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

Dates for Your Diary

Here's what's coming up:

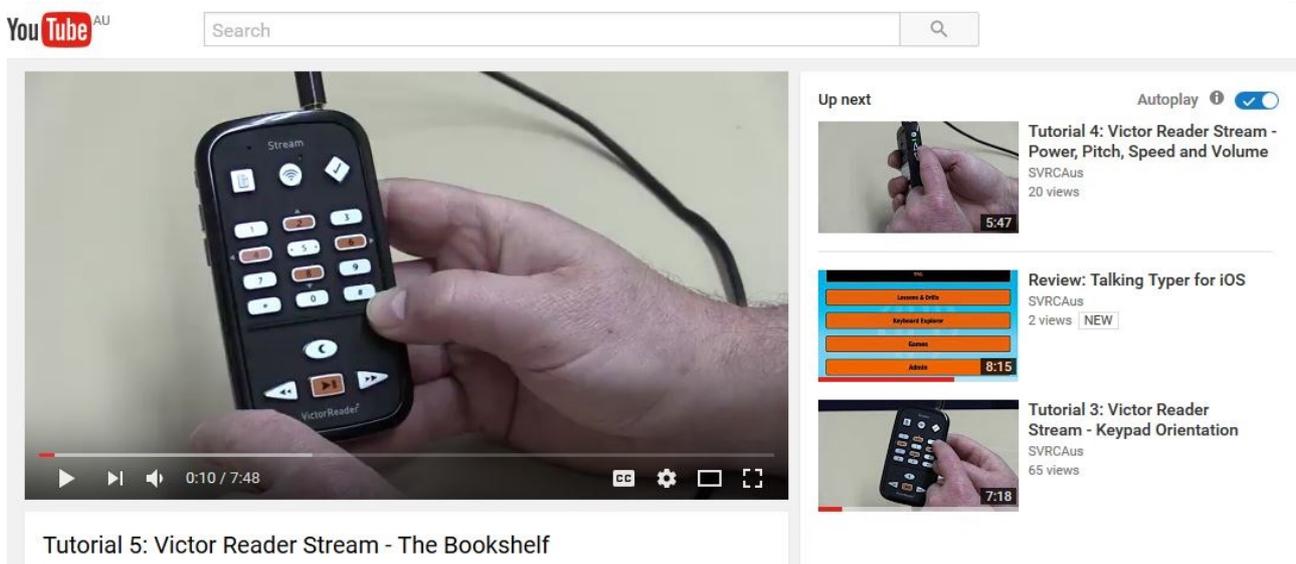
- **Art4Kids:** 17 May
- **VT Day:** 6 June 2017
- **Dot Power:** 13 June
- **Low Vision Day:** 15 August

See the SVRC website for more information and online registration.

SVRC Tutorials: Victor Reader Stream #5 & #6

SVRC Tutorial 5 featuring the Victor Reader Stream's "Bookshelf" AND Tutorial 6 featuring the "Multi-Tap" are now available on the SVRC YouTube channel.

Visit: <https://youtu.be/039II-KRlc>



Professional Learning day for Visiting Teachers (Vision) – 6 June 2017

SVRC is excited to be hosting a day for all Visiting Teachers to explore all about the NDIS and assessment. Please register online now.

We are planning to look in detail at the National Disability Insurance Scheme and what it means for our students and for us. For the other half of the day will look at all things assessment: VCE, NAPLAN, On Demand testing, functional vision assessment, learning media assessment, adaptive technology assessment and braille reading speeds. There will also be an opportunity for the four regional teams to network as a statewide group.

Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Shortlist 2017

The Children's Book Council of Australia celebrates writing excellence each year with the "Book of the Year" awards. The awards are presented to books of literary merit, for outstanding contribution to Australian children's literature.

This year, as usual, there is a shortlist of books in three age groups, the winners of which will be announced on 18 August 2017.

If you'd like to read books from the Shortlist and make your own award predictions, we have a growing collection of titles as Word documents.

Books for the older reader (secondary-aged):

- The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon
- Frankie by Shivaun Plozza

And we hope to have the following as Word files pretty soon:

- Waer by Meg Caddy
- Words in Deep Blue by Cath Crowley
- Yellow by Megan Jacobson
- One Would Think the Deep by Claire Zorn

Books for the younger reader (upper-primary and lower-secondary):

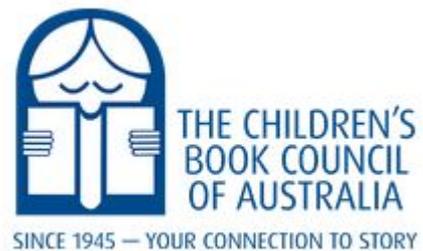
- Within These Walls by Robyn Bavati
- Mrs Whitlam by Bruce Pascoe

And we hope to have the following as Word files pretty soon:

- Rock Hopping by Trace Bella
- The Most Magical Girl by Karen Foxlee
- Dragonfly Song by Wendy Orr
- Captain Jimmy cook Discovers Third Grade by Kate Temple and Jol Temple

Send your 50-100 word reviews with your prediction of the winner and we might even include your thoughts in an upcoming issue of The Bulletin!

To read about the short-listed books or find out more about the Children's Book Council of Australia, visit: <https://cbca.org.au>



Braille Music Day

From: Lea Nagel

SVRC hosted a Braille Music workshop on Tuesday 2nd May. It was attended by an enthusiastic group of classroom and instrumental teachers, ES staff and a parent. Topics covered included:

- Why braille music?
- The basics of the braille music code
- Finding your way around a sheet or book of braille music
- Ways to include a student who reads braille in your music class
- Ideas and techniques for introducing and teaching braille music
- Methods of producing tactile diagrams
- A quick virtual tour of the SVRC braille music library
- How to request materials from SVRC

Participants played a braille rhythm piece on tuned Angel Chimes and watched video of a pair of students learning to play the piano from braille music at National Braille Music Camp. Two of the participants indicated their interest in providing individual music tuition to braille reading students. Each participant contributed to the workshop by sharing their knowledge and interest in their area of music education. Warm thanks to everyone for their interest, questions and offerings!

National Braille Music Camp 2017

The National Braille Music Camp is for braille readers who love music and want to learn, improve, transcribe or teach braille music. It is a wonderful opportunity both musically and socially to develop your braille music skills.

The 32nd Camp will be held at Frensham, Range Road, Mittagong NSW 2575 from **Saturday evening 24th June to breakfast Saturday 1st July 2017.**

To apply, you'll need to complete and send:

- application form and medical information form
- payment: the cost for Victorians is \$200 and you buy the train ticket

This program is very popular and students travel from all over Australia to attend.

Please note that the National Braille Music Camp is an independently run organisation. It is not a program conducted by the Department of Education.

For more information please contact Jordie Howell at the SVRC on Fridays or Roma Dix 0432 466882 romad@westnet.com.au



VISCON: 2-Day Vision Conference in NSW

RIDBC Renwick Centre Continuing Education Program invites you to participate in the 2017 VISCON two day conference. The conference will be held on Thursday, 7 and Friday, 8 September 2017 at the RIDBC Renwick Centre in North Rocks, NSW. The conference will focus on adaptive technology, curriculum access and adjustments, school-based support, NDIS, accessibility to printed materials etc. See the RIDBC website for further information and registration.

Supporting Learners with Vision Impairment

The Melbourne University Learning Intervention team invite you to attend "Supporting Learners with Vision Impairments" presented by Emily White.

When: Wednesday 24 May 2017 from 11am to 12 noon

Where: Melbourne Graduate School of Education, 100 Leicester St Parkville Rooms L613/L614

In this presentation, Emily will share two new documents from the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI):

- SPEVI Principles and Practice – Guidelines for quality education of learners with vision impairment, and
- AITSL-SPEVI Professional Standards Elaborations for Specialist Teachers (Vision Impairment)

Emily will discuss how the Guidelines underpin the provision of an inclusive, equitable, and quality education for students who are blind or have low vision, deafblindness, or additional disabilities. She will also describe how the Elaborations outline and support the development of specialist knowledge and skill in these teachers.

Further details: spoed@unimelb.edu.au

Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual impairment

Mathematics Made Easy for Children with Visual Impairment is a 364 page document that introduces teachers to the teaching of Maths concepts, techniques and notation. Though this booklet presents mathematics using the Nemeth Code, the strategies are still helpful.

Download from the ICEVI website:

[http://icevi.org/pdf/Mathematics %20Made %20Easy%20for%20Children %20with%20 Visual%20Impairment.pdf](http://icevi.org/pdf/Mathematics%20Made%20Easy%20for%20Children%20with%20Visual%20Impairment.pdf)

Talking Typer for iOS: Review

APH recently released **Talking Typer for iOS** which Glen Morrow installed to one of the SVRC iPads to check it out. You can find his review on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/RTmYlwqjP44>

Some of the features he discusses include:

- adjustable text size and speed of voice
- lesson options such as home keys for left hand, home keys for right hand
- custom lessons that focus on particular letters
- feedback provided including words per minute, accuracy, time taken
- and for fun, Hurry Scurry, a speed and accuracy game

Download Talking Typer from the APH website.

Research Opportunity for Students and VTs: Braille Reading Speed

Braille readers in Victoria and Visiting Teachers (Vision) are invited to participate in an exciting piece of research which is being undertaken in Australia and New Zealand titled “Comparing the oral reading speeds of braille readers to their sighted print reading peers”.

This research has been approved by the Department of Education and Training, Victoria and the University of Newcastle Human Research Ethics Committee.

Researcher Tricia d’Apice, who is the coordinator of the RIDBC Teleschool and well-known to many of us, will be at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre on 5th and 26th May to meet with students, but she also keen to involve as many school-aged braille reading students in her research.

Further, Tricia would like Visiting Teachers to complete a short survey.

Marion is currently seeking approval from the regions for VTs to participate – agreement has been provided by three of the four regions so far.

Face-to-face interviews with students will be undertaken at the Support Skills Program in the first instance. The time required should be less than 30 minutes (no more than 1 hour).

Tricia also plans to interview other students via Skype (or similar) in the next few weeks.

[If the research takes place during school time, principal approval will be required.]

Information has been sent to Visiting Teachers and Regions.

If you have further questions about this research, please contact Tricia via email tricia.dapice@ridbc.org.au or phone (02) 9872 0248.

Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition

From: Sally Balwin, General Manager Braille House

The 2017 Dickinson Memorial Literary Competition will be conducted by the Queensland Braille Writing Association (Braille House). This annual writing competition has categories for all ages and winning entries will be published in braille and electronically.

Participants can pen a short story or poem and be in the running to win cash prizes in this year’s competition. The theme is “*Belonging*” and entries close 25 August 2017.

Adult: Over 18 years

Senior student: 13-17 years

Junior student: 12 years or under

Eligibility: A participant must be legally blind and resident of Australia

Format: Submissions should be in hard-copy braille, Simbraille or a Duxbury-readable file

Entry fees: Adults and Senior students: \$10 per item; Junior students: \$5 per item

For guidelines and entry form, visit: <http://braillehouse.org.au/dickinson-memorial-literary-competition-2017/>

SVRC Swimming Carnival, 4 August

The SVRC Swimming Carnival will take place this year on Friday 4 August at the Genazzano pool. Support Skills students who plan to attend the Swimming Carnival will participate in training sessions during the term.

This year, the **Swimming Carnival is open to non-Support Skills Students** as well. Please contact Garry or Emma at the SVRC for more information.

Come and be part of this fabulous event!

Cricket

From Rod Pritchard, President Blind Cricket Australia

Cricket is Australia's most popular sport offering opportunities for people of all ages, genders and abilities. Vision impaired cricket is specifically designed for those with low or no vision and has been run in Victoria by the Victorian Blind Cricket Association since the sport was initially conceived and first played anywhere in the world back in 1922. The game has evolved and come a long way since then and now offers more opportunities to play in all age mixed gender formats than ever before.

Indoor Cricket

Indoor Cricket is fast paced and provides lots of fun and activity for players of all ages, genders and abilities for both experienced or beginners alike. Even if you have never played cricket before the program format will ensure that you can participate and quickly learn new skills as well as beating the winter blues. Sighted friends and family are also welcome to join in this social style of indoor cricket.

Indoor Cricket Autumn Season

When: Every Saturday from 6th May to 3rd June

Times: Juniors (6-16) 12:30pm to 2:00pm / Seniors (17 and over) 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Indoor Cricket Winter Season

When: Every Saturday from 5th August to 9th September

Times: Juniors (6-16) 12:30pm to 2:00pm / Seniors (17 and over) 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Where: St Columbs Church Hall Indoor Cricket Centre, Cnr of Burwood Rd and St Columbs St, Hawthorn

Casual: Juniors \$2.50 per Day / Seniors \$5:00 per day

Season: Autumn Season (5 weeks) Juniors \$10:00 / Seniors \$20.00

Winter Season (6 weeks) Juniors \$12.50 / Seniors \$25.00

2017 Schools Programme

This is a day especially for all students with vision impairments in both primary and secondary schools. Attendees can experience and learn a little of the art of playing vision impaired cricket with the assistance of specialist coaches. The skills learned will be put into practice with a short form social match for all to join into. We also have a forum for parents to meet together and discuss issues relating to the specific developmental challenges of raising vision impaired children. This event will take place in September with the date and venue still to be confirmed. Watch out for further details of the 2017 Schools programme.

Summer Season

The 2017-18 Summer Season of Vision Impaired Cricket will commence Saturday 7 October running every Saturday and concluding with the season Grand Final over the 2018 Labour Day Weekend on 10 and 11 March 2018. The season consists of Milo cricket formats for Juniors and T-20 and 2 day formats for the all age mixed gender competitions.

Milo Cricket (ages 6 to 16) from 10:30am to 12:00 noon

All Age Mixed Gender Club Competition from 1:00pm to 5:15pm

Where: VBCA Grounds, Rear of Vision Australia, 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong

Friday Night Social Cricket

Not quite ready for competitive cricket this summer? Then how about Friday Night Social Cricket? No experience necessary and this is open to both fully sighted and vision impaired participants alike. Come along and enjoy a great social night out with family and friends of “back yard” style cricket. We will also be firing up the BBQ for some delicious eats with other refreshments also available.

Need more information?

Visit the web site at www.vbca.org.au

Contact our President, Rod Pritchard, at pritchardrojo@bigblue.net.au or phone on 0401 718 926

Braille Passports in South Korea

Source: KBS World Radio

The South Korean Foreign Ministry says it will issue passports in braille for people with visual impairments of degree one, two and three. A transparent sticker inscribed with the passport number, issuance date and expiration date will be attached to the inside of the passport's front cover. South Korea is the first country in the world to issue passports in braille and expressed expectations that braille passports will boost conveniences for visually impaired people on overseas trips.



Soundabout

Blind Citizens Australia produce an audio newsletter which can be downloaded from their website. The May 2017 edition includes:

- Glen Morrow speaks with BCA President, John Simpson about this year's National Convention
- Steve Richardson speaks with Emma Bennison about her new role as Executive Officer
- Peter Greco speaks with Lynne Davis about the National Policy Council
- Steve Richardson speaks with Vaughn Bennison, host of New Horizons Radio Program
- Peter Greco speaks with Julie Sutherland for an update on the Women's Branch
- Rikki Chaplin speaks with Gisele Mesnage about Digital Gap initiative.
- Glen Morrow speaks with Adam Morris about the various mailing lists for blind and vision impaired people.
- Rikki Chaplin Speaks with Martin Stewart about the inaccessibility of AFL and NRL apps

Visit: [SoundAbout, May 2017 – listen](#) or [download](#)

Student News

Lavender-May (photo right) has had some great success in swimming this year, after competing in her school sports. Lavender-May achieved a first place in both Freestyle and Backstroke 50m Multi-Class in the Regional Competition. Her mum reports that it was a very chilly 13 degrees at the outdoor pool but that she was very excited with the results, as was Lavender-May herself! Lavender-May then went on to come fourth in both her events in the State Swimming recently. We look forward to hearing about her future achievements and congratulate her for her efforts!



Production Stats

Here's a bunch of interesting statistics from the Production Department:

- There have been 1358 requests for materials in braille, etext, audio and large print so far this year [but as I type this, another two have arrived in my inbox...]
- These requests range in size and degree of difficulty from an illustrated braille or ePub "reader" for a student in a specialist setting to a Year 12 Maths text ... and everything in between.
- In one request, two print pages ended up being 121 braille pages – seriously!
- One chapter of the afore-mentioned Maths book (Units 3&4) was 7 volumes long comprising approximately 400 pages of braille and almost 200 diagrams!

Staff News

Congratulations to **Kim Taylor** from St Columba's Primary School who has completed the UEB Online Course! And thanks Wendy Morley for letting us know!

Finally

Thanks to several VTs and parents who have sent emails thanking us for our work and a couple more with suggestions and feedback! Always much appreciated!

Deb Lewis (Ed)