

The Bulletin

Number 14, Thursday 19 September 2019

Inside this Quickie Holiday Issue

This issue features (mainly) family holiday activities on offer during the next two weeks. If you participate in any of these activities over the holidays, please send us some feedback or a paragraph and a photo for the next issue of The Bulletin.

Holiday activities and more

- Vision Australia School Holiday Program
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- Mainstream Events at Melbourne venues including Botanic Gardens, NGV (Art Gallery), Werribee Zoo, Climbing Centres, Melbourne Zoo, Melbourne Museum
- Lego Audio & Braille Building Instructions
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Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 15 October 2019: Preparing your school for inclusion of a student who uses braille – program is included in the PDF copy of The Bulletin

Tuesday 26 November 2019: Assistive Technology Expo

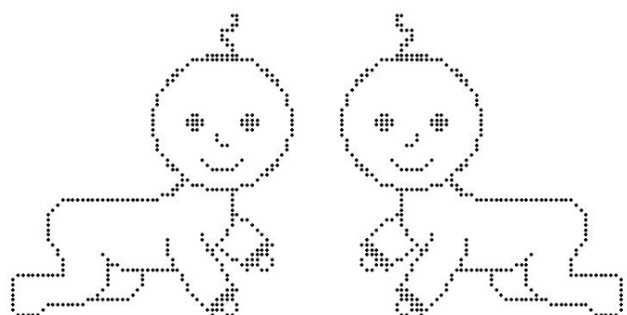
Tuesday 10 December 2019: SVRC Christmas Morning Tea – **all welcome! Please RSVP**

(Baby) News from Transcription

You'll remember from previous issues that **Taryn**, Braille Transcriber and Ozzie Dots Illustrator EXTRAORDINAIRE, is now on maternity leave, waiting to meet her as yet unborn twins. At 36 weeks, she probably doesn't have long to wait! We wish her the very best of the best and we can't wait to find out if she is adding two boys, two girls or one of each to her growing family.

To Taryn & family – we are thinking of you!!!

(Ed – yes, the illustrations –right – are part of the library created by Taryn!)



Support Skills Update

From Lea Nagel

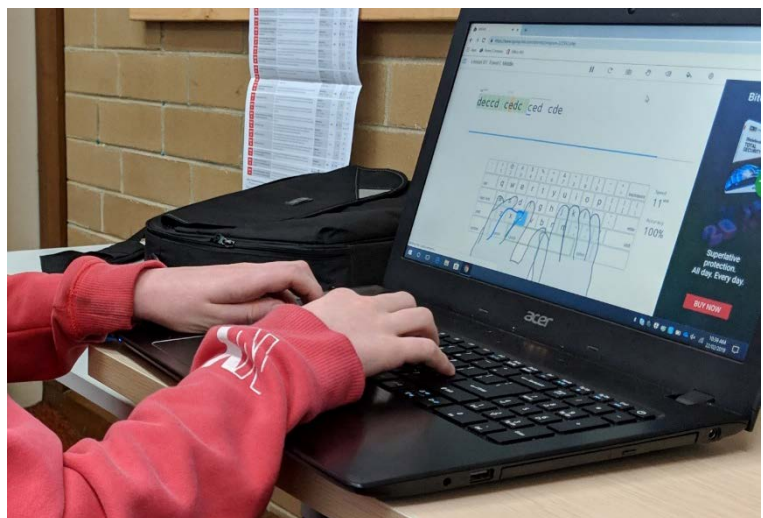
We have had a great Term 3 at Support Skills. The students have really enjoyed the Gymnastics held in the Donvale Indoor Sports Centre next door. The tech teachers and trainers have done an amazing job at keeping up with the new technology from the Equipment Boost as well as the diverse needs of the students. Clay has been fashioned into amazing and diverse masterpieces, then fired and glazed (see photos). Envious odours have emanated from the kitchen with the guidance of Occupational Therapists from Vision Australia. Orientation and Mobility with staff from Guide Dogs Victoria has covered a range of tech and needs. Drama and music workshops have been enjoyed by some students, while others have enjoyed song-writing workshops using the Music Mixing Desk. Braille music has been expanded with the addition of Braille Music Editor + Brailiant + JAWS. Social Skills continues to be a hoot, with a side dish of great ideas and advice shared by the group. Careers and research skills have been explored and practised. We have mostly survived the snap-freezings at evacuation drills for each of the 6 groups (We must remember to do these in Summer next year!).



It has been wonderful to welcome new staff: volunteers, teaching and training, replacement and contract. Some of these are ex-Support Skills students. It's always excellent to see what our alumni are up to and where they are going in life, armed to some extent with skills that they learnt at Support Skills.

All of these experiences for the students would not be possible without the dedication, concentration and organisation of Emma who works away behind the scenes, and more recently Brooke as well. Thanks to Matt and Marion for their support of the program.

Photo (right) shows student learning touch typing using an online typing program, Typing Club.



School Holiday Activities

Vision Australia School Holiday Program

Vision Australia invites children aged 7-12 years with vision impairments to participate in their school holiday program.

When: Monday to Thursday, September 30, October 1, 2, and 3

Time: 9.00 to 3.00pm

Where: Vision Australia, 454 Glenferrie Road Kooyong

Activities will include: gardening, café, National Gallery of Victoria, arts and craft, mapping, accessible sport, live music

Bookings are essential: 0437 919 141 or leo.gnavi@visionaustralia.org

SongLab

The Arts Centre Melbourne's Creative Learning team are running a four day intensive song writing workshop, [SongLab](#), that students with vision impairments are invited to attend. So if you are a budding wordsmith, poet or singer, this workshop is for you!!

When: 23-26 September 2019

Cost: \$290 for the 4 days

Sonic Labyrinth

[Sonic Labyrinth](#) invites kids and their families into an immersive and interactive journey of discovery through sound. It's an immersive, interactive installation where all the apparatus are designed to make sound in response to interaction by kids.

It's taking place at [ArtPlay in Birrarung Marr](#), and staff from Description Victoria will be on site for the **11am session on Sunday September 29** to support the participation of kids and parents who may be Blind or have low vision. If you or any of your colleagues, family, and friends would like to come, they can email Patrick Hayes – Producer at Melbourne Fringe – to register on patrick@melbournefringe.com.au.

Audio Described Circus: Aurora by Circus Oz

The outrageously talented acrobats of Circus Oz have never been afraid of heights, but they'll be pushed beyond their earthly limits during this excursion into the upper stratospheres of the possible. An exhilarating 70-minute voyage of astonishment, the flying, swinging and trapezing of Aurora will take you out of this world.

When: Saturday September 27, tactile tour from 4.30pm, performance from 5.30pm.

Where: Under the Big Top on the Southern Cross Lawns, Royal Botanic Gardens

How much? Tickets cost between \$35 and \$50 plus booking fees. Companion Card accepted.

How to book: Call the Ticketek Accessible Seating Hotline on 1300 665 915 and ask for audio description seats. If you prefer seating close to the stage, please let the agent know when booking. Alternatively, you can email boxoffice@circusoz.com.au.

Mainstream Events That Might Be Worth a Look!

With thanks to [City of Melbourne – What’s On](#) and [Mum’s Little Explorers](#)

ArtPlay

[The City of Melbourne’s ArtPlay](#) conduct activities and events all year round. Sonic Labyrinth described above is one such event and over the holidays there will be Mixing Lab, Wearable Art, Create Your Own Robot and more – check out their website for more!

Spring into Nature at the Royal Botanic Gardens

Embrace the warming sun at the [Royal Botanic Gardens](#) in Melbourne where you can find fun and free family-focused nature play activities. Come ready to explore, play and create, and observe the delights of spring. Weave your own flower crown, concoct herbaceous potions, or relax in the designated quiet place away from the noise but not the fun.

When: Wednesday 2 October, 10am – 1pm

Where: Ian Potter Foundation Children’s Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens

Notes: 0-8yrs with an adult

School Holidays at the NGV

Near the terracotta warriors, archaeologists discovered remains of a palace and gardens created for the First Emperor of China. There was also a riverbank surrounded by birds made of bronze. During these school holidays, children and families can visit the Great Hall and [draw a garden fit for an emperor](#), a free drawing activity inspired by the First Emperor’s gardens and the art works on display in the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition, Terracotta Warriors.

When: 30 September – 3 October 2019

Where: NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road Melbourne

Kulin Dreaming at Werribee Zoo

These school holidays, Aboriginal cultural activities will take over the [Australian Trail at Werribee Open Range Zoo](#). Members of the local Kulin Nation will share their incredible stories through dance and didgeridoo performances, gumnut and emu feather necklace workshops, ochre face painting, clap stick decorating, river pebble symbol painting and much more!

Where: Werribee Zoo – K Road Werribee South

When: 21 September – 6 October 2019, 10.30am – 3pm daily

Go Climbing Indoors or Outdoors

Do you have a little monkey who needs to burn off some steam? Head to one of Melbourne’s indoor climbing centres or outdoor forest adventures!

Challenge yourself to indoor climbing walls at [Funtopia](#) or head outdoors to [King Lake Forest Adventures](#) to climb in the forest.

Cat City at Melbourne Zoo

[Cat City](#) is a play zone full of cardboard boxes, where you make your own cat character, and build and explore the world around you. Create tunnels, secret sleeping places, and hidden forts by using the cardboard as a building material.

Cat City is brought to you by Polyglot Theatre – Australia’s leading creator of interactive and participatory theatre for children and families – and has been created to spread the message of our community conservation campaign, Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife.

Free with Zoo entry, kids and the young at heart will love turning into cats and immersing themselves in their own cat world!

Where: Melbourne Zoo, Elliott Avenue, Parkville

When: 27 to 29 September 2019 from 10am to 4pm

Direct Your Own TV Ad at Melbourne Museum

Kids aged eight to 13 can bring their TV directing dream to life this school holidays at the TAC's Road to Zero Education Complex at [Melbourne Museum](#).

During half-hour, hands-on workshops, tween visitors can use high-tech touch screens to create a broadcast-quality road safety advertisement about the importance of wearing helmets and protective gear while riding bikes, scooters and skateboards.

Participants collate pieces of footage, then apply music and a catchy road safety slogan, with the finished masterpieces emailed to them as a memento.

There will also be fun road safety activities to keep younger visitors entertained.

When: 23 September to 4 October 2019, 11am to 3pm

Where: Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton

Bookings: 131 102

Things to Try During the School Holidays

Lego Audio & Braille Building Instructions

Take a look and listen to The Lego Audio & Braille Building Instructions. Four sets are available with more to come soon.

For more information, visit [Lego Audio Instructions](#)

Unseen, an Audio Comic Designed for the Blind

In the first episode of [Unseen](#), Afsana, a blind assassin from Afghanistan sets out on two missions. The audio comic — a comic experienced only with sound — starts off on the militarized southern border in a chaotic and totalitarian United States.

[Episode 1 of Unseen](#) is available for free for a limited time.

Applying Makeup 101

Geoff Bowen found this lovely video from Priceline's makeup artist Sarah Laidlaw who demonstrates, with audio description, some makeup tips and tricks for women who have vision impairments. Visit: [Priceline's Makeup Tutorial](#)

Mathematics Made Easy: YouTube Channel

ICEVI has recently launched a YouTube channel entitled "[Mathematics Made Easy](#)", which showcases 30 instructional mathematics videos with more to follow.

The target audience for the instructional videos includes teacher training institutes, educators and families who support students with vision impairment to successfully participate and achieve in mathematics at primary and secondary school.

Podcast: National Braille Music Camp

[Talking Vision](#), Vision Australia's podcast from 11 September features co-host Micaela Schmidt, past SSP student and Ben Woolridge, current Support Skills student, who attended his first braille music camp this year.

Other Upcoming Activities

Sound Matters Music Workshop

Registrations for the next [Sound Matters](#) workshop are now open. We will be working with piano and percussion players from the Australian National Academy of Music.

Date: Tuesday 15 October, 10.30am – 11.30am

Where: Melbourne Recital Centre, Primrose Potter Salon

Cost: Free

Register: <https://fs28.formsite.com/mrc18/n0itni6h3h/index.html>

Contact: Caitlin Gilmour, Learning & Access Coordinator

T: (03) 9207 2658 E: caitlingilmour@melbournerecital.com.au

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. This survey has been extended and will be **open until Monday 30 September**. 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

Happy and safe holiday wishes to all.

– Deb Lewis (Ed) lewis.debra.d@edumail.vic.gov.au who loves your stories, feedback, ideas, links and suggestions! So keep them coming!