

8th Annual Community Information Day



Webinar Event

Save Sight Institute

19 September, 2020

Zoom Link: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/99322249238>



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.

Service Provider Drop In Sessions

12:00 – 1:00pm

Blind Sports NSW

Murray Elbourn, CEO

‘Blind Sports NSW is the peak organisational body in New South Wales in providing sport and social recreation for community members with blindness and low vision. Their mission and purpose is to support people with low vision and blindness to access all Active Recreation and Sports with the appropriate level of adaptation and to have access to information that supports them across community participation and contribution.’

ZOOM LINK - <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/97144568113>

Cure Blindness Australia

Michael Astrinos, Vice President

‘Cure Blindness Australia’s mission is to fund research which will lead to a cure for the leading cause of youth blindness and the leading cause of blindness in the working age population-retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and related conditions, and to provide information and support in any practical way to those affected.’

ZOOM LINK - <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/93570103463>

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT

Kylie Swainson, Orientation & Mobility Specialist

‘Guide Dogs NSW/ACT is the leading provider of Guide Dogs and orientation and mobility services that enable people with low vision or blindness to get around their communities safely and independently.’

ZOOM LINK – <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/95399514275>

Paralympics Australia

Cathy Lambert, Manager Classification

‘Paralympics Australia helps Australians with disabilities participate in sport and compete at the Paralympic Games through partnerships with governments, business, sporting bodies and the community.’

ZOOM LINK - <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/98987931332>

Service Provider Drop In Sessions

12:00 – 1:00pm

Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children

Jacqui Donnelly, RIDBC Specialist Teacher (VI) School Support Service

Sonali Marathe, Manager Accessibility and Inclusion

Ana Radis, Co-ordinator Vision

‘RIDBC is Australia’s largest non-government provider of therapy, education, cochlear implant and diagnostic services for people with hearing loss or vision impairment, supporting thousands of adults, children and their families each year. Services are provided at sites located across Australia and through our tele-practice service for clients living in regional areas.’

ZOOM LINK - <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/93791998388>

Vision Australia

Lara Anderson, Children & Young People Clinical Development Lead, Client Services

Rolf Geerlings, Regional Client Services Manager, Sydney North/Northwest region

‘Vision Australia is a leading national provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia. They work in partnership with Australians who are blind or have low vision to help them achieve the possibilities they choose in life. They support more than 25,500 people of all ages and life stages, and circumstances.’

ZOOM LINK - <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/93662592266>

The following presentations and the Educators Breakout Session will be recorded for the use of the Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney.

1:00pm - Welcome



Professor Peter McCluskey

Professor McCluskey is Director of the Save Sight Institute located at Sydney Eye Hospital and Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Sydney. Peter is an inflammatory eye disease specialist with more than 25 years experience in the field. His primary clinical focus is vision-threatening chronic inflammatory eye disease. He is a passionate teacher who has lectured and been a principal invited speaker at conferences around the world.

1:05pm - Keynote Speaker



Darren Fittler

Darren was born with retinal dystrophy, diagnosed at 5 years old and had lost almost all of his sight by 13. Having grown up in a small country town and been through mainstream schooling, at 18 years old he moved to Sydney to complete a social work degree. Fast forward to 2020 he is married with two kids and is a partner of one of Australia's top tier law firms. Along the way he became the first blind person in the world to complete a gruelling Tough Mudder 21Km obstacle course, successfully fought for Braille ballot papers, helped develop the Convention on Rights of Persons With Disabilities at the United Nations and is 4 months away from grading for his black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

1:35pm - JobAccess



Daniel Valiente Riedl

Daniel is the General Manager for JobAccess, managing a WorkFocus Australia team delivering this award-winning service on behalf of the Australian Government. JobAccess is the national hub for workplace and employment info for people with disability, employers and service providers.

1:55pm - 10 Minute Break

2:05pm – Accessible Formats and Technology



Greg Alchin

Greg is an award-winning inclusive design specialist, keynote speaker and disability advocate with over 30 years' experience across education, community, commercial and government contexts. Greg's interest's encompasses accessibility standards, inclusive education, smart connected homes, digital wayfinding, inclusive publishing, privacy and inclusive procurement of ICT.



Sonali Marathe

Sonali is the manager of Alternative Format Publications at the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and the President of Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities. Sonali is passionate about access to information for people with a print disability, in traditional formats such as large print, braille and audio, and in newer and emerging electronic technologies.

2:25pm - Keynote Speaker



Murray Elbourn

Murray represented Australia in the Paralympic sport of Goalball from 1991-2002 captaining Australia at the 2002 IBSA Goalball World Cup in Rio, Brazil. He subsequently coached the Australian Men's Goalball Team from 2012-2015 at IBSA World Games in Seoul, South Korea.

He was head coach for the Australian Youth Boys and Girls teams from 2013 and 2017 IBSA Goalball Youth World Championships with the 2017 Girls winning Gold in Budapest, Hungary. He has worked as National Business Manager for Fortune 500 and ASX listed companies in both America and Australia and is currently the CEO of Blind Sports NSW and Disability Inclusion Manager for Sport NSW.

2:55pm - 10 Minute Break

Did you know...that Save Sight Institute, in partnership with the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, offers a free Patient Care Coordinator service available to anyone in NSW or the ACT with a diagnosed eye condition. The service has links with a wide network of service providers and after talking to you and developing a good understanding of your individual needs, the Care Coordinator will put together a tailored support plan to connect you with services that will help.

To contact the Patient Care Coordinator at Save Sight Institute please call (02) 9382 7300 or see our [website](#) for more information.

3:05pm - Education Transitions



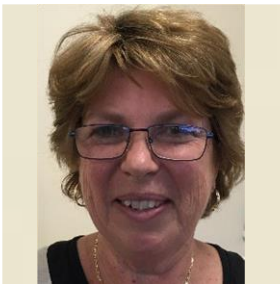
Bronwyn Flanagan

Bronwyn is a Support Teacher for Transition Planning with the Department of Education. She supports students with disabilities, their families and their schools to maximise pathways post school. She works with her students through goal setting processes and brings knowledge of community contacts and information to support this process.



Audrey Housbey

Audrey has 28 years' experience working in the disability sector and is currently working as a National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) in western NSW. The NDCO program drives change so that people with disability have equitable opportunity to access, participate and achieve their goals in tertiary education and subsequent employment.



Claire Mahony

Claire is a Specialist Teacher (Vision Impairment). She works at the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and works across K-12. Claire has come from a mainstream background, teaching students with learning difficulties and disabilities as well as some time teaching adults at TAFE.

Claire loves the difference that technology is making to her vision impaired students.



Natalie Shearer

Natalie is an Assistant Principal Vision in the Department of Education with 20 years of experience as an educator. She leads a group of specialist teachers (Itinerant Support Teacher/s Vision) in providing support to students who are blind or vision impaired in public schools across South West Sydney.

3:45pm - Keynote Speaker



Amy Ridley

Amy Ridley is a year 12 student who is highly involved in academic, athletic and musical pursuits. She currently holds a leadership position at school and competes in inter-school debating. She recently received an unconditional early offer to study a combined Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Psychology at Macquarie University next year. In her free time, she plays the Paralympic sport, Goalball, and represented Australia at the Youth World Championships last year. She also performs at the highest level of the Australian Girls Choir and plays the piano.

4:15pm - Research Updates



Professor John Grigg

Professor Grigg is Head, Discipline of Clinical Ophthalmology and Eye Health at the University of Sydney, and a group leader of the Eye Genetics Research Unit at the Save Sight Institute. His research interests are genetic eye disease, glaucoma management and electrophysiology of the visual system.



Professor Robyn Jamieson

Professor Jamieson is Head, Discipline of Genetic Medicine and Professor of Genomic Medicine at The University of Sydney. She leads the Eye Genetics Research Unit at The Children's Medical Research Institute, The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney. She heads the Western Sydney Genetics Program.



Professor Stephanie Watson

Professor Watson is an ophthalmic surgeon specialising in cataract, corneal and laser surgery; with expertise in eye disease in adults and children. She is known for her ground-breaking research in stem cell treatment for corneas. Her work has been featured on ABC's New Inventors and Catalyst.



Dr Sophia Zagora

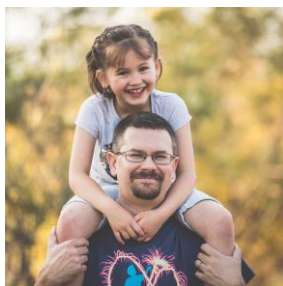
Dr Zagora is a Consultant Ophthalmologist at Sydney Eye Hospital and the Children's Hospital at Westmead. She subspecialises in Uveitis, medical retina and the complex surgical treatment of these diseases. She is heavily involved in clinical research in these areas and is a Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney.

4:30pm - CLOSE OF MAIN EVENT

Professor John Grigg

5 MINUTE BREAK TO TRANSITION TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Thank you to all of you for supporting this event, and a special thanks to our speakers, exhibitors, organisers and our MC, Michael McGuire.



Michael is a husband to the love of his life and the father of two powerful daughters one of who just happens to be deaf and the other who is blind (aged 9 and 4). Between 2 quail, 3 dogs, and 4 chickens they are quite the menagerie.

He has worked in banking IT for 20 years, volunteers for various vision and hearing related organisations that he cares passionately about, and obsessively attends or joins every meet up, Facebook group, parent's group, conference or family camp he can find.

He also has the usual hobbies of spending time with his kids, walking their dogs and filling in NDIS paperwork.

4:35pm – Teenager/Young Adults Breakout Session

Facilitated by:



Brodie Smith

Brodie is a 21-year-old sports athlete from Maitland, NSW who is also blind.

Diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease known as Retinitis Pigmentosa, Brodie plays the paralympic sport of Goalball and has represented Australia at a national and international level. In 2017 Brodie won gold at the Youth Goalball World Championships in Budapest. Between work and training, Brodie is also currently studying to become a secondary school teacher in History and Drama at the University of Newcastle.



Lorraine Villaret

Lorraine is Save Sight Institutes Patient Care Coordinator, a position made possible through the support of the William and Eliza Hall Trust.

She is a Social Worker with a background in the not-for-profit and NGO sector. She brings her experience in disability, carers, mental health, and CALD communities to Save Sight Institute.

4:35pm – Parents/Carers Breakout Session

Facilitated by:



Chrissy Antonopoulos

Chrissy is a Provisional Psychologist and Counsellor at the Vital Health and Wellbeing Centre and is currently completing her PhD in Psychology at Charles Sturt University. She has worked extensively in the health system, community service organisations and has founded a not-for-profit organisation that supports people with disabilities in achieving their education and career goals.



Ada McCluskey

Ada is a psychologist currently working in Homebush Medical and Dental Centre. With 10 years' of experience, her focus is on helping people reach a better understanding of themselves and their relations in order to be happier and more connected in their lives.

4:35pm – Educators Breakout Session

Facilitated by:



Claire Mahony

Claire is a Specialist Teacher (Vision Impairment). She works at the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and works across K-12. Claire has come from a mainstream background, teaching students with learning difficulties and disabilities as well as some time teaching adults at TAFE.

Claire loves the difference that technology is making to her vision impaired students.



Natalie Shearer

Natalie is an Assistant Principal Vision in the Department of Education with 20 years of experience as an educator. She leads a group of specialist teachers (Itinerant Support Teacher/s Vision) in providing support to students who are blind or vision impaired in public schools across South West Sydney.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

For more information

Faculty of Medicine and Health | Save Sight Institute

E ssi.events@sydney.edu.au

W savesightinstitute.org.au



[friend on Facebook](#)



[follow on Twitter](#)

Did you know we're a teaching and research centre within the University of Sydney? To acknowledge this relationship, we have adopted the University's brand identity. We might look a little different, but don't worry – it's the same us with a different logo.