# The Bulletin

Number 2, Friday 15 February 2019

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## Dates for your Diary

Here is a list of our planned PD and other activities:

**TERM 1**
**Monday February 18** – Introduction to being a Visiting Teacher (Vision)
**Tuesday February 26** – Educational support of students who have low vision
**Tuesday March 5** – Educational support of students who have low vision
**Wednesday March 13** – Including students who are blind or have low vision in physical education
**Tuesday March 19** – Educational support of students who are vision impaired with additional impairments
**Wednesday April 3** – Supporting Students with VI in Maths (9.30am to 1.00pm)

**TERM 2**
**Tuesday April 30** – Braille music
**Wednesday May 15** – Including students who are blind or have low vision in art
Conference Day for Visiting Teachers – yet to be scheduled

**TERM 3**
Tuesday August 13 – Educational support of students who have low vision

**TERM 4**
Tuesday October 15 – Preparing your school for inclusion of a student who uses braille
Tuesday November 26 – Assistive Technology Expo

**Note:** Programs, registration & online payment are available on the SVRC website!
Use the links above to find out more and register online.

For the full list of upcoming professional learning here at SVRC – take a look at our professional learning page.

**Dialogue in the Dark**, Docklands **any time**
Teachers can book complimentary tickets boxoffice@dialogueinthedark.com.au

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## Message from SVRC Transition Manager

There continues to be lots happening at SVRC, as we get settled into the new year. It's exciting to see how much equipment and technology are being sent out to schools on a daily basis. It's been a monumental effort and I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved so far.

It's also great to see the start of our other programs. Support Skills welcomed its first group of students for 2019 on Friday 8 February. We also welcomed 59 teachers and ES staff to our first professional learning day on Tuesday 12 February, 'Education Support for students who are blind'. Our Education Officers have been driving across Victoria undertaking functional vision assessments for students in schools. They are back at the Eye and Ear hospital next Wednesday (20 Feb) for our first Educational Vision Assessment Clinic (EVAC) for the year.

There are lots of things happening behind the scenes at SVRC. Later this year, the Department will be launching an updated inclusive education section on its website. SVRC staff have been involved drafting new easy to read information for this site, focused on Vision Impairment and the supports available to students and schools. We are also working on a new online Inclusive Classrooms professional learning program, focused on vision impairment. It will be available later this year and will complement SVRC's other professional learning opportunities available to teachers.

If you haven't done so already, make sure you register for our upcoming professional learning days, or get in touch if there is any specific support you require.

Many thanks,

Matthew Trotter, SVRC Transition Manager

## SVRC's First Professional Learning Day for 2019

We had 59 participants at SVRC on Tuesday Feb 12 to learn about supporting students who are blind. After workshopping under blindfold, participants looked at technology and what success looks like. At the end of the day we heard from a year 6 student who explained how he works at school. One participant said "his parents must be very proud to have raised a son like him". Another participant commented that the day 'couldn't be better'.

Thank you to the visitors who presented (including Garry, our almost retired SSP coordinator, Di Bennett (VT from SEVR) and the folk from Guide Dogs Victoria's Children's Mobility Service). SVRC staff (who did a heap of re-arranging to accommodate the day) and the Mum and VT who assisted our student speaker.

# SVRC Online Training Sessions

SVRC is offering a wide range of technology training opportunities which will be delivered online.

Sessions will teach the basics and advanced skills for using assistive technology for students who are blind or have low vision.

Registration is essential for each of the free online courses below.

## *iOS VoiceOver Basics*

This course teaches the basics of using VoiceOver with iOS. You can take either or both sessions.

Thursday 21 February 2019 at 2-3pm: VoiceOver gestures, navigation and reading

Thursday 28 February 2019 at 2-3pm: VoiceOver typing, editing and browsing the web

## *NVDA Basics*

These two free online training sessions walk you through the basics of using NVDA – including navigation, configuration, typing/editing and browsing the web.

Thursday 21 March 2019 at 2-3pm: NVDA Basics – Configuration, navigation, reading and editing

Thursday 28 March 2019 at 2-3pm: NVDA Basics – Browsing the web, file and document management

## *Windows 10 for Users with Low Vision*

Learn how to make Windows 10 more accessible for users who have low vision. This includes changing the size of your mouse pointer, using the Windows Magnifier, inverting the colours and using web-based features to help make things easier to see.

Thursday 4 April 2019 at 2-3pm: Windows 10 for users with low vision

## *ZoomText Basics*

In this free one hour course, learn the basics of using ZoomText, magnification, screen reading, configuration.

Wednesday 24 April 2019 at 2-3pm: ZoomText basics

## *macOS Basics*

We're running two sessions on the accessibility basics available in macOS to help students who are blind or have low vision. This 2-session course focuses on low vision features in week 1 and VoiceOver basics in week 2.

Thursday 2 May 2019 at 2-3pm: macOS low vision accessibility basics

Thursday 9 May 2019 at 2-3pm: macOS VoiceOver basics

## *JAWS Basics*

This 3-session course covers some of the basics of using the JAWS screen reader, including setting up/configuring, keyboard navigation, Office apps (Word, PowerPoint and Excel) and also browsing the web.

Thursday 16 May 2019 at 2-3pm: JAWS basics, keyboard shortcuts, navigation, basic configuration

Thursday 23 May 2019 at 2-3pm: JAWS and Office apps – Word, Excel and PowerPoint

Thursday 30 May 2019 at 2-3pm: JAWS and the internet – browsing the web

# Unified English Braille Adoption

Source: ICEB Newsletter, Issue 1, December 2018

After more than a decade of development by ICEB members with braille code expertise as braille users, teachers and producers, Unified English Braille (UEB) was declared sufficiently complete for adoption in 2004.

Unified English Braille is now successfully used in all member countries of ICEB: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the USA. Nemeth braille also continues to be used in some states of the USA for mathematical materials alongside UEB for literary materials.

UEB is also used in many other countries using English braille, including Botswana, Ghana, Kiribati, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

# ABC Global Book Service

The ABC (Accessible Books Consortium) Global Book Service is an online catalogue that allows participating libraries for the blind and organizations serving people who are print disabled, known as authorized entities, to obtain easily the accessible content they need.

The Service supports the goals of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty at a practical level. A participating authorized entity contributes its catalogue and may request accessible digital books contributed by other organizations for the purpose of supplementing its collection and distributing to people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. In those countries that have ratified and implemented the provisions of the Marrakesh VIP Treaty (including Australia), such books can be exchanged across borders between participating authorized entities without requesting authorization from the copyright owner.

The two ABC authorised entities are Vision Australia and VisAbility. Persons with vision impairments or other print disability are encouraged to become members of the Vision Australia or Visability library, and to direct their requests for titles as library members to these two authorised entities.

# Round Table Conference 2019

**Theme**: The changing landscape for accessible information

**When**: Saturday 4 May to Tuesday 7 May 2019

**Where**: Rydges South Bank, cnr Grey & Glenelg Streets, South Brisbane

**More information and register**: Round Table

Consumers are invited to apply for funding to attend the Conference. Applications close 22 February 2019.

# BCA National Convention 2019

**Theme**: You can do it your way

**When**: Friday 29 to Sunday 31 March 2019

**Where**: The Old Woolstore, 1 Macquarie St, Hobart

**More information and register**: BCA or phone 1800 033660 by Friday 15 March

# Unified English Braille Maths Tutorial Online

Source: ICEB Newsletter, Issue 1, December 2018

One of the central principles underlying Unified English Braille is the use of a single code across literary and technical contexts. The UEB Math Tutorial is a new online resource for learning about the use of UEB for technical materials, with a focus on mathematics. The content is organised into chapters of increasing complexity. Lessons are accompanied by practical exercises to provide practice and feedback in writing, reading and proofreading UEB math. Braille can be entered using Symbolic Math or QWERTY 6-dot entry. The tutorial is free and self-paced and can be found at uebmath.aphtech.org/.

Further free resources for learning UEB are listed on the ICEB website at http://iceb.org/ueb-training.html.

# RIDBC Renwick Centre Continuing Professional Education Program

The 2019 Renwick Centre's CPE Program is now available. RIDBC Renwick Centre offer face-to-face sessions, webinars and online courses designed for those supporting people with hearing and vision impairments.

# 2019 Focus on Ability Film Festival

The Focus on Ability Film Festival 2019 is now open for 2019. The theme, "Focus on the ability of people with disability" is the theme for your short film. Entries close: 31 May 2019

## Goalball for All: Real Fun, Real Social, Real Active

**When:** Saturday 16 March 2019 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Thursday 21 March 2019 Session 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday 30 March 2019 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Each Saturday session will end with a BBQ lunch. Thursday night will include a pre session BBQ dinner starting at 6:00 pm.

**Where:** Scotch College Junior School Gym, Entry 7 cnr Callantina Road & Glenferrie Rds Hawthorn

**Cost:** Free

Registrations are opening soon via our website https://goalball.org.au/. You can also stay up to date with Goalball via our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/vic.goalball/.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@goalball.org.au

# Finally

**This is new – it's a quick quiz, just for fun!**

1. What word is two dots when contracted and 27 dots when uncontracted?
2. What braille contraction saves only two dots?
3. What braille word can be read the right way up and upside down?
4. What is the longest word you can think of that has no braille contractions?

Send in your thoughts! Answers in the next issue!

– Deb Lewis (Ed) lewis.debra.d@edumail.vic.gov.au

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