

The Bulletin

Statewide Vision Resource Centre

Number 3

Friday 6 March 2015

Professional development activities for 2015

Download fliers for the SVRC PD programs: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PL.shtml; and for an overview of SVRC activities this year visit: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Acalendar_2015.doc

Event	Date
Cricket: World Cup Action Day – information in issue 2	Saturday 14 March
Family Futures Forum @ Vision Australia 9.30am-12.30pm	Saturday 21 March
Big Arts Picnic – flier attached	Saturday 28 March
Art4Kids with VI? @ Heidi – more information and flier attached	Wednesday 29 April
PE Day – more info in the next issue	Monday 18 May

SVRC Big Arts Picnic – Saturday 28 March 2015

Join us for a picnic on day 1 of the holidays at the fabulous venue to the south east of Melbourne.

When: Saturday 28 March from 12 noon to 3.30-4.00pm
Where: McClelland Gallery & Sculpture Park, Langwarrin
Who: students with vision impairments and their families, SVRC staff and VTs
Flier and further information: attached



PD Day Art4Kids with VI

A one day seminar and workshop to be held at the Heide MOMA's unique public art museum and Sculpture Park, in association with and input from Heide's Education staff. The seminar will investigate options, strategies and issues related to working with and teaching a student who is blind or has low vision in your art room or classroom art-making session.

- **Morning:** (indoors at Heide's Sidney Myer Education Centre) information on setting up or adjusting the room to better accommodate your student; issues of access to the visual arts; specialist techniques; budget options; and opportunities for "hands-on" art making; and then,
- **Afternoon:** (outdoors in the Heide Gardens & Sculpture Park) exploration of works of art under blind-fold; investigating the use of visual description, tactile diagrams and touch access.

See attached for the flier or visit: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/PLart4kidswithVI2015.pdf

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SVRC: New request form

We've updated the SVRC request form (for braille, audio, etext and large print) to include requests from DET students for National Partnership equipment.

Can you please use the new forms for future requests – you'll find a copy attached to this issue of The Bulletin; or please download from the SVRC website: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Areqalt.doc

SVRC: Catalogues updated

The SVRC catalogue page website has been updated – www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Acatalogue.shtml – you'll find readers, primary and secondary school and leisure reading books in audio, braille, etext and large print listed by format.

Please be aware that it is reasonably easy for the staff here to convert one file type to another eg

- large print to braille OR
- braille to electronic text (Word) OR
- electronic text to text-based DAISY etc ...

... so feel free to check the catalogues and place your requests!

SVRC: Braille code (UEB)

Do you need to find the latest documentation on UEB including:

- Rules of UEB
- Guidelines for technical material
- Literary code summary sheet
- Punctuation and symbols summary sheet
- Maths code
- Assorted guidelines
- Programs or courses for sighted learners or touch readers

Visit: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CUbraille_code.shtml

SVRC: Braille music resources

This section of the SVRC website has recently been updated. You'll find:

- an overview of braille music in schools with links to general resources and the braille music files for ten public domain songs that can be embossed using Duxbury and a braille embosser: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CUbrlmusic.shtml
- cheat sheets and introductions to the braille music code: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CUbraille_code.shtml#music

Or go directly to:

- **Braille music basics** by Lea Nagel, 2013: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CSbrllemusic.pdf
- **Basic braille music signs** by Jacqui Conn: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CSbrlmusic_basic.pdf
- **Introduction to the braille music code** by Jacqui Conn, 2010: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/CSbrlmusic_intro.pdf

And remember, as a member of the Vision Australia library service, you can **download hundreds of braille music files for free**. Here's the address for the website, and if you don't have a library account, it is free for Australians to join: <http://i-accessonline.visionaustralia.org>

Reflections: SPEVI Conference 2015

Braille Challenge Mobile App: Fun and Games with Braille

Reflections from Lea Nagel, SVRC

It was wonderfully refreshing and exciting to hear from the lovely Frances Mary D'Andrea, Educational Consultant & Instructor and recent Chair of BANA – Braille Authority of North America. Frances Mary reported on her continuing and infectious passion of braille literacy, and her involvement with the iBraille Challenge Mobile App. The app is currently in testing and development phase, and will be a fabulous assessment and teaching tool.

The iBraille Challenge Mobile App was the winner of the \$20,000 Louis Braille Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation in 2013. This genius app is designed for iPad to provide practice activities for the Braille Challenge® held annually by the Braille Institute, Los Angeles California. The student is free to spend as much time as they wish enjoying the variety of stimulating activities presented. But the power comes from what's going on in the background. Teachers can use an in-app dashboard to track student progress in accuracy and time spent practising. Data can also be sent to the app developers, providing statistics which will inform studies and development of educational programs!

The Braille Challenge® is an academic competition designed to motivate blind students to emphasize their study of braille, while rewarding their success with fun-filled, but challenging, local and national events throughout the U.S. and Canada. Approximately 1,000 braille reading students sit the preliminary, age-grouped tests in the categories of: speed and accuracy: dictation, spelling, proofreading, reading comprehension and chart and graph. Finalists are invited to compete in the Braille Challenge® Finals in Los Angeles. The 15th Annual Braille Challenge is on this year! Although it is not open to Australian children, perhaps our students can check their progress or run mini-competitions using sample materials that can be downloaded from:

<http://www.brailleinstitute.org/braillechallenge-for-students/sample-contest.html>

For more information about the Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation, visit:

www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/technology/tog/tog_prize

What's in a Name?

Frances Gentle tirelessly continued her work towards developing national standards for teachers of students with vision impairments by leading several discussions during the SPEVI Conference. SPEVI members were then polled as to how we should be named in this documentation. Below, Frances describes the results of the feedback:

I am pleased to advise that we received 27 responses to our online SPEVI Poll and email invitation to members to identify their preferred name for VI professionals for use in the SPEVI national standards. As you are aware, there are currently a range of titles for VI professionals across Australia's states and territories.

The results from our online SPEVI Poll and email invitation indicate that the preferred title to be used in the SPEVI national standards is Specialist teacher (vision impairment).

First preference and percentage of responses

- Specialist teacher (vision impairment) – 46%
- Specialist teacher of students with vision impairments – 19%
- Specialist vision teacher – 11.5%

- Vision support teacher – 11.5%
- Teacher of students who are blind or have low vision – 7.5%
- Vision teacher – 3.5%
- Other: Support teacher: Vision impairment – 3.5%
- Specialist vision educator – 0%

Based upon member responses, I therefore recommend that SPEVI adopts this title in its national standards.

Thank you to everyone who provided input into the draft SPEVI national standards during January 2015. The SPEVI Committee of Management, with the support of Marie Fram, has aggregated all member feedback (thanks Marie). We have established a working group to revise the draft standards in accordance with member input. The SPEVI Committee of Management will be meeting via teleconference at the end of March. The meeting will include a review of the updated SPEVI national standards. Once approval is given by the Committee, we will share the document with members.

Dr Frances Gentle is Lecturer, RIDBC Renwick Centre & The University of Newcastle NSW; President, South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI); and 2nd Vice President, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI).

Research update: A special thank you

Since 2011 we have been collaborating with SVRC on the GraVVITAS project (<http://gravvitas.infotech.monash.edu.au/>), an ARC (Australian Research Council) funded research project. The project brings Monash University, Statewide Vision Resource Centre, Department of Education and Training, Vision Australia, jTribe, and Catholic Education Office together towards the aim of presenting graphics to people who have vision impairments.

Over the years we have made significant progress and developed an iPad app and a custom designed haptic ring. Our solution has been used by people to read various graphics such as diagrams, floor plans, maps, and graphs. Recently, GraVVITAS project was put under the commercialisation scheme at Monash University and will go further under the name of RaisedPixels (www.raisedpixels.com).

First of all, we would like to thank the Department of Education and Training. We could not even start the project without their support.

Secondly, we would like to thank the SVRC staff for their collaboration in the development of our solution. They have been very supportive in all stages of the project, and gave us the opportunity to work with them.

And finally, a huge thank you to students and their parents who participated in our usability studies and gave extraordinary feedback. We believe that without their feedback we could not have achieved such a success.

Thank you,
Dr Cagatay Goncu
Research Fellow, Faculty of IT, Monash University
Director, RaisedPixels

Upcoming audio described performances

The following Melbourne performances will be audio described:

What Rhymes with Cars and Girls

Fairfax Studio, Arts Centre, MTC

Audio Described Tuesday 17 March 6.30pm and Saturday 21 March 4pm with Tactile Tour at 3pm

Tickets phone (03) 8688 0888

Strictly Ballroom

Her Majesty's Theatre

Audio Described Thursday 16 Apr 8pm and Sunday 19 Apr 3pm

Tickets 1300 364 001 or for further information email groupbookings@ticketek.com.au

End Game

Sumner Theatre, Southbank MTC

Audio Described Tuesday 21 April 6.30pm and Saturday 25 April 4pm with TT 3pm

Tickets phone (03) 8688 0888

Don Carlos

State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne

Audio Described Saturday 23 May 12pm plus TT time to be advised

Tickets phone (03) 9685 3700; Companion Card bookings are accepted

Alice's Adventures in OperaLand, family performance

Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne

Audio described Saturday 23 May 11:30am; TT 10:50am

Tickets 1300 182 183; to book in for TT phone Melissa (03) 9012 6652

The Lion King

Regent Theatre Melbourne

Audio Described Session Times Thursday 4th June at 8pm, Saturday 6th June at 2pm; TT available

Tickets: call Marriner Group Box Office (03) 9299 9800; Companion card is accepted

The Waiting Room

Fairfax Studio, Arts Centre Melbourne, MTC

Audio Described Tuesday 9 June 6.30pm and Saturday 13 June 4pm with TT 3pm

Tickets phone (03) 8688 0888

Anything Goes, presented by Opera Australia

Princess Theatre

Audio Described Wednesday 17th June 1pm matinee performance; TT time to be advised

Tickets: phone (03) 9685 3700; Companion Card bookings will be accepted

North by Northwest

Playhouse Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne, MTC

Audio Described Tuesday 30 June 6.30pm and Saturday 4 July 4pm; TT 3pm

Tickets phone (03) 8688 0888

For more information including performance overviews, visit: www.visionaustralia.org/about-us/events – filter events by type (eg audio described) and state (eg Victoria) with drop down menu at the top of the page.

Bloggers encouraged to audiocast their posts

Source: Media Access Australia <http://www.mediaaccess.org.au/>

A campaign has been launched to encourage bloggers and other online content creators to provide audiocasts with their posts. Speak Your Word, an initiative driven by filmmaker, photographer and writer Miguel Cano, seeks to provide the global blind and vision-impaired community with a more human experience of the web.

Audiocasts, also known as podcasts, are audio files commonly presented as voice recordings and broadcasts available to stream or download via the internet. Mr Cano said Speak Your Word was targeted at bloggers in particular because their passion to communicate their experiences – whether travel, film, technology or food – would more likely drive them to also make audiocasts available. Motivated bloggers would also be more likely to overcome any potential embarrassment in recording themselves speaking, as well as any technological barriers they might encounter.

“Nowadays almost every device can record decent-quality audio, even the integrated microphone of a webcam or a smartphone could be enough. The real key is to take care of the recording environment, ensuring a silent and steady setting and striving to speak your words in a calm, clear and connecting way,” Mr Cano said.

As the Speak Your Word initiative develops, it will also provide tutorials for bloggers to help them with basic voice recording, and would provide advice on different recording software and hardware. Bloggers who have created audiocasts can share these via the Speak Your Word Twitter account: https://twitter.com/Speak_your_word.

New rehabilitation service

Source: Diversified Rehab brochure

Diversified Rehab is a specialist low vision, neurological and physical rehabilitation provider offering a range of specialised occupational therapy rehabilitation programs to help the client meet the variety of independent living goals they may have following an injury or disability.

Services can be provided at home, school, work, or a community venue and include:

- Aids and equipment assessment
- Children’s therapy programs such as sensory motor, handwriting, classroom modification
- Upper limb and functional mobility therapy
- Companion Cards and other Government reports
- Comprehensive initial assessment – to develop goals, priorities, and recommendations
- Environmental assessments – of home, work, or school environments
- Falls, balance, posture – assessment and education
- Home assessment and modification
- Home programs – family and client education to complete training when therapist not present
- Independent living skills – such as cooking, dressing, cleaning, day management
- Life coaching – disability and motivation
- Lifestyle and behaviour modification

For costs and further information contact Shane McSweeney: mobile: 0403 087 893 / email:

shane@diversifiedrehab.com.au / www.diversifiedrehab.com.au

Final date for Special Provision applications

Due to a review of Special Provision the final date for Special Provision applications is now **Friday 27th March** – the last day of term.

We will provide an update about VCAA's Review Special Provision in future editions of The Bulletin.

Volunteer position in Tonga

From: Christine Casey

If you've ever wanted to experience life in a different country, while sharing your expertise, this may just be the perfect opportunity for you.

Assignment Title: Teacher Trainer (Blind and Vision Impaired) Assignment Location: Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Assignment Duration: 18 months

Applications close: 21 March 2015

Proposed start: July 2015

Host Organisation Description: The Mango Tree Centre for People with Disabilities (MTC), established by the Church of the Nazarene in 2002, provides rehabilitative and family support services for people with disabilities. Tonga currently has limited services for children or adults with disabilities. The services offered at MTC include pre-braille and braille classes, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, wheelchair and equipment provision, home visits and parent support, and computer training. Many of the children with vision impairments attending Mango Tree Centre have multiple impairments and many children and adults living with vision impairment and blindness in the wider community remain unidentified and receive no specialised support.

For role description and further information, visit:

<http://volunteering.austraining.com.au/assignment?AyaCode=EC0315TO14>

Perkins brailier repair

Rod Smith is no longer offering to repair or service Perkins Brailiers. If you know of someone who would like to provide this service, please let us know.

Come & Try: Gymnastics

From: Maurice Gleeson, Blind Sports Victoria

Come and try a gymnastics class for children who are blind or have low vision will be supported by inclusive coaches. This is a great opportunity for children with a vision loss to participate in a gymnastics program.

When: Sunday 19th April

Time: 10am to 11.30am

Where: Aerosport Allstars, 12 Essington Street, Grovedale

Bookings: (03) 5245 8777 or aerogymdance@bigpond.com

Free furniture

We have two large computer desks looking for a new home – please contact Dianne at the SVRC.

Braille music / braille tutor available

If your child is a current or future Braille user and:

- a budding musician;
- a reluctant braille reader; or
- in need of a little extra academic or English language support; some private tuition may be just what they need.

My name is Christine Casey and I am a fully registered teacher with a number of years of teaching experience both within Australia and overseas. I have taught braille to students aged 3-50 years and braille music to children as young as seven. I am currently a part-time teacher at a mainstream Primary School in Ivanhoe, where I teach the classroom music program. I have held this position since 2010, although took leave in 2013 and 2014 in order to volunteer as a teacher of blind and vision impaired students in the Pacific Islands.

Prior to moving overseas, I worked as a visiting teacher (vision impairment) and was the braille music teacher at the Support Skills Program (SVRC).

As a competent braille user myself, who struggled with braille literacy as a child, I have a strong understanding of the needs of young readers and braille learners. As a blind musician, I also understand the importance of braille music literacy and strongly believe that fluency in braille music reading and writing is essential, whether the budding musician intends to make a living from music or simply enjoy music-making as a hobby. I also believe that braille and braille music learning should be enjoyable and relevant to each individual student.

If you would like further information or wish to discuss how I may be able to partner with you in order to support your child, please contact me at: christinejcasey09@gmail.com.

News

- **Geoff Bowen** is working as SVRC Psychologist on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays this year.
- **Tracy Lancaster** is working again two days per week as VT in NEVR.
- **Heidi Littleford** will be off on family leave – we wish her well!
- **Charlie Roberts** will be taking a couple of weeks off on paternity/dad leave – we wish Charlie and his partner well also!
- **Chris Sinopoli** will be on leave at the beginning of term 2.

Vacancies through DET's Recruitment Online

- **South-Western:** VT Vision/Generalist (1014619), VT Physical/Health & Vision (1014621), VT Special Education/Generalist (1014622), VT Physical-Health/Generalist (1014618).
- **North-Western:** VT Vision (1014774), VT Health/Physical (1014768), VT Generalist Swan Hill (1014759)

Finally

Editors Deb Lewis and Lyn Robinson would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this issue of The Bulletin, and in particular Christine Casey and Ann Crowley.

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

To read The Bulletin online visit: www.svrc.vic.edu.au/Abulletin.shtml

SVRC Big Arts Family Picnic!

We invite you to get together to kick off the term 1 school holidays with a staff and family picnic at the acclaimed McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park!

www.mcclellandgallery.com/

Date: Saturday 28th March 2015

Time: Meet at 12 noon on the lawn opposite the main entrance to the Gallery building

Where: McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park (see below for map)
390 McClelland Drive, Langwarrin

Cost: **No cost for this event or to enter the Gallery/Park**

What to bring: Picnic food for you and your family (and something to share if you'd like to), picnic rug or chairs, sun/rain attire.

[Take away coffee is available from the café but not take away food.]

Student supervision: Though several SVRC staff will be attending this event, parents/carers will be responsible for their children.

Tour of selected outdoor sculptures: begins at 2.00pm; touch permitted for VIPs for most sculptures – more information on the day

Finish: 3.30-4.00pm

Phone / email for further

info: 9841 0242 /

svrc@svrc.vic.edu.au

How to get there:

- **From Melbourne, take Peninsula-Link Fwy & Skye Rd exit OR**
- **From the Peninsula, take Cranbourne Rd exit**



No need to RSVP – just come on the day!

Art 4 kids with VI?

What to do with the student who is blind or has low vision
in my art room?

Heide Museum of Modern Art Sculpture Park

7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen, 3105

<http://www.heide.com.au/>

(Melway Ref 32 E5, or see page 2 maps)

(Please note: not at SVRC)

Wednesday 29th April 2015 from 9:00am – 3:30pm
(8:45am meet at the Sidney Myer Education Centre)

A one day seminar and workshop to be held at the Heide MOMA's unique public art museum and Sculpture Park, in association with and input from Heide's Education staff.

The seminar will investigate options, strategies and issues related to working with and teaching a student who is blind or has low vision in your art room or classroom art-making session.

The day will include:

Morning: (indoors at Heide's Sidney Myer Education Centre) information on setting up or adjusting the room to better accommodate your student; issues of access to the visual arts; specialist techniques; budget options; and opportunities for "hands-on" art making; and then,

Afternoon: (outdoors in the Heide Gardens & Sculpture Park) exploration of works of art under blind-fold; investigating the use of visual description, tactile diagrams and touch access.

About the Presenter

From 1999 to 2009 Michael Donnelly taught students who are blind or have low vision at the RVIB / Vision Australia School in Burwood, Victoria. He previously taught Art & Design in Catholic Secondary Colleges for many years. Michael currently teaches art in the Support Skills Program of the DET Statewide Vision Resource Centre in Donvale and is part of the Visiting Teacher Service - Vision Impairment in North Western Region (Metro).

Michael has presented papers at the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment Conferences in 2003, 2005 & 2015, and has produced "*Meaningful Art for All Children*", 2008, revised 2014, an illustrated manual for creating art with school students who are blind or have low vision; "*Do Touch the Sculptures*": A walking tour of the public sculptures along Swanston Street and the Bourke Street Mall, Melbourne. 2005, revised 2015, a Tactile / Braille Tour Guide; and "*All My Own Work!*" *Independent Artist or Co-active Collaborator: The fine line Art Teachers to the Blind and Vision Impaired tread.* Australian Art Education Journal, Special Education Edition. 2003.

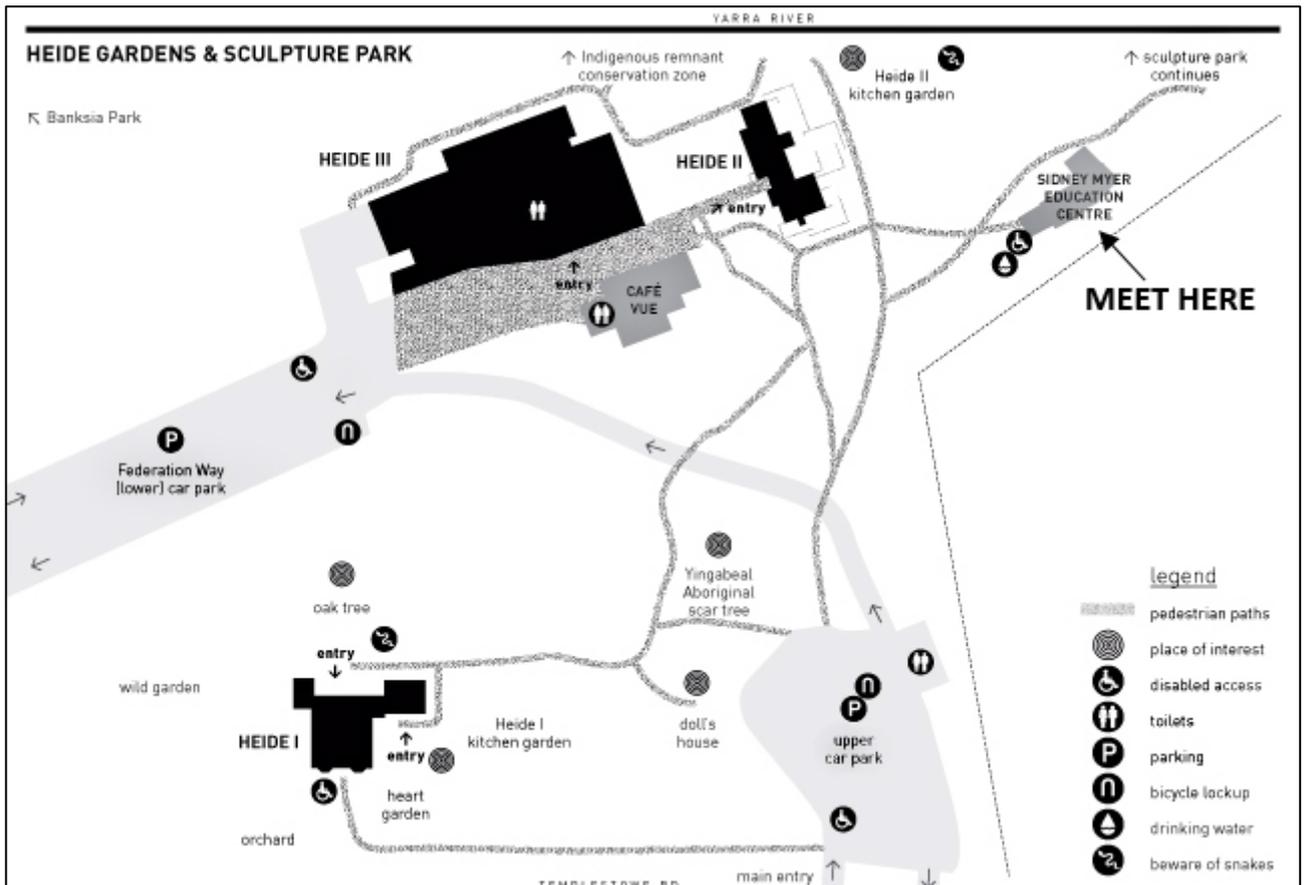
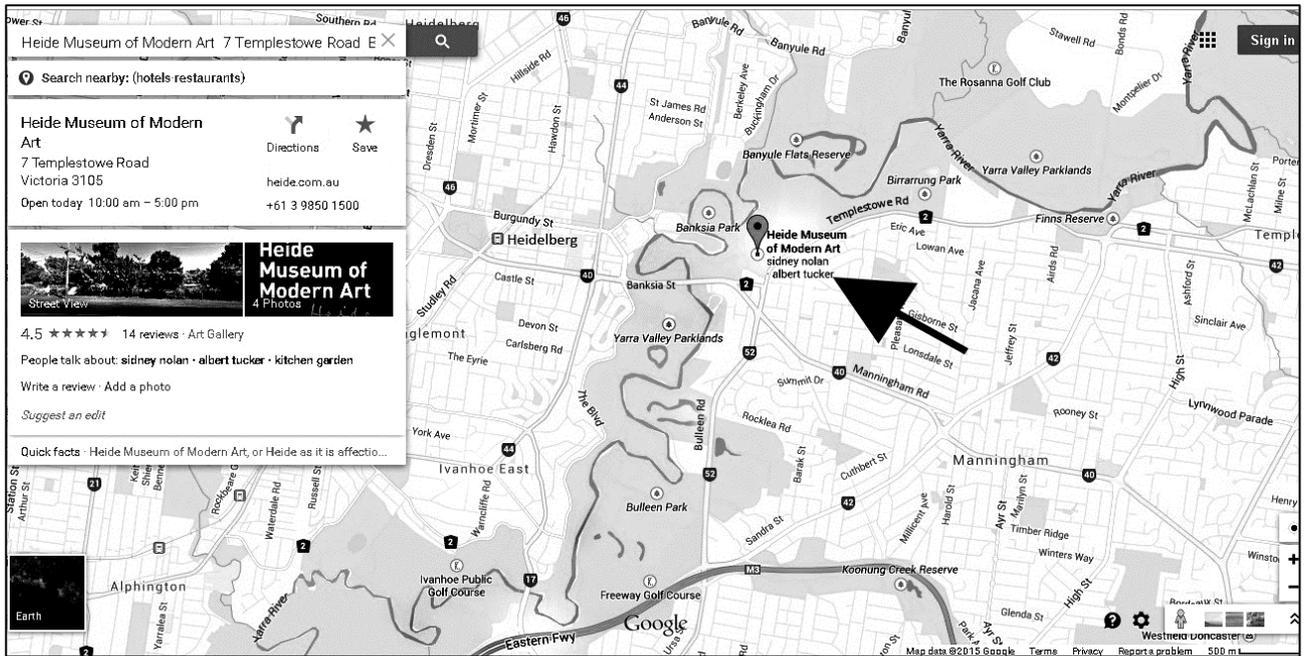
Cost: \$90.00 (includes morning tea & light lunch)

RSVP: by Monday 20 April, 2015 (registration is essential)

For enquiries: (03) 9841 0242; **for an invoice:** pd@svrc.vic.edu.au

How to find Art4Kids with VI

Wednesday 29th April 2015 (meet at 8.45)



Request for Alternative Format and Equipment from the Statewide Vision Resource Centre

(Requests can be made for eligible students only)

Please Complete ALL INFORMATION

Student Name:	Year Level:
School Name:	Region:
Visiting Teacher:	
VT Mobile Number:	Date Requested:
VT Email:	Date Required:

Title:	
Author:	
Reading Scheme or Book Series:	VELS Level:
Publisher:	
Publishing City:	ISBN:
Publishing Date:	Edition:
Would an earlier or variant edition suffice?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Original book supplied Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Photocopy supplied Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Student owns original text Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Book can be dismantled Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Format Required

Etext: PDF Word iPad/ePub txt

Equipment used by student: _____

Tactile Diagrams only _____

Braille (with Tactile Diagrams)

Information: Contracted Uncontracted

single sided double sided single spaced double spaced

Note: If diagram descriptions are required, these will need to be supplied.

For maths textbooks, please supply contact details of maths teacher.

Audio: MP3 DAISY

Large Print: N14 N16 N18 other _____

Paper size: A4 A3

National Partnership Equipment for Government Schools only:

Name of Equipment:	
Name of Principal:	Name of Parent:
Email:	Email:

