



# Victorian Principals Association

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## VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

### Quote:

“The key to successful leadership is influence, not authority.”  
~ **Kenneth Blanchard**

**VPA eletter No. 10: October 2011**

## Professional Advocacy

### National Day of Action for Public Education

The Federal Government's Gonski review of schools' funding will deliver its report and recommendations on December 15, 2011. The review presents an opportunity to achieve a better deal for public schools in the interest of all students and our nation as a whole. To help achieve this goal and in the lead up to the review panel's final report, Australia's government school parents, teachers and principal organisations together have called a **National Day of Action for Public Education on Tuesday, 15 November, 2011**. On this National Day of Action, parents, teachers, principals and members of the broader public will be invited to visit a website to be confirmed to convey a "final" message to the review panel, with copies sent to the Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett, and local MPs. The panel, and ultimately the Government, will be reminded of the opportunity in the context of the review to deliver a better deal for public schools to help achieve excellence and equity for all students regardless of their backgrounds.

### National Regulations for Out of School Hours Care and Holiday Care

The National Regulations have been approved by Ministers and are available on the [ACECQA website](#). The approval of the Regulations is a major milestone in achieving nationally consistent quality of education and care for Australian children who attend services.

### BER Consultation Report

#### SAMS Plans

70% of schools will be completed by October. On the PRMS system go to principal tab on eduweb and then click onto 'School Maintenance System'. Check whether your plans are updated. Your Project Manager must provide these to the DEECD.

### Apple Notebooks for Teachers and Principals Program

We have been in frequent negotiation with the DEECD about the changes to the pricing for the Apple Notebooks. We expressed our concerns about both the value for money and the currency of the Apple model available.

### Real Reform in Schools Funding

Click [here](#) to access a report by Dr Jim McMorrow called '*Real Reform in Schools Funding*'.

The report looks at;

- achieving a mature partnership between Commonwealth and State governments
- putting public schooling back at the centre of national priorities and agreements
- adopting national target resource standards for schools to guide planning for greater public investment
- using public funds to narrow resource gaps between schools that cannot be justified on educational grounds
- protecting public investment against erosion through inflation
- consolidating funding in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness.

## Professional Services and Support

### VPA Project Services for you and your school

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.

### 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

### How the Project Services Works?

VPA Project Services Consultants aim to provide short to medium term support in schools on a casual hourly rate at a time which fits in with your working day. You will pay just above CRT rates for the hours worked onsite, on documentation and travel and for time spent in preparation and follow-up. This rate is far below the cost of equivalent consultancy work provided by private organisations and should fit within the budget of even the smallest primary schools who wish to use VPA Project Services.

For further information contact the VPA Office on 0383794000.

### Welcome to Our New Field Officer- Jenni Beer



I am very pleased to be joining the VPA this term as Acting Field Service Officer complementing and supporting the terrific work Terry Howard has been engaged in.

I have been principal of two schools in the Northern Region and was Acting Regional Network Leader for the Nillumbik Network. Currently, I am part of the critical friend program at NMR, supporting school leaders by providing effective feedback in an atmosphere of trust and respect that values the school's focus and vision.

The VPA's core business has always been advocacy and empowerment for principal class officers. The welfare and capacity building of members is paramount and I will strive to provide effective advice and support to colleagues as appropriate.

~Jenni Beer

### Life Members Lunch

Last term we celebrated with 12 of our 22 life members with a lovely lunch at the Windsor Hotel. It was great opportunity to catch up on the past year and see what everyone has been up to.



### Australian Government Primary Principals Association- AGPPA

You will find the latest discussion papers on national issues on the [AGPPA website](#). Being a VPA member entitles you to AGPPA membership.

### Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA)

The latest edition of the VRQA E-news is out now and features information on bushfire preparedness guidelines for school and the VRQA annual report. Click [here](#) to access it.

### Asia Education Foundation

#### Leading 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools

The 2011 Leading 21st Century Schools: Engage with Asia Professional Learning Program (L21CS Program) was completed in June however the school leaders participating in the program have developed really excellent curriculum plans to continue their journey towards developing Asia literate curriculum. Click [here](#) to find out more.

### Studies of Asia

The October newsletter contains information on;

- L21CSV forum and networks
- New Asia Literacy statement
- Professional Development for teachers - upgrade qualifications, conferences and ICT
- Resources

Click [here](#) to access.

## Professional Learning

### SAVE THE DATE

#### APPA/NZPF Trans Tasman Conference

Preparations are well under way for the **APPA/NZPF Trans Tasman Conference- Our Primary Purpose Leading Learning**, at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre on **September 18 - 21, 2012**. We have already booked a stellar cast of speakers including Andy Hargreaves (Canada), Pasi Sahlberg (Finland), Yong Zhao (China) Lucinda Hartley (Australia) and Kishore Mahbubani (Singapore). Make sure you save the date in your 2012 diary. You can register your interest through the [VPA website](#).

#### 2011 China Study Tour



Our VPA China Study Tour was a wonderful success and helped to establish an ongoing relationship between China and Victoria. The feedback from those who went on the trip has been overwhelmingly positive and they are eager to implement some of the ideas from the schools they visited in their own schools back home.

*"I feel that this study tour has given me a cultural and pedagogical background that will be very helpful in introducing Chinese as a LOTE language in my school."* – Ian Michelson, Principal of Bayswater Primary School

*"I was delighted to have the opportunity to sign a sister school agreement with Meiling West Primary School."* – Sue Henderson, Principal of Blackburn Primary School

In 2010 we signed a MOU with JESIE to facilitate annual principal exchanges and study tours for VPA and Jiangsu principals. This partnership aims to increase cultural understanding and acceptance of different cultures. The study tour through Nanjing, Yangzhou, Suzhou and Shanghai in eastern China enabled us to enhance our Asia skills through an exploration of Chinese art, culture and language.

#### VPA Workshops

##### The Path to Principalship

A workshop for Assistant Principals and Aspiring Principals

VASSP and VPA along with Geoff Barclay is 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, now that you are Principal?!

**Cost:** Non- members \$130.00 (inc. GST) per workshop Lunch provided

##### Dates & Venues:

- Tuesday 15 November 9.30 am to 3.30 pm at Unit 2, 13 - 21 Vale St, North Melbourne
- Tuesday 22 November 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.

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



*I joined the VPA so I could continue to learn, reflect, rethink and deepen my conviction to ensure that I along with like minded professionals continue to provide world class education within the communities in which we lead and serve. The VPA has provided me with high quality professional learning opportunities, collegiality and a space in which my views can be expressed and valued. The VPA has a voice and takes a stand. It is a powerful and united community that allows its members to democratically participate in the quest for excellence and ethics, challenging its members to use their voices with integrity and courage. In my role as a VPA councillor for the Northern Metropolitan Region, I have been able to listen to and support colleagues so together we can develop position papers on important issues. As a member of the VPA and principal class I will champion a radical rethink of our school system, advocating a reform that will see schools cultivate creativity, imagination and innovation. I recommend membership of the VPA to all Principals, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers as an important step on your leadership journey.*

~ **Ric Maguire**, Principal, Campbellfield Heights Primary School

#### Interesting websites...

[Australian Inspiration](#) is a unique and uniquely Australian project dedicated to capturing and celebrating the collective wisdom and inspiration of Australians through quotes that inspire and motivate  
[Where Good Ideas Come From](#) A Youtube clip by Steve Johnson which addresses an urgent and universal question: What sparks the flash of brilliance? How does groundbreaking innovation happen? Answering in his infectious, culturally omnivorous style, using his fluency in fields from neurobiology to popular culture, Johnson provides the complete, exciting, and encouraging story of how we generate the ideas that push our careers, our lives, our society, and our culture forward.

**Gabrielle Leigh**  
VPA President

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