

Victorian Principals Association



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VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

**Quote: Never look down on anybody unless
you're helping him up. - Jesse Jackson**

VPA eLETTER : August 2009

Facilitate Collegiate Support

Ken Boston

A small number of places are available for Dr Ken Boston's visit to Melbourne on Thursday 13 August. Ken's seminar is proudly supported by APPA. Members and non-members are welcome to attend. Get your [registration](#) in now. Dr Boston stated recently, "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? Further information on Ken Boston is available via http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_8724.aspx

Safe Climate Australia

VPA was represented at Safe Climate Australia Breakfast with Al Gore as guest speaker. For information in involving your school in fundraising run later in the year, view <http://runforasafeclimate.org/>

Review of the Structure of School Sport in Victoria

DEECD in conjunction with the Victorian Primary and Victorian Secondary Schools Sports Associations (VPSSA and VSSSA), have recently reviewed the organisational structure supporting the delivery of school sport in Victorian Schools. Consultation paper on school sport reorganisation is available online [School Sport Consultation Paper](#), [School Sport Consultation Paper Survey](#) and [Sport Committees](#). Consultation closes Friday, 28 August 2009. Liz Stafford, |Project Director School Sport Victoria / DEECD is available for further enquiries on 9488 9486 or via email stafford.liz.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

Unite

Principals Day

VPA invites members to celebrate with New Members for cocktails celebrating Principal's Day on Thursday, 3 September 2009 commencing 6.30 pm at Silks Room of the Moonee Valley Racecourse. Car parking is available in the Members Car park via Gate 1 McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds. Contact Bridget Couper, Principals Association Administration via bcouper@vassp.org.au to RSVP. When replying to Bridget, please state the name of the event

RNL Institute

Last Wednesday VASSP and VPA met with Regional Network Leaders across the state. It was wonderful opportunity to meet and discuss issues as part of RNL leadership institute. We thank DEECD for working alongside VASSP and VPA to coordinate this event.

Brian Burgess, President VASSP, Peter Dawkins, Bruce Armstrong (the new head of the leadership institute) and I formed a panel on Friday chaired by Honourable Minister of Education and Early Childhood Bronwyn Pike. The topic was "Should we expect future principals to have certification before commencing in the role". Given the push for a national set of teacher and principal standards the discussion was quite timely. Basically there was agreement that we need a better model to prepare teachers for Principalship, but that the model needs to be embedded in research and practice based on standards that the profession helps to create.

International Confederation of Principals - ICP Conference Singapore

I was fortunate to attend the ICP conference in Singapore and represent the VPA at the ICP two day Council session. A highlight was meeting with **over 40 VPA members** in the Conrad Hotel in Singapore. It was very affirming to meet so many Victorians very interested in global learning and networking with each other over a drink.

The conference opened with a very impressive speech by the Prime Minister of Singapore who gave a potted history of education in Singapore and then future directions.

<http://www.vpa.org.au/f/Lee%20Hsien%20Loong%20Speech%20-%20Singapore.pdf> It was a reflective and useful discussion about one nation's journey in education. Our Education Minister Hon Bronwyn Pike was involved in a number of the discussions.

Advocate

BER We are closely watching the progress of the Stimulus package. On a weekly basis I am advocating for Principals who have concerns. It is vital to stay in the link. I have been informed that transparency of project costs will occur at the end of the Phase 3 tendering process...so watch this space,

English Online Assessment Implementation

The VPA has formed a draft position paper about this implementation strategy. [English Online Assessment Implementation](#) . I am working closely with DEECD to convey our position.

1. Financial requirements:

- Fully Funded CRT- as Federal Government does for AEDI.
- DEECD to provide schools with **\$40 per student** to administer the assessment tool. i.e. fund the implementation of the initiative in schools. Perhaps the funding could come from the Federal Government **\$100 anomaly** money to go towards implementation

2. More consultation.

3. Late November /December testing, as this gives a realistic view of what children have achieved in 2009. Many children, Preps, in particular, make great gains during late October and November.

4. Four weeks for implementation rather than two weeks.

5. Staged implementation – suggestions:

- Prep first in 2009 and then follow them through early years with the assessment or
- Train/ explain in semester two 2009 and commence online testing at start of 2010.

6. Make the English Online Assessment more user-friendly or shorter so it only takes a maximum of 30 minutes per child.

7. Have one staff member in the school administer the English online testing instrument so that there is a consistent approach.

8. Arrange additional Curriculum Days to conduct the English Online Assessments.

Connect & Enlist

[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

VPA Annual Conference and Dinner Shaping Culture..Learning from Successful Leaders this year is a one day affair on **Thursday 15 October** at **Hilton on the Park**.

Registration forms are available on the VPA website

http://www.vpa.org.au/f/2009_VPA_Conference_Registration_online.pdf

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 Flear - Director of the centre of Research into Childhood Studies and Program Leader for Primary and Early Childhood Education at Monash University
- * Elida Brereton - 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.
- [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.

I hope the term is proceeding well for you.

Kind Regards

Gabrielle Leigh

VPA President

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