

# The Bulletin

## Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 17

Monday 1st November 2010

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

### Professional Development Activities for Term 4, 2010

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

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

### “What If?” SVRC Writing Competition Deadline Extended

Guess what? We have decided to extend the writing competition deadline for another two weeks. So all the students out there who have been meaning to enter that great story, now have another two weeks to enter the competition. Remember we have lots of great prizes so don't miss out! Apart from a really great story we also need to know:

**Full Name**

**School:**

**Year Level:**

**Visiting Teacher:**

What format you used to produce your story and how you produced it?

There will be prizes for different year levels.

Entries may be submitted to the SVRC until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. If you have any questions please contact Leanne Nagel 03 9841 0242 or email [svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au)

### Report on Blind Cricket Come and Try Day

From Garry Stinchcombe

At the end of last term, 11 students came along to the Come and Try Day for Blind Cricket which was held at Kooyong. It was very well run with all aspects of the game being covered. Thanks to the Victorian Blind Cricket Association (VBCA) for organizing the day. A special thanks to Rod Pritchard, Peter Robinson and Lindsay Heaven who not only attended to the cricket coaching but also did a great job with the catering.

### Stop Press!

Exciting news has just come to hand; one of the SVRC has just accepted a proposal of marriage! Can you guess who? Read on to find out more!

### Inside This Issue

1	PD Term 4, “What If?” SVRC Writing Competition Deadline Extended, Report on Blind Cricket Come and Try Day, Stop Press!
2	News from Children’s Mobility Service
3	iPad Ideas
4	October JVIB – Special Edition
5	Scoring the Equaliser – Mini Conference, Access Technology Expo, Support Skills News
6	VCE 2011 Special Provision 2011, Staff News

## **News from Children's Mobility Service (CMS)**

### ***Australasian Orientation & Mobility Conference 24 to 26 November 2010***

The CMS team will be travelling to Sydney for a week in November to attend the 4th Australasian Orientation & Mobility Conference as well as two days of professional development with the O&M instructors from NSW & ACT. The CMS team will be presenting two papers at the conference: 'Southern Cross to Central' – the ultimate in student led group O&M programs 'Into the future!' - Utilising media and technology to implement client programs for children

### ***Get Real – December 6 to 8, 2010***

The CMS team is planning to run a University program for senior secondary school students. The program will be aimed at providing students with a wide variety of information about transitioning to a tertiary educational setting. A major focus of the program will be on the O&M skills required to move around a university campus confidently. Other topics include sessions facilitated by university student services staff, Disability Liaison officers and Centrelink representatives. For further information about this program contact Rachel Morgan.

### ***GDV goes CBD – 10 to 14, January 2010***

This program is designed for students who are looking to expand and develop their current mobility and independent living skills, and who are beginning to develop an interest in travelling within the city of Melbourne the CBD.

The aim of this week is to provide opportunities for the students to plan their travel into and around Melbourne's CBD. This will include developing their independent travel skills (self advocacy, problem solving, map reading, personal safety, understanding and use of the public transport system, using major landmarks to aid travel) as well as developing their orientation skills and knowledge (familiarisation with the city layout to encourage safe and independent future travel in the city). Along with these aims the students will have the opportunity to review and further develop their mobility aid use (long cane skills and techniques, monocular techniques etc) and their independent living skills (food preparation, kitchen safety, personal management, money handling). For further information about this program contact Rachel Morgan.

### ***Centre for Vision Independence***

The Orthoptists, Natasha and Jane, at the CVI are available to meet with visiting teachers, students and parents to discuss low vision issues and demonstrate low vision aids. Low vision aids such as magnifiers and monoculars are available for purchase at cost price. The Centre for Vision Independence at 100 Victoria Parade (next to the old fire station) is open every day between 11.00 am and 5.00 pm and no appointment is necessary. If you would like to visit before 11.00 am just give Natasha or Jane a call to make the arrangements. The phone number is 9639 3345.

### ***Group programs***

The CMS team continues to provide a range of tailored O&M group programs for children throughout Victoria. Each of the programs has a specific O&M focus.

Programs include:

- Mobile Musketeers for primary school children in the northern metro area
- Spykids for children in central Victoria, in and around Bendigo Ballarat program
- Kelly Gang for children in North East Victoria
- My Mobility for children in the Geelong area

For further information about any aspect of the Children's Mobility Service or to provide feedback or ideas please contact any member of the team -

- Dean Johnson (Manager) 9854 4506
- Rachel Morgan 9854 4469
- Laura Hunt 9854 4547
- Linden Woodruff 9854 4489
- Alicia San Martin 9854 4493
- Simon McDonald – Kerr 9854 4520

## iPad Ideas

This article is from Ballarat Visiting Teacher, Wendy Morley.

I have explored use of iPad with a couple of the students that I visit.

We experimented with as many ways as we could to make information audible. The aim was to reinforce the idea that this was a great way to obtain information quickly and practice paying attention to what was being heard.

In a few sessions we:

- listened to JAWS read text
- listened to a daisy book on daisy player
- listened on laptop computer using media player
- listened on a Victor Reader Stream to find and play some music and to find an audio book
- used iPad and VoiceOver, to navigate and then listen to an iBook

The iPad option was by far the coolest and most exciting although the audio book on laptop was also voted by students as very effective.

In using the iPad the navigation using VoiceOver does give good instruction on what to do and where you are. The iPad is quite usable for a student that has low vision when using Voice Over. If a student can identify a target/icon then VoiceOver names or describes the item that you select with one touch. To interact with the items on the screen a double tap is required. To scroll a three finger touch and flick is required. For those who are familiar with the iPhone the touch is altered when you change the accessibility options to use VoiceOver. These movements are quite different to those who are iPhone users but with “speak hints” and “voice over” turned on there are audio instructions and the voice was agreed by all to be good. While reading larger sections of text there was an apparent frustration as the selection of areas of text to be read was more problematic. I am researching to find if this was learner user error or not. In iBooks you only seem to be able to read line by line! I have mastered the range of additional gestures now to read sections of text although the two finger up and down flick was not so easy or successful for the students.

Another way of using the accessibility features of the iPad is the Zoom function. It is important to note that this is an either/or situation. You have to choose between Zoom or Voice Over, they cannot be used at the same time.

In the zoom function again the touch settings are changed on the iPad. The use of 3 fingers to touch turns on and off functions. Coupled with other screen alterations in settings such as white on black and choice of font style and size in iBooks, an iBook could be read by my students who were very motivated to succeed on the occasion.

Given wireless connectivity in a school environment there could be a great increase to the functions that may be possible to a practiced user of the iPad.

There are some other technology options that do what it does in a better way though. It has in its favour lightness and portability and a big portion of wow factor that cannot be dismissed for students with low vision and a big equipment budget!!

## October JVIB – Special Edition

The October 2010 JVIB Special Issue on Vision and the Brain is available online at:

<http://www.jvib.org>

Edited by Amanda Hall Lueck, Ph.D., San Francisco State University, and Gregory L. Goodrich, Ph.D., Department of Veterans Affairs, the Special Issue on Vision and the Brain addresses a topic that has been moving to the forefront of medical, educational, and rehabilitation services for children and adults with vision impairment over the past 10 years. This special issue of JVIB strives to offer every reader the information they need on brain injury-related vision loss, with opening commentaries on terminology, children with CVI (cortical or cerebral visual impairment), vision rehabilitation services, and vision rehabilitation practitioners; articles on topics including parents of children with CVI, functional vision assessment, and functional outcomes; and a Roundtable section on the ways personnel preparation programs have changed to include instruction in CVI.

The issue also features more opportunities for subscribers who are certificants of the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP) to earn ACVREP-approved continuing education units (CEUs) by reading JVIB articles! This month's CEU opportunities include a personnel preparation article on neurological vision rehabilitation and how to conduct a functional vision assessment with children who have CVI.

For more information on CEUs, go to: <http://www.jvib.org/CEUs>

This month's articles and features include:

- Neurological Vision Rehabilitation: Description and Case Study --John Kingston, Jennifer Katsaros, Yurika Vu, and Gregory L. Goodrich
- A Survey of Parents of Children with Cortical or Cerebral Visual Impairment --Bernadette Jackel, Michelle Wilson, and Elizabeth Hartmann
- Cerebral Visual Impairment in Children: A Longitudinal Case Study of Functional Outcomes Beyond the Visual Acuities --Fook Chang Lam, Fiona Lovett, and Gordon N. Dutton
- The Reliability of the CVI Range: A Functional Vision Assessment for Children with Cortical Visual Impairment --Sandra Newcomb

### Research Report

Outcomes and Opportunities: A Study of Children with Cortical Visual Impairment

--Christine A. Roman Lantzy and Alan Lantzy

### Roundtable

- Personnel Preparation for Training Professionals to Work with Individuals with CVI at Florida State University --Amy R. McKenzie
- Developing the University Curriculum to Include CVI: A Work in Progress at the University of Arizona --Jane N. Erin
- Brain Injury and Personnel Preparation at Mississippi State University --B. J. LeJeune
- Inclusion of CVI in Texas Tech University's Personnel Preparation Program --Nora Griffin-Shirley and Rona Pogrud
- Personnel Preparation and CVI at Vanderbilt University --Deborah D. Hatton

Plus Guest Editors' Page; Comments, What's in a Name? Appropriate Terminology for CVI--August Colenbrander; Cortical or Cerebral Visual Impairment in Children: A Brief Overview--Amanda Hall Lueck

Website: <http://www.jvib.org>

## Scoring the Equaliser Mini-Conference

Scoring the Equaliser is the first Mini-Conference of the disability sport and recreation sector. Focusing on equity and participation for health, Scoring the Equaliser will:

- examine person-centered approaches, barriers and enablers to participation
- showcase innovation in inclusive and accessible community sport and recreation programs
- present research findings
- discuss ideas for sector collaboration to achieve better health outcomes for people with disability through sport and recreation

Scoring the Equaliser is one of four events that comprise the 2010 Disability Sport & Recreation Festival to be held at Federation Square on International Day of People with Disability on Friday 3rd December. Further details can be viewed at [www.dsrf.org.au](http://www.dsrf.org.au)

**Conference Program:** Available at [http://dsrf.org.au/doc/MiniConference\\_Program.pdf](http://dsrf.org.au/doc/MiniConference_Program.pdf)

**Where:** BMW Edge, Federation Square, Melbourne

**When:** 10.00-12.00pm (doors open at 9.30am)

**Cost:** Free

**Registration:** online at <https://wsv.eventarc.com/1447> Online Registrations close: Friday 19 November

## Access Technology Expo

This day is suitable for teachers, aides, parents/care-givers, visiting teachers, **students** and members of the wider community.

**When:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November

**Venue:** Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

Come along and check out all the new technology. Flier attached at the end of this Bulletin.

## Support Skills News

### ***Support Skills Face Book Page***

The Support Skills Program now has a **Facebook Page**: We are always looking at ways to keep students and their families up-to-date with what is going on. A number of the students have suggested we create our own Support Skills Facebook Page to promote upcoming events and for students to stay in touch between programs. Two students from this Group have agreed to be the moderators for the page so we are hoping that Support Skills students might join up and see if it helps them to be better informed and stay in touch. Daniel and James would welcome any suggestions and comments.

Please remember, this is a public site that anyone can join. Students and families should never post personal details on the wall. Cyber Safety should be practiced at all times.

To join the Facebook page search for “**SVRC Support Skills and Friends**”.

### ***Update re Project: Investigating physical activity for children with disability.***

Earlier this year students from Group D participated in a research project conducted by the School of Physiotherapy at La Trobe University. Dr Nora Shields will be presenting the results of part of the project at the Scoring the Equaliser Conference on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. You are invited to register for the free ‘Scoring the Equaliser’ Mini-Conference. The Mini-Conference is one of several events that comprise the inaugural Disability Sport & Recreation Festival to be held on International Day of People with Disability on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Federation Square. Refer to details in this edition of the Bulletin.

## VCE Special Provision 2011

As you are probably aware applications for special examination arrangements for students sitting units 3 and 4 next year are due in the first week of March 2011. As part of the services offered by the SVRC, Deb and Lyn are available to attend VCE Support Group meetings in schools. Please contact the SVRC if you would like to arrange a visit. A form is attached at the end of this edition of the Bulletin.

## Staff News



**Yes the newly engaged staff member with the beaming smile is ... Taryn. Congratulations to Taryn and Richard!**

## Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Garry Stinchcombe, Wendy Morley and Rachel Morgan.

If you have something you would like included in "The Bulletin" please forward it to Lyn Robinson [lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au)

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

# **Statewide Vision Resource Centre**

## Expo of Access Technology for People with Vision Impairments

**When: Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
10.00am - 2.30pm**

***Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre***

***370 Springvale Road, Donvale***

**in the grounds of Heatherwood School  
(please park in the lower carpark at the Sports Centre next door)**

**Displays and demonstrations of the latest in access technology for  
people who are vision impaired.**

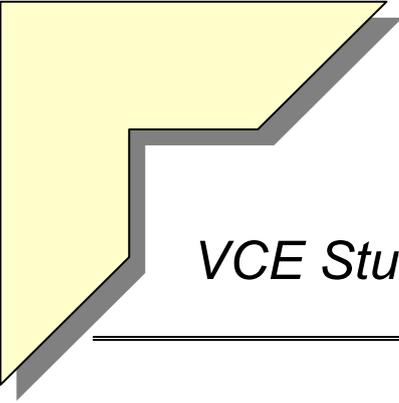
**Come and see computer technology which enlarges or talks,  
electronic magnifier units, calculators, games, talking book  
technology, optical equipment, white-board transmitters to your  
computer, braille technology, sports equipment and more.**

**The day is open to teachers, teacher aides, parents, students, mobility  
instructors, rehabilitation workers or anyone with an interest in access  
technology for people who are vision impaired.**

**Plan to spend the time to try out something new!**

**Cost: Free (and no need to register)**

**For further details: contact Deb Lewis (03) 9841 0242 or email [svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au)**



## VCE Students 2011

---

Dear Visiting Teachers-Vision Impairment,

Could you please fill in the form if you have a student in VCE who will be applying for special provision in **2011**.

Assistance may take the following form:

- examinations in an alternative format
- additional time
- separate room with individual supervision
- technology e.g. computer

Many Thanks

Deb Lewis and Lyn Robinson

---

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Year Level:</b>
<b>School:</b>	
<b>School Address &amp; Phone No.:</b>	
<b>VCE Co-ordinator:</b>	
<b>Visiting Teacher:</b>	
<b>VT Phone No.</b>	
<b>Units 3 or 4</b>	<b>Requirements (if known)</b>

I would like to arrange for a member of staff from the Statewide Vision Resource Centre to attend a VCE Support Group Meeting at the school. Yes / No.

Please ring Deb or Lyn to make a time - from now until applications close in 1<sup>st</sup> week of March 2011.