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Product evaluations

- The **ALT-Chat** is a dynamic screen speech generating device with both synthesised (computer generated) and digitised (recorded) speech capabilities. It comes standard with different page sets designed to meet different user requirements in spelling, phrase- and word-based communication.



<http://www.ilcaustralia.org/home/search4.asp?State=VIC&MC=61&MinC=4&Item=8028&page=1>

- The **Balloon Switch** is a switch with adjustable sensitivity, consisting of a balloon connected to a control unit. Changes in air pressure are detected when a user squeezes the balloon causing switch activation. The degree of sensitivity or responsiveness can be altered by adjusting a knob on the switch unit into which the balloon tube is inserted. The control unit is powered with a 9Volt battery.



<http://www.ilcaustralia.org/home/search4.asp?State=VIC&searchdb=balloon%20switch&Search=SEARCH&MC=62&Item=8013&page=1>

- The **Dynavox M3 and M3 max** are dynamic display communication devices using digitised (human recorded) speech with a focus on the use of visual scene displays for language development. A variety of pre-made pages using linked 6,8,12 cell dynamic and visual scene displays are available, as well as the option of programming your own pages with individualised number of cells.



<http://www.ilcaustralia.org.au/home/search4.asp?State=VIC&searchdb=M3&Search=SEARCH&MC=61&MinC=4&Item=7988&page=1>

For more product evaluations, visit www.ilcaustralia.org, click on [product search](#) then [VIC](#) for product categories.

Upcoming events



The Great Vic Trek for Yooralla powered by Health Super is an event designed to raise awareness and much needed funds for Yooralla.

Sunday December 6th 2009 will see Victoria's favourite sports people and celebrities embark on a 21 day trek around the state via all modes of transport. The Trek will kick off with former Australian cricketer Dean Jones leading a group of walkers from Melbourne City Square where he will walk for five days to the East Gippsland town of Traralgon. He will then pass the baton onto a mix of former AFL stars and sports people who will cycle through the beautiful Victorian Alps all the way to the border city of Wodonga.

The trek will then be ran, sailed and ridden throughout 100s of Victorian towns until reaching it's final destination – The MCG on Sunday December 27th 2009. Each of these towns will experience fund raising activities with the likes of great names such as Danny Frawley, Michael Klim, Pat Cash, Cadel Evans, Marc Murphy, Damien Fleming, Tony Shaw to name just a few and of course Dean Jones.

The Great Vic Trek, 6-27 December 2009

To find out how to support the Trek click here: <http://www.thegreatvictrek.com.au/>



Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa
158 Ferny Avenue Surfers Paradise, Queensland 4217

Spectronics has announced the Inclusive Learning Technologies® Conference 2010. The conference focuses specifically on “inclusive learning technologies” – technologies designed to advance independent achievement for people with disabilities and/or students with learning difficulties. It includes sessions looking at these technologies in the following three interest streams.

- Struggling Students experiencing difficulties with literacy or organisational tasks.
- People with Complex Communication Needs
- People with Disabilities

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/conference/>

SPEECH PATHOLOGY AUSTRALIA
2010 National Conference
Sunday 16 – Wednesday 19 May 2010
Crown Promenade Conference Centre
Melbourne, Australia



Participation 2010 will showcase the innovative contributions of speech pathologists in advancing choices, knowledge and access.

This is the opportunity to display the many and varied ways you contribute to our professional knowledge base. Consider how you support and enhance independence,

undertake research or education, lobby, advocate or promote participation in our modern, changing society. Participation 2010 will allow you to share the breadth of your experience.

<http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/news-and-events/2010-national-conference>



ARATA National conference 10 -13 August 2010 Hobart, Tasmania

The emphasis of the ARATA National Conference will be on thinking beyond the prescription of equipment to look more deeply at the issues of funding, training and support for users and their support personnel, and helping consumers to have the endurance to persevere with their equipment, despite the obstacles. <http://www.ebility.com/arata/conf.php>



Big Mouth Camp Friday 17th – 21st September 2010

The Big Mouth Camp is a residential camp for school aged children using speech generating devices and their families and carers. The primary aim of the camp is for the children using the devices to improve their device use and become much more competent communicators in a fun and relaxing atmosphere.

The camp also offers mentoring from experienced adult communication device users, training from device manufacturers / support staff, sessions on related disability computer software and much more!

[http://www.bigmouthcamp.org.au/Big Mouth Camp/What is BMC.html](http://www.bigmouthcamp.org.au/Big_Mouth_Camp/What_is_BMC.html)

ComTEC News

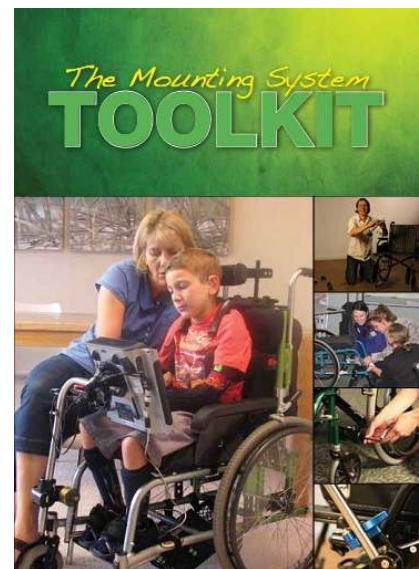
The Mounting System Toolkit

We are proud to announce the completion of an educational DVD produced by ComTEC: 'The Mounting System Toolkit'.

The importance of mounting speech generating devices and related equipment to wheelchairs has become an increasingly recognised area of practice for clinicians. A mounting system establishes a link between a person and their assistive technology and provides a consistent, secure means of positioning a device.

The mounting system toolkit aims to resource therapists to increase their knowledge and confidence in the assessment and prescription of mounting systems.

Copies of the DVD will be available in 2010.



ComTEC Education

Yooralla ComTEC are pleased to announce that in mid 2010 we will be offering new training and education options in Assistive Technology. Learners will be able to choose from a range of education sessions tailored to their level of knowledge and skills.

The focus of the program will be training team members who are supporting a person who is using Assistive Technology or who may benefit from its application. While there are specific topic areas we would like to incorporate, we are very interested in the current learning needs of people who are supporting those with complex communication needs, difficulties with computer access and other technology needs.

Please click on the link below to give us your input. The survey only has two questions to answer, it should take about 5 minutes to complete.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RW9RYDS>

delicious

Delicious is a web-based social bookmarking tool that allows you to store, categorise, share and find website bookmarks.

The ComTEC team has been using Delicious to bookmark web based resources such as free software downloads, accessible online games, literacy supports, computer accessibility etc.

To access the website bookmarks that have been collected by the *ComTEC* team, go to: http://www.delicious.com/Comtec_Yooralla



Update

We are very pleased with the success of the DVD. We have been receiving calls and orders from parents, therapists and other support team members from all over Australia and New Zealand.

We would like to thank those who have given us feedback about the DVD layout and content, it is very much appreciated. This information will be used to ensure we improve on future DVD productions.

If anyone would like to provide feedback about the DVD please go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=AGA_2bb1CI7G2_2bFp9SN4gPrQ_3d_3d otherwise, please email comtec.emailnetwork@yooralla.com.au for printable copies of the survey.

Finally...



...from the ComTEC team,
we would like to wish you
all a

Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays,
and a Happy and Safe New
Year!



For further information about *ComTEC*'s services and referring clients, visit www.yooralla.com.au/comtec.php

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