

The Bulletin

Number 11, Friday 6 August, 2021

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PD events

The 2021 [Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available on the SVRC website. Most professional learning will continue to be online. Events are now on Eventbrite.

Wednesday Aug 10 [Educational Support of students who have low vision](#)

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for students who have low vision

Tuesday Oct 19 [Preparing your school for inclusion of a student who uses Braille](#)

Providing practical support for school staff preparing to welcome and include a new student who will be learning to read using Braille.

Tuesday Nov 23 [EXPO: Assistive Technology for students who are blind or partially sighted](#)

Showcasing & demonstrating assistive technologies that can promote inclusion & achievement for students who are blind or have low vision

From the Manager

Source: Kim Foley, Manager, SVRC

The new SVRC Website has arrived this week! Many hours have been spent planning and designing the new look website by website designer Andy Milne in collaboration with SVRC staff. The website is accessible by screen readers even while using a mobile phone. Over the next few weeks we will continue to improve the website with uploading of additional videos and teaching and learning resources. We welcome constructive feedback to assist us in improving and to ensure the website meets the needs of our website users who are blind or have low vision. SVRC finally has a new email address to match that of all DET edumail users. Our new email address is svrc@education.vic.gov.au Emails sent to the previous email address svrc@svrc.edu.au will continue to be redirected over the six months to support the transition process.

SVRC staff have excitedly welcomed eight new VTs-Vision to a professional learning afternoon followed by weekly sessions to support their induction into the vision field. They are Jennifer Massey, Kate Stone, Barbara Olsen, Sue Camp, Kathryn McNeill, Kate Pails, Elizabeth Pitruzzello, and Jodie Mattingley. Thank you Marion Blaze and Di Bennett for organising the events and SVRC staff who volunteered their time to share their specialised expertise. The feedback has been very positive and appreciative of having the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the possible educational implications of have a vision impairment.

The Statewide Principal's Conference was held virtually on Tuesday morning with presentations from Dr David Howes, Deputy Secretary, School and Regional Services, Professor John Hattie, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne, and Kristen Douglas, National Manager, Headspace Schools. The theme was "Lead, Empower and Thrive" with a message "Together we strive to give every young Victorian the best learning and development experience, making our state smarter, fairer and more prosperous". The message from all three presentations was how important social connection and working collaboratively with peers and teachers is to engage learners. Schools play a positive role in the wellbeing of the whole community. SVRC also strives to play a positive and influential role in supporting students who are blind or have low vision.

SVRC Transcription

Source: Deb Lewis, Transcription Manager, SVRC

Dear readers,

By the time you receive this issue of The Bulletin, the Transcription Team will have had over 2,000 requests for materials in alternative formats this year. And there has been such a variety of materials transcribed into such a variety of formats for students in Department, Catholic and Independent schools! Here is a selection of materials that have been requested and produced in 2021, along with plenty of guided readers, text books, exams/SACs and all the usual learning materials you can probably imagine:

- A 650 print page Year 12 Chemistry text book in etext and accompanying tactile diagrams booklets
- 40 or so books from the *Rainbow Magic* series in braille and lots more as Word files
- NAPLAN and ICAS past papers for student practice
- Tactile colouring books, maze books and Sudokus
- 29 bible-studies booklets
- 40 or so braille music pieces for trumpet and lots more for piano
- Three 3D printed medieval castles with accompanying tactile diagrams
- Latin workbooks in braille and etext
- *Give Me Some Space* in braille for the National Simultaneous Reading event
- Examples of the Bayeux Tapestry as tactile diagrams
- 60 or more past VCE exam papers in braille, large print and etext for student practice
- Many *Coles Little Treehouse Books* as illustrated braille books, ePub and Word files
- A braille copy of each of the five books that are given to each student in Foundation/Prep
- The 2021 calendar in braille
- Recipe books in braille
- Tactile diagrams of Werribee Zoo
- Joke books in ePub, PDF, Word and braille
- Tactile diagrams of sports fields
- The periodic table of elements in braille
- Tactile graph paper, clock faces, 3D shapes, compass points and numbers charts
- Contour maps as 3D prints with accompanying tactile diagram
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?* – in JAPANESE BRAILLE

It keeps us busy!

From the Support Skills news desk...

With Support Skills continuing online this term, SSP teacher, Elise Lonsdale used her considerable technological talents to create a virtual news desk, hoping to engage our students in the reading focus this term.



Description of image: The smiling face of SSP teacher, Elise Lonsdale is seen with a background of a world map and foreground banners saying, 'LIVE from Ringwood' and 'Elise Lonsdale – Technology Teacher - Term Three Theme – READING' and 'SSP Online'. There is a Statewide Vision Resource Centre logo in the bottom left corner.

SSP Online Art in Melbourne Lockdown #5

Michael Donnelly returned from Long Service Leave to the SSP Art room this term. Michael had planned to examine the Paralympic symbols and mascots in face-to-face lessons, but had to rethink due to yet another Melbourne Lockdown. Michael decided to stick with the Japanese theme and gamely try a little origami with his online class!

Michael writes:

"(Students were) invited to celebrate Japanese art and culture today by attempting some Origami – the Japanese Art of Folded Paper. To assist with this, the art teacher referred to an origami website: origami.me."

Michael made use of verbal descriptions and a second video camera to demonstrate step-by-step how to fold a variety of origami designs including a Samurai Helmet, a water bomb cube, a bookmark (photo top right) and a traditional Paper Crane.

If you'd like to try a simple example of the ancient art of paper-folding, you can follow the [verbal instructions for the rather cute book mark](#).

Meanwhile, (photo middle right) Michael looks quite fine wearing a demo model of the Samurai Helmet, made using a 70 cm square of paper.

Some of the students managed their origami very well – see one student's well-loved soft toy sporting a very well-made helmet (photo bottom right)!

Here are some of the links that Michael shared with the class:

- [Beginner's Guide](#)
- [Diagrams](#)
- [Samurai Helmet](#)
- [Crane](#)
- [Waterbomb](#)
- [Bookmark](#)

Have a shot at an origami model – great for following instructions, finger dexterity and a little geometry thrown in as well!!!

Read on for instructions for an origami Sailboat!



How to Make an Origami Sailboat

The instructions for this traditional model can be found on the [accessible arts and crafts blogspot](#) and were compiled by Lindy van der Merwe

Paper to be used: Square, any size; use large paper to practice with at first. If using two-sided origami paper, lay your paper with the patterned or colored side up before starting to fold. This will result in a colored boat with white sails.

Folding level: Easy/Beginner

Description: This is a simple sailboat with two raised sails. It should be able to stand upright on a flat surface while the bottom of the boat forms a pocket at the front and a flap folded towards the back, forms a stand for the boat.

Remarks: Kids can decorate the boat, glue it onto a card or it can be secured in an upright position on top of a present. It can also be used as place cards or name cards. For a little gift, something small could be tucked into the bottom of the boat. A large boat could serve as a stand for a photo. For fun, have a race. Write a child's name on each boat and place the boats in an upright position. Move the boats across a flat surface by blowing.

Step 1: Place a square piece of paper down on a hard, flat surface so that it forms a diamond shape.

Step 2: Fold the bottom point up to meet the top point to form a triangle. Crease and leave folded. You should have a triangle with the closed long edge nearest you and the open point facing away from you.

Step 3: Fold the bottom left point of the triangle over to meet the bottom right point in order to create a center vertical crease line. Crease lightly and unfold.

Step 4: Now grasp the left bottom corner of the triangle and fold it upwards and inwards to lie along the vertical center crease and meet the top point of the triangle.

Step 5: Repeat with the bottom right corner. You should have a diamond-shaped model with two flaps that are lying along the vertical center crease line of the model.

Step 6: Next, unfold both triangular flaps you have just created. Notice that a two-layered diamond shape has now been revealed at the center of the model.

Step 7: Fold down the top point, top layer only, of this diamond, so its point meets the bottom center of the model, just where the two triangular flaps meet.

Step 8: Fold both bottom points of your triangle back up again along the folds you have already created in Step 4 and 5. Turn over the model.

Step 9: Bring the point that is left at the top of your model down to meet its bottom. You should have a boat-shaped triangle at the bottom with two triangles, the sails, at the top. Turn the model over.

Step 10: Fold both layers of the bottom triangular point of your model upwards, just enough to create a fairly straight line at the bottom of the boat. This flap will also form a stand at the back of the boat for display purposes.

Step 11: Turn your model over once again and you should have a sailboat with a fairly flat bottom, rounded sides, two sails on top and a piece of paper at the back of the boat that could serve as a stand for your model. **(Optional)** Take a photo and send it in – we'll feature it in the next issue of The Bulletin!

SVRC Writing Competition 2021

Source: Marion Blazé, Support Skills and Professional Learning, SVRC

The annual SVRC writing competition usually happens in Term 4, but with most of our students in isolation at present, we are sharing the topics with you earlier, so that you can be inspired to start writing now.

This competition is open to any eligible student with a vision impairment who is supported by a Visiting Teacher and/or the Statewide Vision Resource Centre. You can 'write' in the format of your choice. Your writing can be creative or factual. A judging panel will award prizes at every age level and an overall winner's prize.

The topic this year is the theme of the Children's Book Council, Book Week (August 21-27, 2021): 'Old worlds, new worlds, other worlds'. Take inspiration from the wonderful poster designed for Book Week.



This is a broad theme that you can take in any direction. You could write about life before, during and after COVID. You could write about space, food, housing, transport, technology, almost anything.

Please include your name, age, school and contact details (for prizes and certificates). Please email your entry to: marion.blaze@education.vic.gov.au or post to Marion Blazé, Statewide Vision Resource Centre, PO Box 201, Nunawading 3131. Entries will be accepted until November 8, 2021.

Victorian Competitor: Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games



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TOKYO 2020

Paralympic Games

24 August - 5 September 2021

Source: <https://www.paralympic.org.au/athlete/jaryd-clifford/>

With the Olympics and Paralympics upon us, we thought you might like to keep an eye on young Victorian Paralympian Jaryd Clifford (photo right) who will be competing in athletics events in Tokyo.

Jaryd attended the SVRC in his much younger years and so he is well-known of many of us!

Jaryd is an athlete, and a very good one at that!

Here's some fast facts from the Paralympics website:

Date of birth: 5 July 1999

Sport: Para-athletics

Past Paralympic Games: Rio 2016

Paralympic classification: T12

Disciplines: 1500m and 5000m

When Jaryd Clifford made his Paralympic debut as a fresh-faced 17-year-old at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, no one could have predicted that three years later, he would be the man to beat at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games ... running with a vision impairment has its challenges, and as Jaryd's sight deteriorates, he must continue to adapt. He is now running with a guide, best mate and long-time training partner Tim Logan, and because they have run together for years, they already naturally take the same strides.

Jaryd's goal?

To be a Paralympic gold medallist

Staff of the Statewide Vision Resource Centre wish Jaryd the very best for this exciting step in his athletic journey!



Blind Cricket this Summer

Source: Victorian Blind Cricket Association

Tired of Zoom and computer screens? Want to catch up with friends and meet new people in a COVID Safe way? Miss just being outdoors in the sun? Get out and about this summer with one of Australia's longest running team sports for people who are Blind or have Low Vision. Enjoy the sunshine and open air whilst working in a team environment and learning skills that can be applied to different areas of life. What on Earth could be this incredible and action packed..? It's Blind Cricket.

To celebrate the 99th Birthday of Blind Cricket here in Victoria, an Open Day is being held on Saturday the 11th of September, 2021. Enjoy the All Day BBQ, meet the teams and players and learn about the game of Blind Cricket. Best part is it's completely FREE. Register your interest and go in the Prize Draw at the [VBCA website](#)

Event Details

Date: Saturday the 11th of September, 2021

Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm. Stay for as long or as little as you like.

Venue: Behind Vision Australia at 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong

Cost: Free

Getting There:

Train: Take the Glen Waverley Train to Kooyong Station. The Open Day is across the street from Platform 2 in the back of Vision Australia

Tram: Take Route 16 to Stop 66, Vision Australia/Kooyong Tennis Centre. The Open Day is behind Vision Australia

Car: Just a stone's throw from the Toorak Rd exit of the Monash Freeway. Park in the Carpark between Vision Australia and the freeway bridge.

Register: Stay in the loop and go in the prize pool by going to the [VBCA website](#)

Get in Touch: Contact event organizer, Dan Pritchard with any questions you may have by phone on 0422 533 289 or by email at siren_guy@hotmail.com

Further Information

How does Blind Cricket work?

Blind Cricket is a modified version of the game invented right here in Victoria. Blind Cricket allows for people with different levels of sight to play together on the one team. Using an audible ball, bowlers deliver underarm but that doesn't mean it's a slow roll on the ground. Victoria boasts one of the world's fastest bowlers who can send the ball down at over 100km an hour. Yikes! Most other rules and equipment are the same as used on TV, at the local cricket oval or even at the park, beach or backyard. Why not join in the action and attend the Blind Cricket Open Day?

I've watched Cricket on TV and played it at School. It's REALLY Boring. Why would I want to try the Blind version?

Watching anything is never as much fun as actually doing it. Also at school, it's very hard to get involved in games when you can't always tell what's going on. That's why Blind Cricket is way better. It has been made so that any Vision Impaired or Blind person can play.

I don't understand the rules of ANY kind of Cricket

That's ok. We've got you covered. We're holding an Open Day for new people to come along and give it a try. You will get to meet the different teams and have a go at batting, bowling and fielding.

I have other questions, is there someone I can talk to?

Get in touch with our event organizer, Dan Pritchard by calling him on his phone on **0422 533 289** or by emailing him at siren_guy@hotmail.com.

Ok, where do I sign up?

Sign up online and go into the prize draw at www.vbca.org.au/sign_and_win. We'll be sure to email you with updates on the Open Day and other activities coming up this Summer.

Trail Blazers September Camp

Source: GDV Victoria

After a long wait, Guide Dogs Victoria's Children's Mobility Service is excited to invite you to our next camp! Trail Blazers is for senior school aged students who are looking to connect with their peers in an adventurous environment. Through planned activities, students will have the opportunity to build on core social, personal and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) skills in a recreational setting in the beautiful Yarra Ranges. Over four days and three nights in the September school holidays, participants will be encouraged to explore new ideas and skills, share their experiences, and of course make new friends!

When: Monday 20 September – Thursday 23 September 2021.

Where: Lyrebird Park, 510 Beenak Road, Yellingbo, Victoria 3139.

Accommodation is in comfortable cabins and lodges with heating, cooling and en suite facilities. Students will share a room with appropriate peer/s. Guide Dogs Victoria will have access to the entire campsite with no other groups accessing the grounds during our stay.

Who: Senior school aged students. Program will be staffed and facilitated by Guide Dogs Victoria Orientation and Mobility Specialists and Occupational Therapists.

Cost: Cost for NDIS participants: \$3360.

RSVP: To register an expression of interest for this camp please call customer service on 1800 804 805. Once you have registered your expression of interest, an application pack will be sent to you to complete. Places are strictly limited. Please register your interest in this camp by COB August 5 to ensure you don't miss out!

Program goals

- Exploration and travel in rural bushland environments.
- Social skills – group strategy, decision making and inclusivity.
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Gross motor development – whole-body motor skills.
- Risk assessment and decision-making.

Some of the activities may include:

- Bushwalking.
- Rock climbing.
- Goalball.
- Ropes courses.
- Excursions to Healesville Sanctuary and Hedgend Maze.
- Disco / dancing.
- Team building and strategy activities.

This program has been made possible by the generous contributions of the Shine on Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact our friendly Customer Service Team on 1800 804 805.

And finally...

Source: [Paralympics Website](#)

To help those with vision impairments recognise the different medals by touch, a series of circular indentations have been included on the side of the medals for the first time in Paralympic history. One indentation represents gold, two distinguishes silver and three identifies bronze. Braille letters also spell out “Tokyo 2020” on the medals’ face.

