

Victorian Principals Association



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VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote: Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises.
– Demosthenes

VPA eLETTER : July 2009

Facilitate Collegiate Support

Ken Boston

APPA is sponsoring Dr Ken Boston visit to Australia. In a recent article, Dr Boston stated, "The Government's approach to the key stage tests has sucked the oxygen from the classrooms of primary schools." What lessons can we learn from the UK experience? Dr Ken Boston is in Melbourne on Wednesday, 13 August. Registration forms available via the VPA website http://www.vpa.org.au/f/20090813_KenBoston.pdf Further information on Ken Boston is available via http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_8724.aspx

Unite

RNL News

VASSP and VPA have planned a Regional Network Leaders meeting on Wednesday, 5 August, to confirm your attendance rsvp to Bridget Couper, Principals Administration via bcouper@vassp.org.au

VPA Southern Metropolitan Region meeting has been arranged for Thursday, 23 July 2009 - 4.30 pm to 5.45 pm, an opportunity to chat freely on how VPA can support you in your leadership role. To confirm your attendance rsvp to Bridget Couper, Principals Administration via bcouper@vassp.org.au

Advocate

\$100 Per Primary Student Anomaly Funding

Victoria fails to pass on education dollars for primary students

[http://www.vpa.org.au/f/20090629_theage_Primary_schools_caughtshort_on_\\$635m.pdf](http://www.vpa.org.au/f/20090629_theage_Primary_schools_caughtshort_on_$635m.pdf)

Our Victorian Primary school students are missing out on Federal Funding which was intended for each school's global budget. This commonwealth funding was intended to address the inequity between primary and secondary students and be passed on directly to schools in 2009. Unfortunately the Victorian State budget seems to have absorbed the money into the general education bucket. It has not gone to each primary school as was expected. In good faith principals prepared their 2009 budgets on the basis that this money would flow directly to help individual school programs. State Governments in South Australia, New South Wales and Northern Territory have passed this money directly onto schools. Our primary students in Victoria are missing out again and our primary schools have been caught short. VPA has received response confirming it

is all in the May Budget however the primary money seems to have been spread over a variety of programs e.g. Ultraset coaches etc. This is not fair in terms of our hard fought battle to gain this equity money over the next few years.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Please contact your state member to ask 'Where is the money?'
It needs to be directed into your budget **NOW!!!** Please contact me if you want further information

Consultations

I have attended three consultations over the holiday break

- 1. Teacher Supply and Demand Reference Group** Chaired by Brendan Sheehan, A/Director, Higher Education, Governance and Support, Skills Victoria, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, group members included senior representatives from Catholic and Independent sectors
- 2.** I was invited to speak on **DEECD workforce metrics framework** at an individual meeting conducted by Nous Consulting, the purpose is to build DEECD organisational capabilities to solve problems, adapt to new conditions, learn from experience and successfully deliver on the corporate plan and blueprint. What is working well? Discussion around Capability, Sustainable Talent, Engagement and Compliance, The process – Map out metrics finalised 14 August
- 3. Risk Management** – Insurance arrangements for schools sharing facilities and those who may have facilities over entitlement. For clarification about the present processes refer to [Insurance Arrangements - Guidelines for Schools – August 2007](#) or call Liability Management Branch on 9637 3022.

Connect & Enlist

New School Business Portal for all leaders

The School Business Portal is a single entry point to information systems and resources relevant to school business activities, including finance, human resources, infrastructure and student administration. It is accessible from anywhere via the internet using your EduMail username and password. Visit the School Business Portal <https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/sbp/> to reach school business related resources and bookmark the site for future use.

[VPA Principal Class membership](#) is open to individuals who hold, or who have held, principal class positions with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. VPA Principal Class membership offers:

- Professional advice and assistance
- Collegiate support
- Professional Learning opportunities
- Annual State Conference
- National 'Leadership in Focus' quarterly journal
- Ability to apply for VPA Study Awards
- Afforded Exchange Program opportunities (interstate and overseas)
- Member Benefits Program
- Advocacy on behalf of members
- Voting rights at VPA Annual General Meeting
- Membership of VPA offers automatic membership of APPA (Australian Primary Principals Association) and AGPPA (Australian Government Primary Principals Association)

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 are being distributed. Why don't you plan for a group to attend

The program includes:

- * **Honourable Bronwyn Pike MP**, Minister for Education
- * **Dr Adam Fraser** - One of Australia's leading educators and researchers in the area of human performance.
- * **Christine Nixon** - Head of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (former Victorian Police Commissioner)
- * **Professor Marilyn Fleer** - Director of the centre of Research into Childhood Studies and Program Leader for Primary and Early Childhood Education at Monash University
- * **Elida Breerton** - Principal speaking on 'Summer Heights High - Fame contrasting two cultures'
- * **Robert Lamb** - Principal and former Regional Director speaking on 'How to establish positive school culture'

A number of [professional learning](#) sessions in metro and regional areas are planned. We will use these as a basis to negotiate for you. Please keep us informed because we are here to support you.

- [The Path to Principalship](#) facilitated by Geoff Barclay, attendance at Sale workshop has spaces available. Aimed at Assistant Principals and Aspiring Principals. Geoff Barclay offers 18 years experience as a principal and recently retired SEO in the Southern Metropolitan Region will share his wealth of experience in principal class selection processes, training panels serving as the DEECD representative and in using the Sergiovanni domains.
- [Making Cents : Accounting Concepts](#) facilitated by Rita Gauci in metro and regional areas over August and September. VASSP and VPA encourage Business Managers to attend these two hour workshops designed to assist with the understanding of basic accounting concepts and their relationship to key finance reports.
- [How to deal with difficult people](#) presented by Muffy Hand. This workshop has already booked out so get in quick to attend the two further workshops arranged at the end of July. Aimed at Principals, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers.
- [Want to Know how to avoid the MPB?](#) facilitated by Peter Hibbins and Gavin Swartz across the state from mid May to end of August aimed at Principals, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers. Again, **workshops planned in the metro area are fully booked.** A waiting list has begun. Some regional areas are also close to the brim.

e-letter spam - Prevent your VPA eletter ending up in the junk folder

Unfortunately, it is inevitable with the wide variety of systems and settings used to combat the growing spam problem, that sometimes legitimate email gets tagged as spam. Email featuring bright colours, large fonts, lots of formatting information and embedded images will tend to trigger some automated spam detection systems. This can lead to legitimate email such as the VPA's e-letters being incorrectly classified as spam on some systems. Unfortunately, due to the fact that these settings are beyond our control on the recipients systems, our options are limited in dealing with this issue.

One useful option, for recipients using Microsoft Outlook 2007 is to have users set the VPA as a "safe sender" using the following procedure.

1. Open Outlook 2003 or 2007
2. Go to the "Mail" view and locate an email from the VPA. This might be a previous e-letter or any other email from the VPA.
3. Right click the message in the mailbox, go to the "Junk E-mail" submenu and select "Add Sender's Domain (@example.com) to Safe Senders List"

Outlook will now accept all email from [vpa.org.au](mailto:info@vpa.org.au) as being safe (i.e. not spam). Please contact info@vpa.org.au if you still have problems.



I have been working in the Principal class for the past 10 years. I have been a member of the VPA since I became a Principal. United we have a voice and together we can contribute to ensuring that Victoria provides an outstanding education for its students. Recently the VPA had a win by convincing the government of the importance to include pre-schools as an integral part of the education system. That took 15 years but with perseverance and campaigning we had a win. This is just one example of the VPA's importance. It supports Principals reducing their workload and teaching them to work smarter. As a principal I have confidence in the VPA to put forward my opinions and support me with up to date and accurate information when making important decisions. I have been an active member of the VPA over the years and find this to be an invaluable way to tap into the expertise of others and keep up to date with educational trends. The Leadership in Focus is just one example of the quality and professional approach of the VPA. It provides an invaluable source of networking throughout the educational world.

Marlene Laurent
Principal of Ashburton PS

I hope the first week back is a good one for you

Kind Regards

Gabrielle Leigh
President

If you no longer wish to receive Victorian Principals Association electronic information, please forward "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line and email to info@vpa.org.au