

Number 4, Friday 19 March, 2021

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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 are now on Eventbrite.

Wednesday Apr 28 **Teaching and learning with Braille music**

Providing practical strategies for music teachers to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind.

Wednesday May 12 **Including students who are blind or have low vision in art**

Providing practical strategies that teachers can use in their art classes to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind or partially sighted.

SVRC News

From: Kim Foley, Manager, SVRC

Website Launch

Over the last six months, SVRC has engaged two companies to upgrade our website. Phase One of the upgrade was to ensure accessibility for our blind and low vision community. Phase Two was to choose a platform that would allow greater efficiency in uploading and editing of the website. In the coming weeks, we are excited to be launching into our new look platform. The content and accessibility of the website will remain the same with a different visual appearance. We would value your feedback on the positives and challenges of accessing the new website to assist us in its ongoing improvement.

Visiting Teacher Community of Practice

For the first session of the Visiting Teacher (VT) Community of Practice for 2021, we will be partnering with Vision Australia (VA) to participate in a one hour training session about using LEGO Braille Bricks. Teachers from the Department of Education Tasmania will be joining us on the day. A gentle reminder to VTs to register your attendance via the VA link previously emailed to you. SVRC will be distributing the LEGO Braille Bricks for every student who is attending a government school and is currently learning braille, via a request through the Equipment Library. VT participation in the training is a vital part of the rollout of the LEGO Braille Bricks.

Harmony Week and Cultural Diversity Week

This week DET celebrated Harmony Week, and next week we celebrate Cultural Diversity Week. Both are fantastic opportunities for us to celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity that exists within the Victorian community, as well as recognising how vital cultural diversity is to the work we do in helping foster a smarter, fairer and more prosperous Victoria.

SVRC will continue to uphold the DET Values with a commitment to foster and maintain a safe and inclusive work environment. We must continue to challenge each other and note instances where we observe inappropriate behaviours to ensure unconscious bias does not guide our decision-making and impact our organisational health and wellbeing. We must also continue to celebrate our achievements and empathetically support our colleagues who face challenges.

Visiting SVRC

With things back to some kind of normality, SVRC is open each weekday, and it has been great to have visitors back in the building. However, not all staff are on-site on any particular day. To avoid disappointment it's best to email or call ahead to make sure the person you want to visit is here.

SVRC Covid Time Capsule

From: Olivia Muscat, SSP

Last year, in the midst of support skills online, we began collecting pieces of writing by students detailing their personal experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic. Online learning, lockdown, support skills, anything to record the historical time we're living through.

We had reflections, poems, letters, diary entries, but we're still looking for more. So, if any students have pieces of writing they'd like to submit, or would like to write a contribution, please forward them to olivia.muscat@education.vic.gov.au.

And, if any students would like to bring in physical items that represent the year 2020 and living through a pandemic, to make our time capsule a more tactile experience, we will happily accept them as well! The more contributions we have, the more interesting and historically varied our time capsule will be!



DET & Dropbox

Staff at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre have been in the habit of sharing files such as PDFs and other electronic text for student use via Dropbox as it has been quick and efficient to share large files and/or multiple files via one email.

Of late however, when attempting to use Dropbox, recipients with @education email addresses have received the following warning:

[WARNING] This message contains a link to a file sharing site such as Dropbox ... Dropbox, Box and other file sharing sites are frequently used by cyber criminals to include links in emails to orchestrate malicious phishing attacks such as providing fake invoices. If you were not expecting this email, delete it immediately without clicking links or forwarding on email. If you know and trust the sender and have confirmed with the sender that this email is legitimate you can obtain access to the original URL by following these steps ..."

Further advice from DET Helpdesk included the following:

"Dropbox is not a file-sharing solution or storage repository that (is supported or endorsed by the Department of Education and Training)". The use of MS OneDrive for sharing or transferring information or files within the Department was recommended. "MS OneDrive is a more secure solution that can be used internally within the Department of Education & Training to share files from colleague to colleague."

RIDBC Renwick Centre 2021

From: Phia Damsma and Francis Gentle, SPEVI

SPEVI is once again offering member discounts for RIDBC Renwick Centre's Continuing professional education (CPE) events in 2021. Each member is entitled to two discount event registrations.

If you are not a current member of SPEVI, please visit the SPEVI website to join online and immediately benefit from these member discounts. SPEVI membership is for two years, commencing from the date of joining. If you are unsure if you are a current member of SPEVI, please contact the membership secretary at membership.spevi@gmail.com.

Members can register for any of the following events in Vision Impairment education by visiting the RIDBC Short Courses website.

1. Cay Holbrook – Learning Media Assessment (31 March - full day) Full Registration price \$150; SPEVI member discount registration \$100
2. Josie Howse – Braille mathematics (28 April – full day) Full Registration price \$200; SPEVI member discount registration \$150
3. Sue Silveira – Blind and Low Vision Master Series (6 sessions across the year) Full Registration price \$200; SPEVI member discount registration \$150
4. Emily White – Accessible assessment and teaching technology use to students who are blind or have low vision (June 17 – full day) Full Registration price \$200; SPEVI member discount registration \$150
5. Charlie Roberts – Mathematics workshop supporting access and inclusion for students with VI (June 18 – full day) Full Registration price \$100; SPEVI member discount registration \$75
6. VISCON conference (Aug 19 – 20 – full days) Full Registration price \$250; SPEVI member discount registration \$225

We recommend you to book early, as the SPEVI Committee of Management has set an upper limit of funds for the discount event registrations.

With thanks to RIDBC Renwick Centre for supporting SPEVI's aim of encouraging the highest standards in the educators of persons with vision impairment by promoting research and professional training for general and specialist teachers.

2021 Virtual Round Table

From: Marjorie Hawkings, Round Table Conference Planner

Around the conference theme “Information Access – Innovation and Collaboration”, presenters will explore the ever-expanding opportunities presented to people with print disabilities for information access and creation, communication and learning.

We are excited to confirm our Keynote speakers:

- Alex Lockie, Toyota Mobility for All.
- Troy Waller, Inclusive Technology Design to Support Students with Print Disabilities.

Don't miss feature speakers:

- Dr Agata Mrva-Montoya, Sydney University Press' Journey to Accessible Publishing.
- Jeff Cooke and Garry Foran, Sonification.
- John Simpson, AM, A snapshot on where we are with audio description and what are the next steps.

Dates

- Conference Proper – Monday, 17 May to Tuesday, 18 May 2021.
- Tutorial and Workshops - Wednesday, 19 May 2021.
- Round Table AGM – Wednesday, 19 May 2021 at 4:00pm AEST.

In addition the Australian Braille Authority (ABA) Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, 15 May.

Registrations

Round Table is an on-line registration system and is available as a link from the 2021 Round Table Conference registration page on the Round Table website.

Should you require assistance completing the on-line registration form, or have any feedback that may improve the experience for those using the form please do not hesitate to contact me.

Conference Updates

Conference updates will be posted to the 2021 conference page on the Round Table website and Round Table mailing list.

