

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 18

Monday 15th 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
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 now available at: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PLPannual.shtml>

The All New SVRC Website

It is with great excitement that we announce the launching of the new Statewide Vision Resource Centre website. The old favourites are still there along with a fresh new look and the integration of the SVRC Access Technology website. Please visit our new site and tell us what you think, at <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au>.



[Skip to content](#) [High contrast on](#) [Printer friendly](#)

Home
About Us
Contact

- About Vision
- EVAC
- Curriculum
- The Learner with Low Vision
- The Tactual Learner
- Access Technology
- Educational Programs
- The Bulletin
- Professional Learning
- For Visiting Teachers

[SVRC](#) » SVRC: Home

Welcome to the Statewide Vision Resource Centre

... and welcome to the all-new SVRC website!

You are one of the very first viewers to our new site so please contact us if you notice something missing ... or a broken link; something that needs a tidy-up; something you'd like to contribute - even positive feedback will be gratefully received.

If you have suggestions for improvements - we'd love to hear from you - and the best suggestion [emailed to us](mailto:svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au) by 7 November 2010 wins a USB flashdrive as a reward for your effort!!!

The Bulletin

[Issue 17](#) of our newsletter, The Bulletin, is now available as a Word document.

Upcoming activities

Inside This Issue

1	The All New SVRC Website
2	November JVIB
3	Blind Sports Victoria News, Junior Swish Social Day, YouTube: Accessibility, For Sale
4-5	Feature Article: With Blind Ambition
6	Tyler: Perfect in My Eyes, Acrobat X
7	BrailleNote: Communicating with Michelle, Job Search Program
8-10	Fliers: Job Search Program and Vision Impaired Tennis Demonstration

November JVIB

The November 2010 edition of JVIB is available online at: <http://www.jvib.org>

This month's articles include:

Health and Fitness

The Effects of a Nutritional Intervention on the Nutritional Knowledge of Children and Adolescents with Visual Impairments

--Lyndsey Celeste-Williams, Lauren J. Lieberman, Priya Banerjee, and Jennifer Boyle

Technology

Haptic Glove Technology: Skill Development Through Video Game Play

--Mary Ellen Bargerhuff, Heidi Cowan, Francisco Oliveira, Francis Quek, and Bing Fang

Practice Reports

The Use of Video Analysis in a Personnel Preparation Program for Teachers of Students Who Are Visually Impaired

--Elaine Gale, Ellen Trief, and James Lengel

Low Vision Rehabilitation Intervention for People with Ring Scotomas

--Kimberly A. Schoessow, Leah M. Gilbert, and Mary Lou Jackson

Research Reports

Medical School Students' Knowledge of and Familiarity with Visual Impairments: A Pilot Study

--Amy R. McKenzie and David L. Henzi

Two Children with Multiple Disabilities Increase Adaptive Object Manipulation and Reduce Inappropriate Behavior via a Technology-assisted Program

--Giulio E. Lancioni, Mark F. O'Reilly, Nirbhay N. Singh, Jeff Sigafoos, Robert Didden, Doretta Oliva, and Francesca Campodonico

Interaction of Dual Sensory Loss, Cognitive Function, and Communication in People Who Are --- Congenitally Deaf-Blind

--Jesper Dammeyer

Around the World

Mancala Games and Their Suitability for Players with Visual Impairments

--Alex de Voogt, Laurie Linders, and Ellen van den Broek

News And Features

Editor's Page - COSB Commentary

Actionable Intelligence

--Eugene McMahon

This Mattered to Me

"Cannibalism is Alive and Well in the Blindness Field," by Susan J. Spungin

--Recommended by Ruby Ryles

Web Special Feature

Cannibalism is Alive and Well in the Blindness Field

Susan Jay Spungin

Source: <http://www.afb.org/afbpres/pubjvib.asp?DocID=jvib0411toc>

Blind Sports Victoria News:

Blind 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

Date: Monday, 29 November 2010

Time: 9.30am (for a 10.00 am start) until 12.00 noon

Venue: Carlton Baths Community Centre, 248 Rathdowne Street, Carlton

Canoeing

Young Blind Citizens Victoria Present: Canoeing

Have fun canoeing with professional instruction and loads of fun games!

When: Saturday 4th December

Time: 9.00 am-5.00 pm

Where: Iluka Lake, Shoreham

Cost: \$40

Contact: Anna - annarbriggs@gmail.com

Trip includes:

- Assistance from a qualified instructor
- Life jackets and canoes
- Transport from Vision Australia Kooyong
- Barbecue lunch and soft drinks

Places are limited so please contact Anna for enquiries or to book. Family and friends of all ages are welcome to participate in this exciting event.

Blind Sports Victoria Social Day

Blind Sports Victoria invites you to take part in a forthcoming social day at Sandown Greyhound Racing Club. Sandown Greyhound Racing Club has designated Sunday December 5, 2010 as a promotional day for Blind Sports Victoria, providing an ideal avenue for raising awareness of the many sport and recreational opportunities now available to blind and sight impaired members of our community.

If you are interested in sponsoring an event or taking part please contact Maurice Gleeson. Phone (03) 9822 8876. Website: www.blindsports.org.au

Junior Swish Social Day

The Junior Swish group are having a social function.

When: Saturday 18th of December From 11.30-3.30 pm

Cost: \$7.00 for lunch - a drink, chicken and salad

Who: All under 35s welcome. Bring your family and friends and a enjoy a game of swish

RSVP: Michael Fogarty by Monday 13th of December on mobile: 0409182035

For Sale

Sadam is selling a Nokia Smart Phone 6120 classic with talks 5.0 at \$698. It comes with email, phone, contacts, calendar, and Talks Premium 5.0. Contact Sadam on 0423694178 or email sadamahmed1992@gmail.com

YouTube: Accessibility Standards

This video discusses the importance of Accessibility Standards and the international nature of these standards.

<http://www.youtube.com/BSIBritishStandards>

With Blind Ambition

New digital aids help this inspiring woman make informed choices. By Katie Cincatta, The Age 4 November 2010.

BERNADETTE Jolley is 56 and lives alone in a single-fronted terrace in inner-city Melbourne. She works four days a week, catching two trams to Kooyong, texting friends along the way. At night she winds down with a shiraz, pops a chicken casserole in the oven and catches up on the day's emails before settling in for a night of lifestyle shows on Foxtel or some banter on digital radio. Thing is, she does it all in the dark.

Like 100,000 Victorians, Ms Jolley is blind but that hasn't stopped her from living independently or embracing the digital world. When I meet her, I'm fascinated to know how she forms an impression of people. "Well, I know you're not very tall and I think you might be wearing boots today," she says, as I make my way down the polished boards of her hallway, with its tinkling wind chimes.

As I step up to the living room, I notice a weighing scale along the wall which she dares me to step on. "Go on, it talks to you, tells you your weight."

She demonstrates, stepping up gingerly on to the scales, holding the wall for balance. A robotic voice promptly informs her of how many pounds she is, adding that she's lost three pounds since her last weigh-in. "Have a nice day," it adds.

"Or you can set it to just say 'Goodbye', just in case you've put on weight and you don't want to hear anything cheery," she jokes. At least there aren't any programmed insults, like "Time to get to the gym, fatty," or embarrassing public tweets like on the Withings scale.

When you're blind, speaking gadgets are a godsend. In Ms Jolley's collection, she has speaking scales, a chaffing clock, a talking thermometer, an audible pedometer and a nifty Coles barcode scanner to tell her what her eyes can't see.

Once a month she'll do a bulk shop on the internet, admitting that Coles Online has changed her life. "I used to walk the aisles at the local supermarket with a staff member to help me, just getting a few things at a time, but I never knew how many shampoos there were, or how many brands of pasta or tinned tomato you could get," Ms Jolley says, clearly excited by her mid-life grocery epiphany.

The voice-enabled scanner, by Omni Mate, has millions of products in its database which it decodes, reading out the item, its brand, weight and any prerecorded recipes using the ingredient. They might be simple facts to know but before these tech aids could clue her in, Ms Jolley was often left with a bad taste in her mouth.

"I don't open the wrong products any more," she says. "For the first time in my life I can come home and choose which flavour rice crackers I'm going to have. That's so exciting." Not much fun being stuck with a tin of tuna when you were craving peaches. But more than being practical, Ms Jolley admits the \$1500 scanner lets her indulge in a secret pleasure information saturation.

She's one of the few people who enjoy devouring all that product detail on the label, even the safety warnings. "You know, I never knew that it was dangerous for a baby to inhale talcum powder," she quips.

Unlike so many technophobic baby boomers, Ms Jolley says the internet has opened up the world to her. Her screen-reading software JAWS reads websites and emails to her like a trusted friend (even

if he is a bit monotone). Downloads from i-access give her the daily scoop from the metro and local newspapers, which land in her inbox overnight.

“So I get them before you get yours on the front lawn.”

In the morning, she uses a colour reader to help her choose her clothes, which she says is still important when you're blind. Once she had some inkling of colour but the retinitis pigmentosa dealt to her in the genetic lottery eventually saw her vision fade to black.

“When I was a child I had shadow perception, which is useful it gave me a bit of a concept of colour, of lighter and darker shades,” she says.

While most of us have our big-screen TVs proudly on show as the room's centrepiece, Ms Jolley has her new LCD tucked away in the corner, unimpressed with its sound quality.

Instead, a slick sound system dominates her entertainment wall, including a Pioneer receiver and a new DAB digital radio.

But at a cost of \$8000, the tech toy she simply can't live without is her BrailleNote PK a personal digital assistant for the blind that boasts Bluetooth, USB and Wi-Fi connectivity.

At the moment she's reading *Bitter Harvest* on it sometimes in Braille or sometimes by speech. She's also hooked on its adventure games and has it synchronized with her computer's address book. “I use it every day. I couldn't be without it.”

Ms Jolley is also a keen texter, using software on her Nokia mobile phone to read out her messages. “But I don't use my thumb, as I rely on my index finger for feeling.”

The only thing she really needs help with is someone to read her mail, which a volunteer does over a social cup of coffee.

So, how did she become so fiercely independent, I ask her? As one of seven children, four of them born blind, the blue-eyed girl with the honey curls was raised to be plucky.

“Being a big family, we all had to get in and do stuff,” Ms Jolley says.

“We weren't mollycoddled. I remember nagging mum to do the ironing. She let me start with the hankies and the first time I dropped the iron on my hand and burnt myself. But that's how you lean. You've got to give things a go.”

Ms Jolley now works at Vision Australia as an audio standards officer, reviewing print material recorded by volunteers.

In her downtime, she goes to plays by the Melbourne Theatre Company, with details fleshed out to her through a voice description service that describes the stage, costumes and the actors' expressions. And if you think her tech skills are inspiring, just wait until you hear about her travel adventures.

“I've travelled to Nepal, India and the Philippines,” she says. “I've white-water rafted, trekked through the Himalayas on a pony and ridden a tandem bike for 800 kilometres from St James to Mildura. I don't feel that I've really missed out on a great lot.”

Assistive technology can be sourced through Vision Australia with many tech aids subsidized through government grants. Source: <http://vipstudents.wordpress.com/with-blind-ambition/>

Tyler: Perfect in My Eyes

From The HeraldSun Thursday 11 November 2010

There were plenty of famous faces on hand to help launch a book about their little mate Tyler Fishlock last night, but for once the inspirational boy had to play second fiddle to his mum.

Georgette Fishlock's *Tyler: Perfect in My Eyes* paints a candid picture of her family's battle to overcome Tyler's eye cancer, which captured hearts across Australia.

"I had wanted for a very long time to tell Tyler's story, and my story, to give people a bigger insight into the story behind Tyler," Ms Fishlock said.

"It started off for me as therapy, but it has been inspiring to watch him go through life and to inspire all these people to have a better and happier life."

Although he was surrounded by mates including Matthew Richardson, Nathan Brown, Jason Coleman and his "girlfriend" Jessica Raffa from *Dancing with the Stars*, Tyler's focus last night was all on one person - "I am very proud of my mum," he said.

Tyler: Perfect in My Eyes, is available at the Herald Sun shop (1300 306 107) or at heraldsun.com.au/shop. RRP \$24.95 (includes domestic postage).



Tyler Fishlock measures up against former Tiger Matthew Richardson at his book launch.

Picture: Tim Carrafa

Source: Herald Sun 11/11/2010

BrailleNote: Communicating with Michelle

From Deb Lewis, Manager, SVRC (with special thanks to Lea Nagel for her technical expertise)

I get some interesting requests at times and one such request resulted in the production of my very first Youtube video! LaTrobe University has a mentoring program called the "Willing and Able Mentoring (WAM) Program". This program has been established to link students with a disability with a mentor in their field of interest. And so I met Michelle who is deafblind and completing her Bachelor of Arts in English and History at LaTrobe University this year. Chatting with Michelle is easiest when facilitated by a signing interpreter - however I wanted to explore other communication methods which could be undertaken independently of the signing interpreter. Michelle has a BrailleNote and, when it is connected to any old keyboard, works beautifully as a communication device.

Take a look here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-InbFYH8PRE>

Acrobat X: provides better support for screen readers

The recently released Acrobat X has been significantly upgraded to work better with screen reader software. The new features, listed on the Adobe accessibility website include:

- Improved PDF scanning
- A new 'Action Wizard' for addressing PDF accessibility issues
- Improved Windows Microsoft Active Accessibility (MSAA) support to assist screen readers in accessing all elements of the software
- Additional preferences
- Extra 'save as' options to improve backwards compatibility

Read more about it at http://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/acrobat/whats_new.html

Job Search Program Need After School or Weekend Work?

Vision Australia is offering assistance to students with a vision impairment seeking employment. To be eligible you must:

- Be 14 years to 18 years of age
- MUST be able to and willing to work a minimum of 8 hours per week
- Be able to attend weekly group sessions on a Friday for first four weeks.
- Be able to attend fortnightly appointments if employment not obtained in four weeks.

There will be programs run next year as well so ask about other dates if the current program is not possible for you. The details for the programs can be found on the flier attached to the end of this edition of the Bulletin.

Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Deb Lewis, Marion Blazé and Annette Godfrey-Magee

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

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

Job Search Program

Needing assistance to obtain after school or weekend work?

Vision Australia will be offering a Job Search program hoping to commence on 5 November 2010 which will include:

- Resume preparation
- Application writing
- Interview skills
- How and when to disclose
- Job preference advice
- Assistance in marketing to employers
- On the job support once part time/casual work is secured

To be eligible you must:

- 14 years to 18 years of age
- MUST be able to and willing to work a minimum of 8 hours per week
- be able to attend weekly group sessions on a Friday for first four weeks.
- be able to attend fortnightly appointments if employment not obtained in four weeks.

Where will the program be held?

Vision Australia's Dandenong office located at
45 Princes Highway,
Dandenong, Victoria, 3175

To register your interest or obtain further information about this exciting opportunity please call Sean Corrin on 8378 1217 or email sean.corrin@visionaustralia.org

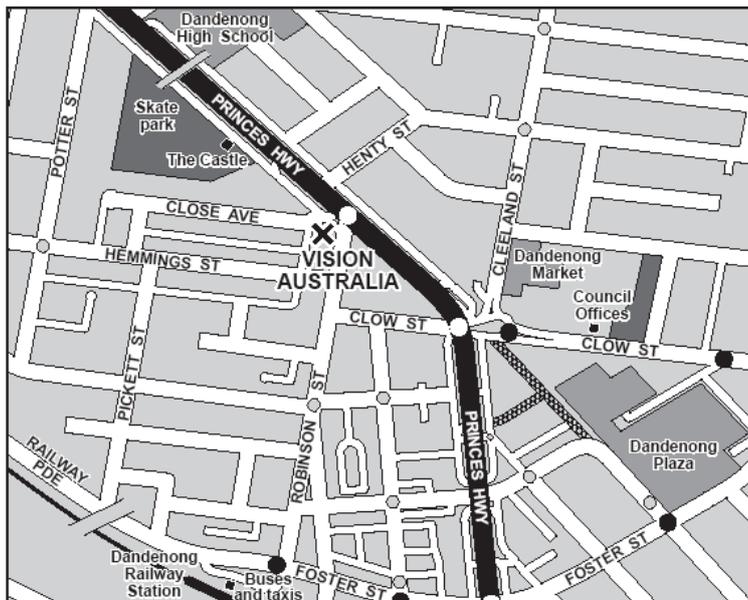
Consent

I agree to my son/daughter taking part in this program

Name of student.....

Parent/guardian..... Date.....

Name.....



Vision Australia Ph: 1300 84 74 66
45 Princes Hwy, Dandenong
(Parking available at rear of building. Entry to parking from Hemmings St)

LEGEND
○ Roundabout
● Traffic lights

blind sports victoria
sport and recreation specialists



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

Date: Monday, 29 November 2010
Time: 9.30am (for a 10am start) – 12pm
Venue: Carlton Baths Community Centre
248 Rathdowne Street, Carlton

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.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the
Blind Sports Victoria office on 03 9822 8876
Email: blindsports@netspace.net.au www.blindsports.org.au

Sponsored by: Melbourne City Council Active Grants



Supported by: YMCA Carlton / Carlton Baths Community Centre / Tennis Seniors Victoria