

Victorian Principals Association



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Connected United Powerful

VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

**Quote: The manager accepts the status quo;
the leader challenges it**

– Warren Bennis

VPA eLETTER : June 2009

VPA is proud to launch the new website address now www.vpa.org.au. You may like to bookmark the VPA address as a favourite to keep informed of recent educational news and VPA events.

Special congratulations to:

- **Buninyong Primary School** – lead by VPA member **Sue Deans** for [Partnership with Parents and Communities Award](#):
- **Courtenay Gardens Primary School** – lead by VPA member **Loretta Hamilton** [Curriculum Innovation Award](#):
- **Lalor East Primary School** teacher **Huong Thi Tran** for [Victoria Teachers Credit Union Outstanding Primary Teacher Award](#) school lead by VPA member Anne Hulett.

Secretaries Meeting - attended by Brian Burgess and Gabrielle Leigh

On May 24th we had a rather historic meeting with Secretary Peter Dawkins and Deputy Secretary Darrell Fraser. It is the first time in recent years that VPA and VASSP have met together with the Secretary and it is first time the Minister has attended also.

The topics we covered are listed below with an outline of the discussion:

School Improvement Interventions

VPA and VASSP presented two provisional joint position papers related to this area. These are: The first was entitled "[Network Continuous Improvement Strategy](#)" and focussed on support for principals to deliver school improvement, the importance of adding value rather than targets out of context and the need to streamline much of the documentation.

The second position paper was targeted at "[School Improvement Intervention](#)". This paper focuses on the need to engage and support the principal in this process, the need to be positive and the need to provide adequate resources.

The discussion at the meeting centred on principal workload and the need for the principal to be seen by the school community as being in control. We also spoke about the processes of school identification for intervention, the deployment of resources and the need to support and not blame sometimes vulnerable school communities.

The third position paper was targeted at "[Data Use and Misuse](#)", it was argued that the process of school identification is independent of raw data. It includes an assessment of performance using a new "value added" mechanism, on which Peter Dawkins has agreed to brief the Associations. The process also includes socio-economic data and performance against like schools, although they would like to move beyond that as the value added tool is further developed.

VPA Position Papers

The following six VPA position papers were passed at Council recently following online survey of members:

- [Building the Education Revolution in the 21st Century](#)
- [Student Free Days](#)
- [Network Continuous Improvement Strategy](#)

VPA is advocating strongly on behalf of Educational Leaders across Victoria.

Professional Learning

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. ALL Educational Leaders welcome.

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.

- [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.

Why join the VPA? A member's experience



I have long been a member of the VPA and this year I have opted to act as a councillor for Eastern Region. I urge all Principal class officers to take up membership this year for all the wonderful support that is offered.

Through Regional Meetings and other network activities there is so much opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss issues of vital importance to us all and to enjoy the collegiality of members. Our work in school leadership is indeed challenging and it vital that we seek support from one another in order to make the best possible decisions and enjoy our leadership roles. I learn so much by communicating with Principals state wide – it adds an invaluable dimension to my work! Don't miss the opportunity for membership in 2009 and all the advantages this can offer!

Regards

Susan J Henderson
Principal of Blackburn Primary School

Have a voice on Education across the State with membership to VPA. To create a national voice VPA membership includes membership to Australian Primary Principals Association and the Australian Government Primary Principals Association. In an international

perspective VPA membership includes being a member to International Confederation of Principals ICP.

Visit the VPA website via <http://www.vpa.org.au/membership.asp>

Gabrielle Leigh

President

Victorian Principals Association

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