

Victorian Principals Association



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VPA eLETTER February 2009

Welcome to the 2009 VPA eletter. I trust that your school start has been positive and smooth. I hope you found respite from the extreme heat and the pupil start day was positive.

I am delighted to be your President. I have been principal of Caroline Springs College - a Kindergarten to year 12 college for the past 9 years. In this new role I intend to work towards creating one dynamic & influential professional organisation for Victorian school leaders. We aim to be a **Connected, United and Powerful** professional association.

VPA Board Members

I would like to introduce the [VPA Board](#) members. The VPA have an active, committed and powerful Board consisting of Pat Waring (Deputy President) , Ian Sloane (Treasurer), Janice Szmal, Terry Condon, Grace Conway, Jack Fisher, Val Karaitiana, Kevin Mackay, Ken Massari and Cheryl Osborne.

Connect

The VPA Administration staff is there to assist you - Patricia Mattia as Acting Executive Officer, and Sue O'Connor are available via info@vpa.org.au

The VPA offers new members free professional learning programs for the first six months of membership to the value of \$120.

Unite Members

A very successful survey in December 2008 acknowledged how many school leaders took the time to reply. The full report will form the basis for our planning across 2009-2010. The VPA Board has already met to look at the summary information and will spend a day in February studying the survey data with the aim of establishing action plans to improve services for it's members.

Advocate For and On Behalf of Members

A press release came through from New South Wales under the Commonwealth/State Partnership Agreement. I thought I'd draw your attention to the statement from Julia Gillard about an extra **\$100** from the Commonwealth for each **primary student**. At present I am seeking clarification about how this will be disbursed in our schools.

My first week as President saw Brian Burgess President of VASSP and myself meet with Minister Pike to discuss *Effective Schools are Engaging Schools - Student Engagement Guidelines* released on 2 December 2008. A fruitful discussion was had with a number of issues raised, one being the need for Primary Welfare officers in primary schools to facilitate the process. Overall our meeting showed symbolically that VASSP and VPA are working together on improving conditions for our principals. Additionally the VPA have been asked to comment on the revised *draft Network Guidelines*.

Facilitate Collegiate Support for Members

The VPA Field Officers are Michael Soltys, Howard Looney and Ray Finn. They will assist with any query that you may have which relates to your Principal role and are available on fso@vpa.org.au

VPA website will move through regeneration, we aim to make this tool a first port of call for our School Leaders to gather recent news, information and online support.

Provide Professional Services and Support to Members

A number of [professional learning](#) sessions in metro and regional areas are planned for the months of February and March:

[Making cents: Interpreting Finance Management Reports](#) with Rita Gauci

[The Path to Principalship](#) for aspiring school leaders with Geoff Barclay

[How to get better Naplan Results for Students - Naplan Data Analysis](#) What data do I collate, interpreting the findings and creating achievable outcomes with Philip Holmes-Smith

[Cyberbullying – A growing Problem – how to control and eliminate it in your school](#) for all School Leaders with Greg Gelbart.

Professional Learning to come

Want to know how to avoid the MPB?

Take advantage of VPA's offer to new members of free professional learning programs for the first six months of membership to the value of \$120.

Gabrielle Leigh
President

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