

# The Bulletin

## Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 5

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### Professional development activities for 2015

Download fliers for the SVRC PD programs: [www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PL.shtml](http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PL.shtml).

Event	Date
<b>Skill Power</b> 9.30 BrailleNote basics – Lea Nagel, SVRC 11.30 Pearl+Openbook+Duxbury to hard copy braille – Lea Nagel, SVRC 1.30 Victor Reader Stream – Garry Stinchcombe, SVRC	Tuesday 21 April
<b>Art4Kids with VI? @ Heidi</b> – flier in issue 4 or see website	Wednesday 29 April
<b>Vision Impaired Students with Additional Impairments</b> – flier attached	Monday 4 May
<b>Skill Power</b> 9.30 iPad for blind users – Lyn Robinson, SVRC 11.30 JAWS: +Excel for graphing, +PowerPoint – Danny Keogh, Quantum 1.30 JAWS: what’s new, +braille displays, Q&A – Danny Keogh, Quantum	Wednesday 6 May
<b>PE Day</b> – primary and secondary students – flier in issue 4 or see website	Monday 18 May
<b>Skill Power</b> 9.30 ZoomText – Trevor Boyd, Quantum 11.30 EMU Readit Air, Readit Scholar & Prodigy – Tony Wu, Humanware 1.30 BrailleNote basics – Lea Nagel, SVRC	Wednesday 20 May
<b>Skill Power</b> 9.30 Brailliant/BN with iPad & laptop – Ramona Mandy, Humanware 11.30 Victor Reader Advanced – Ramona Mandy, Humanware 1.30 Practical braille labeling (school&home) – Garry Stinchcombe, SVRC	Wednesday 3 June
<b>Dot Power</b> – information coming soon	Tuesday 16 June
<b>Skill Power</b> 9.30 Braille Music – Lea Nagel, SVRC 11.30 iPad Solutions! – Lyn Robinson, SVRC 1.30 NVDA introduction – Lea Nagel, SVRC	Wednesday 15 July
<b>Skill Power</b> 9.30 O&M (topic to be confirmed) – staff from Guide Dogs Victoria 11.30 Pearl camera & OpenBook – Trevor Boyd, Quantum 1.30 iPad with Mountbatten – Trevor Boyd, Quantum	Wednesday 29 July
<b>Skill Power</b> 11.30 iPad solutions! – Lyn Robinson, SVRC 1.30 QuickTac+Duxbury+Embosser to tactual images – Lea Nagel, SVRC	Wednesday 12 August
<b>Skill Power</b> 11.30 MU Readit Air, Readit Scholar & Prodigy – Tony Wu, Humanware	Wednesday 26 August

### Inside this issue

1	PD activities for 2015
2	EVAC: New referral form, Apps and Accessories – Notes Plus & iStick
3	Braille Music Camp 2015
4	WBUP Onkyo world braille essay contest: JSPEVI Call for papers, PD from David Hornsby
5	SWVR students take on Highpoint Shopping Centre
6	Play on Alexandra!
7	Perkins reading platform, New Cheat Sheets, Post-school options for students with disabilities expo
8-20	Space Camp 2015, Staff and student news, PD program, EVAC forms

## EVAC: New referral form and general information

From Annette Godfrey-Magee

Staff of the SVRC and the Department's Legal Division have been negotiating for over a term to bring our EVAC form more in line with departmental requirements. These two new documents, one the actual referral form and the second a general description of the purpose of EVAC are available on our website:

- Referral form - <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/Arefevac.pdf>
- General information - [http://svrc.vic.edu.au/Aevac\\_general\\_info.pdf](http://svrc.vic.edu.au/Aevac_general_info.pdf)

## Apps and Accessories: Two ideas from SPEVI Conference

From Lyn Robinson

### **Notes Plus**

Notes Plus allows you to write with your finger or stylus on the iPad using the app's notepaper or imported documents.



It has several features which are of interest including:

- Make your own notebooks. Choose the lines and the colour of the paper you want.
- As well as lined paper there are also lines for graph paper and music notation
- Erase mistakes easily, using an undo button or an eraser
- Select the thickness and the colour of the pen you want to write with.
- Change handwriting to text. Circle a word you have written on the iPad and the app will convert it to text.
- Tidy up shapes e.g. draw a triangle, circle it and the app will create perfectly smooth lines for you.
- Pinch enlarge the screen to make the text or diagrams bigger, it also works with Zoom
- Quick delete by crossing out the handwriting
- Type your work if you prefer
- Use the apps web browser to copy pictures or text from the internet and paste into your notebook
- Create folders and file documents
- Sign documents or write using "Close-up writing mode"
- Import external PDFs and make notes on them
- Cost is \$12.99

### **iStick**

Need a way to transfer files easily from computer to iPad without an internet connection? The iStick might be the answer.

- The iStick is the first USB Flash Drive for iPhones and iPads.
- No internet connection required.
- Move files from your computer to your iPhone or iPad.
- Easily remove photos or files from your iPad to free up storage space on your device.
- Available in: 8GB, 16GB, 32GB, 64GB, 128GB
- You need to download the iStick app from iTunes onto your iPad before you can use the iStick. The app is free.
- Cost of iStick: from \$79.00



Find out more about iStick at [www.hypershops.com/HyperDrive/iStick/](http://www.hypershops.com/HyperDrive/iStick/)

## Braille Music Camp 2015

Information provided by Jordie Howell, Music Teacher, SVRC

By now those of you who have been attending Braille Music Camps will have received your application and medical forms for the 2015 camp. I encourage you to fill them in and send them back to Roma as soon as possible. For those of you who are coming to camp for the first time this year, please email Roma Dix at: [romad@westnet.com.au](mailto:romad@westnet.com.au) or phone 0248 711086.

Once again the time has come around for us to be thinking about the travel arrangements for the National Braille Music camp. This year the 30th Braille music camp will be held at Frensham Girls School, Mittagong NSW from Saturday 20 to Saturday 27 June.

I have booked seats on the XPT, leaving Melbourne's Southern Cross station on Saturday morning at 8:30 am, Economy Class in car D. You will need to purchase your own ticket from Melbourne to Campbelltown. The reference number is: MDP346

The cost is \$124.50 return with your Blind Person's Travel Pass. You must buy your ticket at a main station by the 20th of May, or purchase your ticket over the phone through New South Wales Trainlink: Ph: 132242. Press 3 for group bookings.

After this date seats will become available to the general public.  
Remember to take your concession card with you when purchasing your ticket.

Remember the following points:

1. Please provide me with your parents' contact details in case of emergency. Also any medical information.
2. Bring warm casual clothes (not too many, the minimum.)
3. Bring a luggage pack that you are able to carry yourself.
4. Bring your instruments!
5. Mark your luggage pack and instruments in both braille and print.
6. You may bring your lunch or you may buy it on the train. Approximately \$30 will cover both trips.
7. Do not bring any bedding as this is all provided for at the camp.
8. Remember to bring your instruments!

Please note that the National Braille Music Camp is an independently run organisation. It is not a program run by the Department of Education. We have arranged staff to supervise students, however this is a private arrangement and any travel insurance must be purchased by individual families.

If you have questions pertaining to travel arrangements please feel free to email me:

[Jordina.howell@gmail.com](mailto:Jordina.howell@gmail.com)

Or ring me:

Home: 9878 9053 or mobile: 0402 308 484.

Looking forward to seeing you at Braille Music Camp and sharing in beautiful music making,

Kind regards,  
Jordie Howell  
Music Teacher, SVRC

## The 13<sup>th</sup> WBUAP Onkyo world braille essay contest

Apologies for providing incorrect information earlier. For more information see:  
[www.svrc.vic.edu.au/bulletin/2015-04.pdf](http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/bulletin/2015-04.pdf)

The topics are as follows:

- Is Braille Still Relevant in the Age of Technology?
- The Positive Experiences of Living with Blindness: Opportunities That Can Come from Being Blind.
- The Impact of Music on My Life: Socially &/or Professionally.

## SPEVI Journal: Call for papers

This year marks 15 years since the first SPEVI journal was rolled off the printing presses. The decision to produce the journal was made at the 1999 SPEVI Conference in Sydney (SPEVI changed its name from ANZAEVH during this conference). The inaugural Editorial Committee consisted of four well-respected Australian leaders in the field of vision impairment, Mike Steer, Paul Pagliano, Gillian Gale and Fran Telec. In 2006, there was a Fran “change-over”, with Fran Telec departing and Fran Gentle joining the Committee. This year the Committee farewells Gillian Gale and welcomes Sue Spooner and Sue Silveira. The Committee recognises, with thanks, Gillian’s substantial contribution to the success and quality of the journal since 2000.

The JSPEVI Editorial Committee invites contributions to the 2015 issue. Topics appropriate for the journal include, but are not limited to, reports of original research studies; literature and book reviews; conceptual policy or position papers; descriptions, reviews or evaluations of instructional curricula; or reports from organisations/agencies that provide services for children and youth with vision impairment and their families.

Please find attached the JSPEVI Call for papers and reports, and the JSPEVI Guidelines for contributors. The Call for papers and guidelines are also available on the SPEVI website, <http://www.spevi.net/spevi/spevi-publications.php#tab2>. Please note that 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 is the closing date for submissions.

## Reading, Writing & Spelling PD: David Hornsby & Deb Sukarna

Source and more information: <http://www.davidhornsby.com.au/>

- Saturday 2 May: **Comprehension – Developing Deep Level Thinkers (Fiction)**  
 Prep to Year 2 with David Hornsby  
 Years 3 to 9 with Deb Sukarna
- Saturday 9 May: **Reading Assessment**  
 Prep to Year 2 with David Hornsby  
 Years 3 to 6 with Deb Sukarna
- Saturday 23 May: **Assessment of Writing and Spelling**  
 Prep to Year 2 with David Hornsby  
 Years 3 to 6 with Deb Sukarna
- Wednesday 27 May: **Reading, Writing and Thinking with a Comprehending Focus – Developing Thoughtful Literacy**  
 Prep to Year 6 with David Hornsby

**Where:** Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre, Cnr Bell Street and St Georges Road, Preston.

**Cost:** \$210 per person (Morning Tea, lunch and handouts provided)

**Enquiries:** Paula Welham – email: [pwelham@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pwelham@bigpond.net.au) / mobile: 0402 421864

## SWVR students take on Highpoint Shopping Centre

Report from Deb Davidson, Visiting Teacher

SWVR visiting teachers (Vision) launched their 2015 group program with a trip to Highpoint Shopping Centre on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Twelve students from the region, including three from Geelong, participated in the day.

Students, SWVR visiting teachers (vision) and mobility instructors, Simon and Paula, travelled together by tram from Footscray Station to Highpoint.

Once at Highpoint, the first port of call was the Apple Store where students participated in a 'school' field trip where students were given tips on ways to troubleshoot common problems that might arise with iPads and iPhones. Working in pairs, students then set about the task of demonstrating their trouble shooting skills by making a short 'how to' video using iMovie. Staff from the Apple Store were impressed by the mastery of some students to use voice over to effectively access their devices.

Following the morning session at the Apple Store, it was off to the food court to buy lunch. Low vision and blind students worked together to find out what food choices were available and supported each other to independently purchase their lunch. Not surprisingly, KFC and Subway proved popular choices!

After lunch, students worked in teams of three to undertake an orientation challenge around the shopping centre. Students had a list of shops to visit and collected stickers as proof of their visit. Teachers and mobility staff watched on as each team worked independently on problem solving and self-advocacy skills to find their way around the large shopping centre. All teams managed to complete the challenge, with one team completing the challenge 15 minutes ahead of the other teams! Overall, it was a terrific day offering the opportunity for students to work together with their peers to develop independence, solve everyday problems and to build new friendships.

The visiting teachers would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Paula and Simon for their fantastic support throughout the entire day, and particularly for devising a fun and challenging orientation activity.

Photos (right) show students using iPads to complete challenges including producing movies!



## Play on Alexandra!

Here is a lovely article written by one of Alex's teachers, Angie Bosnic, that was recently printed in the school magazine – reprinted here with Alex's permission.

"Long Live the Arts!" This is what Alexandra's heart speaks. She breathes and consumes music with hunger and passion. Lucidly, she talks about classical music, especially Schubert and expresses her thirst for the vibrancy and rhythms of Irish Folk Music. Alexandra has Cerebral Palsy which impedes on muscular control and movement. Subsequently, Alexandra has impaired hand movements; this is a frustration for her, only because she cannot play a musical instrument.

Alexandra has attended a number of Music Camps outside of school and does so at every opportunity. She revels in singing (her real musical instrument) and takes voice lessons at school. In 2013 Alexandra was part of the composition team for the school play Twelfth Night. Drama and also comedy are her loves. She knows the joy and the healing power of laughter and of that wonderful human quality 'creativity'.

Alexandra is a successful Year 12 student facing the challenges of this demanding year. She completed a Year 12 subject last year with high success. She has aspirations to attend university. Being an independent, articulate, intelligent and resilient young woman she is likely to achieve her dreams, which naturally, lie in the area of the Creative Arts and also Mental Health.

Alexandra is also visually impaired and as such, uses specialised equipment for reading and writing — BrailleNote. She is extremely competent and readily keeps up with her peers. In 2014, with great courage and self-determination Alexander volunteered to be part of SPEVI (South Pacific Educators of Vision Impairment) at their 2015 Biennial Conference. She submitted a paper on Surviving Secondary School as a Blind Student, which was accepted and she was invited as a guest speaker to present her paper to an audience of professionals from the field of vision impairment and to parents.

Prior to this admirable contribution to our society, in 2008 Alexandra presented the opening speech on behalf of Vision Australia at the Victoria Day celebration. In 2012 she gave two presentations to trainee volunteers at Very Special Kids about her life and her involvement in Very Special Kids. Further that year, she spoke with the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Alex Chernov on behalf of Guide Dogs Victoria. Alexandra's community involvement, confidence, strength and articulateness have attracted many complimentary comments and have made her a role model.

Alexandra's energy to be involved and make a difference is commendable. She has been part of the Support Skills Program that is co-ordinated through Statewide Vision Resource Centre whereby she has had the opportunity to meet with many students who are also vision impaired. Their collective experiences and communication are a valuable resource for all and definitely a support for each other. Through this program Alexandra has been able to develop many friendships with teachers and with students.

When you speak with Alexandra you cannot but be impressed with her maturity and sense of self. She is fiercely independent. In class, she is self-functioning. Her only requirement is for her wheelchair to be wheeled in and out of classes. Alexandra is skilfully able to articulate her needs and deals directly with her teachers. She loves sitting with her peers and being one of the crowd. She is most appreciative of this connection and when students respond to her and show good will in opening doors and wheeling her about. It's like music to her ears!

Music is her love, but indeed so is her family. How can it not be as an only child in a Greek family! Yes; the food, the family gatherings, the fun, the loudness and love are there in abundance to enrich her life as she enriches the life of her extended family and Koonung Secondary College.

As Shakespeare said "If music be the food of love, play on"! Play on Alexandra!

## Do you use a Perkins Brailier?

If so, you may be interested in a simple inexpensive aluminium extension to the Perkins Brailier that provides an effective reading platform of 90mm. This means up to 9 lines of braille can be read without paper feed, a feature particularly useful for maths.

This reading extension is available for \$18 plus \$7 postage and suits the Classic Perkins Brailier. It involves replacing the two upper Phillips head screws of the metal back plate with the two thumb screws supplied. The extension is attached by slackening the thumb screws to enable the aluminium bracket to be slotted in place and then secured by tightening the screws. When in place there is no obstruction of the margin setting levers. The extension can be quickly removed and attached by velcro to the top of the Brailier for transport.

Please note, this extension is not a professionally machined and highly finished product, rather an amateur job handmade with care from mill finish aluminium extrusion – but it works!

Please direct any queries related to this product to Claire Garrett by email to [claire@clairebearcreations.com.au](mailto:claire@clairebearcreations.com.au) or phone (03) 9598 4854.



## New “Cheat Sheets”

We’re always adding to the SVRC website – and this week, the new offerings include:

- Audacity with JAWS (also attached and with thanks to Helen Caldwell): <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/CSaudacity.pdf>
- Using wireless to get a visual display of the BrailleNote on the iPad – there are two versions, one of which includes a BrailleNote-iOS Bluetooth connection and command list, available as a PDF or braille file: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/CSiPadBNcon&com.pdf>

Please see all the Cheat Sheets at: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/CS.shtml>. Items are grouped as follows:

- Braille and braille/audio technology
- Braille code (EUB)
- Expanded core curriculum
- iPad/iOS
- PC/Windows technology
- Other sources of information

## Post-school options for students with disabilities expo

**When:** 27 May 2015 from 1pm to 5pm

**Where:** Heatherwood School

**Further information:** (03) 9842 8319

Visit service providers for information about:

- TAFE colleges
- Employment services
- Recreation
- Day placements
- Futures for young adults
- Accommodation
- Supported employment

## Space Camp 2015

From Dan Oates, Space Camper extraordinaire

Registration is up and running! Just go to the SCIVIS website: [www.tsbvi.edu/space](http://www.tsbvi.edu/space). There is a document following the link with the registration information. Please pay particular attention to the information in the document.

When a parent or chaperone registers for SCIVIS, they will be creating a new account for each trainee. PLEASE keep your information from registration as I don't have access to getting those for you. If your parents are registering the own child you should ask them to share that information for you. You should get an email within hours of registration with the account information. Once that email is received you can go right back in and fill out forms. But we aware the medical information should not be completed until 60 days before SCIVIS.

CHAPERONE REGISTRATION – there is no place for a chaperone to register. We will be developing another online registration – something along the line of Survey Monkey, etc.

Good luck with registration!

## Staff & student news

- **Charlie Roberts' baby was born 15 April – a little girl, Olive Sarah Roberts weighing 7lb 1oz. Charlie, Jess and Olive are healthy and happy!!!**
- **Jeni Blake** from SEVR is on Long Service Leave for the first two weeks of term 2.
- Provisional appointments have been made in SWVR for the following positions which commence term 2:
  - **Hilary Frost:** Vision/Generalist - fixed term 2015 0.8
  - **Fiona King:** Physical-Health/Generalist - ongoing 0.6
  - **Rachel Morck:** Special Education/Generalist - fixed term 3 years 0.8
  - **Charlie Roberts:** Vision - Geelong term 2 & 3 0.4
- **Lisa Zarb** is extremely proud of her two VCE students from last year. **Tess Whelan** has begun her degree in Applied Public Health/Global Studies at Australian Catholic University and **Ashlee Cremona** is studying Law/Psychology at LaTrobe University after being awarded Dux of Thomas Carr College. Both girls were also worthy recipients of the Vision Australia Bursary.
- Visiting Teacher, **Sophie Michael**, reports that **Alexandra** (see article above) has been nominated for the Whitehorse Student of the month which she is incredibly thrilled about!
- **SVRC vacancies:** there are two positions being advertised through DET Recruitment Online – apply by 28 April 2015:
  - Education support – Vision impairment (Level 1-1 Time fraction 0.7) Ref 1016433
  - Technical/production support – Vision impairment (Level 1-3 Time fraction 0.8) Ref 1016434

## Finally

Editors Deb Lewis and Lyn Robinson would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this issue of The Bulletin, and in particular Marion Blazé, Frances Gentle, Jordie Howell and Jane Jensen.

If you would like to contribute to The Bulletin please email [svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au)

To read The Bulletin online visit: [www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Abulletin.shtml](http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Abulletin.shtml)



## Statewide Vision Resource Centre

presents

# Educational Support for Vision Impaired Students with Additional Impairments

**When:** Monday 4 May 2015 from 9.00am to 3.30pm (Registration from 8.30am)

**Where:** Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

**Parking:** Lower carpark – next door at the Donvale Sports Complex

**For:** Teachers, aides/assistants, therapists, family members and Visiting Teachers

8.30	Registration
9.00	Simulation of a Vision Impairment – Staff of SVRC and Guide Dogs Victoria
10.15	Vision Impairment – What is it? How do we assess it? – Marion Blazé, SVRC
10.45	Morning Tea
11.10	Cortical Vision Impairment – Annette Godfrey-Magee and Geoff Bowen, SVRC
12.00	Tactual PECs for Communication – Geoff Bowen, Psychologist, SVRC
12.30	Lunch – A light lunch will be provided
1.00	Strategies to Support Students in the Classroom – Helen Caldwell, Visiting Teacher, North-Eastern Victoria Region
1.40	iPad for Students with Vision and Additional Impairments – Lyn Robinson, SVRC
2.10	The SVRC – How Can We Help? – Staff of the SVRC
2.30	Challenging Behaviours – Geoff Bowen, Psychologist, SVRC
3.30	Close

**Cost:** \$66.00 including GST (maximum onsite participants: 60)

Visiting Teachers or family members \$22.00

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

\$55.00 for participation via video conference

**Registration is essential – by Monday 27 April**

**For further details or for an invoice:** phone 9841 0242 or email [pd@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pd@svrc.vic.edu.au)

## Parking

There is no parking available at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre or Heatherwood School. Please park **in the lower carpark** behind the Donvale Sports Centre - the building beside (to the north) of the SVRC. You can then walk through the double gates and the Statewide Vision Resource Centre is to the left.

## Public Transport: Bus and train

The nearest and most accessible train station is Nunawading. Trains on the Belgrave and Lilydale lines run through this station. A bus also runs from Box Hill Central which also has good train access.

The Statewide Vision Resource Center is serviced by **3 bus routes**.

- 902 Smart Bus, Chelsea to Airport West
- 271 Box Hill to Ringwood
- 273 Nunawading to The Pines

The 902 and 273 both leave from the Nunawading station. It is only an 8 minute trip to the SVRC.

