

# **The Bulletin**

## **Statewide Vision Resource Centre**

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**Number 17****Friday 26th October 2007**

This issue was edited by Deb Lewis, Co-ordinator, Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

### **Professional Development Activities for Term IV, 2007**

- **Travel Training Day**  
with Guide Dogs Victoria at SVRC, 10.00am – 3.00pm, Tuesday 13 November  
See below for more information
- **Educational Expo – Access Technology Options**  
at SVRC, 10.00am to 3.30pm, Friday 23 November
- **Skill Power for Early Braille Users and their Support Staff / Families**  
proposed program 10 to 14 December 2007

To see the annual program and to download programs for professional development activities, go to: <http://www.visiontech.svrc.vic.edu.au/pd2007.htm>

### **SVRC Christmas ‘Thank You’ Morning Tea**

Our now quite famous (because of all the yummy food provided) Christmas ‘thank you’ morning tea will be held at 11.00am on Wednesday 5 December 2007. If you have people you’d like to thank, call or email to add them to our invites list.

### **Christmas Card Competition**

The SVRC would like to use a student’s art work for Christmas cards and invitations this year. Any student with a vision impairment can submit a Christmas illustration and the winning entry will receive a prize and the ‘honour’ of having their art work on our cards. Please send in your students’ work, clearly marked with contact details, by October 31 (no, you don’t have long to think about it!) to Deb Lewis, SVRC, PO Box 20, Nunawading 3131.

### **Driving Camp – Places Remaining**

Yes, there are a couple of places remaining in the camp highlight of the term ... DRIVING CAMP ... where students learn to DRIVE. As in gears, parking, roundabouts, traffic lights, hill starts, reversing etc etc etc.

When: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December                  Where: Charlton (transport provided)

Cost: \$145

Contact: Helen Caldow via email [caldow.helen.f@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:caldow.helen.f@edumail.vic.gov.au)

### **Inside This Issue**

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## Travel Training Day

This day is designed for teachers, aides and parents involved in travel training. It is an opportunity to share your ideas and experience, learn some new strategies and experience travel under low vision simulators. We will discuss travel training for children with a range of disabilities, with a particular focus on vision impairment.

Training is provided by the Children's Mobility Service from Guide Dogs Victoria.

- Why do we do travel training?
- What is working well? Share your ideas and resources
- Constraints and solutions
- Developing independence in children
- Working with an Orientation and Mobility Instructor
- Vision impaired travel experience
- Using maps

**When:** Tuesday 13 November 2007, 10.00am – 3.00pm

**Where:** Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370 Springvale Rd, Donvale (park behind the sports centre next door)

**Cost:** No charge

**Lunch:** Bring some lunch money – we will eat out locally, wearing low vision simulators

**RSVP:** Contact Deb Lewis at SVRC on 9841 0242 by Friday 9 November

**What to bring:** Ideas for travel training & resources which have worked well

For downloadable program visit: <http://www.visiontech.svrc.vic.edu.au/PDTravel.doc>.

## Christmas ABA Meeting (Victorian Sub-Committee)

The next ABA meeting will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am in the Training Room at Vision Australia, Kooyong. The topic will be Visiting Teacher support to students in primary and secondary settings – so come along and enjoy the Christmas nibbles with your colleagues.

## Closing Date for Applications: Try Day & Support Skills Program

The next Vision Australia Try Day will be on Friday 23rd of November and the closing date for applications is the 2nd of November, though late applications will be considered. The Try Day goes from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

You can visit Try Day at Vision Australia and then head over to the Statewide Vision Resource Centre for a look at our EXPO!!!

## Swimming Carnival

Students with vision impairments are invited to participate in the Swimming Carnival.

**When:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December

**Time:** 9.00am to 1.00pm

**Where:** Presbyterian Ladies College Aquatic Centre, 141 Burwood Hwy, Burwood 3125

**Melway Ref:** 60 K5

For further information and the application form, see attached.

Application forms must be returned by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

## Free Switch Games

Need a couple of free computer games that can be operated via a switch? You'll find:

- Battle of the Gods and
- Reign of the Flowerpots

on the Assist-IT website: [http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads\\_links.htm](http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/content/downloads_links.htm)

## Free Full Screen Magnification



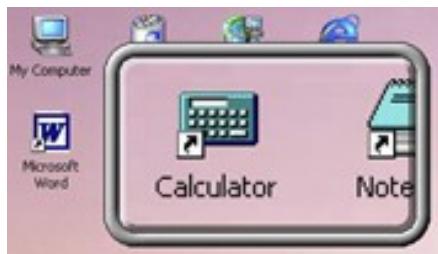
iZoom, the first free full-screen magnifier/reader is now available from Assist-IT and contains the following features:

- Intuitive interface makes it simple to use
- 1.5X to 16X magnification on supported sites, and up to 3X on unsupported sites
- 6 Zooming modes including Full Screen and Magnifying Lens
- adjustable zoom lens size
- high grade image smoothing
- user configurable colour settings
- cursor enhancements and
- option to launch the program automatically at startup

This is a great utility particularly as it is free! It also has speech output support which makes it a great all rounder!

Download here: <http://www.assist-it.org.uk/assets/downloads/iZoomSetup-11.exe>

## Virtual Magnifying Glass



The Virtual Magnifying Glass is a magnifying glass lens that follows the mouse movement.

You can move the lens around the screen to view magnification of any screen area. To close the lens, click the left mouse button. Virtual Magnifying Glass also adds its own taskbar icon. Left-click on the icon offers a shortcut for launching the lens again.

Download here: [http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/magnifier/Mg235\\_install.exe?download](http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/magnifier/Mg235_install.exe?download)

## Quantum Technology / Freedom Scientific Scholarship Program

The closing date for the JAWS & WYNN scholarships program for 2008 have been extended to Friday 16 November 2007! Go to the Quantum Technology website for information on this scholarship program, download an application form or read some stories from our previous winners.

JAWS: <http://www.quantumtechnology.com.au/scholarshipprogram?q=node/151>

WYNN: <http://www.quantumtechnology.com.au/scholarshipprogram?q=wynnscholarship>

## For Sydney-siders – Fully Accessible Movie

Source: Press Release, Disability No Barrier To Film Release, October 2007

On 3 December, a fully accessible Australian debut of award-winning drama *Who Loves the Sun* is being screened at the Possible Worlds Canadian Film Festival, in the Chauvel Cinema, to celebrate International Day of People with a Disability.

“At this screening, the cinema is being adapted so the whole audience can savor the experience regardless of disability,” said Minister for Disability Services Kristina Keneally.

“On-screen captions will be displayed for people with a hearing impairment, while audio description is available for people with a vision impairment and seats are removed for wheelchair access. Discussions will also take place before the movie focusing on film and disability.”

Guest speakers include cast members from *Who Loves the Sun*; Sydney actor and director Alex Jones who is Deaf; and Minister for Disability Services Kristina Keneally.

Festival Artistic Director Mathieu Ravier believes film should be accessible to everyone. He is keen to stress the film premiere tickets are available to people of all abilities.

Mr Ravier said, “I am proud to include the inclusive screening at the Possible Worlds Film Festival. Accessibility can express itself in many ways, starting with reaching out to all Australians traditionally ignored by the entertainment industry.

“*Who Loves the Sun* features perfectly pitched performances and gorgeous Canadian locations. It’s a delightfully witty adult drama, a smart and funny new take on the love triangle.”

Tickets cost \$15.50 adults, \$12.50 concessions and \$9 pensioners. They are available online at [www.chauvelcinema.net.au](http://www.chauvelcinema.net.au) or in person from the Chauvel box-office Paddington Town Hall, Cnr Oxford Street and Oatley Road.

## Backpacks for Laptops (with solar cells for charging up the laptop!)

There is now a large range of laptop backpacks to choose from – but here is one that is little bit special – it includes solar panels which recharge your laptop battery!

Adapted from a review found at <http://www.infosyncworld.com/reviews/n/8350.html>:

- the backpack has a triangular profile with the bottom is much wider than the top which angles the panels to directly face the sun while the bag is on your back. This is good, because in order to get a full charge, the panels must be angled towards the sun.
- comfortable, moulding to our back perfectly, which was nice, but also gave us a perpetual sweaty back in hot weather
- crafted from regular and recycled PET, 420D nylon and UV resistant polyurethane
- weighs 3.5 lbs, including the battery and solar panels. It did feel a little heavy, especially when we packed it with a laptop and other gadgets.
- mesh pouches for additional accessories
- the solar panels are waterproof, scratch resistant, and UV resistant, and the nylon used to construct the bag is also waterproof
- the three panels operate independently to generate up to 4 watts of power, and the substrate is an aluminium/plastic composite designed to be strong and lightweight
- replacement panels for \$35 fee

Available from <http://www.rushfaster.com.au> for approximately US\$250.

## GDV News

### New program coming in 2008

Guide Dogs Victoria is pleased to announce a new program called **Confidence with K9's**. This program will be aimed at children who feel they need to increase their confidence with dogs. Some children or adults may feel anxious or fearful near dogs. The confidence with K9's program will aim to reduce anxieties and introduce basic dog handling skills in a safe and comfortable environment.

The first program to run will be aimed at primary school children with a secondary school program to run later in the year. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend the program. For more information or to register your interest in this program please contact:

Erin Galloway on (03) 9854 4521

### Sydney program

We have 8 students and 3 staff travelling to Sydney for the program 3-8 December. Students have a number of O&M challenges to meet as part of the program, all with minimal Instructor input.

Challenges include -

- Using public transport
- Decision making
- Working as part of a group
- Reading timetables
- Money and time management skills
- Using self advocacy skills
- Taking responsibility for choices and actions

Prior to travelling to Sydney, the students and their parents will attend a meeting with the O&M Instructors to clarify any questions or issues.

### Look Out, Marcus

The CMS team, led by O&M team member Lil Deverell, has published a new book titled "Look Out, Marcus! Growing up with low vision". The book is a story about a boy who has low vision and contains information and activities about blindness and low vision. It is available free of charge and has been sent to all Primary Schools in Victoria. If you would like a copy or require extra copies please contact Lisa Brown at [lisa.b@guidedogsvictoria.com.au](mailto:lisa.b@guidedogsvictoria.com.au)

For further information about any aspect of the Children's Mobility Service please contact any member of the team –

|               |           |                    |           |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Dean Johnson  | 9854 4506 | Alicia Madden      | 9854 4493 |
| Rachel Morgan | 9854 4469 | Janelle O'Loughlin | 9854 4520 |
| Sharon Taylor | 9854 4496 | Erin Galloway      | 9854 4521 |
| Lil Deverell  | 9854 4542 |                    |           |

### Needed – Brailling Aides!!!

We have at least five children starting Prep next year who will be braille users and their schools are looking for any braille competent aides. The schools in need are in the Geelong, Mornington and Caroline Springs (western) areas. If you know of any interested aides, please be in touch.

## Update on 2006 Copyright Amendments

Source: Article by Tim Evans in RT Newsletter, September 2007

In May 2006, Vision Australia (VA), in collaboration with Blind Citizens Australia and the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities, forwarded a submission to the Federal Attorney Generals Copyright Law Branch in support of amendments to Australian Copyright law as it relates to people with a print disability.

In our submission we proposed an open-ended, fair dealing exception. This means that a fair dealing or copying of a work by an individual or organization should not be an infringement of copyright as long as certain conditions were met. In our submission the principle condition was that the fair dealing was in relation to people with a perceptual disability. This definition covers print disability. In recognition of the rights of the creators of copyright materials and in recognition of the needs of decision makers to have some guidelines we proposed that there be tests that should be applied before making copies under any open ended fair dealing. In addition to the fair dealings provision and the special conditions we made specific recommendations to the AG in respect of the proposed amendments to the effect that:

We believe that the Copyright Amendment Bill 2006 works to put into law important new exceptions in line with the RT submission in relation to new personal use exceptions and for institutions helping people with print disabilities:

The “personal use” exceptions ensure that members of our community can “format shift” to make accessible copies for private use and can with other sectors of the community “time-shift” – recording TV and radio programs, and can “space-shift” recording from a CD to play on your CD players without fear of breaching copyright.

The Copyright Amendment Bill 2006 addressed our submission and greatly reduced the restrictions that the preceding copyright law placed on Roundtable member organisations making copies without needing prior permissions:

The legislation establishes an exception to infringement for people with a disability individuals and individuals assisting them under certain conditions without prior approval and confirms our ability to communicate works in accessible formats. It should be noted that this provision is broad in scope as it does not refer to particular disabilities.

The legislation establishes an exception to infringement for organizations assisting people with a print disability to reproduce copies under certain conditions without prior approval and confirms our ability to communicate works in accessible formats. The legislation also allows the creation of masters from which copies can be made for individuals. It should be noted that a remuneration notice is still required.

The amendment is not format-specific. This allows our organisations and our clients to fully utilise the many and varied technological advances that are being made in the fields of media, information delivery and accessibility.

Finally, the amendment has broadened the definition of a perceptual disability to more accurately reflect the needs and circumstances of the community.

## Free Etext: A World Digital Library

Source: [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=40277&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=40277&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

In a signing ceremony in Paris the US Library of Congress and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or UNESCO announced that they have joined forces to build a library that will store “unique and rare materials” from archives and libraries from all over the world.

According to UNESCO – The World Digital Library initiative will digitize unique and rare materials from libraries and other cultural institutions around the world and make them available free of charge on the Internet. These materials include manuscripts, maps, books, musical scores, sound recordings, films, prints and photographs. It is great because:

- 1) It's free for starters
- 2) Information that can be found here will be reliable because it has been selected by top libraries from around the world ie information of good quality.
- 3) It is not the project of UNESCO alone but of other top libraries from all over the world.

Visit the World Digital Library: <http://www.worlddigitallibrary.org/project/english/index.html>

## Braille Pen-Pal Wanted

An indigenous boy, aged 8 years, would like to correspond with a Victorian boy in braille (and perhaps later, email). This boy reads and writes braille at about a Year 1 level, and lives on the outskirts of Darwin. Please contact Marion Blazé on 03 9841 0807 if you have an interested student.

## Staff and Student News

- The Statewide Vision Resource Centre has some rather large news!!! We have recently employed FIVE new staff members, all in the production department. **Carleen, Lyn** and **Veronica** started on Monday, **Jenny** on Thursday and **Bridget** will begin in a couple of weeks. All have started learning braille – and all doing very well indeed! And so far they are “loving it”! And we are loving them!!! Please introduce yourselves when you come in next!
- **Jacky**, our previous most recent staff member, who has also been learning braille, located an error in Lesson 4 of our Correspondence Course – YAY Jacky – you get the beady eye award for the week!
- Rita’s Grade 6 student **Alex** was successful in the interview process for the College of the Arts – so he begins there in Year 7 in 2008! Congratulations Alex!!!
- Colac Visiting Teacher **Lyn Murdoch** will be on Long Service Leave from 5th November. She’s holidaying in France, Spain, England and Scotland for 6 weeks and back at school in Term 1, 2008. (so if you can’t find me, I’ll be in her suit case!)

## Finally

Thanks to Marion Blazé, Andrew Galati, Arlene Pachino and Lyn Robinson for contributing to this edition of The Bulletin. Thanks also to our fabulous proof-readers, stuffers and mailers.

## 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](mailto:deblewis@svrc.vic.edu.au)).

# **SWIMMING CARNIVAL for students with a vision impairment**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007 from 9.00am - 1.00pm**

**Presbyterian Ladies College Aquatic Centre,  
141 Burwood Hwy, Burwood 3125.  
Melway Ref: 60 K5**

Any student who is blind or vision impaired may enter this event by completing the entry form and returning it to: Charlie Roberts, Vision Australia School, 333 Burwood Highway, Burwood VIC 3125,

by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November.**

- The PLC car park is currently being upgraded. You will most probably have to park on Parer St and escort your child along the access path to the aquatic centre.
- Students are to be escorted to the spectator stand at the pool between 9.00 and 9.10am.
- PLC requires swimmers to wear a **swim cap** in the pool. Students will have to **provide their own** cap.
- At the conclusion of the carnival, 1pm, all competitors are invited to attend a BBQ lunch at the Vision Australia School. Students and parents are most welcome to bring their own lunch, if they wish.
- Students unaccompanied by a parent will be shuttled by school mini bus to the Vision Australia School at the conclusion of the carnival.
- Parents may take their child home directly from the pool or back to the Vision Australia School.
- An afternoon program will be conducted for all Support Skills Students, concluding at 3.30pm.

## **RULES GOVERNING COMPETITION**

Usual swimming rules apply with these additions.

1. Competitors are limited to five events.
2. Swimmers competing in 50m events may not “double up” for the same stroke, over a shorter distance in their own age group, e.g. if entered for the 13 years + 50m freestyle, the swimmer may not enter the 13+14 years 25m freestyle.
3. Starting for all races may be from the blocks end at pool or from the wall whilst in the water.
4. A rope will be dropped in front of swimmers in the event of a false start.
5. A competitor receiving physical assistance in the water during competition will be disqualified in that event, with the exception of competition level B who may have someone in the water with them, but only to assist, not pull them to the finish line.

6. The 25m pool depth is 1.2m to 1.8m deep and 0.5 to 1.0m in the learner pool. Any student who is not confident in deep water may have someone in the water with them but no physical contact can be made. This is for students who can swim a length but just need verbal reassurance in deep water.
7. The Kickboard event is for students who cannot swim without the aid of a kickboard i.e. if you enter in a freestyle, backstroke or breaststroke event you cannot enter in a kickboard event.

### **Swimming Events**

| <b>Event</b> | <b>Age</b> |
|--------------|------------|
|--------------|------------|

50m freestyle 12 years & under

50m freestyle 13 years +

25m freestyle 8years & under

25m freestyle 9 + 10 years

25m freestyle 11 + 12 years

25m freestyle 13 +14 years

25m freestyle 15 + years

(kickboard freestyle is only for students who cannot swim without the aid of a kickboard)

25m kickboard freestyle 10 years & under

25m kickboard freestyle 11 years & above

Learners pool kickboard freestyle 8 years & under

Learners pool kickboard freestyle 9 years – 12 years

Learners pool kickboard freestyle 13 years & above

50m breaststroke 12 years & under

50m breaststroke 13 years +

25m breaststroke 8years & under

25m breaststroke 9 + 10 years

25m breaststroke 11 + 12 years

25m breaststroke 13 + 14 years

25m breaststroke 15 + years

Learners pool novelty relay race 8 years & under

Learners pool novelty relay race 9 years – 12 years

Learners pool novelty relay race 13 years & above

25m butterfly 12 years & under

25m butterfly 13 years +

50m backstroke 12 years & under

50m backstroke 13 years +

25m backstroke 8years & below

25m backstroke 9 + 10 years

25m backstroke 11 + 12 years

25m backstroke 13 + 14 years  
25m backstroke 15 + years

(kickboard backstroke is only for students who cannot swim without the aid of a kickboard)

25m kickboard backstroke 10 years & under  
25m kickboard backstroke 11 years & above

Learners pool kickboard backstroke 8 years & under  
Learners pool kickboard backstroke 9 years – 12 years  
Learners pool kickboard backstroke 13 years & above

3 x 25m Ind. Medley 12 years & under  
(back, breast & free)

3 x 25m Ind. Medley 13 years +  
(back, breast & free)

Relays: To be arranged on the day, only if time permits.

4 by 25m Freestyle

One swimmer must be sight category T.

Two groups: 12 years & under  
13 years +

## INDIVIDUAL COMPETITOR ENTRY FORM

### SWIMMING CARNIVAL for students with a vision impairment

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2007 from 9.00am - 1.00pm  
at the Presbyterian Ladies College Aquatic Centre,  
141 Burwood Hwy, Burwood 3125.**

Completed Entry Forms must be returned to Charlie Roberts, Vision Australia School,  
333 Burwood Highway, Burwood 3125, by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Competitors Name:**

.....

**Age at 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2007:** ..... **Male/Female:**

.....

**E-mail address for correspondence:**

.....

**Postal address ( if E-mail not available)**

.....

**Visiting Teacher and Department:** ..... **VA/DEECD/CEO**

**Swimmer level**      **A (Championship division) – has no additional disability**  
**(circle one)**            **B (Achiever Division) – has an additional disability**

**Additional disability:** -----

**Visual Acuity :** R.E. \_\_\_\_\_ L.E. \_\_\_\_\_

**Sight Category**      **T – total blind**  
**(circle one)**            **P – low vision up to 6/60**  
                              **S – above 6/60 and up to 6/24**

**Swimming events entered (students may enter up to 5 events)**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- In the event of injury or sickness, I authorize that qualified medical attention be secured at my expense and I be notified.
- I give permission for my child to be involved in any publicity, including photography and video, which may be associated with this event.
- The staff and volunteers will exercise all due care, but will be clear of all liability in the event at any injury, damage or loss this person may sustain to person or property.

My emergency contact number for this period is -----

Parent/Guardian: ----- Signed -----

Date: ----- Signature of Swimmer: -----  
P.T.O

Please indicate your preferences for the day:

- A parent will take me home from the pool after the swimming carnival.
- After the carnival I will require a lift back to the Vision Australia School in the school bus.
- I will join in the BBQ lunch held at the Vision Australia School.
- A current Support Skills student, I will stay for the afternoon program, concluding at 3.30pm