

# The Bulletin

## Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 14

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013

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

### Professional Development Activities for Term 4, 2013

Event	Date
<b>Support Skills Program Try Day</b> (information attached to issue 13)	Friday 8 November
<b>Dot Power</b> – for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3	Tues 19 November
<b>SVRC Educational Expo</b> (program attached)	Mon 25 November
<b>SVRC Masterclass – Ike Presley</b> (program attached)	27-28 November
<b>SVRC Christmas Morning Tea – all welcome!!!</b>	Wed 4 December

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

### SVRC Masterclass – Ike Presley: 27 and 28 November 2013

As a team member of AFB's National Literacy Center, Ike Presley works to develop resources and materials that can be used to improve the literacy and access technology outcomes for students with vision impairments. He will present on literacy and the use of technology to develop literacy skills at this upcoming Masterclass for Victorian Visiting Teachers.

Registration is essential. There are a limited number of places for other interested educators – please see the attached flier for further details or: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/PLPikepresley2013.pdf>.

This program is also available through RIDBC: [www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/calendar-events](http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/calendar-events).

### SVRC Educational Expo: 25 November 2013

The SVRC Educational Expo showcases the access technology options for students with vision impairments. Displays and demonstrations of the latest in access technology will include enlargement, voice output, electronic magnification, talking books, optical equipment, braille technology, sports equipment and more.

No need to register – just come along to the SVRC on the day between 10.00am and 2.30pm. For further details including parking and public transport information, please see the flier: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/PLPexpo2013.pdf>

### Inside This Issue

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## SVRC Website Update: Professional Development 2014

For those of you who like to plan AHEAD, the draft SVRC annual program of activities for 2014 is now available on the website.

We have planned the Educational Support Days as follows:

- **Educational Support for Students who are Blind:** 10 February
- **Educational Support for Students who have Low Vision:** 24 OR 25 February
- **Educational Support for Students who have Additional Impairments:** 6 May

A draft program is available for each of these days with a map and transport information attached.

Dates for Dot Power and Skill Power for 2014 have been identified – we are still working on dates for the Art and PE days and for Support Skills.

For further information visit: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PL.shtml>

## Teachers of VI Students with Multiple Impairments – 2014 PD

From Marion Blazé

The draft calendar for professional development for 2014 is now on our website along with programs for the PD days offered in terms 1 and 2 to school-based teachers. The day for teachers of children with VI and additional impairments is on 6 May 2014.

As a result of discussions with VTs from one region, we will offer this PD day both for people who can attend SVRC and for schools or groups to attend by video conference. The idea is that if your teachers can't easily get to SVRC, they can form a group at one venue in your region and view most of the day by video conference with support from local VTs. If organised in advance, we will send out kits, handouts and instructions so that the simulation activities at the beginning of the day can be conducted by regional VTs and then discussions and powerpoint sessions will be by video conference after this.

Annette, Geoff and I are seeing an increasing number of children at EVAC with multiple and severe impairments, so no doubt there will be increasing numbers in your schools. We welcome your input for this and other ideas that might open up our PD to more schools. Please contact us with your input.

## Great PD: Renwick Hub

The Renwick Hub is delivered by [RIDBC Renwick Centre](#) and aims to provide a platform for educators and professionals in the field of special education to exchange ideas and provide support for each other. There are some great discussion groups and a plethora of resources including access by invitation to lectures and handouts by some amazing international speakers! Some are free and some require subscription. Examples of groups are:

- Education and Life Planning Issues for Students with VI (Karen Wolffe)
- Improving the outcomes for Students with Vision Impairment in Mainstream Settings
- Assessment of vision in neurologically impaired children
- New: Coping with Depression (Karen Wolffe)

Visit: <http://renwickhub.ning.com/>

## Annual Report Template and Year 7 Transition

Participants at the recent VT day discussed the value of a statewide template for VT Annual Reports. The template is available: [http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Avtreport\\_template.doc](http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Avtreport_template.doc).

Visiting Teachers also discussed the steps for braille students to a successful transition from Year 6 to Year 7. The document on pages 4 to 5 summarise these discussions.

## Professional Learning – Inclusion Online – Term 4

Source: DEECD Communication S338-2013

Teachers, visiting teachers, and allied health staff are invited to participate in online professional learning courses focusing on the understanding, assessment and classroom support of students with disabilities and learning difficulties. Completion of a course can be credited as 20 hours professional development.

## Renwick – Two Braille Courses

**Where:** RIDBC Renwick Centre, 361-365 North Rocks Road, North Rocks (Sydney)

**Presenter:** Josie Howse, Manager NSW State Braille and Large Print Unit, NSW Department of Education and Communities

**Intended Audience:** These courses have been designed for teachers and support staff who are seeking to extend their braille skills.

**Cost:** \$160 each (discount if enrolling for both)

### *The Mystery of Braille Maths*

**When:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013

This workshop will identify all relevant principles essential in having a true understanding of Braille transcription of mathematical material K - 6. It will address the various Braille code signs and modes and give a comprehensive understanding of why things are brailled as they are when almost identical items are brailled differently. It will also address the various algorithms and long division layout common at this level. The critical ingredient in producing accurate mathematical Braille production is to have a clear understanding of "WHY". The workshop will give ample opportunity to ask questions and challenge your understanding with exciting hands-on the Perkins producing numerous and typical examples. This workshop is the forerunner to the Secondary Mathematics 7 - 12 where principles learnt in the primary context will expand and develop in the secondary workshop.

### *The Mystery of Braille Tech*

**When:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013

This workshop will identify all relevant principles essential in having a true understanding of Braille transcription of mathematical material 7 - 12. It will address the various Braille code signs and modes at this level and give a comprehensive understanding of why things are brailled as they are when almost identical items are brailled differently. The critical ingredient in producing accurate mathematical Braille production is to have a clear understanding of "WHY". Irrespective of how complex and "difficult" the Mathematics becomes, once the important concepts are explained & clarified, the content will become "easy"! The workshop will give ample opportunity to ask questions and challenge your understanding with exciting hands-on the Perkins producing numerous and typical examples

**For more information:** Trudy Smith, Continuing Professional Education Manager  
[trudy.smith@ridbc.org.au](mailto:trudy.smith@ridbc.org.au)

## Solve Disability Solutions (formerly TADVIC)

TADVIC (Technical Aids for the Disabled) have changed their name to Solve Disability Solutions. Solve Disability Solutions is a Victorian not-for-profit organisation providing custom equipment and solutions including the making or modification of equipment for people with disabilities whose needs cannot be met commercially.

Solve Disability Solutions volunteers are practical people with engineering, trade, technical and other specialist skills. They work closely with individuals and their team to design and make or modify equipment to suit specific requirements.

For more information visit <http://www.solve.org.au/> or phone 1300 663 243.

## Connect SmartView 360 to Your iPad

Source: Tony Wu, Humanware

You will need 2 accessory components:

1. A standard VGA cable. Standard length is 3 feet but you can buy a longer one if required.
2. A 30 pin to VGA adaptor (for iPad 1, 2 and 3). This adaptor is sold in Apple stores on any other Apple distributor. If you have an iPad 4 (and eventually the 5); use the VGA to thunderbolt adaptor; as the connector is different.

How to use SmartView 360 with iPad:

1. Connect the VGA cable to the port of SV360
2. Connect the VGA adaptor from Apple, to the VGA cable
3. Connect your iPad to the adaptor
4. Power iPad on
5. Power SV360 on, then press the Color button to toggle from iPad view to SV360 view

A few comments:

- The iPad will not be charged via VGA
- No audio will come via SV360, only through iPad
- No reverse colors will show on SV360, Apple does not support this output (white on black reversed colors appear on iPad but not on screen)
- Magnification from iPad (zoom) is displayed from iPad (no zoom from SV360 in this use)
- No image capturing possible from SV360

## Support for Access Technology Users

### *The Tech Doctor*

Recent posts include:

- The Sweetspot: Where people and technology connect
- Instabrowser Faster than Safari
- iOS Success: Help teachers and parents catch up with their kids

Visit: <http://www.dr-carter.com/>

### *Blind Technology (Australia)*

A local list for the discussion of technology and accessibility – by Group D's **Thomas**:

Visit: [http://www.freelists.org/webpage/blink\\_tech-aus](http://www.freelists.org/webpage/blink_tech-aus)

Subscribe at: [http://www.freelists.org/list/blink\\_tech-aus](http://www.freelists.org/list/blink_tech-aus)

or by sending a blank email to: [blink\\_tech-aus-request@freelists.org](mailto:blink_tech-aus-request@freelists.org)

## Transition for a Braille-Using Student – Year 6 to Year 7

Source: discussions at the Term 3 VT Day with thanks to Heidi Littleford

The transition from primary school to secondary school can be fraught for some students. The need for students to be organised with books and equipment and to be able to navigate the new school environment, turn up to classes on time and negotiate a new staff and student population can prove challenging! Here are some thoughts that may initiate the necessary discussions and planning.

### ***In year 6***

- PSD funding application – the more evidence the better (partnership between the primary and secondary school)
- Choice of secondary setting? What type of school? – need supporting evidence for enrolment in special settings
- Training of integration aide/s and support staff
- Room set-up for all the braille equipment which is lockable and has shelving for storing books
- Organise visit to the primary school for new staff to see the set-up and the way the student works
- If possible organise a visit for the secondary school to meet a highly competent braille using student at another secondary school, this student could possibly be a mentor
- Technology sessions with the school teachers and the equipment
- Organise resources at the secondary school such as sporting equipment, tactile materials, braille books and brailled games in the library
- If VT or aides/support staff changing then do a transition at the start of term 3
- O&M environmental assessment report – accessibility grant may be available for all students not just PSD
- Orientation and Mobility training for student
- Setting up of equipment and developing relationship with IT department
- Location of student's locker
- Set-up and labelling of specialist rooms eg Food technology, Woodwork (OTs can assist with this)
- Collect all textbooks and arrange for SVRC to produce them in alternative format
- Audio books in the library
- Classroom teacher (or key contact person at the school), year 7 coordinator and VT to have meeting/planning day for the student
- Relationship building with new school, VT, student and family
- SSG meetings in year 6 to include the Integration Coordinator from the secondary college if possible
- Staff presentation – booking time and date
- How is the student going to communicate with teachers to hand in completed work eg USB, emailing, webDav, dropbox, audio format

### ***In year 7***

- VT document – things to know about the student and teaching strategies (including information for CRTs). This should be given to all teachers and aides/support staff.
- Vision statement for student to give to all teachers – power-point, update regularly, student to organise meeting friends at playtime
- Yard duty – where to go if needing help, where to meet friends
- Possibly present to the rest of the year 7 students
- Use of a diary/planner

- Recording information
- Managing folders and braille books; also electronic files and folders
- VT presentation to staff members about vision (good to include O & M instructor)
- Year 7 school camp – student needs to be independent in living skills, possible orientation to the camp location if not too far away (O&M assist)
- Home room easier if on ground floor
- Social activities during school time and also after school
- How is the student going to communicate with teachers to hand in completed work; e.g. USB, emailing, webDav, dropbox
- Roles and responsibilities of what is to be expected; student (need to be the same as other students), aide, VT and teachers
- Trouble shooting for technology and issues that will arise
- Subjects – LOTE/Braille (individual needs)
- Timetabling for student and VT (can change each semester)
- Information handouts and specialised equipment for specific subjects eg Art, PE
- The Bulletin for integration co-ordinator and aide/s
- How to provide feedback on achievement/reporting etc

### ***Equipment to consider for a braille secondary school student***

- Embosser with Duxbury Braille Translation program
- Desktop computer
- QuickPic software and PIAF machine for production of tactual diagrams
- Perkins braille x 2
- Laptop computer with JAWS
- BrailleNote with separate VGA monitor
- iPad
- Pearl with Openbook for scanning print documents
- Victor Reader Stream
- Talking calculator
- Draftsman drawing kit

### ***Resources to consider for a braille secondary school student***

- Braille paper (A4 and normal size braille paper)
- Braille Label – plastic sheets for labels
- Draftsman drawing paper
- Piaf paper
- Cork board with pins
- Variety of tactile materials for creating diagrams/models/graphs
- Raised graph paper
- Spur wheels
- Braille folders
- Tactile/talking ruler, protractor, tape measure
- Construction materials; wikki sticks, blue tac, glue sticks, hole punch, snap lock bags, Velcro stickers, puff paint
- Specialised items for Maths (eg 3-D shapes), woodwork, cooking, science
- Braille Primer and cheat sheets for literacy, numeracy, music, technology and software
- PE equipment eg bell balls, swish table
- Braille book carry bag

## BrailleNote Skills Checklist

Developed by Visiting Teacher Leigh Morrison, this handy document is a great way to identify skills that your student has mastered. The checklist comprises the following sections:

- basic commands
- word processor
- editing
- voice settings

Download from: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/CSbnchecklist.pdf>

## Australian College of Optometry: Low Cost Glasses and Other Services

The Australian College of Optometry can provide low cost eye care services to children who are listed on a Pensioner Concession card or Health Care card. Prices for glasses start from \$38 with standard frames or \$19 with existing frames. Contact lenses can be provided for \$52 to \$92.

The College has offices in Carlton, Braybrook, Broadmeadows, Doveton-Hallam, East Preston, Frankston, and includes the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Fitzroy.

Services are also available in rural Victoria through a network of participating optometrists and ophthalmologists. This is called the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES) and is funded by the Victorian Government and administered by the College of Optometry.

For more details, go to <http://www.aco.org.au/eye-care-services>

## Upcoming Support Skills “Try Day”

All students must attend a SVRC Support Skills Program Try Day before they can be offered a place in the program. Try Day gives students and families the opportunity to experience the SSP first hand, meet with staff and make an informed choice as to the suitability of the program.

SSP is open to:

- Students who have been deemed eligible to receive support by EVAC.
- Students from any educational sector and from any region of the state.
- Students who will be in Grade 4 to Year 10 in 2014.

Here is what a parent wrote recently about her child’s participation in the Support Skills Program:

(My child) had the most wonderful day at Support Skills and in particular the baking gave her a huge confidence lift. She baked cupcakes that night and then again the next day and then again the next week – by herself with my supervision. One of the things that (my child) says helps her the most at Support Skills is meeting two other girls her age who also have (the same eye condition). Getting to know these girls has given (my child) such a boost. Also (my child) really enjoys the sport because she feels that she can take part and it is supportive and encouraging and she doesn’t feel so different there – at school she feels her difference keenly during sports and games.

We are so thankful to all the teachers and team at Statewide Vision – she is already talking about when she can attend next term!

See attached for a copy of the registration form or for detailed information about the SSP visit: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CUsupportskills.pdf>

## Dot Power Day: The Magic Hat, Devonshire tea AND 'Andy' with his 'fro and his electric guitar!!!

From Lea Nagel, Statewide Vision Resource Centre (and yes, that's 'Andy' to the right)

Our Dot Power students became published authors and illustrators today!

They read the beginnings of our book, "The magic hat" which stimulated ideas about what a character might wish for. The children wrote a page using the Perkins braille writer and illustrated it using the Draftsman Drawing Kit (funded through MSSD National Partnership) or wire board. Technique for loading paper in the Perkins and Drawing Kit and pencil grips were worked on. All of the children will need further instruction and practise in this area.



The pages that were created by each student were reproduced and published by our braille production department so that each child could have a copy of the book with everyone's contributions. At the end of the day the children read their page out as their peers followed the story in their own copies. This gave a possibly unusual opportunity for these children to experience their peers' work in detail. Each page was thoughtful and creative, and the group showed enthusiastic appreciation for their friends' contributions.

The children read a recipe - a different style of reading - and baked scones. They measured using talking scales and cups, putting their fingers just into the top of the ¼ cup when measuring milk so that they would know when the cup was full. They had to think about organising their cooking space and they practised different ways of mixing - with their fingers and with a knife. They cut their scones and arranged them on the tray.

After lunch, the children had a tea party - Devonshire Tea - after discussing polite table conventions. They each poured from a teapot, cut and spread jam and cream on their scones using a knife and spoon, and proudly enjoyed their scones.

The children enjoyed the process of recording themselves re-reading the book at the end of the day and were excited about having Cam dressed as the character Andy from the book in a 'fro wig and playing the electric guitar. They recorded some sound grabs which were edited after the day into an amusing sound file which is now available to download from the Dot Power page of the SVRC website.

We were fortunate to have Jane, an Occupational Therapist from Vision Australia, attending for the day. Jane noted that the children will all need further practice using utensils and pencils and manipulating equipment such as the Draftsman Drawing Kit and the Perkins.

Next Dot Power Day: Tuesday 19th November.





## Schools Blind Cricket Programme

From Rod Pritchard

The Victorian Blind Cricket Association extends an invitation for all blind and vision impaired primary and secondary school students to attend the 2013 Annual Schools Blind Cricket Programme. This is a great opportunity for students of all ages to attend this introduction / coaching clinic day.

Attendees will learn the art of blind cricket through a range of activities and games designed specifically to help students with a vision impairment to have fun, develop age appropriate sporting skills, improve hand eye / hand ear coordination and orientation and mobility skills as well as learning to be part of a team where they experience success from a young age. Parents / Guardians, Visiting Teachers and other service providers are also encouraged to attend the day.

Blind cricket is played as a mixed gender all age sport with players graded according to their age and abilities. It is specifically designed for both blind and partially sighted players and the player grading system ensures everyone who participates can get a fair go. Blind Cricket is a great way to keep fit as well as build up important social networks and can lead to participation in local, national and international events.

There is a small cost of \$5.00 for participants to attend this programme which includes morning tea and a sausage sizzle and soft drink lunch.

If you would like to attend this programme registration is essential by completing and returning the registration and permission / medical forms by Friday 11th October 2013. Registration and permission / medical forms and additional information can be obtained from the VBCA Web Site, <http://www.vbca.org.au> on the Cricket Clinic Tab on the Home Page or the direct page link of <http://www.vbca.org.au/clinic.php>

**Please note that no attendee will be permitted to participate in the programme unless the VBCA registration and parental consent / medical forms are fully completed and signed by a parent or guardian. It would also be appreciated if parents, guardians and others attending the day could also confirm their intentions for catering purposes.**

Completed forms should be returned to the Secretary, Victorian Blind Cricket Association by email to [secretary@vbca.org.au](mailto:secretary@vbca.org.au) by the RSVP date of Friday 11th October 2013.

**When:** Wednesday 23rd October 2013

**Time:** 9:30am to 2:30pm

**Who:** All blind and vision impaired Primary and Secondary School students

**Where:** Please meet at Charlie Bradley Cricket Pavilion

Victorian Blind Cricket Association Grounds, 454 Glenferrie Road Kooyong (at the rear of VA)

**Cost:** \$5.00

**RSVP essential by:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Further information about this day can be obtained by contacting Rod Pritchard by phone on (BH) 8842 5878, (AH) 9754 7308, (Mob) 0401 718 926 or email to [pritchardrojo@bigblue.net.au](mailto:pritchardrojo@bigblue.net.au).

The VBCA hope you will take this opportunity to explore the benefits of playing blind cricket and look forward to meeting with you on the day.

Rod Pritchard

President

## Victor Reader Stream Instructions

Lea Nagel has been at it again! Visit: [http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CSvictor\\_reader\\_stream.pdf](http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CSvictor_reader_stream.pdf)

## JVIB – Sept-Oct 2013

The following articles, amongst others, appear in the latest issue of JVIB:

- Severe Visual Impairments in Infants and Toddlers in the United States by Deborah D. Hatton, Sarah E. Ivy, and Charles Boyer
- Identity Development in German Adolescents with and without Visual Impairments by Martin Pinquart and Jens P. Pfeiffer
- Book Reviews: The Mind's Eye by Oliver Sacks reviewed by Gordon Dutton

## TAVI – Travel Assistant for the Visually Impaired

Source: <http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2013/08/31/travel-assistant-app-for-people-with-vision-disabilities/>

TAVI, developed in Singapore, provides advanced geo-location and navigation features such as current location, distance to destination as well as current weather reports, bus timetables etc.

To see it in action visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpJB14fT0qk>

A South African Wimpy Burgers promotional video shows Wimpy Burgers with braille on the top of the bun. Strange but true, the company has decided to use the sesame seeds to form the braille letters. This information from Wimpy explains:

### Burgers: Would you like braille with that?

“Wimpy wanted to let visually impaired people know that they offered braille menus in all of their restaurants. To spread the word we built braille burgers that blind people could actually read. With the help of skilled chefs we took sesame seeds and meticulously placed them on burger buns so that the seeds formed braille.”

Here is a YouTube link with audio description: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nszEBLt13qg>

## Eccentric Viewing Assessment and Training

Efficient eccentric viewing is the skill of using the optimum part of the retina to gain the best detail vision, when central vision is damaged. In past years, the wonderful Kerry Fitzmaurice (Associate Professor, Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Health Sciences, Latrobe University) has conducted assessments of Victorian students with vision impairments and set Visiting Teachers up to provide ongoing training in the use of eccentric vision, once the optimum retinal location is established.

Kerry would like to offer this service again, on **Monday 18 November 2013**. It will be offered at **SVRC** and Visiting Teachers will need to attend with children, so that Kerry can set them up with some training exercises that can be used as a basis to include eccentric viewing practice in their regular interactions with students. Kerry would then remain available for contact regarding any problems or advice required by Visiting Teachers in the progress of training.

Please contact Marion Blazé at SVRC to express interest in including any of your students in this special program. Once we are aware of numbers, we will negotiate times:

[blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:blaze.marion.g@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## Horse Spectacular: Cavalia

Six students from the north and west were recently treated to a hands-on personalised experience of the Cavalia horses. Students had the opportunity to see the beautiful horses, stables, trainers, riders, performance space and the horse food.



Here is what **Emmanuel** wrote about his visit to the Cavalia horses:

On Tuesday Miss Sandra and I went to Cuvarlya.

There was a lot of horses there.

It was onlly for blind kids.

We got to groom the horses we got to feed and tuch

them. There was a lot of very nice people there that helped us.

I was also on tv. I realy enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun.

by Emmanuel

**Lilly** wrote the following:

Today me and Francine went to Cavarlia. We went in Francines car. And drove to Covarlia. There was 6 people there. When we got there we split into groups. First me and my group all got to sit on a sadl. Then we got to feel all the hoses food. Then we got to feel a horse shoo. Then we got to brush a hose. Then we got to see how fast a horse can go. Then we got some presents. The presents were some popcornne, some farryflos, a toy.

To see the Channel 7 News clip, visit: <http://au.news.yahoo.com/video/vic/watch/18770543/kids-in-touching-encounter-with-cavalia-stars/>

## Staff News

- **Rachel Morgan** from Guide Dogs Victoria has recently completed the SVRC Braille Correspondence Course – and passed with flying colours! Nice work Rachel!
- A new baby for **Linden Woodruff** from Guide Dogs Victoria – a little girl named Zoe!
- **Helen Caldow** had a couple of weeks of LSL at the end of last term – great idea!
- A former staff member of SVRC emailed that she was playing with Tap Tap See “and yes it did tell me the difference between a can of tomatoes and a can of beans”. But when she took a selfie, it announced: “woman frowning” – WOOPS!

## Hidden Talents

Marg Moloney, Visiting Teacher NEVR, handles a dog for a friend. “Handles” is a term amongst the dog fraternity which means works with or handles a dog in competitions.

Marg recently emailed to say, “Last weekend was the third weekend I have handled my friend’s standard poodle pup (8 months old) in tracking trials and she got her tracking title.”

Congratulations to Marg and the poodle pup, Giday Silver Mist Over Oz or Misty to her friends! This is going to be one special pup as she is also being trained as an assistance dog for her owner.



## Vale Dr Abraham Nemeth

Sad news recently with the passing of Dr Abraham Nemeth, the scientist who invented the Nemeth Braille Code for Mathematics and Scientific Notation used in North America.

For more information about Dr Nemeth and his ground-breaking braille code, please read “The History of the Braille Code: An Interview with Dr. Abraham Nemeth,” from the Future Reflections 2009 Special Issue: A Celebration of Braille:

<https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/fr/fr28/fr280110.htm>

## Student News

- **James** from inner South-Western Victoria Region completed his engineering degree at RMIT last year and is currently working in Germany and living independently. And apparently he was recently the recipient of one of 15 awards by the Golden Key International Honorary Society for undergraduate students. How excellent!

## Finally

And finally thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Marion Blazé, Helen Caldow, Gabrielle Graf, Jill Keeffe, Heidi Littleford, Lea Nagel, Cam Phillips, Dianne Simpson, Gayle Skinner, Mike Steer and Emily White.

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>

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

presents

# Expo featuring best practise in access technology options for students with vision impairments

**When:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
10.00am - 2.30pm

**Where:** Statewide Vision Resource Centre  
370 Springvale Road, Donvale

in the grounds of Heatherwood School  
(please park in the **lower carpark** at the Sports Centre next door)

Displays and demonstrations of the latest in access technology for students with vision impairments.

**Come and see and try: enlarging and talking computer software, electronic magnification, calculators, talking books, optical equipment, braille technology, sports equipment and more.**

The day is open to teachers, teacher aides, parents, students, mobility instructors, rehabilitation workers or anyone with an interest in access technology for students with vision impairments.

Create Your Own Top Tech Tip (audio or video) – prizes presented on the day  
For entry details see <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/ttt.shtml>

**Plan to spend the time to try out something new!**

**Cost:** Free (and no need to register)

**For further details:** phone 9841 0242 or email [pd@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pd@svrc.vic.edu.au)



Department of Education and  
Early Childhood Development



# Determining AT Needs of Students Who Are Blind or Vision Impaired

*MasterClass presented by Ike Presley  
at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre*

**When:** Wednesday 27 November 2013 from 10.00am to 3.30pm

**And:** Thursday 28 November 2013 from 9.30am to 3.00pm

**Where:** Statewide Vision Resource Centre 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

**Registration essential:** email (preferred) [pd@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:pd@svrc.vic.edu.au) or fax 9841 0878

**Cost:** Victorian Visiting Teachers \$30 per day (no further discount available)

A limited number of additional places are available (\$160 per day). This program is also available through RIDBC: [www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/calendar-events](http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/calendar-events)

## ***Determining AT Needs of Students Who Are Blind or Vision Impaired***

Determining the AT needs of students with vision impairments can be a daunting task for teachers of students with vision impairments with limited technology experience and for assistive technology specialists with limited knowledge of vision disabilities. The objective of this presentation is to provide information about conducting an assistive technology assessment of students who are blind or vision impaired.

### ***Intended audience***

Victorian Visiting Teachers are warmly invited to attend this 2-day presentation.

### ***About the presenter***

Ike Presley became a staff member of AFB's National Literacy Center in 1999. As a member of the Literacy Team, Presley helps develop resources and materials that can be used by service providers to improve the quality of their service. Presley presents and facilitates training workshops for service providers on issues related to literacy and the use of technology to develop literacy skills. For the previous five years, he was an assistive technology specialist at the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology, where he assessed students with visual impairments to determine the most appropriate assistive technology for their educational program. He has also specialised as a technology instructor at the Georgia Sensory Rehabilitation Center and in both itinerant and resource room settings where he supported students in grades K-12 who were vision impaired or had additional disabilities.



Presley earned his B.A. in Music Therapy/Psychology and his M.S. in Special Education-Visual Disabilities from Florida State University. He has authored several articles and made numerous presentations at national and state conferences on assistive technology, literacy, and teaching students who are blind or vision impaired. He is co-author of the recently published *Assistive Technology for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired: A Guide to Assessment*.



## Join SPEVI

### Eligibility

Full Membership of our professional organisation is open to anyone who is directly involved in the education of people who have vision impairments. Membership is wide and includes more than just professionals working in the field. Membership may come from any of the following areas:

- teachers
- orientation and mobility instructors
- orthoptists
- medical professionals
- optometrists
- students
- parents
- therapists
- social workers
- teacher aides
- case workers
- welfare agencies
- agencies for people with vision impairments

There are many individuals and groups in addition to those listed above who might like to consider membership.

### Cost

All memberships are current for 2 years and are exempt from GST.

Full Membership: \$110 (no GST) NOTE THIS HAS NOT BEEN INCREASED FOR AGES!

Pacific area residents (including PNG): \$11

Students and parents: \$44

**Membership form: Download from our SPEVI website:**

<http://spevi.net/spevi/join-spevi.php>

**As a member you receive the Journal of SPEVI and can stay up to date with advances in the field via the listserv and website.**

**Attendance at SPEVI days and the biennial conference is discounted for members.**

**UPCOMING EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED 7 OCTOBER 2013**

**SPEVI DAY AT VISION AUSTRALIA KOOYONG – an exciting agenda is planned.**



Statewide Vision  
Resource Centre

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Nunawading 3131

Tel: (+613) 9841 0242

Fax: (+613) 9841 0878

Email: [svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au)

## SUPPORT SKILLS PROGRAM TRY DAY 2013

**When:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Time:** 9:30am to 1:30pm

**Where:** SVRC 370 Springvale Rd Donvale

The purpose of the Try Day is to allow students and their families to experience the program first hand, meet with staff and make an informed choice as to the suitability of the program for their child.

It is a condition of enrolment that all students must attend a Try Day before they can be offered a place in the program.

We invite Visiting Teachers and other professionals to pass this notice on to those families whose children they feel would benefit from attending the program.

### Who can apply?

- Students who have been deemed eligible to receive support by EVAC.
- Students from any educational sector and from any region of the state.
- Students who will be in Grade 4 to Year 10 in 2014.

### Registering for the Try Day

Students can register by visiting the SVRC website and downloading the "Expression of Interest Form" for the Support Skills Program: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/Arefssp.pdf>.

Send the completed form via email: [ssp@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:ssp@svrc.vic.edu.au) or post to Garry Stinchcombe here at the SVRC:

### Closing date

We need to receive Expressions of Interest by no later than Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

### Annual Fee

Students who attend 8 times a year pay a fee of \$100. Students who attend once a term pay a fee of \$60.

### Further information

For more information about the Support Skills Program please visit the SVRC website: <http://svrc.vic.edu.au/EPsupportskills.shtml>

Please direct any questions to Garry Stinchcombe (03) 9841 0242 or [ssp@svrc.vic.edu.au](mailto:ssp@svrc.vic.edu.au)

Regards,  
Garry Stinchcombe and Deb Lewis