

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 6**Monday 3 May 2010**

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

Professional Development Activities for Term 2, 2010

| Professional Development Event 2010 | Date |
|--|----------------------|
| *Skill Power Workshops for Visiting Teachers, Teachers, Aides, Students etc 1. Computer Set-up for Low Vision Users – 10.00am to 11.30am Lyn Robinson, SVRC 2. ZoomText – 12.00 to 1.30pm Trevor Boyd, Quantum Technology 3. Duxbury Braille Translation – 2.00pm to 3.30pm Maria Elford & Lea Nagel, SVRC | Tuesday 11 May |
| Term 2 Visiting Teacher Professional Development Day | Wednesday 19 May |
| *Skill Power Workshops for Visiting Teachers, Teachers, Aides, Students etc 1. Computer without the Mouse – 10.00am to 11.30am Lea Nagel, SVRC 2. WindowEyes – 12.00 to 1.30pm Ramona Mandy, Humanware 3. PACMate – 2.00pm to 3.30pm Trevor Boyd, Quantum Technology | Tuesday 1 June |
| Visiting Teacher Conference – Ballarat – for information contact Rita Farrelly: farrelly.rita.a@edumail.vic.gov.au | June 3 and 4 |
| NEW! Transcribing Tactile Diagrams for Most Efficient Interpretation by Braille Readers – 10am to 12 noon Lea Nagel, SVRC | Wednesday 9 June |
| NEW! Art Professional Development Half Day 9.30am to 12.30pm Michael Donnelly, SVRC – This PD event is suitable for Art teachers in schools and other interested personnel | Friday 11 June |
| NEW! Physical Education Professional Development Day 9.30am to 3.30pm Charlie Roberts, SVRC – This PD event is suitable for PE and Sport teachers in schools, Recreation Officers and other interested personnel | Friday 18 June |
| NEW! Vision Loss Support Group – Recreation – for information contact Annette Godfrey- Magee: annetteg@svrc.vic.edu.au | Saturday 19 June |
| DOT POWER – for early braille readers | Tuesday 22 June |
| 25th National Braille Music Camp – NSW for further information contact Roam Dix: romad@westnet.com.au | 26 June to 3 July |

* Technology Workshops: please BYO technology and lunch. The yearly program is available at:
<http://www.visiontech.svrc.vic.edu.au/PDannual.htm>

Inside This Issue

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Professional Development Term 2, 2010 |
| 2 | Visiting Teacher PD Days, Braille Mnemonic, The Australian Vision Impairment Monitor |
| 3 | Understanding the Basics of Braille, SPEVI Conference Invitation, Installing Jaws |
| 4 | What's the Expanded Core Curriculum? |
| 5 | Vision Loss Support Group Meeting, Low Vision Expo at Seaford, Adult Blind Volunteers Required for Psychology Research |
| 6 | Going Backpacking?, Looking Good Without Looking, 2010 Australian Braille Authority Meeting and UEB Workshop |
| 7 | New Tactile Books at the SVRC, Visual Basic and JAWs, Braille Literacy Podcast, Weekend at Mt Baw Baw, Tennis Victoria Mini Circuit |
| 8 | Mentoring Resource, Staff and Student News |
| 9 | Vision Support Group Meeting Flier |

Visiting Teacher PD days - request from Marion Blazé

As you know, we run a PD day for Visiting Teachers (Vision) every term except in “the final” term, when we usually have a SPEVI conference day and our annual Expo of technology.

The term 2 day is on May 19 and the term 3 day is on August 24.

We would really like (need) your input to make these days as relevant to your needs as we possibly can. So, please let Marion know if there are topics you would like covered, speakers you would like invited or contributions you would like to make. Contact Marion on 03 9841 0807 or marionblaze@svrc.vic.edu.au

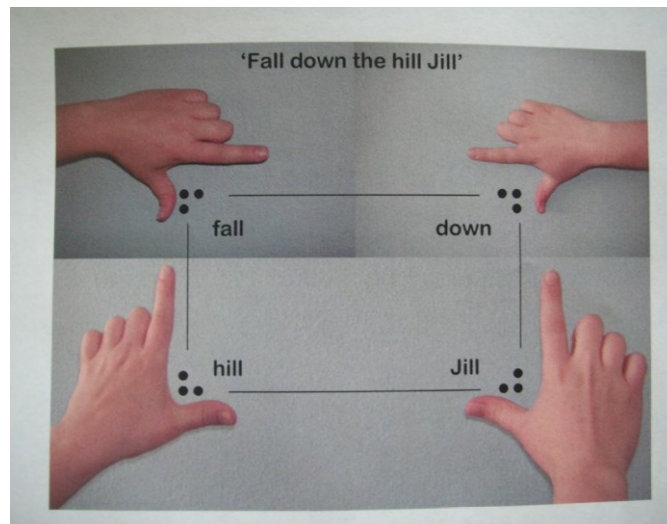
We have heard some great ideas and news from VTs as they visit and keep in touch, so for our PD day this term (on May 19), we would really like to have a VT sharing session to relate these great ideas to each other. We are approaching a few people, but if you would like to present for just 10 minutes on an innovation of yours, please let us know.

BRAILLE MNEMONIC

Do your students have trouble remembering the reversals of b, d, f & j? The humble square and the phrase ‘Fall down the hill Jill’ may be of help. If your student has spatial problems, they can put their L shaped fingers around the corners of the brailier, or the book they are reading at the time.

Tricia d’Apice

Senior Consultant (Vision Impairment) Royal
Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
Source: SPEV E News Vol.5 Issue 1
March 2010



The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register



Adapted from: SPEV E News Vol.5 Issue 1 March 2010

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register, sponsored by RIDBC had 170 Australian children registered in March 2010. So far, analysis of the data indicates that the most common cause of severe vision impairment in the children registered is cortical vision impairment, mainly due to prematurity. This Australian finding is similar to other countries such as the UK, the US and Europe, where cortical vision impairment is the most common cause as well.

Understanding The Basics Of Braille

This workshop covers the basics of how to read and write grade one braille. Common uses of braille for independent living will also be described and demonstrated.

Date: Monday 31st May 2010

Time: 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Location: Vision Australia Training Room, 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong

Trainer: Jordie Howell, Vision Australia Adult Braille Instructor

Cost: \$200.00

Closing date for registration: 21 May 2010

Who should attend?

Any sighted person who wishes to learn about the basics of braille.

Learning outcomes:

After completing the module, participants should be able to:

- identify braille letters of the alphabet
- describe common daily uses for braille by people who are blind or vision impaired
- identify whether or not a page of braille is upside down.

For specific course queries contact Jordie Howell on 8378 1224 or email

jordie.howell@visionaustralia.org

For registration or related queries contact Trudy Williams on 8378 1222 or email

trudy.williams@visionaustralia.org

SPEVI Conference Invitation

From Tricia d'Apice - SPEVI triciadapice@gmail.com

We invite you to Sydney to attend the 2011 Biennial Conference of the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment, to be held from 16-21 January 2011 with the theme of "Unlocking Student's Potential: What's working for you?"

The program will be important for educators, vision professionals including the allied professions; e.g. OT, PT, SP, ophthalmologists, orthoptists, opticians, paediatricians, GP's, teacher aides, agencies, parents and community groups. The program will feature an impressive array of high quality guest speakers from our South Pacific Region Conference

For more information please visit the SPEVI Homepage

<http://www.e-bility.com/spevi/conf2011.php>

Installing JAWS

Lea Nagel has been frustrated by an annoying error message when trying to install JAWS to the computers here. She emailed Freedom Scientific and here was their helpful reply:

When downloading JAWS from the internet, the program should be saved to your desktop. We do not recommend running JAWS from current location to install it as some components may not be installed correctly.

Go to: <ftp://ftp.freedomscientific.com/users/hj/private/WebFiles/JAWS/J11.0.1430-64bit.exe>

Press enter on the appropriate download link to start the download. Save the download to your computer. Do not run it from current location.

After the file is saved to your computer, press enter on the file name to begin the installation of JAWS. Follow the spoken prompts. After JAWS is installed, reboot your computer.

What's the "Expanded Core Curriculum"?

Source: Insight E-News, April 2010 Perkins School for the Blind.

Every student is expected to leave high school with a strong grasp of “core” subjects like math, language arts, science, and history. But in order to master these subjects, and to eventually live and work independently, students who are blind or visually impaired must learn an additional set of skills known as the “expanded core curriculum.” Essential life skills including social interaction, independent living, career education, and communication modes such as braille, must be taught alongside basic academics.

For a student who is blind, learning about world geography from books is not enough. That student must also learn orientation and mobility skills and practice using a white cane for safe, independent travel. The expanded core curriculum empowers students with disabilities to access their education and make their own choices throughout life.

The Nine Components of the Expanded Core Curriculum

- **Compensatory and functional academic skills, including communication modes**
Compensatory skills involve the adaptations necessary for accessing the core curriculum, which can include: braille, tactile symbols, sign language, and recorded materials.
- **Orientation and Mobility**
Skills to orient children who are visually impaired to their surroundings and travel skills to enable them to move independently and safely in the environment.
- **Social Interaction Skills**
Since nearly all social skills are learned by observation of the environment and people, this is an area where students with vision loss need careful, conscious and explicit instruction.
- **Independent Living Skills**
This area includes the tasks and functions people perform in daily life to optimize their independence - skills such as personal hygiene, food preparation, money management, and household chores.
- **Recreation & Leisure Skills**
Skills to ensure students' enjoyment of physical and leisure-time activities, including making choices about how to spend leisure time.
- **Career Education**
Students with vision loss benefit most from an experiential learning approach. Structured visits to community sites and discussions with people who perform various jobs, enable them to understand concepts and specific skills that are needed to be successful in those jobs. Considering the national rate of unemployment or underemployment of working-age adults who are blind is 70% -75%, this area needs attention throughout the school years to help students with vision loss develop marketable job skills. (Ed. Note: Statistics are for U.S.A.)
- **Access Technology**
Access technology is a powerful tool that can enable students with vision loss to overcome some traditional barriers to independence and employment.
- **Sensory Efficiency Skills**
Skills that help students use the senses – including any functional vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste – to access skills related to literacy and concept development.
- **Self-Determination**
Skills to enable students to become effective advocates for themselves based on their own needs and goals.

To read the article, visit: <http://www.perkins.org/news-events/eNewsletters/insight/inside-story/expanded-core-curriculum.html>

Vision Loss Support Group Meeting

This Support Group provides opportunities for parents and siblings of children with vision impairments, to come together, share experiences and information and develop friendships. The group generally meets once per school term on a Saturday afternoon to hear from a guest speaker and then to socialise over afternoon tea.

What: Vision Loss Support Group Meeting

Topic: Recreational options for children with vision impairments

When: Saturday, June 19, 2010, 2pm until ...

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre, 370-380 Springvale Road, Donvale

Guest speakers: Hazel Hockley, Blind Sports Victoria & Diana Hayward, Recreational Development Worker, Vision Australia

For further information or to RSVP, contact: John or Judy Bowen on 03 9842 5103, Leigh Heaven on 9890 8130 or Annette Godfrey-Magee 9841 0807
A flyer is attached at the end of this edition of The Bulletin.

Low Vision Expo at Seaford

Vision Australia, Seaford Office, is hosting a Low Vision Expo on May 26th

- Displays by Vision Australia service providers
- Magnifiers
- Lights
- Daily living equipment
- Talking book library
- Children's services
- Vision impairment technology companies
- Related providers

Talks throughout the day:

11.00 am Bionic Eye Project (Dr Chi Luu)

11.30 am Macular Degeneration

12.00 noon iPhone with vision impairment demonstration

12.30 pm Magnifier demonstrations

1.00 pm ADL Equipment demonstration

1.30 pm Assistive technology demonstration

What: Low Vision Expo

Where: Seaford Community Centre, corner of Station and Broughton Streets, Seaford

When: 10am to 2pm

Contact: Andrea at the Seaford Vision Australia office. Phone 8770 6800.

Adult Blind Volunteers Required for Psychology Research

Blind volunteers are sought to participate in a Masters research project investigating cognitive ability in Asperger syndrome. Eligible participants must be male, 18-30 years of age, congenitally blind, or blind from the first three months of life. Participation involves 3.5 and 4 hour sessions, completing activities that involve basic musical, mathematical and problem-solving skills, and three questionnaires. Transport to the University will be reimbursed. HREC no. 0830945.2.

Enquiries: Loretta Greco Mobile: 0421041390 or email l.greco@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au

Source: Loretta Greco, Psychological Sciences, Melbourne University

Going Backpacking (or does it just seem like it)?

Here is a recommendation from Gayle Skinner, Visiting Teacher:

For students who are carrying a load of equipment around – or anyone going on backpacking holidays, White Mountain Precision Backpacks in Preston make backpacks for the army etc. Their backpacks come in assorted sizes and have a metal frame that is moulded to fit each person's frame/back. This means that carrying weight is easier as it is properly balanced etc.

Where: 619 Plenty Rd (opposite Cars on Plenty car sales yard)

Opening hours: Saturdays and Wednesdays or by appointment on 1800 620 073.

They can also be found on the internet. My daughter spent three months backpacking with one of their packs and found it to be comfortable.

Looking Good without Looking

Source: Braille Monitor January 2010

This article is unapologetically aimed at women, though men can certainly gain valuable information by reading it. Linda Zani is a member of the National Federation for the Blind of New Jersey. She serves on the board of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children of New Jersey. She has designed and made her own clothes and a line of jewellery called Sparkle Brilliant. Linda's daughter Marisa is multiply disabled and lives with her parents. Last year Linda conducted a fashion workshop at the New Jersey convention. It was very popular, so she decided to put some of her useful tips down on paper.

You can find Linda's fashion tips at the Braille Monitor website:

<http://www.nfb.org/images/nfb/Publications/bm/bm10/bm1001/bm100111.htm>

2010 Australian Braille Authority Meeting and UEB Workshop.

The ABA Annual Meeting (Saturday 5th June) is a unique opportunity for direct communication and collaboration between members from all sectors of the braille community in Australia. The special highlight of the 2010 meeting will be the launch of the UEB Rulebook. Other Agenda items will include:

- Reports from the National Executive and State and Territory subcommittees
- Discussion of the results of the Strategic Review of the ABA conducted in 2009 and future directions
- International braille news, including work on the Unified English Braille code and its adoption in other countries, and braille in the South Pacific
- Election of the incoming Executive

Workshop: Guided Tour of the Unified English Braille Rulebook

The ABA workshop (Sunday 6th June) will follow on from the launch of the UEB Rulebook, a valuable resource providing a full set of rules for UEB as well as extensive examples to illustrate their use. Rulebook editor Christine Simpson and other experts will guide participants through key sections of the Rulebook.

What: ABA Annual Meeting and UEB Workshop

Dates: Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June 2010

Venue: Harbour View Hotel, Sydney

Enquiries and Registrations to: Tammy Axelsen, Administrative Officer

Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc

PO Box 229, Lindisfarne, Tasmania 7015 Australia

Ph. Mobile 0417 101 418

Fax +61 3 6265 1519

Email roundtableadm@bigpond.com

New Tactile Books at the SVRC

Taryn has just added some new tactile books to the collection housed at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre. If you are looking for new resources for early braille readers do pay Taryn a visit.

Visual Basic and JAWs

Here is a technology tip from Kim Foley, Visiting Teacher: If you need to know the shortcut commands for Visual Basic go to the Help desk in JAWs and select Visual Basic. The key commands for this program will then be available.

Braille Literacy Podcast

The now famous, or is that infamous, Bruce Maguire has been interviewed by a Sydney radio station he writes: "I was recently interviewed about braille literacy by Sydney radio station 2SER-FM. The interview is now available online as an audio podcast:

http://finaldraft.podomatic.com/player/web/2010-04-12T02_00_34-07_00

My segment is about halfway through the 30-minute programme.

Source: Bruce Maguire Ozbrl List 15 April 2010

Weekend at Mt Baw Baw

What: You are invited to attend a summer weekend at Mt Baw Baw

When: On Friday May 28th to Sunday May 30th. Come anytime for a visit or stay the whole weekend

Where: Mt Baw Baw Ski Club Lodge (The last lodge before the ski ticket box)

Cost: \$25 adult, \$20 students, \$15 under 16yrs per night

B.Y.O food and bedding

Payment can be sent to the RVIB via cheque or bank transfer.

Please RSVP to Anita Deed or Sophie Kerr by 7th May 2010, including payment receipt number.

Email: anitadeed@bigpond.com/sophissimo@bigpond.com

Phone Anita on 9704 1954

Tennis Victoria Mini Circuit

Tennis Victoria is conducting a competition for people with physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities.

Blind Category:

- Men's Singles Draw
- Women's Singles Draw

Match format:

Men's and Women's Singles

One (1) set, first to six games, no tiebreak.

Round-robin format. All events will be played using a full size tennis court. A two bounce rule will be used for the Wheelchair and Blind events. A sudden death deuce rule will be included in all matches.

DATE: Sunday 6 June 2010

TIME: Deaf and Blind events 1:00pm

MEETING POINT: Outside Tennis World / Player Cafe

VENUE: Melbourne Park Batman Ave, Melbourne

PHONE: Tennis Australia: +613 9914 4130

EMAIL: accessallareas@tennis.com.au

WEBSITE: www.tennis.com.au/vic

ENTRY CLOSE: Monday 24 May 2010 (Entries will only be accepted with full payment).

Send entries to Juhi Gupta at Tennis Australia Post: Private Bag 6060, Richmond, VIC. 3121

Mentoring Resource

From Max Bini – Vision Australia

Kate Ashley has put together a mentoring resource for people with a vision impairment studying or considering working in massage. There are a number of useful and informative case studies detailing the personal experiences and history of a number of massage therapists (pp.17-36) and some hints and tips (pp.37-41) and proforma documents for those wishing to start their own business in massage.

All Kate asks is that those who find the resource useful make an honour donation of at least \$5 to either Vision Australia, Guide Dogs or BCA [Editor's note: or perhaps another vision-related service provider].

To save people the cost of postage and handling, I have (with Kate's permission) posted this resource on the student forum I created <http://vipstudents.wordpress.com/> (it can be found at the bottom of the page under "Information on this site").

Staff and Student News

Dianne is away on a well earned break in Hawaii – lucky thing. We look forward to hearing all about her adventures on her return.

Maria has recently informed us that the braille department has embossed thousands of braille pages on the SVRC embossers. From Maria “We have run 200,000 braille sheets through one embosser in 3 years, and 101,700 on the second embosser in 2 years. Approximately 1/3 of those pages being double-sided”. If you are interested in how to get the volume of braille production up in your schools then come along to our Duxbury workshop which Maria will be running on Tuesday 11 May from 2.00 – 3.00 PM at the SVRC. Duxbury is the braille translation software program used by the SVRC to convert print into braille, so come along and find out how it’s done!

Finally

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin especially Maria Elford, Deb Lewis, Kim Foley, Annette Godfrey-Magee, Marion Blazé and Leanne Nagel.

If you have something you would like included in "The Bulletin" please forward it in a word document to Lyn Robinson lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au

To Read the Bulletin Online: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/bulletins2010.html>

Vision Loss Support Group Meeting

June 19, 2010

This Support Group provides opportunities for parents and siblings of children with vision impairments, to come together, share experiences and information and develop friendships. The group generally meets once per school term on a Saturday afternoon to hear from a guest speaker and then to socialise over afternoon tea.

Child minding is provided so that families can bring little ones.

Term 2 Meeting: Saturday, June 19, 2010

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre
370-380 Springvale Road, Donvale

Time: 2pm until ...

Guest speakers: Hazel Hockley, Blind Sports Victoria
& Diana Hayward, Recreational Development Worker,
Vision Australia

**Topic: Recreational options for children
with vision impairments**

**** Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea ****

***** Please RSVP so that we can cater for numbers and especially if you
require child minding facilities *****

For further information or to RSVP, contact:
John or Judy Bowen on 03 9842 5103
Leigh Heaven on 9890 8130
or Annette Godfrey-Magee 9841 0807