

Number 19, Friday 27th November, 2020

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PD events

The 2021 [Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available on the SVRC website. Most professional learning will continue to be online. Events will be added to Eventbrite in coming weeks.

Tuesday Feb 2 **Introduction to support for Visiting Teachers (Vision) from SVRC**

Supporting new Victorian Visiting Teachers (Vision) to implement effective strategies to promote inclusion in the schools they support.

Tuesday Feb 9 **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.

Tuesday Feb 16 **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.

Tuesday Feb 24 **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.

Contacting and visiting SVRC

SVRC staff continue to work from home some of the time. Email is still the best way to contact staff directly. You can ring SVRC on (03) 9841 0242, and a message will be passed on to the person you want to talk to. Staff are often onsite, but please confirm there will be people around before coming to visit.

Online Expo and Writing Competition

From: Kim Foley, SVRC Manager

As our number one priority was the safety and well-being of our community, and in line with COVID safe guidelines, the annual SVRC Expo was held on the 24th of November online via ZOOM. Exhibitors from HumanWare, Guide Dogs Victoria, Vision Australia-Vision Store, childsPly, Quantum RLV, Monash University, Pacific Vision and NV Access held presentations and discussions throughout the day in separate breakout rooms. Ninety-nine participants registered from across Victoria, Australia and even some from overseas.

I would like to formally thank Sarah Hayman, Michael Kelly and Naomi Thompson for organizing a very successful Expo, even with the constraints of COVID-19 restrictions. The overall feedback on the day was very positive with the seamless ability to virtually move in and out of breakout rooms allowing participants to navigate and explore the different exhibitors and their presentations.

Eight students submitted entries into the annual SVRC Writing Competition. Thank you to Brooke Fairley for organizing and collating the Writing Competition entries. Each student will receive an award in the post for their writing entries.

The results from the judges are:

Charlotte M – 8 y/o Award for Imaginative Writing

Charlotte, your writing is clear, concise and wonderfully imaginative. Your wish for a unicorn that will grant you more wishes shows strategic thinking and cleverness. Great job. We hope your wishes come true.

Lachlan K – Award for Documentation of Outdoor Activities

Lachlan, your writing clearly expresses your interest and skills in mechanics, Go Karting and fishing. Good work managing that broken brake cable. Great job. We hope your wishes come true.

Jasmine T – 15 y/o Award for Writing with Empathy

Jasmine, your writing is empathetic, selfless and your wishes warmly express your love for your family. Great job. We hope your wishes come true.

Anita P – Award for Commitment to Music

Anita, your writing clearly demonstrates your passion, knowledge and commitment to music. You are an irreplaceable addition to the music community. Great job. We hope your wishes come true.

Amelia C – 10 y/o Award for Writing with Strength and Optimism

Amelia, you have crafted a bold piece of writing. Your observations are timely and your wishes are wonderfully optimistic. Great job. We hope your wishes come true.

Kaitlyn N – Award for Writing with Selflessness and Care

Kaitlyn, your wishes are written with clarity and order, and displays your appreciation of your family and pets. Great job. We hope your wishes come true.

Phoebe B – 12 y/o Award for Inspirational Writing

Phoebe, your writing is poetic and clear and your wishes display a goal-orientated mind. Great job. We hope your wishes come true.

SSP Survey Reminder

From: Di Bennett, SSP

A call to all Support Skills Program parents, students and VTs to complete the SSP Survey.

Blind Cricket is coming



Where: Your local area

Date: Jan 23 – Feb 27 2021

For more information please contact: Daniel – 0422 533 289 – siren_guy@hotmail.com

Victor Reader Trek 2.1 Discovery Webinar

From: Humanware

As many of you may be aware, the new software update for the Victor Reader Trek is now live! We would like to invite you and all Victor Reader Trek lovers to join us in learning about the new and exciting features offered by this version in a live webinar hosted by our Product Management team! Participants will experience an in-depth look at the new methods of map management, as well as map browsing mode. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar

Topic: Victor Reader Trek 2.1 Discovery Webinar

Tuesday, December 9th, 2020 at 11:00 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time

Please [click here to register for this webinar](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

BindiMaps: Revolutionary, Legendary

From: Cassie Embling, BindiMaps

I feel embarrassed to admit it, but when I am out and about I limit the amount of water I drink because I worry about finding the bathroom when I need it. It's crazy to think about it that way, but it is a subconscious decision I make because of the challenges of navigating unfamiliar and complex indoor spaces. Other times it's more of a calculated decision. Last year a good friend of mine (who is also blind) and I ummed and ahed about going to the MCG on her birthday to watch the Aussies take on New Zealand in the Boxing Day Test. In the end we decided against it because we worried about finding our seats, the bathroom, the bar, etc. Five years ago, I couldn't think of anything more torturous than a full day of sitting on an uncomfortable seat in the sun watching the batsmen run back and forwards, back and forwards for hours on end. But along with my new-found love of cricket (Granddad would be proud) comes the realisation that even strong O&M skills and a can-do attitude can't convince me to tackle the MCG independently. While watching the test on the couch in air-conditioned comfort and remaining hydrated probably sounds like a much more attractive option for many of you, it felt like a bit of a let-down after we had talked for so long about spending her birthday at the 'G' together.

I love the NDIS for allowing me to employ support workers. But sometimes I just want to spend the day with my friend. Plus, I can't be spontaneous when I need to schedule a time with a support worker in advance. I also love Braille signs. But they're not much help if I don't know they are there.

I crave the day when I can wander around a shopping centre or sports stadium easily and independently. I would love to have control over when and how I get to the gate lounge without having to rely on airport staff. And I would love to be able to maintain my privacy by navigating to medical appointments independently. I realise I am starting to sound a little downtrodden, and that is certainly not my intention. In fact, I am dreaming of all the ways BindiMaps can change my life.

BindiMaps is a smart phone navigation app for the indoors, and it's fully accessible! When I am in a BindiMaps location, I open the app and it immediately pinpoints my location and tells me what's around. I can browse a list of locations or search for a specific destination. Then, the app will provide step-by-step directions to guide me there. And very importantly, it can tell me which coffee shop is the closest! I am always excited to see the BindiMaps newsletter land in my inbox so I can find out about new locations and new app features. It really is the game-changer I needed, and I can't help but imagine a time when every indoor space is accessible.

Teens Get Active!

From: Blind Sport Victoria & Recreation Victoria

Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria invite 12-18 year olds who are blind or vision impaired to two exciting FREE zoom workshops this December.

Personal Training with Lauren Harken

Monday 7th December 2020, 5-6pm, no special equipment required

Beats and Rhythm with Melbourne Djembe!

Monday 14th December 2020, 5-6pm, listen and learn about African drumming and try it yourself on a table or hire a drum from Coburg North location.

Please RSVP to Miriam on (03) 98228876 or email miriam@blindsports.org.au

And finally ...

A quick fact for you. The biggest braille book SVRC produced this year was a Year 12 Maths book. 2,616 braille pages, 721 diagrams, 43 volumes!