

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 13

Friday 14 August 2009

This issue was edited by Lyn Robinson, Resource Teacher, Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

Professional Development Activities for Term 3 and 4, 2009

Professional Development Event 2009	Date
New! Education Seminars 2009: Including students who are blind or have low vision in physical education programs. Presented by Vision Australia and the Statewide Vision Resource Centre, this is a hands-on workshop for PE teachers, VTs and any other interested school staff.	Friday 14 August
Term 3 Visiting Teacher Professional Development Day	Friday 28 August
DAISY Workshop - Trevor Boyd will be bringing Steve Bennett from Dolphin Systems to the SVRC from 9.30am to talk about DAISY.	Monday 31 August
Literacy Numeracy Week Activity – Louis Braille Day	Monday 7 September
SPEVI Day	Monday 5 October
Educational Expo – Access Technology Options This day is suitable for teachers, aides, therapists, parents/care-givers, visiting teachers, students and members of the wider community	Friday 27 November
SVRC Christmas Morning Tea	Wednesday 2 December
Dot Power for 2010 Kinder and Prep Braille Readers and their Teachers, Aides & Parents	Monday 7 December

*All Skill Power days - **BYO laptop** and lunch.

Professional Development at the SVRC

Don't forget the PD for this term includes a Visiting Teacher PD day on Friday the 28th August. Phil Hazell, HumanWare National Sales Manager, will update us on the latest from HumanWare including the new range of pocket magnification devices. Lea Nagel, Visiting Teacher, Eastern Metropolitan Region will talk about RadaR and how students with vision impairments can use the internet safely and Anthea Skinner's topic is "Insights from the Sighted: Braille Reading by Touch". Another technology seminar has been added to our program – Trevor Boyd will be bringing Steve Bennett from Dolphin Systems to the SVRC from 9.30am on Monday 31 August to talk about DAISY, so please come along if you can.

For a complete list of the Professional Development offered by the SVRC go to:

<http://www.visiontech.svrc.vic.edu.au/PD2009.doc>

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VTAC and SEAS information session for students with a disability or a health condition

This free event is a unique opportunity to meet with the experts from VTAC, universities and TAFEs to maximise the successful entry of students with a disability or a health condition into tertiary education. You will also learn about the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS).

At the session you will hear from:

- Deputy Director of VTAC – Suzanne Connelly
- Director, Careers Education Association of Victoria – Bernadette Gigliotti
- selection officers from universities and TAFEs
- National Disability Coordination Officer – Joanne Webber
- tertiary students with a disability
- self advocacy DVD launch.

Stalls will be set up by a number of universities and TAFEs with an opportunity for participants to obtain current course and disability support information.

Auslan interpreters and live remote captioning will be provided and the venue is wheelchair accessible.

This session is brought to you by the National Disability Coordination Officer Program for Eastern Melbourne in partnership with Deakin University.

For further information, contact:

Joanne Webber

National Disability Coordination Officer on 03 9925 5269 or Jen Anderson on 03 9244 3892

RSVP to mequity@deakin.edu.au with your name, number of people attending and your email address.

Useful resources for career and course information

VTAC - Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

- Processes applications to university and TAFE courses
- VTAC Guide available from newsagents. On line - www.vtac.edu.au

Ace day jobs

- A series of five minute video episodes of Australians with innovative careers
- www.abc.net.au/acedayjobs

My future

- A joint initiative of Commonwealth, State & Territory Governments, providing comprehensive information the helps users explore options and plan careers
- www.myfuture.edu.au

Apprenticeships

- provides an excellent overview of the range of apprenticeships and pathways
- www.najobpathways.com.au/

Bullseye posters

- Show school subjects and related jobs
- www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/3083EE10-7DE8-4366-A133282CCB7E1FD8/14046/Bullseye booklet.pdf

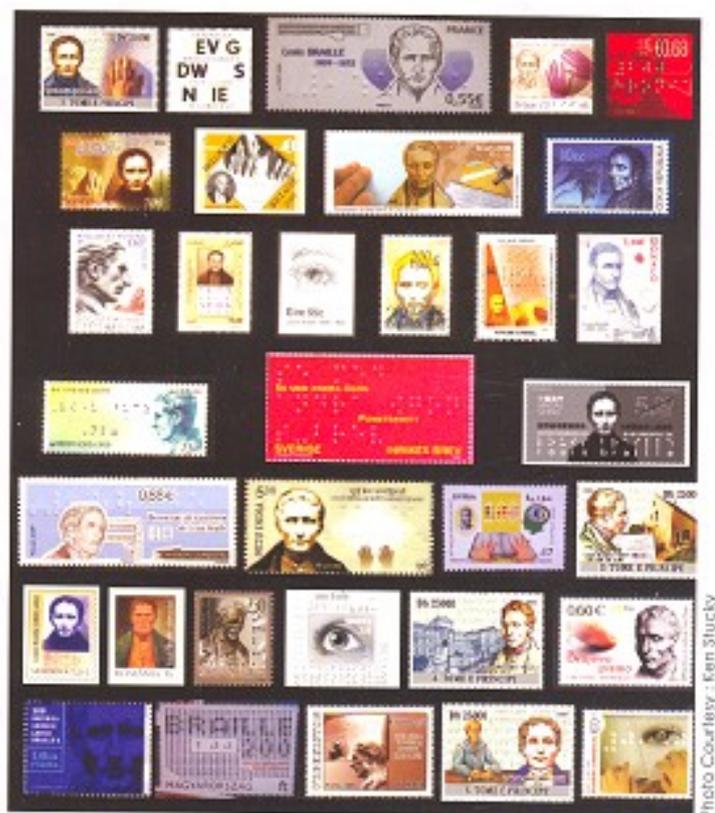
Thanks to Trish Paddick, Careers teacher at Koonung SC for these resource ideas.

Louis Braille display at SVRC

The SVRC has an interesting display of commemorative stamps from around the world. Many countries have taken the opportunity to celebrate the bicentenary of Louis Braille's birth by issuing special commemorative stamps or coins. On display at the SVRC are stamps from: Australia, Brazil, France, Iceland, India, Korea, Macau, Serbia



The picture above shows a first day cover from India. It has a stamp with Louis Braille's face and two hands reading braille on the stamp. There is braille on the stamp which says "louis braille". There is a graphic of braille on the bottom right – it reads "louis braille birth bicentenary". A graphic of a bust of Louis Braille is on the left side of the envelope. There is also a slate and stylus.



The graphic above shows some of the many commemorative stamps issued around the world.

Vision Australia's Further Education Bursaries

Vision Australia's Further Education Bursaries aim to assist clients who would not otherwise be able to afford adaptive technology, thus increasing their ability to participate in further education.

To be eligible, applicants need to:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of an Australian state or Territory
- Be (or become) a client of Vision Australia
- Demonstrate the need for financial assistance to purchase adaptive technology
- Be applying for, or enrolled in, a tertiary course graded Certificate IV or above.
- Be available to attend a presentation ceremony in May.

To apply:

- Complete an application form www.visionaustralia.org/bursary
- Have an adaptive technology assessment with a Vision Australia consultant
- Provide some documentary evidence (outlined on the application form).

Applications close in October. Recipients are selected in December, equipment is purchased and delivered after proof of enrolment has been provided (around March) and the Bursaries are presented at ceremonies in May.

For more information contact: Max Bini, Tertiary Education Consultant, Phone: 1300 84 74 66

Email: max.bini@visionaustralia.org

Trans-Tasman Braille Proficiency Examination (UEB)

This year's Trans-Tasman Braille Proficiency Examination (UEB) will take place in the two week period from Monday 28th September to Friday 9th October 2009. The examination is jointly administered by the Australian Braille Authority and the New Zealand Braille Authority.

Please include the following details in your application to sit the examination:

- Name of Candidate:
- Contact details (postal address, email and telephone):
- Format for examination materials (regular print, large print, braille):
- Preferred examination period (please indicate)
- Week 1: Monday 28th September to 2nd October 2009, or
- Week 2: Monday 5th to Friday 9th October 2009
- Braille writing equipment to be used for the examination (please indicate):
- Name to appear on Proficiency Certificate:
- Signature of Candidate:
- Date:

Cost: Australia: \$50.00 (plus 10% GST) New Zealand: \$50.00 (plus additional taxes)

Closing date: Friday 21st August 2009

Please make cheque or money order payable to Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities. Round Table will issue a tax invoice upon receipt of payment. Please send completed application forms and payment to the following:

<p>Australian Candidates: Frances Gentle RIDBC Renwick Centre 361-365 North Rocks Road North Rocks NSW 2151 Fax 02 9873 1614 Email: frances.gentle@ridbc.org.au</p>	<p>New Zealand Candidates: Maria Stevens Accessible Format Production 4 Maunsell Road Parnell, Auckland 1031 Email: mstevens@rnzfb.org.nz</p>
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Making the iPhone Icons Speak

By David Pogue, New York Times 14/07/2009

You'd never suspect that the iPhone 3GS, which has no physical keys at all, is one of the easiest smartphones in the world for a blind person to use. But now it's true, thanks to VoiceOver.

When you turn on VoiceOver (in Settings -> General -> Accessibility), you can operate everything - read your e-mail, type replies, surf the Web, adjust settings, run apps - by tapping and letting the phone speak what you're touching. It uses whatever language you like, at a speaking rate you prefer. It's pretty amazing.

There's a lot to learn, and practice makes perfect, but here's the overview.

First, you tap something to hear it. You can tap icons, words, even the tiny status icons at the top of the screen. As you go, the voice tells you what you're tapping. "Messages." "Calendar." "Mail - 14 new items." "45 percent battery power."

Once you've tapped a screen element, you can also flick your finger left or right - anywhere on the screen - to "walk" through everything on the screen, left to right, top to bottom. You eventually get a good mental picture of what's on the screen before you, and in what arrangement.

Now, ordinarily, you tap something on the screen to open it. But since single-tapping now means "speak this," you need a new way to open everything. So to open something you've just heard identified, you double-tap. Since that item is already selected from your single tap, you can do the double-tap anywhere on the screen, without having to aim. (You don't have to wait for the voice to finish talking, either.)

There are all kinds of other special gestures in VoiceOver. You can make the voice stop speaking with a two-finger tap; read everything, in sequence, from the top of the screen, with a two-finger upward flick; scroll one page at a time with a three-finger flick up or down; go to the next or previous screen (Home, Stocks, and so on) with a three-finger flick left or right; and so on.

My favourite, though, is the three-finger triple tap; it blacks out the screen, giving you total privacy, and giving you one heck of a battery boost. (Repeat the triple-tap to turn the screen back on.)

There are more special finger gestures for entering text, reading text one word at a time, dragging sliders, and so on. The overview is here, and step-by-step instructions are in the iPhone PDF user guide here.

I admit that I haven't mastered all of this myself - I could not, for example, fully use the phone with the screen off (or my eyes closed) right now. But from what I've seen of VoiceOver so far, it certainly seems as though Apple has gone to some pretty amazing impressive lengths to make the iPhone friendly to blind people.

Source: <http://pogue.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/14/making-the-iphone-icons-speak/>

The iPhone also has voice activation for dialling contacts, phone numbers and controlling your iPod. For more information about voiceover and iPhone go to the Apple website at: <http://www.apple.com/accessibility/iphone/vision.html>

Thanks to Kim Foley for passing on this article for the Bulletin.

New Vision Impaired Travel Pass Being Issued

Victoria's registered Vision Impaired Travel Pass holders have started receiving their new travel pass in the mail. The new Vision Impaired Travel Pass, which includes the pass holder's name and photograph, has been combined with a myki smartcard and replaces all Vision Impaired Travel Passes currently held by customers.

Transport Ticketing Authority CEO, Gary Thwaites, said when pass holders receive their new Vision Impaired Travel Pass they should dispose of the old pass and start using the new one straight away.

"When pass holders receive their new Vision Impaired Travel Pass they can use it to travel on Victoria's trains, trams and buses, as they do today," he said.

"All Vision Impaired Travel Pass holders are entitled to free travel on most public transport services in Victoria and will continue to use the travel pass as a "flash pass" if asked by public transport staff.

"Because the travel pass has been combined with a myki card, pass holders in Geelong, Seymour, Ballarat, Bendigo and the Latrobe Valley can touch on and touch off with their travel pass at myki readers if they choose to.

"Vision Impaired Travel Pass holders in other areas who want to touch on and touch off will be able to do so when myki begins operating in their area.

"For instance when myki comes to Melbourne, Vision Impaired Travel Pass holders can proceed through barriers at Premium Stations without assistance if they are able and wish to do so. This would also help the system to capture useful travel data."

The Vision Impaired Travel Pass has been designed in consultation with groups including Blind Citizens Australia and Vision Australia to ensure it is easy for pass holders to locate and use.

"The travel pass still includes the nationally recognised travel pass details on one side but now also has myki branding on the other to indicate that it is smartcard enabled," he said.

"There are two raised dots on the travel pass side along with the name and photograph to help pass holders know which side to show public transport staff."

Pass holders who have not received their new Vision Impaired Travel Pass by the middle of August should contact the Metlink Central Pass Office on (03) 9619 1159.

CHARGE Syndrome - An Overview

Perkins School for the Blind has a very informative webcast about CHARGE Syndrome. Presented by Pam Ryan, the video is very easy to listen to and deals with the complexities of CHARGE Syndrome in a simple and effective way. The video has audio description.

http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_CHARGE_Syndrome_An_Overview_by_Pam_Ryan

Louis Day at SVRC

Don't forget Louis Braille Day at the SVRC on Monday 7th September!

We'll be having a **Dot Quiz**, an **Exploration** of braille writing implements, old and new, and a hilarious **Gameshow** in the afternoon! Wear fancy dress from the era!

Be there or be square!

Space Camp 2009 Blog!!!

From Deb and Lea

As announced in issue 12 of The Bulletin, Space Camp 2009 is going ahead!!! SCI-VIS (Space Camp for Interested Vision Impaired Students) is a 6-day program for approximately 200 students with vision impairments from around the world - and for both students and chaperones, it is the opportunity of a lifetime!

Participants live in a simulated space station and participate in a program designed to develop leadership and teamwork whilst undertaking mission simulations in life-sized models of a space-shuttle, space station and mission control.

Six Victoria students will travel to Huntsville, Alabama USA to participate in this program ... via Disneyland and Universal Studios!

Who are our Space Campers 2009?

- Chrissie and Daniel (Eastern Metropolitan Region)
- Brooke and Cassie (Northern Metropolitan Region)
- Nathaniel (Goulbourn North Eastern)
- Georgia (Loddon Mallee)

Chaperones Deb and Lea will set off with these six students on 21st September - first to Los Angeles and later to the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville Alabama.

Students have already demonstrated their communication and technology skills by Facebooking and MSNing to negotiate first the cities we will visit and then the activities we will participate in!

Excellent!

The next time we will meet face-to-face will be at the airport but I am sure there will be continued lusty discussions prior to that!

Keep up with the escapades of Space Campers 2009 by visiting our brand new BLOG!!! You'll find it here: <http://spacecamper2009.blogspot.com/>



Above: Picture of a Space Shuttle at Space Camp.

Volunteers wanted!

Here at the SVRC we are looking for volunteers who are interested in being part of our friendly, supportive office team. We need people to commit to 2-3 hours per week for proof-reading with a braille transcriber or for photocopying, typing, scanning, binding, tracing diagrams, making tactual pictures and/or other office duties as negotiated.

We would be delighted if you could share our contact details with your friends / family / community or perhaps let us know of an organisation or agency we can contact with our request.

Please contact us on 9841 0242 or deblewis@svrc.vic.edu.au

Many, many thanks! Deb Lewis

Reminder: Hire of Perkins Brailers

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre owns a number of Perkins Brailers, most of which are out with braille students in schools. These items are intended for short-term loan only, and are not intended for ongoing use by students. The Statewide Vision Resource Centre will be charging an annual hiring fee of \$250 per annum to schools for the loan of Perkins Brailers from the beginning of term 3, 2009. Accounts for \$125 are currently being sent to schools and represent the hire fee for the remainder of 2009. For your information, the cost for repairs to Perkins Brailers hired by schools will now need to be paid for by the hiring school. The cost of repairs for a Perkins braille is typically around \$400. If you choose to return the Perkins braille(s) currently booked out to your student/school, please let us know.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Dianne Skillern, Accounts Manager on 03 9841 0242. Perkins Brailers can be purchased from Vision Australia's Equipment Solutions for approximately \$1,232 (ES4050). Vision Australia also lease Perkins Brailers - contact them on 03 9822 1111.

Perkins Braille for Sale

Need a second-hand Perkins Braille? Alana has one for sale - \$650 - please phone her on mobile: 0433 554592.

Green Line Paper

You can now download templates for green line paper and graph paper directly from the SVRC website. You can then produce your own green line paper by photocopying or printing the templates from your computer. From the SVRC website go to the Visiting Teachers page, at the bottom of the page are the green line paper templates. You will find templates for lines of various widths as well as graph paper, dotted thirds and clocks. Download from: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/homeVT.html>

Car Accident – Can I Be Sued?

A recent edition of the AEU News has an article on using your own car to transport students. The article can be found on page 27, Volume 15, Issue 5, 2009

http://www.aeuvic.asn.au/publications/AEUnews_06.html

Staff and Student News

The trek north continues for three lucky people, Visiting Teacher Kim Foley is in Palm Beach and the SVRC's Sue Sharp and Leanne Terry are enjoying holidays in Queensland. Michael has returned from his adventures in California and New York with many interesting stories to tell. It will be hard to keep him "down on the farm now" especially after lunching in the Grand Canyon, living in Brooklyn and experiencing bustle of New York. Michael commented that New York was the ultimate "O&M" experience!

Finally

Thanks to Kim Foley, Marion Blazè, Deb Lewis and Lea Nagel for contributing to this edition of The Bulletin.

Don't forget we appreciate your input.

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

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To read The Bulletin online: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/bulletins2009.html>