The Bulletin
Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 2	Monday 17th February 2014

> ### 239 days till the SPEVI Conference in Melbourne
> ### Monday 12th to Thursday 15th January 2015

Professional Development Activities for Term 1, 2014

Fliers for the SVRC Professional Learning programs are available as attachments to Issue 1 of The Bulletin or can be downloaded from the SVRC website: http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PL.shtml

Please note: the SVRC encourages attendance in person or via video link – please be in touch if you'd like to "virtually" attend any of these sessions.

Event	Date
Educational Support for Students with Low Vision – offered twice	Monday 24 February **OR** Tuesday 25 February
New Visiting Teacher Orientation Day from 9.30am	Monday 3 March
Skill Power Workshops 1. 9.30-11.00 Pearl and OpenBook - Trevor Boyd, Quantum RLV 2. 11.30-1.00 ZoomText - Trevor Boyd, Quantum RLV 3. 1.30-3.30 iPad - Lyn Robinson, SVRC	Wednesday 5 March
Art4Kids with VI? - Including a vision impaired student in the school program: Please invite your Art teachers!	Monday 17 March
Visiting Teacher Day	Tuesday 18 March
Dot Power	Tuesday 25 March

SVRC: Learn Braille by Correspondence

Victorian teachers, aides, VTs and family members who support brailling students in schools are invited to enrol in the SVRC Braille Course by Correspondence. The course is intended to introduce the braille code (Unified English Braille) to sighted adults. The Course can be completed at your own pace and comprises 18 lessons which focus on the literary code including contractions.

The cost for the course is $220. (There is no charge for Victorian VTs or family members.)

For further information visit: http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PLbraille_correspondence.shtml

Inside This Issue

Network for Parents of Children Who Are VI

Message from Sandra George:

Hi Everyone!

My name is Sandra George and I am the grandparent of three year old Jasper, who is vision impaired.

I am looking to set up a network for parents of babies, toddlers and children who are visually impaired, in Melbourne (and regional centres if required). We have a small group who are keen to meet to share experiences and would like to welcome others, making it a wider network, meeting 4 or 5 times a year. Meetings would be informal, with plenty of opportunity to get to know each other, share successes, challenges and pose questions – and if the need arises we can call on the experts!

If you are interested can you please contact me via email (**sandrageorge47@gmail.com**) in the next week. You may also contact me on my mobile (0421 058 882). We are hoping to meet for the first time late February or early March.

Please let me know:

- the area where you live and the age of your child/children
- whether you are able to meet during the week, at weekends or both.

I will then contact you again with dates and venue/s that will be child friendly.

Looking forward to meeting you,

Regards,

Sandra

"Feeling much better about my job!" – Comment on SVRC PD Day

Report by Marion Blazé

What better praise could we have from a participant in the 'Educational Support for Blind Students' PD day on February 10th?

40 teachers and aides and several VTs (one new to VT – VI) came to SVRC to learn more about catering for their blind, braille-using students. One teacher came in preparation for a student who will not be in her school for year 7 until 2015!

We started the day with a round-robin of activities under blind-fold and participants even moved between activities blind-folded. Garry Stinchcombe shared his insights about living with braille, the wonderful staff of Guide Dogs Victoria ran an O & M session, we had a visit from Jackie (Mum) and Kylie (past VI student) to tell their inspiring story and the rest of the day was a mix of practical and informative sessions run by SVRC staff, with Geoff finishing off the program with his session entitled 'If I do it right, they won't need me any more'.

Emily White made her first appearance in her new role for Term 1 as Professional Development Co-ordinator at SVRC and she made quite a splash with her obvious enthusiasm and depth of knowledge about her students and their needs (see photo on this page). Fantastic job, Emily! I agree with one participant who commented that she could have listened to her all day!

Low Vision Aids for Education: Quantum Webinar

Webinar: Low Vision Aids for Education
Presenter: Rob Drummond, Quantum RLV
When: Wednesday 19th February at 3pm (EDST).

This webinar aims to provide an overview of the options currently available that can help students with vision impairments.

For further information: info@quantumrlv.com.au or (02) 9479 3100

Dr Karen Wolffe's Presentation: Audio Version

A recording of the presentation made by Dr Karen Wolffe at "Skills for Success: Parenting Children with Vision Impairment" conference held in October in Dublin and Galway is now available online. This recording provides the opportunity to listen to Dr Wolffe's very informative and thought provoking presentation, based on her extensive experience in working with children with vision impairment and her book "Skills for success: a career education handbook for children and adolescents with visual impairments".

Visit: http://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/6079283/Karen%20Wolffe%20Presentation.wav

Vision Impairment and Autism

This RNIB site offers guidance for practitioners concerning the support for children and young people who have both vision impairment and an autism spectrum disorder.

Visit: http://www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/education/support/resources/autism/Pages/visual-impairment-autism.aspx?utm_source=direct&utm_medium=short_url&utm_campaign=autism

Round Table Conference – Queensland

When: Saturday 17th May to Tuesday 20th May 2014

Where:
Saturday 17th May
Braille House, Queensland Braille Writing Association, 507 Ipswich Road, Annerley, Queensland

Sunday 18th May to Tuesday 20th May
Royal on the Park Brisbane, Corner Alice Street and Albert Street, Brisbane Queensland
Phone +61 7 3112 1671

Registration:
Registrations close 5 April 2014
A late registration fee will apply to registrations received after this date.

Conference Theme: Information Access – Putting the person at the centre
Information Access is important to all people who have a print disability, and has many dimensions, including format (braille, large print, E-text, etc.), and facilities (libraries, websites, agencies, educational institutions, local councils). Person-centred approaches empower people with a print disability by positioning them at the centre of policy, decision-making and service planning and delivery. At the 2014 Annual Conference, we will explore the broad terrain of person-centeredness in policy, management, supports and services at global, national and local levels.

Enquiries to: Tammy Axelsen, Administration Officer
Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc.
PO Box 229, Lindisfarne, Tasmania 7015
Tel: 0417 101 418 / 03 6265 1519
Email: admin@printdisability.org

Universal Design Conference

Source: http://www.universaldesignconference.com.au/

When: 20 to 21st August 2014
Where: Sydney's Town Hall

Universal design is a world-wide movement that aims to create environments, products, services, and technology that can be used by as many people as possible. It makes things more useable, accessible, safer and convenient for everyone. The main beneficiaries of universal design are those who are currently excluded, albeit inadvertently, by design – people with disabilities, older people and sometimes children and their parents. The concept of universal design is increasingly evident in Australian policy and planning documents at all levels of government. However, there is a paucity of information about the concept and where to go for information. This conference will focus on the built environment, which includes housing, public buildings, public spaces, parks and transport.

Universal Design Conference will be organised by Interpoint Events, the face to face arm of the Intermedia Group. The conference will also have support from Intermedia news publications which include Government News, Australian Ageing Agenda and Freedom2live.

More information is available by calling 1300 789 845.

AER International Conference

When: 30 July to 3 August 2014
Where: San Antonio, Texas

The conference conducted by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired will feature presentations in the field of blindness and visual impairment covering:
- Education
- Assistive Technology
- Orientation & Mobility
- Aging & Blindness
- Low Vision
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy
- Multiple Disabilities
- Unified English Braille
- Recreation & Physical Fitness

Further information: http://www.cvent.com/events/aer-international-conference-2014/invitation-b56e7866a90d45aebde1e70f52711fe0.aspx?i=af2ff590-e4fe-4a21-9683-18abe281d667

Conference: eBooks for Everyone! An Opportunity for More Inclusive Libraries

From Alex Bernier, BrailleNet, University Pierre et Marie Curie (via the Roundtable List)

The conference "eBooks for Everyone! An Opportunity for More Inclusive Libraries" will take place in Paris, France, August 22-23, 2014 at the University Pierre et Marie Curie as a Post Conference Satellite to IFLA WLIC 2014.

The call for papers is open: please submit your proposals before March 3!

The objective of this conference is to explore the 3-dimensional impact of eBooks:
- On content providers: how to produce content in an accessible eBook format?
- On libraries: how to provide inclusive services?
- On readers: how to take advantage of eBooks to facilitate reading?

Details are provided on the conference website: http://ifla-lpd2014.braillenet.org

Two-Day Workshop: Promoting Active Learner Engagement of Students with Disabilities

Presenter: Dolly Bhargava, disability specialist speech pathologist
When: 3rd and 4th June – two-day practical and interactive workshop in Melbourne
Cost: $325 + GST
Further information: http://tta.edu.au

The workshop is designed for educators and allied health professionals supporting students with complex Emotional and Behavioural Disorders (EBD).
This workshop will address:
- How can we best educate students with EBD?
- How can we best manage the behaviours of students with EBD?

Duxbury Braille Translation Software Update Available

From DuxNews

The next major version, DBT 11.2 is now shipping and available on the web for download.

Those with existing licenses can use Help/Check for Updates (Alt-H-U) to download DBT 11.2 and check if their licenses are within the eligibility period for receiving DBT 11.2 as a free update. Those with licenses outside of the eligibility period can run DBT 11.2 as a time-limited trial for up to 45 days. DBT 11.2 can also be downloaded from: www.duxburysystems.com

The DBT 11.2 download will run as a demo version for those without a license.
Here is a list of what's new since DBT 11.1 SR4:

- DBT now has a UEB Learning Series for the UK (contractions introduced in graduated steps).
- Import from Microsoft Word 2007, 2010, 2013, Excel, and Open Office documents
- Export from DBT to Microsoft Word via HTML.
  www.duxburysystems.com/documentation/dbt11.2/working_with_word/dbt_to_word.htm

For a more detailed list, see www.duxburysystems.com/dbtwhst.asp

NVDA Voice Software Developers

The following excerpt is from an article in the Australian, 25 January 2014 and features James Teh and Michael Curran, developers of NVDA: www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/brisbane-technology-could-help-71000-blind-people-use-computers/story-e6frg8h6-1226809457967?from=public_rss

Midday in the sleepy weekday Brisbane suburbs. James Teh and Michael Curran sit at Michael's large wooden dining table tapping through a series of computer programs, testing the capabilities of their NVDA software…

"Page set up, view," it says. "Heading level two, table of contents. Major highlights include: list with 12 items, support for popular applications ..."

"Everything that you see happening on screen, it's converting into words," he says. Simple. Functional. Free.

Not long ago, James and Michael were sent a random thank you message from a man in India named Dhiraj Konge. "NVDA has made me what I longed to be," he wrote.

James and Michael believe in universal access to computers and technology. They are constantly updating the program to keep pace with the endless march of global software development. They survive on donations and grants, an ongoing struggle… Michael first met James at a music camp for the blind in Mittagong, NSW. He was 10 years old. When he arrived he found his roommate, James, relaxing inside a cupboard. Sight brings a formalised way to the world. Vision brings embarrassment, insecurities, vanities. "James broke that down," Michael says. "When you're in a blindness atmosphere, who cares where you sit? Sit in the cupboard, on top of the cupboard, hang upside down, what do you care? No one's looking at you. Do whatever feels comfortable."

A lifelong friendship was sparked. They were both into computers, tinkering with networks, exploring basic program language and code…

For more information on the NVDA program visit www.nvaccess.org

Siri: Correcting Name Mispronunciations

From an access technology listserv:

While Siri is great at pronouncing some common names, Siri can also completely blunder on others, turning a first or last name into an almost unrecognizable mess of noises that barely resembles the way the name actually sounds. Fortunately, iOS now makes it very easy to correct Siri directly and verbally, so the next time Siri messes up you can instantly fix the pronunciation and get her to speak the right way. Or you can preempt any mistake, and with names that you anticipate Siri to mispronounce you can correct before the virtual assistant has a chance to screw it up by teaching her (or him!) the right way to say a name.

Use this trick after Siri has messed up a name:
1. Summon Siri as usual, either by holding down the Home button or the earbud button
2. Tell Siri "That's not how you pronounce [name]"
3. Provide the proper pronunciation for the name in question
4. Let Siri provide three alternate pronunciations for the name based upon your verbal input, listen to the three, and choose "Select" for the most accurate method of pronunciation

Would you rather teach Siri the proper way to pronounce a name?
1. Summon Siri and say: "Pronounce the name [name] as [pronunciation]"
2. Let Siri confirm the name from the contacts, choose "Yes" or "No" as needed to move to the next step
3. Select the best of the three options Siri has offered as the pronunciation based upon your speech

If the three pronunciation examples that Siri provides are way off, tap on "Tell Siri Again" to offer the proper way again. For the most part it will offer a close-enough option in at least one of the initial three, but if Siri completely fails then tap the "Tell Again" option and annunciate each distinct syllable a bit closer.

This works on the iPads and iPhones which have Siri support and are at least iOS 7.0 or newer.

Magnifier Apps for Android

Source: http://qchristensen.wordpress.com/2014/01/23/magnifier-apps/

Modern smart phones have excellent cameras and with the right app are a real, practical alternative to dedicated electronic magnifiers for enlarging printed text and making small items easier to see. Here is a roundup of some of the best, free options featuring:
- ability to start in magnified view (otherwise you might as well use the default camera app)
- magnified view takes up as much of the screen as possible
- easy ability to change zoom level, focus and toggle camera light on and off
- ability to freeze an image – a desirable bonus
- ability to invert colours – also a desirable bonus

The quick recommendation, according to this blog: Magnify Reader is simplest but bare, Magnifier by Person has the best combination of features and App Town's Magnifier is also good.

For the "longer answer": http://qchristensen.wordpress.com/2014/01/23/magnifier-apps/

Hubble Images Go Tactile

Source: http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/hubble-images-become-tactile-3-d-experience-for-the-blind/

Three-dimensional printers are transforming the business, medical, and consumer landscape by creating a vast variety of objects, including airplane parts, football cleats, lamps, jewellery, and even artificial human bones.

Now astronomers Carol Christian and Antonella Nota of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Md., are experimenting with the innovative technology to transform astronomy education by turning images from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope into tactile 3-D pictures for people who cannot explore celestial wonders by sight… The challenge for the group was to come up with distinct textures for the gas, dust, and stars that would be clearly perceived by blind and visually impaired viewers.

Image description (right): People with visual impairments use their fingers to explore 3-D tactile representations of images taken by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.

Top Tech Tips on the Web

Thanks for your patience! Some of the Top Tech Tips from our 2013 competition are now available on the SVRC website! We didn't include entries that mentioned the student's name and school – if folks would like to re-edit their videos, we can add them in the future.

Meanwhile, please enjoy the video and audio entries from students in year 1 to year 11 http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/ttt.shtml:
- **BrailleNote**: creating a document using the BrailleNote by Sam, grade 5
- **BrailleNote**: telling the time on the BrailleNote by Anna and Shana, Grade 2
- **iLoView**: doing a Maths test by Boedi, grade 3
- **iLoView**: reading the spelling words by Zeynep, grade 2
- **Interactive whiteboard**: viewing with a separate screen by Ben, grade 1
- **iPad**: using Notate to answer questions on a worksheet by Claudia, grade 5
- **JAWS**: using the internet and Word by Riley, year 7
- **Typing practice**: using an unmarked keyboard by Corey, grade 5

Congratulations to the overall winner, **Jack**, who submitted a suite of "how to" videos: http://svrc.vic.edu.au/ttt_ipad.shtml. Jack's videos include:
1. How to move an icon
2. How to move an icon to another Home Screen
3. How to move an icon into the Dock
4. How to create a Folder
5. How to add a Bookmark to the Home Screen
6. How to search for Apps
7. How to use Multi-tasking Gestures
8. How to enable Accessibility features
9. How to adjust the Screen Brightness
10. How to use Siri
11. How to change the System Sounds
12. How to set a Reminder using Siri

Earfilms: To Sleep To Dream

Earfilms creates a playground for the imagination. Seated within a network of speakers, audience members are blindfolded; a sonic story unfolds around you, using live storytelling, immersive 3D sound and a musical score to draw you deep into your imagination. In this sensory wonderland, characters walk past, scenes bustle around, your ears become your eyes.

Set in a world hit by floods, only one city remains. Dreaming is outlawed. We follow Jack Richards, a man on the edge of sleep, as he stumbles into a group of rebel dream explorers and joins them in their bid to reclaim the dream realm. Haunting and magical, this is a story about the power of the dreamer and the desire to find your strength in a world that makes you feel small.

EarFilms breathes new life into the tradition of storytelling, turning it into a hyper-real, cinematic experience and providing an antidote to a world which is fast being taken over by screens.

When: 7 – 11 March (sessions: Fri 7 March 6pm & 8pm, Sat 8 March 2pm, 5pm & 8pm, Sun 9 March 2pm & 4pm, Mon 10 March 1pm & 7pm and Tue 11 March 11am
Duration: 90-minutes (no interval)
Where: Melbourne Recital Centre, Salon (Cnr Southbank Bvd and Sturt Street)
Bookings: (03) 9699 3333

Albino Saga: "We're Not Mean, We're Just Blind…"

Ashley and Matt are two witty young people who have albinism. In a series of YouTube videos, they discuss albinism from the male and female perspective offering their description of their vision impairment, dating, sport, school, driving, the sun, self-advocacy, bullying, make-up, hair-style, fashion and life generally. A great starting point for discussions with your older students!

Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhpV8kCFJO4
Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfN2z2WADq8
Part 3: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1aDVvgrA1o
Self esteem: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_IVDTrqQYE

Tandem Bike – Available on Loan

The SVRC has a tandem bike that is available on loan to students with vision impairments, their schools or families for 3 to 6 month periods. Please email your interest – it's here waiting for the first "taker" svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au.

Braille Embosser Available

Victoria University has a Braille Embosser (photo right) which was acquired in approximately 2004. It's an Everest Index Basic D – tractor-feed with a cabinet (one wheel missing) for paper storage. It requires someone to collect it – but the price is right – it's free!

Email: Patricia McQueen Patricia.Mcqueen@vu.edu.au

SVRC News

- The **Kitchen** had a tidy-up over the holidays – cupboards are now labelled in print and braille.
- **Music** now has a new home – the former Office 1. Our beautiful piano honouring Professor Hector Maclean is now housed there along with the musical instruments and **Jordie Howell**, our Music Teacher (on Fridays). Come and take a look when you are next in!

Student News

- **Dianne Simpson** tells us that her student **Georgia** was accepted into Commerce/Arts at Latrobe University which was her first choice.
- **Lisa Zarb** tells us that Year 12 student **Tess** has been elected Faith and Social Justice Leader for her school Ave Maria College. Tess made a wonderful speech to her teachers and peers using humour to address her vision impairment and convinced everyone she was perfect for the role. Congratulations Tess!

Staff News

- **Bambi Quigley** retired on 7th February after a long and illustrious career supporting people with vision impairments. We wish her well for her retirement and hope we can stay in touch! **Jill Poole** replaces her in the far North-East.
- **Holly Beasley** from SWVR will be on Maternity Leave from March this year and will be replaced by **Belinda McDonald**. We look forward to working with Belinda.
- While **Emily White** is working part time at the SVRC, **Fiona King** will be working in SWVR. We look forward to meeting Fiona as well!

Mentor Wanted

A Year 8 student in a Catholic school is looking for a mentor – please contact Robert Aaltonen on 0409 005858.

Space Camp 2014

Any staff interest in chaperoning the group? It's looking like 4 to 6 fine young men who are working towards the Space Camp experience this year!

Jeni Blake is arranging a meeting of interested Space Campers, families, friends, sponsors and chaperones.

Where: SVRC 370 Springvale Rd Donvale
When: Friday 21st February 2014 @ 7pm
RSVP: SVRC 98410242 or email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au

- Presentation by 2012 SCIVIS participants
- Information about 2014 Lighthouse scholarship to Space Camp
- Timelines and requirements for 2014 team
- Potential 2016 applicants welcome

More information about Space Camp: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/EPspacecamp.shtml

Finally

Editors Deb Lewis and Lyn Robinson with to thank everyone for their contributions to this issue of The Bulletin, and in particular Geoff Bowen, Odette Budge, Jordie Howell, Jane Jensen, Garry Stinchcombe and Emily White.

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