

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 12

Monday 1st August 2011

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

Professional Development Activities for Term 3, 2011

For workshops: Please bring laptop, BrailleNote etc as required. No charge. No lunch provided.

Skill power workshops for visiting teachers, teachers, aides, students etc 1. Computer for low vision users – 10.00am to 11.30am Lyn Robinson 2. MAGic – 12.00 to 1.30pm Trevor Boyd, Quantum Technology 3. Braille Maths Q&A – 2.00pm to 3.30pm Lea Nagel, SVRC	Wednesday 10 August
Visiting Teacher Professional Development – Term 3	Tuesday 23 August
Skill power workshops for visiting teachers, teachers, aides, students etc 1. Duxbury for schools and VTS – 10.00am to 11.30am Lea Nagel & Maria Elford, SVRC 2. BrailleNote for Beginners – 12.00 to 1.30pm Lea Nagel, SVRC 3. Please request a session – 2.00pm to 3.30pm	Wednesday 31 August
Dot power: Literacy-based activities for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3	Tuesday 6 September
NEW: Support for Students with Vision Impairments – The Psychologist's Role Geoff Bowen, Psychologist, SVRC – see flier attached	Tuesday 20 September
Blind Cricket – all welcome!	Friday 23 September

The program for 2011 is available at: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Acalendar2011.doc>

SPEVI Victoria: Combined Agencies Day

This year's SPEVI Victoria Combined Agencies Day will be held on Monday 10 October 2011 at Vision Australia Kooyong. The theme for the day is "Meeting the needs of children who are blind or have low vision and with additional needs." Speakers include:

Sue Sylveiri – The VI register, its role for families and educators and Rochelle Hutson – Learning from Abroad: Supporting Families with Early Literacy in Young Braille and Print/Braille Users.

There will also be a parent panel who will talk about their experiences in finding services for their child. Educators will discuss the impact and adaptations that need to occur for successful placement of children who are blind or have low vision with additional disabilities, in Specialist Schools or mainstream schools. The program and registration details for The SPEVI PD Day can be found at the end of this issue.

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Accessible Census

Tuesday 9 August 2011 is Census night in Australia. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducts the Census of Population and Housing every five years. Information needs to be entered for every person staying at every address in Australia on that night.

The Census can now be filled out online as well as on paper and is secure and accessible. You will need a form number and a unique eCensus number which will be delivered to your home. If you haven't received a Census form or eCensus envelope by 7 August 2011 call the Census Inquiry Service on 1300 338 776. The Census Inquiry Service can provide your Census Form Number and unique eCensus number by SMS or mail.

For more information go to:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/2011%20Census%20-%20Participate>.

The VI Family Network

Information provided by Sue Silveira, Teresa Williamson & Cathy Yu

The VI Family Network is a new website which has recently opened. The concept for the website came about in response to families requesting online registration for the Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register, and also for online access to Australian low vision resources.

The VI Family Network website is located at: <http://www.vifamilynetwork.org.au>. It is hosted by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, and allows families to join the Register online. Once registered, families can join a secure online parent forum. So far the forum has been popular with families exchanging their inspiring stories, providing support and great ideas in tackling the day to day challenges they face.

The website also gives public access to a large list of resources including:

- Government reports eg Better Start for Children with Disability
- Newsletters from low vision service providers
- The latest news on technology, e.g. apps, free audio books, online games and resources for kids with VI

Information is provided for each of the support groups with a link through to their website & contact details. Upcoming VI events held anywhere in Australia are also advertised on the website.

Please visit the VI Family Network at <http://www.vifamilynetwork.org.au>. Feedback and inclusion of any resources you might know of that would interest families are welcome. Email the web designers at: acvir@ridbc.org.au.

Training Materials: JAWS and Window Eyes

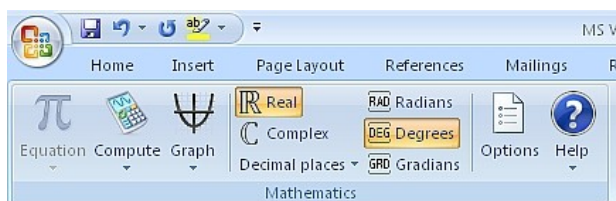
Jodie Hoger – SPEVI List

This link is a great site for training materials for the various windows platform and office products using JFW and Window Eyes as well as Zoomtext and a textbook on designing accessible websites using HTML. Especially for those of you working with older students, you might find these resources very informative. It looks as though they are around \$50 US each and you pay online and then you need to download your electronic textbook within 5 days of purchase. I am certainly going to purchase some of these resources for my TAFE students.

The website is: <http://www.blindtraining.com/index.html>

Free Add-ins for MS Word: Microsoft Mathematics and DAISY Translator

Here are some free "add-ins" for MS Word from Gerry Kennedy.



Microsoft Mathematics

Microsoft Mathematics is a set of tools that educators and students can use to perform mathematical operations on expressions or equations in MS Word documents and OneNote notebooks. Users can access the extensive collection of mathematical symbols and structures to display clearly formatted mathematical expressions within a Word document without external software. Users can also quickly insert commonly used expressions and math structures by using the Equation gallery.

Microsoft Mathematics can be used to perform the following tasks:

- Compute standard mathematical functions, such as roots and logarithms
- Compute trigonometric functions, such as sine and cosine
- Find derivatives and integrals, limits, and sums and products of series
- Perform matrix operations, such as inverses, addition, and multiplication
- Perform operations on complex numbers
- Plot 2D graphs in Cartesian and polar coordinates and 3D graphs in Cartesian, cylindrical, and spherical coordinates
- Solve equations and inequalities
- Calculate statistical functions, such as mode and variance, on lists of numbers
- Factor polynomials or integers
- Simplify or expand algebraic expressions

There is an inbuilt Help file and an Options menu. It appears in the ribbon as a new option, *Mathematics*.

DAISY Translator

The "Save as DAISY" add-in for MS Word incorporates a *Lite* version of the DAISY Pipeline. Users can select to generate the DAISY XML for further processing, or they can generate a fully conforming DAISY file set with full navigation and full text synchronized with audio. The audio is generated by the default text-to-speech engine on a user's MS Windows computer.

DAISY is a digital talking book (DTB) format, popular with blind and vision impaired users. It is presented with enabled navigation within a sequential and hierarchical structure consisting of (marked-up) text synchronised. There are DAISY reading devices as well as software to read or voice text to users who require auditory support. DAISY assists people who for different reasons have disabilities, problems or difficulties using regular printed media.

This free add-in for MS Word is available at <http://www.daisy.org/project/save-as-daisy-microsoft-word-add-in>. Microsoft Word Add-in Version 2.5 is a beta version that will add a new ribbon in Word 2007 and Word

Gerry Kennedy – IT Consultancy specmelb@bigpond.net.au



Mac Keyboard Commands for Open Office

Thanks to Support Skills student Lizzie for these Mac keyboard commands for Open Office:

Command + a = select all

Command + s = save

Command + p = print

Command + v = paste

Command + x = cut

Command + c = copy

Command + z = undo

Shift + arrow = select part of text

Option + right arrow = go to end of current or next word

Option + left arrow = go to beginning of current or last word

Option + delete = will delete the last word

VCE Students: VTAC Coming to Vision Australia Kensington Melbourne

This is a great opportunity for your VCE students to get some assistance with their VTAC Special Entry Application Scheme (SEAS) and Scholarship applications for study in 2012. VTAC staff members will be on site at the Kensington office of Vision Australia on Wednesday 31 August from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

VTAC staff will be able to answer questions and give assistance with lodging applications. The applications require supporting evidence from school and medical staff so it is a good idea to start the process early so that all documentation can be available on the day.

Please contact Max Bini Tertiary Education Consultant max.bini@visionaustralia.org or phone 03 8378 1223 if you wish to attend or have questions.

What: SEAS Application Lodgment

When: Wednesday 31 August 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Where: Vision Australia Kensington Office, 346 Macaulay Road, Kensington, Vic 3031

Paediatric Equipment & Accessible Transport Display Days

Yooralla Brooklyn is hosting two FREE drop-in events that may of interest to therapists, parents, families & carers:

What: Paediatric Equipment Display Day

When: Friday August 19, 2011

What: Accessible Transport Display Day

When: Thursday November 10, 2011

Where: Both days will be held at Yooralla Brooklyn, 705 Princes Hwy, Brooklyn VIC 3012

Please register your attendance at: <https://ilced.yooralla.com.au>

Telephone: (03) 9362 6111

Email: at.learning@yooralla.com.au

Duxbury Braille Translator's Producer's Manual and Round Table Conference Papers

From: Christine Simpson, ABA Chair

The following updates have recently been made to the Round Table web site

- The Duxbury Braille Translator's Producers Manual – downloadable files in print, large print and braille formats.
<http://www.e-bility.com/roundtable/guidelines.php>
- Papers from the 2011 Round Table Conference
http://www.e-bility.com/roundtable/conf_proceedings11.php

Quantum Online

You can now purchase Quantum products online. The Online Shop will feature most of Quantum's new product ranges including Optical Magnifiers and Lighting products.

Visit: <http://www.quantumrlv.com.au/Shop>

Successful PE Seminar

Twenty-one teachers and education support staff attended the recent Physical Education Seminar held at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre on Friday 22nd July 2011. Participants danced, listened and played their way through presentations by Charlie Roberts and Lea Nagel, SVRC Support Skills PE Teacher, and Guide Dogs Victoria.

Schools represented included:

- Campbellfield Heights PS
- Deer Park North Primary School
- Derrimut Primary School
- Echuca College
- Edward Primary School
- Kingsville Primary School
- Marymede Catholic College
- Mother of God Primary School
- Mount View Primary School
- Parkdale Secondary College
- St Andrews Christian College
- Strathmore North Primary School
- Wales Street Primary School

Thanks to all concerned for making this a very successful day!



Online Stories from Weally Wonderful Websites

Weally Wonderful Websites – great websites for kids by Gerry Kennedy – IT Consultancy
specmelb@bigpond.net.au

Priory Woods Talking Books

http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/page_viewer.asp?page=Talking+Story+Books&pid=75

These are the very popular talking books from Priory Woods in the UK. All of the stories featured on this site were created together with pupils from as young as Year 1. They give educators and students some ideas for talking story books and what can be achieved. Suitable for: Primary and Secondary students with special learning and/or reading needs.

Speakaboos

<http://www.speakaboos.com/corporate/about> – Speakaboos provides a range of stories online for retelling of a wide range of books including fairy tales, fables, folk tales, nursery rhymes and songs. Most of the content is free. The high quality production provides animation, music and books retold using actor's voices. Suitable: Junior Primary to Junior Secondary and especially children with different abilities.

Lite2Go

<http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/> – Lit2Go is a free online collection of stories and poems in Mp3 (audio book) format. You can -Download the files to your Mp3 player and listen on the go; listen to the Mp3 files on your computer or view the text on a webpage and read along as you listen or print out the stories and poems to make your own book. Suitable for: Primary through Secondary

Magic keys

<http://www.magickeys.com/books/> – Illustrated children's stories for children of all ages. The titles are categorized for very young, young and older students. Each title has an associated graphic representing the story. There are also links to games, colouring-in books and other relevant activities. Suitable for: Readers of all ages who require illustrated books.

Grandpa's Farm

<http://www.shuifeng.net/Dic/LittleFox/LittleFoxShow.asp?id=702285481> – Grandpa's Farm has pages of a story spoken in a female human sounding voice. There is also a movie as well from which to choose. At the end of the story, young children can move the animals onto the farm page using a mouse, touch window or IWB.

Suitable For: Prep – Year 1

Make A Story

http://www.riverdeep.net/language_arts/edmark_lang_arts/MakeAStory/MakeAStory.html – Make a Story – from Edmark. Use of simple yet effective animation with words closed out. Children click on objects to complete simple questions. Engaging graphics and clear use of a child actor's voice. Suitable for: P – 2 and children with different abilities.

Storyline

<http://www.storylineonline.net/>

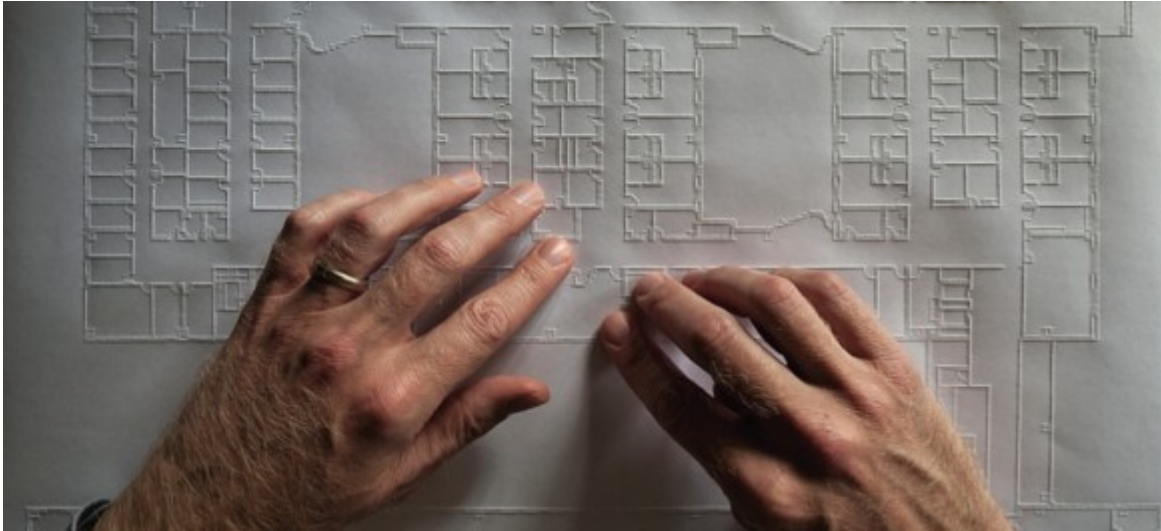
Storyline Online provides children with a number of books that are read aloud by actors. Well known actors' voices are used. The animation and colour is very engaging and there are a number of stories from which to choose. There are follow-up activities online as well as downloadable activities for each story. All of the stories are captioned. Suitable for: Junior Primary to Junior Secondary.

Design Within Reach

From Architecture October 2010, Atlantic Magazine

Chris Downey, an architect, lost his vision a few years ago. The following is an extract from an article about his contribution to architecture now he is blind.

"As architects, we're visual animals," Downey told me. "The interesting riddle for me, then, is: if you take sight out of the equation, what makes for good architecture?"



One morning last fall, Chris Downey, an architect, ran his long white cane across a pair of floor-tile samples spread out at his feet in the San Francisco office of an architecture firm, SmithGroup. Gathered around him, a handful of architects watched. They wanted to know which tile he preferred for a new rehabilitation center for the blind at the Veterans Administration hospital in Palo Alto. Downey looked up at Eric Meub, a vice president at the firm – not at him, exactly, just over his shoulder. "The one on the right is distinctive in either direction," Downey said. "The other one has a preferred direction." For a blind patient still learning to use a cane, that first tile would give more-predictable feedback.

There was an awkward silence. The other architects looked at one another. Downey chuckled. "So you're saying the one on the right is the one that doesn't look so good," he said, grinning.

Two and a half years ago, Downey had just started running the architecture practice at a stylish green-design firm. A few weeks after he took the job, he noticed something wrong with his vision. A tumor was wrapped around his optic nerve; he needed surgery right away. When he woke up, everything was blurry, but he could see. "Five days later," he said, "it all went black."

Read or listen (there is an audio file on the site) to the rest of article from the architect magazine – "The Atlantic" at <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/10/design-within-reach/8220/>

Better Start for Children with a Disability (Better Start)

The Better Start initiative began on 1st July this year and offers funding to enable eligible children under the age of 6 years to access therapy services.

Visit: www.fahcsia.gov.au/betterstart or email Better.Start@fahcsia.gov.au

Soccer Development Program

Blind Sports Victoria in partnership with Reclink invites you to take part in a soccer development program. This activity is open to all, so come along and get involved in one or all of these fun and friendly sessions.

When: Fortnightly from Wednesday's – 3rd August, 17th August, 14th September, 28th September

Where: MSAC (Melbourne Sports And Aquatic Centre)
1 Aughtie Drive Albert Park 3206 (Melways ref: 2K, D7)

Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm

No experience required

Men and women of all ages and abilities

No cost

Drills, skill development and technical advice from experts

A group will be leaving from Vision Australia at Kooyong to attend the program. If you wish to meet at Kooyong to travel together to MSAC, please contact Susan at Blind Sports Victoria.

Contact: Kavar Singh at Reclink 03 9419 6672 / 0411 137 186 or email: kavar.singh@reclink.org
or Susan Marshall at Blind Sports Victoria 03 9822 8876 or email: blindsports@netspace.net.au

Curling – Come and Try

Blind Sports Victoria in conjunction with Victorian Curling Association and Vision Australia will be conducting a come and try curling evening on Monday 8th August from 7 to 8pm.

Curling is a sport in which players slide stones across a sheet of ice towards a target area. Curling is similar to bowls where two teams, each of four players, take turns sliding heavy, polished granite stones, also called "rocks", across the ice to the centre of a circle at the far end of the ring whilst trying to oust or block their opponent's rocks. Curling is an Olympic and Paralympic sport which is believed to have originated in Scotland and is very popular in Canada.

Meeting Points: If you would like to meet at the Blind Sports Victoria office at Kooyong to travel together to the Ice House at Docklands, please let Susan know on 03 9822 8876 or blindsports@netspace.net.au. Another meeting point for those interested will be at Travellers Aid at Southern Cross Station. If either of these options are of interest to you, please advise the Blind Sports Victoria office or Jim Oastler from the Victorian Curling Association when registering.

Registration: If you would like to give curling a try, why not attend on the 8th August or if you would like further information regarding this sport, please contact Jim Oastler from the Victorian Curling Association on (03) 5750 1357 or jao1938@westnet.com.au

BCA's New Horizons

Blind Citizens" radio host Scott Nixon conducts an interview weekly with a person of interest to the community of vision impairment. These interviews are archived and make very interesting listening! Visit:

http://www.bca.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=54

Music Savant

See the 60 Minutes report on Derek, who is blind and an amazingly talented musician:

http://www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=Ak2jxmhCH1M&feature=player_embedded

VIBE Ski Club News

A Facebook page has just been created for the VIBE Ski Club. If you would like to be on the group page go to, https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_238561882824908

Super Skier

A winner has been announced for the Super Skier Sponsorship program for 2011. Peggy Soo is the first recipient to be apart of this sponsorship program. She will be sponsored to have 1 day ski hire for her and a guide, 1 day ski lesson and 1 day lift ticket for her and a guide. Congratulations Peggy!

Trivia Night

A Trivia night has been booked for Saturday 22nd October in Moorabbin. Please put this date in your diary and if anyone has anything they would like to donate for a silent auction on the night, please let the committee know by contacting us at president@vibeskiclub.org.au Thanks!

If you'd like more information about VIBE Ski Club please email info@vibeskiclub.org.au

More Upgrades at SVRC

We now have more walls! Our new walls all the way to the ceiling are now a feature of the Art Room and the Maths Room. And we also have a brand new Tech Lab! Right is a photo of the Tech Lab walls as a "work in progress"!

Upgrades to date include landscaping outside – making it easier for students to independently make their way to the lunch area; the creation of a Music Room and a revamped kitchen with oven and new cupboards.

Incidentally, if you have cooking items that would be useful for the Support Skills Program that you can part with, we'd happily receive them. We are looking for donations of some good quality saucepans, baking trays, wooden spoons and the like. Thanks in advance.



Student News

Catholic Education Office student, Frank, has been doing work experience at the SVRC. Frank has been assisting Michael in the audio and technology sections of the SVRC.

Staff News

- **Jane Jensen** is now the Stream Leader – Vision in Western Metropolitan Region – congratulations Jane!
- **Sue Sharp** is off to a warmer climate this week – she will be spending the next few weeks in Far North Queensland. Not that we are envious or anything!
- **Geoff Bowen** and his family are the proud new owners of a beautiful cavoodle. Toilet training is progressing!

Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Lea Philp, Deb Lewis, Geoff Bowen, Marion Blazé and Mike Steer.

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

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



COMBINED AGENCIES DAY OCTOBER 10, 2011

"Meeting the needs of children who are blind or have low vision and with additional needs."

Speakers and topics include:

- Sue Sylveiri: The VI register, its role for families and educators.
- Rochelle Hutson: Learning from Abroad: Supporting Families with Early Literacy in Young Braille and Print/Braille Users
- Views from a parent panel who will talk about their experiences in finding services for their child.
- Educators to discuss the impact and adaptations that need to occur for successful placement of children who are blind or have low vision with additional disabilities, in Specialist Schools or mainstream schools.
- Introducing some new adaptive technologies for children with vision loss and additional disabilities.

TIME: 9.20am to 4.15pm. (Refreshments available from 8-30)

PLACE: Vision Australia Plaza
454 Glenferrie Rd. Kooyong.

COST: \$55.00 (general) \$45-00 (members)

Lunch provided.

RSVP: Di Skillern with Registration form by 12 September 2011.

To contact Victorian SPEVI councillors:

- Louise: louise.curtin@visionaustralia.org.
- Dean: dean.j@guideddogsvictoria.com.au
- Linda: doak.linda.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

SPEVI Victoria – Combined Agencies PD Day

October 10, 2011

The Plaza, Vision Australia, Kooyong

Registration form

Please note: participant **numbers are limited** and with this activity happening immediately after school holidays, your registrations need to be received by the **RSVP date**.

Name:

Organization:

Contact details:

Any special dietary requirements:

Alternative format materials requirements:

I am a SPEVI member and willing to help on the day: YES or NO

Mobile number:

SPEVI member:	YES	NO
Payment method:	\$45 for members	\$55 for non-members
	Cheque with Reg. form	Paying on day: Cash/Cheque

(Please circle one option for each line – cheques to be made to "SPEVI")

Address for receipt:

RSVP (Remember, participant numbers are limited.)

Please return this form with payment **by September 12, 2011** to:

Di Skillern
 Statewide Vision Resource Centre
 PO Box 201
 Nunawading 3131

If faxing or emailing registration **by September 12, 2011**, payment can be made on the day October 10, 2011:

Fax: 03 9841 0878

Email (must include above information): diannesk@svrc.vic.edu.au

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Presents

Support for Students with Vision Impairments – Psychologist's Role

When: Tuesday 20th September 2011 from 9.00am to 4.00pm
(Registration from 8.30am)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre (SVRC)
370 Springvale Rd Donvale

Parking: Lower carpark – next door at the Donvale Sports Complex

For: Psychologists working in schools

Presenters: Geoff Bowen (Psychologist, SVRC), Annette Godfrey-Magee (Education Officer, SVRC), Marion Blazé (Education Officer, SVRC) and Lyn Robinson (Resource Officer, SVRC).

Topics:

- Simulation of vision impairment.
- Insights into vision impairment – What it is? How it is assessed? Role of the Vision Assessment Clinic and the SVRC.
- Supporting students with vision impairments in the classroom.
- Special provision in VCE and special entry (SEAS) for tertiary courses.
- Cognitive assessment of students with vision impairments.
- The Vision Impaired Student – Family, Individual, Social and Classroom perspectives.

Cost: \$66.00 including GST

Payment includes a light lunch (maximum participants: 60)

Registration is essential – by Friday 14th September 2011

For further details or for an invoice:

Phone 9841 0242, fax 9841 0878 or email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au

STATEWIDE VISION RESOURCE CENTRE
Writing Competition 2011

We are excited to announce our
2011 Writing Competition topic:

**"Saying YES!
Making the most of opportunities!"**

Winners will be announced at the EXPO
on 25th November.

Our 2010 winners received audio book CDs, chocolate and a
certificate.

This could happen to you!

All you have to do is write a short story, poem or piece of up to 150
words!

Easy!

Writing will be judged on originality of ideas and writing quality.

Start sending them in now!

The due date is Friday 14 October.

Please include:

- Name
- Year and age
- School
- Visiting Teacher if you have one
- Format in which the work was produced

Good luck!