

The Bulletin

Number 7, Friday 13th May 2016

Inside This Issue

- **PD:** Upcoming PD, Apple in Education for VI PD, SVRC Low Vision Day in term 3, Round Table in Melbourne, Everybody In Swimming PD, Round Table, SPEVI Conference 2017
- **Technology:** Adding Image Descriptions to Pictures you Tweet, Accessibility Tips from Apple, Contact Numbers for Microsoft + Screen Reader and Apple in Australia
- **From the Field:** Careers eBook, Braille Bricks Project, Accessible Voting
- **News:** Swimming Carnival, Concrete, Vacancies – Education Officer (SVRC), Space Camp Chaperones, Braille Aide

Professional Development 2016

For fliers and further information about upcoming events and to register your participation, please see the SVRC website.

Upcoming sessions include:

- **Skill Power Workshops: Tuesday 17 May**
 - Intro to iPad Pro – Glen Morrow
 - iPad and BrailleNote/Brailliant Connectivity – Kate Stephens (HumanWare)
- **Skill Power Workshop: Wednesday 1 June**
 - Braille Music First Steps – Lea Nagel
 - Intro to the Victor Reader Stream – Garry Stinchcombe
 - MAGic Screen Magnification – Trevor Boyd (Quantum RLV)
- **Apple in Education for VI: Tuesday 14 June**
 - Macbook and iPad accessibility and skills – Glen Morrow and Lyn Robinson (see below for more information)
- **Low Vision Day: Tuesday 9 August**
 - See attached flier for more information

To register online: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/educational-programs/skill-power/skill-power-dates-2016/>
or phone (03) 9841 0242.

Apple in Education for VI: Macbook & iPad Accessibility & Skills

Glen Morrow and Lyn Robinson are offering a special half day workshop on all things Apple for students with vision impairments. Set some time aside to immerse yourself in what Apple has to offer this group of students.

Glen has a great depth of knowledge about OS X and iOS access for low vision users. Lyn will discuss some of the implications for teaching this technology to students with vision impairments and discuss key areas of iPad skills development. There will be hands on time as well as curriculum materials to take away and lots of discussion.

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre

When: Tuesday 14 June 2016 from 9.30am to 1.00pm

Participants: Suitable for Visiting Teachers, Class Teachers and Education Support Staff

Register online: see the SVRC website or phone (03) 9841 0242

Another Low Vision Day in Term 3 (Back by Popular Demand!)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre

When: Tuesday 9 August 2016 (registration from 8.30am)

Participants: Suitable for Visiting Teachers, Class Teachers and Education Support Staff – see the flier attached to this issue of The Bulletin.

Register online: see the SVRC website or phone (03) 9841 0242

Everybody In: Teaching Swimming PD Opportunity

Emily White is offering a teaching swimming and water safety half-day program through Blind Sports Victoria. The course will focus on the teaching and inclusion of children with vision impairments in learn-to-swim programs.

When: Sunday 5 June 2016 from 12.30pm

Where: Ruyton Girls' School Aquatic Centre, Kew

For further details contact Emily: emilyhwhite123@gmail.com

Round Table

When: Saturday 14 May to Tuesday 17 May 2016

Where: Melbourne

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

Information Access is important to all people with print disability, and has many dimensions including format (braille, large print, E-text, etc.), facilities (libraries, websites, agencies, educational institutions, local councils) and modes of access (tablet, laptop, refreshable braille).

There has been rapid growth and change in the field and the 2016 Conference will explore the efficacy and efficiency of current access provisions and provide an insight into future designs and models.

SPEVI Conference 2017

When: 8 to 12 January 2017

Where: Brisbane

The conference theme *Shining The Light On Vision Education* will stimulate and shine the light on new thinking, research and technologies and discuss how we can best serve our students, preparing them to move forward with progressive learning techniques.

For more information please email Nicole Donaldson: ndona5@eq.edu.au

How to Add Image Descriptions to Pictures you Tweet

Marcos explains “How to: Add image descriptions to pictures you tweet:”

<https://www.marcozehe.de/2016/03/30/how-to-add-image-descriptions-to-pictures-you-tweet/>

Accessibility Tips and Tricks from Apple

A range of assistive technologies – including VoiceOver, Guided Access and AssistiveTouch – are built into iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch: <http://www.apple.com/au/ios/accessibility-tips/>

Careers eBook: It's Off To Work We Go

Source: Mosen Consulting at <http://mosen.org/work/>

Having a job promotes dignity, helps with a sense of purpose, and hopefully brings in some money to buy the things we want.

Paperless offices and increasingly capable assistive technology should mean that jobs are easier for blind people to get than ever. Yet it seems that attitudinal change hasn't happened as quickly as technological change.

The bottom line is that for many blind people, finding a job can still be a long, frustrating journey that can drain the self-belief of even the most positive person. There are plenty of great general resources to help you fine-tune your job-hunting skills, and we recommend scouring the web for things that will help. But if you're looking for a blindness-specific guide, written by a successful blind professional who has helped many others realise their dreams, you've come to the right place.

Bonnie Mosen's book, "It's Off To Work We Go", contains around 40,000 words of practical advice, examples and anecdotes, all from a blindness perspective, drawn from her years of experience as a successful vocational rehabilitation counsellor in the United States. From improving your chances of landing an interview to the all-important question of when, if ever, to disclose your blindness, it's all covered.

This eBook is available in formats suitable for iBooks, Voice Dream Reader, or specialised blindness devices such as the Victor Reader Stream and Plectalk Pocket.

For more information go to: Mosen Consulting at the email address above.

Braille Bricks Project

Source: Andrew Liszewski, Gizmodo Australia

Unless you're blind, know someone who is, or pay attention to lift signs, you might not be familiar with what braille actually looks like. It turns out that the braille alphabet uses a series of dot patterns that are remarkably reminiscent of the studs atop a LEGO brick, and merging the two makes learning to read and write in braille far more enjoyable for kids.



Braille Bricks are not officially associated with LEGO, but the plastic pieces look identical to - and are compatible with - the building toy we all grew up with. The only difference is that some of the studs atop the two-by-three Braille Bricks are missing, so that they can represent the 26 letters of the braille alphabet.

Design agency Lew'Lara\TBWA created 300 sets of the Braille Bricks for the Dorina Nowill Foundation for the Blind in São Paulo, Brazil. The agency has also released the design under a Creative Commons licence so anyone is able to create their own. And, presumably, to help ensure that LEGO doesn't get litigious since the Braille Bricks were created for charitable reasons.

To find out more about the Braille Bricks project go to: <http://www.braillebricks.com.br/en/>

Accessible Voting

The Australian Electoral Commission are doing Telephone Voting for the upcoming federal election. This will work the same as it did back in 2013. Register on 1800 913 993 from June 13. Once you've registered you can then vote in the two weeks prior to Election Day

Vacancy: Education Officer – Vision at the SVRC

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre is currently advertising a position as Education Officer – Vision. It's an **ongoing position** which is advertised as full time, though job sharing will be considered.

Vacancy number: 1046420 (it's listed under Heatherwood School)

The role includes:

- Attend Educational Vision Assessment Clinic (EVAC)
- Assist in administration of EVAC – Seeking medical information, booking families to attend, communicating with families, referrers, schools, regions on results of EVAC
- Conduct functional vision assessments of eligible student, at the student's educational placement anywhere in Victoria and provide reports from these assessments
- Assist with the development and provision of professional development to teachers and other professionals through SVRC programs
- Develop and disseminate curriculum materials to assist in provision of the Expanded Core Curriculum to students with vision impairments

See **Recruitment Online** for the full description. Applications must be made through Recruitment Online.

Space Camp Chaperones: Expression of Interest

Two terrific VTs (or others with suitable qualifications) are being sought to support Space Camp 2016. Please see the attached Expression of Interest and apply by 25th May 2016.

Vacancy: Braille Aide Footscray West

Footscray West PS are looking for a Braille Aide. Please apply via Recruitment Online.

Support Skills News: Swimming Carnival

Thanks to all the students who have indicated they would like to be involved in the swimming program this term. Between the 6 SSP groups, we have a total of 37 participating students of which 8 are from Group B. Only those who have indicated they want to attend the carnival will be involved in the lead up swimming preparation sessions. Emily White and Charlie Roberts along with Marnie Roth from Guide Dogs Victoria will take a group of students to 'Aqualink Box Hill' on Friday for a preparation session.

The Swim Carnival will be a half day program (9:30am to 1:00pm), held on June 10th at Genazzano College in Kew. Families will need to go directly to Genazzano and are very welcome to stay and be part of the audience. Please note: Students will need to be picked up from Genazzano at 1pm as there will be no further programs offered in the afternoon.

We will send out finalised arrangements to students and their families closer to the time.

Not only will this program provide swimming opportunities but it will also be a public travel experience supported by Guide Dogs Victoria!

SVRC News: New Concrete

Thanks to a generous donation from the Manningham Rotary Club we were able to organise concrete for the under-cover area to the west of the SVRC building. This will reduce dust and make it a much more useful area, particularly for Support Skills, not only for break times but possibly as a teaching space. A special thanks to Lea and Jacky for organising this.

2016 AFL Football Fixture in Braille

If you are a member of the Vision Australia Library, don't forget to download or request a copy of the 2016 AFL Football Fixture. All general library enquiries please telephone: 1300 654 656.

Accessibility Contact Numbers in Australia

- For issues with your Microsoft products in conjunction with your screen reader, please call 1800 280 300
- For issues with Apple accessibility, please call 1300 365083 (24/7)

Finally

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

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Expression of Interest – 2 Space Camp Chaperones, 2016

Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS) is held each year in Huntsville Alabama, USA. A group of six excited students with vision impairments are busy fundraising for their 'experience of a lifetime' which is planned for September/October 2016. In order to bring this dream to reality, the group require **two chaperones** who are willing to assist with and support planning; and then travel with the group. Assistance will be provided by SVR staff.

Visiting Teachers (Vision) and other teachers who meet the selection criteria are invited to express interest in becoming a Chaperone this year.

The successful applicants will be selected according to a transparent, fair and merit based process in accordance with relevant legislation, codes and DET policies.

Selection Criteria for Chaperone (two positions) for Space Camp 2016

- Appropriate qualifications, skills, experience and interest in supporting students with vision impairments during the planning and undertaking of this overseas excursion.
- Demonstrated capacity to support students with vision impairments for international travel to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama including during orientation, team-building and cultural activities during the excursion.
- Knowledge and understanding of the DET 'Travel Policy' and other relevant procedures and guidelines.
- Knowledge of the individual students and/or previous participation in camps with students with vision impairments is considered an advantage.
- Staff gender balance will be considered as part of this process.

In your succinct written response to the selection criteria, please indicate that you have sought the appropriate permissions from relevant Regional Managers.

Feel free to submit an Expression of Interest together with another person (ie two people who would like to Chaperone together) if appropriate.

Please email Marion your Expression of Interest: blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au by Wednesday 25th May 2016.



Education
and Training



Statewide Vision Resource Centre
presents

Educational Support for Students with Low Vision

Tuesday August 9, 2016 from 9.00am to 3.30pm
(Registration from 8.30am)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

Parking: Lower car park – next door at the Donvale Sports Complex

For: Class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, family members and visiting teachers

PROGRAM

8.30	Registration
9.00	Low Vision: What's it like?
10.30	Morning Tea
11.00	About Vision
11.20	Strategies to Support the Student with Low Vision in the Classroom
12.20	Success in the Primary and Secondary Setting
12.50	iPad Accessibility for Low Vision Users
1.10	Lunch (includes optional tour of the SVRC or VCE Special Arrangements – please indicate your interest during Registration)
1.50	Technology in the Classroom
2.10	The Vision Impaired Student in Your Classroom – Individual, Social and Family Perspectives – Geoff Bowen, Psychologist, SVRC
3.10	Let's Hear It from the Students Themselves... (Includes Q & A)
3.30	Close

Cost (GST incl.): \$66.00 per participant (onsite and offsite)

Visiting Teachers or family members \$22.00

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

Online registration is essential: please visit the SVRC website

For further details: phone 9841 0242

For parking and public transport information, please see the SVRC website: svrc.vic.edu.au