



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 w: www.vpa.org.au
Freecall: 1800 VPA VPA (Vic Country)



VPA - Connected, United and Powerful

Quote:

“Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instil in us.”

~Hal Borland



VPA eletter No. 12: December 2011

Merry Christmas and have a safe, enjoyable and very well-deserved holiday. If you would like to join the VPA before the end of the year please visit our [website](#) for an application form. We would love to have you on board and you would receive weekly eletters filled with current information.

Professional Advocacy

Targeting Resources in Primary Schools (TRIPS) Report

TRIPS, a study by researchers Professor Max Angus and Harriet Olney, has been published and is available on the [APPA website](#). The study highlights the difficulties faced by schools and systems in the deployment of targeted resources aimed at supporting students struggling to reach national standards.

Click [here](#) to read an article from the Australian newspaper last Wednesday on the TRIPS Report. APPA is cited as commissioning the research which is not only good recognition but also reinforces the value of such projects being undertaken at a national level.

BER Defects

1. The 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 the defect list
3. Understand the limited length of time for defects is 6-12 months
4. Beware of voiding warranties by adding extra construction e.g. air conditioner, and consult with your Project Manager

VIT Update

The VPA and VASSP met with Don Paproth, the new Chairman of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT). We discussed our Position Paper and updates about the slowness of the hotline and the registration process. We looked at the [Auditor General Report](#) about VIT and the poor communication and lack of clarity about the role of VIT. We hope to assist with real consultation to improve some of the VIT processes in 2012.

Gonski Review on School Funding

Click [here](#) to access a Sunday Age article on Minister Garrett advocating for better public education funding in the wake of the Gonski Review. The release of the report has been delayed until February.

Commitment Name: Stamp Out Bullying

I have been working on the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Advisory Group. The MCEEDYA and Supportive Communities Management Group has provided schools with a common definition, understanding and guidelines to prevent and deal with bullying. This is the Australian Definition of Bullying for your reference

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyber-bullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies.

Conflict or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying.

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved including bystanders.

Welfare Officers

Click [here](#) to access a recent Herald Sun article regarding anti-bullying experts deployed in our schools and the VPA advocating for primary welfare officers.

Professional Services and Support

Service Awards

Congratulations to our two Service Award recipients, Grace Conway and Phil Clinkaberry, who were presented with these awards at our November Council Meeting.

Below is a summary of Grace and Phil's great achievements;

Grace Conway



Grace Conway has made a tremendous contribution to the VPA over many years. She is a member of the VPA Board and a VPA State Councillor, which requires a large time commitment on her part to attend both meetings and shows great dedication to the VPA. In addition, Grace has volunteered her time to chair the Out of Hours School Care (OHSC) Support and Advisory Group which has provided explicit guidance and support to principals and schools to plan and implement an effective OHSC program. She also contributed to the Pre School Advisory group developing VPA policy in this area. She was a member of the first VPA China Study Group to China and has been passionate about sharing her learning from this tour with others. Grace has been called on numerous occasions to lobby on behalf of VPA members to both Federal and State Education Ministers and, in doing so, she has promoted the work and value of primary state education.

Phil Clinkaberry



Phil Clinkaberry was nominated for the extent and calibre of his work as a VPA Northern Regional Councillor and Convenor. His diligent organization has ensured that Northern Regional forums are always well publicized and attended. He is widely respected for his capacity to research and identify major issues for discussion at regional meetings and council forums. His summative reports of Council Meetings' key proceedings and agreements are highly regarded and sent out to all VPA Councillors to use as feedback reports to VPA colleagues across our nine regions. Phil Clinkaberry is to be commended by his VPA colleagues for his many endeavours to ensure that the organization remains 'Connected, United and Powerful'.

Farewell to Cliff Downey

I would like to say a farewell and thank you to Cliff Downey, Victorian Coordinator of Dare to Lead, who is retiring. As of next year, he will be busy running a farm and doing some leadership development consultancy. Cliff has been a great support in his role and he will be missed across the state.

AusVELS

AusVELS outlines what is essential for all Victorian students to learn during their time at school from Foundation (F) to Year 10. It includes the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, History and Science and provides a single, complete set of common state-wide standards which schools use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents. Click [here](#) to learn more.

English Online Interview- 2012 Assessment Period

The 2012 English Online Interview assessment period will occur **from 2 February to 2 March 2012**. The Interview will remain open until 9 March to enable schools to finalise assessments. It is **mandatory for Prep students** to be assessed during the 2012 English Online Interview assessment period. Schools can elect to use the English Online Interview for students in Years 1 and 2 during the assessment period. The English Online Interview provides diagnostic information across all dimensions of the VELS English domain for students in Years Prep to 2. Reports are immediately available at the level of the student, class or school and provide data to inform planning to meet the needs of students. The English Online Interview Training System opened on **7 November 2011** and is accessible [here](#).

A number of schools were successful in gaining **funding to assist with implementation** this year. If you require additional funds please write to Carol Kelly with your particular circumstances outlined, kelly.carol.a@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Great Schools Checklist

Great Schools Checklist has been published recently in the [journal](#) of the Teacher Learning Network. The ten dimensions of a great school that are discussed are:

1. Leadership and vision
2. School governance
3. Management and values
4. Teaching and learning
5. Curriculum
6. Technology and communication
7. Partnerships and community

8. Joined-up change
9. Performance
10. Resources and facilities.

Schools report that this checklist can be useful as a systematic, objective way of evaluating what a school is doing well now and the extent to which it is proactively seeking to shape the future of education. It is also useful as a catalyst for conversations and flexible actions (it is thus not a straitjacket for conforming to any one idea of a 'great school'). The checklist can assist all school community members to consider the many school and community factors that serve to make up a great school, and support parents in thinking holistically about their child's education. A school also obviously needs adequate resources and support to do all of the things that may make it a better school over time.

Clean Up Australia

Registrations for 2012 Now Open

Make a head start with planning your school's 2012 calendar and take a step towards achieving your sustainability goals. Register your school to participate in one of Australia's largest community events, the 2012 Schools Clean Up Day on **Friday, 2nd March**. Visit the Clean Up Australia Day [website](#) to register.

Professional Learning

2012 Trans Tasman Conference

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday 18 - Friday 21 September
Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre



Australian Society of Educational Research



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 and register now

You can register online [here](#) or through the [VPA website](#).

Special Advance Reduced Offer to School Teams

A group discount for 4 or more people aimed at school teams or all staff members is available for a one day registration at the conference. A 20% discount on a non-member one day price will apply. This would reduce the cost from **\$345** to **\$277** per person per day. Maybe you would like to hold a Curriculum Day and bring your staff. We have amazing world class speakers in place – have a look at the program.

2012 VPA China Instructional Leadership China Study Tour 7th – 20th October, 2012



An amazing opportunity for you!

VPA Life Member, Aileen Hall is planning our third study tour to China in 2012, after the highly successful tour this year. The tour will consist of working in schools and visiting interesting sites around Shanghai, Tongli, Suzhou and Nanjing. It is anticipated that the tour will cost \$4900. This is a rare opportunity to access really high level Professional Learning inside the context of Chinese culture.

There will be a limit on numbers so please let us know of your interest by emailing Rebecca Vosper rvosper@vpa.org.au by this Friday 16th December.

VPA/VASSP Study Tour to Finland 21st April – 6th May 2012

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in this tour. We received over 80 expressions of interest and with the Finnish authorities limiting the size of the group to 20 participants; it was not possible to come close to meeting this level of demand. Twenty VPA and VASSP members have now accepted a place on the tour which will include a 12 day program of visits to schools in Helsinki and central Finland and to the teacher training faculty and principal's academy at Jyväskylä University.

2012 KidsMatter Conference

KidsMatter is excited to announce the first Victorian State Conference to be held on the 24th of April 2012. This conference will bring together the best of KidsMatter implementation and action from across the state along with expert guest speakers to allow you to 'dig deeper' into promotion, prevention and early intervention of mental health and wellbeing at your school. Click [here](#) for bookings and more information or call 9657 9711



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

I joined the VPA due to their excellent level of assistance for myself as Principal, which in turn provides support for my school. As a council member I have the opportunity to hear first hand from numerous 'experts in a range of educational areas. The collegiality of the VPA council has terrific, providing a wide network of educational leaders across the state to share ideas and resources with. The direct contact with the field officers has been invaluable at times when prompt action has been essential. I would highly recommend all Principals, Assistant Principals and Leading Teachers join the VPA.

~ **Daniel Watson**, Principal, Woodford Primary School

Interesting websites...

Great Web 2.0;

Flickr – Images and creative comments

Delicious – Social Bookmarking

Footnote – View historical text, documents and photos. A huge, open source library

Gliffy – Diagrams and flow charts

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