior Blind AFL Program

- This year we are launching a Junior AFL Blind program for participants aged 5-16
- All modified equipment and specialist training will be provided
- The sessions will be held at Tullamarine Action Indoor Sports Centre on Saturday the 23rd of July and Saturday the 3rd of September
- Program will be free and everyone who registers will receive an AFL Themed participant pack! Absolutely no experience is required to participate!
- For more information contact Steve.odgers@afl.com.au or [register through the website](#)

AFL Blind Auskick Centres

- Hawthorn and St Kilda Football Clubs are delivering Auskick Centres for participants who are blind or vision impaired
- The sessions will be free for all participants!
- The program will run for 6 weeks throughout Term 3 and cater for 5-11 year olds
- If you would like to be involved, please contact

[St Kilda – James Hammond](#), [Hawthorn – Oscar Anderson](#)

Sounds of the Sea

Source: NASA via Sonification World Chat

Experience the swirls off the coast of Río de la Plata to the upwellings in the Indian Ocean put to musical notes of imagery from our own Earth-observing satellites. For the last 18 months, a scientist and his brother at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, have been developing an online program that merges ocean colour data with musical notes. The goal is to give onlookers an immersive experience into the ocean imagery Goddard scientists study everyday in an effort to understand the complexities of a large, changing ecosystem. "We wanted to tell a story to appreciate the connectivity of our Earth's ocean through this aural sonic experience," said co-creator and Goddard scientist Ryan Vandermeulen. "We use music because it's engaging and dynamic and connects us across a wide variety of backgrounds."

Listen and read more at the [Sounds of the Sea website](#).

Adaptive Climbing Victoria – Because walls are for everybody!

Source: [Adaptive Climbing Victoria](#)

Adaptive Climbing Victoria (ACV) offers people living with a disability the opportunity to participate in the sport of rock climbing, both competitively and socially, no matter their ability.

Adaptive Climbing Victoria have a 'Come and Try' day on Sunday, June 26, 2022, 8.45 to 11am at North Walls Climbing Centre, 3/17-19 Hope Street, Brunswick. No experience is necessary, all equipment is supplied and the cost is \$18. Numbers are limited so booking is essential.

You can reach the team via email at adaptive@sportclimbingvictoria.com.au

You can stay up to date with upcoming ACV events by following our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. Stay in the loop for upcoming Come and Try days at various locations, volunteer training sessions, outdoor excursions and fundraisers. If you'd like to get involved or have any questions, you can shoot the team a message.

And finally ...

Did you know you have 12 pairs of cranial nerves that send messages between your brain and the body? Four of these 12 pairs are related to your eyes!

The Optic Nerve transmits information from the eye to the brain and another three nerves control the movement of the eye. The Oculomotor Nerve controls many movements, including the dilation of your pupils. The Trochlear Nerve controls the muscles that allow the eye to gaze down and inward, while the Abducens Nerve controls the muscles that allow the eye to gaze outwards.