

The Bulletin

Number 4, Friday 25 March, 2022

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PD events

The [2022 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available on the SVRC website. Most PL will continue to be held online, but some are planned to be onsite. Please encourage school staff to [register for PD through our website](#).

Wednesday May 4 [Teaching and learning with braille music](#)

Providing practical strategies for music teachers to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind.

Wednesday May 11 [Inclusion of students who have vision impairments in art](#)

Practical strategies teachers can use in art classes to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind or partially sighted.

Tuesday June 7 [Inclusion of students who have vision impairments in PE](#)

Providing ideas and practical strategies to support the inclusion of students who are blind or partially sighted in physical education.

Message from the Manager

Source: Kim Foley, SVRC

At the last VT-Vision Community of Practice we had a guest speaker, Cameron Algie the author of the book "I Can See Clearly Now, Understanding and Managing Vision Loss". He discussed his lived experience of having a vision impairment and how he supported others while facilitating a Vision Australia Support Group over many years. The presentation was insightful, thought provoking and a reminder that the person with a vision impairment is best equipped to understand their individual needs. If you would like to purchase the book the details are as follows:

"I Can See Clearly Now, Understanding and Managing Vision Loss," Amazon, Booktopia and iBooks (e-book only at bookshops if requested) ISBN Paperback, 978-0-6452041-1-7 E-book 978-0-6452623-0-8 or see links on: Web: www.icanseeclearlybooks.com

150 Years of Public Education

As part of Department of Education and Training's celebration of 150 years of Public Education, SVRC has been approached to submit a story to illustrate the changes to education for students with a vision impairment. Marion Blaze is writing a story and has approached one of the first braille students in Victoria to be integrated into a mainstream setting. A photo of the student and his Visiting Teacher was once featured in an educational magazine called "Comet". The student's Visiting Teacher-Vision was Annette Godfrey-Magee, a valued SVRC staff member who supported the student in learning braille. He used a Perkins Braille and an abacus for Literacy and Mathematic tasks to support his learning. A braille student today has access to a wide range of assistive technology including refreshable braille display, iPad, Apps, laptop and Perkins Braille. We will feature the article and photo in the Bulletin next term.

Transcription

The Transcription staff would very much appreciate receiving forms when requesting all resources in alternative format for students. Even if you are requesting leisure reading (even if you don't have a title), or a copy of NAPLAN, or a test, or a worksheet ... an accompanying form that includes student details, format, chapter order and delivery details is incredibly helpful. To date, there have been almost 1000 requests for materials in alternative format this year for approximately 170 students. It becomes quite tricky to stay on top of these requests if there is no paperwork.

New Books to the SVRC Virtual Library

Animal Rescue, a series of four books is written by popular author, Jackie French. It features plenty of adventure and plenty of humour all with an environmental theme.

Mozz is a genius who made a faster than sound rocket out of recycled plastic bottles for her year 4 science project.

Leo isn't quite such an adventure-seeker ... but he can communicate with animals.

Can Mozz and Leo save the elephants before the tsunami arrives? Can they save the gorillas from poachers? Will the rock star's pet tiger ever be free? And will the sharks swim away from the radioactive pollution? Find out in these rollicking reads:

- *Elephant Alert*
- *Gorilla Grab*
- *Tiger Tangle*
- *Shark Attack*

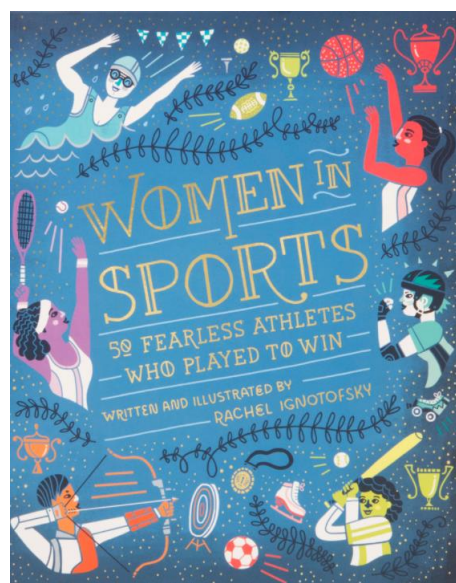
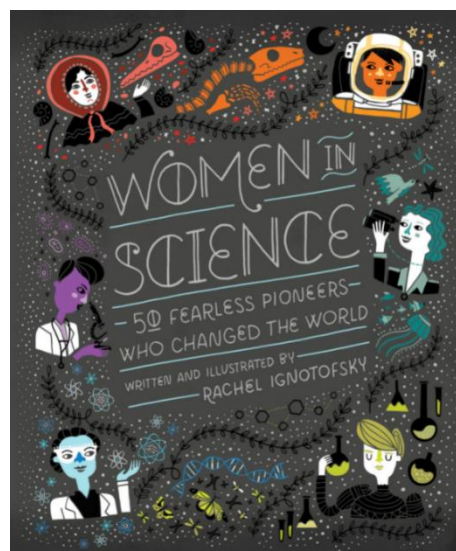
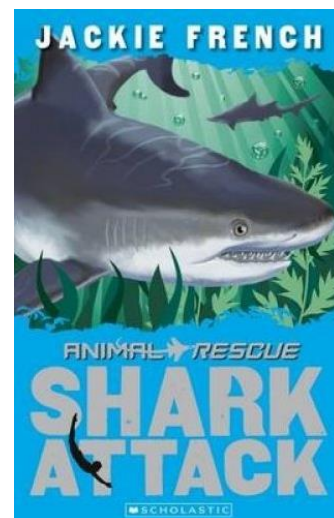
Women in Science highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from the ancient to the modern world. This book features women you may have heard of including:

- Rachel Carson, marine biologist, conservationist and author
- Marie Curie, physicist and chemist
- Jane Goodall, primatologist, ethologist and anthropologist

You'll also find lesser-known scientists such as Katherine Johnson, the African-American physicist and mathematician who calculated the trajectory of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the moon.

And coming soon!

Women in Sports highlights the achievements and stories of fifty notable women athletes – from well-known figures like tennis player Billie Jean King and gymnast Simone Biles, to lesser-known athletes such as skateboarding pioneer Patti McGee and Toni Stone, the first woman to play baseball in a men's professional league. *Women in Sports* celebrates the success of the tough, bold, and fearless women who paved the way for the next generation of athletes.



Braille Letter Songs

Source: Christine Casey via SPEVI-list

The Queensland Department of Education's Statewide Vision Impairment Services team is pleased to announce that our Braille Letter Songs are now available online. The 26 braille letter songs include the braille dot numbers and alphabetic word sign contractions for each letter of the English alphabet. Dot numbers are linked to consistent musical pitches to ensure that each song has a unique melody and to assist with the memorisation of each letter's braille formation.

The songs can be found at: https://soundcloud.com/dete-4/sets/queensland-department-of-education-braille-letter-song/s-VSutmGrt9np?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

Christine Casey worked with Steve Sparrow and Rikki Chaplin to create very cute, very catchy and very FUN (approximately) 30-second audio files – one for each braille letter of the alphabet (and its wordsign)!

Let us know your favourite letter!

Mine is definitely "d" – "... d is DO and it loves to jive"!

Master of Inclusive Education Program

Source: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/profdev/Pages/inclusive-education-scholarship.aspx>

Masters places are available for teachers to complete postgraduate study in inclusive education to continue supporting students of all abilities.

The support given to recipients includes:

- full tuition fees
- a contribution towards teacher replacement for practicum
- four years to complete the course.

In Round 8, the program has 75 available places including the [Master of Disability Studies, specialising in blindness and low vision](#) with NextSense Institute, through Macquarie University.

For further details, see the [Application Guidelines](#).

Applications for Round 8 are now open and will close at 11.59 on Tuesday 29 March 2022.

OUT now: Volume 14 of the Journal of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (JSPEVI)

[Volume 14 of the Journal of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment](#) (JSPEVI) is now available on the SPEVI website. Volume 14 includes articles by the following leading educators and researchers:

- Elaine Gilmore - Addressing Culturally Responsive Pedagogy for Specialist Teachers of Vision in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Melissa Cain, Melissa Fanshawe and Polly Goodwin - The Impacts of COVID-19 Restrictions on Learning for Students with Blindness and Low Vision In Australia and the Pacific
- Aasha Shaw - Teaching Social Interaction Skills to Students with Vision Impairment: An Integrative Review of Barriers, Enablers and Best-Practice Interventions
- Thanh Trinh Thi Thu - Developing Tactile Books for Children with Vision Impairment in Vietnam
- Leona Holloway, Kate Stephens and Ramona Mandy - Touch Reading 3D Prints
- Dominica Maloney, Melissa Fanshawe, Alexandra Boys and Lauren Terhes - LEAP Up – Transition to Tertiary Pilot Program
- Karen Croake - The Importance of a Professional Learning Community to Teach a Student who is Blind in a Mainstream School
- Jessica Caine and Nancy Higgins - Independent Learning Through Journaling About Early Childhood Orientation and Mobility Resources, Experiences and Practice

Access Elvis

Source: Bendigo Art Gallery

Created in conjunction with Monash University, enjoy [Elvis: Direct from Graceland](#) with a tour specifically tailored for visitors who are blind or have low vision.

Discover the highlights of the exhibition through detailed experiences, sensory descriptions and tactile samples.

Bendigo Art Gallery, 42 View Street , Bendigo VIC 3550

- Sat 23 Apr 2022
- 09:00am - 10:30am

Members \$20, non-member \$30, concession \$25.

Performing in Matilda the Musical

Ben, a year 9 student who attends a large secondary school in South-Eastern Metropolitan Region, has been cast in a main role in his school production of "Matilda the Musical". Ben's character is Sergei and he is in the Thursday and Saturday performances. Year 7 student, **Anita**, who attends the same school has been selected to sing in the ensemble. Apparently both students are beautiful singers! Congratulations Ben and Anita! We hope you enjoy the show!

What is Orientation and Mobility?

Source: [Paula Foote, Orientation and Mobility Specialist](#)

Orientation is knowing where you are and where you want to go in your world and mobility is being able to go from one place to another safely and effectively. Both orientation and mobility are important and work together to enable an individual to move safely, efficiently and independently.

Why is Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Important?

The school curriculum is important for all students but in addition to literacy, numeracy STEM etc, O&M has been recognised as being a vital part of the "expanded core curriculum" which are skills beyond the general education core curriculum. O&M is necessary for students that have a vision impairment to enable them to develop skills to move purposely safely and as independently as possible.

Where do you start with O&M?

Children use their everyday experiences and interactions to build concepts and they use their senses to receive information about their physical environment. Children build mental representations or *concepts* of objects, people, environments events and actions but if any of the senses are not working as they should then the development of specific concepts needs to be explicitly taught. O&M's teach body concepts, spatial concepts, environmental concepts, time and distance concepts and safety concepts. And that's just the beginning of the O&M journey.

Calling all Artists

Source: BCA Monthly Update

Thirteen years ago, a group of vision impaired artists organized an Art Exhibition at the Gasworks Art Park in Albert Park. There were four visual artists and one sculptor, all had low vision and were legally blind. A group of vision impaired artists has booked to run another exhibition in July 2022 at the same gallery. They are looking for interested artists with low vision to join them and exhibit their artwork.

The group envisage that artists will share in exhibition costs such as

- Gallery costs (Curation, Promotion, Catering for opening night)
- Addition Advertising costs

At their last exhibition the group had a large crowd on opening night, with several sales being made.

If you are interested, please contact Claire Hogan on 0428 256 140 or clairehogan000@gmail.com.

And finally ...

If you'd like to participate in some research, there are a couple of opportunities available.

The Audio Universe Project – [Turning the Universe into Sound](#)

Monash University - [For teachers and parents who've used 3D printed models with students who are blind or have low vision](#)