

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 4

Monday 18th March 2013

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

Professional Development Activities for 2013

Teaching Children with Multiple Disabilities and Vision Impairments Dr Jane Erin – conducted at the SVRC via Video Conference from RIDBC	8-9 April
Including Students who are Blind or Have Low Vision in Physical Education Programs presented by Charlie Roberts and Emily White	Friday 19 April
Art4Kids with VI? Presented by Michael Donnelly	Tuesday 23 April
Educational Support for Vision Impaired Students with Additional Impairments This day is designed for teachers, aides, therapists, parents/care-givers and VTs who support vision impaired students who have additional impairments (max participants: 60)	Tuesday 30 April
Skill Power Workshops 9.30-11.00 Setting up the Computer for Low Vision Users, Lyn Robinson 11.30-1.00 Computer without the Mouse, Lea Nagel 1.30-3.30 ZoomText, Trevor Boyd, Quantum RLV	Wednesday 8 May
**NEW MasterClass: Everything iPad Phillipa Enright, Education Queensland	Thursday 16 May
Skill Power Workshops 9.30-11.00 BrailleNote, Lea Nagel 11.30-1.00 NVDA, Emily White 1.30-3.30 JAWS, Garry Stinchcombe	Wednesday 22 May
Skill Power Workshops 9.30-11.00 GT Calc, Charlie Roberts 11.30-1.00 Braille Maths: Secondary, Lea Nagel 1.30-3.30 Braille Maths (Drawing Kits, Tactual Graphics etc): Primary, Lea Nagel	Wednesday 5 June
Dot Power	Tuesday 18 June
26th National Braille Music Camp – see issue 2 of The Bulletin for details	22-29 June

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

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Font Style for Older Readers

Source: Can J Ophthalmol. 2013 Feb;48(1):56-62.

Courier: A better font for reading with age-related macular degeneration

Article by Tarita-Nistor L, Lam D, Brent MH, Steinbach MJ, González EG. Vision Science Research Program, Toronto Western Hospital; Centre for Vision Research, York University.

This study examines the reading performance of patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) using 4 readily available fonts.

Participants: Twenty-four patients with bilateral Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Methods: Reading performance (reading acuity, critical print size, and maximum reading speed) was measured for all patients, using 4 versions of the MNRead charts. These charts were printed in the following fonts: Times New Roman (serif, proportionally spaced), Arial (sans serif, proportionally spaced), Courier (serif, mono spaced), and Andale Mono (sans serif, mono spaced).

Results: Reading acuity was significantly better on the Courier chart (0.58 ± 0.21 logMAR) and significantly worse on the Arial chart (0.69 ± 0.20 logMAR) than on any of the other charts ($P < 0.05$). A larger proportion of patients were able to read ≥ 1 sentences on the Courier chart than on any of the other charts. Reading speed dropped below the limit for fluent reading first with the Arial chart. There was no difference in maximum reading speed with the 4 fonts, and differences in critical print size failed to reach significance ($P = 0.052$).

Conclusions: Font has an effect on the reading performance of patients with AMD at print sizes close to their reading acuity. Courier was the most advantageous and Arial the worst font for reading smaller print.

Please note: These investigations relate to older readers and may not apply to children with vision impairments.

A Concept: Interactive Braille Maps

Braille Maps is a handheld interactive smart phone maps accessory made for people with vision impairments.

Using tactile-sensitive haptic technology, the interface has a perforated braille-like screen with pins which move to show navigation. Constantly receiving information and adapting, Blind Maps warns of changes to the user's route, responds the user's progress and gives options for bird's eye or line view.



At this stage Blind Maps is only a concept and was conceived by designers Andrew Spitz, Ruben van der Vleuten and Markus Schmeiduch during a 36 hour project at the Copenhagen Institute of Interaction Design.

Gymnastics for Blind and Vision Impaired Children

Essendon Keilor Gymnastics with support from Blind Sports Victoria is offering free classes for school-aged students with vision impairments. These classes are suitable for absolute beginners, with no prior experience or exposure to gymnastics.

Classes are held on Friday's at 5.00pm during school terms.

You are welcome to attend a no obligation "Come and Try" class!

See attached flyer for further information.

A Timely Reminder

From Maurice Glesson, President, Blind Sports Victoria.

While allegations of drug taking, cheating and greed continue to tarnish the reputation of professional sport not just here at home but around the world, it's important for us all to remember the true values of sport and recreation in our community. Role models can have a significant influence in our lives, particularly for younger people. Sport and the arts are a great example. When these role models are found to be inauthentic, even 'liars and cheats' we, as a community, need to remind ourselves of what's really inspirational and worth holding up as truly heroic. I find there are plenty of examples here in our membership at Blind Sports Victoria.

The other day there was a young mother on radio asking for advice on what sport she might introduce to her seven-year-old daughter and five-year-old son. There were all kinds of responses from the listening audience, from athletics to soccer.

At Blind Sports Victoria we often get similar requests, that is, questions about what we have on offer, not just for children but young adults and senior citizens. My response is to find something you love, do it to the best of your ability, enjoy it with friends and new people and you will find true rewards, not those connected to money and greed, winning at all costs, but self-satisfaction where knowing you've worked hard and done your best is all that matters.

This year we want to set ourselves a goal, we want to increase participation rates for current members and introduce newcomers to new experiences. Some of these activities include archery, indoor and outdoor soccer, junior vision impaired tennis and expand our junior vision impaired swimming and gymnastics program for younger people. One of our main objectives is that people who are blind or vision impaired can continue to choose to be involved in as many sporting and recreational activities of their choice.

If you know anyone looking to take part in any of our activities or anyone who would like to volunteer an hour or two a week making sport and recreation what it should be for everyone – challenging, rewarding, fun and fulfilling - then call us here at Blind Sports Victoria on 9822 8876 or visit us online at www.blindsports.org.au

Sports Activity Program in Term 2

What: Four blind sports – Goalball, Cricket, Soccer and Swish

When: Every Saturday from April 20 to 25 May 2013

More information: see attached flier or email info@goalball.org.au

Swimming Program for Juniors

Source: Blind Sports Newsletter

“Vision Impaired Swim Victoria” is a learn-to-swim program that aims to provide a supportive and inclusive setting with coaches who have experience in teaching children who are vision impaired water safety and to learn how to swim.

The program is held on Sunday mornings in St. Kilda Road Melbourne. It is run in two block terms; February to April, and October to December. The program is designed for children aged 18 months to 18 years. Your child doesn't need to have had any prior exposure to a pool in order to participate in this swimming program.

For more information contact Blind Sports Victoria on 9822 8876 or blindsports@netspace.net.au

Term 1 VT Day

And for something completely new this year, our VT day was attended by a virtual participant! Jill Hogbin from the Ballarat area joined in via the video conference unit! Below is a snap of some of our participants, with on-screen Jill nestled in the back row!

Highlights of the day? Hearing from top scoring VCE student Daniel Dalton about strategies he used in Year 12 VCE mathematics and science. Daniel who is blind, demonstrated how he uses the software, LaTeX, for production of mathematics and science documents. Daniel is also a keen user of NDVA and Linux software.

We also heard reports from Visiting Teachers Rory Fraser and Sue Matthews about the 2012 Space Camp, Special Arrangements for NAPLAN (see attached for information about scribing for students) and a report from Sam Oxley about the recent SPEVI conference in New Zealand.



Any Takers for Space Camp 2013?

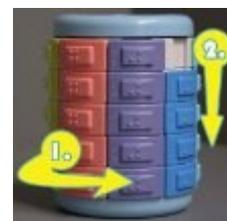
At this stage, we have not heard of a definite group wishing to attend Space Camp this year – so if you have plans ... we need to hear about them before the end of term 1. A group of 4 to 6 students can be chaperoned by two Visiting Teachers. For further information about the program visit: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/EPspacecamp.shtml>

VT News

- **Emily White** has been granted a Scholarship to study vision through the Renwick Masters program – congratulations Emily!!!
- This little gem was found in the “Overheard” section of the Herald Sun by **Denise Probert** (Visiting Teacher – North Eastern Victoria Region)
 Girl 1: “Wow, look at that writing. It’s like something from Star Trek.”
 Girl 2: “That’s Braille.”

Eni Braille Puzzle

Emily White found this little braille treasure on Ebay recently. The cost is listed as \$14.95 + P&H.



Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Jill Keeffe and Lea Nagel.

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>

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

SCRIBE RULES FOR THE WRITING TEST

The Scribe must be fully aware of the test administration procedures and the following conditions:

- The test administration scripts should be delivered exactly as outlined in this handbook.
- After allowing the student time to reflect and consider, the Scribe will write as the student dictates and must not suggest ideas or words to use nor prompt in any other way.
- As the student dictates, the Scribe will write word for word to represent the student's own language, printing all words in lower case without any punctuation, except as dictated by the student.
- The student may request the Scribe read the text back throughout the test for the purpose of maintaining continuity; however the Scribe should not lead the student to re-read the text.
- A spelling check must be performed before the student can be given the scribed text to proofread and edit. The Scribe will select four (4) easy words, four (4) average words and four (4) difficult words that have been used in the text and ask the student to orally spell each one. The Scribe will record the student's oral spelling of each word in a space below the text.
- When completed, the Scribe must cover the scribed text and show the student only the 12 spelling words. The Scribe must ask the student to check these words and indicate any change that the Scribe should make.
- When the test is over, the Scribe will write the selected words in brackets next to each of the words spelt by the student to avoid any confusion during the marking process.
- During the editing time, the scribed text is given to the student to proofread and to indicate where punctuation is to be placed, if not indicated by the student in their original dictation. The Scribe will then mark the capitals, full stops, paragraphs etc. as directed by the student.
- During this time the student may also indicate any changes or additions to the text, and the Scribe will write these where indicated by the student.

Source: <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/naplan/applicationtousescribe.pdf>



GYMNASTICS FOR BLIND AND VISION IMPAIRED KIDS

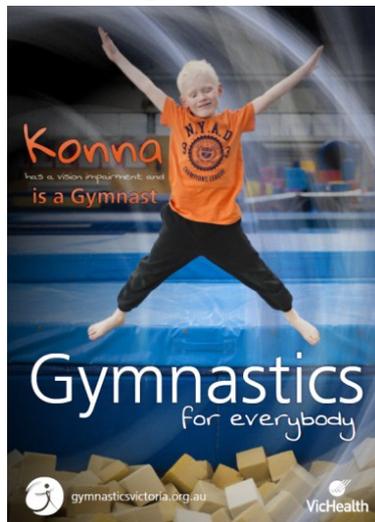
You are invited to participate in an exciting program offered by Essendon Keilor Gymnastics, with support from Blind Sports Victoria. This program will offer school age children (must be attending grade prep or higher)

Gymnastics and Trampoline Classes absolutely FREE.

These classes are suitable for absolute beginners, with no prior experience or exposure to Gymnastics.

Classes are held on Friday's at 5.00pm during school terms.

Come along for a no obligation "Come and Try" class!



Some of the greatest benefits of gymnastics include coordination, power, strength, flexibility, balance, grace and most importantly injury preventing core stability, fall prevention and agility.

Coaches from Essendon Keilor Gymnastics Academy will deliver the program, assisted by our Senior Gymnasts and Junior Coaches. This will allow us to offer **one on one assistance** for the participants. Our Coaches have received training on "sighted guiding" to ensure they are ready to not only teach gymnastics, but to work with children who are Blind or Vision Impaired. All Staff and volunteers have Working With Children's Checks. Our Coaches are accredited through Gymnastics Australia and the Australian Sports Commission.

Phone us on 9336 4077 or send through an email to ekga@gymnastics.org.au to register your child to attend the program or for more information.

How to get here: 194 Roberts Road, Airport West 3042

Public Transport Options: Number 476 and 465 buses leaves Essendon Station and Moonee Ponds Junction. The bus stop is at the corner of Roberts Rd and Fullarton Rd, only 200 meters from our door. Driving: We can easily be reached by the Calder or Tullamarine Freeways and the Western Ring Road or Via Fullarton Rd. Melways ref: 15 F8

Sports Activity Program – for Vision Impaired students

(Every Saturday from April 20th - 25th May 2013)

The six week Activity Program aims to introduce School Aged Vision Impaired students to a variety of Blind Sports, it will target players between the **ages of 6-18** and will focus on exercise, socialization and fun to encourage more junior players to become involved.

Come and try for one week, no commitment to the six week program is required, if other commitments preclude you from being at the full day or every week please specify in comments section of the registration page your availability.

Enjoy the exercise and make some new friends. **Please encourage friends and siblings to join in, they are welcome to participate in the Activity day, group discounts are available.**

What to Wear

Loose sports clothing, track suit pants or sports shorts and T shirt, running shoes suitable for wooden flooring. If you have volleyball knee and elbow pads bring them along, otherwise these can be borrowed on the day.

Cost

\$5 per week or \$25 for the 6 week Program for an Individual, \$50 per family or friendship group for 8 weeks.

Dates: April 20th - 20th May

Every Saturday for 6 weeks (8:45am – 4:00pm)

Where and how to get there:

Scotch College Junior Hall

1 Morrison St, Hawthorn VIC, Melbourne, Victoria.

(catch the number 16 tram to stop 68)

Vision Australia

454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong 3144.

Vision Australia is a 5 minute walk down a hill from Scotch College and within short walking distance to Kooyong Train Station

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER BEFORE YOU CAN PLAY:

<http://goalball.org.au/2013-vga-registration-form/>, and choose the \$5 or \$25 Activity Day option. By registering you are becoming “Activity Day” members of VGA, VBCA and Swish and are therefore covered by Accident Insurance.

Program

8:45 – 9:00am	Registration and Warm-up	Scotch College Junior Hall
9:00am – 10:30	Goalball	Scotch Junior Hall
10:30am – 10:45	Travel to Vision Australia	
10:45am – 11:00	Morning Tea break	Cricket Pavilion – Vision Australia
11:00am – 12:30pm	Soccer	Cricket Pavilion
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Lunch	Cricket Pavilion
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Cricket	Cricket Pavilion
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Swish	Vision Australia – main building

Note: In the event of wet weather the program may change or finish early.

BYO Lunch or Join us for Lunch.

Families are welcome to join the VGA and VBCA organised BBQ's. Please RSVP in the comments section of the Registration Page.

Cost of Lunch is \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Contact: Michelle (program co-ordinator)
ph: 0408 950 203 email: info@goalball.org.au