

The Bulletin

Number 16, Friday 8 November 2019

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Dates for Your Diary (2019 and February 2020)

Tuesday November 26 2019 [EXPO – Assistive technology for students who are blind or partially sighted](#)

Showcasing and demonstrating a range of assistive technologies that can promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind or have low vision. Free

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

12-15 January 2020: [SPEVI Conference in Adelaide](#)

Tuesday 11 February 2020: [Educational support 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. \$92.00

Monday 17 February 2020: [Introduction to new visiting teachers \(vision\)](#)

Supporting new visiting teachers (vision) to implement effective strategies to promote inclusion in the schools in which they work. Free

Tuesday 18 February 2020: [Educational support 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. \$92.00

Tuesday 25 February 2020: [Educational support 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. \$92.00

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

Job Vacancies at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Over the past two years, SVRC has undergone a number of significant operational, staffing and governance changes and is now looking to appoint a substantive manager to lead its operations into the future.

SVRC is governed as a campus of Heatherwood School (a government secondary specialist school) at 370 Springvale Road, Donvale. It is anticipated that during 2020 an SVRC Advisory Board will be established as a sub-committee of the Heatherwood School's School Council to provide ongoing governance and strategic leadership for SVRC.

The role of the **SVRC Manager (Assistant Principal)** is to lead and manage the planning, delivery, evaluation and improvement of SVRC's core services, to the extent that this responsibility is delegated by the Principal, Heatherwood School. The SVRC Manager will be responsible for the management and development of SVRC's twenty-seven staff, and the deployment of resources provided by the Department in order to achieve its strategic goals and support students who are blind or have low vision across Victoria.

This position is online now. **Applications close on Sunday 17th November, 2019.** The position will begin at the beginning of Term 1 (28/01/2020). If you have any questions regarding this role, please don't hesitate to contact SVRC's Transition Manager, at trotter.matthew.a@edumail.vic.gov.au.

For the full position description, please read the online job description, located at the following address:

- https://schooljobs.education.vic.gov.au/psp/ROLPPRD1_EA/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRA_M.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1&JobOpeningId=1175572&PostingSeq=1

Additional positions at SVRC

As part of SVRC's 2020 workforce plan, it is anticipated that in addition to the role of Manager (Assistant Principal), a number of additional roles will be advertised over the coming few weeks.

The first of these additional roles to be advertised is that of a full-time ongoing Transcription Officer, who will join SVRC's team transcribing student learning materials into accessible formats, including braille. Applications for this position close on **Sunday 17th November, 2019.**

For the full position description, please read the online job description, located at the following address:

- https://schooljobs.education.vic.gov.au/psp/ROLPPRD1_EA/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRA_M.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1&JobOpeningId=1175567&PostingSeq=1.

Again, please contact trotter.matthew.a@edumail.vic.gov.au if you have any questions.

SPEVI 2020 Conference Program Available Now!!

Source: Sharon Duncan, Frances Gentle and Phia Damsma, SPEVI Presidents

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the program of the SPEVI 2020 Conference is now available online, on the Conference website at <https://synergyevents.eventsair.com/spevi-2020/program>

An accessible Word version of the program is available for download from the same webpage.

Please note that the program may be subject to change without prior notice, so please check back regularly.

“Creating a Clear Vision for the Future”

That’s the Conference Theme around which the SPEVI Local Organising Committee has put together an exciting program, bursting at the seams with interesting presentations and workshops by national and international speakers. To name just a few of the topics: vision impairment education practices, (early) literacy, Braille, tactile learning, technology, CVI, O&M, the Expanded Core Curriculum and more, much more.

This is a conference you can’t miss!!

We are confident that every one of you will find great value in attending the conference. It offers great opportunities for professional development and for networking. The only problem you may encounter is how to choose from so many different sessions that are relevant to your personal interest or professional area of work. A suggestion: bring a colleague or a friend, so that you can share information and benefit even more! Parents and families will also find great value in the program and are explicitly encouraged to attend.

Join us at the SPEVI 2020 Conference, from 12-15 January 2020 in Adelaide.

Register now!

If you haven’t yet done so, please go to <https://synergyevents.eventsair.com/spevi-2020/register-now> to register.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference in Adelaide, with kind regards,

Sharon Duncan, Frances Gentle and Phia Damsma

SPEVI Presidents



3D Printing

From Sarah Hayman, SVRC

We've been having some fun experimenting with a new 3D Printer at SVRC. From models of a chlorine atom to a model of the solar system (with correct relative size of each planet and the sun), we've printed lots of different items. Here are a few things we have learnt so far;

- There are lots of very clever designers in the world who have shared their creations for free online, some made specifically for use by those who are blind or have low vision.
- Braille is much better when printed on a vertical face
- Printing takes a lot longer than you might think. The longest print we have done thus far was of a 15 cm tall model of a statue called "winged victory of Samothrace" (shown right), and it took over 15 hours.



I can see a lot of areas in the Maths and Science curriculum where a 3D model will provide more useful information than a tactile diagram. Michael Donnelly, the Support Skills Art teacher, is excited by the opportunities to utilise this new technology for Art. It's early days, but it's exciting to ponder all the possibilities that 3D printing will open up for our students.

Photo 1 (above): White print of "winged victory of Samothrace" on black background. Print is of a woman in Greek dress with wings. Head and both arms are not shown.

Photo 2 (below): Pink print of Uluru on brown background

Photo 3 (right): Pink print of Chlorine atom on brown background. Print has several rings around a centre circle which are at different angles (the rings can move).



Support Skills Program Secondment Reflection

Reflection from Darren Hess, Visiting Teacher

Towards the end of term 2 this year, I was granted a secondment to SVRC's Support Skills Program (SSP) for term 3. This secondment would be an opportunity not only to teach technology skills, but to obtain valuable professional learning during each session. At the beginning of term 3, I was a little anxious, as I knew I would be quizzed on my current skills and knowledge by the experts in our field of Vision Impairment. However, I found this experience quite empowering, as I was able to make a list of my strengths and weaknesses, then create learning strategies for filling the gaps in my knowledge.

We decided that, with the time I had, it would be best to focus on low vision technology. My first learning task was to learn all of the keyboard commands to access windows and the internet without using a mouse. I thought I knew a lot of keyboard commands, however my learning curve was steep, and by week two, I was teaching these skills in SSP keyboarding sessions. By week 5, I had observed enough lessons on JAWS (text-to-speech) and NVDA (text-to-speech) to feel comfortable incorporating these programs into my SSP lessons, and also my lessons with the students on my Visiting Teacher (VT) caseload.

During my time at SVRC, I felt very welcome and supported. There was no such thing as a "stupid" question, which helped to increase my learning curve dramatically. I felt that every conversation with staff whether formal or informal, resulted in obtaining new knowledge, which I've been able to use to support the learning of students on my VT caseload. I cannot speak highly enough of the SSP, and definitely recommend all VTs to consider applying for a secondment if offered in the future. Whether you are a relatively new VT (like myself), or you've been in the field for many

decades, there is always something new we can learn from the brilliant staff at SVRC.

Photo (left): Student practising touch typing during a Support Skills session.



Sensory Scientific Exhibition and Discovery Day

From: the team at Monash University

Members of the blind and low vision community who are of primary or secondary school age, to tertiary students and adults of all ages are invited to attend the annual Sensory Scientific Exhibition and Discovery Day at the Biomedicine Discovery Institute of Monash University. Participants will have the opportunity to discover more about cancer.

Our Cancer Program will host a range of activities and displays, designed for a blind and low vision audience. Learn about the marvels and curiosities of the human body and its defence system through sound, 3D models, hands-on activities and tactile displays. The event will cover a range of topics including learning about cells and cell division, tumour growth and invasion, the genetic basis of cancer, interactions with the body's immune system and new and existing treatments for cancer.

When: Friday 6 December 2019. Registration opens at 8.45am for a 9.30am start. Prof. Roger Daly, Head of the Department Biochemistry and Molecular Biology who heads the Cancer Program at the BDI, will present the opening seminar before morning tea and small interactive group activities. The event concludes at 1pm.

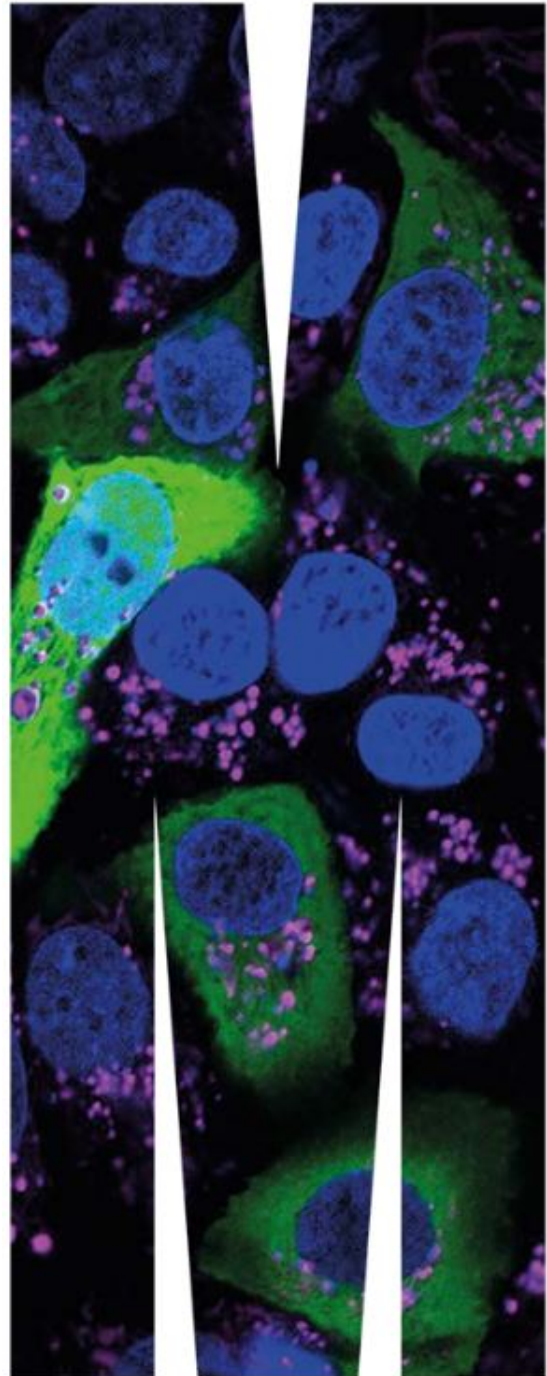
Where: The event will begin in G54, 19 Ancora Imparo Way, Monash University, Clayton campus.

There are many ways to get to and from Monash University, including public transport and driving. If you are driving, please indicate this in the registration form, so we can send you parking pre-booking and location information to ensure you are provided with a parking space. Please note a \$12 parking fee will apply. For more information, visit monash.edu/people/transport-parking.

Accessibility:

- You are welcome to bring your guide dog with you.
- A carer, family member or friend is welcome to attend with you, however they **will also need to complete a registration form** to ensure we can optimise your experience in the various group activities.
- Volunteers from Vision Australia and researchers from the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute will be present on the day for assistance.

For more information: see the [Sensory Scientific Exhibition flier](#)



Active Teens Program for Term 4

The Active Teens programs are designed for teens, but everyone is welcome! Bring your friends, siblings, cousins ... or whoever you want, and have fun playing a sport designed just for you.

Cardinia Life Get Active program – 5 week program of gym-based classes at Cardinia Life, Pakenham

Come and see what fitness classes are all about in a relaxed and social program at Cardinia Life Leisure Centre in Pakenham.

When: 4.15 pm to 5 pm

Dates: Wednesdays 20 November to 18 December 2019

Where: Cardinia Life Leisure Centre, Olympic Way, Pakenham

Cost: \$10 per session

Open to all ages 12 years and older and no experience necessary.

Active Teens blind and low vision tennis program in Wyndham in Term 4 - NEW VENUE – Eagle Stadium (35 Ballan Rd, Werribee).

When: 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Dates: Sundays 17 November, 24 November, 1 December and 8 December

Where: Court 8, Eagle Stadium, 35 Ballan Rd, Werribee

Cost: just \$30 per family for the term

Open to all ages and no experience necessary.

And don't forget about the blind and low vision Football program at Casey Stadium in Cranbourne on Sundays, or the VVITTA Table Tennis program in Kooyong on Saturdays.

For more information about any of these programs, or to register your interest, please contact Allie on 0438396233, email activeteens@blindsports.org.au, or visit the [Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria](#) Facebook page and search for our events.

Gymnastics Clubs in Burwood

Message from April Wilson, Inclusion & Programs Manager, Gymnastics Victoria who recently met with staff of [BUGS Gymnastics Club](#), a Gymnastics Clubs in Burwood.

This year, BUGS staff completed Blind Sport and Recreation Victoria's coach training workshop and has expressed their keen interest to support people with low or no vision at their club.

The club would be interested in working with school groups, individuals or even one-off events. It's a fantastic community club that already supports children with a range of additional needs through mainstream and/or private classes, as well as a thriving older adults program during the day times.

If you know of a student who would like to pursue Gymnastics as a sport in 2020, please contact Club Manager, Julie Chalmers: bugsgymnastics@bigpond.com

Empathy Museum

Empathy Museum is a series of participatory art projects dedicated to helping us look at the world through other people's eyes.

With a focus on storytelling and dialogue, our travelling museum explores how empathy can not only transform our personal relationships, but also help tackle global challenges such as prejudice, conflict and inequality.

Housed in a giant shoebox, [A Mile in My Shoes](#) is a shoe shop where visitors can experience the world from a stranger's perspective.

Step inside, swap your shoes, slip on some headphones and take a walk as the shoes' owner shares their story with you. Melbourne's exhibit will feature a collection of 35 shoes and audio stories based on the theme of water. Discover tales from all walks of life – an 81-year-old rower, a marine biologist, a Vietnam War veteran and even an English migrant with a fear of water.

Where: Forecourt, Arts Centre Melbourne

When: 1-17 November 2019

Cost: Free; no bookings required

Audio Description: Wednesday 6 November: 11 – 4pm; Saturday 9 Nov: 12 – 5pm

Describer guides will be available to support the experience of patrons who are blind or have low vision: [Access audio guide here for more information](#).

Braille Uno Cards from Mattel

Thanks ABA Facebook Update for this information.

Mattel has produced a braille version of UNO. The deck was designed in partnership with the National Federation for the Blind. Each card has braille on the corner identifying the card's colour and the number or action available.

The box features braille on the front and back, directing players to a website where they can download instructions as braille readable files. There are voice-enabled instructions available through Amazon's Alexa and Google Home.

Not sure if it is available in Australia but it can be purchased from [Mattel online](#) for US\$9.99.

Enhancing Reality – SVRC Writing Competition 2019

How would you enhance reality? Can you describe a piece of technology that improves the world? Real or imagined, describe how this device improves access or enjoyment for a person with a vision impairment.

Please submit your writing, in your preferred format to Marion Blazé before close of business, Tuesday 12 November 2019. Submissions should be no more than 500 words.

Prizes in age categories will be presented at 12.30pm at the SVRC's annual Assistive Technology Expo on Tuesday November 26, 2019.

Please send submissions to:

PO Box 201, Nunawading, 3131 or blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au

Top Tech Tips

Flying Blind's weekly newsletter #729 features the following (with thanks to Garry Stinchcombe):

- Windows from the Keyboard General Shortcuts: It never hurts to make sure everybody knows these. This is courtesy of the GTT Blog: <http://bit.ly/34dVO5h>
- Lets Track It: The Professionals Guide to Voice Tracking with StationPlaylist Studio and JAWS for Windows! This course from Brian Hartgen will be held over two sessions in November: <http://bit.ly/2BTIQ0x>
- JAWS and Google Sheets Training: The theme for Freedom Scientific training in November is Google Sheets, and the webinar will take place on Thursday, 7 November 2019 at 17:00 GMT Register here: <http://bit.ly/2NuWP2h>

Former Student News

Article from Guide Dogs Victoria Newsletter, October 2019: "Kate cooking with confidence"

Kate is a mother of two lovely twin daughters, and wife to a supportive husband.

Kate has a progressive eye condition, which affects her ability to see images and words clearly. She experiences tunnel vision and has a high sensitivity to certain light levels.

Kate's vision loss greatly affected her ability to cook and bake, and lowered her overall confidence to use the stove and oven. When Kate reached out for support from Guide Dogs Victoria, her goals were to regain her independence in the kitchen.

Kate worked with Danette, an OT from Guide Dogs Victoria, to implement strategies around cooking. These strategies included tactile markers, high-contrast colours, kitchen aids and assistive technology, which enabled Kate to bake banana bread, cookies, stir fry noodles and pancakes.

After working with Danette for several weeks, Kate was able to use the stove and oven safely, cook meals for her family, and bake with her children.

"After having the support and guidance of my OT, I feel more confident in the kitchen and ready to take on new cooking challenges," said Kate.



Photo (left): Kate stirring a mixing bowl with her twin daughters on a bench top covered in cooking utensils and ingredients

Draw in Dots!

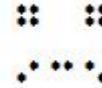
Here is a quick drawing that you can do on the Perkins Braille from Lea Nagel.

Draw a smiley face:

Space, g, space, g

New line

Space, e, middle c, i



Draw a sad face:

Space, g, space, g

New line

Space, i, c, e

Student News

The Jim Dowsley Inspire Award is presented to an athlete who shows exceptional courage to excel in their sport. Having dealt with an injury, obstacle of a situation that puts them against the odds, the award is in honour of the late Jim Dowsley who founded the Leader Local Sports Star program.

Victorian winner of the Open Age category: Luke J who attends SVRC Support Skills Program.

His mother, Rachel, writes: Luke was awarded tonight with the Jim Dowsley Inspire Award. We are so proud of him. He spoke very well on stage and it was great to listen to the three sporting professionals Harry, Nicole and Bianca.

Luke would like to thank all his family and friends who have supported him, been to races and helped out at home when we have travelled around the country side.

We look forward to the next season with our new team Harassment.



Braille by Correspondence News

Cherry Myint from Western English Language School successfully completed the UEB Braille Course by Correspondence this week, submitting error-free work! Congratulations Cherry!

If you are interested in learning braille, please visit [UEB Online](#).

Finally

Garry Stinchcombe was not the most successful nominee for Senior Victorian of the Year (though he made it to the top four), however in our eyes, he's the best!

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