

The Bulletin

Number 12, Thursday 15th August 2019

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Welcome to our 12th edition of The Bulletin for 2019!

Over the last few weeks we have welcomed a number of new staff to our fantastic team. Ange McDonnell and Brooke Fairley have joined us full-time until the end of the year, both working in administration roles. Three new staff have joined our Support Skills team, including Elise Lonsdale (until the end of the year), Olivia Muscatt (until the end of Term 3) and Darren Hess (seconded from NWVR until the end of Term 3).

We have just advertised an [Assistive Technology Trainer \(Education Support\) position on recruitment online](#). The successful candidate will join our Support Skills Program team from the beginning of Term 4, 2019 until the end of Term 4, 2020. We have also asked for expressions of interest from DET Visiting Teachers to join our Support Skills team on secondment in Term 4 this year. If you're interested in either of these roles, please contact us.

On Tuesday 13th August we welcomed 42 teachers, support staff and parents to our Low Vision PD day. Thank you to everyone who participated in order to make this day a success. We have also been lucky to host online professional learning to DET visiting teachers on 29th and 31st July, focused on our Vision Technology Library and the new Equipment Boost for Schools Initiative. Thanks to everyone who made time in their busy schedules to come along.

After months of planning and development, we are in the final stages of redeveloping our website – www.svrc.vic.edu.au. Our new website will include a completely redesigned layout and a range of new and easy to find information for parents, students and teachers. We have welcomed a new website development contractor, Andrey, who is building our website with accessibility at its heart. We expect everything will be ready for launch in the next few weeks.

And finally, we are running a [short survey to seek your feedback on your experiences of reading The Bulletin](#) (more details below). Please participate and let us know what you think. Happy reading!

Matt Trotter, SVRC Transition Manager

Dates for Your Diary

2019

Tuesday October 15: Preparing your school for inclusion of a student who uses braille

Tuesday November 26: Assistive Technology Expo

*****Tuesday 10 December: SVRC Christmas Morning Tea – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE*****

2020

12-15 January 2020: SPEVI Conference in Adelaide

(Dates for 2020 SVRC professional development activities coming soon!)

Note: For upcoming professional learning at SVRC along with programs, registration & online payment, visit the SVRC [professional learning page](#).

Inclusive Education Scholarships Initiative

The [Inclusive Education Scholarships Initiative](#) is providing scholarships for teachers in Victorian government schools, and other departmental staff, to undertake a VIT endorsed postgraduate course focused on inclusive and special education. The initiative is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to increase the number of highly qualified and specialised inclusive education teachers working in Victorian schools.

For further information on the courses that are offered through the initiative, please follow the links below.

There are two intakes per year. The next round of scholarships will be opening in September 2019.

RIDBC offers a postgraduate course focused on vision impairment that is offered through this initiative. See [Master of Disability Studies \(RIDBC/Renwick Centre through Macquarie University\)](#).

For more information contact Claire Farrington, Manager, Graduate Education, RIDBC Renwick Centre: Claire.Farrington@ridbc.org.au.

RIDBC Continuing Education Program

Source: Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC)

A series of recorded webinars provide immediate training when you need it! There are topics that are suitable for Specialist Teachers of Vision Impairment, health nurses and other professionals, mainstream teachers and parents. RIDBC offer everything from short 30 minute presentations to a series of six longer sessions to develop your skills and knowledge. You are invited you to review the [range of webinars available on the RIDBC website](#).

In addition to the recorded webinars, there are also:

- [recordings of full day workshops](#)
- [Renwick Centre Podcasts](#) (free at iTunes or Podbean)
- [Face-to-face sessions](#) such as inclusion of students who are blind or have vision impairments in STEM subjects or PE

For face-to-face participation, RIDBC/Renwick Centre can be found at 361-365 North Rocks Road, North Rocks NSW 2151.

Workshop: Science for Students who are Blind or Have Low Vision

This workshop has been designed for students and will provide hands-on training for how talking scientific data collection devices can work in the science laboratory. How this technology can be used for both science laboratory classroom use, and in research experiences will be discussed. All participants will have the opportunity to conduct at least one science experiment under sleep shades if requested to experience how non-visual access to scientific data collection can be conducted. The importance of fully understanding the limitations of the talking science data loggers is just as important as knowing how it works. This will allow students with vision impairments to informatively delegate tasks they cannot do to other laboratory group team members. Information about how to acquire these talking tools will be presented upon the conclusion of the workshop if requested.

When: Tuesday 3 September 2019 from 4.00-6.00pm

Available: Face-to-face (361-365 North Rocks Road, North Rocks NSW 2151) and also digital access

Register: [RIDBC/Renwick Centre website](#)

This event is suitable for senior primary and secondary school students, their parents and teachers. The workshop will be held in the science lab at the RIDBC Thomas Pattison School.

UEB Math Tutorial

American Printing House (APH) offers [UEB Math Tutorial](#), an interactive online tutorial designed to teach UEB for technical materials, with a focus on mathematics. The content is organised into 10 chapters, with lessons accompanied by exercises for writing, reading, and proofreading. The lessons begin at a very basic level with numbers and simple operations, and gradually increase to more complex mathematical functions. Chapter 1 includes:

- [Lesson 1.0: General Principles](#)
- [Lesson 1.1: Numeric Indicator](#)
- [Lesson 1.2 Punctuation](#)
- [Lesson 1.3 Plus and Minus](#)
- [Lesson 1.4 Signs of Comparison Equal Sign](#)
- [Lesson 1.5 Signs of Comparison Less Than and Greater Than](#)

It appears somewhat similar to UEB Online and may be useful for extra practice.

Vision Australia 2020 Bursary

Source: [Vision Australia](#)

Applications for the 2020 Vision Australia Further Education Bursaries are now open.

Each year, Vision Australia provides bursaries to equip a select number of tertiary students who are blind or have low vision with assistive technology to support them in their chosen studies.

Since its inception in 1996, the Vision Australia Further Education Bursary program has provided more than 400 tertiary students with the technology they need to read course material, conduct research and improve their student life.

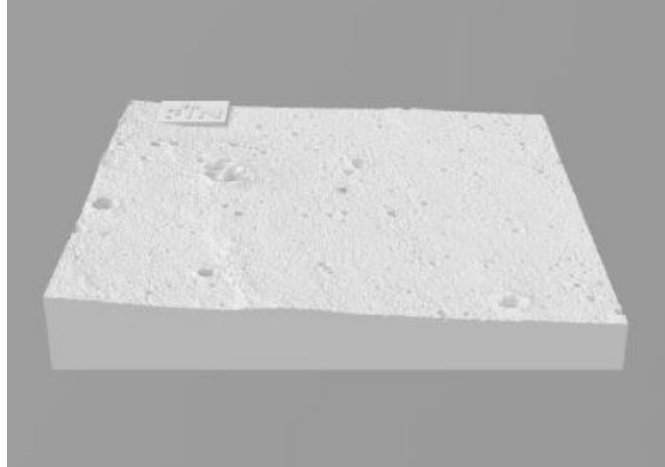
Applications close: October 31, 2019

For more information, visit: [eligibility criteria and the application process](#), phone (03) 8378 1220 or email joy.king@visionaustralia.org.

3-D Models of Luna Landing Sites

NASA has some lovely resources relating to the luna landing, the first of which occurred 50 years ago. Along with a collection of print resources, there are also six models of the luna landing sites to print on your 3-D printer.

Here's one example (see image right): "Using topography data derived from the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and the SELENE mission, this model shows the Sea of Tranquility region surrounding the Apollo 11 landing site. The braille inscription on the sides reads "Apollo 11 Moon landing site at Sea of Tranquility." The entire mission where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the lunar surface took place within a round bump at the center of the print."



To download visit: [NASA Posters and Other Resources](#)

Teach the Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with VI Using a Hoverboard

Source: [The Independent Little Bee...](#)

Robbin Keating Clark writes a blog "about concepts directly relating to the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for children with vision impairments. The ECC is a disability specific curriculum and is a vital part to the education of children with vision impairments."

Excerpt: "Before we even got on the hoverboards, we needed to do some serious concept development, STEM instruction and pre-teaching. First, I set the stage and we discussed what everyone knew about hoverboards and all things related to them (helmets, locations, etc).



Then we get to the STEM of it all. We talked about the parts of the hoverboard, the science of it and how they work. This was a bonus because I could teach STEM and the ECC at the same time. Students learned where to place their feet, how wide the foot pad sensors are and positioning. We sat on the floor and extended our legs to practice tipping our toes and working our heels. I bought different types of helmets on purpose to discuss the features, uses, etc. of the helmets.

Can you see how many areas of the ECC we are hitting? I was so excited throughout our initial hoverboard lesson because it was like an ECC buffet! We hit lots of orientation and mobility – from spatial awareness to directionality and balance. (Once students got their balance, we did have them use their canes if they were a cane user). We even hit career education. How? We discussed the rules and earning your dues at the skate park. We also discussed what types of jobs you could have in the skate industry."

Ed: How fun! How educational! Can we get some?

Upcoming Guide Dogs Camp

When: Monday 12 – Tuesday 13 August, 2019

GDV's Supercharge Mobility Secondary Student Program is designed for secondary school students who want to work on a range of core O&M and/or daily living skills and concepts. During the two-day program, students will focus on further developing their understanding of their body in space, road and traffic concepts, self-orientation strategies and the use of sensory information to draw meaningful conclusions about their environment.

This program is a great opportunity for students who are blind or have very low vision to learn in an environment that facilitates exploration of ideas and skills unique to a traveller who is blind. Students also have the opportunity to work with an occupational therapist on daily living goals that are relevant to them such as meal preparation, money handling, and self-grooming.

To register your interest or to find out more please contact GDV Customer Service: 1800 804 805.

Upcoming Sound Matters

When: Thursday 29 August 10.30 – 11.30am (also Tuesday 15 October 10.30 – 11.30am)

Where: Melbourne Recital Centre

The Sound Matters workshop series at Melbourne Recital Centre provides an interactive and engaging musical learning environment especially designed for children who are blind or have low vision.

Working in partnership with Vision Australia and the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), the Melbourne Recital Centre is hosting four intimate workshops throughout 2019, with an emphasis on exploration and composition. Each one-hour session will allow participants to hear familiar repertoire performed up close and personal by professional musicians, as well as the opportunity to work directly with the facilitators in creating brand new sounds.

Workshops are designed for children between 6–12 years of age. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Register for [Sound Matters](#)

Mt Evelyn Recreation Day Camp

Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria, with the support of YMCA Victoria's Open Doors Fund, invite school aged children who are blind or have low vision, and their families to attend a fun day of activities at the Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp. Activities include: low rope course, giant swing, nature walk & damper making.

When: Tuesday 1 October 2019

Time: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Where: 70 Tramway Rd, Mt Evelyn VIC

Cost: \$25 per child, \$15 per volunteer/parent. Morning tea & lunch will be provided.

Places are limited so get in early!

RSVP: Miriam (03) 9822 8876 or email miriam@blindsports.org.au

Tech Help from Pacific Vision

Many of our students are using technology from Pacific Vision, such as the Polaris or Ruby. If you need help using Pacific Vision devices, please contact Sam Taylor directly on 0420 355996 with any braille-tech related questions and Ranjit Jacob for any repairs or low vision related questions on 0450 675996.

Offer to Make Tactile Teaching Aids

Message from Claire Garrett via Facebook: I'm a semi retiree who needs projects to remain sane and by an interesting route and several inspirational people I have become heavily involved in making teaching aids for young VI kids using my beautiful laser cutter and more recently a less beautiful homemade vacuum forming machine. I want to make a series of relief diagrams to see if I can help students interpret diagrams in their curriculum that they find difficult with PIAF or embossing. I'm using the laser to help build the moulds that I then vacuum form in a sturdy white plastic (0.5mm HIPS). I can make anything from Uluru to Japanese fabric design. The plastic is roughly A4 and it is cheap so the sky's the limit with possibilities.

Claire requests that teachers, parents or students send some diagrams they would like help with and she will send them her interpretation in a higher relief. If it includes braille she can not only make it for free but post it for free as well via Australia Post.

[Contact: Claire via Facebook](#)

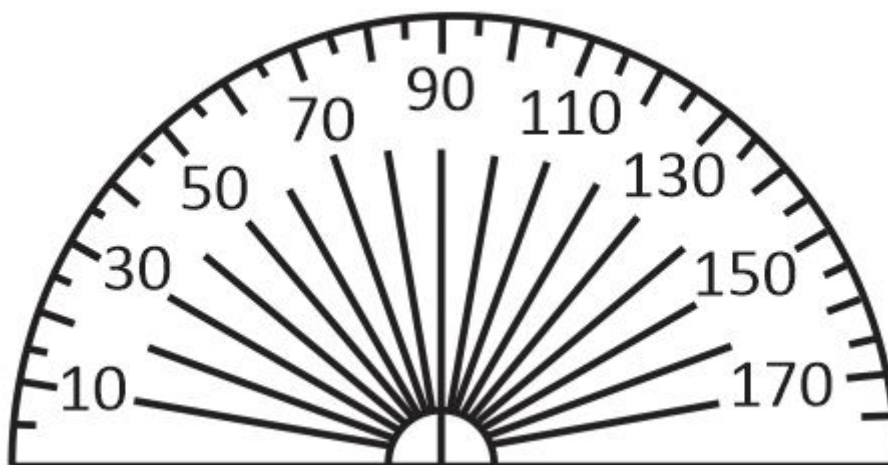
2019 Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in UEB

Apply by Friday 6 September to sit the examination in early October. For more information visit the [ABA website](#).

Q&A: Large Print Protractors

Question: I have a student who is struggling to use a protractor for measuring angles in maths. I know there are templates available for protractors with large print, but I was wondering if this is something that can be produced at SVRC using acetate / transparent film?

Answer: Yes, SVRC can produce protractors with larger numbers. Or you can make your own with the [black line masters on the SVRC website](#) and overhead transparencies kicking around in your schools! 😊



Support Skills News

At SVRC we like to be ahead of the times, so we're beginning to organise SSP for 2020. Please email us (new email below) to let us know if you're coming back to SSP in 2020, and if you have a friend you'd like to be in a group with. We may not be able to accommodate all requests, due to group sizing, but we want to ensure all students enjoy coming to the program and connecting with their peers.

Email Emma: statewide.vision@edumail.vic.gov.au

Student News: AFL Blind

Great little video about football player, Caleb, who plays for the Bulldogs in the [Victorian Blind Football League](#): Caleb meets his idol, Marcus Bontempelli!

There are a number of other videos on the [AFL Blind website](#).

Vacancy at SVRC: Assistive Tech Trainer

A vacancy exists for a capable and enthusiastic [Assistive Technology Trainer \(Education Support\)](#) to join the SVRC team for a part-time position in our Support Skills Program. The successful applicant will be involved in the student program at Support Skills each week, with a specific focus around providing one-on-one and small group training for students in a variety of specialist assistive technologies. The successful candidate will work effectively and collaboratively with other staff, be highly responsive to SVRC's changing needs and willing to lend a helping hand wherever required.

Dates: 7 October 2019 to 18 December 2020

Apply through Recruitment Online: Job ID 1163113

Feedback Survey – The Bulletin

We are seeking your feedback regarding The Bulletin, SVRC's regular e-newsletter. [Please complete this short online survey](#) to let us know what you like most about The Bulletin and what you would like to see more of. The survey is anonymous, will take less than five minutes to complete, and will be used to improve our newsletter in the future. The survey is **open until Monday 26th August** and everyone is welcome to participate.

If you have any questions or additional feedback, please email Matt Trotter – trotter.matthew.a@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Finally

August already! Where is 2019 going?

– Deb Lewis (Ed) lewis.debra.d@edumail.vic.gov.au