

# The Bulletin

## Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 16

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013

434 days till the next SPEVI Conference in Melbourne

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### Professional Development Activities for Term 4, 2013

Event	Date
<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>

### Upcoming PD

A quick reminder about the professional development activities for the remainder of term 4:

- **SVRC Masterclass – Ike Presley:** 27 and 28 November 2013  
Ike will present on 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.

To arrange purchase of “Assistive Technology for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired: A Guide to Assessment” by Ike Presley and Frances Mary D’Andrea, please be in touch – a discount may be available. For further information about this book, visit:

<http://www.afb.org/store/Pages/ShoppingCart/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductId=978-0-89128-890-9&ruling=Yes>

- **SVRC Educational Expo:** 25 November 2013  
Expo showcases the access technology options for students with vision impairments including 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 10.00 am and 2.30 pm.  
For further details including parking and public transport information, please see the flier:  
<http://svrc.vic.edu.au/PLPexpo2013.pdf>

### Inside This Issue

1	Professional Development 2013, Masterclass – Ike Presley, SVRC Educational Expo
2	VT Support for VI Students, What’s Going on in SSP Art? Ceramic Birds!
3	Junior Cricket Program, Junior Blind Soccer Clinic, MCG Open Day, Blind Cricket at the “G”
4	Small Sided Football Match, Tandem Track Cycling, English Online Interview 2014, JAWS 15
5	Vision Education Scoping Report, OrCam, VTs as Road Warriors
6	Describing Clearly, Airlines Offer Sight Help, Keil’s Art, Staff News
7-8	Fliers: Expo and Ike Presley’s Proposed Program

## VT Support for VI Students

Extract from: “Day in the Life” series by Sian Watkins, page 14 from the September 2013 issue of AEU News featuring visiting teacher **Melissa Bowyer** and one of her students.

In the latest instalment in our “Day in the Life” series, Sian Watkins shadows one of the 26 visual impairment specialists working in Victoria’s government schools.

When grade five student Sam reads... his fine fingers move deftly left to right across the moving dots of his Braille laptop as if he’s playing a slow glissando.



Sam is reading the second volume of Harry Potter, and Melissa Bowyer, the visiting teacher who helps vision-impaired students, is setting him speed-reading exercises. Improving his reading speed on his BrailleNote (a laptop-like machine) will help him keep up at high school, she says.

“Sam will need to rely on his BrailleNote at high school because he won’t be able to carry lots of heavy Braille textbooks around.”

Melissa sets the timer on her phone and he reads...

To read the article: [http://www.aeuvic.asn.au/news\\_5\\_2013\\_complete\\_lr.pdf](http://www.aeuvic.asn.au/news_5_2013_complete_lr.pdf)

## What’s Going on in SSP Art? Ceramic Birds!

Art teacher Michael Donnelly offered the students the opportunity to work in clay over two Support Skills sessions during term 3. With a backdrop of birdsong courtesy of YouTube, students were invited to make a small bird in white earthenware clay, based on demonstration pieces that were shown to the group.

Students had a choice of a bird in flight or in a seated (or perched) position. Students stepped through the process of forming the body of the bird from two small pinch pots joined together and then adding to this to model the head, wings, etc.

Students produced a range of birds which were fired in the Donvale PS Art Room kiln with thanks to the Art teacher, Bernadette Towan.



The bisque-fired birds were painted during the second Art session for the term using glazes.

The colourful collection of birds produced by students can be seen in the photographs – photo (left) shows the range of birds produced by students in various groups; individual birds are by Ella (top) and Danijela.



## Junior Coaching and Development Cricket Summer Program

**When:** Saturday mornings from October 2013 to March 2014

**Time:** 10:30am to 12:00noon

**Who:** All blind and vision impaired male and female primary and secondary school students

**Where:** Charlie Bradley Pavilion, Victorian Blind Cricket Association Grounds, 454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong (rear of Vision Australia)

The Blind Cricket Coaching and Development Program is a great way for participant to learn new skills and for both participants and parents/guardians alike to develop valuable social and support networks. Included in their summer program are some social events, too! For further information please contact Junior Development Coordinator, Tony Montesanti by email at [montesanti@internode.on.net](mailto:montesanti@internode.on.net) or phone on 0439 019 719.

## Junior Blind Soccer Clinic

**Beginning:** Saturday 19 October (6-week program)

**Time:** 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Where:** Edwards Lake Park, 75 Leamington Street, Reservoir (Melways Map 18 D4)

Blind Sports Victoria is conducting a free six week junior blind soccer development program. This small-sided program will be conducted every Saturday morning commencing Saturday 19 October 2013. Participants will be introduced to a relaxed fun and exciting experience with a major focus on skill development, freedom of expression and limited reliance on the scoreboard.

For further details contact Blind Sports Victoria on 9822 8876 or email [info@blindsports.org.au](mailto:info@blindsports.org.au)

## MCG Open Day

**When:** 17 November from 10.00am to 4.00pm

**Where:** MCG

The Melbourne Cricket Club is celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an open day which is a free event open to the general public. The National Sports Museum will be open free of charge, and there will be plenty of activities in Yarra Park along with a self-guided walking tour of the MCG and a kick on the G. Patrons can pick up a map and show bag on arrival through Gate 2.

## Blind Cricket at “the G”

**When:** 1 December 2013

**Where:** MCG

The Victorian Blind Cricket Association in conjunction with Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for members of the blind and vision impaired student community to participate in a blind cricket program at the MCG.

The event will be conducted during the lunch break of the Victorian Bushrangers versus the South Australian Redbacks Shield Match on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

Participation in this fantastic event will be by invitation only. To register your expression of interest please contact Rod Pritchard at [pritchardrojo@bigblue.net.au](mailto:pritchardrojo@bigblue.net.au) or 0401 718 926 Successful applicants will be notified and receive their invitations containing full details of times, meeting points and the other arrangements for the day.

## Small Sided Football (Soccer) – Half-Time Match

**When:** Sunday 1 December 2013 at 5.00pm

**Where:** Olympic Boulevard, Melbourne

Would you like to play soccer in front of 30,000 people? Blind Sports Victoria and Melbourne Heart have partnered to provide blind and vision impaired children the opportunity to participate in a small-sided soccer match at half-time of the Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United game. To register your expression of interest contact Blind Sports Victoria on 9822 8876 or email [info@blindsports.org.au](mailto:info@blindsports.org.au)

## Tandem Track Cycling

**When:** From Saturday 11 January 2014 (6-week program)

**Time:** Between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm

Blind Sports Victoria has partnered with Cycling Victoria to introduce Tandem Track Cycling opportunities for blind and vision impaired people. The program will introduce riders to correct riding techniques, cornering and balancing, riding a track tandem on a banked track. For further information contact Blind Sports Victoria at [info@blindsports.org.au](mailto:info@blindsports.org.au) or 9822 8876 or Alan Mok at Cycling Victoria on 8480 3000.

## English Online Interview 2014

Source: DEECD email: S441-2013 English Online Interview 2014 Assessment Period

The 2014 English Online Interview assessment period will take place from 28 January to 28 February 2014. The English Online Interview is a powerful online tool for assessing the English skills of students in Prep to Year 2 and is aligned to AusVELS English. It is mandatory for Prep students to be assessed during the 2014 English Online Interview assessment period. Teachers record each student's responses directly into the online system. This data can then be used to generate a range of reports at the student, class or school level. These reports provide a point-in-time overview of student achievement and valuable diagnostic information to inform program planning and resource allocation.

A wide range of resources to support implementation of the Interview can be accessed from the English Online Interview homepage at:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/assessment/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/assessment/Pages/default.aspx)

### ***English Online Interview for Braille Students***

Source:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/assessment/pages/braille.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/assessment/pages/braille.aspx)

Braille texts have been developed to support teachers to administer the English Online Interview to blind students. Braille texts can be requested through the Statewide Vision Resource Centre (SVRC) by schools or visiting teachers. Please note that braille texts should be returned to the SVRC at the end of the assessment period.

## JAWS 15 Released

Freedom Scientific has announced the release of a new version of JAWS. This is an SMA release so we'll be in touch with recipients of JAWS through MSSD NP directly with download information.

## Vision Education Scoping Report

This report, the result of a review undertaken by Media Access Australia describes services for students with vision impairments in public, Catholic and independent sectors. The range of information and media needs facing students with vision impairments and the technologies used are explored. Visit:

<http://www.mediaaccess.org.au/sites/default/files/files/MAA%20Vision%20Education%20Scoping%20Report%20Final%20Version.pdf>

## New Product: OrCam

The OrCam is a pair of glasses with a camera which can read out traffic signs, menus in restaurants, street signs, recognise people's faces, read signs across the road, tell you the bus number when the bus is coming towards you and more.

According to the website OrCam is easy to use, you just point towards the object you wish to identify and OrCam understands what you want. Faces and places are recognized continuously. OrCam will tell you when it sees a face or a place it recognizes, without you having to do anything.

To teach the device something new is just as simple: for an item shake it, for a place or face wave your hand. When OrCam sees these gestures it will instruct you in real time on how to store the item. Find out more at <http://www.orcam.com/>

## VTs Described by Perkins as “Road Warriors”

**Road Warriors: Perkins itinerant teachers give public school students who are blind the same opportunities as their sighted peers**

As Jack makes his way down the hallway at the McCall Middle School in Winchester, Mass., he's got two not-so-secret weapons that help him keep up with his sighted classmates.

The first is his white cane. The seventh-grader, who lost his sight to cancer when he was 10 months old, wields it confidently, tapping his way around corners and past rows of lockers as he heads to his next class.

The other is Christy Thompson. She's Jack's TVI—teacher of the visually impaired—and she works with him up to 14 hours a week. Thompson makes sure Jack has all the resources he needs to succeed in school, whether it's braille copies of his homework assignments or extra help with algebra.

“Mrs. Thompson is the reason I am who I am today,” said Jack. “Basically, I would not be able to do as well in school without her.” Jack's mother, Andrea Bloch, agreed. “He would absolutely not be where he is today without Christy. There's no doubt in my mind. She does everything to ensure that Jack succeeds in the public school classroom.”

Itinerant teachers are the road warriors of special education. Instead of working in a single classroom, they travel to homes and public schools to provide expertise and specialized teaching services to children with visual impairments.

For the full article: <http://www.perkins.org/perspectives/features/road-warriors-perkins.html>

## “This, That and There” – Describing Clearly

Source: <http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/this-that-there>

Sighted people typically communicate key information by pointing, drawing, demonstrating, moving, and writing in print. They may say something only to bring attention to this visual information. However, when they’re speaking to listeners with visual impairments/blindness, it’s important that they describe in ways that don’t rely solely on visual information. Below are some alternatives to “this, that, and there” taken from Classroom Collaboration, a handbook for classroom teams serving students with visual impairments/blindness, published by Perkins.

<b>This, That, There Statements</b>	<b>Stand-alone, Non-visual Statements</b>
<i>This</i> is today’s homework. (writing on board.)	I’ll read today’s homework as I write it on the board.
It’s about <i>this</i> big. (spreading arms.)	It’s about as big as I can spread my arms apart.

For further information, download the PowerPoint:

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/sites/pathstoliteracy.perkinsdev1.org/files/This.That.There%20Pp.0.ppt>

## Airlines Offer Sight Help

Dianne Simpson, SWVR Visiting Teacher sent in the following news snippet:

LAN Airlines has just introduced a new system of safety cards designed for the visually impaired (including in braille) as well as an innovative seat accessibility button which allows passengers to call cabin crew by double clicking anywhere on the in-flight entertainment screen. This will improve information access and allow for quicker access to assistance from staff. Like LAN, Qantas, Virgin Australia, British Airways, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Air New Zealand (among others) provide personalised safety briefings; some also include safety information cards in braille.

## Keil’s Winning Artwork

Support Skills participant Keil, 15 years of age, recently won an art competition with his entry to “Connection Greater Bendigo” drawing. Keil is to be congratulated on his art work – but also for making the most of opportunities as they arise! Go Keil!

## Staff News

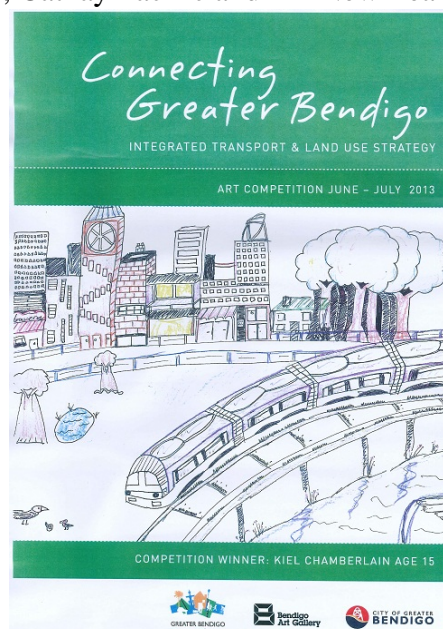
- Our own **Marion Blazé** was one of the two winners of the recent SPEVI Competition! She receives a copy of Ballyland for PC users!

## Finally

Deb Lewis and Lyn Robinson thank everyone for their contributions to this Bulletin, especially Lea Nagel, Garry Stinchcombe and Leanne Terry.

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 practice 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  
Proposed Program*

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

9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:45	Welcome and overview of AT for Students Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
11.00-11:30	Morning tea
11:30-1:00	<p>Tools for Accessing Printed Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visually</li> <li>• Tactilely</li> <li>• Auditorily</li> </ul> <p>Tools for Accessing Electronic Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visually</li> <li>• Tactilely</li> <li>• Auditorily</li> </ul>
1:00-1:45	Lunch
1:45-3:30	<p>Tools for Written Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visually</li> <li>• Tactilely</li> <li>• Auditorily</li> </ul> <p>Tools for Producing Materials in Alternate Formats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Print</li> <li>• Braille</li> <li>• Auditorily</li> </ul>
3:30	Close

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

9.00-9:30	Registration
9:30-10:45	<p>Preparing for the AT Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assembling the Team</li> <li>• Gathering the Background Information</li> </ul> <p>Conducting the AT Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing the AT Considerations Checklist</li> <li>• Completing the Assessment Checklist</li> <li>• Completing the Recommendations Checklist</li> <li>• Writing the Final Report</li> <li>• Presenting the Assessment to the IEP Team</li> </ul>
10:45-11:15	Morning tea
11:15-1:00	<p>Implementing the Assistive Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing the Equipment and Services</li> <li>• Training the Staff</li> <li>• Training the Student</li> </ul>
1:00-1:45	Lunch
1.45-3.00	Integrating the AT into the Curriculum
3:00	Close