

The Bulletin

Number 6, Friday 3 April 2019

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Dates for Your Diary

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

TERM 2

Thursday 2 May 2019 at 2-3pm: macOS low vision accessibility basics (SVRC Online Training)

Thursday 9 May 2019 at 2-3pm: macOS VoiceOver basics (SVRC Online Training)

Wednesday May 15: [Including students who are blind or have low vision in art](#)

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

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: For upcoming professional learning at SVRC along with programs, registration & online payment visit the SVRC [professional learning page](#). SVRC Online Training information and registration is available on the [online training page](#).

Books for Kids of All Abilities

Excerpt: [Education News](#)

Students starting Prep this year received [Prep bags](#) that included free books. The Statewide Vision Resource Centre supplied braille books so students with vision impairments can read the free books too.

Five-year-old Robert was one of the students who received a free braille book. His mum Janice says he usually enjoys listening to audiobooks and was "very excited" to read the braille books.



Report from SVRC Transition Manager

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It's been an eventful few weeks at SVRC.

There has been a number of important staffing changes at SVRC. We are delighted to announce a new staff member, Sarah Kelly, who has joined our production team for the rest of this year. Sarah brings with her a wealth of experience in braille transcription and we are very lucky to have her on board.

Last Friday we welcomed Emily White back from extended leave to recommence her work at SVRC's Support Skills Program. Emily has just finished her PhD and brings a wealth of expertise to SVRC's teaching team.

Finally, the SVRC-superstar Annette Godfrey-Magee will be taking extended leave for the rest of this year. A new EVAC Education Officer position for the rest of 2019 will be advertised shortly. In the interim, Samantha Oxley has accepted a short-term secondment from the North Eastern Victoria Region in order to help fill Annette's position.

Over the Term break we have made some significant physical changes to SVRC's facilities, with the installation of new secure storage facilities in our tech office. On top of this, our development of a secure online database to record the services we provide is well progressed. Both the physical and system changes will help strengthen our capability to sustain and manage our services, especially our Vision Technology Library.

Earlier this week, SVRC hosted a number of teachers for our braille music PD day. Coming up on 15th May we are hosting our 'Including students who are blind or have low vision in art' PD. We also have upcoming online training prepared for MacOS and Jaws Basics, all with substantial numbers expected. It's fantastic to see how many people are engaging with SVRC supports and training opportunities, in so many different ways.

I'll be joining a number of SVRC staff this weekend in Brisbane at the annual Round Table on Information Access for People with a Print Disability. I'm excited to be able to share the fantastic work that SVRC is doing and learn from national and international colleagues working in this space.

Thank you to everyone who has helped or worked with SVRC so far this year. Happy reading!

Matt Trotter

SVRC Transition Manager

DET Inclusive Education: New webpages about vision

The Department of Education and Training provides information and services for families of children living with disability and additional needs, including those with autism, communication needs, intellectual disability, learning difficulties and vision impairment.

See [Inclusive Education](#) for links to information regarding the extra supports that are available at school. For students with vision impairments this may include vision testing programs and extra support provided by Visiting Specialist Teachers and the Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

Special Examination Arrangements for VCE External Assessments

VCAA have recently updated their webpage to include detailed information about eligibility, the application process, evidence required and the range of special arrangements that may be available to students with disabilities, illnesses or other circumstances that affect their ability to access a VCE external assessment. The "Schools' Guide to Special Examination Arrangements" is also available from the link below.

Visit the [VCAA website](#)

NAPLAN: Public Demonstration Site

Source: <https://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

In advance of taking NAPLAN Online, students, teachers and parents are invited to use the public demonstration tests to familiarise themselves with the type of questions and related functionalities available in the NAPLAN Online assessment.

Some of the key features include a range of question types, onscreen tools, timers and interactive navigation. Students are encouraged to try all the tests for their year level to practise the complete range of question formats available in the online assessment.

There are demonstration tests for years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Michael Donnelly reports that you can enlarge and invert the colours on screen on the "Standard Test" (use ALT + SHIFT + PRTSCRN) setting and recommends that VTs with students who will be taking part in the online version take a look at the site with their students.

If you have questions, visit the [NAPLAN Online FAQ page](#) or email NAPLAN Online naplanonline@acara.edu.au

Ed: If VTs or students have feedback about NAPLAN Online, please be in touch.

SVRC Online Training Sessions

From Glen Morrow, Communications / Content Development

We have two online training sessions left for term 2, being:

macOS VoiceOver Basics (this is the macOS platform so for users with desktops/laptops): May 9
JAWS Basics: May 16

The URL for each session will be sent out to registered participants by 11am on the day of the session.

And if you'd like to improve your ZoomText skills, please see ZoomText 2019 – The Basics. This Cheat Sheet describes new shortcut keys, the ZoomText toolbar/window, AppReader, colour enhancement and more!

Art4Kids: Including Students who are Blind or have Low Vision in Art

Michael Donnelly's most excellent professional learning program for people (class and specialist teachers, ES staff, paraprofessionals and family members) who would like to know more about supporting students with vision impairments with Art and Craft appreciation and creation is coming up soon – 15th May at the SVRC.

For more information and to register please visit: [Including students who are blind or have low vision in art](#)

Upcoming Audio Description in Melbourne

Audio Description provides people who are blind or who have low vision with an understanding of the visual aspects of a stage play. Audio Describers describe transitions, movements, gestures, props, settings and costumes during pauses in on stage dialogue. Audio Description is delivered live, transmitted via a discreet receiver collected as you enter the theatre.

Tickets to audio described performances are purchased directly through the booking agent. At the time of booking, request the Audio Description Service to be allocated your receiver.

There are two providers of audio description here in Melbourne.

Audio Description (Vision Australia)

For information about Vision Australia's Audio Description or to join the mailing list call Vision Australia on 1300 84 74 66 or email Michael.Ward@visionaustralia.org

Upcoming events available through Vision Australia's Audio Description include:

Storm Boy

Audio described: Saturday 6 July 2pm with Tactile Tour 1pm or Tuesday 9 July 6.30pm

The Sumner, Southbank Theatre 140 Southbank Boulevard Southbank
Box Office 8688 0800

Companion Cards accepted - please mention Audio Description when booking

In a wild and remote area of coastline on South Australia's Coorong, Storm Boy and his reclusive father live in a secluded shack, hidden away from the harsh realities of city life. After befriending a local Ngarrindjeri man, Storm Boy discovers three orphaned pelican chicks and decides to take them in. What follows is a remarkable journey of discovery that will change his life forever.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child – Parts 1 and 2

Audio Described: Saturday 22 June 2019 Part 1 at 2.00pm and Part 2 at 7.30pm

The Princess Theatre, 163 Spring Street, Melbourne

To book for these performances please contact

The Princess Theatre Box Office on 03 9299 9803 or ticketing@marrinergroup.com.au

Please ensure you mention Audio Description when booking

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is the eighth story in the Harry Potter series and the first official Harry Potter story to be presented on stage, bringing together some of the most exciting talent working in the theatre today. [Click here for more information](#)

Description Victoria

For information about Description Victoria or to join the mailing list visit [Description Victoria](#).

Upcoming events available through Description Victoria include:

Cloudstreet

Audio Described: Saturday 25 May 2019 from 5pm

Where: Merlyn Theatre, The Coopers Malthouse, 113 Sturt St, Southbank 3006

Cost: Audio description users can book tickets for \$89 including a mid-show meal.

How to book: Book with the code word AUDIO [online](#), email

boxoffice@malthousetheatre.com.au, or call the box office on 03 9685 5111.

(continued next page)

The house at number one Cloud Street is a great continent where two damaged clans collide. The two families—the Lambs and the Pickles—are as contrasting as the Australia they inhabit. Teetotalers and tipplers, workhorses or wastrels, fate makers versus chance chasers. But really, they're two sides of the same coin; one that was tossed during World War II and remained in motion for decades. The power of this staggering Australian saga is more haunting than the ghosts who speak out from the walls. It's more elusive than the serial killer who prowls their neighbourhood. It's transcendent, like the Lambs and the Pickles themselves, whose lives and loves live on today.

Wake in Fright

Check [Description Victoria](#) for more information.

Audio Described: Sunday 7 July 2019 from 6pm

Where: Beckett Theatre

If you're a good bloke, you'll be all right. Right?

G'day. Welcome to the Yabba. Just passing through?

It's the best little town in the world. Things a bit grim? Chin up.

John Grant is well-read, but an outback misadventure strands him—cashless and jobless—in a harsh and remote Aussie outpost, Bundanyabba.

So, he makes new "mates": they're quick with a drink, but with every scull a dark violence lurches forward. Are these blokes fair dinkum, or is there something more sinister at the heart of this little Aussie town?

On our Beckett Theatre stage, the entire world of *Wake in Fright* is conjured by the always-evocative Zahra Newman (*The Book of Mormon*) accompanied by a sonic assault from art-electronica band, friendships. Under the direction of Declan Greene, Kenneth Cook's iconic work of Australian Gothic horror is felt in the flesh. Bring sunscreen, buy a beer and wear your ear plugs.

Once we pierce the Yabba's ocker veneer, you better be ready for the explosive brutality pent up inside.

Focus on Ability Film Festival Closing Soon

Entries for the [Focus on Ability Film Festival](#) close May 31, 2019 and as always, the theme is "focus on the ability of people with disability".

There have been winners who were first time film makers through to industry professionals. Everyone has a chance to take home a great prize. The main thing is to enjoy the process and remember to focus on ability.

Please send questions to: ryan@focusonability.com

Guide Dogs Info Session

From Guide Dogs Victoria

If you have vision loss, or have patients or clients with vision loss, you are invited to a free information session with afternoon tea.

When: Friday 24 May from 1.30 to 3.30pm

Where: Darebin RSL, 402 Bell Street Preston

Going to University: Conversation-Starter for Secondary Students

The University of Melbourne's website includes a page entitled "[Blind Student's Guide for Academics: Ten tips that can be helpful to blind students in a university environment](#)" which may be a useful "conversation-starter" for you and your student or child who is blind.

The tips include suggestions for managing the whiteboard, handouts, assignment feedback and accessibility more generally and might assist the student to think ahead to the post-school environment.

Thanks Emily White for this suggestion.

Braille Lego

Source: Phia Damsma, SPEVI -List

LEGO Foundation announced this week that they are going to launch Braille Bricks, to support Braille literacy (expected launch in 2020).

Similar products for 3D printing are also available through Thingiverse and other such websites! Phia comments, "Some people are so driven to create great learning resources, inspired by their own child. Such as DUPLO bricks with braille. Open source, so that you can 3D print them yourself!"

Link: <http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/3d-printed-braille-blocks>

A Message from Garry Stinchcombe

As you would know I have now officially retired after a long term involvement in the Support Skills Program. It has been the major focus of my teaching career.

I've been fortunate to have been involved with many students, their families and school support staff from all corners of the state and across all education sectors. Students enrolled in the SVRC Support Skills Program often spend several years attending the program, and I have enjoyed getting to know them and their families and building up a great rapport. I learned a great deal from you all and I always tried to listen and incorporate the ever changing needs of the students and new opportunities and challenges.

I have also been very fortunate to work with such a great team of colleagues. Each brings with them specialist skills and knowledge which support the students. Without these people the program wouldn't have the reach, relevance or ability to fill in those vital gaps and address the specific needs around the expanded core curriculum. Thank you to all the team!

I'd also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of families. Without you committing to bringing your child into the program often from distant locations, the program wouldn't run. There are lots of competing pressures in our busy lives so we've always tried to make sure the program has good outcomes and addresses needs in practical ways.

Finally to the students. All the best for the future. Always try to be proactive. Work with people to support your needs. Take responsibility for your own personal organisation. Acknowledge assistance and support. Develop interests to share and engage with your peers. Have an aim, set goals. Regularly review how things are going. Celebrate your achievements. Most importantly, be kind to yourself and work to your strengths.

All the best and I look forward to hearing about your achievements in the future.

Garry Stinchcombe

Active Teens Swish Program in Kooyong – Starts THIS SATURDAY 4 May

From Allie Douglas, Blind Sports

Would you like to meet new people and learn how to play swish? Then come along and give it a go at the Active Teens Swish program in Kooyong.

When: Saturdays in Term 2

Time: 1 pm onwards

Where: Vision Australia, 454 Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong

Cost: \$2 per session

To register for the program or for more information, please contact Allie: activeteens@blindsports.org.au



Come and Try Teen Blind and Low Vision Tennis – THIS SUNDAY 5 May

From Allie Douglas, Blind Sports

Come along and try Blind and Low Vision Tennis at Hoppers Crossing Tennis Club. Everyone welcome, including all abilities.

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

When: Sunday 5 May 2019

Time: 2.30pm to 4.30pm

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

To register for the program or for more information, please contact Allie: activeteens@blindsports.org.au



Student News

Support Skills student Luke has been nominated as a Local Sports Star in the Leader Newspaper's quest "to unearth the exceptional sporting talent in local communities". The Jim Dowsley Inspire Award is an open age category that recognises "an athlete who shows exceptional courage to excel in their sport, (having) dealt with an injury, obstacle or a situation that puts them against the odds". At 14 years of age, Luke is the Victorian State titleholder for disabled skiers.

Luke's mum Rachel says, "Waterski racing has given Luke confidence – he has in the past suffered from anxiety and depression. Each race he competes in gives him pride and has boosted his mental wellness. He hopes to one day represent Australia in waterski racing or compete for the Australian disabled waterski team."

We wish Luke the best with his water-skiing and with the nomination.



Braille for Your Brain – Harry Potter and UEB

Source: Jen Goulden, Braille Literacy Canada, ICEB Newsletter – Issue 1, December 2018

What does Harry Potter have to do with UEB, you ask ... well, aside from the obvious answer that braille makes it possible for blind people of all ages to read these fabulous books? It's probably more precise to ask what UEB has to do with Professor Dumbledore.

Our UEB list recently received a question regarding the use of the "ed" contraction in the word Dumbledore. UEB allows for contraction use that would not have been permitted before, but Duxbury – which is quite reliable about these things – does not contract Dumbledore. So, does the famous fictional professor have a contraction in his last name? Why or why not?

No. According to The Rules of Unified English Braille, groupsigns such as "ed", "st" and "wh" should not be used when the contraction would bridge two words in a non-hyphenated compound. As a result, the word "boredom" can be contracted but "kettledrum" cannot. If you're like me and thought that Dumbledore is just a name that J.K Rowling made up you might be surprised to learn that it can also refer to an insect, some sort of dung beetle. It also happens to be considered a compound word, so the "ed" contraction cannot be used.

Finally

Yes ... as reported in Issue 6 of The Bulletin and after 7 weeks away from my desk, I am back!

Thanks to Leeanne Terry and the dedicated team in Alternative Format Production for keeping the campfires burning ... and the braille, etext, large print, tactile diagrams and audio coming!

And thanks to Glen Morrow for editing Issue 4 and 5 of The Bulletin to make sure you all could stay up to date!

– Deb Lewis (back in the Editor's seat) lewis.debra.d@edumail.vic.gov.au