

Number 12, Friday 18 August, 2023

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PD events

The [2023 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available for download on our website. See below for links to the events in Term 4 2023.

October 10, 2023 [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.

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: SVRC

This week Jane Barker is an active participant in the Variety Bash Thomas the Tank entry. To all Thomas the Tank enthusiasts feel free to follow the [2023 Variety Club Bash](#). (The Variety Bash is the largest annual fundraiser for Variety – the Children's Charity Victoria). Thomas and his friends are joining 70 other Bash vehicles and are travelling to the Gold Coast. The Variety Bash is Australia's longest running and most iconic charity motoring event. Each year, the Variety Bash sees hundreds fundraise and hit the road for kids in need. Known for its flare and fanfare, it's always a sight to behold when the Variety Bash comes to town.



We would like to acknowledge the supportive and successful partnership between SVRC and the Visiting Teacher Service-Vision over the last thirty years. Most teaching staff at SVRC have been a Visiting Teacher-Vision at some stage in their career and we certainly know the vital role and service they provide for students, school staff, parents, and the blind community. Our VTS partnership and SVRC services will be "business as usual" during this time of proposed restructure and change.

Term 3 additions to the 3D materials catalogue

Source: SVRC

There are many new additions to the 3D materials catalogue this term, including lots for Geography/History. Some have been designed in house at SVRC, and several designs have come from Braille and Large Print Services at the NSW Department of Education who recently shared their 3D print files – our thanks to the staff in NSW for these fantastic new designs. We now have a wonderful team of painters at SVRC, adding finishing touches to the models and gluing on magnets when required!

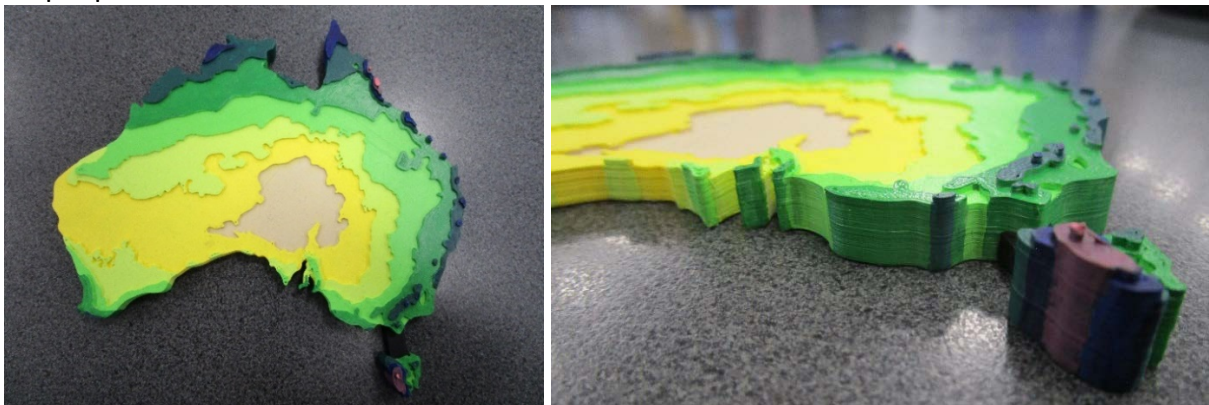
Ancient Egypt Kit

Many students study Ancient Egypt in Year 7 History. We now have an Ancient Egypt Kit which has a topographical map of the Nile Delta, a model of a mummy in a sarcophagus (that can be opened and closed), and a model of the Great Sphinx of Giza. Both the Sphinx and the mummy/sarcophagus have been painted to resemble the original objects.



Meteorology Maps

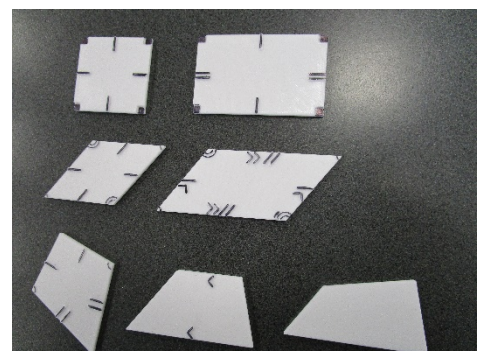
The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has vast amounts of publicly available data, often displayed in graphs or maps that use colour to communicate key information. Inspired by a diagram in a Year 7 Geography textbook, and using the data from BOM, we've made a map showing the average rainfall across Australia, and used height (along with colour) to show levels of increasing rainfall. The areas of highest rainfall are on the north-eastern coast of Queensland (around Cairns), and the western coast of Tasmania. The area of lowest rainfall is in the centre of Australia. We have plans to add more maps to this collection that show other quantities like temperature, as well as some maps specific to Victoria.



Quadrilaterals Kit

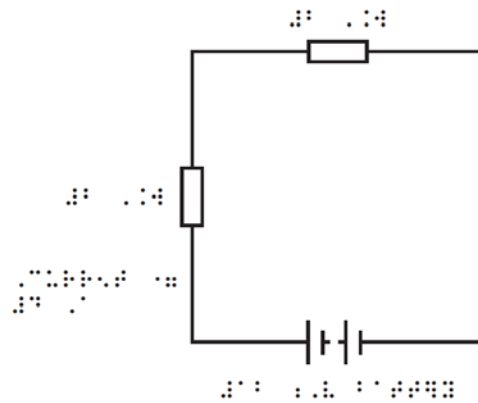
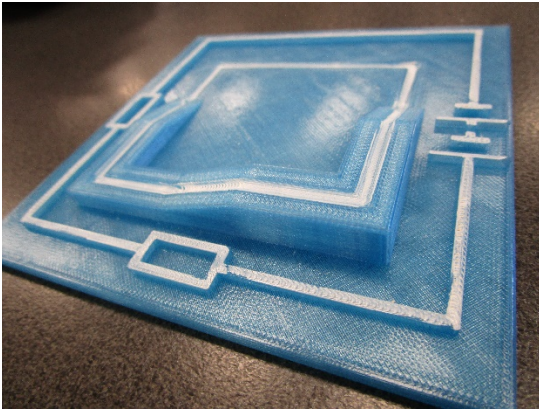
This is a set of 7 prints with a square, rectangle, rhombus, parallelogram, kite, trapezium and irregular quadrilateral. Important features are marked on each shape tactually and with colour contrast

- Same length sides are shown with a dash (or two)
- Parallel lines are shown with an arrow head
- Same size angles are shown with an arc (or two)
- Right angles are indented



Introduction to circuits

A collaborative effort between SVRC staff and the author's father (a retired Physics teacher), these prints are aimed at basic concept development of electric circuits. They come with matching tactile circuit diagrams with braille labels. There's a basic circuit, a series circuit and a parallel circuit. The height of the model represents the voltage and the width of the model represents the current. There's a tactile circuit diagram around the outside of the model as well to further connect the concepts with the way it's shown in diagrams.



Arctic Circle Ice

There are 6 components to this kit

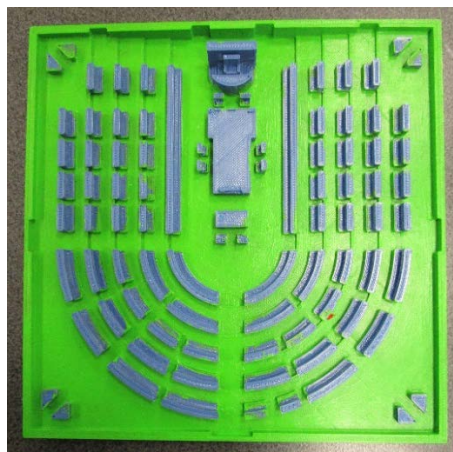
- Base plate that shows the surrounding land in the Arctic Circle (countries painted for contrast with some tactual differences for neighbouring countries)
- Stem that holds the pieces in place
- Four different years of data that can be placed onto the Stem and sit on top of the base plate. The years are 1879, 1943, 1995 and 2012. They show the shape of the sea ice for that year.



Australian Parliament House

This set of three models provide a bird's eye view of

1. Parliament House, Canberra
2. The House of Representatives
3. The Senate



Find [the whole 3D model catalogue on our website](#), and if you know an eligible student who could use one of the models, submit an [alternative format request form](#).

Acquired Brain Injury Teacher Super Series Seminar 2023

Source: Jannine Cherry, Marion Blaze and Di Bennett, SVRC

Dr Jennifer Papoutsis, Neuropsychologist, from the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service and Katherine Lingard-Smith, Teacher, from the Monash Children's Hospital School recently presented information at the Acquired Brain Injury Teacher Super Series Seminar. Key information from the seminar is highlighted below.

What is an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)?

An ABI is acquired NOT neurodevelopmental. ABI refers to any type of brain damage that happens after birth. An ABI can happen through infection, trauma, brain tumour, toxins, hypoxia, stroke and degenerative disease.

Strategies to Support the Student with an ABI at School

Student Support Group (SSG) Meetings and Individualised Learning Plans

- Ensure the student with ABI, parents, school staff, visiting teachers and therapy providers are present at the SSG meetings.
- Allow the student to communicate goals and strategies that are important to them.
- Ensure all stake holders are aware of the goals and strategies that were discussed, agreed upon and documented.
- Teacher to modify tasks where necessary.

Break Times

- Ensure regular break times are scheduled into the student's timetable to reduce fatigue and to recharge their battery.
- Discuss with the student the activity they would like to do at break times to recharge their battery.
- Ensure students are recharging their battery at 50% full rather than when their battery is depleted.



ABI and Fatigue

The Four Types of Fatigue

- Sensory Fatigue
- Physical Fatigue
- Emotional Fatigue
- Mental Fatigue



Strategies to Manage Fatigue

- Regular break times - monitor fatigue in students.
- Be discrete when implementing break times and modifying tasks.
- Involve the student in all decisions that impact them.
- Modify tasks where necessary.
- Be flexible with start and finish times.
- Ensure students are included, belong and have purpose in all school activities.

Preparing your school for a student who uses braille – online PL October 10, 2023

Source: SVRC

The vast majority of schools have never supported a student who is blind and can often feel daunted at the prospect. This PL will hopefully reassure schools about the resources and strategies that can help make this inclusion successful.

In week 2 of Term 4, SVRC will help schools prepare for including a student who is a user of braille. This online program will be from 9.30am to 1pm and will run through the idea of inclusion and the braille codes, equipment and technology our students use, how to make materials accessible, funding and resources and more. It is aimed at schools who will have a new prep or year 7 student in 2024, but can also include schools where a student is new to braille.

Please register via the [SVRC website](#).

Have you ever tried "Swish" – blind table tennis?

Source: SVRC

For Term 3, our Support Skills students have been playing Swish – and they love it! There are several clubs operating around Melbourne, so why not give it a go?

Vision Impaired Table Tennis is like playing table tennis, but instead of hitting a ball over the net, the ball is hit under the net and must travel along the surface of the table. The net is at a certain height so that those players with various degrees of sight do not have an advantage over blind players. The ball has bells in it to make it audible and it is about the size of a tennis ball and made of plastic with holes in it; and the bat is rectangular with a handle.

When and Where:

- Kooyong – every Thursday evening (5.30pm to 8pm) and Saturday afternoons (1pm to 4pm) – 454 Glenferrie Road Kooyong
- Dandenong – every Monday afternoon (1pm to 4pm) – Dandenong Table Tennis in the Oasis Centre, Heatherton Road Dandenong
- Mooroolbark – every Tuesday (7pm to 10pm) – Scout Hall, 14A Jolley St West
- Moreland/Brunswick – 1st and 3rd Mondays each month (11am to 2pm) – Felix Road, Mooroolbark
- Frankston – Wednesdays (1pm to 4pm) – Uniting Church, 16-18 High Street, Frankston.

For enquiries, please call Marco Curralejio on 0412 128 429 or send her an email at president@vvitta.org.au.

Helping children and young people (CYP) who are blind or have low vision to become expert users of audio description

Source: SPEVI (South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment)

Audio description (AD) is a tool of access. It ensures that the intended meaning and effect of anything with a visual component is transmitted to those who cannot or do not access the images. With audio description you don't need to see in order to understand what's happening because all the important visual information is translated into the spoken word.

Young people who are blind or have low vision in Australia have had relatively low exposure to audio description compared to their peers in the US, Canada and the UK. Audio-visual content plays a pivotal role in education, culture and society, and audio description is the tool that makes that content accessible and meaningful.

The [Benefits of Audio Description In Education in Australia \(BADIE-AU\)](#) initiative has developed a fun Bingo tool to enable and encourage children and young people who are blind or have low vision (and their families) to explore the many spaces in which audio description is available, and encourage their ongoing use of audio description. AD can be a bit overwhelming at first; CYP have suddenly been given access to new kinds of information they have previously missed out on, so it does take some getting used to. By gradually achieving each square of the bingo card, it will motivate them to keep going until AD becomes their norm.

This year's challenge recognises the need to raise awareness of audio description and support new users to persevere: "Become an expert audio description (AD) user by experiencing as much as you can ..."

Sponsored by Vision Australia, this Australian offshoot of the BADIE programme also provides incentive for those who want to take the next step and become critically engaged with audio described content, by telling us about it in 300 words or less.

Please encourage children and families you work with to [register for the tool](#) (and the special tactile Audio Description logo keyring) and support them to use audio description wherever its available. If you have any queries, or any feedback on how your young people use and respond to AD please don't hesitate to get in touch, I'd love to hear your experience over a virtual coffee!

To find out more, email Polly at polly.goodwin@visionaustrlia.org or BADIEAU@visionaustralia.org

Indigenous Voice to Parliament Materials in Alternative Format

Source: Ros Sackley via ozbrl

Braille and audio versions of Indigenous Voice to Parliament material will be available free of charge from AccessAble Braille Enterprises very soon.

Material includes:

- The Uluru Statement from the Heart
- The Yes case
- The No case
- Proposed Changes to the Constitution.

Text on phone: 0417494237

Email: rossackley@outlook.com.au

Accessible Shows August-December

Source: Vitae Veritas

August

7-27 August: Sublime Stim pre-recorded audio described free exhibition at Arts House, North Melbourne

An exhibition of film, music, puppetry and installations celebrating Autistic culture, stim vocabulary and the beauty of neurodiversity. Pre-recorded audio description of all the artworks can be accessed via QR codes on display. From 7 to 24 August, Monday to Friday 10am-4.30pm, Sat and Sun 11am to 4pm at Arts House 521 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. Exhibition opening 5 August 4pm to 6pm. Artist Talk 9 August 1pm to 2.30pm. Sublime Stim performance (not audio described) on 19 August 4pm to 6pm.

This is an event where everyone is invited to express beautiful aspects of Autistic culture.

11 August: 4 by 4 by Chunky Move at the Malthouse

Audio described performance Friday 11 August at 7.30pm with Tactile Kinaesthetic Tour at 6.30pm. Show duration: 60 minutes. Tickets: \$20 per person, plus companion card holders free. Address: at The Merlyn within the Malthouse 113 Sturt Street, Southbank. Check out Malthouse's [Getting There](#) link. [4 by 4 Bookings link](#). Email: boxoffice@malthouse.com.au or call 96855111.

If you have any questions about the Audio Description service or the Tactile Kinaesthetic Tour, please contact Chunky Move by calling 03 9645 5188 or emailing info@chunkymove.com.au.

3-20 August: 7 audio described films at Melbourne International Film Festival, ACMI!

For the full list of audio described films click on [MIFF website](#). A highlight includes the Open AD screening of [Memory Film: A Filmmaker's Diary](#) on Thursday 17 August at 11.15am at ACMI 2, Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne.

MIFF runs from 3-20 August in cinemas, and 18-27 August online. [More About MIFF and full program](#).

18-20 August: Ballads from the Brink at La Mama HQ, Carlton

18-20 August, 7.30pm at La Mama HQ 205 Faraday St, Carlton. 50 minutes. \$15, plus companion card holders free. [Ballad Bookings](#).

Audio Description embedded into performance. Tactile tour available 45 minutes before any show upon request. [More about La Mama Accessibility](#).

September

1 Sept: IDK by Force Majeure at Arts House, North Melbourne

Audio described performance Friday 1 September at 8pm, with Tactile Tour at 7.15pm. At Arts House, 521 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. Duration: 70 minutes. Tickets: \$20 each, plus companion card holders free. Find out more at [IDK bookings](#). [Getting There Arts House](#). [Arts House Accessibility](#).

October

TBA October: The much-loved, popular and longest running annual art tour in Melbourne, if not, Australia, Design Fringe Tactile Tours will soon be announced!

21 October: The Visitors at the Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne

Audio described on Saturday 21 October, 2pm at the Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne 100 St. Kilda Road, Southbank. 75 minutes, no interval. Tactile tour commences at 1pm. Tickets \$30-\$135. Book through [Visitors Bookings](#).

28 October: Manifesto by Stephanie Lake at The Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne

Audio described performance on Saturday 28 October 6:30pm with an accompanying tactile tour at 5:30pm. Address: Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne 100 St. Kilda Road, Southbank. Duration: 60 minutes. Tickets: \$30-\$65. [Manifesto Bookings](#)

November

3 November: Weredingo by Karul Projects at Arts House, North Melbourne

Audio described performance on Friday 3 November at 7.30pm, with tactile tour at 6.45pm. Address: 521 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. Duration: 50 minutes. Tickets: \$20 each, companion card holders free. [Weredingo Bookings](#). [Getting There Arts House](#). [Arts House Accessibility](#).

24 November: How Do I Let You Die? by Michele Lee at Arts House, North Melbourne

Audio described performance on Friday 24 November at 7.30pm, with tactile tour at 6.45pm. Address: 521 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. Duration: 70 minutes. Tickets: \$20 each, plus companion card holders free. [HDILYD Tickets](#). [Getting There Arts House](#). [Arts House Accessibility](#).

December

2 December: GENESIS, a ball for everyone at Arts House, North Melbourne

The wonderful VV AD team will be there on the night, Saturday 2 December 6pm, to be your personal describer guides, available for meet & greet on arrival and one-on-one live descriptions of the performance. Tickets: \$20 each, plus companion card holders free. Address: 521 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. [Genesis Tickets](#). [Getting There Arts House](#). [Arts House Accessibility](#).

Online All The Time

Between Two Sites pre-recorded audio described art exhibition [online](#)

Listen to a special broadcast of the exhibition on [Behind the Scenes radio](#), hosted by Chris Thompson.

ABC Audio Description Now Available in iView

Source: ABC

The ABC is delighted to announce that the audio description service is officially live on the ABC iView app! There are now over 100 shows, movies and news programs that can be streamed on-demand with descriptive narration.

Explore the full range of our on-demand audio described programming right from the Programs List by opening the ABC iView app and tapping the menu button. Having trouble? [Visit the Audio Description FAQs](#).

And Finally ...

The first Transcription request for 2024 has been placed at SVRC!

Also, SVRC has recently been sent a Braille mystery (see image with alt text below). If anyone is able to decipher the braille on this sign we'd love to hear from you! Send your answer to svrc@education.vic.gov.au.

