



# Victorian Principals Association

Unit 2, 13-21 Vale Street, North Melbourne Victoria 3051, Australia  
t: (03) 8379 4000 f: (03) 9326 9950 e: [info@vpa.org.au](mailto:info@vpa.org.au) w: [www.vpa.org.au](http://www.vpa.org.au)  
Freecall: 1800 VPA VPA (Vic Country)



## VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

### Quote:

"In times of change the learners will inherit the earth, while the learned will find themselves equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

~ Eric Hoffer

**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. 9: September 2011

Principal Class members across the state celebrated **Principals Day** on September 2<sup>nd</sup> through various events such as breakfasts, morning tea and afternoon drinks. It was a wonderful way to recognise the hard work and contribution Principals put into their schools and communities.



Congratulations to Jack Fisher on his organisation of Principals Day this year. Below are a few of the comments from VPA Convenors regarding their experience of Principals Day;

*"The Grampians Region celebrated Principals Day with a very successful event, sitting in the sunshine on the balcony at Seymours on Lydiard. We had a good turn-out of both members and non-members. Lots of laughs and collegiality added to the success of the evening, with everyone sitting around a large table enjoying each other's company. We were all in agreement that we should meet more often."*

*"EMR had a great function with 25 members enjoying a most relaxed get together. I was really pleased that a number of prins had been recognised with morning teas, cards and well wishes."*

*"The Geelong end of the Barwon South West region had a VPA supported ten pin bowling Network challenge between Geelong North, Bellarine and Barwon South networks. After that, the combatants retired to the Belmont Hotel for some collegiate interaction over dinner."*

*"I think it was a great initiative. We had 16 people in attendance and managed to raise some of the issues we had discussed at the Council meeting in August. It seemed to be really well received and definitely worth doing in 2012. It had a very convivial atmosphere. Thank you to the Board for giving us the flexibility to hold our own functions considering the tyranny of distance in Loddon Mallee."*

*"The Principal Day celebration in Mildura was well attended. We gathered in a private room at The Office wine bar to relax and share the highlights and challenges of the week. Ten VPA members were in attendance and approx ten other Principals and Asst Principals came along to share the celebrations."*

## Professional Advocacy

### Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Stakeholders Meeting

The VPA was represented by Grace Conway and myself at the OSHC Stakeholders meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Many pertinent matters were discussed including the National Quality Framework (NQF) which aims to promote greater consistency in early childhood education and care services.

A new publication has been launched and being distributed to OSHC services, entitled, **My Time Our Place**. It is accessible on the [DEEWR website](#). Click [here](#) to access supporting documents. The pamphlet is being circulated to explain the new NQF guidelines. As the new National Body, the Australian Children's Education Council and Care Quality Australia (ACECQA) will be the key driver of the national improvements in quality to early childhood education

and care across Australia. Regulatory Authorities in each state or territory will administer the NQF. In Victoria the Regulatory Authority will be located in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The [National Quality Framework](#) commences on 1 January 2012 and will be progressively implemented over a number of years. The main aims of the NQF are nationally consistent educator-to-child ratios and educator qualification requirements for the first time. These educator-to-child ratios are consistent with the requirements for OSHC services under the Victorian children's services legislation.

### **Parliament of Victoria Inquiry into the Education of Gifted and Talented Students**

Thank you to John Forsythe, Marlene Laurent, Greg Lacey, Deb Patterson, Patricia Pace and Claire McInerney for representing the VPA at the Forum run by the Parliament of Victoria's Education and Training Committee into the education of gifted and talented students. Previously the VPA put together a submission. We were asked to present to the parliamentary group.

I started the presentation talking about primary leaders and educators in Victoria believing that all students have the right to develop to their full potential. Students with exceptional abilities and talents have specific requirements that need to be addressed within school programs. Such students may be classed as 'gifted and talented'. Gifted and talented students, once identified, may be extended through a variety of avenues. Once students have been identified schools try to resource appropriate programs within the existing structures. This is a huge limitation in primary schools. Already our funding per capita in Government primary schools in Victoria is the lowest in Australia – just over \$10 000 per student.

From the perspective of a primary principal, gifted and talented programs could have enduring success if they operate within each school in a consistent and ongoing basis rather than an ad hoc response. If the school can afford it or has the interested/skilled personnel to run it. This approach needs resourcing – both physical and human.

### **Changes to School Chaplain Program announced**

From January next year schools will be able to use federal government funds to employ either a school chaplain or a secular youth worker under an overhaul of the National School Chaplains Program. The changes, announced by Schools Minister Peter Garrett yesterday, include renaming the scheme the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. Click [here](#) to find out more on Education Review.

### **Meeting with Richard Bolt - Secretary of Education**

Recently I met with new Secretary of Education Richard Bolt. We discussed a range of issues including the Restructure, Regions, Performance Pay, NAPLAN, VIT, IT Support in Schools, Maintenance and Facilities, SSSO and the DEECD Staff Survey Instrument to name a few. It was good to meet in Richard's second day in his new position. We are setting up regular meeting times.

### **BER Consultation Report**

P-21: There are a total of 1253 projects with 1217 commenced.

### **Occupancy Numbers**

Anyone with concerns regarding occupancy numbers please ask the Stakeholder Liaison Team. Plaques should be changed to reflect overall facilities of the school, not the BER building in isolation.

### **Relocatables**

Please negotiate with Michael Carabot in DEECD if you would like to retain a relocatable on your site or if you need an extra relocatable.

### **Report from VPA Council - Melanie Saba, CEO, Victorian Institute of Teaching**

Principals were reminded to check VIT online regularly – it is updated daily and shows teacher registration status.

There is a principals' hotline for queries [www.vit.vic.gov.au](http://www.vit.vic.gov.au)

There is still some unregistered teacher practice occurring.

Renewal dates have changed to September 30<sup>th</sup> for everyone. Victoria will move towards new standards in 2012 – need to consider VIT Standards, DEECD Standards and National Standards.

VPA Councillors strongly put forward a case about the excessive fines and threats to principals over teacher registration. Access to Melanie's PowerPoint presentation at VPA Council is on our [website](#).

### **Is Education Reform Encouraging Cheating?**

Jeremy White addresses this question in the International Business Times. Click [here](#) to read this article.

## **Professional Services and Support**

### **VPA Project Services**

The VPA has put together a team of experienced, and highly regarded former school leaders who will provide support to school leadership teams. Our consultants will work with you personally, leaders within your school or your leadership team to provide coaching, support and/or advice in all areas of school operations.

#### **Possible areas of support include:**

- Workforce Planning

- School Finance
- Leadership Coaching
- Change Management
- Performance and Development
- Communications
- Community Relationships/Partnerships
- Curriculum Improvement Strategies.
- School Review and Self Assessment

### ACSSO National Conference

The ACSSO National Conference is happening on Friday, October 13- 14 at Williams Wilkins Gallery, Department of Education and Communities, Sydney. Click [here](#) for more information and a registration form.

### Children's Week- 22nd-30th October

Children's Week is a time to recognise and celebrate children's rights, talents, skills and abilities and will be celebrated from 22-30 October 2011. Refer to DEECD EC041-2011 Notice. In Victoria, schools, local councils, libraries, art galleries, early childhood service providers and community groups will hold free activities and celebrations to highlight Children's Week. Children's Week will be launched at a family fun day at the Melbourne Zoo on Sunday 23 October 2011 with a range of free activities and live performances. Register your Children's Week event or activity online [here](#) before **Friday 16 September 2011**. For further information on Children's Week, please email [childrens.week@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrens.week@edumail.vic.gov.au) or phone 9637 3880.

### Engage with Asia

#### Leading 21<sup>st</sup> century schools

'The world of tomorrow is being shaped in your classrooms today' Kathe Kirby

The Leading 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Engage with Asia was launched last Sunday and Monday. I congratulate a large number of our VPA members who are participants in this program. This fits well with the new Australian Curriculum's cross curriculum priority - Australia and Asia understanding. Click [here](#) to access the Melbourne Declaration which introduced the idea of Asian literacy in our schools and click [here](#) to visit the ACARA website to find out more about changes to the curriculum. Asian literacy is foundational and develops deep knowledge skills and understandings about histories, geography, societies, cultures literatures and languages.

Below are some interesting facts about our increasingly multi-cultured global community;

- CQ = cultural intelligence a new concept in our new interconnected world
- 5% of our population live and work in another country
- 40% of our migrants are from Asia
- Less than 13% year 12 students are studying a language

To read more visit the Asia Link [website](#) or the [Asia Education Foundation](#) for a wide range of resources.

## Professional Learning

### ICP Conference 15 – 18 August Toronto 2011

Victorian government school leaders were well represented at the International Confederation of Principals Conference in Toronto held recently. Click [here](#) to visit the ICP website for more information on the conference. We were very proud of two VPA members, Heather Hopcroft and Jan Gregory who presented about, 'What makes a Difference in Transformation?'



Some of our Australian contingency with over 50 participants at the AGPPA cocktail party.

### Better Buddies Professional Learning Session

A half-day professional learning session for teachers and educators will showcase the Better Buddies Framework and the ways schools can adapt the flexible system to suit their school environment on **Thursday, 20 October 2011**. The session is open to existing Better Buddies' schools and also to new schools interested in joining Better Buddies. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for this free professional learning opportunity.

### VPA Workshops

#### Workforce Planning for 2012: Aligning Your Human Resources

A workshop for Principals and Assistant Principals

The VPA and VASSP, along with Bill Hunt\* are offering a workshop designed to help principals and leadership teams

align their personnel and resources with the school's goals and targets so they make the most difference.

The workshop will cover:

- Workforce planning and budgeting concepts
- Major issues that impact on staff planning
- Creating a sustainable workforce plan
- Deficit and surplus management strategies
- Hands on modelling with the SRP Planner using your school's data

**Cost:** Members \$90.00 (inc. GST)

Non- members \$110.00 (inc. GST)

**Dates & Venues:**

- Tuesday, 11 October 2011 from 8.45 am to 12.30pm  
Woodlands Primary School, 10 Gumnut Drive, Langwarrin
- Wednesday, 19 October 2011 from 8.45 am to 12.30pm  
Distance Education Centre, 315 Clarendon St, Thornbury
- Tuesday, 18 October 2011 from 8.45 am to 12.30 pm  
Northern Bay College, Tallis P-6 College (Formerly North Shore Primary School) Tallis St, Norlane in Geelong
- Wednesday, 26 October 2010 from 8.45 am to 12.30 pm  
Moe Primary School, 40 Albert St, Moe

**Two extra dates added;**

- Friday, 14 October 2011 from 8.45am to 12.30pm  
Warrnambool College, Grafton Rd, **Warrnambool**
- Friday, 21 October 2011 from 8.45am to 12.30pm  
CASES Centre, Macarthur St Primary School, 401 Macarthur St, Soldiers Hill, **Ballarat**

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

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



*The VPA as it is an organisation that promotes quality education and supports the work of Principals and Assistant Principals in the communities they lead and represent*

*I joined the VPA in a time of rapid change, the VPA provided me with quality professional learning opportunities, collegiality, support and a forum to express my ideas and opinions and to share the ideas and opinions of others. The VPA has contributed to my professional growth and I have developed close rapport with its expanding number of services and call on them with confidence when further advice and assistance is required.*

*The VPA voice is strong in its support for its members; this is demonstrated through the many position papers that represent the views of its members on contentious issues and the advocacy provided by its leadership. This united voice continues to grow and develop new ways of representing the needs of Principal Class Officers and the provision of high quality education for all students*

*As a VPA Regional Councillor for the Hume Region I have been given the opportunity to represent and support fellow members, express opinions, ideas and concerns and make a significant contribution to the ever changing face of state education*

*As Principals it is vitally important that our collective voice is heard and recognised. Membership of the VPA is a way to make this happen. I fully recommend VPA membership to all Principals and Assistant Principals.*

**~Tony Andison, Acting Principal, Yarrowonga College P-12**

**Interesting websites...**

**[BER](#)** – A helpful list of regional facilities managers

**[Blogs](#)** – Write, reflect and create class blogs and “picture a day” projects.

**[Bubbl.us](#)** – Brainstorm and create on-line concept maps with others.

**[Delicious](#)** – Bookmark your sites and access them from any computer.

**[Study Ladder](#)** - A very useful website for all curriculum areas. With free registration (at the moment), you can create a class log and kids can complete up to 3 activities per day. It is great to use for tuning in sessions. You can choose different levels, curriculum areas, and topics and includes IWB activities.

**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)*