

The Bulletin

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Professional Development 2016

Please find fliers and further information about upcoming events on the SVRC website.

- **Skill Power Workshops:** Wednesday 17 February (more information coming soon!)
- **Educational Support for Students with Low Vision:** 22 February OR 23 February
- **New Visiting Teacher Orientation Day:** Monday 29 February
- **Skill Power Workshops:** Tuesday 1 March (more information coming soon!)
- **Including Students with Vision Impairments in PE & Sport:** Wednesday 9 March
- **Skill Power Workshops:** Wednesday 16 March (more information coming soon!)
- **Family Futures Forum @ SVRC:** Saturday 19 March
- **Educational Support for VI Students with Additional Impairments:** Tuesday 19 April
- **Skill Power Workshops:** Wednesday 4 May (more information coming soon!)
- **Art4Kids with VI?:** Wednesday 11 May
- **Skill Power Workshops:** Tuesday 17 May (more information coming soon!)

Educational Support for Blind Students – a PD day conducted simultaneously at three sites

Report prepared by Marion Blazé, SVRC

The SVRC hosted a PD day on Monday, February 8th with 35 participants at SVRC, 15 in the South Western region and one in the North Eastern region (the latter two being via Polycom).

What a great bunch of teachers! Never before have we had such a large group of people so open to the ‘challenges’ of being under blind-fold for the first 90 minutes of the day. They were even navigating the building and cutting out cardboard cubes! One participant commented, ‘the hands-on activities were fantastic and really got me thinking’.

One special guest speaker was Alex, who completed her VCE last year. Alex is blind and physically disabled but now has a busy calendar of public speaking ahead of her, having scored 92 in her VCE. She really inspired the participants. Go Alex!

Some comments from participants:

- ‘Very practical and informative sessions. Absolutely fantastic!’
- ‘Great info for teaching practice in general.’
- ‘I have learnt so much that I know will benefit my student and my ability to help her.’

- ‘Today has given me the confidence to work alongside my blind student.’
- ‘The day was great and I’m very excited to get back to school and work more effectively with my blind student.’

Thank you to Alex, staff from the Guide Dogs Children’s Mobility team who provided helpers on two sites, Michael and Glenn who managed our many and varied pieces of technology, the team in South Western region, and the many hands and minds at SVRC who make these days happen.

Support Skills News February 2016

From Support Skills Co-ordinator, Garry Stinchcombe

This year we will have six Support Skills groups – three groups which cater for primary aged students (Groups A, B and D). Students in Groups C, E and F are for the older students. All up we have around 77 students enrolled in the program this year.

Thanks to all those families who have sent back the paperwork for this year. With such large groups it is essential that paperwork be returned as soon as possible. We are always trying to reduce the forms but it is important that we don’t omit important information. We want your child to be safe and we need information that keeps us informed so we are aware of their specific needs. If you have any questions please email Garry: stinchcombe.garry.g@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Special Activities in 2016

Charlie Roberts and Emily White are organizing a Swimming Carnival for Friday 10th June 2016. We are hoping that all students will attend this event. In Term 2 our PE focus will be on swimming and those students who have indicated they will be participating in the Swimming Carnival will spend a session at a local pool. Guide Dogs Victoria will assist with the travel and orientation to the pool. These are fun days so please make sure you fill in and return the Swimming Carnival form.

Our annual Arts Big Day Out will be held on 9th September (Term 3). Groups A, B and D are invited and staff here are busy working on a fantastic day with a focus on the Arts. Michael Donnelly, our Art Teacher, has been busily checking out the various Art options while Jordie Howell and Lea Nagel have been exploring music/performance options. Laura Hunt and the Team at Guide Dogs are working on a mobility activity to make the visit to the city a safe and fun one. We’ll send out information about this activity at the start of Term 3, but make sure you leave the day free so you can come along.

The SVRC staff who will be teaching in the program again this year are: Annette Godfrey-Magee, Charlie Roberts, Emily White, Garry Stinchcombe, Geoff Bowen, Glen Morrow, Jordie Howell, Lea Nagel, Lyn Robinson, Marion Blazé, Michael Donnelly and staff from our partner organisations – Guide Dogs Victoria, Humanware and Vision Australia.

We try to get the program feedback back to families within 10 days of the session. Please email me if you would like us to forward the feedback to other staff. Generally we automatically send it to the Visiting Teacher but if you would like us to include the Classroom Teacher or another person/service please let me know.

Remember, this program works best when we share ideas, work collaboratively and share the journey. If something isn’t working please let us know. If something has exceeded your expectations, please let us know. Together we are a great team.

Focus on Ability Short Film Festival

Entries have opened for the 2016 Focus on Ability Short Film Festival. The festival is aimed at raising awareness of the abilities of people with a disability through film. Each year students and schools from all over the world submit their own short films of up to 5 minutes which are viewed online and in theatres. The closing date for entries is 30th June 2016.

For further info, visit <http://www.focusonability.com.au/>

Recall of Apple Wallplug Adapters

Source: <https://www.apple.com/au/support/ac-wallplug-adapter/>

Apple has determined that, in very rare cases, the two prong Apple AC wall plug adapters designed for use in Continental Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Argentina and Brazil may break and create a risk of electrical shock if touched. These wall plug adapters shipped from 2003 to 2015 with Mac and certain iOS devices, and were also included in the Apple World Travel Adapter Kit. Customer safety is always Apple's top priority, and we have voluntarily decided to exchange affected wall plug adapters with a new, redesigned adapter, free of charge. We encourage customers to exchange any affected parts using the process below.

Identifying your wall plug adapter

Compare your adapter to the images below. An affected wall plug adapter has 4 or 5 characters or no characters on the inside slot where it attaches to an Apple power adapter. Redesigned adapters have a 3-letter regional code in the slot (EUR, KOR, AUS, ARG or BRA).



You can return the affected adapters at the Apple store where you will be given a replacement. Please go to the Apple website above for further information.

SVRC Exchange Point for Apple Adapters

It is possible that some of the adapters provided to students with iPads or MacBooks through the National Partnerships programme could be affected. The Apple Store has offered to come out to SVRC to exchange these adapters.

If you would like to take up this option please bring any affected Apple Wallplug Adapters (also known as Duck Heads) back to the SVRC by 15th March. Please put them in an envelope with the student's name clearly labelled on the front. Also write the iPad or MacBook serial number on the front and put them in a box in Lyn's office.

A representative from Chadstone Apple will come out and exchange the adapters. We should have the new adapters ready to be picked up before the end of term. The leads are not affected and do not need to come back. Any adapters with the letters AUS are not affected.

If you would like to make your own arrangements please contact your local Apple store.

Lions International Essay Contest: “Share Peace”

Source: <http://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/peace-essay/>

The Lions International Peace Poster and Essay Contest is one of the Lions Club’s International Youth Programs that aim to provide opportunities for self-development, education, contribution and achievement for young people.

The Essay Contest is open to young people **with vision impairments** between 11 and 13 years of age by 15th November 2016

The Poster Contest is open to young people between 11 and 13 years of age by 15th November 2016.

This contest was created to offer an opportunity to young people with vision impairments to express their feelings of peace. The theme of the 2015-16 Lions International Essay Contest is “Share Peace”. Please see the website above for further information.

Teaching with iPads Blog

The Teaching with iPads Blog reports that the upcoming version of iOS9.3 will be a game changer for teachers with implications for managing iPads used by students.

From the blog:

Those of us who use iPads in education were excited to hear about some new features in the upcoming iOS 9.3. It looks like Apple is making an effort in improving how iPads work in the classroom. A common complaint about iPads in schools was that they are difficult to share amongst multiple classes. Now, with 9.3, administrators and teachers will be able to have a lot more control over their student’s individual iPads. Managing a class set of iPads has never been the easiest task. With this update, it should become a much better experience. Also, students will be able to “share” iPads in a much better and “cleaner” way.

Here is a list of some of the many improvements coming soon:

- A much-awaited ability to have multiple user profiles on iPad
- Students work, documents will be saved individually to their own profiles, therefore other students will not be able to wipe out (by accident or not) others work
- Even if not every student has his/her “own” iPad, the iPad will become a true 1:1 device while that student is using it, as compared to a shared set of iPads
- Management of the iPads will now be foolproof, as teachers can select a student’s image and push apps and documents onto individual iPads
- Teachers can also reset passwords, so no need to contact the IT guy (IT guys rejoice!)
- Teachers will be able to beam via AirPlay any of the student iPads from the teacher iPad.

Find out more at:

http://teachingwithipad.org/2016/01/15/upcoming-ios-9-3-update-a-potential-game-changer-for-teaching-with-ipads/?utm_content=bufferc385f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

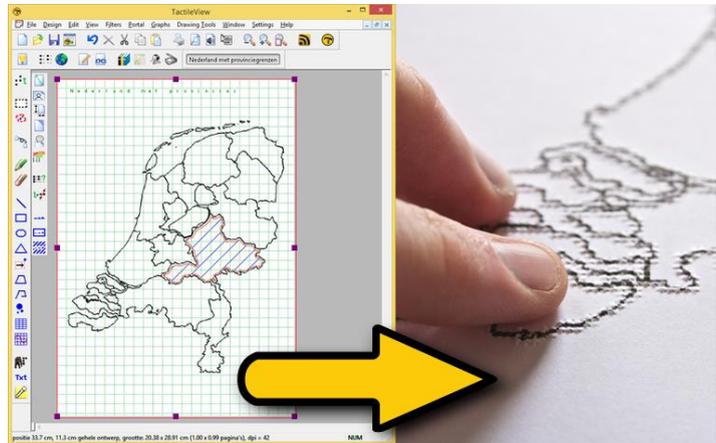
TactileView

Source: Frances Gentle SPEVI List

TactileView software can be used to create tactile graphics for students with vision impairments. It is compatible with Windows and Mac computers and works with braille translation software such as Duxbury.

What can TactileView do?

- Easy to use tactile graphics editor in many languages
- Fully accessible with the mouse, keyboard or screenreader
- Wide range of supported braille embossers
- Create designs for printing on swell paper
- Many drawing tools and image processing filters available for easy editing
- Extensive user manual available (online or pdf download)
- Thousands of ready-to-use designs can be downloaded from the TactileView catalog
- Importing images from a wide range of file formats and sources
- Math module creates graphs of any equation
- Produces tactile maps of any area on your desired scale with the RouteTactile map maker



Find out more at <http://thinkable.nl/product/tactileview-software-licence/>

Meteor Vibrating Watch

At our recent Professional Learning day, Educational Support for Blind Students who are Blind, Alexandra showed participants her Vibrating Watch which she recently received for her birthday. Alexandra wears it around her neck so it's always within easy reach. Alexandra prefers this watch as it is a discrete way to check the time and it is more robust than a braille watch. The Meteor Vibrating Watch indicates time by vibrating: long pulse for 5 units and 1 pulse for 1 unit utilising the 3 buttons: hours, tens of minutes, and minutes.



Product Benefits

- Ergonomic crescent moon shape, feels comfortable in the hand, and easy to access buttons with thumb if cupped with other 4 fingers.
- Extremely easy to use/reset the time.
- Discrete way to tell the time.
- Great benefit to people who have difficulty hearing a talking watch or can't see a standard or large print time piece.
- Very distinctive vibrating pulses for very long pulse (to reset the time), long pulse of 5 units, and short pulses for 1 units.

- The 3 round buttons are raised from the surface, are of a reasonable size, and well-spaced apart.

Available from: from the Vision Australia Shop for \$150.00

Source: <http://www.visionaustralia.org/shop/product-list/product-detail/meteor-vibrating-watch>

Invitation to the Memorial Concert for John Shute

You are invited to an afternoon of music to celebrate and commemorate the life of John Shute. After retiring from his career as an educator, John took it upon himself to learn the braille music code as used by blind musicians. Having quickly mastered the code John spent almost 20 years working, often voluntarily, to transcribe a virtual library of sheet music into braille. John's selfless contribution over this period enabled many budding blind musicians to complete studies in music and launch their professional careers. Even after his passing his catalogue, which comprises over 30,000 pages of music, continues to be an invaluable resource to blind musicians and music students of all ages.

In order to recognise and honour this great contribution, a group of blind musicians from across Australia will come together to present a selection of choral and solo works from his catalogue. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

When: Sunday 6th March 2016 from 2.00 to 3.30pm

Where: Christ Church South Yarra, 677 Punt Rd, South Yarra (corner Punt & Toorak Rd)

Tickets \$15

For reservation enquiries, please phone Ashleigh Malone on 0400 495 979.

Parking is available in Toorak Rd and there is a limited amount of parking available inside the church grounds.

Transport

- Tram - number 8 tram (Toorak) from city stop is on the corner of Punt & Toorak Rd.
- Train - Cranbourne, Pakenham, Dandenong, Frankston and Sandringham lines all pass through South Yarra station, which is a 5 minute walk along Toorak Rd
- Bus - Route 246 (Clifton Hill – Elsternwick) travels along Punt Rd and there is a stop outside the church.

It's the 'What's in the Box?'

Emily White recently returned from the USA with a box. It's her PE and Sport surprise for the Support Skills Program. The box is wider than Emily but not as tall. What could it be?

We ran a competition over the SVRC Facebook page to guess "What's in the box?" – and the winner was Dan the Man! His suggestion of Beep Baseball won him an audio book from Bolinda! And at Emily's suggestion, we also had a runner-up prize for Dakota's suggestion of "lots of bell balls big small round oval and odd shaped bell balls!"



News

Dianne Simpson of South-Western Victoria Region reports on three of her students (siblings): **Harrison** got into his first choice of Mechanical Engineering at RMIT, Melbourne Campus. He follows in the footsteps of his brother, **James**, who completed his Electrical Engineering degree at RMIT 3 years ago and is now happily working in his chosen field and travels from Newport to Mitcham each day. **Georgia** is studying at Latrobe University and in her 3rd year of a double degree in Arts/Commerce. Great results!!!

Space Camp Meeting

For anyone interested in Space Camp 2016

SVRC is hosting a meeting for those with an interest in participating, supporting or chaperoning a group to Space Camp in Huntsville Alabama in 2016.

We are hoping to have former chaperones and former Space Campers to speak to the group so we can begin planning in earnest!

When: Friday 26th February

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

Start time: 4pm

Off-site options may also be available for folks who can't make it to Donvale. Please be in touch and we can see what we can arrange!

Finally

Editors Deb Lewis and Lyn Robinson would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this issue of The Bulletin.