



# Victorian Principals Association

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## VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

### Quote:

*"Success travels in the company of very hard work. There is no trick, no easy way."*

~ John Wooden

**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. 8: August 2011

### 2011 VPA/VASSP Conference – Building Educational Capacity..... and we succeeded!!

Our annual VPA Conference was held jointly with VASSP on August 1st at the Crown Conference Centre. It was a highly successful event with over 550 delegates in attendance and a first class group of presenters. It was good to see the Minister for Education The Hon. Martin Dixon open the conference and help celebrate state education and acclaim the work of our school principals.



### State School Relief Raffle

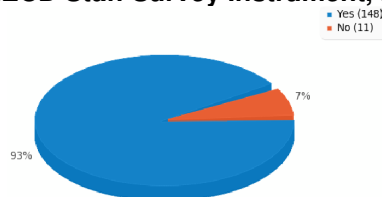
The Conference raffle raised \$2907 so thanks to all participants. This amount was generously matched by the Residential Outdoor Schools Association (ROSA). So a wonderful total of \$5,814 will go to the State School Relief fund. State Schools' Relief (SSR) is a not-for-profit charity supporting Victorian children and young people to reach their full potential by giving practical assistance at a time when they need it. SSR believe that all children deserve the opportunity to participate in their school's educational and sporting activities without barriers. Not having adequate school clothing and footwear is a significant barrier to any child's participation in school activities. As the DEECD covers all administrative costs, 100% of donations go directly to students in need. Visit the [SSR website](#) to find out more.

## Professional Advocacy

### Joint VPA/VASSP Position Paper- DEECD Staff Survey Instrument

VPA members recently had their say through the DEECD Staff Survey Instrument survey. There is a strong message emanating from the preliminary data that has come out of the results;

**Does the Provisional Position Paper, DEECD Staff Survey Instrument, reflect your views?**



### VPA Staff Opinion Survey Consultation for the future – items discussed

- Lower number of participants compared to 2010, which is to be expected due to technical problems
- Exploring options for 2012 with an advisory group which the VPA will have membership
- More customised survey to reflect school needs
- Same improved process should occur in student survey
- Shorter Staff survey with less items
- Flexibility in delivery perhaps over two terms in a time frame that suits schools

## Out of School Care

The VPA is negotiating continually to assist schools in OSHC programs. The Age ran an article recently on OSHC entitled 'Out-of-school care leaves small schools out of pocket' and highlights the VPA advocating for more government funding to assist these smaller programs. Click [here](#) to read.

## Joint Use Agreements

There is a Review occurring about Joint Use Agreements with a focus on developing a template to reduce costs and red tape to assist the process. Unfortunately it has been suggested that Legal costs will come out of Project costs. The VPA is against this concept and believes it should be status quo with costs coming from Legal Branch.

## BER Consultation

### Defects

1. Project Manager must provide a defect list at handover
2. As you move in there will be defects. You must go to both your Project Manager and Contractor (in your manual at handover) to add these to defect list
3. Understand limited length of time for defects- 6-12 months
4. Beware of voiding warranties by adding extra construction e.g. air conditioner, and consult with your Project Manager

## Occupancy Numbers

There will be clarity over numbers in near future. See your Stakeholder Relations contact with any concerns.

## Building Management Scheme (BMS)

During the recent cold snap a small number of schools experienced issues with their BMS. Should issues with the BMS arise, please contact your Project Manager. They will work with you to determine whether the BMS should reset or the manual override function to be activated.

## NAPLAN and High stakes Testing

A really interesting literature review written by Samuel Lobascher entitled '*What are the potential impacts of high-stakes testing on literacy education in Australia*' explores the potential impacts of high-stakes testing on Australian curriculum and draws on research from the US and UK. The paper concludes that the negative consequences of testing results from a failure to gain support from teachers and provide them with a greater role in the design, implementation and evaluation of tests, as well as input into how test results are used. It is a great read. Click [here](#) to access.

## How Finland Became an Education Leader

How has one industrialized country created one of the world's most successful education systems in a way that is completely hostile to testing? That's the question asked -- and answered -- in a new documentary called "[The Finland Phenomenon: Inside the World's Most Surprising School System.](#)" Click [here](#) to access Harvard professor Tony Wagner's explanation of how the nation achieved extraordinary successes by deemphasizing testing in an article by David Sirota.

## Professional Services and Support

### Study Award Winners- \$5,000 each

1. **Deborah Patterson**- Valuing Creativity, Curiosity and Innovation in our Schools - Award by **PSW Quality Apparel**
  2. **Ric Maguire**- Success with Flexible Learning Spaces - Award by the **Victoria Teachers Credit Union**
  3. **Russell Gascoigne**- Learning and leading with Information and Communication Technologies – Award by **Learning with Technologies (LWT)**
  4. **Pamela Anderson**- Leadership in Successful Schools - Award by **PSW Quality Apparel**
- A big thank you to our sponsors; PSW, VTCU and LWT, and DEECD Acting Secretary Jeff Rosewarne for presenting the awards.



Jeff Rosewarne, Deborah Patterson, Anthony Sterpin (PSW)



Jeff Rosewarne, Ric Maguire, Emma Sanday (VTCU)



Jeff Rosewarne, Russell Gascoigne, Paul Doherty (LWT)



Jeff Rosewarne, Pamela Anderson, Anthony Sterpin (PSW)

### Regional Meetings

There are a number of Regional Meeting planned for this term;

<b>WMR Breakfast</b>	Sanctuary Lakes Resort	<b>7.30am, Thursday, 25 August</b>
<b>NMR Breakfast</b>	Mambo Italiano, North Essendon	<b>7.45am, Thursday, 1 September</b>
<b>Loddon Mallee</b>	Rifle Bridge Hotel, Bendigo	<b>4.15pm, Monday, 5 September</b>
<b>SMR</b>	Vincent's Restaurant, Beaumaris	<b>4.30pm, Wednesday, 7 September</b>
<b>EMR</b>	Karralyka Centre, Ringwood East	<b>8.15am, Friday, 9 September</b>

### Principals Day

This year the VPA Board wishes to broaden the scope of the celebration of Principals Day on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. Recently all School Council Presidents, as well as Staff Associations, received a letter encouraging them to recognize the work principal class members perform in their school and letting them know the work they do is appreciated.

### Principal Day Celebrations

<b>Loddon Mallee</b>	Quills Restaurant- Bendigo	<b>4.15pm, Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>
<b>SMR Breakfast</b>	The Sober Mule Café, Peninsula Lifestyle Centre- Mornington	<b>7.30am, Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>
<b>NMR</b>	Philhellene Greek Restaurant- Moonee Ponds	<b>4.00pm, Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>
<b>BSW</b>	Barwon Edge- Newton	<b>4.00pm, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>
<b>EMR</b>	Whealers Hill Hotel- Wheelers Hill	<b>4.30pm, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>
<b>Loddon Mallee</b>	The Office Wine Bar & Lounge- Mildura	<b>4.30pm, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>
<b>WMR</b>	Wyndham	<b>Watch this space</b>
<b>BSW</b>	Warnambool / Portland	

### Race Around Australia

A world record supported cycling attempt around Australia is being attempted by QLD police officer, Dave Alley. This event is proudly supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The race will commence on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September from Redcliffe, QLD. For more details click [here](#). All donations will be gratefully accepted through the website. Contact David Lees at [David.Lees@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:David.Lees@det.nsw.edu.au) for further information or access his blog [here](#).

## Professional Learning

### VPA China Study Tour- Fostering Sister School Relationships

Last year Carole Mayes, Principal of Tyabb Railway Station Primary School, participated in the first VPA Study Tour to China. The tour saw her visit a number of Chinese schools. During a visit to Nanjing Huo Wa Xiang Primary School, Carole met Principal, Jenny Yang, and upon fostering a professional relationship, both signed a memorandum of understanding agreement to be Sister Schools. This year Jenny Yang, along with two teachers and three students from her school, visited Tyabb Primary School on their own study tour. On their visit, Mr Yibing Gao, an Art teacher at Jenny's school and a well known and respected Chinese artist, instructed the Visual Arts teachers from the local network primary schools, in Chinese water colour techniques. Carole is very proud that her school is committed to being members of the wider global community.



What a wonderful partnership and congratulations to Carole for furthering learning from the VPA Study tour of China

### VPA Workshops

#### Staff Selection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century- a discussion on the best ways to recruit to enhance your teaching team and school performance

The VPA, together with Graeme Lane and Gavan Schwartz, is offering this two hour workshop designed to give you confidence in staff selection – including meeting DEECD and MPB requirements, alternate methods to the

traditional application, interview, reference check processes and selection as a capacity building exercise. The workshop session will include:

- Planning for selection.
- Advertising – getting the best to apply.
- Developing a process that meets your school vision and values
- Selection processes to ensure you get the best fit for your school.
- Avoiding problems and pitfalls.

The workshop will be interactive. Participants may wish to bring examples and ideas to share or discuss.

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

Non- members \$100.00 (inc. GST)

**Date:** Wednesday 31 August 2.00pm – 4.00pm

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

### **Want to know how to avoid the MPB?**

A workshop for Principals and Assistant Principals

The VPA and VASSP, along with Peter Hibbins are offering a workshop designed to inform School Leaders of the role of the Merit Protection Board and its role in relation to School Leaders.

The Workshop will cover:

- Translation to ongoing
- Time fraction changes
- Granting of leave e.g. Family leave
- Referrals/Compassionate transfers
- Selection processes
- File noting

Applications received on 'first in' basis.

**Date:** Tuesday 13 September 9.30am – 11.00am

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

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

### **Speak to Impress**

A workshop for School Leaders

VASSP and the VPA, along with Robyn Buckeridge are offering this two hour workshop designed to give you confidence when speaking in public – including presentations to school teams, staff meetings, school assemblies, information nights, presentation evenings and other major events.

The workshop session will include:

- Recognising your strengths when speaking in public
- Identifying your concerns
- Discussion of the key elements of public speaking
- Developing your own process for public performances
- Scenarios, role plays and feedback

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

Non- members \$100.00 (inc. GST)

**Date:** Wednesday 14 September 1.00pm – 3.00pm

**Venue:** “Studio” Classroom, Upstairs in the heritage building

South Geelong Primary School

200 Yarra St

**South Geelong**

Light refreshments provided.

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

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



*I have been a member of the VPA now for eleven years. I joined on my first appointment as an Assistant Principal as I believed that the VPA would be the best professional association to support me in my principal class role. This has certainly proved to be the case during my time as AP, and as I have moved into subsequent Principal positions. I have appreciated the professional development opportunities afforded to me through the VPA, and the practical resources like Leadership in Focus and the VPA Website. I have also benefited from the networking with principal colleagues from across the State and the sharing of expertise and resources that has resulted. I have enjoyed the Members Benefits and utilised those services that are available through our VPA membership. More recently I have become a VPA Councillor for the Eastern Region and this has enabled me to contribute in a practical way to our profession and to gain a clearer understanding of the way an organisation like the VPA can contribute to, and influence educational policy. I highly recommend VPA membership for all principal class officers as a great professional resource and an important organisation representing the interests of principals and the Government school system.*

~ **Andrew Crossett**, Principal, Essex Heights Primary School

### **Interesting websites...**

[Free software](#) on literacy, numeracy, science and more

**Math Live** an interactive tool giving information about 2D and 3D shapes. This also has printable nets to download.  
Lots of **[engaging animations and interactive tools](#)** to support the teaching of different Maths concepts  
**[Learn Your Tables](#)** Free resources to support the learning of multiplication tables.

**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)*