

The Bulletin

Number 5, Friday 29 March 2019

Welcome to issue 5, 2019 of our fortnightly newsletter, The Bulletin. To round out term 1, we have a bumper issue of The Bulletin. From the basics of using NVDA through to participating in tennis for kids who are blind or vision impaired. We have news of a braille transcription job going here at SVRC. So grab a coffee while you take in the last Bulletin for term 1.

Inside this issue

Here's what you'll find:

- **From SVRC:** Dates for Your Diary, Manager's Report , Employment Opportunity in Production
- **PD:** Online Training Windows 10 for Low Vision Users, Learn Maths
- **Technology:** NVDA Basics and Browsing the Web
- **Activities and Recreation:** Blind Sports Blind Tennis and Footy

Dates for your diary

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

TERM 1

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](#).

Report from SVRC Manager

Can't believe it's almost the end of Term 1! VTs and SVRC staff have been flat out sorting through equipment, running PD days, producing braille and eText, doing assessments in schools and at EVAC, and running student programs. Why does it always seem we are doing more with less time!?

We have lots to celebrate: I must say, as I sit in my office this Friday, the music coming from next door is so beautiful. Our students are developing such wonderful talents.

Today we farewell Nic, who has been working in Transcription for the past few months. Thank you for all your work and congratulations Nic on your new physiotherapy position. We have advertised for a new full-time transcriber to start next term (information later in this Bulletin).

Next week we will have a visit from Garry Stinchcombe. He will be at SVRC on Friday (April 5) at lunchtime (1 to 2pm), so if you would like to drop in, please do. It will also be the last day for Annette Godfrey-Magee, who will be on leave next term and unlikely to return. We will let you know about our 'plans' to farewell Annette in a manner that she deserves, but I'm sure she would appreciate any well wishes during her last week!!

My thanks to all the VTs and SVRC staff who support students who are blind or have low vision. Every year seems to start busier than the last, and 2019 has been no exception. It's a huge, statewide team effort, so thank you all!

Marion Blazé

Manager, Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Online Training – Learn Your Technology

So we had 41 attendees for our NVDA Basics course. Next on the agenda for online training is a session on Windows 10 for Low Vision Users. The session will look at the Magnifier, inverting colours, changing the size of the mouse pointer, useful keyboard shortcuts and more.

When: Thursday 4 April 2019

Time: 2-3pm

Where: Streamed via YouTube

Register: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/pd/online-training/> (and while you're there take a look at the other goodies we have in store for you in term 2!)....

Accessible and 3D Graphics – Research and Website

Monash University is currently undertaking research into what graphics and 3D printing application would be useful for people who are blind.

Several partner organisations, including SVRC, are working along-side the research team. They have set up a website to keep everyone informed of projects they are involved with:

<http://accessiblegraphics.org/news/>

The research group will be displaying and seeking feedback at the Melbourne National Flower and Garden Show (27-31 March), the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disability Conference in Brisbane (May 4-7) and National Science Week in August, 2019.

Bravo Mike – fixing character Phonetics in JAWS 19

Thanks to Michael (one of our VTs) for alerting us to a setting in JAWS 19 that causes JAWS which causes characters to be pronounced phonetically after a pause during character navigation. (eg it may say M MIKE). Here's a fix found in JAWS Help:

1. Press **INSERT+6 on** the number row to open Settings Center.
2. If you want changes to only apply to a particular application, select it from the Application list. Otherwise, press **CTRL+SHIFT+D** to load the default settings file.
3. Type "Phonetic."
4. Press **DOWN ARROW** to move to "When pausing after character navigation, speak character phonetically," then press **SPACEBAR** to cycle through the available options.
5. Select OK to exit Settings Center.

JAWS also offers a manual option to speak phonetics continuously as you navigate by character. Pressing the Say Character Keystroke (**NUM PAD 5**) twice quickly toggles this feature on and off. If you are using the manual option for all letters, the pause announcement will not occur.

Dialogue in the Dark is Free for all Teachers

You could experience Dialogue in the Dark over the next school holidays. Just call or email the box office to book.

info@dialogueinthedark.com.au

Also remind all your students' teachers about this opportunity.

The District Docklands, Level 1, 29-31 Star Crescent, Docklands.

Enter a world of complete darkness with a cane and a guide who is blind. Experience iconic Melbourne landmarks in a completely different way. This experience can count towards your VIT hours of professional learning in special needs, covering AITSL standards 1, 3, 6 & 7.

NVDA Basics

NVDA is the free screen reader from NVAccess. It allows a user who is vision impaired to have full access to the Windows environment via a synthesised voice.

NVDA is developed here in Australia by a former Support Skills student and is used widely around the world.

SVRC has recently compiled some notes on the use of NVDA.

The basics include:

- Basic navigation
- Reading documents
- Moving around Windows
- Browsing / searching the web

For more information see these two online resources:

- [NVDA Basics](#)
- [Browsing the Web](#)

Blind Man's Bluff

by Tom Skelton

A comedy show about sight loss at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Could you see the funny side to going blind? Join visionary British improv and character comedy maverick Tom Skelton as he confronts losing his sight in his early twenties, through sketch, silliness and storytelling. Along the way Skelton takes you on a wild, surreal gallop through the history of blindness. The most famous VIPs (Visually Impaired People!), from Samson to Stevie Wonder, tell their tales in this blindingly riotous one-man romp. The 'must see' show of 2019.

Dates: 8-21 April 2019 6pm

Location: Imperial Hotel, 2-8 Bourke Street, Melbourne

More info: <https://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2019/shows/tom-skelton>

National Braille Music Camp 2019

This year is the 34th National Braille Music Camp - held in Mittagong, NSW.

It is a camp for braille readers who love music and want to learn, improve, transcribe or teach Braille music.

Each evening, a mini concert is held. It's a wonderful opportunity for children to connect musically with friends and perform individually or in groups. The final concert for the week is a performance for the public. Families can travel up to Mittagong and enjoy the performance. Local music lovers look forward to coming each year and hearing beautiful harmonies made by our senior and junior choirs, and individual and small group performances that we have been rehearsing all week.

Musical children enjoy the excellent accommodation and delicious meals provided at the Frensham Girls Boarding School, and make friends for life!

Victorian braille and music lovers please contact Jordie Howell Jordina.howell@gmail.com for further information.

Will we have a Space Camp team for 2020?

We have three potential boys who are interested in fund-raising and going to Space Camp in the USA in September 2020. The sooner we know we have a team, the earlier we can start finding VT chaperones and planning.

SCI-VIS stands for 'Space Camp for Interested Vision Impaired Students' and it is the one week of the year that Space Camp in Huntsville Alabama is fully accessible for students who are blind or have low vision who come from all over the world.

We've had an Australian team attend about every second year, usually visiting Disneyland in LA on the way there. Students need to be in years 8 to 11, and sufficiently independent to manage their own care and belongings, but are chaperoned by Visiting Teachers.

We are especially after girls with an interest in STEM subjects to join the team. So could VTs please talk to any potential students and if they are interested, ask them to make contact with Marion Blazé at SVRC - blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au or 03 9841 0242

New! Active Blind and Low Vision Tennis in Wyndham

by Allie Douglas, Blind Sports & Recreation, Victoria

Active Teens Blind and Low Vision Come and Try Day

Join in, get active and learn new skills in a fun and social program for teenagers who are blind or have low vision.

There will be giveaways and activities on the day, with free tennis coaching on the court. All equipment and snacks to be provided, just bring yourself and a friend.

Cost: Free

Venue: Hoppers Crossing Tennis Club, Wootten Road Reserve, corner of Hogans Rd and Wootten Rd, Tarneit

Time: 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Date: Sunday 5 May, 2019

To register or for more information please contact Allie Douglas - allie@blindsports.org.au, or call (03) 9822 8876.

The Come and Try event will be followed by a fortnightly blind and low vision tennis program which runs through Term 2.

Cost: \$30 for the term

Time: 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Dates: Sundays (fortnightly) - 12 May, 26 May, 9 June, 23 June

To register your interest or for more information about this program, please contact Allie Douglas - allie@blindsports.org.au, or call (03) 9822 8876.

Public Transport access: The Hoppers Crossing Tennis Club can be accessed by Bus Route 181. Stop corner of Esquire Place and Thames Boulevard, Tarneit. Walk 450 metres (or approximately 6 minutes) along Thames Boulevard and continue along Wootten Rd. Access to the tennis club is on the left hand side of the road, through the Wootten Road Reserve car park.

These programs are supported by Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria, Tennis Victoria and VicHealth. The programs are delivered by Meehan Tennis Academy.

Employment Opportunity at SVRC

SVRC is on the lookout for someone to join us in our Production unit. Are you passionate about providing materials for students in an alternative format? Do you have skills in transcribing material in to a variety of formats? If you'd like to join the team, we'd love to hear from you. Applications close on Sunday April 7, so head over to the link below.

[SVRC Transcriber Position - Schools Recruitment](#)

Finally

Thanks to you for being a part of the SVRC community during term 1. It's been a busy and productive term. If you're taking a break, enjoy it, have fun and we'll see you back here for term 2!

Cheers, Glen (oh and Deb's back next term too!).