

## The Bulletin

Number 3, Friday 27 February 2020

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### PD events at SVRC: 2020

Click on the links to read more information and to register online. Programs for a number of these events are included in the PDF copy of this issue. If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).

#### **Monday and Tuesday March 2 and 3 Master Class with Dr Karen Wolffe: Career education for children who are blind or have low vision**

A two-day free seminar for Visiting Teachers and students/family members; others \$50 (or \$25 for one day), morning tea and lunch provided.



#### **Wednesday March 11 [Including students who are blind or have low vision in physical education](#)**

Providing fresh ideas and practical strategies to enable teachers to support the inclusion of students who are blind or partially sighted in physical education. \$92.00

#### **Thursday March 19 [Educational support of SECONDARY students who are blind or have low vision in mathematics](#)**

Providing practical strategies that maths teachers can use to promote inclusion and achievement for students who are blind or have low vision. \$46.00

#### **Tuesday March 24 (please note change of date) [Educational support of students who are vision impaired with additional impairments](#)**

Providing practical strategies that teachers and ES staff can use to support students with a vision impairment and additional disabilities. \$92.00

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

## Still lots of changes at SVRC!

From: Marion Blazé (Acting Manager, SVRC)

Last Friday we farewelled Emily White (teacher extraordinaire on Support Skills) as she leaves on maternity leave. We'll let you know the news when her baby arrives next month. And on Monday we welcomed Jeni Blake to the SVRC team. Jeni will join Deb Davidson and Geoff Bowen on the "EVAC team". So a very BIG WELCOME to Jeni!!

Please let us know about your change in caseloads and staffing for 2020. We need to keep our tracking system up to date with caseloads, so that we can ensure materials and technology gets to the right place. Please email if you have had changes to your caseload. If we don't have your correct caseload, you won't be able to access information about your students on the SVRC tracking system.

As well as the many staffing changes, SVRC continues to provide quality professional learning for teachers and ES staff. So far we have had 60 participants at the day for teachers of students who are blind (February 11), 6 participants for our introduction to being a Visiting Teacher – Vision (February 17) and another 90 at our days for teachers of students with low vision (February 18 and repeated on February 25).

We know our PL days are hitting the mark when we receive comments like: "I am taking away lots of great information that will help me to better support my student" and "All presenters were so warm and welcoming and knowledgeable!"

This Friday (February 28) we are looking forward to helping Humanware and Vision Australia launch a new device that helps young people with vision impairment learn about coding, "Code Jumper". A full kit will be donated to SVRC for use in future Support Skills days. Thanks to Vision Australia and Humanware for this opportunity!!

And next week we welcome back Karen Wolffe. It's not too late to let us know you are coming on Monday and Tuesday March 2 and 3 from 9 til 4. Karen is a wonderful speaker and has a mountain of knowledge about how to prepare our students for the world of work. This event is free for Visiting Teachers.

## Rory Fraser has retired!!

After a long and illustrious career supporting students who are blind or have low vision, Rory Fraser is finally hanging up his Perkins braille (so to speak)!

Please come and celebrate his career with us at SVRC on Tuesday, March 10 at 3.30pm. We ask everyone to please bring a plate to share on the day. For more information or to RSVP, please email either Gayle Twentyman or Marion Blazé.

[twentyman.gayle.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:twentyman.gayle.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

[blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## Kaitlyn's in the news

There was a lovely article about student, Kaitlyn, in the Mordialloc Chelsea Leader newspaper. Kaitlyn enters Grade 1 this year and according to the article, has reading and writing levels well above the expected level. The picture shows Kaitlyn and her Perkins brailier with her brother, Jack and ES, Paris. Way to go, Kaitlyn!!



## National Braille Music Camp

27<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020

For students who are braille readers and interested in music, the National Braille Music Camp is a week of singing and music-making all from braille. It has run in Mittagong, NSW for over 30 years, and many of the people running the camp began attending as students. Please contact Jordie Howell or Lea Nagel know if you are interested and want more information.

## SVRC tandem bike

Does your child/student have in interest in bike riding or is "Bike Ed" happening at your school? A safe way to ride if you are blind or have low vision, is by using a tandem bike. The front rider can be "sighted guide". SVRC has a tandem bike which can be borrowed by families for a term at a time. It is currently at SVRC, so please be in touch if you would like to be next to borrow it. It is an adult-sized bike so not suitable for smaller children and it requires a large vehicle for transport to and from SVRC. (2.3 metres long by 1.1 metre high) Photo of bike is shown below.



## Space Camp 2020

There might be a large group of students heading for the USA in September, with chaperones Peter and Hilary. Please contact them if you or your student is interested or has questions. It's important that members of the team be identified as soon as possible.

**Registration:** Saturday Sept 26, 2020 from 11am

**Graduation:** Thursday Oct 1, 2020.

**Departure:** Friday Oct. 2, 2020

**Program costs:** \$965 - Camp, Academy, Mach I, II, III, Robotics

**Program cost for Advanced Academy:** \$1135

**Additional costs:** transportation, early arrival / late departure etc

### Scholarships:

- [Lighthouse Scholarship Form Application Deadline: March 15, 2020](#)
- [Northrop Grumman Scholarship Form Application Deadline: March 15, 2020](#)

We have a group of students interested in travelling this year. Peter Davis and Hilary Frost will chaperone this group.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE GROUP, PLEASE EMAIL Peter or Hilary ASAP**

Peter: [davis.peter.i1@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:davis.peter.i1@edumail.vic.gov.au); Hilary: [frost.hilary.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:frost.hilary.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)



## Vores Vævninger: Our Weavings

Source: <https://ladderartspace.com.au/exhibitions/vores-vaevninger-our-weavings/> (via ANZAGG)

**Vores Vævninger: Our Weavings** is a tactile textile exhibition featuring the work of weavers from the Danish Institute for the Blind and Partially Sighted in Copenhagen. The exhibition revolves around the concept of tactility; all of the exhibits are meant to be touched. It is designed to be accessible to both blind and non-visually impaired visitors and is intended to provide insights into how artists and artisans compensate for the loss of what is often considered our most important sense.

As well as promoting new ways of understanding the process and pace of design – and the importance of touch in that process – *Vores Vævninger: Our Weavings* is intended to challenge the conventional way in which exhibitions themselves are experienced. It promotes physical interaction with the exhibits and in the process encourages conversations around the themes of accessibility, art, and design.

IBOS is the national center for the visually impaired in Denmark. It offers workshops in textile, furniture and ceramic production to those with blindness or other visual, physical or mental impairments.

*Vores Vævninger: Our Weavings* has been created in collaboration with the weavers, workshop leader Bette Forchhammer and relief maker Jette Friis. Exhibition furniture produced in Melbourne by Ernest Studio. This event is part of Melbourne Design Week 2020, an initiative of the Victorian Government in collaboration with the NGV.

## Active Teens – sport for teens who are blind or have low vision

There are some amazing sporting opportunities for teens with vision impairments. These are run by the wonderful folk at Blind Sports and Recreation, Victoria and VicHealth.

### Active Teens Football program

2 pm to 3 pm Sundays, 23 February to 22 March Casey Stadium, 65 Berwick Cranbourne Road Cranbourne East \$40 PER FAMILY per term

### VVITTA Active Teens Table Tennis

1 pm to 3 pm Saturdays Vision Australia, 454 Glenferrie Rd, Kooyong \$2 per session

### Active Teens Tennis program

2.30 pm to 3.30 pm Sundays, 1 March to 22 March Eagle Stadium, 35 Ballan Rd, Werribee \$30 PER FAMILY per term



## Finally

We were discussing the two meanings of the word "cataract" in the office this week. We shall leave you to ponder how one relates to the other. Google may also provide some answers.