

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 19

Friday 5th December 2008

This issue was edited by Lyn Robinson from the Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

Professional Learning & Activities Term 1, 2009

For workshop sessions, please BYO laptop.

Professional Learning Events and Activities 2009	Date
Skill Power Workshops for Visiting Teachers, Teachers, Aides (BYO laptop / No lunch provided) 1. UEB Braille Maths Code and Maths Layout – 10.00am to 12.30pm Lea Nagel, EMR Senior Visiting Teacher & Maria Elford, Head Braille Transcriber 2. Setting up the Computer for Low Vision Users – 1.30pm to 3.00pm Lyn Robinson, SVRC	Friday 6 February
Visiting Teacher Day	Monday 9 February
New Visiting Teachers – Orientation Day	Tuesday 10 February
Educational Support for Blind Students This day is designed for class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and visiting teachers who support students who utilize braille	Friday 20 February
Educational Support for Students with Low Vision – Prep to Year 8 This day is designed for class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and visiting teachers who support students who have low vision (maximum participants: 65)	Monday 2 March
Educational Support for Students with Low Vision – Secondary Students This day is designed for class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and visiting teachers who support secondary students who have low vision (maximum participants: 60)	Friday 20 March
Dot Power for Emergent Braille Readers	Monday 30 March

Professional Learning for Term 1, 2009

As you can see from the table above we have lots of workshops and professional learning planned for first term 2009. Please let your schools know to book early as places are limited. We are currently asking for feedback regarding organising a programme for the first three pupil free days of term 1. We will let you know the results so stay tuned.

Please email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au if you have any suggestions or ideas.

To download more information <http://www.visiontech.svrc.vic.edu.au/PD2009.doc>

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Vision Australia Client Representative Council

Representative Of Young Clients

If you are you a client of Vision Australia aged between 18 and 24 years and have ideas about how services could be improved for people in this age group, the Client Representative Council would like to hear from you by 5 January 2009.

The Council is Vision Australia's peak body representing the needs and views of its clients. It is made up of clients of the organisation, drawing its members from all geographic areas within which Vision Australia operates. The primary purpose of the Council is to provide advice to the Board and management on matters of interest to clients.

More information about the Council can be found on the internet at www.visionaustralia.org/clientconsultation.

Vision Australia covers the costs of all travel, accommodation, telephone calls and other activities undertaken by Council members. Papers for meetings are provided in Council members' preferred formats.

For more information about the Client Representative Council or how to apply, please contact the Chair of the Council, Claire Hogan, on (02) 66 55 11 59 or by email at poet@bellingon.com. Alternatively you can contact the CRC Secretariat Manager, Lynne Davis, on (02) 9334 3293 or 1300 867644, or by email at crcsecretariat@visionaustralia.org

Applications should be sent by email to: crcsecretariat@visionaustralia.org

The mailing address for applications is:

Lynne Davis
CRC Secretariat
Vision Australia
PO Box 176
Enfield, NSW 1805

East Melbourne Optometrist & Low Vision Centre

East Melbourne Optometry & Low Vision Centre specialises in the assessment of visual function for patients with the moderate and severe vision impairments that we characterise as 'low vision'.

They prescribe spectacles and other optical, magnifying and electronic aids that enhance vision for specific tasks in response to patients' needs.

They also provide refractive assessment and correction for all patients with unusual or difficult eye focus errors.

Consultations are by appointment only; referrals are not essential. However, referrals from other optometrists, ophthalmologists and general medical practitioners are welcome.

For more information go to <http://www.emlowvision.com.au/Home/home/Home>

Kayendee Writing/Reading Aid

If you are looking for something new in the way of reading stands then the Kayendee Writing/Reading Aid may be just what you are looking for. Kayendee were approached by a parent of a student with a vision impairment who felt that using a reading stand manufactured from laminated wood, though functional, restricted the student from being part of the classroom. The stand, which is pictured below, is made of 10 mm thick acrylic (Perspex). The dimensions are 470mm wide x 500mm high when closed. It has 4 adjustable angles and weighs approximately 4 kilograms.



The advantages of this type of design include:

- The student is able to see and be seen in the classroom environment
- The outline of the book or paper may be more visible to the student as the design lets light through
- There is no metal hardware that may cause injury or work loose
- Maintenance free
- Water resistant material
- A one piece assembly with an incorporated flip lock handle
- Non slip clear neoprene pads
- Easily cleaned and can be fully submersible in water for washing purposes
- Made from recyclable material

Optional accessories include:

- Pen/pencil holder
- PVC storage cover which can also be used as a carry bag
- Page holder
- Line Magnifier
- Templates for numbers, letters and maps
- White sketch pad

You can contact Chris Pensa at Kayendee on 03 9755 7366 or email kayendee@kayendee.com for further information.

Kayendee are located at Factory 2/8 Viewtech Place, Rowville.

A flyer about this new product is included with this Bulletin. Please feel free to copy it and distribute to schools.

Did You Know?

If your student is a member of Vision Australia Library then they can borrow a DAISY player. DAISY players can play a number of formats including DAISY and MP3. A membership form from the Vision Australia Library is included with this bulletin.

Could you please copy and pass on this information to any students who may be interested in joining the Vision Australia Library and borrowing a DAISY player from the Vision Australia Library.

Bag Books – tactile stories for people with learning disabilities.

Helen has come across some multi-sensory book bags for students on the internet. Called ‘Bag Books’, this is a U.K. based charity which has developed a number of multi-sensory stories for use with children and young adults.

From the Bag Books website: <http://www.bagbooks.org/index.html>

Bag Books is the only organisation in the world publishing multi-sensory stories for people with profound learning disabilities. Bag Books help to enrich the lives and support the learning and development of children and adults with the most severe learning disabilities.

- We design and produce multi-sensory story-packs.
- We promote the benefits of multi-sensory storytelling.
- We provide specialist multi-sensory storytellers and train others (parents, carers and teachers) in the technique.
- We run a small work experience programme in our craft workshop for adults with learning disabilities.

Echolalia

Some nice information sheets about delayed and immediate echolalia are available from the Indiana Resource Centre for Autism. These include a description of delayed echolalia, reproduced in part below, and practical suggestions for using echolalia in a functional way.

Delayed echolalia is the repetition of verbal messages that were previously heard and which are repeated after a time delay of a few minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, or years. It is sometimes more difficult to recognize delayed echolalia since the listener (the one to whom an interactive delayed echolalic message is directed) may not have been present when the original utterance or model message was uttered or, if present, the person may have forgotten. Unless the echoed message is significantly different in vocabulary, syntax, and message sophistication than the echolalic speaker's creative spontaneous speech, the naive listener may not recognize an utterance as echolalic.

This may be particularly true of situations when the echoed message is dialogue that seems to fit a current moment or situation. The dialogue, however, may reflect experienced or overheard conversations or may represent dialogue heard from TV shows, videos, or read books. Other more clearly marked examples of delayed echolalia include the use of commercials and song lyrics within what may initially appear to be bizarre usage.

From ‘Functional Categories of Delayed Echolalia’ by Beverly Vicker.

<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca/communication/echolalidelay.html>

‘Functional Categories of Immediate Echolalia’ by Beverly Vicker.

<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca/communication/echolaliImmed.html>

My Eye My Melbourne

A new exhibition will let people see the world from a legally blind Eltham photographer's point of view. A lifetime suffering retinitis pigmentosa - a degenerative eye disease - has left Andrew Follows with extremely limited vision. At three metres he can see what most people can see at 70m - and that's through his good eye. So he uses his camera as a window to the world.

The magnification of the lens allows him to get a better idea of the scene, and he can then enlarge the pictures on his computer. "The lens becomes my eyes and the photo becomes my memory," Follows said. Accompanied by guide dog Eamon, 47-year-old Follows has wandered the streets of Melbourne for years taking pictures in an almost documentary style.

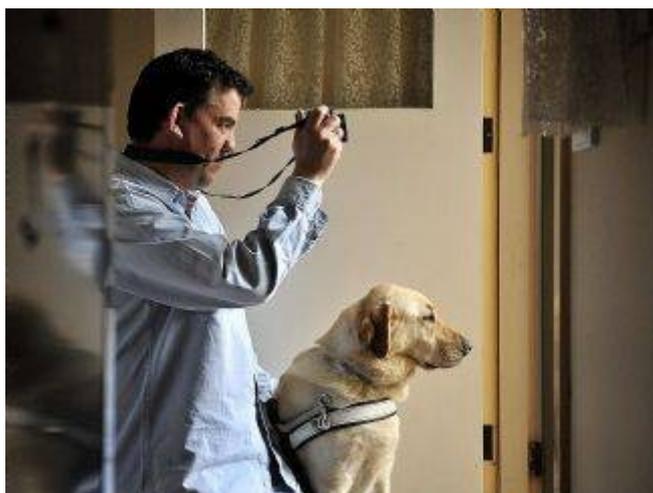
Last month, he was one of three Australian photographers to be published in the Amnesty International book Freedom and Art. His first exhibition, My Eye, My Melbourne, will open next month. Follows said his talent lay in picking out the special in the everyday.

"My blindness gives me an interesting perspective," he said.

"I take photos of things people take for granted."

My Eye, My Melbourne is on at Katrina Manton Gallery, 325 Montague St, Albert Park, Dec. 6-20. From The Diamond Valley Leader <http://diamond-valley-leader.whereilive.com.au/>

The pictured below shows Andrew Follows with camera in hand accompanied by guide dog, Eamon.



SVRC Staff and Student News

The winners of our two competitions were announced recently at the Technology EXPO!

The winners of the Christmas Card competition are:

- Ben, a Year 1 student from Broadmeadows
- Rose, a Year 1 student from Ocean Grove
- Monalisa, a Prep student from Melton
- Nikita, a Year 4 student from Chelsea

Those students will receive a gift pack of 10 student designed cards with their design and the designs of the other students to give to their friends and family. Congratulations to those students.

And the winners of the "Write On" Competition are:

Lower Primary: Best non-fiction 'My Favourite Things Journal' by Mathew. Best story 'Hairy No Teeth Toad Monster' by Rohan. Best Poem 'Tractors' by Scott. Highly commended story 'Panda's Adventure' by Isabelle.

Upper Primary: Best story 'Stuck in the Middle' by Abbey. Best non-fiction 'The Inside Story' by Alexandra. Most imaginative piece 'Spot the Dog' by Aaron. Highly commended 'Too Cool: Hammeringmaster' by George.

Secondary: First Prize 'My Favourite Things' by Georgia; Second Prize – 'Blue Blossoms' by Hansani; Third Prize 'Like a Burden' by Cassie.

Congratulations to all the prize winners who have received an audio book or gift voucher from one of audio book suppliers: Bolinda Audio, Readings, Louie Braille Audio and Soundbooks.

And a special thank you to Bryony for organising the 'Write On!' competition.

Variety Club Bike Recipient

Earlier this year, the 3AW Variety Radiothon was held to raise funds for bikes and helmets to be offered to disadvantaged Victorian children.

Between Visiting Teachers Dianne Simpson and Anne Crowley, 11 year old student Harrison now has a brand new 24 inch mountain bike and helmet – just in time for Christmas!

A very pleased Harrison attended the Docklands presentation to receive his bike from his sponsor and immediately jumped on his bike for a ride.

Congratulations Harrison and thanks to Dianne and Anne!

The picture below shows Harrison at Docklands with his new bike.



Finally

Thanks to Helen Caldwell, Anne Crowley, Dianne Simpson, Deb Lewis, Toni Chilton and all those who contributed to this edition of The Bulletin. Thanks also to the fabulous team of proof-readers, stuffers and mailers. If you have something you would like included in 'The Bulletin', or you would like to receive the bulletin by email please contact:

Lyn Robison (who can be emailed at lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au).