

Number 16, Friday October 28, 2022

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PD events

Tuesday November 22 [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. This year's Expo will be a hybrid format event with both onsite and online attendance available.

On Demand PL

All of our professional learning workshops are now available on demand where participants can access all the videos and resources at a time that suits them. You can find links through the [On Demand page](#), under Professional Learning, on our website.

Message from the Manager

Source: Kim Foley, Manager, SVRC

Communities across Victoria continue to be impacted by widespread flooding with many families and schools being directly affected. We wish the communities all the best in the aftermath of this once in a generation flooding event.

World Teacher's Day – AITSL 'Hats off to Teachers'

World Teachers' Day 2022 is celebrated across Australia on Friday 28 October. It is a chance to recognise and thank the over 21,000 teachers who work in our public schools. Despite the challenges of last year, teachers bring their best to work and continue to put their students first.

I would like to congratulate and thank our teaching staff for their passion and professionalism. We are truly fortunate to have such committed and hardworking teams. Our SVRC teaching staff have the child at the centre of their thinking and always go beyond what is required to support our students. Enjoy the day!

Victorian Deaf Education Institute

Victorian Deaf Education Institute (VDEI) celebrated their 10th Anniversary on Monday 17 October. VDEI has been instrumental in supporting and building the capacity of Visiting Teachers of the Deaf and school staff in Deaf Education. SVRC has a strong partnership with VDEI in advocating for evidence-based inclusive teaching practices and supporting our students in schools. The implementation of captioning software to schools for students who are Deaf or Hard of hearing has had a significant impact on accessing the curriculum and class discussions in real time. Please view the video of Caroline's story describing the significant impact of the captioning project has had on her education.

[VDEI supporting access to education - Caroline's story \(vimeo.com\)](https://vimeo.com/644444444)

Braille Professional Learning Day

Thirty participants attended the 'Preparing for a student who reads braille' from seven different schools, and seven visiting teachers from across the state. Please note that all professional learning days offered during the year can be accessed from our On Demand catalogue. The catalogue can be found on our website under On Demand where you can apply via Eventbrite to receive the video recordings and resources.

DOT Power Day

On Tuesday, the last DOT Power Day for 2022 was held. Seven students attended the day with their families, classroom teachers, education support staff and visiting teachers. The children enjoyed reading the 'Owl Babies' book in braille and followed with their fingers, exploring new contracted words and PictureBraille illustrations. The educational activities included singing, word searches, pasting tactile parts of an owl, parachute games, and enjoying the 'touch table' filled with many interesting sensory items. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Thank you to Statewide Vision Resource Centre (SVRC) & North Eastern Victoria Region (NEVR) Visiting Teacher Service

My name is Catherine Symonds.

I am a teacher of students with vision and hearing impairments and additional disabilities in South Australia. I am working towards my 'Master of Disability Studies - Education - Vision Impairment Specialisation.' As part of my studies, I was required to undertake two, eight-day, practicum blocks. I was fortunate to have completed my second block with SVRC and the NEVR Visiting Teaching Service.

Whilst at SVRC, I learnt about the vast number of resources available to students across the state, inclusive of the transcription centre. I was introduced to the 'Dot Power' and 'Support Skills' programs and attended a tactile art exhibition excursion with the students and staff from the Support Skills program. I learnt about the processes that take place at the Educational Vision Assessment Clinic and how the whole service operates.

Whilst with both SVRC and NEVR Visiting Teacher Service, I was mentored by several visiting teachers, met their students, and delivered a string of sessions, under close supervision. This was a wonderful experience and truly enriched my learning, especially in the areas of technology and braille teaching strategies.

I was afforded some amazing learning opportunities and met a lot of wonderful people. I would like to thank every one of you for making me feel so welcome and for sharing your knowledge and expertise with me. It was a truly invaluable experience.

With gratitude,

Catherine Symonds.

More information on the Master of Disability Studies and Inclusive Scholarships can be found on our website via Professional Learning Opportunities or on the Master of Inclusive Education website.

Careers Day 2022

When: Friday December 9th 2022

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370 Springvale Road, Donvale

Parking (no parking in Heatherwood because of building works): In lower carpark of Manningham Sports Centre, 360 Springvale Road, Donvale

Time: 10:00 to 2.30 pm

Bring: Lunch, drinks, snacks, note-taking device

Who: Students with vision impairments thinking about future careers (that should be everyone!)

RSVP: Wednesday November 30th to Di Bennett at statewide.vision@education.vic.gov.au

Who can attend the SVRC Careers Day?

- Any Victorian school student who meets the eligibility criteria as partially sighted, legally blind or totally blind as determined by the Education Vision Assessment Clinic (EVAC)
- Students from any year level (preference might be given to older students, depending on numbers)
- Students from Government, Catholic or Independent Schools

This Careers Day aims to start students thinking about the skills and knowledge that will help them find a career. We will hear from panels of people with vision impairments in work, in part-time work while at school, in tertiary courses. We will also hear from agencies providing support to people with disabilities seeking work.

We hope to record all sessions, so that students who cannot attend on-site can benefit from the program later.

Please return the [registration form](#) to us **by Wednesday November 30th**. Depending on numbers, we hope that we will have space for a parent/carer to attend with their child, if they choose to do so. Please state on your form if a parent/carer wishes to attend. We will confirm before the day if this is possible.

If families, Visiting Teachers or school staff have any questions prior to the day or need further clarification about the program, please call and speak to either Di Bennett, Marion Blaze, or Kim Foley, SVRC Manager on (03) 9841 0242.

‘In my perfect world...’ – ‘If I made the rules’: SVRC Writing Competition 2022

We love to encourage the literary development of our students, so all Victorian students with vision impairments are invited to submit a story/article for the 2022 SVRC Writing Competition. You can send your story in whatever format you wish (braille, email, audio, graphics). Word limit is no more than 300 words – the judges don’t want to read too many chapter books!

The topic this year is ‘In my perfect world...’ and/or ‘If I made the rules’. You can incorporate both in one submission. Maybe your perfect world is where you make the rules!!

IMPORTANT: so that we can award prizes (and yes, there are prizes), please include with your entry – your name, age, school, Visiting Teacher, postal address, email address.

Post your entry by November 10 to:

Marion Blaze
Statewide Vision Resource Centre
PO Box 201
Nunawading VIC 3131

Or email to marion.blaze@education.vic.gov.au

Judging will take place in early November and prizes will be awarded in each age category at our Expo at SVRC on November 22, 2022.

Equipment for sale

Source: Vision Technology Library, SVRC

We are selling some items that used to be part of the Vision Technology Library at SVRC but are now surplus to requirements. They are at different prices, depending upon how much they have been used and what accessories are with them.

The items and price ranges available are:

- Victor Reader Stream: \$49.50 – \$123.75
- Victor Reader Trek: \$277.50 - \$555.00
- BrailleNote Touch: \$1499.00 - \$1873.75
- BrailleNote Touch Plus: \$1873.75
- Brailliant (BI14, 32, 40): \$497.50 - \$1947.50
- Draftsman Drawing Kit: \$240.00

These prices do not include delivery costs. If you're interested in purchasing some equipment, or would like more information, please contact us at vision.tech.library@education.vic.gov.au. Items will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Holiday Reading

It may seem a bit early in the year to be thinking about holidays ... but it is nearly November and following that comes December and with it, the holiday season!

Get in early to request your holiday reading in alternative format – braille, etext etc.

Why not read your school novels over the holidays!!!

Send in a request form – newly updated for the new year – and downloadable from the [Statewide Vision Resource Centre website](#).

You can check out what books we have in our "virtual library" by [looking through the catalogue](#) (available as an Excel spreadsheet). The catalogue can be sorted by title, author, topic and indicates the formats in which the book is currently available. If we have your title but not in your favourite format, we can fix that quick smart! And if there is a book that is not yet available, get the print book to us and we'll create an accessible version!

Alternative Format Catalogues

Materials in alternative formats (braille, etext, audio, large print, 3D prints) are available on loan for eligible students from the Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

Search our existing resources:

- [Catalogue - Guided Readers](#)
- [Catalogue - primary & secondary library resources](#) (other than Guided Readers)
- [Catalogue - Art](#)
- [Catalogue - 3D prints](#)

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Wolf Girl Comes to the SVRC Etext Library

By the time you are reading this issue of The Bulletin, the first book in the series of *Wolf Girl* by Anh Do, *Into the Wild*, will be available as a docx file for upper primary students' reading delight!

If you'd like a copy, please make a request. If our readers show interest, we'll transcribe more books into etext ... there are currently 7 in the series.

Review from [Goodreads](#):

A wildly exciting new adventure series from bestselling author Anh Do.

I crawled onto the bank and collapsed, exhausted.

From the dirt, I looked up in amazement at four dogs staring down at me.

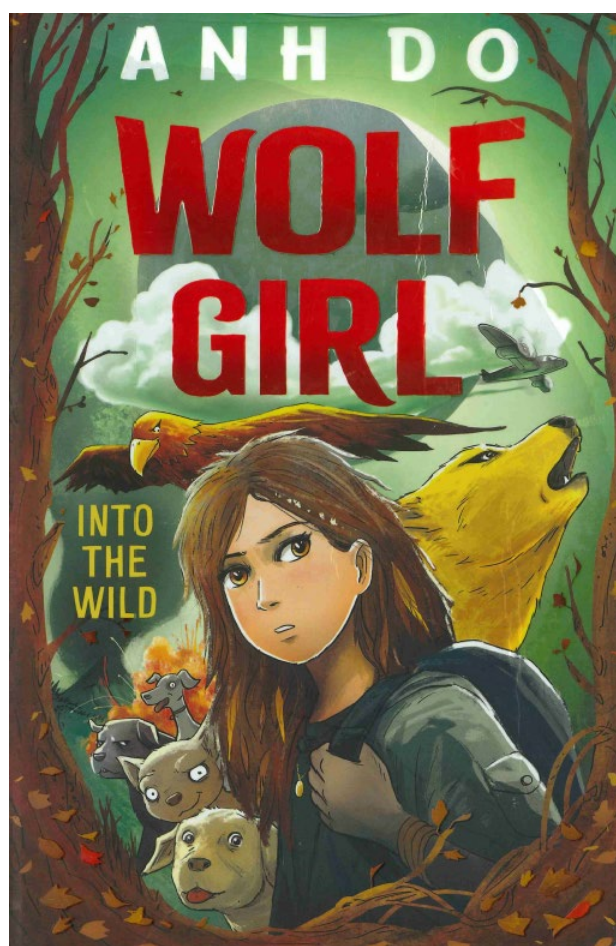
Was I dreaming? Had I gone mad? It all seemed very real.

"You guys saved me!" I said, as I sat up in my dripping clothes. "I owe you."

When disaster separates Gwen from her family, she must fend for herself, all alone in the wilderness.

Luckily, she's not alone for long ... When a wolf puppy, a Labrador, a Chihuahua, and a greyhound want to make friends, Gwen discovers talents she didn't know she possessed.

It will take all her new skills and strength just to survive. Does Gwen have what it takes to be leader of the pack?



***Blue's Clues & You* – New Character with Albinism**

Source: [Paths to Literacy blog](#) and [Common Sense Media](#)

We hadn't heard of *Blue's Clues & You*, but it seems to have been around for many years! We looked it up ...

Common Sense Media has this to say about the show:

Parents need to know that *Blue's Clues & You!* is a reboot of the 1990s preschool series *Blue's Clues* and continues its quality educational content through puzzles the host encourages viewers to help solve in each episode. There's a heavy emphasis on literacy, including phonics, spelling, and letter recognition, as well as basic preschool skills like shape and color identification. Social-emotional themes also stand out in some stories that deal with feelings. Additionally the series explains different cultures and traditions in a fun and appealing way. This engaging series actively involves audience members, which helps teach critical thinking skills and promotes the value of curiosity. The current series is the first to have a non-white host: Josh, who's Filipino American.



Anyways ... in Season 3, Episode 15, *Blue's Clues & You* introduces a new character named Pearl the Bunny. Pearl is unique because she wears glasses, uses a cane, and her eyes "dance" because Pearl has albinism.

And finally ...

A little joke for your Friday: I am reading a horror story in braille. Something bad is going to happen. I can feel it!