

The Bulletin

Number 8, Friday 27th May 2016

Inside This Issue

Please find the following topics in this issue:

- **PD:** Upcoming PD, SVRC Low Vision Day in term 3, YouTube Video: iOS Accessibility, NDIS Our Choice Expo
- **Technology:** New Typing Program: TypingClub, Paths to Technology website, Q&A: PDF/ePub
- **Things to do:** Blind Sports: Junior Tennis, Junior Basketball, OnBoard with Blind Safety, SVRC Swimming Carnival, Braille Music Camp
- **From the Field:** PhD Completion Seminar: Erica Tandori, New Disability Commissioner, JSPEVI Call for Papers, PTV ScreenReader App Update
- **News:** VT Membership of Felix Library, Support Skills News

Upcoming 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 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 from 9.30am**
 - 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

Please register online or phone (03) 9841 0242.

Back by Popular Demand: Educational Support for Students with Vision Impairments

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

2017 SPEVI Conference Update

Conference theme: Shining the light on vision education

When: 8th to 12th January 2017

Where: Royal International Convention Centre Brisbane

The SPEVI Conference theme will allow us and our presenters to shine the light on new ideas and technologies and discuss how we can best serve our students, parents and the community.

YouTube Video: iOS Accessibility Overview

Glen Morrow presented an excellent session at the recent Round Table Conference describing accessibility in the iOS environment (iPad, iPhone etc). His companion video which is a quick look at some of these accessibility options is now available online. This video shows VoiceOver, Zoom, Invert Colours and the Accessibility Shortcut. It's a quick demonstration of what these features are and how they work.

Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbWMYNVkvmM&feature=youtu.be> or there is currently a link from the SVRC homepage.

(And Speaking of iOS) Our Latest Video Tutorial

SVRC's Glen Morrow has created a new video tutorial iOS Control Centre with VoiceOver – short and sweet and a great overview! You'll find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyBI3gxDEuE> with thanks to Glen!

PhD Completion Seminar: Erica Tandori

When: Thursday 2 June at 1.00pm

Where: Founder's Gallery, St Kilda Rd, Southbank

Admission: Free, no bookings required

This PhD research project explores a personal experience of vision loss caused by the onset of juvenile macular dystrophy, through the framework of a studio art practice. It asks, "What does low vision look like?" or more specifically, "what does macular dystrophy look like for me?" I seek to find answers in the arena where its impact is felt most; the field of vision as experienced in everyday life, and through the visually expressive language of art. This seminar will be chaired by Professor Barbara Bolt.



Image (right) The Vegemite Jar (2016), Oil on Canvas, 8x10 inches.

New Disability Commissioner

Source: The Attorney-General's website

On 5th May 2016, Senator George Brandis, Attorney-General for Australia, announced Mr Alastair McEwin as Disability Discrimination Commissioner. This is a 5-year appointment.

Mr McEwin has been a longstanding advocate for the rights of people with disability, and has represented the interests of people with disability at all levels. He is a former Chief Executive Officer of People with Disability Australia and a former manager of the Australian Centre for Disability Law. In addition to his extensive qualifications and experience, Mr McEwin brings to the role lived experience of the issues confronting people with disability. He will be a fantastic leader and role model for the sector.

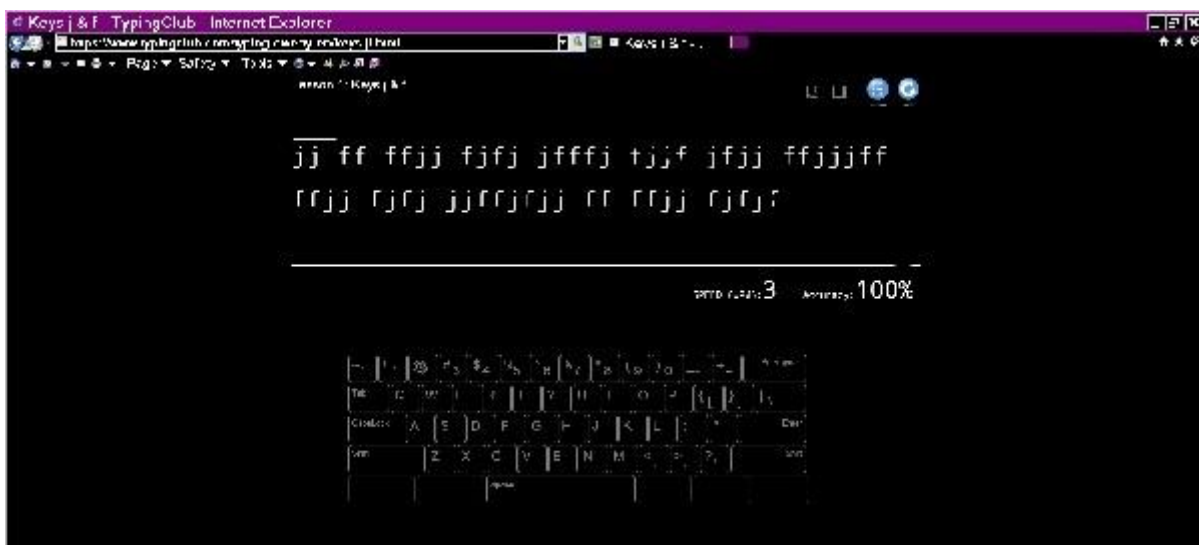
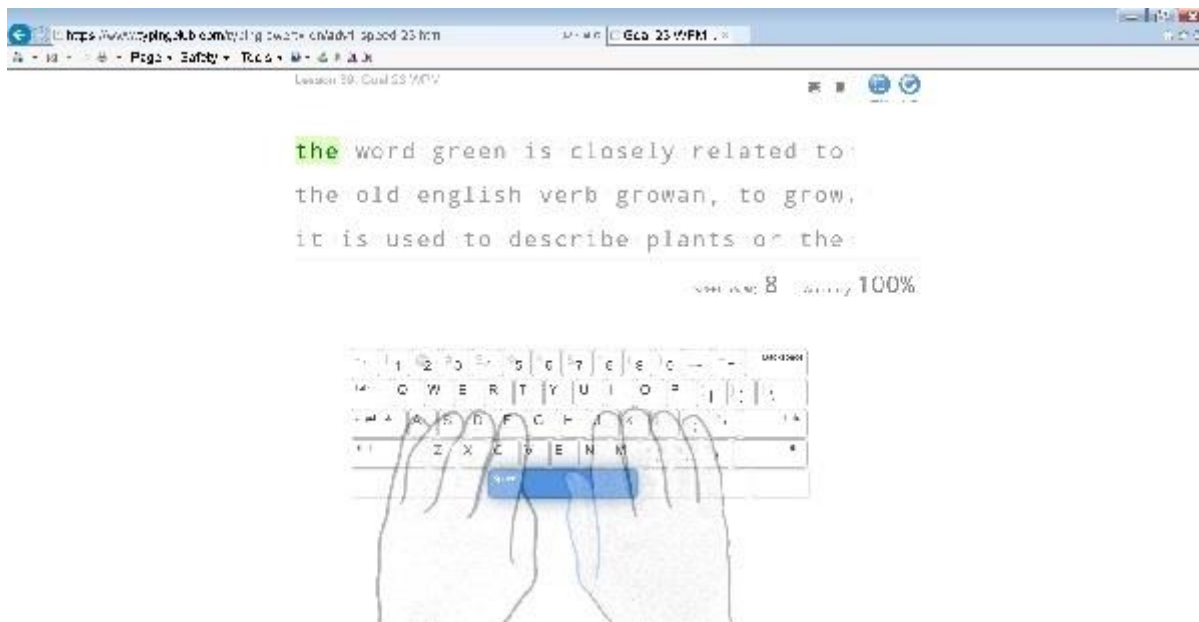
Free New Typing Program: TypingClub

Thanks to Lea Nagel for this info!

Here's a free online typing program for people who are looking to spice up their typing sessions! It's TypingClub. It works online as a web page, so you can use your computer settings to change the look and size of the page. Without modification, the page is visually simple: white background with grey letters and an image of a keyboard with hands demonstrating the typing position (See top image below).

On my PC, by pressing alt with shift with PrintScreen, I turned on my pre-set High Contrast setting so that the web page appeared black with lovely crisp white letters. On a Mac you can go to settings to reverse the colours (See lower picture below for reverse contrast).

I used control with roll (on the plug-in mouse) to enlarge the page. You can skip forward to any of the 70 lessons, and the lesson buttons are labelled with the focus letters that you'll be practising, which makes it easy to select a lesson. Speed and accuracy update live as you type - how motivating! Visit: <https://www.typingclub.com/typing-qwerty-en.html>



VT Membership of Feelix Library

Information provided by Louise Curtin

Feelix Library is available for teachers of the vision impaired who have a young child in the early years of school. Each Feelix kit contains a picture storybook with braille inserted; a CD; a tactile book and some hands on materials related to the story. We would like to stress a few important points about using these kits as a classroom resource.



- Kits are to be used with the child as a teaching tool, on a one to one basis; the kits have a number of components kept together in the black suitcase.
- They are not to be sent home with the child as the teacher is the member and has primary responsibility for the materials in the kit.
- If the child is at Pre-school, there is a kinder collection available to Pre-schools. These kits are borrowed on a monthly basis and include the book with braille, the CD and the tactile book.
- Feelix kits are sent out on a Library system- the borrowing period is 4 weeks, this does not include postage time. Postage is free, just flip the address card to return.

To join, email or call:

Contact: Louise Curtin (03) 98649546 or Robyn Sainsbury-Vale (03) 98649545 OR

Email: feelix@visionaustralia.org.



<p>early childhood braille book library teacher resource membership form</p> <p>Teacher's name: _____ School: _____ Postal address: _____ _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____ Interest/topics: _____ _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>Student's vision condition: _____ _____</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>VA Contact person: Braille required: (please indicate) uncontracted contracted</p> <p>Please return completed form to: Louise Curtin Vision Australia Feelix Library 454 Glenferrie Rd Kooyong Vic3144 Ph 1300 847466</p>
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Paths to Technology

Source: <http://www.perkinselearning.org/technology>

Paths to Technology is the latest offering from Perkins School for the Blind (home also of Paths to Literacy) which seeks to facilitate a “community of practice” focussing on the assistive technology needs of students who are blind or have low vision. The goal of this project is to enable students with visual impairments and blindness (VIB) to succeed in paperless mainstream classrooms and post-school opportunities for employment by achieving digital literacy and by staying current with rapidly evolving technology.

Created as an interactive site, Paths to Technology will be a resource for defining and disseminating best practices, training, and support for teachers of the visually impaired, braille transcribers, other education professionals, parents and students themselves.

JSPEVI Call for Papers and Reports for 2016 Issue

Original manuscripts, reports and news items are sought for the ninth issue of the “Journal of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment”. The journal provides essays, quantitative and qualitative research articles and analyses, conceptual papers, literature and book reviews, case studies, policy analyses and innovative practice descriptions and evaluations as well as perspectives and opinions on a wide variety of issues and topics related to the education of children, youth and adults in Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries who are blind or have low vision

Articles submitted for publication will undergo “blind peer review” by the JSPEVI Editorial Advisory Panel of leaders and practitioners in the field of vision impairment.

To enable timely review and manuscript revision, it would be appreciated if authors could submit manuscripts by email or post no later than 31st July 2016. Manuscripts, reports and news items should be sent electronically to the Convening Editor, email frances.gentle@ridbc.org.au; or save the files to a USB or CD and post to Frances Gentle, P.O. Box 351, Heidelberg, Victoria 3079

The JSPEVI Guidelines for Contributors may be downloaded from the publications section of the SPEVI website or request a copy from Frances Gentle.

Q&A: PDF / ePUB

Question: What’s the difference between an ePub file and a PDF file?

Answer from Glen Morrow: ePub is an open source eBook format that is specifically designed to be displayed on mobile devices. Its main feature (well one of them) is that text is ‘flowable’ meaning that it will reformat itself to best fit on a mobile screen. PDFs are a proprietary format (Adobe as well we know) and whilst it can happily display on a mobile device, the text is not ‘flowable’. The text is fixed and won’t reformat itself.

For people with low vision, ePub is a better format because you can zoom in on text by using zoom features of an ebook reader and you won’t have to move the screen from side to side to read like you do with a PDF.

Upcoming Blind Sports Activities

Junior Blind and Vision Impaired Tennis Program

Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria will be conducting a junior tennis program for children who are blind or have low vision aged 7 to 14 during the June 2016 School Holidays. The program is aimed at introducing the sport of tennis to children through the Hot Shots Tennis Program.

This introductory program will consist of 2 x 2 hour sessions where children will participate in fun activities that will introduce them to:

- tennis Court
- tennis Racquet and Audible Tennis Ball
- forehand and backhand

Where: Tennis World, National Tennis Centre, Melbourne Park, Olympic Boulevard, Richmond,

When: Thursday 30 June 2016 - 10am to 12 noon and Tuesday 5 July 2016 - 10am to 12 noon

For further information and the registration form contact Susan at Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria at (03) 9822 8876 or info@blindsports.org.au

Junior Basketball Program

Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria in conjunction with Basketball Victoria are seeking expressions of interest for a vision impaired basketball program. This program is for males and females aged 6 - 18 years of age.

When: Tuesday, 5 July 2016

Time: 10am - 12pm

Where: North Melbourne Recreation Centre, 204-206 Arden Street, North Melbourne

Info and registration: tim.downes@basketballvictoria.com.au or phone 9837 8000

OnBoard with Blind Safety

This program is designed to increase your knowledge and awareness of safety in the home and around the City of Melbourne.

- June 22: tour of the MCG and National Sports Museum. Cost: \$12.50 (places are limited)
- July 6: Southern Cross Station, including a visit and information about the services that Travellers Aid provides and a walk around Docklands
- August 24: walk Melbourne's Golden Mile
- August 31: a visit to Federation Square and Treasury Gardens
- September 7: visit Queen Victoria Market
- October 12: visit Olympic Park, Melbourne's sporting precinct
- October 18: a talk about home safety and alarms

If you are interested in any of these activities or would like your name added to the email list for future events, please email Sandra Knight at Sandra@blindsports.org.au or phone 9822 9642

Update to PTV ScreenReader App

The PTV Digital Team reports that their PTV ScreenReader App has recently been updated to offer better access to public transport information for people using screen readers. Improvements include new map and high-contrast versions of the Night Network maps. Users of the current PTV ScreenReader app will need to upgrade to the new version by the end of June 2016, as the system which is currently supporting it will be decommissioned. This means the app's journey planner will stop working unless users have upgraded to the new version. PTV ScreenReader is now available in the Apple App Store.

Support Skills News: Swimming Carnival

Where: Genazzano College in Kew

When: Friday 10 June 2016

Time: 9.30am to 1.00pm

Participants: There will be almost 40 competitors on the day and we invite families, Visiting Teachers, members of the students' schools to come along to cheer the students on! Families will need to bring their students to Genazzano and to pick them up from Genazzano at 1pm as there will be no SSP in the afternoon.

Thanks to Emily White, Charlie Roberts, staff from Guide Dogs Victoria who have supported the training program. Thanks to Garry and his team for timetabling efforts!

Braille Music Camp 2016

Braille Music Camp is for braille readers who love music and want to learn, improve, transcribe or teach braille music.

When: Saturday evening 25th June to breakfast Saturday 2nd July

Where: Frensham, Range Road Mittagong NSW 2575

Cost for Victorians: \$200 + transport to and from the camp

More information: contact Roma Dix (02) 4871 1086 or 0432 466882

NDIS: Our Choice Expo

When: Tuesday 7th June 2016

Where: VALID, 235 Napier Street Fitzroy

No charge

Information and exhibits about the National Disability Insurance Scheme for people with disability and their supporters. For more information, please phone: 9416 4003

Support Skills News

Following on from our participation in the highly successful *Bullying. No Way! Take a Stand Together* national program, staff of the Support Skills Program have run the session with a number of other groups during recent Fridays. Michael has supported this work during his art sessions with students, inviting students to contribute to a text-based art work to help share the message. Below is a banner, created by Group F students last week!



Finally

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



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