



Victorian Principals Association

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VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

“Goals are the fuel in the furnace of achievement.”

~Brian Tracy

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN?

Our Field Services Officers can help!

Click [here](#) to send an email to Howard & Terry.

VPA eletter No. 3 – March 2011

Professional Services and Support

VPA Strategic Plan 2011 & 2012

The following encapsulates what the VPA is and what it aims to be in the next two years was endorsed by Board and passed by Council;

Connected United and Powerful

The VPA is a professional association that recognises and actively supports the opportunities and challenges that are faced by educational leaders in their complex roles of school leadership, by ensuring they are connected, united and powerful. The VPA aims to provide a range of key services and support for leaders in Victorian government primary schools. School leaders are kept up to date with information that affects the education sector, participate in professional learning and are represented at State, Federal and International levels. The VPA values collegiality, integrity, learning, commitment and representation of school leaders.

Three key pillars

This is achieved by active collaboration in the following three key areas:

- Professional Services and Support
- Professional Advocacy
- Professional Learning

I will now write the eletter under these critical headings.



Our Board and Councillors planning for a **Connected, United and Powerful** future for the VPA.

2011 VPA Council- Convenors and Deputy Convenors

Region	Convenor	Deputy Convenor
BSW	Mark Arkinstall	Daniel Watson
EMR	Esther Wood	Sue Henderson
Gippsland	Vicki Miles	Wendy Caple
Grampians	Elke Gunn	Sue Deans
Loddon Mallee	Claire Bayliss	Gary Green
NMR	Phil Clinkaberry	Leanne Sheean
SMR	Jenny Mackay	Michael Block
WMR	Meenah Marchbank	Heather Guillot

Regional Support of Board members

Board members have been allocated to the following regions to support the work of councillors and members across Victoria;

NMR – Grace Conway

Lodden Mallee – Cheryle Osborne
Barwon SW – Ken Massari
SMR – Glenn Butler
Gippsland – Kevin Mackay
WMR– Anne-Maree Kliman
Hume – Terry Condon
EMR - Ian Sloane, Sharon Saitlik
Grampians – Jack Fisher

Regional Meetings

There are a number of VPA regional meetings and representations planned for Term 1:

Northern Metro Region	Garrards, Thomastown	7:45am Thursday 31 March
Eastern Metro Region	Natalie's Restaurant, Mitcham	4:00pm Thursday 31 March
Hume Region	Wangaratta	3:30pm Friday 1 April

ACARA Update

The latest ACARA Update is now out. Click [here](#) to read.

The Draft Shape Paper for the Australian Curriculum: Languages

The Draft Shape Paper for the Australian Curriculum- Languages is now available on the [ACARA website](#). You are invited to provide feedback to ACARA through the consultation survey which will be available until 7 April 2011.

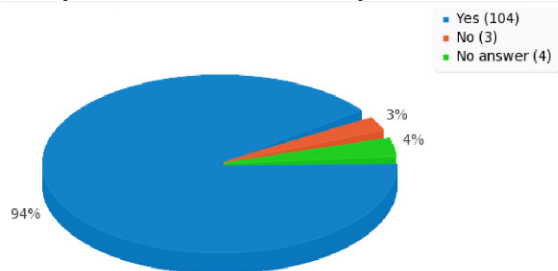
Professional Advocacy

Position Papers

Four provisional position papers; **Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)**, **Staff Referral updated**, **Emergency Management Plans** and **Reducing Red Tape in Victorian Government Schools** have now been passed. The papers were presented to the Council at our planning session and accepted.

There is a strong message emanating from the preliminary data that has come out of the results;

Does the provisional Position Paper, Out of School Hours Care, reflect your views?



OSHC Forum Report *Running a successful Out of School Hours Care Program with the new legislation*

The **VPA OSHC Forum** recently with DEECD, DEEWR and Community Child Care assisting schools in meeting their new requirements. Click [here](#) to access a full report from the forum on our website. We have clear recommendations and contacts to assist in this report.

Information about IT in schools from meeting with ITD

Configuration Problems Regarding Ultranet

Incorrectly configured computers in schools accessing on-net services via the Internet, primarily affecting EduMail and Ultranet. The impact is on the performance and capacity rather than accessing these services via large capacity (2Gb) links users with incorrectly configured computers are accessing them via significantly lower capacity links. ITD has implemented automated daily email to school technicians & ICT coordinators where computers are identified accessing the Ultranet incorrectly. Already these emails have seen some significant change however there are still a large number of incorrectly configured computers continuing to operate. The next stage will be to advise schools of the blocking of this access with adequate notice.

Action: speak with your school's technicians & ICT coordinators to ensure your school is not affected by this.

Update on Mail Box Sizing

EduMail service is being upgraded and will deliver significant improvements including increases in system capacity, new infrastructure and capabilities in communication and collaboration. Mailbox capacities are being lifted to 1Gb for Principals and School account and 500Mb for other school based staff. Other improvements include enhanced EduMail user self service and account administration tools for Principals & delegates. On-track to transition all 75,000+ EduMail users to the new platform by start of Term 2, 2011.

Action: no specific action required.

School Nursing Program

I have contacted Hon Wendy Lovell about the School nursing program in 2011. Apparently in the Northern region they are not replacing any school nurses who may leave. This means that a number of schools and their students

will be severely affected. The VPA has concerns that not all prep students will have an assessment because of no extra money going into the program to cater for the increased numbers in prep year. However this latest news will impact significantly on the existing program.

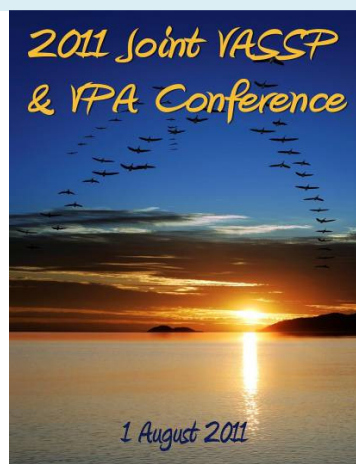
Temporary Resumption Policy

An amendment to the temporary resumption policy has been introduced and can be found on [HRWeb](#). The amendment is to parental absence that deals with a temporary resumption at a lower time fraction than a teachers' current time fraction. Assuming the resumption is genuinely temporary the teacher should not have to permanently reduce her time fraction. Note that the proposed amendment does not result in a temporary time fraction reduction as this is not possible. Rather the teacher retains her existing time fraction with a component of duty and a component of parental absence. It is not an issue if the temporary resumption is at a higher time fraction as we can temporarily increase and at the end of the temporary resumption the person must revert to their 'substantive' time fraction.

Launch of Public Purposes of Education in Australian Primary Schools Research paper Educating the students of Australia – Have we lost our way?

The three year project was funded by the Australian Research Council and conducted by four academics from Universities across Australia working in partnership with the Australian Government Primary Principals' Association (AGPPA) and the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA). This was officially launched by the Honourable Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Childhood and Youth in yesterday as was a significant event in the history of government primary schools in Australia.

Professional Learning



2011 VPA & VASSP Annual Conference

The joint VPA and VASSP Conference is centred around **Building Educational Capacity – Enhancing Leadership Potential**. The combined 1 day conference and annual general dinner will be held on **Monday 1 August** the **Crown Conference Centre** in Melbourne. Speakers include **Saul Eslake, Wendy McCarthy, Professor Barry McGaw, Professor Richard Teese** and our special guest speaker is **Anh Do**. The MC is **Jenny Brockie** from SBS Insight. Please put this major event into your diary. Registration will be open soon

Professional Development Workshops facilitated by VPA and VASSP

Difficult Conversations

A workshop for Assistant Principals and School Leaders VASSP and the VPA, along with Robyn Buckeridge* are offering this two hour workshop designed to give you an edge when conducting potentially difficult conversations with staff.

The workshop session will include:

- Identifying potentially difficult conversation scenarios
- Top Ten Tips for Conducting Difficult Conversations
- Developing a common process for your school
- Scenarios, role plays and feedback

Cost: Members \$90.00 (inc. GST)

Non- members \$100.00 (inc. GST)

Date: Tuesday 29 March, 2.00 – 4.00pm

Venue: VASSP/VPA Offices, Unit 2, 13 – 21 Vale St, North Melbourne

The Pathway to Principalship

A workshop for Assistant Principals and Aspiring Principals VASSP and VPA along with Geoff Barclay are offering a full day workshop designed to give an edge when applying for Principal Class positions.

Part 1 -The Application

Part 2 -The Interview

Part 3 – What now that you are Principal

Cost: Members \$100.00 (incl GST) per workshop

Non- members \$130.00 (incl GST) per workshop

Lunch provided

Times and venues:

- Thursday 12 May 9.30 am to 3.30 pm at the Library, Northern Bay College (Tallis Street Campus) Tallis Street, Norlane

- Wednesday 18 May 9.30 am to 3.30 pm at Unit 2, 13 - 21 Vale St, North Melbourne

Visit the [VPA website](#) for further details and registration forms.

Two-Day Workshop for School Leaders- an invitation to work with the masters of strategy in education

Brian Caldwell and David Loader will present a two-day workshop for school leaders on **March 31st and April 1st, 2011**. The workshop will involve making plans to secure sustainable success for your school. For further information and registration click [here](#)

VPA China Educational Leadership Study Tour

18th September – 1st October

CHINA- A NEW WORLD POWER IN EDUCATION



Did you know that Chinese students topped the recent PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) tests in Science, Reading and Mathematics?

Australia finished 10th, 9th and 15th respectively. Why is this so? How can we make improvements?

Join our 2011 VPA China Educational Leadership Study Tour and maybe you will find the answer.

Following a very successful Instructional Leadership Study Tour in 2010 the VPA established a Memorandum of Understanding with the international department of the Jiangsu Education Bureau (JESIE), China. Part of the agreement was to establish annual educational study tours for VPA members. The costs incurred are tax deductible

One of the most significant things participants took from this experience last year was the development of sister school relationships forged between the schools visited and their own schools back home in which letters and email are exchanged between students and staff.

"The opportunity to gain insight into another education system and to compare and contrast it with our own proved to be an outstanding experience. We visited 5 schools to observe classroom instruction, student learning, teacher professional development and school operations. To view school assemblies, a range of lessons across a range of curriculum areas and student performances was a great experience." James Bell (Principal, Brentwood Park Primary School and 2010 China Study Tour)

It is anticipated that the cost of this year's tour will be \$4900.

We had our first meeting with interested China Tour participants last week. Aileen Hall discussed the wonderful opportunities this tour brings. The deadline for the \$500 payment of deposit is 31st March. Please let us know your interest and we will send you out an information pack. Why not join us for what will be a truly memorable cultural and professional learning experience. You may like to add another week of your holidays to the tour to visit other parts of China.



Why join the VPA? A member's experience...

I joined the VPA because it is the organisation best placed to provide Principals with high quality, relevant professional learning. In my role as VPA councillor for Barwon South Western region, I have had the opportunity to hear from high level educational stakeholders and to clarify information both for my own learning and to share with colleagues. It provides me with a voice in the direction of State education through seeking, and acting upon, input from Principals into the development of position papers on important issues. The opportunity to discuss my questions and issues with colleagues from across the State is invaluable in contributing to my ongoing

professional growth and understanding of systemic issues and direction. The strength of the VPA is the connectedness of colleagues and their willingness to support each other.

Leadership in Focus is an excellent professional journal that contains insightful articles written by peers and academics with visionary outlooks for education. The thought-provoking discussions generated as a result of reading these have influenced the journey of my school. I recommend membership of the VPA to all Principals, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers as an important step on your leadership journey.

~ **Steve Durkin**, Principal Moriac Primary School

Really Interesting websites...

[Digital Giants](#) Interesting video from the digital world's top thinkers sharing their visions of the future
[Changing Education Paradigms](#) Sir Ken Robinson's recent YouTube video and it is brilliant
[A Day Made of Glass](#) A video that looks at a vision of the future driven by technology

Kind regards,

Gabrielle Leigh
VPA President