

# The Bulletin

Number 15, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 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.

- Leaving Melbourne September 13 and returning September 28 **Space Camp** – Huntsville, Alabama. Bon Voyage to Geordie, Steve, Aaron, Rohan, Thomas, Declan, Jeni and Myriam!!! Have a blast!
- October 10 & 11 **Vision Australia TEXPO – Kooyong**
- November 7 **Support Skills Try Day**
- Tuesday 18 November **Dot Power** – for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3
- Monday 24 November **Educational Expo for Students with Vision Impairments**
- Wednesday 3 December **Xmas Morning Tea – all invited – but please RSVP**

**PD Program for 2015** – we're setting dates now for next year so please contact us with your input!

## SPEVI Conference

SPEVI Bear had a fabulous time at DOT POWER DAY this week. After a day spent learning all about braille reading and writing, here he is with Ben and Phoebe in the parachute trying not to get blown away.

Registration for SPEVI Conference 2015 is now open! The registration brochure and further conference information is available (PDF or text) on the SPEVI website. Early-bird discount is available until 10 November 2014. Like on Facebook and share to spread the word!



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## Dot Power Day report

By Marion Blazé

Dot Power Day on Tuesday 9 September at SVRC was fantastic fun as always. Ten children (pre-school to Year 2) and 17 adults attended the day with the theme 'All about me and my friends' including some statistics and graphing. The braille reading, writing and tactile graphics activities all centred around finding out about ourselves and our friends, sameness and difference, tallying up the discoveries and graphing the results. We had human graphs, tactile graphs, sticker graphs, horizontal and vertical bar graphs, graphs on the Perkins and more!



Our audience of parents, aides, and teachers also tallied their observations of the children as they demonstrated their skills and engagement.

One Visiting Teacher commented:



"Dot Power yesterday was great. Both of my students have been experimenting with graphs at school so the focus on this maths concept was spot on. ....

The talk amongst the kids about how the VI/blind kids cope with comments from their peers at school created invaluable discussion amongst the group. It couldn't have been better if you had scripted it!"

Thanks to Emily for most of the 'energy' on the day, Taryn and the braille staff who made lots of materials and all the parents and visitors who support the program by bringing their children and 'networking' on the day.



## Have your vote for 'Sports Woman of the Year'

From MX Magazine, September 11, 2014

Voting is open for *Women's Health* magazine's I Support Women in Sports Awards. Nominees for Sports Woman of the Year include track queen Sally Pearson, swimmer Cate Campbell, Paralympian Jessica Gallagher and snowboarder Torah Bright. Sports journo Megan Hustwaite is nominated in the Person of Sporting Words category.

Vote online at <https://au.lifestyle.yahoo.com/womens-health/women-in-sport/>

## Work Mate: A short film to promote participation of disabled in the workplace

A new short film launched by Australia Post hopes to promote increased participation of people with a disability in the workplace: <http://vimeo.com/98093194>

## Website on Eye Resources

This website was compiled on behalf of the Association of Vision Science Librarians and has mountains of information and links about vision: <http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/eye%2Dhealth/>

## Interesting gadgets on the horizon

From: FYI - Vision Australia Newsletter

An Indian company has developed smart shoes known as Lechal which is Hindi for “take me there”.

Firstly, the user enters their destination into an app on their smart phone which then connects to a device in the back of the shoes via Bluetooth. The right or left shoe will then vibrate signalling to the user when and which way to turn.



It is understood that these shoes will be shipping from March next year at a cost of approximately \$100 to \$150 a pair. Perhaps we won't all be rushing off to make a purchase but surely this is a fascinating development.

Thanks to Garry for alerting us to this new development. As Garry quipped “Knowing my luck they won't have my size!”

Visit: <http://lechal.com/shoes.html>

Picture above shows the side-view of red Lechal shoe with black blue tooth device at the back of the shoe.

## Sit with me, my story, my art, my music

From Janene Sadhu

An exhibition of visual arts and music performances by resident artists of Sacred Heart Mission's Queens Road Rooming House, taking place from 10 September to the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 at the St Kilda Town Hall. Entry to the exhibition will be available from Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

During the exhibition samples of artworks will be accompanied by an audio description available on the City of Port Phillip website. Art work has been created with 5 senses in mind.

The items in this exhibition are lovingly created, original and extremely tactile - accessible art at its best that you'll love being close to.

The St Kilda Town Hall is located at 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda 3182 with entry to the Gallery area via the main Carlisle street entrance.

Accessible parking is available under the St Kilda Town Hall subject to availability – the car park also has lift access to The Gallery. Auslan interpreters will be provided on request.

Further information is available by contacting MetroAccess, who are helping run the exhibition The Phone number is 03 9209 6829

# INSIGHT EDUCATION CENTRE

## Official Opening – September 19, 10.30am

Insight Education Centre for the Blind and Vision Impaired would be delighted if you would join with Insight's students, the Insight Community and guests to celebrate the *Official Opening of Insight's Specialist Primary School*.

**Insight Education Centre for the Blind and Vision Impaired** is a **Centre of Excellence** and **Specialist Primary School** that provides education services for blind and vision impaired students and their families in Victoria. Insight's hub is located at the Monash University campus in Berwick and provides students with the academic and life skills that will enable them to follow their chosen post-school pathway.

**Insight Specialist Primary School** is open to children from Prep to Year 6. Each class has a maximum of 8 students, a specialist teacher, and a trained teacher's aide. Students may enrol full time or as a dual enrolment with a mainstream school.

The **Hugh Williamson Foundation Life Management Program (LMP)** is for both the young person and their family. It is open to all children and young people in Victoria and is available at Insight's hub and as an outreach program (InsightOut) for mainstream students.

InsightOut is Insight's innovative **Mobile Classroom Program** for students in the northern, western and outer suburbs of Melbourne.

Integration of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) and AusVELS ensures that students participate in all academic and vision-specific subjects. All Insight students have a Negotiated Individual Learning Plan (NILP). Insight places a high emphasis on braille literacy as well as advanced assistive technologies. All students are provided with curriculum materials in their preferred format. For more information visit [www.insightvision.org.au](http://www.insightvision.org.au).

## iPads: Warranties and Workshops

Deb Davidson, Visiting Teacher, recently took an iPad still under warranty back to the Apple store and thought this information might be useful for others who may need to do the same.

“It was a relatively simple and quick process to take the device directly to the apple store... at least, it would have been had I known that to see a tech person you need to make an appointment for the ‘genius bar’ and this has to be done online, and you need to provide an apple id at the time of making the booking. I used my own apple id for the booking, but was told that I would need the student's in order to have the device checked. As it happened, they didn't ask for the students at all.

The other thing I found out was that the apple shops offer free accessibility workshops which are apparently seldom booked out. I'll let you know if they are useful as I am thinking of going to one and taking one of my students and his Education Support person.”

Thanks Deb for sharing this information.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

In July 2014, the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) released its first annual progress report. The report concluded that 6,434 participants had been found eligible for the scheme, with 5,414 having an approved plan by the end of March 2014. Positively, the average satisfaction rate amongst these participants was high. The agency has also recruited over 450 staff to date, of which 11% identify as having a disability. (From BCA newsletter)

One of our students is using some of her NDIS money to attend Supports Skills Program. This is a creative and effective way to utilize this money and does not require support from either the staff at the school or the Visiting Teacher to get her to SVRC. The parents value the program and want to encourage their daughter's participation by using the insurance scheme.

## Summary of Legislations Associated with Disability

Gayle Skinner has been diligent and generously in providing the following information and resources associated with the Legislation concerned with Disabilities and Education. This is an excellent summary and one worth passing on schools. The on line Professional Development from Canberra is an excellent program. Many thanks Gayle.

### ***Legislation - Catering for Students with Disabilities - Getting an education***

A person with a disability has a right to study at any educational institution in the same way as any other student. **The Disability Discrimination Act** makes it against the law for an educational authority to discriminate against someone because that person has a disability. This includes all public and private educational institutions, primary and secondary schools, and tertiary institutions such as TAFE, private colleges and universities.

Adapted from Students with Disability Guidelines

- *Inclusive education*, a term that has been used to articulate the rights of every student to participate in, or have access to, the full range of programs and services offered by the education system, supports and celebrates the diversity found among all learners.
- *Guidelines* that link the Victorian Essential Learning Standards to individual program development and assessment for students with disabilities can be found in *The Victorian Essential Learning Standards – Students with Disabilities Guidelines*.
- *Disability Standards* for Education clarify the obligations of education and training providers to ensure that students with disabilities are able to access and participate in education without experiencing discrimination.

## Resources

See the Department of Education's website for further information and resources

## Lesley Hall Scholarship

The Lesley Hall Arts and Disability Scholarship is an annual scholarship offered by Arts Access Victoria (AAV) which recognises the power of the arts to influence social change. It honours the life and activism of the late Lesley Hall, a tireless advocate for the human rights of people with a disability.

Despite the many advances in community inclusion for people with a disability, significant obstacles to the achievement of full and equal participation remain. This scholarship aims to

encourage people with a disability to express the lived experience of disability in a contemporary society through art.

The Lesley Hall Arts and Disability Scholarship wishes to celebrate and nurture advocates with a disability who are passionate about change and whose aspirations align with Lesley Hall's desire for an egalitarian and inclusive community.

The successful applicant will be a person with a disability, with an idea for an artwork or art project that reveals the experience of disability and provokes debate about human rights and disability.

This award will support the successful Scholarship winner to deliver an arts project or artwork that will highlight the experience of disability, promote human rights for people with a disability or advocate for social change.

In addition to a \$3,000 grant, the Scholarship winner will be offered a 12 month internship at AAV, working with mentors to develop their advocacy skills and networks. This is a rare leadership development opportunity.

Applications will **open on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September** and **close on 26<sup>th</sup> September**.

For more information about the scholarship **Tel: 03 96998299**

## **Support Skills Try Day**

The Support Skills Try Day is an opportunity for students to come along to Support Skills for the day and join in the activities. Garry has provided the details below for anyone interested.

**What:** SSP Try Day

**Where:** Statewide Vision Resource Centre

**When:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November

**RSPV:** Closing date Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Further details were included in Edition 12 of the Bulletin.

For more details please contact Garry Stinchcombe (03) 9841 0242

## **Schools Blind Cricket**

The Victorian Blind Cricket Association extends an invitation for all blind and vision impaired primary and secondary school students to attend the 2014 Annual Schools Blind Cricket Programme. This is a great opportunity for students of all ages to attend this introduction / coaching clinic day.

**When:** Saturday 4th October 2014

**Time:**

10:00 am Registration

10:30 am to 3:00 pm (lunch at 12:20 pm younger participants finish at lunch)

**Who:** All blind and vision impaired Primary and Secondary School students

**Where:**

Please meet at Charlie Bradley Cricket Pavilion

Victorian Blind Cricket Association grounds

454 Glenferrie Road Kooyong (at the rear of Vision Australia)

**RSVP by:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Please ring Rod Pritchard by phone on (BH) 8842 5878, (AH) 9754 7308, (Mob) 0401 718 926

## **WOW! A good news story about Blind Cricket in Victoria from Rod Pritchard**

A bit of history which might encourage others...

The inaugural Schools Blind Cricket Program was conducted in September 2009. There were only 6 participants on that occasion and I personally found this extremely disappointing particularly given all the work put into attempting to get the event up and running. But from the very humble beginnings of the first program participation has steadily increased year on year to a point where it is becoming a well-established and supported event.

But for the moment, let's look at what has happened to a couple of those first ever program attendees – below are 4 player profiles.

### ***Daniel***

Current Age: 20

First VBCA Schools Blind Cricket Program: September 2009

First Played: 2008-09 season aged 14

Other Information President St Paul's Blind Cricket

Vice-Captain St Paul's Blind Cricket Club

Coach for VBCA Junior Development Program

Career History

2011 Debuted for Victoria in the 2011-12 Australian National Blind Cricket Championships in Brisbane aged 17

2012 Debuted for Australia in the 2012 Ashes Tour of England aged 17

2012 Represented Australia in the 2012 Blind Cricket World Cup in Bangalore India

2013 Represented Victoria in the 2013-13 Australian Blind Cricket Championships in Adelaide

2014 Missed out on the 2014 Australian Tour of Sri Lanka due to eye surgery

2014 Selected to represent Australia in the Blind Cricket World Cup in Cape Town South Africa in November 2014

2015 Selected to represent Australia in the Youth Development Squad tour of New Zealand in January 2015

### ***Brendan***

Age: 19

First VBCA Schools Blind Cricket Program: September 2009

Local Club: Glenferrie Blind Cricket Club

First Played: Final match of the 2009-10 season aged 14

Career History

2013 Debuted for Victoria in the 2013-14 Australian Blind Cricket Championships in Adelaide at age 18

2014 Selected to debut for Australia in the Blind Cricket World Cup in Cape Town South Africa in November 2014

2015 Selected to represent Australia in the Youth Development Squad tour of New Zealand in January 2015

### ***Zac***

Age: 17

First VBCA Schools Blind Cricket Program: September 2010

Local Club: St Paul's Blind Cricket Club

First Played: 2011-12 Season

Career History

2015 Selected to represent Australia in the Youth Development Squad tour of New Zealand in January 2015

## **Callum**

Age: 13

First VBCA Schools Blind Cricket Program: September 2011

Local Club: Institute Blind Cricket Club

First Played: 2012-13 season

Career History

2015 Selected to represent Australia in the Youth Development Squad tour of New Zealand in January 2015

Callum and his family are very inspiring. Due to the lack of sporting opportunities available for Callum at his home in Tasmania, Callum's dad brought him over to Melbourne to attend our 2011 program.

## **Concert to raise funds for musical instruments for SSP**

The Sound of Time: TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!

A student-run charity concert is being held at Methodist Ladies' College on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, to support children with vision impairment who attend the Support Skills Program at the SVRC.

The aim of this concert is to raise money to buy and repair secondhand instruments for those children, in order to further expose them to music. There will be lots of musical performances, acts, dances, fun, and FOOD! There is also an option to donate an unwanted secondhand musical instrument (per person) as a ticket. Normal tickets will be \$5 for children under 12, \$10 for teenagers under 18, and \$15 for adults. Contact MLC for details

## **Student News: Lilly's Project**

Gayle Skinner has sent in Lilly's project on the Platypus. Lilly has used a variety of skills to create a fabulous project that all can access. Lilly we look forward to seeing your next project.

Lilly's teacher explained: "Lilly used a variety of different resources e.g. braille books, encyclopaedias, youtube videos etc. to research her own animal (platypus).

She made notes on the braille note and then transferred those notes onto the perkins into proper sentences and sorted the work into sections. She then drew some braille pictures and we took the information and she decided where she wanted to put it on the poster. She also made a platypus out of stockings!!"

## **Staff News**

- **Lea Nagel** has returned from leave and is now working on Fridays on the Support Skills Program. Welcome back, Lea!!
- **Annette Godfrey-Magee** is off to Spain for the next four weeks to walk 300+ km of the Camino Trail with her sister. Happy travels! We look forward to hearing about your adventures in Term 4.

## **Finally**

Editors Marion Blazé and Lyn Robinson would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this issue of The Bulletin, and in particular Frances Gentle, Rod Pritchard, Gayle Skinner and Deb Davidson.