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Check [The Bulletin archive](#) for back issues!

## Dates for Your Diary

Here's what's coming up:

- **SVRC Expo:** 28 November (See below for workshop times and more)
- **Christmas Morning Tea:** 7 December – please invite others who are part of our community!
- **SPEVI Conference:** 8-12 January 2017 in Brisbane

School finishes this year on a Tuesday – December 20!

## SVRC Writing Competition – “Travel and Opportunity”

**Theme:** “The where, why and what of travel” – Where I would like to travel, why I would like to travel there and what “vision” technology I would take to assist me.

We have lots of entries already, however, the deadline has been extended to 23 November so please submit entries in any alternative medium, to SVRC, PO Box 201, Nunawading 3131 or electronically to [svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au) with the subject “SVRC Writing Comp”.

There will be prizes and certificates awarded in various age categories at the SVRC Expo.

## SVRC Expo 2016

**When:** Monday 28 November 2016 from 10am until 2.00pm

**Where:** SVRC, 370 Springvale Road Donvale

**Theme:** Promoting inclusion and access in education

**Cost:** Free!

The SVRC Technology Expo features best practise in access technology options for students with vision impairments. Displays and demonstrations of the latest in technology including magnification and screen reading software, audio books, braille technology and more! Added excitement on the day includes:

- announcement of the winners of this year's writing competition
- a presentation by the Space Campers 2016

It's all happening at our place so come along!

## A Chance to Drive: In The Driver's Seat

**Tentative date:** Sunday 21 May 2017

In The Driver's Seat is an annual event, an initiative of the Lions Club of Warrandyte, and is assisted by the resources of the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the Vintage Driver's Club, the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club, and the '49-'59 Ford Customline Club.

Online applications open on 1 March and close on 30 April for Australian people with vision impairments who are over 16 years of age.

Transport is provided from the Sandown Park Railway Station to the registration area and back at no cost. Food and soft drink at nominal cost is available during the day.

More details can be obtained from Bill Gerritsen on telephone (03) 9434 3270 or visit:

<http://www.lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au/itds.php>

Please note **bookings are essential** as the event runs to a tight schedule from 9am to 4pm.

## Friday Night Blind Cricket

**From:** Rod Pritchard, President, Blind Cricket Association

A special Blind Cricket Experience will be held on Friday 2nd December from 5:00pm until late. Come along and bring your family and friends and enjoy a warm summer evening playing cricket or just relaxing with a meal and a cool drink.

Friday night cricket is open to everyone both beginners and experienced alike. Even if you have never played blind cricket before you can come down and give it a go, no experience necessary, our coaches and volunteers will soon get you going.

**When:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 from 5:00pm til late

**Where:** Victorian Blind Cricket Association Grounds, rear of Vision Australia  
454 Glenferrie Road Kooyong Kooyong Vic 3144

**Further information:** please contact Rod Pritchard on 0401 718 926

## Interesting Article: The Way I See It – Living with Partial Blindness

**Source:** <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/nov/14/the-way-i-see-it-living-with-partial-blindness-rp>

Below is the beginning of an article from a young woman who has RP. She describes her vision and discusses her experience of having low vision. Please click the link above for more.

"Two young men are in my way. Their laughter echoes off the houses opposite as I move quickly to skirt around them on the narrow pavement. As I pass, they fall silent. I am a few inches away now, my white cane skimming the uneven paving stones, when one of them shouts to the other. His voice is confused, angry. He is shouting: "She's not blind."

**You can't be a bit dead. It's a binary thing. You either are or you aren't – same goes for pregnancy. But what about blindness? Can you be a bit blind? Is that allowed? And how does that work? What does it look like?**

It looks like a woman seeing two men in front of her and using her cane to navigate around them. It looks like a man folding up his cane outside the cinema and going in to enjoy a movie. It looks like a girl on a train reading a newspaper while her guide dog rests his chin on her lap..."

## Google Impact Challenge: CERA Win

Researchers from the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) have won \$750,000 after competing in today's finals of the 2016 Google Impact Challenge held in Sydney.

The prize money will go towards research for the creation of Vision at Home, an evidence-based software algorithm that provides a method for patients to test their eyesight anywhere there is access to a webcam and the Internet.

The project is a simple hand-held solution for those who live far away from eye specialists and has the potential to help millions of people not only in Australia but worldwide. The goal is to create the solution and help those who can't easily get to treatment. 94% of blindness or vision loss in Indigenous Australians is preventable or treatable and Vision at Home will bring testing to areas with poor access and benefit groups with great potential for sight-saving interventions, including children, the elderly and Indigenous Australians. It can also be used overseas in remote locations.

For more information or [listen to Dr William Yan talk about the experience and the Vision@Home project.](#)

## National Museum of Australia – Canberra OpenAccess Tours

Thanks Phia Damsma for this information via the SPEVI Listserv:

Two million years of history in one room! Access the history of humanity with OpenAccess Tours.

A History of the World in 100 Objects takes you through how we have shaped the world, and how the world has shaped us – telling stories through a collection of 100 artefacts from around the world.

Comprising objects from the British Museum, this major exhibition is on show from 9 September 2016 to 29 January 2017.

**OpenAccess Tour options:** Auslan, English language captions, **audio description**

**Access tours:** The gallery has hearing loops and offers booked group tours for specific access needs.

**Where:** Access is via Lawson Crescent, Acton in Canberra. The Museum is located on Acton Peninsula on Lake Burley Griffin.

For more information including ticketing, cost etc, visit:

<http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/history-of-the-world>

## New Access App: "Blappy"

Source: Media Access Australia and Phia Damsma via the SPEVI Listserv

A new Bluetooth chat application for accessibility, called Blappy, aims to bring more people together. The app for Android translates voice to text and text to voice, to enable people who are vision impaired to effectively communicate with those who are deaf or hearing impaired.

As Blappy uses Bluetooth, it's intended for use by people who are physically located under 30 metres apart. The finished Blappy app was developed by ABP Devitel and [can be freely downloaded from the Google Play store](#). It requires Android 4.0.3 and up. The developers are also working on an iOS version.

## Access Technology Snippets

### ***Accessible PowerPoints***

Microsoft PowerPoint is an easy program to use and it can be a powerful tool. Whether your presentation needs visual cues, written cues or for the ability to share information beyond what the speaker is saying. But how do you make sure your PowerPoint presentations are accessible? Here are [5 top tips to ensure your PowerPoints are accessible.](#)

### ***BrailleNote Touch***

Episode 1642 of Eyes on Success: <http://eyesonsuccess.net>

### ***New Apple Accessibility Site***

Apple have launched a new accessibility mini site (along with a new line-up of MacBook Pros). Visit: [Accessibility](#)

### ***SketchPad***

SketchPad is a free online drawing website which allows you to draw basic diagrams, it has a range of useful functions, drawing tools such as pencils and crayons, line and shape drawing and text boxes which scale nicely. You can export your drawings to a number of formats including JPG, PDF, PNG, etc and (as far as we can tell), it's free: <http://sketch.io/sketchpad/>

### ***VoiceOver***

Teaching and training in the VoiceOver screen reader for iOS – you can nominate the device and iOS version you have and it gives you specific instructions: <http://voiceover-easy.net>

### ***Window 7 User's Guide to Windows 10***

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/window-7-user-s-guide-windows-10.htm>

## How to Draw Pictures with the Perkins

With Christmas fast approaching, students may wish to create their own tactual Christmas cards easily and quickly! Draw your own Christmas Tree, Santa or something unique.

The SVRC has a few designs to get you going: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/curriculum/drawing-with-your-perkins-braille/>

If you want more, Perkins have a book of 36 designs that can be purchased online:

<http://www.perkinsproducts.org/store/en/perkins-publications/236-drawing-with-your-perkins-braille.html>

To draw the Christmas Tree (right) using your Perkins:

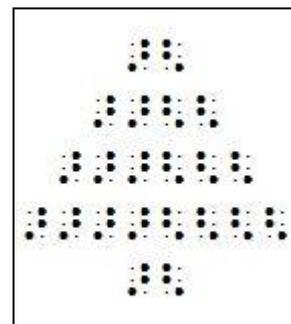
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## Summer Reading for Students from SVRC

The SVRC has a large and ever-growing collection of etext books for students' reading pleasure! There are also a number of book series which can be requested to keep students busy over the holidays.

### ***Geronimo Stilton (Primary)***

OK, you may not call these books "literature" but they are a bit of a rollicking read! First written in Italy, these books feature Geronimo (a mouse reporter) and his adventures with his friends. The books are fast-paced and filled with humour, suspense, mystery and excitement! There are some spin-offs to the series including Thea Stilton (more for the girls), Cavemice, Spacemice and more.

We have 30 books from the collection as Word files.

### ***Cherub Series (Junior Secondary)***

This highly-rated series by Robert Muchamore features an organisation of teenage spies, who hack into computers, bug houses and investigate criminals. It's a fast-moving action thriller which begins with James, a 12-year-old character from a children's home, being recruited to CHERUB and undergoing 100 days of training. The SVRC holds the 12 books from this series as Word files.

### ***New Books for Secondary Students***

New books that staff are working on, particularly for students in upper secondary year levels include:

- Burial Rites by Hannah Kent
- Kill the Possum by James Moloney
- Refuge by Jackie French
- The Longest Memory by Fred D'Aguiar
- Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
- White Tiger by Aravind Adiga
- Whose Life is it Anyway? by Brian Clark

**Please use the request form on the SVRC website to place orders for these and other books from the SVRC. And if you would like a book produced in alternative format for your summer reading, please send a copy of the book with your request form! 😊**

## SVRC Returns for 2016 & Requests for 2017

Please return items of technology or braille/large print that are no longer required AND please get your requests in asap.

## Staff News

We are looking forward to **Lee Clarke** commencing full time work at the SVRC as Education Officer for EVAC next week! Yippeeee!

## Finally

Editor Deb Lewis would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this issue of The Bulletin!

# SVRC Tech Expo 2016

Featuring best practise in access technology options for students with vision impairments.

**MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER, 2016**

**10AM – 2PM**

Our theme this year is “*Promoting inclusion and access in education*”.

Exhibitors and demonstrations of the latest in access technology for students with vision impairments.

Come and try magnification and screen reading software, audio books, navigation and optical character recognition devices braille technology and more.

The day is open to teachers, aides, families, students, mobility instructors, therapists or anyone with an interest in access technology for students with vision impairments.

Plan to spend the time to try out something new!

## **Workshop Times:**

**10:45am** HumanWare will demonstrate the new BrailleNote Touch

**11:30am** Let’s Hear It From The Students: come and see Alex & Tess – former SVRC students

**1:15pm** Quantum RLV will demonstrate the new Orcam

Exhibitors this year include:

- childsply by Claire
- European Eyewear
- Guide Dogs Victoria
- Humanware
- NV Access
- Pacific Vision
- Quantum RLV
- Statewide Vision Resource Centre
- Vision Australia

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

**Parking:** Lower carpark at Sports Centre next door

**Public transport:** Train to Nunawading Station; busses from city/Doncaster or Nunawading Station

**Cost:** Free (and no need to register)

**Certificate of Participation:** is available on request.

**For further details:** [contact us!](#)