

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 12

Friday 18th August 2006

This issue was edited by Marion Blazé, Education Officer, Statewide Vision Resource Centre. Deb is apparently getting more movement and strength every day and should be back on deck by August 25.

PD 2006

The SVRC PD program for the rest of 2006 is below.

For the complete list of activities for 2006 and where available downloadable programs, go to: <http://www.visiontech.svrc.vic.edu.au/pd2006.htm>

All activities offered by the SVRC are open to class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, careers teachers, therapists, parents VTs, students etc.

Please register by: tel (03) 9841 0242, fax (03) 9841 0878 or email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au.

Term	Event	Date
3	Term 3 Visiting Teacher Professional Development Day	Tuesday 8 August
3	Magic Workshop – BYO Laptop Trevor Boyd, Quantum Technology – 2.00-3.30pm	Wednesday 16 August
3	Mountbatten for Users Workshop – BYO Mountbatten Trevor Boyd, Quantum Technology – 2.00-3.30pm	Monday 21 August
3	Scanning Options Workshop – BYO Laptop Trevor Boyd, Quantum Technology – 2.00-3.30pm	Monday 4 September
4	SPEVI Combined Agencies PD Day Vision Australia Kooyong	Monday 2 October
4	O&M Morning - Experiencing Vision Loss in the Community Phone Alicia Madden (03) 9854 4493	Thursday 26 October
4	Educational EXPO – Assistive Technology Options ALL WELCOME!!!	Friday 24 November

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Report on PD day for VTs – August 8

What a fascinating day we had! Kerry Fitzmaurice and Lee Clarke teamed up to present a case study of some work they have done with two boys with RP. Through assessment and training in eccentric viewing techniques, the boys reduced the size of print they needed AND increased their reading speeds. Both boys reported several other practical benefits to this training, too. What a success story!

Then Tricia d'Apice, now with Vision Australia, showed us her 'I do like it' braille reading program, we had a travel story from Meredith Walsh, some handy PowerPoint tips from Julie Edward, a guided tour of the Blueprint website with Anne Spence, a report on studies undertaken by Jeni Blake and were inspired and entertained by Jo Parry (AP at Ringwood Heights PS) at the end of the day. We even managed to fit in some much-needed discussion time.

Funny Stories

Some of us chatted to Jo Parry after she spoke at the end of the PD day and she told us about an aunt of hers who went blind earlier in her life. Apparently she was a notorious cook who made a couple of accidental creations. She once toasted a wettex and on another occasion, stuffed a chicken with black jelly beans! OOPS!

SPEVI PD day October 2

The Program for this day (first day back, Term IV) is appended. We haven't named the topics for Deborah Chen in the morning because we need to discuss these further. She has done so much in the field that would interest us, we didn't want to restrict her at this stage to one or two topics. For example, she has worked on tactile strategies and communication with multiply impaired VI kids, promoting learning through interaction, early communication in VI kids, career education for adolescents and lots of other terrific stuff. This is not a day to be missed!!

Changes to Braille Correspondence Course

We had our first (of many) workshop on altering our Braille Correspondence Course to match the new UEB (Unified English Braille) code. Since we are in this process, we thought we'd update the lessons to include some often-asked-about items like:

How to braille: email addresses (with the @ symbol)
 web addresses (www.etc)
 dates
 times
 words with capital letters in the middle (like 'eText')
 the 'forward slash' (and/or)

If all you clever people out there can think of any other inclusions which would be handy (without frightening off our clientele!), please let us know. You can email them to marionblaze@svrc.vic.edu.au.

Great books for kids

The Children's Book Council of Australia annually nominates 'Books of the Year' in the categories of older readers, younger readers, early childhood and picture books. The short-listed books are on the web now and are a great way to choose quality and inspirational reading to share with your students. Have a look at: www.cbc.org.au/short06.htm

National Literacy & Numeracy Week

It's from August 28 to September 3, 2006. Have a look at the website which has links to some great literacy and numeracy sites and activities. Choose some special activities to involve your students in or look at the regional activities to be part of something bigger. 'Mathsisfun' has great maths games, puzzles, teacher ideas, quizzes and jokes. 'Gameskidsplay' gives rules for playground games, rhymes for skipping games, sensing games, new games and old favorites. 'DaisyMaths' is a site designed to help young Australians enjoy learning maths. It has graded activities and games for 3 to 12 year olds, and schools can download activities, free. Take a look and have some fun:

www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/litnumweek/index.htm

www.mathsisfun.com

www.gameskidsplay.net

www.daisymaths.com

Eccentric Viewing Assessment Day – October 16 at SVRC

After hearing of the great success of Kerry Fitzmaurice and Lee Clarke's work with two boys on eccentric viewing techniques, we have scheduled another assessment day. Students can come to the Resource Centre for sessions from 10am onwards to be assessed by Kerry to find their optimum retinal viewing position. If you have a student with a central vision loss, please discuss their needs with Annette Godfrey-Magee or Marion Blazé, and we'll look at fitting them into an appointment. The assessment will hopefully tell students if practicing a different viewing position will be of benefit. Appointments will be essential to be part of this day, so please contact us about prospective students.

Skill Power Program 2006??

You may recall the highly successful 'Skill Power' program we ran in November last Year. It happened the week before the Expo and involved some students who had suffered recent and dramatic loss of vision and urgently needed some skills such as braille, use of Jaws and touch typing. We have had several requests to run such a course again, but wondered if it might be more valuable to run it for Visiting Teachers. Especially now that the braille code has changed (with the New Unified English Braille code), we all need an update. So, we are thinking about running a two or three day intensive course for VTs during which we can 'skill you up' in using talking computer technology, teaching braille and braille maths and whatever else you might need. Right now we would like to gauge your interest in such a course so please call or email to let us know.

Blind Citizens Convention

Blind Citizens Australia are holding their Victorian/Tasmanian convention on the weekend of October 21 & 22, 2006. Information is appended to this Bulletin and we ask you to share this with students and parents. For further information please contact BCA on 9372 6400 or 1800 033 660.

Spelling workshop

David Hornsby and Debbie Sukarna conduct some fabulous workshops on weekends for teachers. Their next is on September 2 and is on assessment of spelling. The flier and form are attached to this bulletin.

Work Experience at the SVRC

Alana Jovanovski (one of Meredith's students) recently did a work experience stint at SVRC. Here is her report on the time she spent with us.

Written - Monday, 24 July 2006

My name is Alana Jovanovski and I have been doing work experience at the State Wide Vision Resource Centre. I am totally blind and I use a Brailenote for my school work.

I was working from the 17th to the 28th of July.

It has been a good experience. I just did what I was asked to do.

On Wednesday, I did some proofreading (braille) and read a few books so I could decide which book I wanted to record.

On Thursday, I did some more proofreading and I also labelled some cards with times-tables. I did the labels on a Perkins braille and stuck the labels on the cards.

I made an audio recording the book titled 'Three Little Pigs'.

On Friday, I proofread some books and wrote names on the braille labels.

On Monday I finished the box of books that I had to proofread. I also read another book that I might record.

I was able to learn about work.

I also helped Cassy. She is new to using a Brailenote so I helped her with commands.

Journals at SVRC

We have just received the July 2006 issue of **Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness** (Vol 100, No. 7). Articles include:

- Neuroscience and the impact of braille plasticity on braille reading
- The effects of visual experience and training in raised-line materials on mental spatial imagery of blind persons
- Contextual effects of race or ethnicity on acceptance for vocational rehabilitation of consumers who are legally blind

We also have **Future Reflections** – the National Federation of the Blind magazine for parents and teachers of blind children (US). Article in this journal include:

- Technology for students who are deaf-blind
- Blind kids in sports
- Technology and life skills
- Braille readers are leaders
- Braille slate pals

Let us know if you want copies of articles or come in and browse.

SVRC News

- Did you know that Kay McQualter and Nola Christopher, both now retired VTs, have been working at SVRC? They are both doing 'CRT' days to 'replace' our Deb (not that she could ever be replaced!!). If you're in, come and say 'hello'.

Finally

Thanks to Jo Parry, Alana Jovanovski, and the BCA for contributing to this edition of The Bulletin. Thanks also to our fabulous proof-readers, technology trouble-shooters, stuffers and mailers. And to Lyn Robinson and Lea Nagel for getting the electronic versions out there.

If you have something you would like included in 'The Bulletin', please contact:

Deb Lewis (who can be emailed at deblewis@svrc.vic.edu.au).

SPEVI Day

2 October 2006

Vision Australia
454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong
Venue: The Plaza

Program:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 9am | Registration |
| 9.15am | Welcome: Sandie Mackevicius, President of SPEVI |
| 9.30am | Key Speaker – Professor Deborah Chen, Department of Special Education, California State University |
| 11.00am | Break |
| 11.20am | Deborah Chen |
| 1pm | Lunch break |
| 2.15–3.15pm | Concurrent sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on DAISY Project, followed by tour of Kooyong (studios, audio library, Adapt centre)• Speaker Deborah Chen – topic – educational issues relating to deaf/blind children• ABA presentation on UEB – workshop for teachers |

Cost: **\$25 – includes lunch**
Cheques to SPEVI Vic, credit cards not accepted

RSVP by September 15 for catering to Marion Blaze at SVRC
Ph: 98410242 or marionblaze@svrc.vic.edu.au

**A Practical Professional Development Day
with**

**David Hornsby and Debbie Sukarna
at La Trobe University (Bundoora Campus)**

Saturday 2 September, 2006

**Assessment of Spelling
and
Improving Children's Writing
(language awareness/grammar)**

<p>Assessment of Spelling (Debbie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisiting the spelling strategies and behaviours • Analysing children's spelling errors • Assessment to inform teaching • Assessing spelling strategies and behaviours during the writing process • Assessing spelling in written product 	<p>Language Awareness / Grammar (David)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical guided writing procedures to help writers understand how their language works (extending, combining, rearranging, etc) • Using rich, authentic text to investigate how sentences work • Teaching grammar through the students' writing
<p>All participants will do 2 hours with Debbie on assessment of spelling, and 2 hours with David on improving children's writing by increasing their awareness of language structure (grammar).</p>	

Venue: Menzies College Conference Centre, La Trobe University.

Times: **9:30** Registration **10:00** Start **3:15** Finish

Cost: \$140 or
\$120 per person for two or more participants from the one school.
(Morning tea and lunch provided)

Presenters:

David Hornsby is working as a curriculum consultant in schools and at La Trobe University. He was with the Ministry of Education for 28 years at taught every year level. David has completed many lecture tours of the US and the UK. He has also worked with teachers in Indonesia, New Zealand and Singapore. He has written or co-authored many popular teacher reference books.

Debbie Sukarna is currently Head of Buckley House (Ivanhoe Grammar). She has been a leading educator for 25 years and has presented professional development programs for State, Catholic and Independent schools. She has worked in the United States and was principal of a bilingual Balinese community school. She has co-authored a number of books on literacy education.

Final Workshop for 2006: Saturday 7 October (Integrated curriculum)

Registration Form / Tax Invoice

ABN 58 498 696 166

Assessment of Spelling
and other aspects of written product

David Hornsby & Debbie Sukarna

Saturday 2 September, 2006

- The cost of this seminar (including GST) is \$140 per person, **or** \$120 per person for two or more participants from the one school. (Cost includes registration, morning tea, lunch and hand-outs.)
- Payment is required prior to seminar.
- A letter confirming your registration will be mailed out one week prior to the seminar. A map of La Trobe University, showing the Menzies Conference Centre, will be included.
- Due date: Wednesday 30 August.
- Numbers are limited, so book early to ensure a place.

School: _____

Name(s)	Workshop (P-2 or 3-6)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

*** Please advise of any special dietary requirements

Contact Name for Correspondence: _____

School address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

Please complete this form and keep it as your invoice for GST purposes. Send a copy of this form, with a cheque made payable to:

Practical Professional Development
5 Hopetoun Grove
East Ivanhoe 3079

Enquiries: Paula Welham
Telephone/Fax 9499 2065
Mobile 0402 421 864 Email pwelham@bigpond.net.au



Blind Citizens Australia

Victorian/Tasmanian State Convention 2006

Saturday 21st October – Sunday 22nd October 2006

Theme: “Valuing Our Own Contribution”

Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) warmly extends an invitation to attend our biennial State Convention. If you are vision impaired, know someone who is, work in/are interested in the sector or would just like to meet some new people, please join us at our convention. Sessions include:

- Keynote address by **Dr. Kevin Murfitt, President, Vision Australia**. Dr Murfitt will speak on his Ph.d thesis “Attitudes not Platitudes”, which examines the link between disability and employment.
- **Images of blindness** – an examination of community perceptions of blindness.
- **Public Transport Forum** – a panel discussion of significant issues including the introduction of the new public transport ticketing system.
- **Relationships** - a panel of people discussing a wide variety of relationship experiences: mothers and daughters, marriage, siblings and workers.
- **Blindness agencies and client participation in governance** – an examination of the mechanisms utilised by blindness agencies to involve clients in service delivery, policy and governance.
- **Diversity panel** - A panel of people who are blind or vision impaired engaged in non-traditional occupations and recreational pursuits.
- Policy discussions and much more! A full draft program can be downloaded from www.bca.org.au/convention/conv2006.htm

Blind Citizens Australia

Victorian/Tasmanian State Convention 2006 October 21 & 22, 2006

Venue

Peninsula Motor Inn, Mornington/Tyabb Road, Tyabb

Cost

Daily Registration	\$ 50.00
Convention Dinner (3 course meal)	\$ 40.00
Full weekend including convention dinner	\$120.00 (saving of \$20.00!)

How to register

Please visit www.bca.org.au/convention/conv2006.htm to download a registration form. The completed registration form, enclosed with your payment, can be sent to Blind Citizens Australia, PO Box 24, Sunshine VIC 3020. Alternatively please call (03) 9372 6400.

Further Information

Phone: (03) 9372 6400 or 1800 033 660

TTY: (03) 9376 9275

Web: www.bca.org.au

Email: bca@bca.org.au