

VCAA Bulletin

Official publication for Early Years, F–10, VCE, VCAL and VET

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L to R: Kye Yim Loh, Fiona Cochrane (trustee of the Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarships), Timothy Huddleston.

Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarships for Performance announced

Timothy Huddleston and Kye Yim Loh are the 2017 winners of the Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarship for Performance. Timothy and Kye Yim were awarded their scholarships at Top Class Music on Wednesday 22 March at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Timothy performed *Fnugg* at the concert, a unique tuba solo, composed by Norwegian tuba soloist Øystein Baadsvik, that takes audiences beyond classical tuba music with extraordinary sounds akin to the didgeridoo. 'I wanted to dissolve the stereotype of the tuba as a 'simple' instrument that belongs in the background of an orchestra,' he said. He was passionate about playing *Fnugg*, adding that the piece 'presents the tuba in a style for which it is not frequently recognised. Baadsvik's composition creates a unique landscape of sound.'

Kye Yim performed *In the Style of Albéniz*, by Shchedrin, a vibrant violin solo piece that features elements of Spanish dance and chromaticism. Kye Yim chose the piece because 'it has a very contrasting range of moods which shift rapidly. It makes it an interesting piece to perform, both challenging and rewarding.'

Both Kye Yim and Timothy were thrilled to receive the Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarship for Performance. 'I feel very honoured,' Kye Yim said. 'It felt good that my hard work throughout the year has been recognised in this way.' Kye Yim is looking forward to putting the financial assistance towards instrument maintenance and his studies, including extra lessons and master class opportunities that will develop his talent even further.

What's inside this edition

Excellence & Awards

Early Years

F–10

VCE

VCAL

VET

Professional Development

Bulletin Board

For a full list of contents see [page 2](#)

continued on [page 3](#)

Contents

VCAA stand popular at the 2017 VCE and Careers Expo	3
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Excellence & Awards

VCE Season of Excellence	4
Beyond Top Screen – film screening and panel discussion	4
Top Screen school holiday learning for aspiring filmmakers	4
'Focus On...' resource films for students	4
Inaugural Creative Museums Program	5
Top Designs 2018: VCE Theatre Studies – Design	5

Early Years

Twilight Seminar update	6
Wellbeing and children's learning	6
What, why and how? Pedagogy with very young children DVD orders	6

Foundation–10

Curriculum	7
Release of Indicative Progress Examples	7
Professional learning opportunities	7
Assessment	8
NAPLAN Online	8

Victorian Certificate of Education

Curriculum	8
VCE Extended Investigation	8
Review of VCE study designs: Consultation closed	8
VCE Mathematics – School-assessed coursework report companion documents now available	9
2017 School-based Assessment Audit: Unit 3 Outcomes	9
Assessment	9
Sample examination materials for VCE Food Studies, VCE Music, VCE Karen and VCE VET Integrated Technologies	9
2017 schedule survey for VCE performance and Languages Oral examinations and the Extended Investigation oral presentation	9
2017 General Achievement Test (GAT) centres and Special Examination Arrangements	10

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

VCAL Achievement Awards 2016	10
Clarification of Bridging English as an Additional Language in VCAL	10

Vocational Education and Training

VCE VET Health Program	10
Nominations now open for the 2017 Victorian Training Awards	10

Professional Development

VCE Implementation webinars	11
Victorian Applied Learning Association Conference	11

Bulletin Board

2017 Early Childhood Education Conference	11
---	----

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continued from [page 1](#)

'I was overjoyed,' Timothy said of winning the award. 'Receiving the scholarship has invigorated my passion for musical performance.' Timothy has already invested in a superior quality tuba to use throughout his tertiary studies. 'Without the scholarship, purchasing such an instrument would not have been possible,' he said. Timothy hopes his new instrument and ongoing studies will allow him to increase the music community's awareness of the potential for the tuba to produce distinctive sounds in order for more composers to write for the tuba. He is looking forward to being a part of the development of future tuba music.

The 2017 Season of Excellence has seen brilliant performances from VCE and VCE VET students take place across Melbourne throughout the year. The Season is an opportunity for young artists to demonstrate their talent to a public audience and hone their skills. A veteran of Top Class Music and Top Acts last year, Timothy said he was ecstatic to be invited to perform in both concerts again for 2017. Kye Yim is excited to have been part of the Season this year, saying: 'The event has given me an amazing performance opportunity, not only to show myself as a performer but also to work alongside a group of many other talented and hardworking musicians.'

The scholarship, established by the family of the late Margaret Schofield in recognition of her outstanding achievements as a musician and her lifelong commitment to music education, is available to government school students who achieve sufficiently high study scores in VCE Music Style and Composition, VCE Music Investigation, VCE Music Performance and/or VCE VET Music. This program is coordinated by the VCAA and provides recipients with \$5000 to assist in their pursuit of tertiary studies in music. The winner of the Composition scholarship, [Jack Stacey](#), was announced at the Top Class Sound concert in February.



Jack Stacey

VCAA stand popular at the 2017 VCE and Careers Expo

The VCAA hosted a stand at the VCE and Careers Expo at Caulfield Racecourse from Thursday 4 May to Sunday 7 May. VCAA staff were on hand to discuss the VCE, VET and VCAL and share their experience and expertise with students, parents and teachers.

Over four days, 30,000 people visited the Expo and the VCAA stand was a clear favourite with many of them. A range of resources were available, including informative material about extracurricular activities within the VCE, such as the [Season of Excellence](#) and copies of the 2016 VCE Examinations.

Past VCE and VCE VET examinations are a great tool for students when they prepare for their Unit 3 and 4 external assessments. By completing past examinations, students can familiarise themselves with examination format, practise applying their knowledge and skills, gain useful insight into areas of focus for revision and practise managing their time.

All past examinations are accompanied by an Examination Report that provides students with feedback on student performance in the examination. Examination reports for written examinations also contain examples indicating what answers may have included.

Students who didn't have the chance to visit the Expo can download [Past Examinations and Examination Reports](#).

VCE Season of Excellence

Beyond Top Screen – film screening and panel discussion

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) is gearing up for the final event in the Top Screen Program.

Beyond Top Screen is a special screening of student short films followed by a panel discussion with Season of Excellence alumni. Filmmakers Shing Hei Ho, Josh O’Keefe and Mary McGillivray will discuss their professional filmmaking careers and studies since finishing VCE. You can read their top tips for aspiring filmmakers on the latest [ACMI blog](#).

Beyond Top Screen takes place on Friday 19 May. To book your tickets, please visit the [ACMI website](#).

Top Screen school holiday learning for aspiring filmmakers

The April school holidays marked the first *School Holiday Screening + Production Design Plan Intensive*, held by ACMI for students entering or currently completing VCE Media. A group of 33 aspiring filmmakers attended to ask Brett Lamb (State Reviewer for Media) questions about VCE Media, while perusing student folios from the Top Screen 2017 program.

Students were greatly inspired by the work on display and appreciated the chance to attend the program outside the school term, which the VCAA hopes to run again during the 2018 Season of Excellence.

‘Focus On...’ resource films for students

Upcoming VCE students can learn from work showcased at Top Acts by watching a series of specially made short films available on the [Top Acts webpage](#). *Top Acts: Focus On...* short films present performances in Dance and Drama, and the original music compositions of individuals who have featured in Top Acts.

Each film gives valuable insights into the artistic process behind each performance. Students will learn about the influences that helped craft the creative pieces, while also having the chance to listen to interviews with the VCAA Performing Arts Curriculum Manager and the Top Acts Artistic Director.



L to R: Tom Hughes, Shanon McKenzie, Neha Shenvi

These films are made possible through a professional development opportunity offered by the VCAA. Students whose work is showcased at Top Screen are invited to apply to create these short films. Out of many strong applications received, Tom Hughes, Neha Shenvi and Shanon McKenzie were selected to create films for this year’s performers. This year the films will be focussing on Theatre Studies. Look out for a Notice to Schools to let you know when they are available.

To watch the current series of short films and to order the DVD of *Top Acts: Focus on ... Dance* for your school, please visit the [Top Acts](#) webpage.

If you would like to receive regular Season updates straight to your inbox, please register on the [Season webpage](#).

Inaugural Creative Museums Program

Six talented Top Designs students are about to embark on a unique opportunity at Australia's largest public museums organisation.

The Creative Museums Program is a seven-day immersive experience where students will undertake professional development and career education within the extraordinary Museum's environment. This brand new program is the first of its kind for Museum Victoria, and is led by their award-winning design, exhibition, education and digital teams.

The program aims to foster and inspire young Victorians who have a passion for design to further develop their creativity within the multifaceted world of a creative museum. Students whose work had been selected for Top Designs were invited to apply for the program, and a panel consisting of Museum Victoria and VCAA staff selected the recipients.



L to R: Beci Orpin (designer/illustrator) and John Firth (CEO, VCAA) with the inaugural Creative Museum Program recipients Michaela Ballas, Xavier Roberts, Mariah Kehaidis, Robert Clarke, Riley Clarke and Rupa Anurendra.

Students Rupa Anurendra, Michaela Ballas, Riley Clarke, Robert Clarke, Mariah Kehaidis and Xavier Roberts will engage with Museum Victoria to work on projects that will develop their creative talents. These young designers will work in areas that include Exhibitions and Built Environments, Digital Interactives and Online Systems, and Visual Communication and Product Design. Participants will build upon their knowledge and take away invaluable skills that they can use in further study and employment.

This program is run in partnership between Museums Victoria and the VCAA. To learn more visit the [Top Designs webpage](#).

Top Designs 2018: VCE Theatre Studies – Design

From 2018, VCE Theatre Studies – Design will now be included in the Top Designs exhibition at the Melbourne Museum.

Students must submit photographs and/or recordings of their final works, a print version of their oral framing statement, as well as copies or photographs of their research and development materials from the Outcome 1 and/or the Outcome 2 scene interpretation.

Students accepted for the Top Designs exhibition will not be eligible for Top Class as their work will be required at the VCAA and the Melbourne Museum for exhibition preparation and display.

Students who are shortlisted or who achieve an A+ for their performance exam will be contacted in December 2017 to audition for Top Class Theatre Studies in January 2018.

The Melbourne Museum has previously presented forums on the subject of Theatre Studies Design and this program will be expanded in 2018.

Top Designs 2018 applications open for all studies on Friday 1 September 2017.

The Top Designs 2018 exhibition will be held at the Melbourne Museum Saturday 17 March to Sunday 15 July 2018.

For more information see [Notice to Schools 48/2017](#) or contact Student Events, VCAA: (03) 9032 1630 or: seasonofexcellence@edumail.vic.gov.au.

See also [Bulletin Board](#)

Twilight Seminar update

Teaching and learning mathematics: Making the most of everyday opportunities to support early learning

The next Early Years Twilight Seminar, on Wednesday 7 June 2017, will be co-presented by Dr Caroline Cohrssen (Senior Lecturer, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, The University of Melbourne) and Mary Holwell (Program Manager, Early Years Unit, VCAA).

The research of Dr Cohrssen has investigated quality adult-child interactions to support mathematics learning, and the influence of the home learning environment on children's literacy and numeracy skills. Her current research is investigating four-year-old children's spatial thinking in the year prior to school entry. Mary Holwell has held a variety of roles in the early childhood sector (both as an educator and a leader) and has an interest in the development of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) skills in young children. Details of regional venues are available on the [online registration form](#).

The VCAA Early Years Twilight Seminar series for 2016–2017 is designed to engage early years multidisciplinary networks and communities of practice. The seminars focus on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF), evidence-based research, resources and implications for practice, through intentional teaching.

[Subscribe to the Early Years Alert](#) to receive details about registering for this seminar and upcoming seminars in 2018. The VCAA encourages early years multidisciplinary networks to host these events via video conference in local communities. For more information, please contact the Early Years Unit, VCAA: (03) 9032 1684 or veyldf@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Wellbeing and children's learning

More than 130 practitioners participated in the Twilight Seminar on Wednesday 3 May 2017 at the Bastow Institute for Educational Leadership and across 10 Polycom sites in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. The seminar focused on the evidence-based practices for early childhood education and care professionals and school teachers working with children in the early years. The presentation was co-presented by Louise Marbina (Manager, Educational Play Therapy and Music Therapy, Royal Children's Hospital) and Julianne Wilson (Primary School Teacher and Early Years Literacy Specialist Teacher, VCAA) in discussion with Carmel Phillips (Manager, Early Years Unit, VCAA). A video of the presentation will be published on the VCAA Early Years professional learning webpages.

What, why and how? Pedagogy with very young children DVD orders

This DVD resource will be available for delivery in late May 2017. The resource was developed by the VCAA, in partnership with Anne Stonehouse AM, and consists of two videos and a collection of notes to support their use. The resource portrays very young children as capable, powerful, active contributors to their own and others' experience, and as partners who have a right to exercise and strengthen their sense of agency. This resource was the focus of the Twilight Seminar held in October 2016, which you can view on the [Early Years professional learning webpages](#).

If you would like to order a copy, please complete this [online order form](#).



Curriculum

Release of Indicative Progress Examples

Beginning in June, the VCAA will progressively release Indicative Progress examples for all the curriculum areas within the Victorian Curriculum F–10. Last year the VCAA announced that Progression Point examples would not be made available for the Victorian Curriculum, but instead, the VCAA would publish Indicative Progress templates and a small selection of examples.

This change reflects the fact that Indicative Progress examples have been conceptualised as part of the curriculum planning process. They are intended to better support schools in relation to both curriculum planning, and designing teaching and learning programs, in two-year cycles.

Blank Indicative Progress templates, plus an annotated example, are currently available in the 'Curriculum planning and assessment' section under the relevant [Curriculum area advice](#).

In June, the VCAA will release Indicative Progress examples alongside each curriculum area's Indicative Progress templates. The examples are designed to act as stimulus material only. They will reflect how indicative progress could be articulated within a specific context but will not cover the entire achievement standard. These examples aim to support teachers to develop their own descriptions of progress relevant to their particular teaching and learning program.

Professional learning opportunities

Thinking about Critical and Creative Thinking

The VCAA is pleased to offer teachers the opportunity to attend a whole day workshop on Critical and Creative Thinking. To be held Thursday 8 June, the aim of this workshop is to deepen teachers' understanding of the new Critical and Creative Thinking curriculum and explore how to explicitly teach and assess the knowledge and skills. Professor Bill Lucas, from the University of Winchester, will give a keynote address and facilitate the first session. This will be an interactive workshop so come prepared to get involved. Full details, including online registrations, are available on the Victorian Curriculum F–10 [professional learning](#) webpage.

Professional learning – your needs

The VCAA is seeking your input into developing future online professional learning opportunities to support the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F–10. Please send the F–10 unit your suggestions in regard to what other topics you would like to see covered that would help teachers implement the Victorian Curriculum. Email the F–10 unit at vcaa.f10.curriculum@edumail.vic.gov.au with 'Suggestions for future professional learning opportunities' in the subject box.

Registrations now open for Term 2 Victorian Curriculum online professional learning sessions

Term 2 registrations are now open for professional learning sessions to support teachers implementing the Victorian Curriculum F–10. These sessions will build on those offered previously by the VCAA and feature new presenters who will cover a range of curriculum areas and topics including STEM, Digital Technologies, Performing Arts, Economics and Business.

In addition, the VCAA is pleased to announce a one-off specialised session on Koorie Cross-Curricula Protocols on Wednesday 21 June, which is relevant for all curriculum areas.

Further details including session dates, times, and registration information, are available on the Victorian Curriculum F–10 [professional learning](#) webpage.

Education State Specialist Teachers program professional learning sessions for government schools

As part of the Education State initiatives to support the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum, the VCAA, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Training (DET), are providing ongoing professional learning opportunities for teachers in government schools. Delivered by Specialist Teachers, these sessions are offered to government schools in the following areas:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Digital coding
- Critical thinking
- Literacy in the early years
- Music
- Civic participation
- Ethical understanding in a global world.

Registrations are for government schools only. An initial schedule is available on the Victorian Curriculum F–10 [statewide professional learning sessions](#) webpage with more sessions to be added shortly. In addition, a schedule of professional learning programs will be advertised through DET Regional offices.

Assessment

NAPLAN Online

Victoria's implementation of NAPLAN Online has been postponed until 2018. For any queries about any aspects of NAPLAN 2017 please contact the VCAA NAPLAN Helpdesk on 1800 648 637 or email vcaa.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au. Please refer to [Notice to Schools 42/2017](#) for full details.

Victorian Certificate of Education

See also [Professional Development](#)

Curriculum

VCE Extended Investigation

Student research questions

For information on managing duplication with other VCE studies, please refer to [Notice to Schools 44/2017](#).

Notifying the VCAA of refinements and revisions

During the week beginning Monday 5 June, the VASS fields for Extended Investigation will be available for refinements and revisions. All resubmissions required from the formal review should be updated at this time. Refer to [Notice to Schools 45/2017](#).

Review of VCE study designs: Consultation closed

The drafts of the proposed study designs for VCE Accounting, Extended Investigation and Philosophy were made available for consultation with teachers and other key stakeholders throughout April and May 2017.

The consultation period has now ended. The VCAA would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation drafts. All feedback has been forwarded to the appropriate review panels for consideration before the final drafts of the study designs are prepared for consideration by the VCAA Board.

VCE Mathematics – School-assessed coursework report companion documents now available

As notified in the March *VCAA Bulletin*, School-assessed coursework reports have been published for a number of VCE studies in their first year of implementation in 2016. A companion document is also available on modelling and problem-solving for VCE Mathematics Units 3 and 4 studies: [Further Mathematics](#), [Mathematical Methods](#) and [Specialist Mathematics](#).

2017 School-based Assessment Audit: Unit 3 Outcomes

The purpose of the School-based Assessment Audit is to ensure that school-based assessment is conducted in line with VCAA principles of assessment and the requirements of the relevant VCE study design.

All VCE providers are audited for at least one VCE study each year and all VCE studies are subject to the annual School-based Assessment Audit. The audit program incorporates a review of School-assessed Coursework (SAC) and School-assessed Tasks (SATs).

The School-based Assessment Audit is in two stages for both Unit 3 and Unit 4. The first stage consists of a study-specific audit questionnaire which is completed online by teachers on behalf of the VCE provider and reviewed by an Audit Panel appointed by the VCAA. Outcomes of the first stage of the audit were released on VASS on Friday 5 May. VCE providers/schools can download an audit report by searching the word 'AUDIT' in VASS Downloads. A summary of outcomes can be viewed on the following screen in VASS: School Program > VCE > School-based Assessment Audit.

VCE providers who are required to submit further evidence must do so by Monday 22 May.

Further information on the School-based Assessment Audit can be found on the [VCE General Advice and Policy](#) page of the VCAA website, or by contacting Merry Young on (03) 9032 1735 or via email: school.assessment.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Assessment

Sample examination materials for VCE Food Studies, VCE Music, VCE Karen and VCE VET Integrated Technologies

Sample examination materials for the VCE Food Studies written examination have been published on the [Food Studies examination page](#) on the VCAA website.

Sample materials for the new language study VCE Karen, which is part of the Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages (CCAFL), have been published on the [Karen examination page](#).

Sample materials for the revised [VCE VET Integrated Technologies](#) program are also available.

Specifications and assessment criteria for the performance examinations for [VCE Music Investigation](#) and [VCE Music Performance](#) are available on their respective examination pages. Specifications, assessment criteria and related documentation for the externally assessed task in [VCE Music Style and Composition](#) are available on its examination page. For more information see [Notice to Schools 47/2017](#).

2017 schedule survey for VCE performance and Languages Oral examinations and the Extended Investigation oral presentation

The VCAA is currently scheduling Performance, Languages Oral examinations and the Extended Investigation oral presentations for the examination period: Monday 9 October – Sunday 5 November 2017.

Please note that the date for the Languages (CCAFL) written examinations is Wednesday 18 October 2017. Please refer to [Notice to Schools 43/2017](#) for details.

Victorian Certificate of Education

2017 General Achievement Test (GAT) centres and Special Examination Arrangements

Schools are advised that Student Examination/Assessment Timetables and Special Examination Arrangements Advice Slips for the 2017 GAT have been available on VASS since Monday 8 May. Please refer to [Notice to Schools 46/2017](#).

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

See also [Professional Development](#)

VCAL Achievement Awards 2016

Preparations for the VCAL Achievement Awards 2016, to be held on Friday 26 May, are now underway. Teachers interested in attending should contact the VCAL Unit on (03) 9032 1725. Award winners will be announced in the July 2017 edition of the *VCAA Bulletin*.

Clarification of Bridging English as an Additional Language in VCAL

VCE Bridging English as an Additional Language (Bridging EAL) will now satisfy strand requirements for VCAL Literacy at Foundation and Intermediate levels. For more information please refer to [Notice to Schools 40/2017](#).

Vocational Education and Training

VCE VET Health Program

From 2018, a study score will be available for Program 2 of the VCE VET Health program. To be eligible for a study score, students must:

- satisfactorily achieve all the units of competency designated as the scored Units 3 and 4 sequence (two compulsory and one elective UoC). Six units of competency have been identified in the program structure and will form the Units 3 and 4 Electives in 2018.
- be assessed in accordance with the tools and procedures specified in the [VCE VET Assessment Guide](#). The VCE VET Health program assessment plans and examinations specifications and advice will be provided in 2017.
- undertake a written examination in the end-of-year examination period based on the compulsory units of competency in the Units 3 and 4 sequence.

A professional development workshop for assessors of the scored program for VCE VET Health will be held in Term 4, 2017. Further information will be provided in the July *VCAA Bulletin*.

Nominations now open for the 2017 Victorian Training Awards

The Victorian School-based Apprentice of the Year Award is presented to a student undertaking a Certificate II or above qualification as a Victorian school-based apprentice or trainee. The award recognises the student's commitment to their formal studies at school and in the workplace.

The winner of this award will receive \$5000 prize money, and be nominated for the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year Award at the Australian Training Awards. Nominations close Friday 16 June. Visit the [Department of Education and Training website](#) for more information.

Professional Development

VCE Implementation webinars

Webinars for the following VCE studies: Media, Sociology and Visual Communication Design will be offered over June, July and August 2017. Details and registrations are available from the [Media](#), [Sociology](#) and [Visual Communication Design](#) study pages.

Victorian Applied Learning Association Conference

Partnerships in action: applied learning at its best!

The 2017 Victorian Applied Learning Association (VALA) conference will explore partnerships of all kinds through a series of workshops, presentations, displays and networking opportunities. The conference will be held on Friday 23 June at the Jasper Hotel, Melbourne. Early Bird bookings close Friday 26 May. Register via the [VALA website](#).

Bulletin Board

2017 Early Childhood Education Conference

The 2017 Early Childhood Education Conference *Together we grow – the child in focus* will be held on Friday 26 May and Saturday 27 May 2017 at Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne. The conference aims to inspire, engage and bring together over 1000 early childhood professionals across a wide spectrum of early childhood education. The conference is presented by the early learning Association of Australia (ELAA) with Gowrie Victoria. The Department of Education and Training and the VCAA Early Years Unit will be presenting at the conference. For more details, please visit the [ELAA website](#).