

# The Bulletin

## Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 19

Monday 26th November 2012

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

### Professional Development Activities for 2012-2013

SVRC Christmas Morning Tea All welcome! – please RSVP	Wednesday 5 December
<b>Term 1, 2013</b>	
<b>SPEVI Conference</b> – New Zealand	13-18 January
<b>Educational Support for Blind Students</b> This day is designed for class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and visiting teachers who support students who utilise braille	Monday 11 February
<b>Set for Success!</b> 9.30am to 3.30pm Students in years 10 to 12 are invited to a one-day workshop conducted by Glen Bowen – flier attached or visit <a href="http://svrc.vic.edu.au/PLglennaday.pdf">http://svrc.vic.edu.au/PLglennaday.pdf</a>	Saturday <b>16</b> February
<b>New Visiting Teacher Orientation Day</b> 9.30 to 3.00	Monday 25 February
<b>Educational Support for Students with Low Vision</b> – Offered twice This day is designed for class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and VTs who support students who have low vision (max participants: 60)	Tuesday 26 February & Monday 4 March
<b>Visiting Teacher Professional Learning Day</b> – Term 1	Tuesday 12 March
<b>Dot Power</b> Literacy-based activities for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3	Tuesday 19 March

The program for 2013 is available from this link: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PL.shtml>

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## Applications for Equipment Grants 2013

Source: DEECD Circular S437-2012

Equipment grants are available to assist schools to purchase major items of essential, specialised equipment for students with mild visual impairments who do not meet the eligibility requirements of the Program for Students with Disabilities.

Applications must demonstrate that the equipment is essential to enable the student to access the curriculum.

Applications must be forwarded to the appropriate regional disabilities coordinator as outlined in the 2013 guidelines.

For DEECD employees: <https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/newsevents/schoolbull/Pages/S437-2012.aspx>

**Applications close:** Thursday 28 February 2013

## VI Apps

A couple of Apps which may be of interest to people using iPads or iPhones:

### BraillePad

BraillePad is a word processor for braille. It can handle UEB contracted or uncontracted braille. It can be used by sighted people to learn braille or write documents which can be saved as a .DXB file. You can download information from the internet including braille books and save them directly to the BraillePad App. There is a dictionary that allows you to look up the Braille letters, numbers, symbols and contractions by English or by braille. The cost is \$13.99

### VIA by Blind Institute Support

This app rates Apps for their accessibility and usefulness for people with vision impairments, saves hunting and testing them out yourself!

## iPad for Students with Vision Impairments

Source: SVRC Website <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/ATipad.shtml>

There is an ever-growing range and number of educational resources for students including those with vision impairments. We now have a page dedicated to all things "i" ... including:

- iPad Accessibility Features - summary by Lyn Robinson, SVRC, 2012 (pdf)  
[http://svrc.vic.edu.au/ATipad\\_accessibility.pdf](http://svrc.vic.edu.au/ATipad_accessibility.pdf)
- iPads for Low Vision Students including Students with Additional Disabilities - summary by Lyn Robinson, SVRC, 2012 (pdf)  
[http://svrc.vic.edu.au/ATipad\\_lv\\_additional.pdf](http://svrc.vic.edu.au/ATipad_lv_additional.pdf)
- iPad Gestures for Voice - "cheat sheet" by Lyn Robinson, SVRC, 2011 (pdf)  
<http://svrc.vic.edu.au/CSipadgesture.pdf>
- Using an iPad for etext - created by Cam Phillips, SVRC, 2012 (pdf)  
[http://svrc.vic.edu.au/ATipad\\_for\\_etext.pdf](http://svrc.vic.edu.au/ATipad_for_etext.pdf)

There are also links to resources from other sources such as the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Apple.

## **Audio Described Holiday Pantomime: Sleeping Beauty**

**What:** Sleeping Beauty – a pantomime by Richard Gill, presented by Victorian Opera

**When:** Saturday 19 January 2013

**Tactile Tour:** from 1.20pm

**Where:** Her Majesty's Theatre

From the wit and imagination of Richard Gill comes a brand new pantomime that is 60 minutes of pure colour, comedy, song and dance. Victorian Opera invites young, and young at heart to shout out, clap and sing along, and discover the magic of musical storytelling, suitable for audience members aged six and up. The world premiere of Sleeping Beauty is a musical fairytale not to be missed and to make the occasion even more memorable, Victorian Opera is presenting a tactile tour before the pantomime. Make sure you are at Her Majesty's theatre on 19<sup>th</sup> January to join in all the fun!

**Tickets:** book with Ticketek by phoning 1300 795 012 and tell they you want to use the Audio Description Service

**To book the tactile tour:** phone Melissa Harris on (03) 9012 6652.

## **More Audio-Described Opera in 2013**

**What:** Puss in Boots by Montsalvatge, Victorian Opera at the Fairfax Studio

**When:** Friday 31 May 10.30am

**Tactile Tour:** from 9.40am

**Tickets:** book with Ticketek by phoning 1300 795 012 and tell they you want to use the Audio Description Service

**To book the tactile tour:** phone Melissa Harris on (03) 9012 6652.

## **Radiance: The Neo-Impressionists at the National Gallery of Victoria**

### ***Access Tour: Visual Describing***

Radiance: The Neo-Impressionists, the first Australian exhibition dedicated to Neo-Impressionism, will introduce visitors to the National Gallery of Victoria to the birth and development of Neo-Impressionism in France and Belgium.

The exhibition runs from 16 November 2012 to 17 March 2013; 10am to 5pm (closed Tuesdays)

A visual describing guide will conduct a tour for people who are blind or have low vision.

This program will occur at the following times:

1 December at 11.00am – booking essential

17 February at 11.00am – booking essential

**Where:** NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road, Temporary Exhibition Space 1, Level G

**Cost:** Exhibition entry fees apply

Tickets: Adult \$20.00; Concession \$16.00; Child (5 to 15) \$10.00

Family (2 adults + 3 children) \$55.00

NGV Member Adult \$15.00

NGV Member Family (2 adults + 3 children) \$45.00

## Braille Reading: How Fast Should They Be Reading?

In view of Karen Wolffe's comments during our recent Masterclass, we wondered, as do many Visiting Teachers and classroom teachers, how fast should our student be reading? It is true that there isn't "extra time" in employment so the more that students with vision impairments can read at the same rate as their sighted peers, the better.

Below are the national standards as presented by Jerry Johns, a leading reading specialist in the USA.

Jerry Johns: Silent Reading Rates for Students in Grades K-12 who understand the material

Grade	WPM	Grade	WPM
1	<81	7	175-185
2	82-108	8	186-197
3	109-130	9	198-209
4	131-147	10	210-224
5	148-161	11	225-240
6	162-174	12	241-255+

Source: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AmOnk1wHTSbmdEdPWjBSRTBuaU1HSFhmN0dJQU13UUE>

Teacher of the Vision Impaired in Washington USA, Dr Denise Robinson, uses these same standards for her blind and low vision students. She writes, "If you set high standards then children will meet those standards. I have taken on beginner students and told them how fast they would be reading braille in a couple months, even in middle and high school. At the end of the 2 months, as their fingers would fly across the page reading braille, as I timed them, at the end I would ask, "So did you really think you would be able to read that fast?" They would reply, "Of course, you told me I would be able to." So tell them, they can, and they will.



Tricks to use:

- Time them every week, so they see their progress
- Have them reread the same material to get flow and fluency
- Have them braille the material first using contractions, then read what they wrote

Lessons, articles and video to help you: <http://www.yourtechvision.com/content/fast-braille-reading>

### **How fast can your student read braille?**

Let's collect some statistics – please send the name and year level of your student with their silent reading speed and we can get a statewide idea of how our braille students are performing!

Send to [deblewis@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:deblewis@svrc.vic.edu.au) by the end of term and we'll let you know in term 1 next year!

## ISEEK Beach Day

From Jane Jensen, Stream Leader, Western Region

Welcome Chloe and Ezzra to **ISEEK beach day**.....

The day was windy and very, very cold but that didn't stop Tyler from rolling in the surf fully clothed. It didn't stop Tuong, Amanda, Chloe or Tyra from splashing in the waves, nor Ryan to keep wishing to go surfing.

After our 2 minute train ride to Pier St. Altona, which I must say is always the highlight of our day, we wandered down Pier St. thinking about what were the 3 most memorable thing about the walk..... Was it the smell of the charcoal chicken or the coffee shop? Was it the brick mural or was it the change from the pavement path to a brick path to a sand path?

The playground offered a great time, swings, tunnels, stairs, platforms and moving obstacles of all descriptions.....

The sand treasure hunt, always a highlight extracting chocolate artefacts from rock particles. Of course the big red sack at the end of the day is an oldie but a goody.

See you all again next year for ISEEK 2013. Thanks to Darren, Sharon and Simon from Guide Dogs for their dedication to our program, the parents who continue to support our programs and all the Vision Visiting Teachers, who just love a big day out!

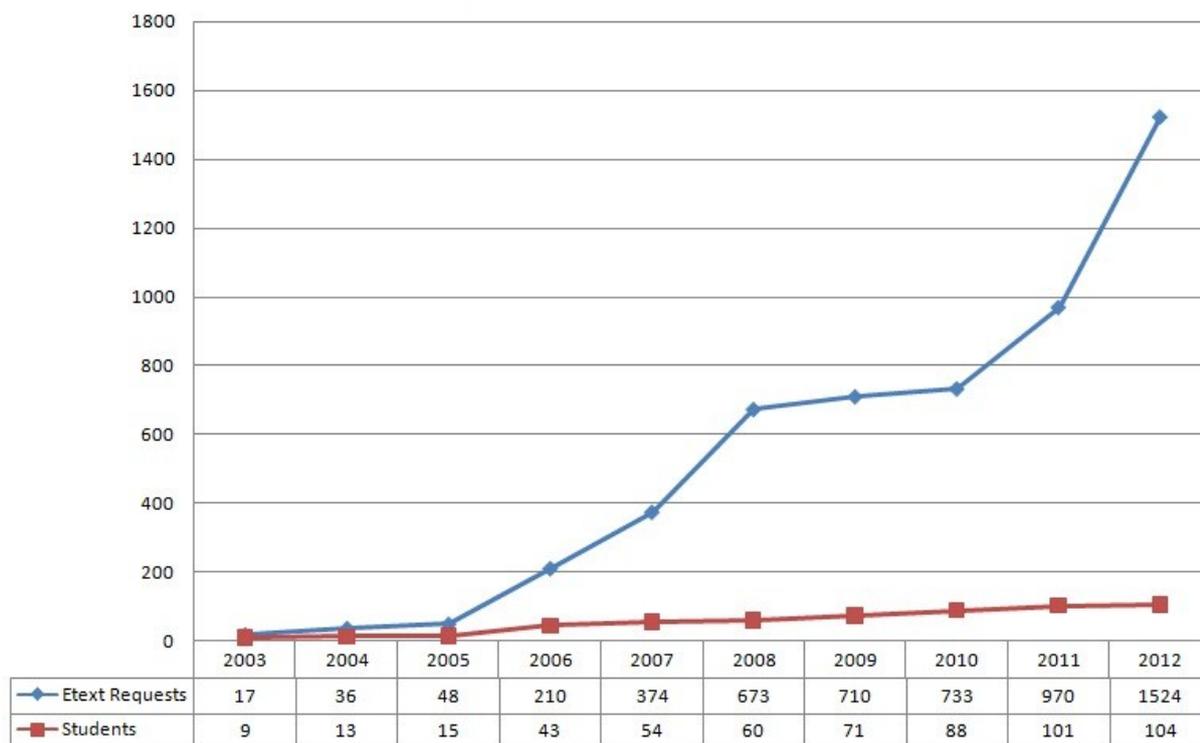


## Update: E-text Requests to Date This Year

Although we are nowhere near the end of the year for e-text requests, the statistics make for interesting viewing!

From the graph below, you'll notice that in 2003, there were 8 students who requested 17 items in e-text. This has increased in a relatively steady manner to November 2012 when 104 students have requested 1524 items. As you can imagine, this has kept the alternative format staff busy – and that's how we like it!!!

**E-Text Requests: Jan 2003 - Nov 2012**



## Alternative Format Requests for 2013

Staff in the Production Department have been beavering away with requests for next year already. Cam tells me that they have already supplied 215 books in etext for 2013 which is phenomenal given that we are still in November!!! Go Gang!!! to the Production Staff!!!

## PDF for iPad: Little E-books, Chapter Books and Novels

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre has recently been producing (and converting) pdf files for use on the iPad. The print is very clear and can be enlarged with the in-built enlargement or read using the in-built voice. We have a growing collection from beginning readers to little chapter books and novels. Please request these resources in the usual way: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/Areqalt.doc>

If you need assistance with uploading these files to your iPad, please contact Lyn Robinson – [lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au)

## Lovely Braille Story

Two young braille students were reading “Choosing a Puppy” together. One student read a sentence with the name “Andy” in it. She then commented on how “Andy” is a “rectangle name”! And of course, she is right! In braille, andy does look like a rectangle:



## YouTube Video: Meet Julia

Julia is a delightful grade 6 student who is blind. Watch her read and write using her Perkins Braille and BrailleNote Apex, use her iPad touch with VoiceOver to check the time and send a message, and use her voice recorder to record and check messages.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSsI5z9sSVk&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSsI5z9sSVk&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

Perhaps you'd like to make your own YouTube video demonstrating your favourite technology! Just let us know where to find it!

## Braille Aide Available

A braille aide with four years working in a Catholic primary school will be available to work in EMR schools in 2013 – phone her on 0405 704590.

## Braille Tutor Available

Henry has been in contact regarding tutoring work. He is a proficient braille user currently studying Law part-time at the University of Melbourne. Henry lives in the Carlton area, and can be contacted via email: [henry.macphillamy@gmail.com](mailto:henry.macphillamy@gmail.com) or by mobile: 0401 211300.

## Parent News

- **Zarifa** recently completed the SVRC Correspondence Course in Braille – congratulations and well done!!!

## Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Michael Donnelly, Leigh Morris, Cam Phillips and Janene Sadhu.

If you have something you would like included in “The Bulletin” please email Lyn Robinson [lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:lynrobin@svrc.vic.edu.au)

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

# STUDENT WORKSHOP

## FOR VISION IMPAIRED STUDENTS YEARS 10-12

### SET FOR SUCCESS!

If you are about to enter your senior year of secondary school and want to have some fun – you need to join us!

#### What will you learn?

- You **learn more** when you're having fun
- How to obtain a balance that **maximises your options**
- How to **design a plan** to make the best of your senior years
- How to **break through limiting beliefs** and the power in your thoughts
- How to **make positive decisions** that result in powerful actions

#### What do you need to bring?

- A desire to achieve your best.
- A willingness to play at 100%.
- Your fun self with a desire to learn.
- Your lunch.

#### Who is running the day:

Glenn Bowen, a Life Coach and trainer. He has run a successful business for 16 years. Skydived, snowboarded through North America and rafted down the Franklyn River. He has been visually impaired since the age of 11 and he wants to show you the skills, tricks and strategies to maximise your options as young adults with vision impairments.

**When:** Saturday Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

**Where:** Statewide Vision Resource Centre  
370 Springvale Road, Nunawading.

**How much:** It's completely free!

Staff from SVRC will be in attendance on the day

**For further information or any questions**, please contact Glenn directly:

Ph: 0416 087 529 Email: [bowen.glenn@gmail.com](mailto:bowen.glenn@gmail.com)

**Register** by contacting SVRC by Friday 8th of Feb 2013.