

# The Bulletin

## Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 17

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012

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

### Professional Development Activities for 2012

<b>Support Skills Try Day for 2013</b> – download an expression of interest form: <a href="http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Arefssp.pdf">http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Arefssp.pdf</a>	Friday 16 November
<b>Dot Power</b> Day of literacy-based activities for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3	Tuesday 20 November
<b>Educational Expo – Access Technology Options</b> This day is suitable for teachers, aides, therapists, parents/carers, visiting teachers, STUDENTS and members of the wider community – all welcome!	Monday 26 November
<b>SVRC Christmas Morning Tea</b> All welcome! – please RSVP	Wednesday 5 December
<b>SPEVI Conference – New Zealand</b>	13-18 January

The program for 2012 is available from this link: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PL.shtml>

### SPEVI Conference: Auckland 13-18 January 2012

**Theme:** Weaving the Mat: Strength through Connection

**When:** 13-18 January 2013

**Where:** Rendezvous Hotel, 71 Mayoral Drive, Corner Vincent Street, Auckland

**Phone:** +64 9 366 3000

**Cost:** SPEVI member \$800; Non-SPEVI member \$895

### SPEVI Conference Registration for VT

As part of the ongoing commitment the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Division has to supporting the professional learning of our Visiting Teachers, Mark Tainsh has made funding available to cover the **registration** costs for one DEECD Visiting Teacher to attend the SPEVI Conference in Auckland.

**The successful applicant for this funding is Eastern Metropolitan Region's, Sam Oxley. Congratulations to Sam!!!**

### Inside This Issue

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## Australian National Goalball Results 2012

The Australian National Goalball Championships were held recently at Collingwood College with teams representing New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia playing. Seventeen teams with around 100 athletes in 4 divisions competed in 62 heats, 4 semi-finals and 4 finals. The play was fast and furious and enjoyed by a large and silent audience!

The results were as follows:

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Woman's</b>	<b>Youth's</b>	<b>Juniors</b>
1 New South Wales	1 Queensland	1 South Australia	1 Queensland
2 Queensland	2 New South Wales	2 New South Wales	2 New South Wales
<b>3 Victoria</b>	3 Western Australia	<b>3 Victoria</b>	3 South Australia
4 New Zealand	<b>4 Victoria</b>	4 Western Australia	4 Western Australia
5 Western Australia			

We congratulate all participants and thanks organisers for their efforts.

## Cell Phone Accessibility: Evaluation of Android 4.1 Jelly Bean

Source: AFB Access World <http://www.afb.org/afbpress/pub.asp?DocID=aw131004>

The conclusion of this article is as follows – see the link to read the entire article:

To be fair, it's difficult for most reviewers to give a truly unbiased review of Android accessibility. Those who use the iPhone as their primary device are likely to have different expectations than someone who has been a regular Android user. Ultimately, you will need to evaluate the various solutions currently available and decide which features are most important for your situation. While not perfect, Android 4.1 has taken some major strides toward a complete accessibility solution, but some additional customizations or third-party apps may be necessary for an optimal experience. I look forward to further developments from Google and hope they come sooner rather than later. Google has the tools to become a leader in accessibility and should do all it can to further explore this opportunity.

## BrailleNote Apex Training Videos

Humanware has created some terrific training videos for the BrailleNote Apex which we can highly recommend! The following tutorials can be viewed:

1. Create, open and delete documents
2. Voice and Keyboard Settings
3. Importing a document from a memory stick
4. Export a document to a memory stick
5. Read and move through a document
6. Using the Spell Checker
7. Using the Concise Oxford Dictionary
8. Editing a document
9. Cut and Paste between documents
10. Accessing a PDF file
11. Using Foreign Languages
12. Using a visual display
13. Printing a document
14. Embossing a document

Visit: <http://www.humanware.com/apexeducation>.

## SVRC Writing Competition 2012 – My Dream Technology

Can you imagine how technology could help people with vision impairments in the future? If you could design the ideal piece of technology, what would it be?

The theme for the 2012 SVRC Writing Competition is to describe this future; you can submit a story, brochure, labelled picture, audio or video, in any format (print, braille, e-text, mp3).

Your story should be no more than 200 words in length. The competition is open to any school-aged student with a vision impairment in Victoria.

Send all entries to Marion Blazé, Statewide Vision Resource Centre, PO Box 201, Nunawading, Victoria, 3131 or email to [marionblaze@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:marionblaze@svrc.vic.edu.au) by November 12. Winners will be announced at the SVRC annual Access Technology Expo on Monday, November 26.

Order online: <http://www.speccles.com>

## TarraWarra Museum of Art Exhibition: An Assemblage of Contemporary Australian Visual Artworks Engaged with Music, Sound and Voice

**Curator:** Victoria Lynn

**Where:** TarraWarra Museum of Art, 311 Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, Healesville

**When:** Open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am to 5pm

**Cost:** Adult \$5, Concession Free

The TarraWarra Museum of Art presents the third iteration of its Biennial from 5 August to 9 December 2012. Entitled *Sonic Spheres* the exhibition presents an assemblage of artists who are engaged with sound, music, voice and performance. The exhibition includes drawings, musical scores, sculptures made from musical instruments, paintings and video. These works invite us to listen to art, to find new sounds and melodies. Many of the artists performed live with their art works during the opening weekend of the exhibition.

Artist performances will be held at 2pm on the first Sunday of the month through the duration of the exhibition:

### Sunday 4 November & Sunday 2 December

2.00 pm: Dylan Martorell, performing in his installation *Sound Tracks TarraWarra 2012*

2.30 pm: Snawklor

3.00 pm: Victor Meertens and Alexis Ensor on the Goatafone

This year, the biennial includes the work of 20 artists and one collaborative group: Robyn Backen, Lauren Brincat, Eugene Carchesio, The Donkey's Tail, Marco Fusinato, Nathan Gray, David Haines & Joyce Hinterding (collaboration), Ross Manning, Dylan Martorell, Victor Meertens, Angelica Mesiti, Yukultji Napangati, James Newitt, Tom Nicholson with Andrew Byrne (collaboration), John Nixon, Sandra Selig, Christian Thompson, Ray James Tjangala and Johnny Yungut Tjupurrula.

## Speccles for Kids

Here is a nifty way for children's glasses to stay on! The clear plastic tubing fits snugly to the spectacles and around the back of the head. They are even suitable for active littlies (see photo of hand-standing child below)! Adult sizes, which may be suitable for sports-people, are also available.



## Quantum Sight Support Open Days

Quantum is running a series of open days throughout Victoria between now and the end of the year. A Low Vision Assessment by an orthoptist is available from Quantum's Metropolitan office in Cheltenham. This service will be available by appointment only.

### **Metropolitan Office**

Wednesday 12 December, 3 Chesterville Road, Cheltenham 3192

### **Regional Dates**

<b>South West Victoria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hamilton</b>, Tuesday 13 November</li> <li>• <b>Portland</b>, Wednesday 14 November</li> <li>• <b>Warrnambool</b>, Thursday 15 Nov</li> </ul>	<b>North West Victoria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mildura</b>, Tuesday 4 December</li> <li>• <b>Swan Hill</b>, Wednesday 5 December</li> <li>• <b>Horsham</b>, Thursday 6 Dec</li> <li>• <b>Ararat</b>, Friday 7 Dec</li> </ul>
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For more information contact Quantum on (03) 9545 4100 or email [info@quantumrlv.com.au](mailto:info@quantumrlv.com.au)

## PhD for Frances Gentle

From Mike Steer, RIDBC

Frances Gentle, a long-time SPEVI member, Chairperson of ICEVI's Pacific Region and Lecturer in Vision Impairment at RIDBC Renwick Centre, received her PhD at The University of Newcastle's Spring graduation ceremony on Friday 5th October at the University's main Callaghan campus. She was supported by her family and a carload of Renwick Centre staff.

Dr Gentle's thesis was entitled: Transforming the Education Systems for Children with Disability in PNG and East Timor. The thesis was examined and passed by three leading experts in the education of students with disabilities from universities in Canada, the USA and Australia. We join with her relatives, colleagues and friends in congratulating her and wishing her many more successful years in our field.

## Tiny Tunes MP3 Player (With Built-In Speech)

From the Braille Book Store Website:

The world's first talking MP3 player – at a price everyone can afford! Select the album you want to listen to for your afternoon walk. Pause to record a note for later, then listen to the radio on the way home. Curl up for a while with your favourite E-Book, then switch over to Recordings and play Mum's famous cookie recipe. You can't see the screen, but it doesn't matter. Every song title, every menu option, and every page of your E-Book is spoken out loud. It's all possible thanks to one extraordinary device – the Tiny Tunes MP3 player.

Unlike every digital player on the market today, you never need to look at the screen when using this device. As you move through the songs in your current album, each new title is spoken to you as you select it. Names of albums, genres and even artists are also read audibly. Concerned about changing settings, selecting options, finding the right recording or reading a book? Don't be, because all those features are voiced aloud, too. Put simply, everything that comes up on the screen of this MP3 player is spoken in clear, synthetic speech.

**Price:** \$75.00

**Measures:** about 7cm by 3cm by 1cm.

**Source:** <http://www.braillebookstore.com/view.php?T=Tiny+Tunes+MP3+Player>

## New iPhone App – Wheel Map

Source: ADBC News Sheet, October 2012

A new iPhone app has been developed which allows people with limited mobility to check their cell phones or computers to see which restaurants, cafes, and other stores provide easy access for wheelchair, walker, crutches or cane users. Anyone can contribute and tag a location as well as leave comments for others to read. The application is already in use in Germany and aims to expand worldwide. Further information: <http://www.wheelmap.org/>

## 3RPH: It's Time to Have Your Say!

From John Simpson

Its thirty years since Vision Australia Radio (3RPH) was established to serve the information needs of people who are blind, have low vision or other print disability. We are taking this opportunity to ensure that the service meets your needs today and into the future.

As part of this review we are holding Listener Forums in **Melbourne, Adelaide, Albury, Bendigo and Geelong**. This is your opportunity to tell us about the programs that do and don't meet your needs; the things you would like included; and the other ways in which you gain access to the information you need. We also want to hear from people who are blind, have low vision or some other print disability who believe the service does not currently meet their needs.

Forums will be held at:

- Vision Australia Kooyong; Monday 29 October, 2.00 pm and 6.00pm; RSVP 03 9864 9333
- Vision Australia Albury; Tuesday 30 October, 1.30pm; RSVP 02 6041 8800
- Vision Australia Geelong; Wednesday 31 October, 2.30pm; RSVP 03 5249 2701

For more information please contact:

John Simpson – Project Manager Vision Australia Radio Strategic Review

Mobile 0407 308706 or email: [john.simpson@visionaustralia.org](mailto:john.simpson@visionaustralia.org)



## 'Braille Day' in Western Region

Braille day this week once again was a ripper. With muesli slice on the agenda, firstly the ingredients had to be carefully tasted, then measured into 1/4, 1/3 and 3/4 cups and lastly mixed. The pumpkin seeds were particularly popular. The sultanas were not!

After the slice was cooked, everyone had to score out of 10 their own thoughts on the final product. Results range from 1.5/10 to 9/10. This then had to be represented as a tally using the Perkins Brailier. Off we went brailleing these results, with the final product when turned 90 degrees could be read as a column graph.

Next we had to make up a series of questions for the group which involved interpreting the graph, such as:

- "Who gave the highest score?"
- "What was the difference between the lowest and highest vote?"
- "How many odd/even numbers were there in the results?"

In preparation for our Christmas lunch, we practiced setting the table with plates, glasses, knives, forks, spoons and serviettes. Then we had to explain and demonstrate how we would use them to eat a sausage, peas or rice.

The fun part was when we got to practice cutting lumps of "strawberry sausage" playdoh. Danijela remembered how by **Stab, Slide, Saw** then **Separate**. Stab the food, slide the knife into position, saw the required portion and then separate the portion in preparation to eat.

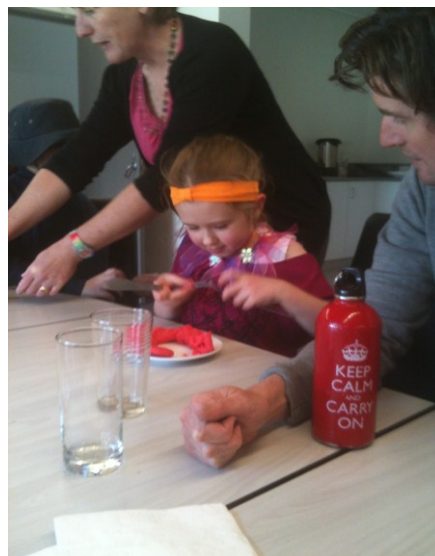
After lunch we had a choice of music, swish and craft activities.

We would like to welcome Amanda to our group. Amanda is new to braille and is a big fan. She received her new National Partnerships funded Perkins Brailier today.

Thanks to Karen Williams from Vision Australia for joining us. Also to Charlie Roberts our multi regional VT who popped in with borrowed SVRC Perkins. Jenny Blake from Southern region stayed for the day and helped ... and even picked up all those crumbs!

Thanks everyone for a great day and we look forward to seeing everyone again at our end of year celebrations on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Right: photos from the day



## Children's Mobility Service Update

Here's the latest news from Guide Dogs Victoria – with thanks to Simon McDonald-Kerr, CMS O&M Instructor:

- We recently ran the “Mobility Olympics” camp for primary aged children in the September school holidays – students participated in activities including gymnastics, blind soccer, bike riding and athletics with the focus on participating in sport. A vision impaired Paralympic athlete, Ian Speed, spoke to the group. A vision impaired Year 7 student also spoke about his experience with sport and his recent trip to the Australian Institute of Sport to participate in their “Road to Rio” Paralympic development program.
- A “Test Drive a Guide Dog” program also ran in the recent school holidays. This was a program specifically aimed at students looking at Guide Dogs mobility. The students worked through modules to help them prepare for this mobility aid and achieve successful outcomes. If any students are interested they should talk with their O&M instructor.
- There are a number of regional group programs that are running in term 4 in the Geelong (My Mobility), Bendigo (Spy Kids) and lower Hume region (Operation Top Secret). These are day programs, supported by the local VT's, which aim to address the O&M skill level of the students attending and to complement skill development from individual programs.
- Waverley boys, a group program for primary aged students in the Glen Waverley area, is currently being run by Darren Moyle with the support of parents and VTs associated with the students. This is proving to be a successful program and Darren is looking forward to its continued development.
- Planning is starting to take place for our “Get Real” program. “Get Real” is a group program for senior secondary school students looking at doing further study at the completion of year 12. This program will be held in December around Melbourne Uni and the Melbourne CBD. It will be a crash course in considerations for going to University and include planning what assistance a student may require, how to go about accessing that assistance from the Disability Liaison Unit and considerations for living away from home including daily living skills and O&M as a young adult.
- The CMS team will be attending the 2013 Biannual SPEVI conference in New Zealand. This is something that the team value highly in regards to professional development and we will be presenting three papers at this conference.
- The team is also looking forward to the continued support of the SVRC Support Skills program and are in the process of planning for 2013 – New initiatives are being discussed for each age group.
- Paula, Darren and Simon attended the Western Region iSeek program in term 3 and value the opportunity to work alongside many of the Western region VT's and being able to contribute to the program going forward.
- The CMS team are also providing students with the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's award and the Compass Award. This community Award allows students to work on a skill, service/volunteering, physical recreation and plan an adventurous journey – many of which O&M is a large component. Some of the students have chosen public speaking as their skill and we are looking at possible opportunities for them – if you know of any please contact Simon on 0449 903 441 or [simon.m@guidedogsvictoria.com.au](mailto:simon.m@guidedogsvictoria.com.au) to discuss further.
- For students looking at attending a senior Guide Dogs Camp look out for the information in our newsletter for the next senior camp program to be held in January 2013 with the theme of “Explore Melbourne”.

For further information about the Children's Mobility Service of Guide Dogs Victoria, phone (03) 9854 4444.

## iPhone Gets Thumbs Up!

Source: [http://m.itworld.com/mobile-wireless/303879/visually-impaired-users-iphone-only-way-go?mm\\_ref=http%3A%2F%2Fpaper.li%2Ftransmedialink%2F1328090001](http://m.itworld.com/mobile-wireless/303879/visually-impaired-users-iphone-only-way-go?mm_ref=http%3A%2F%2Fpaper.li%2Ftransmedialink%2F1328090001)

The first biennial report on the accessibility of communications technologies has been released, and the iPhone gets high grades. According to the report which evaluates communication devices for their accessibility features, the iPhone is the best option for people with vision impairments.

The report states, “Apple’s iPhone continues to be the only smart phone providing truly equal access at no extra cost to users with vision loss” and that “accessible choices in the feature phone market are not that much more extensive.”

The report to the US Congress stems from the “Communications and Video Accessibility Act 2010” which was enacted to review and report back to Congress on the progress the communications sector is making to ensure their products and services are accessible to people with disabilities and impairments. The report covers areas such as the internet, mobile phones, voicemail, SMS, text messaging, video conferencing, and audio descriptions of film and television amongst other things.

## Staff News

- Meet Hannah Louise (right), born 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 – mother Ali Torney (VT from Loddon Mallee Region) is currently on leave with this very cute little munchkin!!!



## Space Camp: Reflections from Grandmother

Thanks to Marilyn Ferbrache for these reflections.

The opportunity and experience that was given to my Grandson, Zac, to attend Space Camp through SVRC was truly amazing. The planning and fundraising was initially daunting, but once you got the word out the response and offers of financial support heart-warming. There was also amazing support from all at SVRC and the visiting teachers (chaperones) to help the kids all achieve their goals, a truly group exercise.

Zac returned home after 17 hectic but wonderful days in America a very tired but excited young man. Two weeks later and things have settled back to normality, my observation is that Zac is a different young man, he is more confident, independent and resourceful.

Zac has made some lasting friendships including one special friend from Texas who he has been emailing since his return home, he has his future plans set on a career path and attending university, which was his goal before he left but now he feels more confident that he can achieve his goals “the sky’s the limit.”

All I can say to those considering this trip in future years “go for it” – you will not regret it.

## Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Michael Donnelly, Lea Nagel, Rod Pritchard and Garry Stinchcombe.

To read The Bulletin online: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Abulletin.shtml>