

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 15

Friday 12th September 2014

**Don't forget the SPEVI Conference in Melbourne
Monday 12th to Thursday 15th January 2015**

Professional Development Activities for Term 3-4, 2014

Fliers for the SVRC Professional Learning programs can be downloaded from the SVRC website:

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
Space Camp – Huntsville, Alabama. Bon Voyage to Geordie, Steve, Aaron, Rohan, Thomas, Declan, Jeni and Myriam!!! Have a blast!	Leaving Melbourne September 13 Returning September 28
No SPEVI Day this year – please come to the SPEVI Conference instead!	-
Vision Australia TEXPO – Kooyong	October 10 & 11
Support Skills Try Day	November 7
Dot Power – for braille readers from pre-school to grade 3	Tuesday 18 November
Educational Expo for Students with Vision Impairments	Monday 24 November
Xmas Morning Tea – all invited – but please RSVP	Wed 3 December
PD Program for 2015 – we're setting dates now for next year so please contact us with your input.	2015!!

SPEVI Conference

SPEVI Bear had a fabulous time at DOT POWER DAY this week. After a day spent learning all about braille reading and writing, here he is with Ben and Phoebe in the parachute trying not to get blown away.

Registration for SPEVI Conference 2015 is now open! The registration brochure and further conference information is available (PDF or text) on the SPEVI website: www.spevi.net/spevi/spevi-conference-2015.php
Early-bird discount is available until 10 November 2014. Like on FaceBook and share to spread the word!



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Dot Power Day report

By Marion Blazé

Dot Power Day on Tuesday 9 September at SVRC was fantastic fun as always. Ten children (pre-school to Year 2) and 17 adults attended the day with the theme 'All about me and my friends' including some statistics and graphing. The braille reading, writing and tactile graphics activities all centred around finding out about ourselves and our friends, sameness and difference, tallying up the discoveries and graphing the results. We had human graphs, tactile graphs, sticker graphs, horizontal and vertical bar graphs, graphs on the Perkins and more!



Our audience of parents, aides, and teachers also tallied their observations of the children as they demonstrated their skills and engagement.

One Visiting Teacher commented:



"Dot Power yesterday was great. Both of my students have been experimenting with graphs at school so the focus on this maths concept was spot on. The talk amongst the kids about how the VI/blind kids cope with comments from their peers at school created invaluable discussion amongst the group. It couldn't have been better if you had scripted it!"



Thanks to Emily for most of the 'energy' on the day, Taryn and the braille staff who made lots of materials and all the parents and visitors who support the program by bringing their children and 'networking' on the day.



Have your vote for 'Sports Woman of the Year'

From MX Magazine, September 11, 2014

Voting is open for *Women's Health* magazine's I Support Women in Sports Awards. Nominees for Sports Woman of the Year include track queen Sally Pearson, swimmer Cate Campbell, Paralympian Jessica Gallagher and snowboarder Torah Bright. Sports journo Megan Hustwaite is nominated in the Person of Sporting Words category.

Vote online at <https://au.lifestyle.yahoo.com/womens-health/women-in-sport/>

Work Mate: A short film to promote participation of disabled in the workplace

A new short film launched by Australia Post hopes to promote increased participation of people with a disability in the workplace: <http://vimeo.com/98093194>

Website on Eye Resources

This website was compiled on behalf of the Association of Vision Science Librarians and has mountains of information and links about vision: <http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/eye%2Dhealth/>

Interesting gadgets on the horizon

From: FYI - Vision Australia Newsletter

An Indian company has developed smart shoes known as Lechal which is Hindi for “take me there”.

Firstly, the user enters their destination into an app on their smart phone which then connects to a device in the back of the shoes via Bluetooth. The right or left shoe will then vibrate signalling to the user when and which way to turn.



It is understood that these shoes will be shipping from March next year at a cost of approximately \$100 to \$150 a pair. Perhaps we won't all be rushing off to make a purchase but surely this is a fascinating development.

Thanks to Garry for alerting us to this new development. As Garry quipped “Knowing my luck they won't have my size!”

[Link to Lechal shoes](http://lechal.com/shoes.html) or visit: <http://lechal.com/shoes.html>

Picture above shows the side-view of red Lechal shoe with black blue tooth device at the back of the shoe.

Sit with me, my story, my art, my music

From Janene Sadhu

An exhibition of visual arts and music performances by resident artists of Sacred Heart Mission's Queens Road Rooming House, taking place from 10 September to the 8th of October 2014 at the St Kilda Town Hall. Entry to the exhibition will be available from Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

During the exhibition samples of artworks will be accompanied by an audio description available on the City of Port Phillip website. Art work has been created with 5 senses in mind.

The items in this exhibition are lovingly created, original and extremely tactile - accessible art at its best that you'll love being close to.

The St Kilda Town Hall is located at 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda 3182 with entry to the Gallery area via the main Carlisle street entrance.

Accessible parking is available under the St Kilda Town Hall subject to availability – the car park also has lift access to The Gallery. Auslan interpreters will be provided on request.

Further information is available by contacting MetroAccess, who are helping run the exhibition The Phone number is 03 9209 6829

INSIGHT EDUCATION CENTRE Official Opening – September 19, 10.30am

Insight Education Centre for the Blind and Vision Impaired would be delighted if you would join with Insight's students, the Insight Community and guests to celebrate the *Official Opening of Insight's Specialist Primary School*.

Please RSVP to Perfect Events at insight@perfectevents.com.au

(See invitation attached to this Bulletin)

Insight Education Centre for the Blind and Vision Impaired is a **Centre of Excellence** and **Specialist Primary School** that provides education services for blind and vision impaired students and their families in Victoria. Insight's hub is located at the Monash University campus in Berwick and provides students with the academic and life skills that will enable them to follow their chosen post-school pathway.

Insight Specialist Primary School is open to children from Prep to Year 6. Each class has a maximum of 8 students, a specialist teacher, and a trained teacher's aide. Students may enrol full time or as a dual enrolment with a mainstream school.

The **Hugh Williamson Foundation Life Management Program** (LMP) is for both the young person and their family. It is open to all children and young people in Victoria and is available at Insight's hub and as an outreach program (InsightOut) for mainstream students.

InsightOut is Insight's innovative **Mobile Classroom Program** for students in the northern, western and outer suburbs of Melbourne.

Integration of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) and AusVELS ensures that students participate in all academic and vision-specific subjects. All Insight students have a Negotiated Individual Learning Plan (NILP). Insight places a high emphasis on braille literacy as well as advanced assistive technologies. All students are provided with curriculum materials in their preferred format. For more information visit www.insightvision.org.au and www.facebook.com/InsightEduVI or call 1800 ISIGHT.

iPads: Warranties and Workshops

Deb Davidson, Visiting Teacher, recently took an iPad still under warranty back to the Apple store and thought this information might be useful for others who may need to do the same.

“It was a relatively simple and quick process to take the device directly to the apple store... at least, it would have been had I known that to see a tech person you need to make an appointment for the ‘genius bar’ and this has to be done online, and you need to provide an apple id at the time of making the booking. I used my own apple id for the booking, but was told that I would need the student's in order to have the device checked. As it happened, they didn't ask for the students at all.

The other thing I found out was that the apple shops offer free accessibility workshops which are apparently seldom booked out. I'll let you know if they are useful as I am thinking of going to one and taking one of my students and his Education Support person.”

Thanks Deb for sharing this information. If you need to book a workshop or make a booking at the Genius Bar go the apple website at: <http://conciierge.apple.com/reservation/au/en/techsupport/>

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

In July 2014, the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) released its first annual progress report. The report concluded that 6,434 participants had been found eligible for the scheme, with 5,414 having an approved plan by the end of March 2014. Positively, the average satisfaction rate amongst these participants was high. The agency has also recruited over 450 staff to date, of which 11% identify as having a disability. (From BCA newsletter)

One of our students is using some of her NDIS money to attend Supports Skills Program. This is a creative and effective way to utilize this money and does not require support from either the staff at the school or the Visiting Teacher to get her to SVRC. The parents value the program and want to encourage their daughter's participation by using the insurance scheme.

Summary of Legislations Associated with Disability

Gayle Skinner has been diligent and generously in providing the following information and resources associated with the Legislation concerned with Disabilities and Education. This is an excellent summary and one worth passing on schools. The on line Professional Development from Canberra is an excellent program. Many thanks Gayle.

Legislation - Catering for Students with Disabilities - Getting an education

A person with a disability has a right to study at any educational institution in the same way as any other student. **The Disability Discrimination Act** makes it against the law for an educational authority to discriminate against someone because that person has a disability. This includes all public and private educational institutions, primary and secondary schools, and tertiary institutions such as TAFE, private colleges and universities.

Information regarding your legislated obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act can be found at:

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/dda-guide-getting-education>

Free On-line Professional Development about the Act (3 lessons) can be found through the University of Canberra: <http://dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au>

Adapted from Students with Disability Guidelines: <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au>

- *Inclusive education*, a term that has been used to articulate the rights of every student to participate in, or have access to, the full range of programs and services offered by the education system, supports and celebrates the diversity found among all learners.
- *Guidelines* that link the Victorian Essential Learning Standards to individual program development and assessment for students with disabilities can be found in *The Victorian Essential Learning Standards – Students with Disabilities Guidelines*.
- *Disability Standards* for Education clarify the obligations of education and training providers to ensure that students with disabilities are able to access and participate in education without experiencing discrimination.
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/disability/default.htm>

Resources

The following resources provide additional support for implementing an inclusive curriculum.

- General information
www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/disability
- A curriculum toolkit for schools and teachers
www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/stuman/wellbeing/CurriculumToolkit2006.pdf
The curriculum toolkit provides information; strategies and tools that are designed to assist school leadership teams and teachers achieve improved or enhanced learning and teaching practices for all students including those with disabilities.
- Planning & resourcing: Program and student groupings
www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/curriculum/preptoyear10/guidelines/phase2/psg/buildpicstude.htm
Teachers are presented with a series of questions relating to curriculum planning and the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.
- Planning & resourcing: Pedagogy
www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/wellbeing/disability and
www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/curriculum/preptoyear10/guidelines/phase2/psg/buildpicstude.htm

Lesley Hall Scholarship

The Lesley Hall Arts and Disability Scholarship is an annual scholarship offered by Arts Access Victoria (AAV) which recognises the power of the arts to influence social change. It honours the life and activism of the late Lesley Hall, a tireless advocate for the human rights of people with a disability.

Despite the many advances in community inclusion for people with a disability, significant obstacles to the achievement of full and equal participation remain. This scholarship aims to encourage people with a disability to express the lived experience of disability in a contemporary society through art.

The Lesley Hall Arts and Disability Scholarship wishes to celebrate and nurture advocates with a disability who are passionate about change and whose aspirations align with Lesley Hall's desire for an egalitarian and inclusive community. The successful applicant will be a person with a disability, with an idea for an artwork or art project that reveals the experience of disability and provokes debate about human rights and disability.

This award will support the successful Scholarship winner to deliver an arts project or artwork that will highlight the experience of disability, promote human rights for people with a disability or advocate for social change. In addition to a \$3,000 grant, the Scholarship winner will be offered a 12 month internship at AAV, working with mentors to develop their advocacy skills and networks. This is a rare leadership development opportunity.

Applications will **open on Monday 1st September** and **close on 26th September**.

For more information about the scholarship

Email: info@artsaccess.com.au

Phone: 03 96998299

Website: <http://artsaccess.com.au/lesley-hall-arts-disability-advocacy-scholarship-faq/>

Support Skills Try Day

The Support Skills Try Day is an opportunity for students to come along to Support Skills for the day and join in the activities. Garry has provided the details below for anyone interested.

What: SSP Try Day

Where: Statewide Vision Resource Centre

When: Friday 7th November

RSPV: Closing date Wednesday 29th October.

Further details were included in Edition 12 of the Bulletin.

For more details please contact Garry Stinchcombe (03) 9841 0242 or ssp@svrc.vic.edu.au

Schools Blind Cricket

The Victorian Blind Cricket Association extends an invitation for all blind and vision impaired primary and secondary school students to attend the 2014 Annual Schools Blind Cricket Programme. This is a great opportunity for students of all ages to attend this introduction / coaching clinic day.

When: Saturday 4th October 2014

Time: 10:00 am - Registration

10:30 am to 3:00 pm (lunch at 12:20 pm younger participants finish at lunch)

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 Vision Australia)

RSVP by: Friday 26th September 2014

Please ring Rod Pritchard by phone on (BH) 8842 5878, (AH) 9754 7308, (Mob) 0401 718 926 or email to pritchardrojo@bigblue.net.au

More information is included in a flier at the end of this Bulletin.

Study: No difference in blind and sighted people's understanding of how others see the world

Even when blind from birth, sightless people understand how others see the world in the same way that sighted people do – though they have never personally experienced a single visual image, according to a new study conducted by researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Johns Hopkins University.

What's more, the information is recorded and processed in the same way by the same areas of the brain, whether a person is blind or can see, the research, published in the October issue of the journal *Cognition*, determined.

Got to the link for the full story:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2014/08/11/no-difference-in-blind-and-sighted-peoples-understanding-of-how-others-see-the-world/>

WOW! A good news story about Blind Cricket in Victoria from Rod Pritchard

A bit of history which might encourage others...for the full story, go to the SVRC website.

The inaugural Schools Blind Cricket Program was conducted in September 2009. There were only 6 participants on that occasion and I personally found this extremely disappointing particularly given all the work put into attempting to get the event up and running. But from the very humble beginnings of the first program participation has steadily increased year on year to a point where it is becoming a well-established and supported event.

But for the moment, let's look at what has happened to a couple of those first ever program attendees.

Player Profile

Name: Daniel

Current Age: 20

First VBCA Schools Blind Cricket Program: September 2009

First Played: 2008-09 season aged 14

Other Information President St Paul's Blind Cricket

Vice-Captain St Paul's Blind Cricket Club

Coach for VBCA Junior Development Program

Career History

2011 Debuted for Victoria in the 2011-12 Australian National Blind Cricket Championships in Brisbane aged 17

2012 Debuted for Australia in the 2012 Ashes Tour of England aged 17

2012 Represented Australia in the 2012 Blind Cricket World Cup in Bangalore India

2013 Represented Victoria in the 2013-13 Australian Blind Cricket Championships in Adelaide

2014 Missed out on the 2014 Australian Tour of Sri Lanka due to eye surgery

2014 Selected to represent Australia in the Blind Cricket World Cup in Cape Town South Africa in November 2014

2015 Selected to represent Australia in the Youth Development Squad tour of New Zealand in January 2015

Player Profile

Name: Brendan

Age: 19

First VBCA Schools Blind Cricket Program: September 2009

Local Club: Glenferrie Blind Cricket Club

First Played: Final match of the 2009-10 season aged 14

Career History

2013 Debuted for Victoria in the 2013-14 Australian Blind Cricket Championships in Adelaide at age 18

2014 Selected to debut for Australia in the Blind Cricket World Cup in Cape Town South Africa in November 2014

2015 Selected to represent Australia in the Youth Development Squad tour of New Zealand in January 2015

Player Profile

Name: Zac

Age: 17

First VBCA Schools Blind Cricket Program: September 2010

Local Club: St Paul's Blind Cricket Club

First Played: 2011-12 Season

Career History

2015 Selected to represent Australia in the Youth Development Squad tour of New Zealand in January 2015

Player Profile

Name: Callum

Age: 13

First VBCA Schools Blind Cricket Program: September 2011

Local Club: Institute Blind Cricket Club

First Played: 2012-13 season

Career History

2015 Selected to represent Australia in the Youth Development Squad tour of New Zealand in January 2015

Callum and his family are very inspiring. Due to the lack of sporting opportunities available for Callum at his home in Tasmania, Callum's dad brought him over to Melbourne to attend our 2011 program.

Blind Cricket – the Good News Story - Come see the way we play!

Concert to raise funds for musical instruments for SSP

The Sound of Time- TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!

Please support two year 10 girls with this magnificent effort. Come along to the concert or make a donation.

A student-run charity concert is being held at Methodist Ladies' College on the 29th of October, to support children with vision impairment who attend the Support Skills Program at the Statewide Vision Resource Centre. The aim of this concert is to raise money to buy and repair secondhand instruments for those children, in order to further expose them to music. There will be lots of musical performances, acts, dances, fun, and FOOD! There is also an option to donate an unwanted secondhand musical instrument (per person) as a ticket. Normal tickets will be \$5 for children under 12, \$10 for teenagers under 18, and \$15 for adults. To buy tickets or donate an instrument, please email Hui Lin Chua at chuahl@mlc.vic.edu.au or Joanne Kwon at kwonsy@mlc.vic.edu.au

Lilly's Project:

Gayle Skinner has sent in Lilly's project on the Platypus. Lilly has used a variety of skills to create a fabulous project that all can access. Lilly we look forward to seeing your next project.



Lilly's teacher explained:

"Lilly used a variety of different resources e.g. braille books, encarta kids, youtube videos etc. to research her own animal (platypus).

She made notes on the braille note and then transferred those notes onto the perkins into proper sentences and sorted the work into sections. She then drew some braille pictures and we took the information and she decided where she wanted to put it on the poster. She also made a platypus out of stockings!!"

Staff News

- **Lea Nagel** has returned from leave and is now working on Fridays on the Support Skills Program. Welcome back, Lea!!
- **Annette Godfrey-Magee** is off to Spain for the next four weeks to walk 300+ km of the Camino Trail with her sister. Happy travels! We look forward to hearing about your adventures in Term 4.

Finally

Editors Marion Blazé and Lyn Robinson would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this issue of The Bulletin, and in particular Frances Gentle, Rod Pritchard, Gayle Skinner and Deb Davidson.

If you would like to contribute to The Bulletin please email svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au

To read The Bulletin online: <http://www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Abulletin.shtml>



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Schools Blind Cricket Programme and Junior Competition

When: Saturday 4th October 2014

Time: 10:00 am - Registration
10:30 am to 3:00 pm (lunch at 12:20 pm younger participants finish at lunch)

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 Vision Australia)

RSVP essential by: Friday 26th September 2014

The Victorian Blind Cricket Association extends an invitation for all blind and vision impaired primary and secondary school students to attend the 2014 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 who are blind or 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 Teacher and other Service Providers are also encouraged to attend the day.

This year the Victorian Blind Cricket Association will be introducing a Saturday morning junior competition commencing Saturday 11th October 2014 and running through to Saturday 28th February 2015. Further details will be available at the Schools Program day and participants can register for this competition at the Schools Program day on Saturday 4th October.

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. It also provides a great opportunity for parents to get together socially and share their experiences and challenges in raising and educating blind and vision impaired children.

There is a small cost of \$5.00 for participants to attend this programme which includes 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 / media form by Friday 26th September 2014. Registration and permission / medical / media forms and additional information can be obtained from the VBCA Web Site, <http://www.vbca.org.au> on the Association Tab under Forms / Junior Development Program Registration Form.

Please note that no attendee will be permitted to participate in the programme unless the VBCA registration and parental consent / medical / media form is 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 by the RSVP date of Friday 26th September 2014.

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

Rod Pritchard
President