

The Bulletin

Number 19, Tuesday 17 December 2019

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- **Activities and Recreation:** AD for the ABC and SBS, Blind Sports & Recreation News

PD Events at SVRC: 2020

Click on the links to read more information and to register online. Programs for a number of these events are included in the PDF copy of this issue. If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).

Tuesday February 11 [Educational support of students who are blind](#)

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for their students who are blind. \$92.00

Monday February 17 [Introduction to new visiting teachers \(vision\)](#)

Supporting new visiting teachers (vision) to implement effective strategies to promote including in the schools they work with. Free

Tuesday February 18 [Educational support of students who have low vision](#)

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for their students who have low vision. \$92.00

Tuesday February 25 [Educational support of students who have low vision](#)

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for their students who have low vision. \$92.00

Wednesday March 11 [Including students who are blind or have low vision in physical education](#)

Providing fresh ideas and practical strategies to enable teachers to support the inclusion of students who are blind or partially sighted in physical education. \$92.00

Thursday March 19 [Educational support of students who are blind or have low vision in mathematics](#)

Providing practical strategies that maths teachers can use to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind or have low vision. \$46.00

Tuesday March 24 (please note change of date) [Educational support of students who are vision impaired with additional impairments](#)

Providing practical strategies that teachers and ES staff can use to support students with a vision impairment and additional disabilities. \$92.00

Ponderings from Marion

Three days until the end of the 2019 school year, and what have we achieved?? SVRC seems to have had a lot thrown at it this year, but has also risen to several significant challenges, thanks to a willing and dedicated team, and loads of support from Visiting Teachers and the many other people supporting students with vision impairments in Victoria.

In 2019, SVRC:

- conducted 24 Educational Vision Assessment Clinics
- responded to 169 student referrals
- wrote 68 functional vision reports
- conducted 18 Professional Learning days, attended by over 550 participants ... plus additional tech skill sessions and PL-on-the-run
- conducted 7 Dot Power Days for 21 students (attended also by family members, ES staff, teachers and VTs)
- assisted 12 VCE Support Groups
- conducted 35 Support Skills days plus a Careers Day, Try Day and Big Arts Day Out
- wrote 470 Support Skills student reports
- transcribed 1,450 braille books
 - our biggest braille book for the year was a maths book of 2,675 pages with 643 diagrams in 59 volumes!!
- produced 70,000+ braille pages
- created 6,300 tactile diagrams
- transcribed 300+ pieces of braille music
- transcribed 860 etext documents
- produced 190 large print books
- launched our Tracking System
- lent out 1,470 items through our technology library
- attracted:
 - 272 Facebook followers
 - 311 Twitter followers
 - 385 YouTube subscribers with 41,000 views
 - 810 subscribers to The Bulletin
- celebrated a (now retired) colleague shortlisted for Victorian of the Year!! (Congratulations Garry Stinchcombe)

Many thanks to the SVRC team and the many people we partner with to pull this all off!!

We wish you ALL a safe and happy Christmas and holiday, and look forward to another bumper year for inclusion of students with vision impairments in 2020.

PD Change of Date Alert

The PD day 'Educational Support for students who are vision impaired with additional needs', will now be on **March 24, 2020**. The date has changed on our website, but not in printed calendars which were distributed at Expo.

For upcoming professional learning at SVRC along with programs, registration & online payment, visit the SVRC [professional learning page](#).

Tactile & 3D Materials in the Classroom: Survey

From Leona Holloway, Research Assistant, Monash University

Do you work in a classroom with a touch reader in the lower primary years?

If so, please let us know about your use of accessible materials for the curriculum via an online survey at: <https://tinyurl.com/access3Dsurvey>

The survey asks what materials you use with your student in the classroom, what other materials you would like to use, and what factors are most important in determining your choice of materials. Responses to the survey will help shape our work designing 3D printable models, providing kits of 3D printed materials for evaluation in the classroom, and writing Round Table Guidelines on 3D printing for accessibility.



This survey forms part of the work of the 3 year project investigating the use of 3D printing as a new format for accessible graphics. The project is being administered by Monash University with support from the Australian Research Council, Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities, SVRC, RIDBC, RSB and Guide Dogs Victoria.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to get more involved with this project.

Leona: T: +61 (3) 9903 2401; M: +61 (0)42 042 6823; E: leona.holloway@monash.edu

Audio Description for the ABC and SBS

Source: Press Release, Blind Citizens Australia

Australians who are blind or vision impaired are celebrating today, following an announcement by The Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, that funding will be made available to Australia's public broadcasters to implement Audio Description (AD).

AD is a verbal narration which describes scenery, costumes and other visual elements to make television accessible to people who are blind or vision impaired. It is available on some streaming services, however Australia is the only English speaking OECD country not offering AD on free-to-air television.

Emma Bennison, CEO of Blind Citizens Australia, (the national representative organisation of people who are blind or vision impaired), congratulated the Government on behalf of the blindness sector for recognising that provision of AD is long overdue. "This is a fantastic step forward for Australians who are blind or vision impaired. Blind Citizens Australia has been campaigning for AD since 1996 and more recently, organisations across the blindness sector have joined with us to highlight the human right of people who are blind or vision impaired to watch television with family and friends."

"We welcome the provision of \$2 million to each of the ABC and SBS to implement AD. We are scheduled to meet with the ABC early in the new year and look forward to working closely with them on the implementation of AD by July 2020."

Expo 2019

Expo, held on 26 November, is always an exciting event on the SVRC calendar. We hosted 27 exhibitors and conducted four workshops.

Marion thanked staff for the magic that happened before, during and after Expo commenting, "What a transformation to our space! Expo had such a great atmosphere." Marion thanked Sarah Hayman in particular, "for so tirelessly organising and doing!!"

All exhibitors and participants reported that they had a great day!

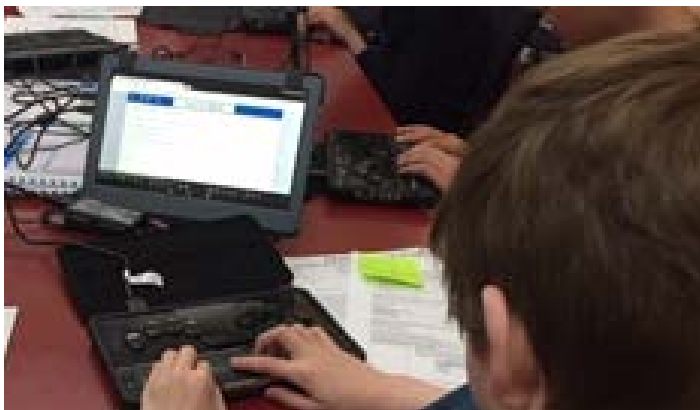
NAPLAN: Online Braille Pilot Study

Students attending Support Skills Group B were invited to participate in a Pilot Study that is being undertaken by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and which aims to ensure that NAPLAN Online is accessible to all, including braille readers.

Staff from ACARA and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) visited Support Skills to observe four students using their refreshable braille displays to interact with the online platform. They had the opportunity to observe students using both the BrailleSense Polaris and BrailleNote Touch.

Staff and students were thanked for their time, assistance and good humour. In particular Di Bennet's support with the technology and her feedback regarding the functionality issues between braille devices and the NAPLAN Online Platform were well-received and much appreciated.

I'd like to thank everyone who assisted, in particular the four students (see photo below) who participated. Thanks to Sarah Hayman and Michael Kelly who ensured that the technology was connected to the SVRC internet. Thanks also to Lea Nagel and Emma Hall who were able to timetable the students to participate in the study. (Ed)



Photos above: Expo displays from Pacific Vision, Braille Tactile Signs, Quantum RLV and Guide Dogs Victoria.

Photo left: student using his Polaris to access NAPLAN online.

Blind Sports & Recreation News

Active Teens Program

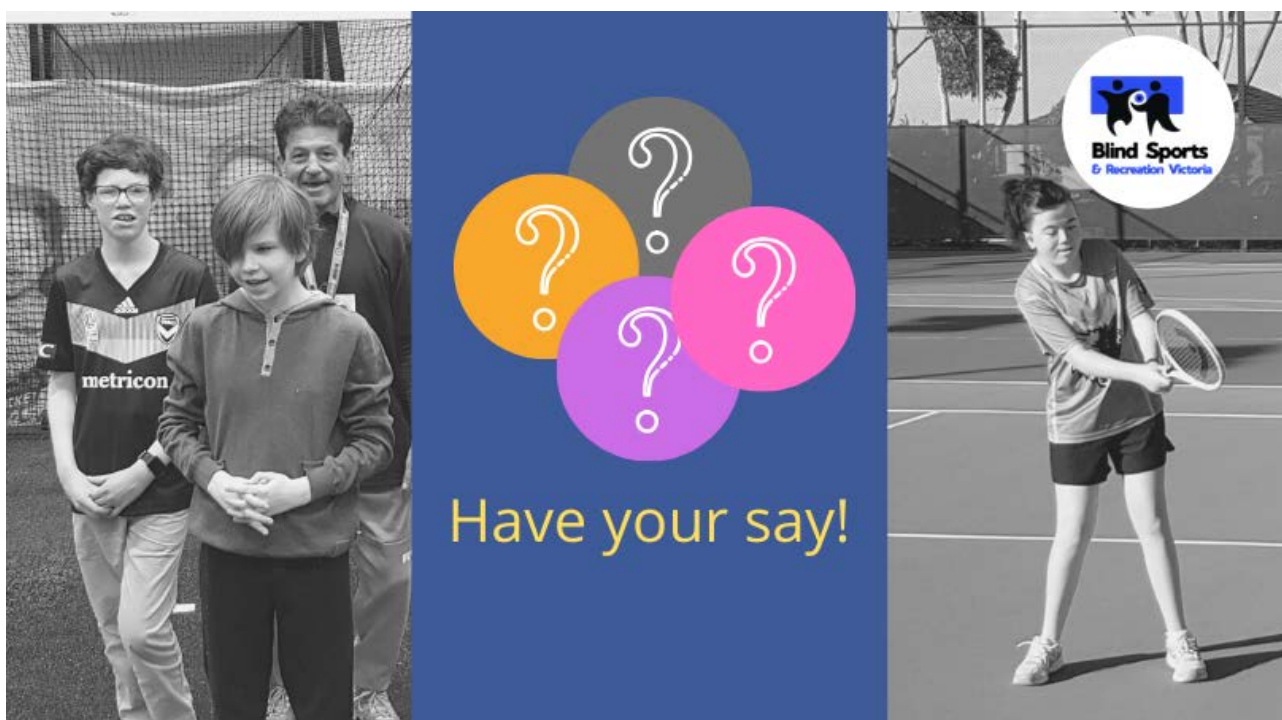
Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria Active Teens program needs your help!

In January and February 2020 we will be running a NATIONAL online survey to better understand the needs of families and teenagers to engage with meaningful sport and recreation opportunities. Please fill out the survey and go into the draw to win 1 of 10 gift vouchers worth \$80!

We are looking for parents of teenagers 12 to 17 years of age who are blind or have low vision, to undertake the survey which should take 10 to 15 minutes of your time.

To register your interest, email: activeteens@blindsports.org.au

Teenagers do not need to have any previous experience participating in any blind or low vision sports for families to be engaged in the research, and families can live anywhere in Australia.



What's New in 2020

Source: Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria Newsletter, December 2019

In 2020, BSRV plan to roll out some great new Active Teens programs -but we would love to hear from Victorian families to tell us what your teen wants, and where you want it!

In 2020, BSRV will be developing gymnastics programs targeting teens who are blind or have low vision in partnership with Gymnastics Victoria. This will be in addition to the current junior program at Essendon-Keilor Gymnastics Academy. BSRV will also create brand new tennis, football and gym-based programs in new areas of Melbourne, including an ongoing tennis program in Geelong (watch this space!).

If you know a teen who is blind or has low vision and you want to discuss opportunities to engage in blind or low vision sports, please contact Allie at activeteens@blindsports.org.au, or call 9864 9643 and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Support Skills Quickie Quiz 2019

As part of the festivities on the last day of Support Skills for 2019, we held The (annual) Quiz! Below is a selection of questions (left column) and answers (right column). Good luck!

1. Who from the vision impaired community was nominated for Senior Victorian of the Year in 2019?	Garry Stinchcombe
2. How many students with vision impairments are there in Victoria?	573
3. What does O&M stand for?	Orientation and Mobility
4. When using a knife, what is a safe cutting technique?	bridge technique or umbrella technique
5. Name three technologies that can support O&M?	Microsoft Soundscape, BlindSquare, Victor Reader Trek, Google Maps, Apple Maps (and more)
6. What does TGSi stand for?	Tactile Ground Surface Indicator
7. In Microsoft Word, what key combination do you use to switch between documents and applications?	Alt + Tab
8. In Word, what keystroke can you use to move forward one word at a time?	Ctrl + Right Arrow
9. How do you unlock an iPad with no home button and voice over on?	Click power button; drag finger up from the bottom of the screen and listen for two 'blup' sounds.
10. What two letters are referred to as the "home keys" when you're touch typing?	F and J
11. Using Zoomtext, how do you change the level of magnification?	CAPS + arrow up or down
12. How many iPads are currently on loan from the SVRC equipment library?	283
13. What is a double bar line in braille music?	gh k
14. Which city will hold the 2020 Summer Olympic Games?	Tokyo
15. Name the 4 teams in AFL Blind league?	Bombers (Essendon), Hawthorn, St Kilda, Western Bulldogs
16. Which team won the AFL Blind Grand Final in 2019?	Hawthorn
17. How many bases in beep baseball?	2
18. Which SSP staff member uses more toilet paper than any other staff member?	Geoff (in his Social Skills sessions!)

Braille Fail

I wonder if anyone can help us decipher the following braille, found in high school lift ...

We've tried turning them upside-down and sideways ... to no avail! Suggestions welcome!



Student News

One Victorian student has created an absolutely lovely “swing top” with raw edges.

She had the choice of screen printing onto her top to decorate or to do cut and slash. She chose cut and slash which looks great. She did all the sewing herself. Nice work!



Staff News

Our colleague **Emily White** has completed her PhD and she attended her graduation ceremony last Friday. See below for her radiant smile and her graduation costume! Huge congratulations to Emily from us all at SVRC

And we took the opportunity to farewell **Annette Godfrey-Magee** at the recent SVRC Christmas Morning Tea. Annette has worked in the field of VI for many years and she takes with her a HUGE amount of knowledge and skill relating to the educational support of students with vision impairments. Annette, do enjoy your retirement ... but know that you are sadly missed!

Transcription News

This time last year, we'd received 284 requests for materials in alternative format for the following year. To date we have 600+ requests for materials for 2020. I am not quite sure what these statistics are showing us ... but it does seem interesting. (Ed)

Finally

Last school week of 2019 and what a year it has been!

Transcription staff will be in over the holidays banging out those dots, drawing those diagrams, etexting those texts & novels and generally working hard to make sure your students and their learning materials in alternative format can hit the ground running on the first day of term 1, 2020.

You are most welcome to visit during the school holidays, but please phone first: 9841 0242!

– Deb Lewis (Ed) lewis.debra.d@edumail.vic.gov.au





Education
and Training



Statewide Vision Resource Centre
presents

Educational Support for Blind Students

Tuesday 11 February 2020 from 9.00am to 3.30pm
(Registration from 8.30am)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

Parking: Lower car park – next door at the Donvale Sports Complex

For: Teachers, integration staff, therapists, family members and Visiting Teachers

PROGRAM

8.30	Registration
9.00	Seeing With Our Fingers Simulations of a vision impairment – Staff of SVRC
10.00	Welcome, Overview – Marion Blazé
10.35	Living with Braille – Jordie Howell
11.05	Morning Tea
11.20	Success at School: Technology – Lea Nagel
12.00	iPad Apps – Deb Davidson
12.30	Lunch
1.15	<p>Concurrent Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Around – Staff of Guide Dogs Victoria <p>Please select from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Braille Intro: alphabet and numbers – Marion Blazé <input type="checkbox"/> iPad with VoiceOver: – Deb Davidson <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible Format How To: What Why How? – Di Bennett, VT Vision
2.45	The Vision Impaired Student in Your Classroom – Individual, Social and Family Perspectives – Geoff Bowen
3.15	Let's Hear it from a Student - Ben
3.30	Close

Cost (GST incl.): \$92.00 per participant

Visiting Teachers or family members: \$70.00

Payment includes a light lunch (please bring your own fruit)

Online registration is essential: please visit the SVRC website

For further details: phone 9841 0242

For parking and public transport information, please see the SVRC website: svrc.vic.edu.au



Education
and Training



Statewide Vision Resource Centre
presents

Educational Support for Students with Low Vision

Tuesday 18 OR 25 February 2020 from 9.00am to 3.30pm
(Registration from 8.30am)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

Parking: Lower car park – next door at the Donvale Sports Complex

For: Teachers, integration staff, therapists, family members and Visiting Teachers

PROGRAM

8.30	Registration
9.00	Seeing with low vision - simulations of a vision impairment – Staff of SVRC
10.20	Welcome, Overview and understanding low vision – Marion Blazé
10.45	Morning Tea
11.05	Strategies to Support the Student with Low Vision – Deb Davidson
11.50	Technology for Success at School – Lea Nagel
12.40	Lunch
1.20	Concurrent Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation and Mobility – Staff of Guide Dogs Victoria • iPad with VoiceOver: – Elise Lonsdale
2.10	The Vision Impaired Student in Your Classroom – Individual, Social and Family Perspectives – Geoff Bowen
3.00	Let's Hear it from a Student
3.30	Close

Cost (GST incl.): \$92.00 per participant (onsite and offsite)

Visiting Teachers or family members: \$70.00

Payment includes a light lunch (please bring your own fruit)

Online registration is essential: please visit the SVRC website

For further details: phone 9841 0242

For parking and public transport information, please see the SVRC website: svrc.vic.edu.au



Education
and Training



Statewide Vision Resource Centre

presents

Educational Support for Students with Vision and Additional Impairments

Tuesday 24th March 2020

9.00am to 3.30pm (Registration from 8.30am)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

Parking: Lower car park – next door at the Donvale Sports Complex

For: Class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, family members and Visiting Teachers

PROGRAM

8.30	Registration
9.00	Simulation of a Vision Impairment – Staff of SVRC
10.15	Vision Impairment – What is it? How do we assess it? – Marion Blazé
10.50	Morning Tea
11.10	Cortical, Optical, Total Vision Impairment: What do they mean for Educators? – Deb Davidson
11.40	Strategies to support students in the Classroom – Marion Blazé
12.20	Concurrent Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactile Literacy – Marion Blazé • iPad for Low Vision users with vision impairments – Deb Davidson
1.10	Lunch – A light lunch will be provided
1.50	Orientation and Mobility – staff of Guide Dogs Victoria
2.30	Challenging Behaviours – Geoff Bowen
3.30	Close

Cost (GST incl.): \$92.00 per participant (onsite and offsite)

Visiting Teachers or family members: \$70.00

Payment includes a light lunch (please bring your own fruit)

Online registration is essential: please visit the SVRC website

For further details: phone 9841 0242

For parking and public transport information, please see the SVRC website: svrc.vic.edu.au

Including Students with Vision Impairments in Physical Education, Recreation and Sport

Presented by Charlie Roberts

Wednesday 11th March 2019, 8:45am - 3:30pm

8.45	Registration
9.00	Welcome & Introduction Open Forum: Share current PE/Rec/Sport practices for inclusion, understanding of vision impairment and reasons for attending/goals for the day.
9.20	Program overview and course materials
9.30	Simulation activities and effective instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience navigation & physical activity under vision impairment simulation, to better understand the implications of vision loss • Explore equipment through activity • Develop teaching strategies and methods for instruction and feedback
10.30	Inclusion & pre-assessment techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What inclusion does and doesn't mean • The role of the Visiting Teacher and Educational Support Staff to support the PE/Sport program • Initial PE-based assessment for appropriate supports • Suggestions for modifying other assessments
11.00	Morning Tea (provided) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and resources on display for browsing
11.30	Childhood vision impairment and physical activity: Implications for teaching and learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common eye conditions and their effect on physical activity, motor skills, learning and independence • Safety considerations
11.50	Equipment demonstration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modified and specialist equipment for students with vision impairment
12.10	Primary and Secondary PE/Sport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program planning & participation: determining appropriate support, equipment needs, activity modifications, alternate activities

1.00	Lunch (provided) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment on display for browsing • Network with other teachers and professionals
1.45	Competition & Blind Sports Info: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interschool Sport for Athletes with a Disability (AWD) and School Sports Victoria • Classifications • Paralympic sports • Blind Sports
2.00	Come n' Try Blind Sports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in two blind sports, your choice of: 2.00pm: Cricket or Swish 2.45pm: Cricket or Goalball.
3:30	Q&A session & end of program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to ask questions

Please wear suitable clothes and shoes for participation in physical activities.

Cost (GST incl.): \$92.00 per onsite participant

Visiting Teachers or family members \$70.00

Payment includes morning tea & a light lunch (please bring your own fruit)

Registration is essential: by Wednesday 26th February 2020

For further details or for an invoice: phone 9841 0242 / email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au

Art4KidswithVI?

What to do with the student who is blind or has low vision in my art room?

Statewide Vision Resource Centre, Donvale

When: 9:00am – 3:30pm Wednesday 13th May 2020

Registration: 8:45am meet **Statewide Vision Resource Centre**

A one day seminar and workshop at SVRC

The seminar will investigate options, strategies and issues related to working with and teaching a student who is blind or has low vision in your art room or classroom art-making session.

The day will include:

Morning: SVRC Support Skills Central room and **Big Space** - information on setting up or adjusting the room to better accommodate your student; issues of access to the visual arts; specialist techniques; budget options; and opportunities for “hands-on” art making; and then,

Afternoon: SVRC Big Space - exploration of works of art under blind-fold: investigating the use of visual description, tactile diagrams and touch access.

8:45 am	Registration and coffee Meet in SVRC Collect participant folders. Label self, please. Tea / coffee – available in Kitchen. Check out some of the displays in Big Space and the “Art Room”
9.00 – 9:20 Big Space	Art under Blindfold Activity No.1 and debrief: What does your student see?
9.20 – 9.30 SSCentral	Brief intro to Blindness, Low Vision, and Art. PPT. How this affects your student.
9.30 – 10.30 SSCentral	Art4KidswithVI in Schools & @SVRC Suggestions for Art-making with students who are blind or have low vision.
10.30 – 11:00 Big Space	Morning Tea and Chat, investigate displays, Art Room.

11.00 – 11:40 Big Space	Art under Blindfold Activity No.2 and debrief: Observational under blindfold using adaptive tools and materials: Raised-line or Tactile Drawing Kits, Crayon on Litho over Wire-boards, Spur-wheels on paper over rubber mats, Wikki-Stix. Aromatic Markers.
11.40 – 12.00 SSCentral	Do Touch the Art – Access to Art in Vic & Beyond PPT plus examples, things to try out.
12.00 – 12.30 Big Space	Designing a tactile image activity: Mystery Art Work Drawing on Swell or stereo-copy paper with markers. Plan on plain paper first. (Typically, work would be prepared on plain paper & then photocopied onto stereocopy paper).
12:30 – 1:30 Big Space	Lunch Catered: wraps/sandwiches/etc & tea/coffee.
1:30 – 3.00 Big Space	Art under Blindfold Activity No.3: Encountering tabletop domestic artworks/sculptures, plus visual- describing, modelling with plasticine and debrief.
3.00 – 3:30	Summary and Final Q & A Please ensure you have filled in evaluation form and returned prior to departure. Thank you. Michael and SVRC staff

Cost (GST incl.): \$92.00 per participant

Visiting Teachers or family members: \$70.00

Payment includes a light lunch (please bring your own fruit)

Online registration is essential: please visit the SVRC website and register by April 29,
2020

For further details: phone 9841 0242

For parking and public transport information, please see the SVRC website:
svrc.vic.edu.au