

The Bulletin

Number 12, Friday 1st August 2014

Professional Development Activities for Term 3-4, 2014

Fliers for the SVRC Professional Learning programs can be downloaded from the SVRC website.

Please note: the SVRC encourages attendance in person or via video link – please be in touch if you'd like to “virtually” attend any of these sessions.

Event	Date
Skill Power Workshops 9.30 to 11.00 – BrailleNote 11.30 to 1.00 – iPad with VoiceOver 1.30 to 3.30 – iPad as a Visual Display for the BrailleNote BYO technology, lunch not supplied, attendance free Sessions will be conducted by Garry Stinchcombe, Emily White and Thanh, a blind year 5 student and ‘high-end’ technology user!	Wednesday 6 August Please register for the sessions you want
Assistive Technologies for Supporting Students with Vision and Additional Needs – 2 day seminar at VDEI (information in Bulletin 11)	Thursday 7 August & Friday 8 August
Including Students with a Vision Impairments in Physical Education, Recreation and Sport	Tuesday 11 August
Skill Power Workshops – Please request a session	Wednesday 20 August
Dot Power – for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3	Tuesday 9 September
Space Camp – Huntsville, Alabama	20-25 September
No SPEVI Day this year Please come to the SPEVI Conference instead!	Not this year!
Dot Power – for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3	Tuesday 18 November
Educational Expo for Students with Vision Impairments	Monday 24 November
Xmas Morning Tea – all invited – please RSVP	Wednesday 3 December

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SPEVI Conference – Update

The call for papers has attracted interest from educators, rehabilitators, mobility instructors, parents, researchers, and more. The program committee are in the process of pulling the program together and sorting the abstracts into topics/streams ready to release the program.

This is shaping up to be a GREAT conference. Please start talking to parents about coming, too. The purpose of the theme aims to get everyone together to shape the educational future for students with vision impairment.

Currently DEECD has been most generous and is the major sponsor for this conference. This will hopefully

make it a more affordable conference for everyone, including parents. We are still seeking further sponsorship, so do let the committee know if you have any ideas about this.

Meanwhile, SPEVI bear is exploring Melbourne. Here he is in front of the Yarra River. Look out for SPEVI bear in the next issue of The Bulletin. Who knows where he might pop up!

Registrations will be open in about 3 weeks, and a reminder that early bird registration will be due by November 10.

One of the KeyNote speakers is **Karen Wolffe** (Ph.D., CRC)

Dr Wolffe currently manages a private practice as a career counselor and consultant in Austin, Texas. She is the former American Foundation for the Blind Director of Professional Development and has experience teaching at the University of Texas, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Salus University (formerly Pennsylvania College of Optometry), and Hadley School for the Blind.

She is the author of *Career Counselling for People with Disabilities: A Practical Guide to Finding Employment*, *Pre-Employment Programme Trainer's Manual*, *The Transition Tote System: Navigating the Rapids of Life*, and editor of *Skills for Success: A Career Education Handbook for Children and Youth with Visual Impairments*. She co-authored *Transition Issues for Students with Visual Disabilities*, the *Focused on ... Social Skills* series, and *Teaching Social Skills to Students with Visual Impairments*. She has published numerous chapters as well as articles in *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, *Insight*, *The Educator*, *Journal of Rehabilitation*, and other significant journals based on her work in education and rehabilitation settings.

Dr. Wolffe has worked for over 30 years as a special educator and counsellor with people who are blind or visually impaired, their parents and families, and the professionals who serve them. She has lectured extensively both nationally and internationally. Her research and writing interests include the importance of career education, social skills development, transition issues, employment for people with disabilities, and literacy in the workplace.

Support Skills Try Day – November 7, 2014

We are calling for Expression of Interest for the SSP Try Day which will be held on November 7th. Please see the Try Day Flyer which we would ask Visiting Teachers and other professionals to pass on to any prospective Students/Families.

The half day Try Day format suits the younger students so if you have an older student, Year 7 and above, we would look to include these students in one of our regular programs in the second half of this year.

To register for the Try Day please ask families to go to the SVRC Website and under Education Programs they will find an Expression of Interest Form. This should be filled out and returned to the SVRC by 29 October at the latest – the earlier we receive these, the better.

If families or Visiting Teachers have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Garry at the SVRC Tuesday to Friday (03) 9841 0242.

Many thanks, Garry Stinchcombe

Vision Australia TEXPO 2014 – Kooyong October 10 & 11, 2014

Texpo is an annual event organised by Vision Australia that showcases the latest in products and services that can assist people who are blind or have low vision.

With a wide range of Australian and international technology suppliers exhibiting their products, it is a great chance to see all the different models and brands in the one location. Texpo features presentations on key topics about emerging trends in technology such as high definition magnification, tablet computers, the world of apps and accessibility, the joy of reading with ebooks and, this year, even advancements in cooking technology for those budding master chefs.

Texpo is a free event open to the general public. It is well attended by people who are blind or have low vision and their friends and family, people who work in the disability and aged-care sectors, employers, government representatives – virtually anyone with an interest in learning more about blindness and low vision.

The event, which in the past had been held in September, is moving to October. This will enable Vision Australia to leverage two well-established awareness days, World Sight Day and White Cane Day, and create a “Vision Week” to promote services and the event more broadly within the community.

In addition, the event will be conducted over two locations, annually, on a rotating basis. The 2014 Texpo will be at Kooyong on 10/11 October and Enfield (NSW) on 17/18 October.

National Partnership Equipment

Are your students finding the NP equipment useful? If not, there are two things VTs can do:

1. Facilitate some extra training so students know how to make use of their technology, or
2. Consider returning equipment to SVRC for re-allocation.

Please also let SVRC know if students with NP equipment have changed schools. We have a legal obligation to keep accurate records of where the equipment is located.

Calling all Space Campers – Past and Present

Reunion August 17, 2014

“Just because I can’t see the stars doesn’t mean I can’t reach for them.”

2014 is the 25th anniversary of SCIVIS and we are having a party/reunion to celebrate in Melbourne. Please contact any DEECD or RVIB students or staff who were part of the Victorian teams to Space Camp since 1998. We do not have many current contacts so please use Facebook, email and phone to spread the word. We want to make a photobook and send messages to Dan Oates so please come and catch up with your team and party. It will also be a send-off for our 10th team to visit SCIVIS (2014 students: Declan, Aaron, Rohan, Tom, Geordie) Partners and Families welcome.

Date: Sunday 17th August 2014

Time: 12 noon – 4 pm

Location: The Party Room Pancake Parlor, Centrepoint Arcade, Bourke Street Mall, Melbourne. (Down the escalators, between Sportsgirl and Jetty Surf)

Cost: \$25 including main, dessert and drink

RSVP: Essential by 14th August 2014 to Jeni Blake 0428 134 660 with name and numbers attending.

Network for Parents of Vision Impaired Children, Victoria

This group is continuing to grow and now has 38 families on the contact list from around Victoria. We share information about events, websites and social pages that provide further support and we meet four times a year.

The next meeting for our network will be hosted by the Swish group, at Vision Australia Kooyong – in the main building with easy access in bad weather.

Someone will be available again to supervise the fun for school aged children (and parents) at the Swish tables (a vision impaired sport, similar to table tennis) in the adjoining space and the little ones will still be able to play in the morning tea area.

Come along, enjoy the company and if you wish, a family game of Swish!

Date/Time: Sunday 31st August, 10:30 to 12.00 (morning tea provided).

Venue: Vision Australia, Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong. Entry via RED door at front

Who: Parents, VI babies, toddlers, children, teenagers and siblings.

Convenor: Sandra George (Grandparent of a 3 year old who is VI)

If you can – RSVP Sandra before the event.

If parents are interested in joining our network or just being added to the contact list, they can email sandrageorge47@gmail.com (or phone 0421058882 and leave a message).

Let her know:

- the area where you live and the age of your child/children
- whether you are able to meet during the week, at weekends or both.

At present we have families from all over Melbourne, the Peninsula and a couple from the country. The first 2 meetings have been on a Sunday in Melbourne by majority request, but if demand arises there could be other groups, especially in country areas.

Have you heard about 'Blind Sports Radio'?

<http://www.blindsportsradio.com/>

"Blind Sports Radio (BSR) is now officially up and running, and we'd like to welcome you to our shiny new website and we hope that you'll enjoy what's inside as much as we have loved bringing it to you.

So what is BSR?

BSR, or (Blind Sports Radio) is an online radio station run by Tony Telfer and Marco Curralejo, broadcasting local, national and international blind related sport online. Sports BSR is looking at covering blind cricket, goalball and swish, but we are not limited to only these sports and we are certainly happy to take enquiries from interested blind sports organisations or bodies who wish to have their particular sport considered to be broadcast.

In its infancy, BSR commenced in 2012 with some local blind cricket broadcasts from Kooyong, Victoria, of the VBCA grand final and a few other VBCA functions and local matches.

In 2013, BSR stepped it up a notch with the broadcast of the VBCA grand final, the 92nd VBCA Presentation Night, as well as the swish nationals in Melbourne in late July, which was followed by the Keilor Park v. VBCA match from the Keilor Park ground, as well as a match from Woy Woy between their local side and the NSW blind cricket team, and most recently, our major online broadcast was the 32nd blind cricket nationals, which ran from the 29th of December 2013 until the 7th of January 2014. This event saw BSR really step it up a notch by showcasing how popular and important blind sports broadcasts online really are, and you, our listeners, played a major part in making it such a memorable week and a half of online broadcasting.

In recent times, BSR have broadcast a selection of blind cricket and goalball local championships and tournaments, as well as the blind Aussie golf open and the blind golf world championships, which further assisted our station to lift its profile to a growing wider audience.

We currently feature two shows other than our live sports coverage, which are broadcast regularly on BSR.

Balls And All, hosted by Marco Curralejo, Hamish Mackenzie and Peter Loh, aims to interview blind sports people from all over the world. The show is open to anyone and any blind sport coming on air and introducing our listeners to their sport and how it's played. Balls And All certainly encourages those coming on to promote their sport and hopefully attract further participation amongst the wider blind community.

Around The Bar With Buddha is our other main show. Hosted by Tony Telfer (Buddha), this show covers a wide array of sport, bringing listeners results, statistics and general chatter with regular and not-so-regular panelists. This show does concentrate on some blind sport, but mainly covers mainstream sports, including AFL, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Soccer.

Please feel free to check out our [previous broadcasts archive page](#) for some of the fantastic shows that have been on recently, as well as our [on air schedule](#) for a list of shows and events coming up.

August is ES MONTH – please find a moment to thank the production staff at SVRC

The Australian Education Union has nominated August as the month to especially recognise and celebrate the contribution of Education Support staff to all schools. As well as expressing a special 'thank you' to ES staff in your schools, we'd love you to also take a moment during August to think about the contribution the SVRC production team makes in support of your students and schools. Feel free to email, telephone or have a quick word when you are in. The AEU also has ES Month events and ideas listed on their website at www.aeu.asn.au/esmonth.

The Eni Puzzle – A game Emily discovered while in the US

What is the Eni puzzle?

The Eni puzzle is math without numbers. By arranging the coloured tiles into patterns, the fundamental tools of math are being used. The sequencing and pattern recognition are keys to basic mathematics and building blocks of creativity. In the early stages of using the puzzle, simple pattern recognition teaches how to manipulate the empty space. As the puzzle advances and the empty space is more easily accounted, the puzzle becomes more of a drawing tool for creativity to exercise new patterns created by its user. The more tiles in the puzzle, the more opportunity to create complex designs with one empty space. There is no "one-set-solution". There are a multitude of solutions.



How it Works:

The basic shape of the Eni puzzle is cylindrical. The cylinder is divided by several "ring-shape sections". These sections can rotate independently. Each ring section includes multi-individual parts, with one piece missing. These parts can travel along each ring by using the missing piece (empty space). By rotating and sliding the pieces in and out of the empty space, a multitude of solutions is possible. *The object of the puzzle is to place the tiles into patterns by making the rotating and sliding moves that manipulate the empty space.* The difficulty of the game is very normal and medial. This is a real puzzle that can be solved without knowing a pre-set of moves. There is no algorithm, this is a problem-solving challenge; just like a jigsaw or Sudoku puzzle. No batteries required!

The idea is to create colour patterns... the more experienced you get, the more creative you can become. The following are a few suggestions to get started:

See more at www.enipuzzles.com

News

- **Deb Lewis** will be on leave for Term 3.
- **Maria Elford** (Head of Braille at SVRC) will be away for August (she's off on a cruise!!), so all communications should go through Dianne Skillern – diannesk@svrc.vic.edu.au

AND...

- **Taryn Shilcock is getting married!** Taryn is marrying Adrian on November 3, 2014 at Airlie Beach in the Whitsundays. She will then honeymoon on Daydream Island. Come on in to SVRC and get a closer look at her ring! WooHoo!!! SVRC is all a-buzz with wedding plans!



Finally

The editor, Marion Blazé, would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this issue of The Bulletin, and in particular Garry Stinchcombe and Emily White.