

Number 17, Friday November 11, 2022

Inside this issue

Here's what you'll find:

- **From SVRC:** [Message from the Manager](#), [SVRC Careers Day 2022](#), [SVRC PL and Dot Power dates for 2023](#), [Zac Power by H. I. Larry](#)
- **From the field:** [Round Table Conference 2023 – Call for Papers](#), [Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria events and activities](#), [Phillips Brothers Foundation Victorian Primary Grade 4 student scholarship](#), [Maple Equality and Inclusion Scholarship](#)

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

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is an important day of reflection and commemoration for those who died because of war. We will observe a minute of silence at 11.00 am today to reflect on what the day means to Australian families who have lost family members and remember those who died.

Science Incursion Day

SVRC received a Bank First Teaching Initiative Grant which financially supported two 'Mad About Science' sessions during the Support Skills Program over the last fortnight. In the afternoon, Monash University organised 3D print and Audio Label, Monash Sensory, and Circuit Making activities. All students enjoyed the hands-on science experiments rotating in groups around the different science activities. Thank you to Marion and Di for successfully applying for the grant and organising the wonderful science experiences.

Leaders in Vision Education Conference

On Thursday and Friday, I had the opportunity to attend the NextSense Leaders in Vision Education Conference. Each state had the opportunity to present how they manage their education programs, resourcing and service provision. I had the privilege of representing Victoria and SVRC in presenting the highlights and achievements for 2022 of SVRC staff and the students we support. It is always interesting to learn how other Australian states support students who are blind or have low vision. In the afternoon, The United Kingdom Curriculum Framework on the Expanded Core Curriculum, Deafblind initiatives, and the Deafblind Project were discussed. In the next Bulletin, I will report on my lessons from day two of this professional development opportunity.

SVRC Careers Day 2022 – Friday, December 9

Do you know what skills will help you get into a career? Do you know what supports are available to help? What questions would you like to ask a person with a vision impairment about their career?

On December 9, students can hear from agencies supporting career opportunities as well as people with vision impairments in part-time work while at school, tertiary courses, careers and more.

This day will take place at SVRC but if you can't be there, you can access recordings later. Please fill in the [registration form](#) if you are interested in this event.

SVRC Professional Learning and Dot Power dates for 2023

Term 1

February 7 - New VT day onsite

February 14 – Inclusion of students who are blind - online

February 21 – Inclusion of students who have low vision - online

March 7 – Inclusion of students who have vision and additional impairments - online

Term 2

May 9 – Inclusion of students with VI in Art – onsite

May 23 – Braille music – onsite

May 30 – Inclusion of students with VI in PE – onsite

Term 3

July 25 - Dot Power - onsite (for students pre-school to year 3 who read braille)

Term 4

October 10 – Preparing your school for inclusion of a student who is blind - online

October 31 – Dot Power – onsite (for students pre-school to year 3 who read braille)

November 21 – Expo – showcase onsite and online

Zac Power by H. I. Larry

Zac Power is a boy spy who has 24 hours to save the world ... and do his homework OR change a light bulb OR walk the dog ...

A haunted house, sabotage in space, vanishing tombs and undead dinosaurs – Zac's adventures are action-packed!

Zac Power is a publishing phenomenon that has taken the reluctant reader market by storm, selling over 3 million books in Australasia alone since launch. Perfect for emerging readers aged 5 to 7 years, each easy-to-read story is packed with illustrations, action and adventure!

We have 53 *Zac Power* titles in our Electronic Library for your reading delight – which is almost the complete collection! ... and if you have any of the following titles in print, please bring/post/deliver them to the SVRC so we can complete our collection. Missing from our library are:

- Swamp Race (original series #16)
- Shipwreck (original series #20)
- Zac's Wild Rescue (Test Drive #2)
- Sand Storm (Extreme Mission #1)
- Ice Patrol (Extreme Mission #3)
- Water Blast (Extreme Mission #4)
- Zac Power Ultimate Mission



Round Table Conference 2023 – Call for Papers

Source: Round Table – Marjorie Hawkings, Round Table Administration Officer & Round Table Conference Planner

A gentle reminder to submit your abstract for the 2023 Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities (Round Table) Conference.

Conference Theme: Universal Information Access: Pathways to an Equitable Future

Date: Sunday, 7 May – Tuesday, 9 May 2023

Venue: Rydges Sydney Central, 28 Albion Street, Surry Hills, Sydney

In Person Conference

The 2023 Conference will focus on the themes of advocacy, innovation and practice and provide opportunities for people with print disabilities, accessible format producers, libraries, publishers, education institutions, government bodies, technology developers and other key stakeholders to come together to collaborate, share knowledge and learn together.

We invite relevant papers and workshops on new developments, research, advocacy initiatives, applications, legislation, policies, and/or service delivery models that promote equitable information access for people with print disabilities in a changing environment.

Find more information at the following link: [Call for Abstracts](#)

Submit your abstract: [Round Table Abstract Submission Form](#)

Closing date for submission of abstracts: **Monday, 14 November 2022**

Web address: www.printdisability.org

Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria events and activities

Source: Rachel DeSumma, Program Manager, Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria

Our programs are free or low cost, usually just the admission cost, or a small amount to cover transport if we organise group transport.

The programs we offer include our [weekly gym circuit program](#) at Hawthorn Leisure and Aquatic Centre, with support from BSRV volunteers and a personal trainer, as well as a [weekly spin class](#), and [boxing](#) class.

We also offer [group walking programs](#), [1:1 walking programs](#) with a local community BSRV trained and screened volunteer.

Phillips Brothers Foundation Victorian Primary Grade 4 student scholarship

The Phillips Brothers Foundation Victorian Primary scholarship offers scholarships for primary-school students entering Grade 5 in 2023.

The Phillips Brothers Foundation is a private ancillary fund started by Anthony and Andrew Phillips – founders of Camp Australia – that actively supports charitable organisations and projects around the world to deliver holistic education opportunities to remote or disadvantaged communities.

This scholarship is aimed at students whose financial situation could prevent them from achieving their potential or participating fully in all aspects of primary school.

There are up to 14 scholarships available for Victorian students going into Year 5 in 2023. The scholarship will provide financial support of \$1,000 per year in Grade 5 and Grade 6 for each student (total scholarship value is \$2,000 per student).

Applications must be submitted by 11.59pm on Monday 14 November 2022. Find out more on the [Public Education Foundation website](#)

Maple Equality and Inclusion Scholarship

The Maple Equality and Inclusion Scholarship has been established to help provide people with a disability, greater access to affordable educational opportunities. This Scholarship is open to any individual within the Australian Community who identifies as having a disability.

The aim of this scholarship is to support a student's integration into tertiary education. It is known that students with disability may have additional obstacles to overcome in accessing tertiary education, particularly the additional costs involved, which can be considerable and variable.

Applications must be submitted by January 4, 2023. Find out more on the [Maple Community Services website](#).

And finally ...

Did you know that the best estimates are that over 50% of the world's population has brown eyes, and only 2% have green eyes?