

**RO&M**ing with **Lil** Episode 14

**Fostering professional  
development – Darren**



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# Introduction to Episode 14

- Welcome to Darren Moyle, O&M specialist at Vision Australia, Ringwood (Melbourne)
- Aha! moments in O&M training
  - O&M is fun
  - O&M is amazingly complex
- Being a non-driving O&M specialist
  - Must be organised – no car boot to throw everything into
  - Use trains, buses to get to the clients' area
  - Use taxis to save time and energy
  - Keep extra battery power on hand to recharge devices

# Useful Apps

- Google maps
  - great for basic navigation and public transport info
  - updated regularly; good accessibility
- Trip view
- Next There – is this my bus?
- Microsoft Soundscape – for iOS
- Clew – for iOS
- Fields – navigating indoors
  - setting unique markers for indoor landmarks

# Use of technology by O&M professionals

- Lil and the Swinburne O&M research team recently published

Deverell, L., Bhowmik, J., Lau, B. T., Al Mahmud, A., Islam, F. A., Sukunesan, S., . . . Meyer, D. (2020). Use of technology by orientation and mobility professionals in Australia and Malaysia before COVID-19. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*. doi:10.1080/17483107.2020.1785565

- In short:
  - Many O&M specialists are technology “laggards” who need and request more tech-training (in-person support, not just help menus)
  - O&M clients are the experts in tech for O&M... an opportunity for meaningful employment as tech-trainers
- The full version of this article is freely available online at

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17483107.2020.1785565>

# OMAA Professional Development Committee

<https://www.omaaustralasia.com/>

- You can ask for local PD events to be registered for COMS points (3 months ahead)
  - conferences
  - workshops, seminars
  - will 3+ COMS be attending?
- The PD Committee:
  - assesses content to ensure it meets COMS requirements for recertification
  - registers the event with ACVREP
  - ensures you receive your certificate with COMS points towards recertification

**Orientation + Mobility**  
Association of Australasia



# OMAA, Inc creates PD events too

- OMAA Practice Meetings – bimonthly online

- OMAA Online Symposium

- 22 September 2020

- Register at:

- <https://shortcourses.ridbc.org.au/events/omaa-online-symposium-2020/>

- Contact [info@omaaustralasia.com](mailto:info@omaaustralasia.com) with your PD ideas

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# Parenting is great professional development

- Watching milestones in vision development and coordination
- Appreciating the complexity of household life with kids – parenting is delightful, but hard work
- Being sensitive to grief
- Having realistic expectations – O&M is important, but not necessarily the priority in the household

# Promoting sport in COVID – soccer

With the client:

- Establish roaming range on the map
  - 5km radius
  - parks
  - brick walls to kick the ball against
- Put regular practice in the calendar – half hour, 3 x week
- Find a practice buddy
- For independent training:
  - look up YouTube together for ideas
  - design a practice plan
- Check in every couple of weeks



# Contacts / Resources

- Links and PowerPoint slides for *RO&Ming with Lil*

[www.lildeverell.net/resources/roaming-with-lil/](http://www.lildeverell.net/resources/roaming-with-lil/)

- To discuss VROOM and OMO, offer feedback, suggest a topic, or record an episode together:

Email: [lil@deverell.net](mailto:lil@deverell.net)

Mobile: +61 418 370 312

# Credits

- Music
  - *Happy Stroll*, a royalty-free download from Purple Planet Music
- Graphics created by Lil Deverell with
  - PhotoShop lessons and technotherapy from Erin Deverell
  - Photos from
    - An amateur drone photographer from Cornwall, flying over a spaghetti junction in Birmingham (royalty-free)
    - Christine Darwood, a wildlife spotter in the ACT who snapped our sprightly echidna crossing the road (used with permission)
    - Rob Keating, a Canberra-based photographer, who found a weathered wombat crossing the road (purchased from <https://keatingmedia.com.au>)

