

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 15
Monday 4th October 2010

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

Professional Development Activities for Term 4, 2010

Professional Development Event 2010	Date
Dot Power – for early braille readers	Tues 23 Nov
Educational Expo – Access Technology Options This day is suitable for teachers, aides, parents/care-givers, visiting teachers, STUDENTS and members of the wider community	Fri 26 Nov
SVRC Christmas Morning Tea – all welcome! Please RSVP	Wed 1 Dec

The yearly program is available at: <http://www.visiontech.svrc.vic.edu.au/PDannual.htm>

2010 SPEVI Day - Report

Report by Marion Blazé

What a great start to Term 4! 56 educators of the vision impaired attended the PD day on 'Futures for young people with VI'. It was a jam-packed program but all ran smoothly and judging by the feedback forms, was very well received. A special thank you to Garry Stinchcombe and Dean Johnson as organisers of the event, Dianne Skillern for administration support, Michael Kelly for IT support and producing the CD copies of handouts and also to Barbra Forehan who did such a fabulous job preparing and facilitating the wonderful panel.

The feedback forms indicate unanimously that we should have a SPEVI day next year. People were happy with the timing of the day (first day of Term 4), and the vast majority would again like a themed day. Several themes were suggested including: Support for VI with additional impairments; Literacy development - for both VI and blind children; Study skills; Supporting VI of diverse backgrounds - ESL, cultural

One idea which has sprung from the day is that we need an avenue to pool our resources and ideas about 'futures and careers' for our kids. Our Bulletin is a great disseminator of information so I would like to propose a regular 'column' on 'future options'. I'll get the ball rolling by sharing some of the information we gleaned on our SPEVI day and on the feedback forms and if anyone else has information to share, send it my way to be included in every fortnightly bulletin. Information can include organisations which seem happy to take VI kids for work experience or part-time employment, reference books, support agencies, or just helpful ideas.

Inside This Issue

1	PD Term 4, 2010, SPEVI PD Day – Report
2	Strategies for supporting the educational development of children with disabilities & unique behaviours, Autism Resources from Book in Hand
3	BrailleNote BT mPower 32 For Sale, Don't Forget Our Writing Competition, Geoff's Presentation Now Available Online
4	Blind Sports Victoria: Activities. Junior Blind Cricket Coaching Clinics
5	Junior Swish Program, YouTube Demo: iPod Touch with braille display, Variety Bikes for Kids, Car Camp
6	Improved Eye Tests for People with Learning Disabilities, Sense: for People who are Deafblind, Riddle of the Day, Staff and Student News

Strategies for supporting the educational development of children with disabilities & unique behaviours

Workshop 1: For Educators

14th October 2010

This workshop is for educators and will focus on: Understanding where the behaviours come from; Tools for coping with unique behaviours; Developing self-regulation skills in children; Building social skills and opportunities; Building and fostering relations with parents; Appreciating the gifts in spite of the behaviour

Course code: RC10C102M

Fee: \$150

Duration: 8.30 AM to 4 PM

Register online for Workshop 1 http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/courses/cpe_register.asp?ID=4

Workshop 2: For Therapists

15th October 2010

This workshop is for therapists and will focus on: Understanding where the behaviours come from; Understanding how the behaviour impacts the need for therapy; Using self-regulation as a tool in therapy; Gaining cooperation for the therapy session; Building and fostering relations with parents and teachers; Maintaining a focus on the child's development.

Course code: RC10C103M

Fee: \$150

Duration: 8.30 AM to 4 PM

Register on-line for Workshop 2 http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/courses/cpe_register.asp?ID=5

Workshop 3: For Parents

16th October 2010

This workshop is for parents and will focus on:

Understanding where the behaviours come from; Discipline without tears – coping with overwhelming behaviour; Supporting social development through Circle of Friends; Tools for handling the professionals who work with your child; Supporting your child without losing yourself; Appreciating your child's gifts and showing others how to also.

Course code: RC10C104M

Fee: No Fee

Duration: 8.30 AM to 4 PM

Register on-line for Workshop 3 http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/courses/cpe_register.asp?ID=6

Venue: RIDBC Renwick Centre, 361-365 North Rocks Road, North Rocks NSW

Further Information: cpe@ridbc.org.au

Accommodation: Available on-site in King House – enquiries by email to king.house@ridbc.org.au

Autism Resources from Book in Hand

In The Deep End - Survival Strategies for Beginning Teachers of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders by Gail Ilott \$39.60

An Australian book full of fantastic teacher-friendly strategies to ensure your classroom meets your needs. Also designed for teachers, aides and parents who want to expand and share their own experiences of helping children with ASDs.

For more books about Autism Spectrum Disorder go to: <http://www.bookinhand.com.au>

BrailleNote mPower BT 32 For Sale

From Daniel Dalton

I'm selling my BrailleNote BT mPower 32, which is in excellent condition. Recently serviced by Humanware, the unit works exceptionally well. The unit is 3 years old, and has primarily been used just for basic word processing, emails and Internet use.

This unit has a 32 cell Braille display, and a Braille keyboard. My reason for selling is that I'm purchasing a Brailiant to use with my laptop, and can't afford to have both.

The sale includes:

- BrailleNote mPower BT (32 sell Braille display)
- AC adapter
- Original box
- User guides and manual both in print and Braille.
- USB cable
- Telephone cable for the internal 56K modem
- Serial cable
- Tutorial CD
- A CD containing the Windows software for the BrailleNote
- The unit is running Keysoft version 7.5
- Keysoft dictionary and thesaurus software on a compact flash (CF) card.
- Original packaging for the dictionary software.
- A service report from Humanware documenting the most recent service on the 25th of August 2010 whereby a 3 month warranty applies on all parts replaced and serviced.

Please email me at daniel.dalton10@gmail.com or give me a call on 0435 400 196, if you are interested or have any queries. I'm looking for \$5,500 or nearest offer.

Don't Forget our Writing Competition

The topic for this year's competition is "What If?" So go ahead and write about anything you desire. Just send in your story with the following information:

- Full Name
- School:
- Year Level:
- Visiting Teacher:

What format you used to produce your story and how you produced it? E.g. my story is written in contracted braille and I used a BrailleNote to produce it.

There will be prizes for different year levels and the judges are looking for the following:

1. Original theme
2. Creativity
3. Grammar and spelling
4. Presentation. Edited work is encouraged!

Entries may be submitted to the SVRC until Friday 29th October so that gives you over three months to come up with the most fantastic story ever! If you have any questions please contact Leanne Nagel 03 9841 0242 or email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au

Geoff's Presentation Now Available Online

Geoff's SPEVI day presentation about "Managing Families' Questions about the Future for their Child" is now available at: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PDpapers.html>

Blind Sports Victoria: Activities

Vision Impaired Tennis Demonstration

As part of the lead in to International Disability Day which is celebrated on 3 December 2010, Blind Sports Victoria is proud to host a Vision Impaired Tennis demonstration.

This unique event will showcase blind and sight impaired participants playing tennis. It is an interactive event, giving community members the opportunity to participate by wearing goggles which will simulate vision loss.

The event promotes healthy and physically active lifestyles through inclusive and accessible sport and recreation opportunities.

Date: Monday, 29 November, 2010 Time: 9.30am – 12.00pm

Venue: At the tennis courts at Carlton Baths Community Centre, 248 Rathdowne Street, Carlton

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Blind Sports Victoria office on 03 9822 8876

Email: blindsports@netspace.net.au

Web: www.blindsports.org.au

Gippsland RecSpo

A range of recreational activities for people who are blind or have low vision.

Date: Tuesday, 16 November 2010

Time: 10am – 2.00 pm

Venue: Latrobe Leisure Centre Moe, Newborough, Old Sale Road, Newborough

Activities include Swish, line dancing, tai chi, tandem bikes, golf, indoor bowls and aqua aerobics plus many others. For further details and transport information contact Vision Australia – Warragul on (03) 5623 0100.

Docklands Yacht Club

On Sunday, 5 December from 11.00 am – 4.00 pm Docklands Yacht Club, a fully inclusive sailing club are running a 'try sailing' day as part of International Disability Day. This is a free activity for people with a disability, their family and friends.

All enquires and bookings can be made to the Secretary on 0428 514 058.

Vision Impaired Swim Victoria

Vision Impaired Swim Victoria is a "Learn to Swim" program for children from 18 months old to 18 years old. The program aims to provide a supportive and inclusive setting with coaches who have experience in teaching vision impaired children water safety and to learn how to swim. The program has been supported by Blind Sports Victoria, the City of Melbourne and the Safeway Fresh Foods Kids grant. The program runs in two block; January to end of April, and October to end of December.

If you are interested in your child participating in this program, please contact Debbie Deshayes on 0412 858 535 or email dmdeshayes@iprimus.com.au

Source: Blind Sports Victoria Newsletter, September 2010

Junior Blind Cricket Coaching Clinics

Junior Blind Cricket Coaching Clinics are about to commence on Saturday 9th October. The clinics are run by members of the Blind Cricket Association who have a level one cricket coaching course accreditation from Cricket Victoria. There is a flier at the end of this Bulletin.

Junior Swish Program

Swish is a fast paced sport similar to both table tennis and air hockey which can be enjoyed by both blind and sighted players without any real advantage. Swish Victoria run a program for junior players aged 6 to 21 at Vision Australia in Kooyong. Currently they are seeking new blind and sighted participants to join in the fun on Saturdays between 12 and 4pm.

Junior player Kim Black says “When I first started playing I could barely hit the ball from one end of the table to the other; just a couple of months ago my senior partner and I came second in the Victorian Swish Tournament!”

Coach Kristy Hyland believes “The beauty of Swish is that you don’t have to be brilliant at sport.’ ‘Culturally the group is very patient with new players but there is also the opportunity to play in both local and interstate competitions for those that want that bit more.”

For more details on how to get involved in the junior swish program please contact Michael Fogarty on 0409 182 035 or email dhemfogarty@bigpond.com. It is important that new participants contact Michael prior to turning up to confirm program details.

YouTube demo: iPod Touch with braille display

More and more students who are blind and vision impaired are finding their own technology solutions and sharing their knowledge with each other and the wider community. This has been made possible by the internet (sites such as Blind Cool Tech and YouTube) and some good mainstream products which have incorporated accessibility into their designs from the outset. This YouTube video shows a student, Chase, demonstrating the iPod Touch/iPhone with the APH Refreshabraille Display. Enjoy!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJWMRIEID1E>

Thanks to Heidi Littleford for passing on this link.

Please let us know if you or your students have discovered any great new apps lately!

Variety Bikes 4 Kids

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre was offered 10 bikes and helmets for students – just in time for Christmas – and were successful in securing one each for:

- Di's student William (Melbourne Docklands on Wednesday 15th December)
- Gabby's student Jayden (Whitten Oval, Footscray on Wednesday 24th November)
- Joy's students Heath, Matthew and Sammy (Craigburn Sporting Club on Wednesday 17th November)
- Marg's students Matthew and Luke (Craigburn Sporting Club on Wednesday 17th November)
- Odette's students Monalisa and Ruben (Whitten Oval, Footscray on Wednesday 24th November)
- Rita's student Cecelia (Casey Criterium Circuit on Wednesday 8th December)

Each VT should have received information via email – please contact Deb Lewis if you require further information.

And we thank the Variety Club for their wonderful work!

Car Camp

From Helen Caldwell

The driving camp will be going ahead on the 2nd & 3rd of December in Charlton in central Victoria. It is open to VI students in government schools who are over the age of 14. VTs from CEO & independent schools are free to organise their own camp and I am happy to assist them. The camp is limited to 9 students & there may be a waiting list. Please contact Helen Caldwell (0409 381 723) for information. DO NOT CONTACT SVRC. The timeline is short. Paperwork is being finalised and the cost will be around \$160.

Improved eye tests for people with learning disabilities

A DVD, Bridge to Vision, produced to help optometrists identify sight problems using alternative methods has been released by the RNIB, following research stating that one in three people with a learning disability may also be visually impaired.

For more information, contact Eleanor.ogilvie@rnib.org.uk

Source: Talking Sense Summer 2010

Sense: for People who are DeafBlind

Sense is the leading national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind in the UK. They provide expert advice and information as well as specialist services to deafblind people, their families, carers and the professionals who work with them. They also support people who have sensory impairments with additional disabilities.

Source: <http://www.sense.org.uk/>

Riddle for the Day

What am I?

Pronounced as one letter,
And written with three,
Two letters there are,
And two only in me.
I'm double, I'm single,
I'm black, blue, and grey,
I'm read from both ends,
And the same either way.

What am I?

Answer: at the end of this Bulletin

Staff and Student News

- Helen's student Tyrone has been a regular visitor to the building site at his school. He has been using the experience to practise using his monocular. He has watched the building from the time the slab was poured to now when the plaster is being hung. The staff has been very mindful of safety on the site and has given Tyrone a fluorescent vest & his own hard hat complete with his name.
- Gayle Skinner has passed achieved her Braille Certificate by completing the Braille Course offered by the SVRC. Congratulations Gayle!

Finally

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Marion Blazé, Deb Lewis, Heidi Littleford and Lea Nagel.

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

Have a great Term 4 everybody!

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

Riddle Answer: eye



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2010 JUNIOR COACHING CLINIC COMMENCES **Saturday October 9th**

The Victorian Blind Cricket Association will commence its 2010 Junior Coaching clinics on Saturday 9th October

The Junior Coaching Clinic is run on Saturday between 10:30am and 12:00pm throughout the cricket season. The clinic is run by members of the Association who have a level one cricket coaching course accreditation from Cricket Victoria.

The junior coaching clinic will allow aspiring younger players to develop their skills, meet new friends and have fun as they train towards the goal of joining one of the Association's club teams.

Enjoy some fresh air and exercise while learning the skills of the game. Improve your hand eye / hand ear coordination with fun activities.

Come along and bring your friends. Meet new friends. Enjoy participating in a team environment.

Blind Cricket also provides an important opportunity for the junior participants and their parents to develop substantial social and peer support networks.

Blind Cricket, a life changing experience!