

# Victorian Principals Association



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## VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote: **A Leader is a Dealer in Hope**  
**Napoleon Bonaparte**

VPA eLETTER : October 2009

### Facilitate Collegiate Support Leading 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools

I met with Leading 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Victorian Project. There is serious push from the Federal government to increase understanding of Asia within our schools. I do recommend you go to the [www.asiaeducation.edu.au](http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au) website to check it out. I will report regularly on possibilities for Victorian Primary schools to use these resources and learning.

### Unite

#### Bushfire Presentation by School Aid

Last week I attended the presentation of **School aid** from around Australia to Bushfire affected schools. It was a very good celebration of the wonderful work by schools nationally to give messages of hope to those affected by disasters and help them get back from adversity. It was great to see a number of our members and friends from schools. Hon Brendan Nelson was the MC. There is a fantastic publication with all the messages of hope written by students sent to help after our shocking bushfire disaster.



### Advocate for Members

#### 1. English Online Assessment

The whole implementation has been less than desirable for schools. This was the scenario the VPA gave DEECD throughout the numerous meetings leading up to this implementation phase. The IT just does not seem up to scratch. Our advice to Principals is:

- Do what you can do in the planned time frame.
- Do not worry about not getting all students assessed. The system is too slow to achieve the desired results in time. This is a **system fault** not **YOURS!**

Message about this from Ian Burrage

We'll be keen to work with schools to help them finish their assessments. We have region by region, school by schools usage stats and the regional contacts will follow-up with schools that haven't made much progress. Given this is a first year and that problems have been encountered, we'll be keen to work flexibly with schools and support them where required

*When I asked for assistance again Ian Burrage at DEECD gave the following information. I do hope it helps:*

#### **Reports of slowness from saving pages**

I have asked our Information Technology Division to check on this issue. A feature of EOL is that whenever the user presses the "NEXT" key to move onto a new page that a save is made.

Therefore it is not necessary for users to use the "SAVE" button also. This is explained within the User Guide, but could be made clearer. To reinforce this for users, a Frequently Asked Question is being drafted using the following explanation:

When you enter data into the English Online Interview, you can save in a number of ways:

1. If you click on **Next** at the bottom of the page, the information you entered on the current task will automatically be saved and you will be able to proceed with the next part of the assessment.
2. If you click on **Save** at the bottom of the page, the information you entered on the current task will be saved. Use this option if you are going to leave the screen temporarily and don't want to move to the next task at this time.
3. If you click on the **Save and Pause Assessment** button on the left of the screen, the information you entered on the current page will be saved and you will be taken back to the home page.

There is no need to click on both **Save** and the **Next** sequentially. **Next** includes the **Save** option.

Some slowness may be driven by schools' local ICT set-up. If you are having problems with the speed of the system, contact us via: DEECD Service desk **1800 641 943** or to email the Student Learning email address: [studentlearning@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:studentlearning@edumail.vic.gov.au) That way DEECD can address any system problems as quickly as possible. In some cases DEECD has been able to give schools some simple advice about their local set-up which has improved the speed of the system.

### **3. Increasing the size of principals' email boxes**

Since the concern was brought to my attention the VPA has been negotiating to increase the size of Principals' email boxes. The email boxes are being continually closed due to the increase in the number of large emails and the volume of traffic. I have spoken with Erle Burke who has assured me that the size will be increased next year. In the meantime regions will be asked to keep the size of emails to a minimum. There was recent publicity about this problem in Herald Sun <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,,26244410-23272,00.html>

### **4. Consultation and Instructional Rounds Provisional Position Papers**

There are 2 new position papers on Consultation and Instructional Rounds being developed and sent to members for feedback. These came from the VPA Council Hot Topics.

### **5. BER Consultation**

#### **BER ISSUES**

We are assured there will be increased transparency with the funding processes once the tenders have been completed. Unfortunately there has been an escalation of prices which means that there could be less for landscaping etc. Every single dollar has to be accountable to the Federal government. Administration costs are being closely watched especially after the NSW experience.

#### **There are 2 audits being undertaken at present**

1. Our state auditor general.
2. A more detailed audit regarding NSP by the Commonwealth( 2 hour process)

It is important to acknowledge how **important this funding is to Primary schools** and how we have benefitted from the process.

Please be aware that The **Project Manager** must negotiate with each principal. The Principal can chose own colours, carpet, fascias. Regular site meetings are expected.

There are guidelines being prepared for how schools might manage over-entitlement space in terms of insurance, cleaning and maintenance.

## 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)

**\*\* VPA members receive a weekly eletter to support them in their leadership.**

## Provide Professional Services and Support to Members

[VPA Annual Conference and Dinner](#) *Shaping Culture..Learning from Successful Leaders* on Thursday 15 October at Hilton on the Park was very successful.



Members and Non members are invited to attend Metropolitan regional VPA meetings:

Regional Meeting arrangements planned to date:

**NMR Quality Hotel Melbourne Airport at 4:30 on Thursday November 5**

**SMR Vincent's at Beaumaris at 4.30pm Wednesday November 11**

**WMR Taylors Lakes Hotel for a breakfast meeting on Tuesday November 17**

**EMR 4:30 Thursday 19 November**

I hope the last term is proceeding well for you and you are working your way through the English online assessment

**Kind Regards**  
**Gabrielle Leigh VPA 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](mailto:info@vpa.org.au)*