

The Bulletin

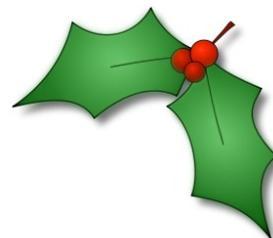
Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 20

Monday 10th December 2012

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

The staff of the Statewide Vision Resource Centre would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during 2012 and to wish you a safe and happy summer break! See you in 2013!



Professional Development Activities for 2013 (fliers attached)

SPEVI Conference – New Zealand	13-18 January
Educational Support for Blind Students 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
Set for Success! 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 http://svrc.vic.edu.au/PLglennaday.pdf	Saturday 16 February
New Visiting Teacher Orientation Day 9.30am to 3.00pm	Monday 25 February
Educational Support for Students with Low Vision – 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
Visiting Teacher Professional Learning Day – Term 1	Tuesday 12 March
Dot Power 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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Post-Graduate Studies in Vision Impairments at Renwick: Master of Special Education – Specialising in Blind/Vision Impaired

Entry requirements: Candidates must hold the degree of Bachelor of Education or a Bachelors degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (e.g. BA, DipEd) or equivalent qualifications. Two years of teaching or other relevant professional experience in education is highly recommended. Candidates who do not meet the normal entry requirements may qualify for entry by completing a Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies as preliminary studies.

Course structure: In order to qualify for the award, candidates must complete 80 units of course work in Special Education from a specified range detailed at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/program/10936.html>

Blind and Vision Impairment Specialisation

Compulsory Courses (10 units each)

Semester 1

EDUC6067: Orientation and Mobility for Educators

EDUC6068: Curriculum and pedagogy for students with vision impairments

EDUC6666: Inclusive and Collaborative Practice in Sensory Disability

EDUC6667: Child Development: Family and Community Contexts

EDUC6668: Foundations of Vision Impairment

Semester 2

EDUC6070: Literacy and numeracy development in learners with vision impairment

EDUC6301: Theory and Application of Assistive Technology in Vision Impairment

EDUC6666: Inclusive and Collaborative Practice in Sensory Disability

EDUC6667: Child Development: Family and Community Contexts

Directed Courses (10 units each – choose 10 units from Directed Courses)

EDUC6076: Seminar in Sensory Disability A

EDUC6077: Seminar in Sensory Disability B

EDUC6669: Advanced Studies in Vision Impairment (*semester 2 only*)

EDUC6855: Professional Experience in Sensory Disability – Extension

Cost per unit: approximately \$1,300

For further information, see the RIDBC Renwick Centre for Research and Professional Education website: <http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/index.asp> (the 2013 Handbook should be available on this site soon)

RIDBC Renwick Centre

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Mobiles and Macs Lead the Way in Providing Accessibility for the Visually Impaired

Adapted from: <http://www.theage.com.au/digital-life/computers/apple-puts-eye-into-idevices-20121128-2acch.html>

David Woodbridge is an Apple addict. In his house there are four iPads, four iPhones - ranging from the 3GS to the 5 - a MacBook Pro, an iMac, a MacBook Air, a gaggle of iPods - including a Shuffle, a Nano and an iPod Touch – and an Apple TV. Oh yes, and he is totally blind.

For people such as Woodbridge, one of the biggest Apple inventions has been VoiceOver, which arrived in the third version of iOS, Apple’s mobile operating system released with the iPhone 3GS. Tap on an iPad app icon and VoiceOver describes it. Double-tap to open the app and VoiceOver guides you through its use.

“With VoiceOver I can support not only myself but also my boys and my wife,” Woodbridge says. “I press the Home button on the iPhone three times to turn VoiceOver on or off when I need to help them. For example, if my wife gets an SMS when she is driving I can call up VoiceOver on her iPhone to read the message to her and we can reply using Siri, which is one of the great iOS developments, getting better all the time. Or, say an app on one of the iPads is not working properly. I use VoiceOver to shut the app down from App Switcher, relaunch it and triple-click to hand the iPad back with the app running as good as new.”

VoiceOver covers most things that can be done on the touchscreen. “VoiceOver also gives me a talking interface on the Apple TV so I can browse and select movies and TV shows for my boys to watch,” he says.

“We all have our own favourite apps, movies, music and so on, but for me one of the apps I really like is Light Detector, which allows me to make sure I have turned off all the lights before I go to bed.”

At work, Woodbridge uses a variety of software, helped by the accurate keyboard skill he has developed since his teen years. VoiceOver reads back the text of his emails and documents and guides him through sending or printing them.

“I use Find My Friends to tell me when my wife is near my office so I can go out and meet her,” Woodbridge says, “and the Remote app for the Apple TV lets me check on our boys when they tell me their TV program is ‘almost finished, dad’.”

Six of David Woodbridge’s favourite apps are:

- **Flesky** – Happy Typing: Pattern-recognition typing. Must faster than the onscreen keyboard. Aimed at VoiceOver users on iOS
- **Downcast**: Podcast download/streaming app
- **iBooks**: Reading iBooks with VoiceOver
- **LookTel** Money Reader: For identifying paper currency
- **Navigon**: GPS app so users know where their bus stop is
- **TweetList**: Twitter app

*'Twas the month before Christmas,
when all through the centre,
not a creature was stirring
not even a mouse.*

EXCEPT the stirring of:

Annette, Lyn and Marion from **SVRC**partying
 Ramona Mandy from **Humanware**..... socializing
 Paula and Laura from **Guidedogs**.....enjoying
 Nathan Chisholm Principal **Altona P-9**running
 Penny and Gayle from **Vision Australia**integrating
 Two integration aideslearning
 Six busy children,engaging
 And five Visiting Teachers.....plotting and planning

Who were all in celebration of a fabulous year of Brailledays 2012.

While candy canes and white canes were decorated, cards brailled, salads made, table set, chickens cut up, cordial mixed, balloons blown up..... all of Santas Helpers helped make this big bash great.

A big thank you to Mohammed, Emily, Thien, Than, Amanda and Tyler for the preparation, fun and laughter and for cleaning up.....

To Ramona for committing to another year of Braillenote sessions, with us.
 To Natham Chisholm for hosting us in the Sadie McCarthy into next year.
 And to Guide Dogs who just love us...

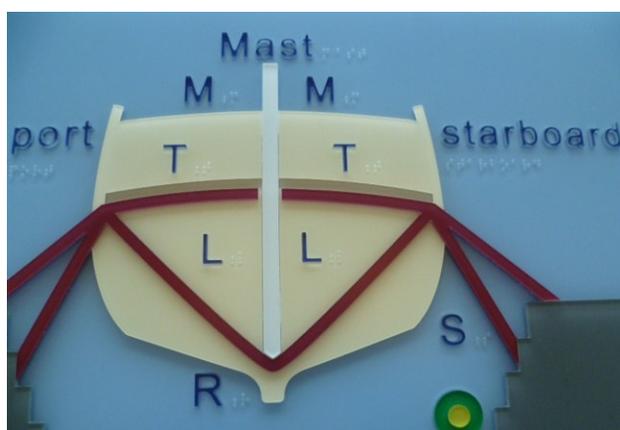
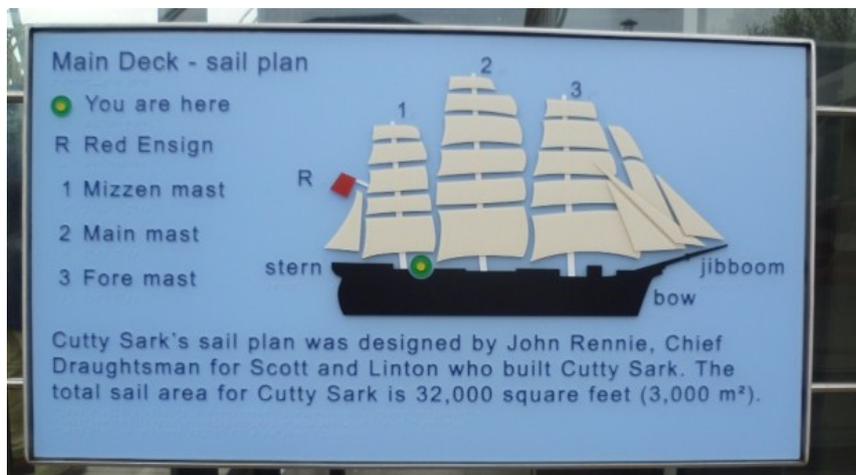
See you all next year.
 Jane Jensen –Vision Stream Leader
 WMR



Photo (right) shows Laura, Paula, Myriam, Ramona, a student and Charlie enjoying their Christmas luncheon.

Braille in the Community

Toni Chilton recently visited the UK and has brought home photos of more braille and tactual signage in the community; the Cutty Sark in Greenwich, London:



Photos above show the main tactual sign of the Cutty Sark with sails, masts, jibboom (the pointy bit at the front of the boat) etc marked; and close-ups of the soft plastic braille.

Braille Exhibition in Sydney Highlights the Importance of Light for People Who Are Vision Impaired

Designed by mechanical engineer and industrial designer Rob Caslick, cBraille is a pop-up exhibition in Sydney which showcases 16 exhibits about light and blindness. It displays panels with anecdotes written in braille and backlit for the benefit of braille readers with low vision.

Sarah Hirst, one of the visitors to the exhibition, has been legally blind since birth. But with the help of the back-lighting she is able to enjoy cBraille. She comments, "I've got my guide dog Ally and she helps moving me around all the big things and making sure I don't sort of come to harm. But an exhibition like this is fantastic. I suppose lighting up braille for me, moving through I can actually see it and definitely applied to things like signage it means that I am able to move through an environment and actually pick things up using that light and help to navigate myself around."

The exhibition also runs an audio track with students from the Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children talking about the importance of light.

See the YouTube clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHFec3rCnjQ&noredirect=1>

JobAccess: Employment Assistance Fund

JobAccess is an Employment Assistance Fund which is an Australian government initiative to help people with disability and mental health conditions by providing financial assistance to purchase a range of work related modifications and services.

If you or someone you know is currently working or about to start a job, this fund may assist you by reimbursing the cost of work related modifications and services including but not limited to:

- The cost of modifications to the physical work environment
- Adaptive equipment for the workplace
- Information, communication devices and Auslan interpreting

Further information: <http://jobaccess.gov.au>

2nd Joint Conference of ICEVI & Dbl: Towards an Inclusive Tomorrow

When: 5 to 7 April 2013

Where: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

News from the Field

From SPEVI President, Paul Pagliano:

- Recently I attended the World Blind Union / ICEVI General Assemblies in Bangkok. At this meeting Dr Frances Gentle stepped down as Chairperson of the ICEVI Pacific Region in order to take on the position as 2nd ICEVI Vice President (World). This is a great honour to Frances, who is the SPEVI Representative on ICEVI, and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate her.
- Paul Manning assumed the role of Chairperson of the ICEVI Pacific Region. Paul is the Executive Officer of PVI NZ, which is the New Zealand organisation of parents of children with vision impairment. I'd therefore also like to congratulate Paul and offer him SPEVI's full support.
- I'm delighted to announce that SPEVI ICEVI have been successful in obtaining funding from AUSAid and NZAid to bring 15 Pacific Island delegates to the SPEVI conference in Auckland in NZ in January 2013. A big thank you to all those involved in helping to make this happen.

SVRC Annual Writing Competition Results

The Annual Writing Competition theme this year was 'My Dream Invention'. We asked students to invent their own technology to make life easier for people with vision impairments. The result was a collection of fantastic ideas submitted in brochures, stories, posters, models, in print, braille, from BrailleNotes, computers and handwritten. Our Junior Primary prize winner was **Zeynep** with her poster about slap bands which help you find your friends. **Boedi** received a special mention for his glasses washer, complete with a model and instructions. The Senior Primary winner was **Jordan** with a very slick brochure about the 'Eye Fix' – a device which is inserted into the brain to fix brain cells! A special mention went to **Caleb** who invented a braille version of an iPad. The Secondary prize went to **Tess** with a description of technology which responds to the wave of a hand.

Other inventions included very helpful robots, a speaking cane, a pocket-sized scanner/monocular/music player, and a car which can drive itself!

Many thanks to Vision Australia for providing some wonderful audio books for prizes and **Cam** in the braille department for producing the certificates.

Try Archery this Summer

Waverley City Archers in conjunction with Blind Sports Victoria is seeking participants who are blind or vision impaired for its pilot Archery program. This series of coaching lessons will act as a transitional step for beginners to progress into mainstream archery.

Students from ages 12 plus will be encouraged to enter the pilot program. The sport caters for all age groups but those who attain higher levels are generally aged between 18 and 40 years. Although the program will be directed to that age group, the club also wants to encourage others to enjoy the sport as a social pastime. Archery is one of the few sports in which sighted and non-sighted athletes can compete together. Many blind archers overseas compete successfully against sighted archers. The South Korean archer, Im Dong Hyun is classified legally blind but it did not stop him from setting an individual world record at the 2012 Olympics (not Paralympics) in London.

The training sessions will run once a fortnight for 4 sessions on the following dates:

Wednesday, 23 rd January 2013	10.00 am – 12 noon
Sunday, 27 th January 2013	12.30 pm – 2.30 pm
Thursday, 31 st January 2013	6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
Wednesday, 6 th February 2013	10.00 am – 12 noon

All classes will be held at the club's grounds at Freeway Reserve, Mulgrave (Melway Map 71, C12). Enter via Kernot Avenue. See also our website www.waverleycityarchers.org.au

The cost of all four coaching sessions is \$45. Full equipment is provided.

If you are interested in this program, or know someone who may be interested or would just like some more information, please contact Susan at the Blind Sports Victoria office on 9822 8876 or email Graham from Waverley City Archers at jemin77@bigpond.com

Space Camp: Zac and Brendan Speak to the Support Skills Students

Cam Phillips has edited a lovely video of Space Campers 2012 Zac and Brendan speaking to their peers upon their return to Support Skills' Group D.

Brendan reflected, "Now that I've left, I feel a bit more confident and I feel like I can do whatever I want. Even with essays at school. I did one the other day and it was really annoying me and I just thought back to Space Camp. I thought how we got through everything there so I thought surely I can get through what I am doing now... I reckon it changes you as a person. I'm more confident. I feel like I can achieve anything I want."

You'll find the video on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGwKWIUnQUE&feature=youtu.be&hd=1>

Christmas Ideas: Tactual Toys

Source: <http://www.sensorysun.com/2012/11/braille-stocking-stuffers-hints-for-santa/>

The Amazon website has a range of tactual toys and games that are suitable for braille readers:

- The Braille Slide Puzzle has 15 tiles, each with a tactile braille letter. The aim is to shift the tiles into the correct position. US \$1.99
- Braille Uno Cards. US\$18.95

Student News

Group C came in for their final Support Skills on Friday 23 November. Again, participants had been engaging in interesting activities both in school and out including:

- **Husna** is singing in a school performance
- **Kate L** has joined the school Glee Club
- Year 10 student **Jacob** will be studying a VCE subject next year – possibly Business Management
- **Alex** will be participating in the school production – working on scoring and musical composition
- **Geordi** will be going to Mildura to see Nickleback
- **Veronica** is attending a new school – Glenallen – and loving it. She's enrolled in VCAL for 2013.

Group 1 was full of news on their final session of the year on 30 November:

- **Rohan** received a pair of bright green Vans shoes and an iphone for his recent birthday
- Two goats joined **Matthew's** family – and they like to eat clothes
- **Aaron** made a chopping board at school – it's the shape of Mickey Mouse's head
- **Lucy** featured on the 7.30 Report, talking about the NDIS
- **Claudia** went on school camp to Phillip Island – she enjoyed the giant swing
- **Ingrid** will be going to high school next year
- **Emily** will be swimming with dolphins with a couple of other students from school
- **Mary's** favourite part of Science Works was the lightening room
- **Jazmin** will be going on horse camp for 6 days over the summer holidays with her friend
- **Zac** went whale-watching at Harvey Bay recently and had the chance to drive the boat

Students Inspire

The 2012 Space Camp students and Charlotte from Fitzroy feature in the December Issue of Inspire. For some inspiring reading go to:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/news/inspiredec2012.pdf>

Braille by Correspondence

Sara Bancroft has successfully completed the SVRC Braille by Correspondence Course – Congratulations Sara!!!

Master of Special Education Specialising in Vision Impairment

- It is highly likely that congratulations are due to one or more VTs who have successfully completing their Master of Special Education through Renwick. We'll let you know next year!

Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Toni Chilton, Lea Nagel, Mike Steer and Garry Stinchcombe.

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>

Statewide Vision Resource Centre
 presents

Educational Support for Blind Students

When: Monday 11 February 2013 from 9.00am to 3.30pm
 (Registration from 8.30am)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre
 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

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

For: Class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, family members and visiting teachers

8.45	Registration – Please assemble in the foyer at the front of the building
9.00	Seeing with our Fingers – Annette Godfrey Magee, Education Officer, SVRC
10.00	Introduction – Marion Blazé, Education Officer, SVRC
10.25	Sighted Guide: Walking with a Blind Person – Marion Blazé, Education Officer, SVRC
10.45	Morning Tea
11.15	Braille, Etext, Audio: Which Medium When? – Annette Godfrey-Magee & Marion Blazé, Education Officers, SVRC
12.00	Success in the Primary and Secondary School – Lea Nagel, Educational Programs, SVRC
12.30	Lunch includes video and/or tour of the SVRC – please speak to a staff member
1.10	Life in the Classroom
1.30	Braille Under the Microscope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New to the braille code – Lea Nagel & Maria Elford, SVRC • Not so new to the braille code – Marion Blazé & Lyn Robinson, SVRC
2.15	If I Do It Right They Won't Need Me Any More! – Geoff Bowen, Psychologist, SVRC

Cost: \$55.00 including GST (supporting Visiting Teachers \$15.00)

Payment includes a light lunch (maximum participants: 60)

Registration is essential – by Wednesday 8 February

For further details or for an invoice:

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



Statewide Vision Resource Centre

presents

Educational Support for Students with Low Vision

When: Tuesday 26 February 2013 from 9.00am to 3.30pm **OR**

Monday 4 March 2013 from 9.00am to 3.30pm

(Registration from 8.30am)

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre

370 Springvale Rd Donvale

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

For: Class and subject teachers, integration teachers and aides, therapists, family members and visiting teachers

8.30	Registration – Please assemble in the foyer at the front of the building
9.00	Simulation of a Vision Impairment – Staff of the SVRC & Guide Dogs Victoria
10.45	Insights into Low Vision – Marion Blazé, Education Officer, SVRC
10.15	Morning Tea
11.00	Strategies to Support the Student with Low Vision in the Classroom – Sam Oxley, Visiting Teacher, Eastern Metropolitan Region
11.45	Employment: Success Begins in the Primary School – Annette Godfrey-Magee, Education Officer, SVRC
12.30	Access to Information and Success in the Primary and Secondary Setting – Lea Nagel, Educational Programs, SVRC
1.00	Lunch – take a look at some low vision technology in the tech lab!
1.40	Special Arrangements for Tests (eg NAPLAN) and Exams – Lyn Robinson, Resource Teacher, SVRC
2.00	The Vision Impaired Student in Your Classroom – Individual, Social and Family Perspectives – Geoff Bowen, Psychologist, SVRC
3.00	A Student Perspective: Students Describe their Experience of School
3.30	Close

Cost: \$55.00 including GST (supporting Visiting Teachers \$15.00)

Payment includes a light lunch (maximum participants: 60)

Registration is essential – by Friday 22 February

For further details or for an invoice:

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

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.

How much: It's completely free!

When: Saturday 16 February 2013

Time: 9:30am - 3:30pm

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre
 370 Springvale Road, Donvale

Staff from SVRC will be in attendance

Register by contacting SVRC by:

Friday 8th Feb 2013

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

Ph: 0416 087 529 Email: bowen.glenn@gmail.com

Parking

There is no parking available at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre or Heatherwood School. Please park **in the lower carpark** behind the Donvale Sports Centre - the building beside (to the north) of the SVRC. You can then walk through the double gates and the Statewide Vision Resource Centre is to the left.

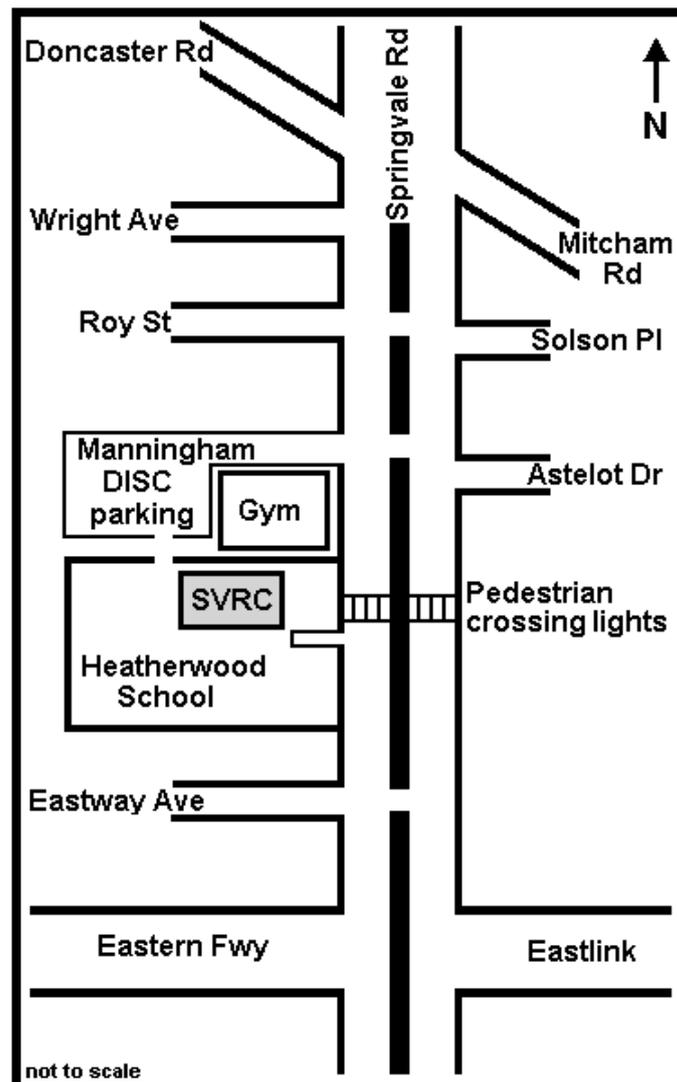
Public Transport: Bus and train

The nearest and most accessible train station is Nunawading. Trains on the Belgrave and Lilydale lines run through this station. A bus also runs from Box Hill Central which also has good train access.

The Statewide Vision Resource Center is serviced by **3 bus routes**.

- 902 Smart Bus, Chelsea to Airport West
- 271 Box Hill to Ringwood
- 273 Nunawading to The Pines

The 902 and 273 both leave from the Nunawading station. It is only an 8 minute trip to the SVRC.





Statewide Vision Resource Centre

presents

Professional Learning Day

for new and newish Visiting Teachers

Monday 25 February 2013 from 9.30am

New Visiting teachers are invited to an orientation day at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre. Apart from the chance to meet the staff of the SVRC, look around at the resources, borrow items and discuss students on their "round", the program will also include:

- **Procedures** - The role of the Statewide Vision Resource Centre in support of your visiting teacher work
- **Processes** – Educational Vision Assessment Clinic, eligibility, nature of support, professional learning days, referrals (e.g. orientation and mobility, low vision services), funding, resources – what and how to request, VCE
- **The eye & vision impairment**
- **References** – and useful websites
- **The 'Expanded Core Curriculum'** for students with vision impairments
- **Learning media assessment** - How should my student be reading and writing?

Cost: Free

Lunch: If you'd like to purchase lunch, it can be ordered through the Heatherwood School Trade Kitchen during the morning.

Registration is essential: by Wednesday 20 February 2013
phone 9841 0242, fax 9841 0878 or email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au



Statewide Vision Resource Centre

presents

Visiting Teacher Professional Development Day Term 1

Tuesday 12 March 2013
9.30am to 3.30pm

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre aims to bring you up-to-date and relevant professional development days relating to the teaching of students with vision impairments each term.

Visiting Teacher Professional Development Days are also an opportunity to meet with your colleagues – another form of professional support.

The program for this day has yet to be finalised but, in view of the National Partnership funding for equipment for students with vision impairments, will probably include some sessions on access technology.

If you'd like to offer a session or recommend a speaker or topic, please be in touch.

We hope that you'll find time in your busy schedule to join us on the day.

Cost: \$44.00

Registration is **essential** by Friday 8 March and please let us know of any dietary requirements which we will endeavour to accommodate.

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