

Victorian Principals Association



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VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote: *"Life's biggest challenge is deciding what's important – then disregarding the rest."* – Anon

Our VPA Board members discussing Victorian issues with Hon. Julia Gillard MP at the National Public Education Forum in Canberra 27/28 March 2009.

VPA eLETTER : April 2009

Connect & Enlist Members

Congratulations on reaching the last week of what must be the busiest term ever! I know in my new position I have not stopped moving having attended five regions – Barwon South West, Western, Southern, Hume and Northern. It has been terrific to meet and talk with PCO's in their local area, last week I had the opportunity to visit both Hume and Southern, this week Western. It has been a wonderful opportunity to hear what is happening on the ground, to listen to common stories across the state but also to be aware of specific concerns in local areas.

VPA recently received an invitation to attend the Monash Principals Network Conference to speak on the benefits of VPA membership. We thank Monash Principals Network this opportunity. If your local Principals Group or Network has a similar event where VPA can speak, please contact Patricia Mattia, Executive Officer Acting via pmattia@vpa.org.au

Do view the [VPA Noticeboard page](#) of the website for latest news.

In addition, the [VPA Communication page](#) of the website has various ways VPA communicates to PCO's and aspiring Principals.

Considering [membership to VPA](#).

Facilitate Collegiate Support for Members

Congratulations to our VPA Council Convenors and Deputy Convenors

BSW

Phil Hines
Alan Halliwell

Gippsland

Jim Connan
Vicki Miles

NMR

Lynne O'Dea
Phil Clinkaberry

Grampians

Andrew Harrison

Southern

Lee Murname
Kaye Seton

Loddon Mallee

David Hinton
Gary Green

Hume

Mike Glenister
Tony Andison

Western

Anne Maree Kliman
Charles Branciforte

Eastern

Sue Henderson
Esther Wood

Do approach the above VPA Convenors for local VPA information or queries. You are welcome to attend regional VPA meetings in your local area.

Unite Members

VPA passed five position papers last week at Council. Four of which are:

- [Targeted Schools](#)
- [Student Engagement Guidelines](#)
- [Confidentiality of School Data](#)
- [Relocatable Provision in Schools](#)

We have forwarded these papers to Darrell Fraser and will follow up with further advocacy VPA is proud be in discussions with DEECD.

Bushfires

DEECD has set up a website page on information for those affected by the bushfires, support for students and staff, financial assistance, health and wellbeing and media is available via the following link <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/bushfires/default.htm>

The VPA continues to support fire affected schools. A [Bushfire Support thank you page](#) on VPA website acknowledges direct supporters. We are here for the journey, I encourage you to contact Patricia Mattia, Executive Officer Acting, VPA via pmattia@vpa.org.au if you wish to contribute directly to fire affected schools. For those schools requiring assistance, do not hesitate to contact Patricia with your needs.

Joining the Chorus

Joining the Chorus was established by the Education Department in 1995 with task of showcasing and supporting the performing arts in Victorian Government Schools. This is achieved through the work of its performance ensembles and the production of events such as The State Schools Spectacular. The "Victorian State Schools Performance Ensembles" has replaced the title "Joining the Chorus" to reflect the showcase nature of the ensembles and their links to the School's system. I recommend this high quality opportunity for your students. When I was a principal of a smaller school, it provided a once in a lifetime chance for my students to learn and perform in a large high quality setting. www.jtc.vic.edu.au

Australian Primary Principals Association

As a member of VPA, you also hold national voice via Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA), keep informed via [APPA newsletters](#),

Advocate For and On Behalf of PCO Members

\$100 Per Primary Student

In November 2008 the Commonwealth Government acknowledged that Australian Government Primary Schools required additional financial resources when it corrected an anomaly in the funding formula, allocating an additional \$101 million per annum to Government Primary Schools. In terms of school budgets this means \$100 more for each Government Primary School Student every year. When directed into school accounts these funds will provide a significant increase in the discretionary finances available to schools communities. At present AGPPA, APPA and VPA are working with the state government to ensure these funds are directed into each school's SGB. An article appeared in Herald Sun last Sunday - [\\$100 per primary student funding](#)

Alternative Education Review

Today I attended the first meeting of an Alternative Education Review Advisory Committee. It is being run by KPMG. There is a very short consultation process and it is vital that primary schools have input into the needs of schools in dealing with students displaying extreme behaviours. The opportunity for you to have input is at one of the 3 forums planned:

Forum details

Forum	Date/Time	Location	Address

A.	Monday 20 April 2009 10.30am – 2:30pm	The Foundry Hotel	366 High St Bendigo , 3550
B.	Tuesday 21 April 2009 1:00pm – 4:30pm	Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre	Cnr Bell St & St Georges Rd Preston , 3072
C.	Wednesday 22 April 1:00pm – 4:30pm	Cardinia Cultural Centre	Lakeside Boulevard Pakenham , 3810

Purpose of forums

To seek stakeholder input into:

- current alternative education settings in Victoria, including strengths and weaknesses of current strategies
- key components and priorities for a future alternative education policy for Victoria

National Public Education Forum in Canberra

We thank 6 Members of the VPA Board who represented Victorian Principals at the National Public Education Forum on 28 March 2009 at Old Parliament House, Canberra. An historic event, organised by the Australian Council for State School Organisations (ACSSO), Australian Education Union (AEU), Australian Government Primary Principals Association (AGPPA) and Australian Secondary Principals Association (ASPA), the National Public Education Forum brought together over 200 academics, researchers, public / media commentators, parents, teachers and principals. The forum was organised to address the funding allocation for government education. There was unanimous agreement to this joint communiqué <http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Debates/NPEFcommuniqué.pdf>

Building the Education Revolution application forms are available on the Victorian Departmental web page www.education.vic.gov.au/buildingrevolution A VPA provisional Position paper is being developed. Already the VPA Council has formed a draft position statement as is providing support to members.

Provide Professional Services and Support to Members

Keep your diary free for the **VPA Annual Conference and Dinner** held on **Thursday 15 October** at Hilton on the Park. The title is **Shaping Culture..Learning from Successful Leaders** Registration forms will be out shortly.

[Asia Pacific Autism Conference](#) is being held from 20 to 22 August 2009 at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

A number of [professional learning](#) sessions in metro and regional areas are planned.

[Want to Know how to avoid the MPB?](#) Offered in Ballarat in early May and metro area in early August aimed at Principals, Assistant Principals and Aspiring Principals.

[The Path to Principalship](#) Offered in Mildura in mid May for Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers aspiring to Principalship. VASSP and VPA is offering a full day workshop with Geoff Barclay

Handy link from our members

Here's a Thinker's Keys website with templates for lots of different keys

http://www.bssc.edu.au/public/community/Big_Hill_Primary_School/Students/new_page_5.htm

Have a sensational and well deserved holiday break

Gabrielle Leigh
President

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