

The Bulletin

Number 4, Friday 11th March 2016

Inside This Issue

- SVRC PD including upcoming Skill Power sessions, report on the Low Vision Days, 2016 Round Table Conference
- Downloadable bold-lined paper masters
- Paralympic hopeful
- Vision forums and work experience opportunities
- YDAS workshop on offer
- John Shute Memorial Concert Report
- SVRC news

Professional Development 2016

Please find fliers and further information about upcoming events on the SVRC website and to book online please visit: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/pd>

- **Skill Power Workshops:** Wednesday 16 March (see below)
- **Family Futures Forum @ SVRC:** Saturday 19 March
- **Educational Support for VI Students with Additional Impairments:** Tuesday 19 April
- **Skill Power Workshops:** Wednesday 4 May (see below)
- **Art4Kids with VI?:** Wednesday 11 May
- **Skill Power Workshops:** Tuesday 17 May (see website for details)
- **Skill Power Workshops:** Wednesday 1 June (see website for details)
- **Skill Power Workshops:** Tuesday 14 June (see website for details)

Online registrations for our Professional Learning days including Skill Power sessions are now open for business – please see the website!

Upcoming Skill Power Sessions (Terms 1 and 2, 2016)

Wednesday 16 March

- 9:30-Braille Music first steps – Lea Nagel
- 11:30-1:00 VCE Special Provisions – Lyn Robinson
- 1:30-3:00 iPad with BrailleNote/Brailliant – Ramona Mandy, Humanware

Wednesday 4 May

- 9:30-11:00 Reformatting: what, when, how – Lea Nagel
- 11:30-1:00 BrailleNote basics – Lea Nagel
- 1:30-3:00 Organise your life with braille: Labelling with Garry Stinchcombe

Full House at SVRC on February 22 and 23, 2016

Reflection from Marion Blazé, SVRC

SVRC was full to capacity (and maybe beyond!) for our two days of professional development about “Educational Support for Students with Low Vision”. The same program was offered over two days so that we could cater for the popularity of this program. We had 70 participants on each day at the SVRC and about 35 participants each day who participated “off site”, viewing some of the sessions via their Polycom unit or Adobe Connect. Visiting Teachers from South-Western Victoria Region in Footscray AND Ballarat ran a parallel program for the practical sessions.

For the first time in SVRC's history, we had a Twitter feed! Participants were invited to comment (just like Q & A!!) on any aspect of the day and share their tweets with the low vision world. Here's one of the tweets from a couple of happy participants (see above): Learning what its like to learn with low vision #lowvised.

Learning what its like to learn with low vision #lowvised



Written evaluations from participants were overwhelmingly glowing, with the exception of some IT hiccups for our off-site participants. Some comments included:

- “The way we did the first activity wearing goggles was brilliant! It was amazing how it made me feel. A fantastic activity!”
- “I appreciated the general enthusiasm and engagement of the presenters which made the day go quickly.”
- “The two students who spoke were so inspirational!”
- “I believe all teachers/aides that have vision impaired students in their class need to come to this PD.”
- “This was a real eye-opener for me!”

Special thanks to Lea for coordinating the two days, Glen and Michael for literally running to keep the IT stuff happening, the Guide Dogs Children's Mobility folk who ran workshops, Robert Aaltonen who stepped out of retirement to run workshops, two Visiting Teachers who spoke about strategies, several other VTs who supported our off-site participants, two students (one current and one former) who shared their amazing stories, and the many hard-workers at SVRC who kept a large crowd happy and comfortable on two hot days! Thank you all.

2016 Round Table Conference

Conference Theme: Access and engagement with the marketplace of information, technologies and learning

When: Saturday 14 May to Tuesday 17 May 2016

Where: Bayview on the Park, 50 Queens Road Melbourne

This year's Round Table features:

- keynote address by Maryanne Diamond, NDIA on the implications of the NDIS for people with print disabilities and Round Table member organisations
- update on the Marrakesh Treaty
- Mark Tainsh, Department of Education and Training, Victoria who will address “The Department of Education and Training – An inclusive schooling system: Our journey and destination”.
- Senator Rachel Siewert, Australian Greens
- Assoc. Prof Chi Luu, Bionic Eye Clinical Program Leader
- Sharon Kerr, Global Access Project
- Neil Jarvis, President, Round Table

The Australian Braille Authority (ABA) Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday and the Round Table AGM on Sunday.

Registrations: Round Table is now an on-line registration system. The registration form is available as a link from the “2016 Round Table Conference Registration Details and Form” page on the Round Table web site: <http://printdisability.org/conference/2016-2/2016-round-table-conference-registration-details-and-form/>

Registrations close 1 April 2016 (A late registration fee will apply after this date)

Enquiries to: Marjorie Hawkings, Administration Officer, Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc.

Phone: (03) 9010 6251 (for overseas calls: +61 3 9010 6251)

Email: admin@printdisability.org; website: <http://printdisability.org/>

SVRC Web Update: Bold-Lined Paper

For fans of bold-lined paper, you'll find our collection here: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/resources/bold-line-masters/> on our new-look website. Most come in green and black but there are also examples in grey, red and blue.

There are a range of pages to print and/or photocopy in sizes from 9mm to 35mm lines, some also with dotted thirds. Graph paper, a music stave and clock faces are also part of the collection.

Why green?

Bold lined paper is often produced with green lines. This is because students generally write in black or blue – and green is a colour that offers good contrast but is a different colour to the student's pen!

Student Aims for Rio Paralympics

It is just under 6 months to the 2016 Paralympics games in Rio where thousands of athletes will be competing in their chosen sports. One student who hopes to be there in September this year is Jaryd Clifford (name used with permission). Jaryd took up running competitively just a few years ago and has progressed to a level where he may be selected to represent Australia at the Paralympics. Jaryd writes:

I've been running for just over three years

- I am in the T12 (B2) vision impaired category
- I specialise in the 1500m and 5000m and one day hopefully the Marathon
- I ran in the 2015 IPC World Championships where I placed 7th in the 5000m in a time of 15:55.02 in tough middle-eastern temperatures.
- My PB's as of 25th February 2016 are 1500m (3:58.31) and 5000m (15:31.00) which puts me in the top 8 in the world.

Below are links to my race from the world championships last year and also my most recent race where I ran against the best able bodied athletes in the state:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UadtWnYO0PU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJNDZ1YwTHg>

What Jaryd didn't say is that he is often competing against people twice his age and still hasn't reached his potential. Jaryd won a scholarship with the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) last year. The VIS awards scholarships to talented Victorian athletes on an annual basis. VIS scholarships provide athletes with access to advanced coaching, sport science and sports medicine services, career and education advice, and training and competition support.

You can follow Jaryd's progress towards his goal of competing at the Rio Paralympics at:
<http://jarydclifford.blogspot.com.au/>

Forum: Soaring Blind with True Vision

Secondary students and their parents/carers are invited to listen to Ben Pettingill speak at a Forum to be held at Vision Australia.



Ben 
PETTINGILL
 Soaring Blind with True Vision

Ben lost his vision suddenly at the age of 16 due to Lebers Hereditary Optic Neuropathy. Ben is now a professional speaker who aims to inspire, educate and motivate. He focuses on increasing resilience, mindfulness and transitioning effectively.

When: Tuesday 22 March

Time: 5-7.30pm

Where: Vision Australia, 454 Glenferrie Rd Kooyong

Pizza for dinner supplied

All participating students will be offered a follow up one-on-one mentoring session with Ben.

For more information and registration details, please contact:

Geraldine Ryan on 9864 9728 or email Geraldine.ryan@visionaustralia.org

Nichols Pakkiam on 9864 9528 or email Nichols.Pakkiam@visionaustralia.org

Challenge and Champion: An Advocacy in Education Forum

Vision Australia invites parents/carers of children in early childhood, primary or secondary education in Victoria to a forum which will highlight:

- rights in education
- programs and support available
- advocacy and communication

The forum will be held at Vision Australia Kooyong and streamed online so participants can join in from home. Children Year 6 and over are welcome to attend.

When: Saturday 9 April 2016

Time: 2 to 4pm

Where: Vision Australia 454 Glenferrie Rd Kooyong 3144 or online (online details provided on registration)

Cost: It is free to register for this webinar. If you are streaming online, your own internet usage charges will apply.

For more information and registration details, please contact: advocacy@visionaustralia.org or call 1300 84 74 66 and ask for Karen Taranto.

Work Experience at VA

Vision Australia is offering secondary school-aged students work experience placements. The VA work experience program will give students the chance to:

- better understand the work environment
- develop work-related competencies and acquire important skills
- explore possible career options

To express interest in completing work experience at VA, please contact your local office or phone the main switchboard number: 1300 847466.

Workshop Opportunity: Where To Next?

Peggy Soo, who is known to many, now works for the Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS). YDAS is running a workshop called “Where to Next?” which aims to help students with disabilities in Years 10-12 to learn about post school options and navigate the service system independently.

Topics discussed are:

- finding employment
- going to TAFE and university
- supports available

The workshop is fun and interactive and runs about 1 hour, facilitated by Peggy and a young person with a disability. If this interests you or you know anyone such as Student Welfare in high schools or careers councillors, please get in touch by email: ydasprojects@yacvic.org.au.

John Shute Memorial Concert

From audience member, Lea Nagel

Last Sunday a memorial concert was held to honour and remember the late John Shute and the tireless contribution he made to people who are blind or have low vision. John transcribed over 30,000 pages of braille music that has been used at Braille Music Camp, and for individuals pursuing their musical studies in school, choirs and university.

The concert was presented at Christ Church in South Yarra by blind musicians, all reading from braille that was transcribed by John.

The venue was exquisite, the music was beautiful, and musicians shared some lovely stories of their interactions with the generous, musical John Shute.



The photograph (above) includes some familiar faces – Jordie (current SSP music teacher, far left), Christine (past SSP music teacher, second from right) and Emma-Mae (former SSP student, far right)

SVRC News

Beep Baseball

Investigation indicates that the SVRC owns only the second Beep Baseball equipment in Australia; the other is apparently in Canberra. Emily White brought this equipment back from the USA in a box almost as tall as herself and last Friday, Charlie introduced the Support Skills students to the game! Beep baseball uses a ball that emits a sound allowing batter and fielders to locate the ball.

Padded bases that emit a different sound allows the batter to run fast! Google Youtube + beepball to see this accessible game!

We created a monster!

Lea Nagel, along with the staff of the SVRC, have been encouraging and supporting braille students to learn and use the braille music code. Lea has worked with a number of music teachers to offer them the braille music basics; Jordie (and before her, Christine and Ben) along with Lea have introduced the braille music code to students as young as 4 years old – through Dot Power and the Support Skills Program – with great success!

So what's the problem? The braille music requests are rolling in almost every day and our onsite Braille Transcribers are not proficient in Braille Music!

So what's the solution? We now have Ross de Vent braille music for us off-site. We email the pdf of the required music to Ross and, working with a sighted reader, Ross produces the braille using Duxbury Braille Translator. Our onsite Braille Transcribers insert the braille music into the appropriate places in the braille file and hey presto! Braille music for our students!

We'll continue to try and locate an onsite staff member with the necessary skills – but in the meantime, Ross is The Man!

Former Student News

Alexandra, a student who is well-known to many of us, and who completed her VCE studies last year is enrolled to begin her studies in law at Melbourne University in 2016. A luncheon celebrating high-achieving women in the City of Manningham will feature Human Rights Commission president Gillian Triggs along with Alexandra as guest speakers.

Source: Manningham Leader, 29 February 2016

SVRC Freebies

VTs are welcome to collect braille copies of NAPLAN from 2010 to 2013 that are no longer needed at SVRC. More recent testing materials will continue to be available on loan to VTs and schools.

Vacancy at SVRC

SVRC is currently advertising a position as etext transcriber – a full time position for 12 months. Listed under Heatherwood School, the position number is 1042508 through Recruitment Online.

Returning iPads to SVRC

Could Visiting Teachers please ask students to remove their iCloud account and passcode from the iPad before they are returned to the SVRC. Thanks.

Finally

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