

Number 1, Friday 3 February, 2023

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PD events

The [2023 Professional Learning Calendar](#) is now available for download on our website. See below for links to the events in Term 1 2023.

Tuesday February 14 [Inclusion of students who are blind](#)

Providing practical strategies for classroom teachers and ES staff to promote inclusion and achievement for their students who are blind.

Tuesday February 21 [Inclusion of students who have low vision](#)

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

Tuesday March 7 [Inclusion of students with vision impairments and additional disabilities](#)

Providing practical strategies that teachers and ES staff can use to support students with a vision impairment and additional disabilities.

On Demand PL

All of our professional learning workshops are now available on demand where participants can access all the videos and resources at a time that suits them. You can find links through the [On Demand page](#), under Professional Learning, on our website.

Message from the Manager

Source: Kim Foley, Manager, SVRC

Welcome back!

We hope families and school staff had a restful break over the school holiday time and are looking forward to 2023. Hopefully, there will be less disruptions to SVRC programs and service provision due to illness.

Staffing

Congratulations to Sarah Hayman who will now join the SSP and EVAC teams in 2023 while continuing to coordinate the SVRC Technology Library. We wish Sarah well with her new teaching endeavours. On Friday 27 January, 10 staff attended CPR training and 8 staff completed their triennial First Aid training. Thank you to Marion for organising this particularly important professional learning opportunity. All SVRC staff are currently completing the annual Protecting Children-Reporting and other Legal Requirements (Mandatory Reporting) online.

Digital Hub

The SVRC-VTS-Vision Digital Hub was launched at the end of last year during the Community of Practice. The Hub will provide an opportunity to effectively communicate with the VTS-Vision via the noticeboard and a mechanism for storing videos and presentations. A 'one stop' shop for vital information to support our students and teachers.

New VT PL

SVRC is offering a Professional Learning Day for new VTS-Vision teachers in Victoria on Tuesday 7 February. It is an introduction to our programs and service provision to support students who are blind or have low vision. Please contact Marion Blaze at marion.blaze@education.vic.gov.au to register for this professional learning opportunity.

Space Camp

The NASA Space Camp will definitely happen this year and the working party members have already met this week to discuss the next steps. Interested parents will be contacted to arrange a meeting to begin a very complicated process of gaining regional approval for international student travel in 2023. Please contact Peter Davis at peter.davis2@education.vic.gov.au if your child is interested in attending the camp and we are unaware of your intentions.

SVRC Policies

We will be adding Department of Education compliance policies to a new website page on our website. You can find the "Policies" page under the "About" menu. The policies should be live on our website before the end of this month.

SVRC's professional learning events in 2023

Source: Marion Blaze, Leading Teacher, SVRC

SVRC has a whole year of professional learning events, ready to help you support students who are blind or have low vision. The full [calendar of 2023 events](#) is on our website along with program and registration details.

Most of our PL events are online. The exceptions to this are February 7 – 'Introduction to support for Visiting Teachers (Vision) from SVRC', and several of the more 'hands-on' events in Term 2.

You can participate in our online events in various ways: register and participate online on the day, register and receive recordings of the event to watch in your own time. If you are registered and can't participate for the whole day, you will still get the recordings to catch up on later. All events will become part of our 'On-demand' library for you to register to view later in the year.

Here's a preview of our Term 1 offerings:

Feb 7 – Introduction to support for Visiting Teachers (Vision) from SVRC (NOT online)

Feb 14 – Inclusion of students who are blind

Feb 21 – Inclusion of students who have low vision

Mar 7 – Inclusion of students with vision impairments and additional disabilities

A word about the March 7 event: this program was developed to assist teachers of students who are blind or have low vision but who also have severe or profound additional impairments. We talk about communication tools for non-verbal children, cortical vision impairment and strategies to assist profoundly disabled children. If your student has low vision and a mild additional impairment, then the Feb 21 program might be more relevant to you.

Please encourage staff in schools to register for these events. Family members can also contact Marion Blaze to receive a code to use to register free for any of these events.

marion.blaze@education.vic.gov.au

Books for Prep students – in braille

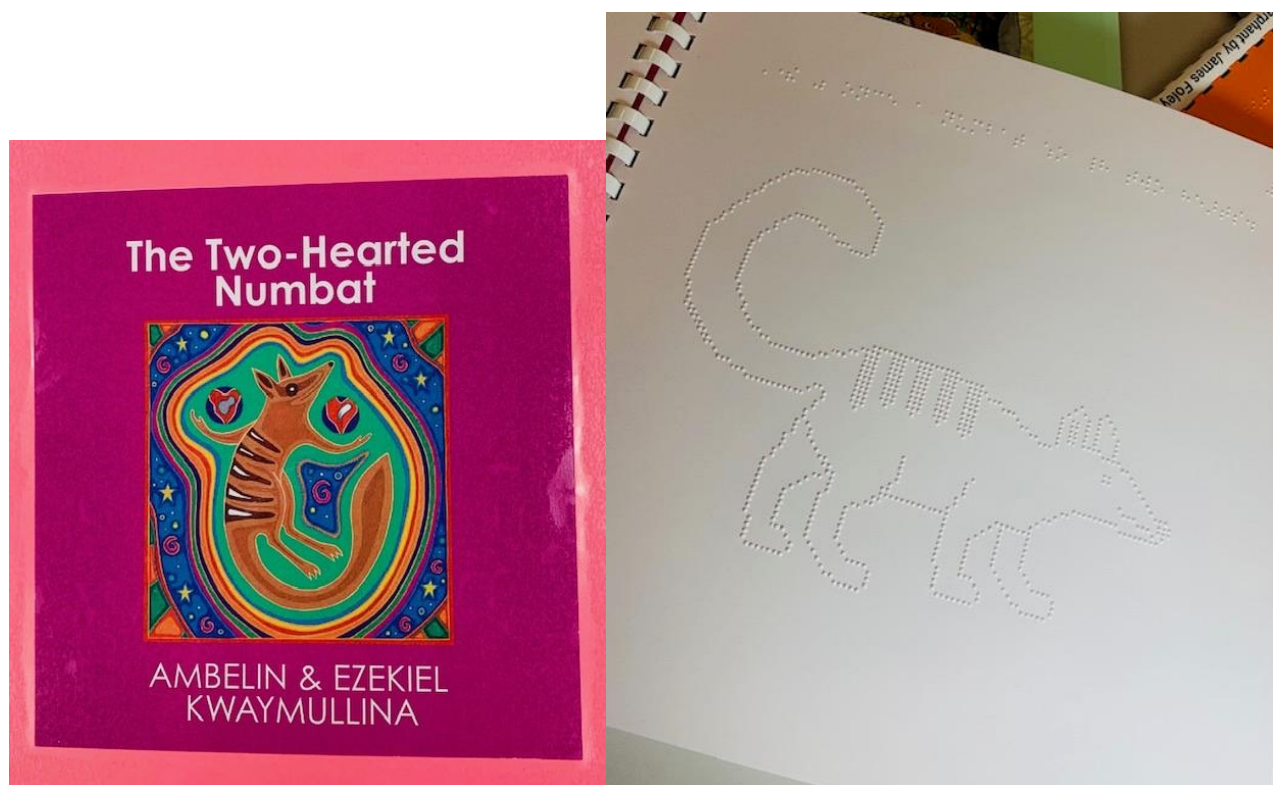
Source: Transcription Department, SVRC

Every year, Prep students starting in Victorian schools, are given a bag of educational materials including some wonderful children's picture story books. And each year, Statewide Vision Resource Centre's creative and talented transcription team produce these books in braille with tactile illustrations for students starting in Prep who are blind (thank you, Taryn!!). The print books are provided as well so that families can enjoy reading these beautiful story books together.

The 2023 chosen titles were:

- The Two-Hearted Numbat by Ambelin and Ezekiel Kwaymullina
- Bedtime sorted! By Jimmy Rees
- Stellarphant by James Foley
- The Biscuit Maker by Sue Lawson
- What Colour is the Sea? By Katie Stewart

The images show the book cover of 'The Two-Hearted Numbat' with an indigenous style illustration of a numbat, and an open page photograph of the tactile image of a numbat with braille words above.



Master of Inclusive Education Program 2023

Source: Inclusive Education Scholarships Unit, Department of Education

Are you interested in gaining a department-funded master's level qualification specialising in vision impairment or inclusive education? Applications for Round 9 (R9) are now open and will close on Tuesday 28 March at 11:59 pm. The long-term vision is for all Victorian government schools to have a master-level qualified inclusive education teacher on staff, creating and leading a more inclusive school environment for all students regardless of their abilities and backgrounds.

There are 75 places available, and the program will consider providing schools with an additional masters if teachers are interested in specialising in vision impairment, through the following course:

- **NextSense - Macquarie University:** [Master of Disability Studies](#) - Blindness/Low Vision

For all other Inclusive Education courses, please see course details below:

- **Australian Catholic University:** [Master of Education \(Inclusive Practice\)](#)
- **Deakin University:** [Master of Specialist Inclusive Education](#)
- **La Trobe University:** [Master of Education \(Inclusion and Diversity\)](#)
- **Monash University:** [Master of Applied Behaviour Analysis](#)
- **Monash University:** [Master of Inclusive Education](#)
- **University of Melbourne:** [Master of Learning Intervention Stream A](#)
- **University of Newcastle:** [Master of Special and Inclusive Education](#)

Through additional postgraduate study, teachers can make a significant contribution to how their schools plan and support students with disability and additional learning needs, using contemporary evidence-based, best practice approaches. These bespoke courses have been designed for the Victorian context and will be delivered by our seven partnered universities listed above. Please see the Master of Inclusive Education website for further information, including testimonials from graduates of the program.

To find out more or to check whether your school is eligible, please contact the IESU at: inclusive.ed.scholarships@education.vic.gov.au or call 9084 8496.

Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning Difficulties)

Source: Inclusive Education Scholarships Unit, Department of Education

Strengthen your knowledge of learning difficulties, including dyslexia and dyscalculia, with postgraduate study in 2023.

The Department is offering 75 fully funded places for learning specialists, leading teachers, and classroom teachers working in mainstream Victorian government primary or secondary schools to undertake the Graduate Certificate in Education (Learning Difficulties) program, commencing study in Semester 2, 2023.

Delivered by the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne, this bespoke course is designed for the Victorian educational context.

Applications for Round 2 opens are **now open** and will **close** on **Tuesday 28 March at 11:59 pm**. Visit the [Graduate Certificate webpage](#) for more information about eligibility and how to apply.

Melbourne Recital Centre – Relaxed Performances 2023

The Centre's series of Relaxed Performances are specifically suited for audiences with sensory sensitivities, using altered lighting, more in-depth musical explanations and accompanying access resources.

This year with day-time performances running for 45 minutes, this series is also perfect for young families. Children will be free to wriggle if they need or leave the Primrose Potter Salon and move to a designated quiet area in the Ground Floor Foyer. Go to the [Recital Centre website](#) for dates and times.

All performances are \$10.

Broadening career opportunities for people with disabilities

Australian of the Year (2022), Dylan Alcott, has launched a new website to help people with disabilities find employment, in an attempt to stop ongoing discrimination in recruitment practices. With \$6 million in funding from the federal government, [The Field website](#) has been created by disabled people to match job hunters with inclusive employers and provide information on accessible workplaces.

Round Table 2023

Source: Marjorie Hawkings, Round Table Administration Officer & Round Table Conference Planner

When: Sunday 7 to Tuesday 9 May 2023 (Conference proper)

[Round Table AGM – Sunday, 7 May 2022 at 4:45pm AEST, Australian Braille Authority (ABA) Annual Meeting – Saturday, 6 May 2023]

Where: Rydges Sydney Central, 28 Albion Street, Surry Hills, Sydney

Theme: Around the conference theme "Universal Information Access: Pathways to an Equitable Future", presenters will focus on the themes of advocacy, innovation and practice and provide opportunities for people with print disabilities, accessible format producers, libraries, publishers, education institutions, government bodies, technology developers and other key stakeholders to come together to collaborate, share knowledge and learn together.

Keynote speakers

- Richard Orme, CEO, DAISY Consortium
- Darlene McLennan, David Swayn, Andrew Arch, Neil Jarvis, Steve Johnston, Accessible ICT procurement implementation guide for Australian Universities.

Feature speakers

- Melissa Fanshaw, University of Southern Queensland
- Victoria Owen, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto
- Chris Harrop, Telstra Sports Technology Lead

Registrations: Round Table is an on-line registration system and is available as a link from the [2023 Round Table Conference](#) page on the Round Table website.

Conference Updates: Conference updates will be posted to the [2023 conference page](#) on the Round Table website and Round Table mailing list.

Conference Sponsors: Special thanks and acknowledgement to **Blind Low Vision NZ** our 2023 Platinum Conference Sponsor.

The Tammy Axelsen Lifetime Achievement Award: A gentle reminder nominations for this annual award are open. The nomination form and further details can be found on our website by following this link: [Tammy Axelsen Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

Contact: Phone: (03) 9010 6251 (for overseas calls: +61 3 9010 6251)

Web address: <http://www.printdisability.org>

Mountain Lakes Public Library Makerspace Projects

Source: [Makerspace Projects](#)

The Mountain Lakes Public Library Makerspace has been a full-time part of the Mountain Lakes Public Library since October 2018. Their motto is "small in scale, large in reach". In December 2022 students presented on their universal design projects. Follow the links to have a look at, and even try out, some of the projects

- an accessible sound based game called [Pea's Journey](#)
- [tactile crayon toppers](#) to help students easily identify the colour of different crayons
- [Tactile noughts and crosses](#)
- [Accessible Wordle](#)

And finally...

The shark cornea is nearly identical to the human cornea, and has even been used in human eye surgery!