Inside this issue
Here’s what you’ll find:

- From SVRC: Dates for Your Diary, Welcome from Transition Manager, Big Arts Day Out, ES Vacancy
- PD: Fully-Funded Scholarships for Master of Disability Studies, Polaris Math Workshop, Art4Kids Report, RIDBC Low Vision Week in NSW
- Access Technology: JAWS 19, macOS Basics for Users with Low Vision, Dictation in iOS, Tech Use by Students with VI
- Activities and Recreation: Bendigo Art Gallery, Vision Australia Expo, Active Teens Cranbourne, Onkyo Braille Essay Competition

Dates for your Diary
Here is a list of our planned PD and other activities:

TERM 2

Thursday 23 May 2019 at 2-3pm: JAWS and Office apps – Word, Excel and PowerPoint
* New* Wednesday 29 May from 10.30am: Polaris Math Workshop with Sam Taylor
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.

Polaris Math Workshop

Sam Taylor from Pacific Vision will demonstrate how the BrailleSense Polaris renders mathematical equations on the HDMI screen for teachers, how the Polaris Math can show a graph on the refreshable braille display and how to emboss a graph. He will also be delighted to answer Questions Without Notice!

When: Wednesday 29 May 2019 from 10:30 for a demonstration and hands-on workshop
Where: SVRC, 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

To register, email blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au ... VTs and students welcome!
Welcome to our 7th edition of the Bulletin for 2019!

As always, there is lots of news from SVRC. We are sad to say goodbye to our Communications Officer and all-round tech-expert, Glen Morrow. Glen will be stepping into a new role at Guide Dogs Victoria and will have his last day at SVRC on Tuesday 28 May. Glen has made a fantastic contribution during his time with us and will be missed greatly, not only for his skills and expertise, but also for his good humour and fresh ideas. I’d like to congratulate Glen on his new position and wish him all the best for his new role.

On 15th May we hosted thirteen teachers for our Art PD, which was a fantastic success. Thank you to everyone who made it out for the day and to Michael Donnelly for putting it all together. We have run some well-attended online technology seminars, including ones on JAWS and Mac OS. We are currently looking into what additional tech support we can provide in the later part of this year – watch this space.

We are also in the final stages of development and testing for our new online database and technology library borrowing system. Thank you to Jane Jensen, Rita Farrelly, Ann Crowley and Sally Oakes, who have agreed to help review our system before it goes live.

Finally, we will be advertising an EVAC Education Officer role in the next few days, to backfill Annette Godfrey-Magee’s absence. Please get in touch if you are interested in applying, or know someone who might be. Please check recruitment online, as the position will be posted there.

Happy reading!
Matt Trotter
SVRC Transition Manager

Fully-Funded Scholarships for Master of Disability Studies

Applications are NOW OPEN for FULLY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS that cover all course fees for Victorian government school teachers and other departmental staff to complete the RIDBC Renwick Centre/Macquarie University Master of Disability Studies.

The scholarships are offered by the Inclusive Education Grants Initiative. Applications close midnight Sunday 2 June 2019.

You can study to become a qualified Teacher of the Deaf (entirely online) or Teacher of Students with Vision Impairment (online and one on-campus lecture block).

For more details on the specialisations available in the Master of Disability Studies refer to the 2019 Student Handbook.

View the scholarship general information and guidelines (scroll down to the Inclusive Education grants link) and then submit your application via the smartygrants page or https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sites/i/Pages/school.aspx#/app/news/detail/2828/

Please note that this link can only be accessed by Department of Education & Training employees.

Global Accessibility Awareness Day

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) is held on the third Thursday of May each year. Its purpose is to get everyone talking about digital accessibility for people with different abilities.

When: Thursday 16 May 2019 (We’ll try to give you a bit more notice next year)

Further information: globalaccessibilityawarenessday.org
**Big Arts Day Out: Friday 3 May**

From: Lea Nagel, Support Skills Co-ordinator

Support Skills Big Arts Day Out was a terrific day of activity and discovery. 14 students from Groups A and B met at Flinders Street then crossed St Kilda Road to begin the activities at Federation Square.

We met two wonderful aboriginal presenters, Kieren and Stephen (Rocky) at the Koorie Heritage Trust. They passed around tools and objects such as eel traps, woven baskets, a kangaroo tooth necklace, digging implements and boomerangs. We heard about how these were used, and began to understand a little of the important and longstanding traditions of Australia’s first people, particularly people of the Kulin Nation that are indigenous to the area around the East of Melbourne and are the traditional custodians. Our guides walked along Birrarung Marr, explaining the original name of the Yarra River, which is really called Birrarung, “place of mists and shadows” and that Birrarung Marr is “beside” this river. Yarra means "flowing water" and was pointed out by aboriginal guides from the Geelong area to warn the Europeans that there was a small waterfall coming up. The guides showed us Bush Tucker and other uses of plants growing by the river. We touched a Scar Tree where a branch had fallen from a gum tree and heard how the aboriginal people removed bark for canoes and other items. Our guides showed us how water was stored underground in the desert and how totems marked the borders between aboriginal tribes. Rocky can be seen on the Koorie Heritage Trust website: [http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/digibook/2702964/exploring-aboriginal-melbourne-with-the-koorie-heritage-trust](http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/digibook/2702964/exploring-aboriginal-melbourne-with-the-koorie-heritage-trust)
With wonderful support from the staff of Guide Dogs Victoria Children’s Mobility Team, we boarded a tram to the Melbourne Recital Centre. There we sat in on a first rehearsal by a trio of musicians called Plexus. They rehearsed some pieces that had been recently commissioned for performance, explaining their rehearsal process as they went.

We caught the tram back to the gardens near Hamer Hall and enjoyed lunch at "Forward Surge", the Wave Sculpture by Inge King, along with delightful weather and each other’s company.

Next stop was The Channel near Hamer Hall, where the students were the stars of their own terrific song-writing workshop. In a little over an hour, Eva the musician worked with us to come up with a topic, lyrics, chords and a tune, then Zoe helped us record our song!

Thanks and congratulations to the students for their appreciative, attentive, sensible and full engagement with all of the activities. Thank you to parents for filling in forms, being organised and arriving punctually and enthusiastically to drop off and pick up their children. Thank you very much to the dedicated Guide Dogs Victoria Children’s Mobility Team for their planning, skills and knowledge and caring support of our young travellers. Thank you to Emma Hall and Michael Donnelly for their long-range planning and attention to detail that brought everything together for a most excellent Big Arts Day Out!!
Art4KidswithVI – SVRC Transformed into Dynamic Art Space

From Marion Blazé

Under the ever-expert and highly creative tutelage of Michael Donnelly, thirteen teachers came to SVRC on Wednesday May 15 to learn how to make their art programs accessible for the students who are blind or have low vision. After a mammoth set up of art examples and information, Michael took them through a variety of art and craft activities and presentations under a simulation to match their own student. Participants explored specialised technology and equipment, tactile and visual art, audio description and making artworks under blindfold.

Comments from participants included: ‘Exciting activities! Great Learning experience!’ and ‘Really enjoyed it. Gave me lots of practical ideas.’ and ‘Excellent experience, super helpful. All activities were great!’

RIDBC Low Vision Week 2019 in NSW

RIDBC Renwick Centre will hold their annual 2-day conference for educators of students with vision impairments (VISCON), along with the following pre-conference seminars and workshops:

Monday 17th June – Mathematics Workshop: Supporting Access & Inclusion for Students with Vision Impairments

Tuesday 18th June – Braille Examination Techniques and Student Strategies

Wednesday 19th June – Creating Accessible Documents for Students with Vision Impairment

Thursday 20th and Friday 21st June – VISCON 2019

This two day conference provides an opportunity for educators and related specialists to come together to share and discuss the education of children and students with a vision loss. Presentations will focus on curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, access and a range of issues related to student support.

Further information: https://shortcourses.ridbc.org.au/
US Joins Marrakesh Treaty

Garry Stinchcombe drew my attention to the following link from the 9 May edition of Flying Blind Newsletter, following USA officially joining the Marrakesh Treaty. Below is an excerpt from a blog from Benetech by Brad Turner, posted on 9 May 8 2019

On May 8, 2019, the United States joins the list of 82 member nations that have fully ratified the long-awaited Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.

Bookshare members in the U.S. already have access to over 700,000 books in 47 languages. In the coming months, Bookshare will be able to import books from other Marrakesh-ratifying countries and make them available to Bookshare members in the U.S.

Bookshare already shares 600,000 books (out of our total collection of 700,000) with members around in the world. We can do this because of the generosity of our publishing partners – they provide us with an electronic copy of a book and they give us broad distribution rights, often including international distribution rights. The Marrakesh Treaty allows us to add approximately 100,000 more books to the collection that we can share with eligible individuals in other Marrakesh-ratifying countries. These books were previously available to U.S. members only.

The Treaty is a game changer for developing countries, many of whom have a limited number of books in accessible formats like braille. These countries will be able to import books from countries with large existing libraries.

I am hopeful that expanding the accessible materials available to people with disabilities will cause “ripple effects” of increasing supply and demand. As the supply of accessible materials increases worldwide, additional countries will see the value and ratify the treaty. Publishers, in turn, will offer more books in accessible formats in order to reach a larger user base. The increased number of consumers—especially in developing nations—will stimulate the demand for books and for low-cost electronic devices.

Photo below shows members of the World Blind Union, including Australia's Maryanne Diamond, standing behind a table containing books in chains.

Note: Members of the Vision Australia Library can subscribe to BookShare and therefore access this huge catalogue of books, many of which would be of interest to school-age readers.
Guidelines for Foreign Language Materials

Update provided by Leona Holloway, Correspondence Secretary of the Australian Braille Authority

Australian Braille Authority is pleased to announce the launch of the ABA Guidelines on Foreign Language Materials, as a series of documents, available in print and braille for free download from http://brailleaustralia.org/unified-english-braille/languages/.

Our thanks to Kathy Riessen (SASVI) for leading the project and to all of our expert ABA members who helped make it possible by contributing ideas, examples and assistance.

The Australian Braille Authority Guidelines for Foreign Language Materials are a series of documents providing advice on how to apply the UEB rules for foreign language material. They are available for free download.

Print versions (PDF):

- ABA Foreign language guidelines
- French and UEB
- German and UEB
- Italian and UEB
- Japanese and UEB
- Latin and UEB
- ABA Spanish and UEB

Please take the time to read the documents, consider how they apply to the work you do, and let the ABA know if you have any further ideas.

Dual Media ... Multi-Sensory Media

Update provided by Frances Gentle, Phia Damsma and Sharon Duncan, SPEVI Presidents

SPEVI recently conducted a survey among SPEVI members, that aimed to identify a term to describe a person’s use of a range of media options for information access and communication (i.e. digital, print, braille and/or audio).

As you are aware, the term “dual media” is used to describe a person’s use of print and braille. With advances in technology, persons with vision impairment are increasingly using a range of media options, with choice of option generally associated with the nature of the particular reading or writing task, time of day, personal preferences, etc.

We are pleased to advise that 34 survey responses were received from SPEVI members in New Zealand and Australia, including members in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia.

SPEVI members have already been informed, but now we would like to share with all of you that the most preferred term is “multisensory media”, which accounted for 21 first and second preferences.

With such a clear result, SPEVI will adopt, in future publications, the term multisensory media when referring to a person’s use of a range of media options (e.g. braille, digital, print, audio) for information access and communication.

Frances, Phia and Sharon thank everyone who participated in the survey.
JAWS 19

When upgrading to JAWS 19, you may find that a default setting has changed, causing characters to be pronounced phonetically after a pause during character navigation. (e.g. it may say M MIKE). Here’s a fix found in JAWS Help, and supplied by Visiting Teacher, Michael Donnelly:

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.

Q&A: Tactile Symbols Directory to Assist Communication

**Question:** Where can I find more information about the Tactile Symbols Directory?

**Answer:** The Tactile Symbol Directory from Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired can be used to enhance communication with students who are blind or have very low vision and additional impairments. You'll find background, documentation and videos outlining the creation and use of this directory using standard tactile symbols. Visit: [https://www.tsbvi.edu/component/content/article/1116-tactile-symbols-directory-to-standard-tactile-symbol-list](https://www.tsbvi.edu/component/content/article/1116-tactile-symbols-directory-to-standard-tactile-symbol-list)

Active Teens: Blind and Low Vision Football in Cranbourne

Source: Allie Douglas, Project Coordinator - Teen Programs, Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria

Come and join the Active Teens blind and low vision football program at Casey Stadium in Cranbourne!

**Where:** Casey Stadium, Building 04, Terry Vickerman Centre, 65 Berwick Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne East

**When:** Sundays 26 May, 2 June, 9 June and 16 June

**Time:** 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm

**Cost:** $30 for the term

All equipment will be provided. Just bring yourself, bring a friend, have fun and learn new skills.

To register or for more information, please email activeteens@blindsports.org.au

**Note:** All players will be invited to participate in the Australian Blind Football National Training Centre day on Sunday 23 June
macOS Basics for Users with Low Vision

From Glen Morrow

Source: svrc.vic.edu.au/tutorials/mac/macOS-for-low-vision-users/

macOS (the operating system on Apple desktop and laptop computers), has various inbuilt options to make the platform accessible to people who have low vision including Zoom, inverting colours and changing the mouse cursor size.

General Tips and Tricks

- Use column view in the Finder windows (COMMAND+3) to reduce visual clutter and help with list navigation
- Use the Reader view in Safari when you find articles – press COMMAND+SHIFT+R
- Use Stacks to keep your Desktop organised. In Finder, choose View, Use Stacks. Stacks organises your desktop by putting items into category based smart folders.
- Learn keyboard commands – COMMAND+TAB to move between apps, COMMAND+Q to quit an app, COMMAND+` (tilde) to move between open windows within an app, there are so many time saving keyboard commands you can use in macOS.

Changing the Mouse Cursor Size

Sometimes the mouse cursor can be difficult to see/locate. macOS has a simple slider control that you can use to modify the size of the mouse cursor.

1. Go to System Preferences
2. Choose Accessibility
3. Choose Display
4. There is a slider labelled "Cursor size" – move this up and down until you find a size that works for you. Once finished, you can simply close System Preferences, you do not need to save changes or apply settings.

Also in the Display section of Accessibility, there’s an option to Increase Contrast and there’s a contrast slider. It is worth experimenting with these options to help with making the display easier to see.

NOTE on Automatically adjusting brightness – by default in macOS there is a setting to automatically adjust the brightness. As some users with low vision move closer to the screen, it may be worth considering turning this option off. When a person moves closer to the computer, this can cause the operating system to adjust the brightness as it may appear that it is getting darker.

You can change this setting in System Preferences under Displays.
**Dictation - The Unsung Hero of iOS**

From Glen Morrow

It’s surprising how many people don’t know about or use the dictation feature within iOS. That humble little microphone on the iOS keyboard that lets you dictate text to your device rather than type. It’s surprisingly accurate. There are even commands you can give to Siri while dictating so help with your writing.

**Turning Dictation On**

Go to Settings

Choose General

Choose Keyboard

Choose Enable Dictation

**NOTE:** You will need an internet connection. Either cellular data or wifi.

**NOTE:** When you use Dictation, what you say is sent via your device to Apple to be turned from voice in to text, information on your privacy can be found in Settings, General, Keyboard, About Dictation and Privacy. It is advised you don’t use Dictation for sensitive information.

Once Dictation is enabled, you just tap on the microphone icon on the keyboard. You can dictate basically anywhere that you can type.

**Starting Dictation**

Tap (or double tap if using VoiceOver) to start Dictation.

Tap the Keyboard icon to stop dictation (or double tap if using VoiceOver). Text appears as you dictate. The speed in which this happens depends on your device speed and the speed of your internet connection.

**Commands While Dictating**

You can give many commands to Siri while dictating, such as punctuation, line breaks and even emoji.

For example “Hi comma my name is Glen full stop” becomes “Hi, my name is Glen.”

There’s a list of commands you can give while dictating here:

Technology Use and Selection by Children with Visual Impairments

Information provided by Leona Holloway, Monash University

This research paper was presented at the recent CHI conference (2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Glasgow, Scotland UK, 4-9 May 2019) and may be of interest to those supporting students with vision impairments.

Title: Understanding the Impact of TVIs on Technology Use and Selection by Children with Visual Impairments

Authors: Catherine M. Baker, Lauren R. Milne, Richard E. Ladner

Abstract:

The use of technology in educational settings is extremely common. For many visually impaired children, educational settings are the first place they are exposed to the assistive technology that they will need to access mainstream computing devices. Current laws provide support for students to receive training from Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) on these assistive devices. Therefore, TVIs play an important role in the selection and training of technology. Through our interviews with TVIs, we discovered the factors that impact which technologies they select, how they attempt to mitigate the stigma associated with certain technologies, and the challenges that students face in learning assistive technologies. Through this research, we identified three needs that future research on assistive technology should address: (1) increasing focus on built-in accessibility features, (2) providing support for independent learning and exploration, and (3) creating technologies that can support users with progressive vision loss.

This article is available for free download from: https://dl.acm.org/authorize.cfm?key=N679783

Q&A: Braille Formatting

Question: How are the following maths equations transcribed into braille:

\[ s_{av} = \frac{100m}{9.58s} = 10.4m/s \]

\[ s_{av} = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}} \]
Onkyo World Braille Essay Contest

The World Blind Union Asia Pacific Onkyo Braille Essay competition is now open for entries, closing 15 June 2019. It is open to writers who use braille.

The Onkyo World Braille Essay Contest is a worldwide initiative planned and sponsored by Onkyo Corporation Ltd. and the Braille Mainichi in Japan, and is implemented by the World Blind Union-Asia Pacific (WBUAP). It is administered locally by the Australian National Onkyo Selection Committee for the World Braille Essay Contest. The Committee comprises representatives from Blind Citizens Australia and other blindness agencies and organisations whose focus is on information access and braille.

The purpose of the contest is to promote braille literacy and encourage the reading and writing of braille; and to encourage cultural and social interaction among blind and vision impaired persons through their writings. The top 5 entries will be sent to the WBUAP Onkyo Selection Committee for final consideration, and any winning Australian entries will be published in Blind Citizens News.

This is an annual competition, with cash prizes awarded to the best seven entries received from within the WBU Asia Pacific Region. The main prize, “the Otsuki Prize” is $US 1000. Other prizes are for “Excellent Works” ($US 500) and “Fine Works” (either $US 300 or $US 200) depending on the age group. Participation in the contest is open to people from 14 years of age, living in the World Blind Union-Asia Pacific Region. Entries are divided into two age groups: persons between the ages of 14 and 25 years; and persons from the age of 26 years upwards.

Essay topics:

- Having Overcome the Challenges of Blindness, How I Can or Have Contributed to Society.
- The Significance of Braille in the IT Era and in my daily life.
- The people or organisations which have helped me on my journey to success.
- How Music Has Shaped My Life and Changed the Attitude of Society Towards Blindness.

Closing date is 15 June 2019. Winners will be notified in November 2019.

Essays must be between 700 and 1,000 words and presented in hard copy braille or in computerized braille if you can provide proof of your braille literacy. This can be in the form of a letter from your braille instructor, teacher or other professional who can vouch for your skills.

When submitting your essay to BCA, you must also provide:

An electronic photo of yourself, a cover letter stating your full name, address, and contact details, your date of birth and your status e.g. student. If a student, state what school you are from including the name, address and email contact for your school.

Please submit entries to BCA by 15 June 2019 as follows:

Attention: Samantha Marsh Samantha.marsh@bca.org.au

Blind Citizens Australia, Ross House, Level 3, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

Further information: Samantha Marsh on 1800 033 660
**Tudors to Windsors: British Royal Portraits**

Bendigo Art Gallery are offering an accessible introduction to their current exhibition, Tudors to Windsors: British Royal Portraits. Volunteer guides will provide an overview and audio description of selected works for people with vision impairments.

**Introduction and audio description:** 25 May or 28 June 2019 from 12.00-12.30pm  
**Where:** meet in the La Trobe Arts Institute Theatrette, 121 View St, Bendigo, Victoria  
**Cost:** The introduction is free. The exhibition itself will cost $12 to $25  
The exhibition has timed ticketing and it is recommended to purchasing the 1pm ticket session.  
**Further information and bookings:** [Online](https://svrc.vic.edu.au) or phone (03) 5434 6088

**Vision Australia Expo**

Vision Australia invite you to learn about services and technologies that can make daily life easier for people who are blind or have low vision, and to continue doing the things they love.

**When:** Tuesday 25 June 2019  
**Time:** 10.00am to 3.00pm  
**Where:** Kingston City Hall.  979 – 985 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin  
**Bookings:** Register [online](https://svrc.vic.edu.au)  
**For assistance or questions:** call 8791 0201

**Braille Music Code**

Thanks to Wendy Morley for the following note:

"I am pretty sure my phone was listening to me. I was speaking about Braille music code on Monday afternoon with a parent and then ... this appeared on my phone  
[https://www.cutcommonmag.com/this-is-how-musicians-read-music-through-braille/](https://www.cutcommonmag.com/this-is-how-musicians-read-music-through-braille/)  
An informative and clear article about braille music with lovely examples of how and why with the visual comparisons etc."

**School Looking for ES with Braille Skills**

A school in the Western suburbs of Melbourne is currently looking for an Education Support (ES) staff member with skills or experience in supporting a braille-reading student, and knowledge of braille-related technology.

Please contact Marion at SVRC if you are interested or know of someone interested.  
[blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**Finally**

**Glen Morrow** will have his final day with the SVRC on 28 May as he is moving on to a new position at Guide Dogs Victoria. Glen has contributed so very much to the SVRC in the time that we have had him here – not least of which includes the website overhaul, training tutorial videos, cheat sheets, everything iOS, online tutorials and ... his wacky sense of humour!

I'll miss Glen very much and hope he really enjoys the next chapter of his life! Thanks for all the fun, Glen (Ed)  
– Deb Lewis (Ed) [lewis.debra.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:lewis.debra.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Statewide Vision Resource Centre PO Box 201 Nunawading 3131 [svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au) +613 9841 0242