



VCAA Bulletin

Information to schools about the VCE and VCAL

Principal VCE/VCAL Coordinator VCE/VCAL Teachers

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VCAA Plain English Speaking Award

Congratulations to all students who entered the VCAA Plain English Speaking Award (PESA) regional finals at the end of Term 2. Students from Years 10, 11 and 12 presented their speeches at one of the 20 host schools across the state and the quality was extremely high. The state semifinals and finals take place on 26 and 27 July and the winner will be announced in the August 2004 VCAA Bulletin.

The state winner will attend the national Plain English Speaking Award final in Alice Springs over the weekend of 14–16 August.

Thank you to all the teachers who were involved in the Award this year – hosting, driving, coaching and generally supporting young people to ensure the skills

of oral communication are practised and promoted in our schools.

If you would like to bring students to the semifinals or final (details below), please contact:
information.services@edumail.vic.gov.au

We can only admit people who have pre-registered their numbers.

State semifinals: Monday 26 July
9.30 am to 4.00 pm
Morning and afternoon sessions

State finals: Tuesday 27 July
1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Location: Treasury Theatre, Ground Floor
1 MacArthur Street
East Melbourne



Some of the participants in the VCAA regional final of the **Plain English Speaking Award 2004:**

Back row *L to R* – Ashleigh Williams (Overnewton Anglican Community College), Andrew Woodyard (OACC) and two OACC supporters

Front row *L to R* – Rebecca Coburn (Brighton Secondary College), Nick Kashin (BSC), Roman Rozenberg (BSC) and Rose Schaffner (OACC)



Important administrative dates

Full details of dates appear in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook 2004*.

Monday 12 July	Start Term 3 School Status Report (SSR) identifying Studio Arts School-assessed Task 1 from SIAR 1 required for review.
Monday 19 July	Enrolment 3 data due at the VCAA. This data should also contain 2004 VCE VET, VET FE and VCAL enrolment data. After this date VASS will not allow schools to withdraw student enrolments from VCE Unit 4.
Friday 23 July	Review of School-assessed Task by visitation in Studio Arts begins. Final day for schools to lodge the following applications for examinations held in October/November: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – requests for new or combined examination centres and for students to sit at centres other than home schools – requests for students to present for examinations outside Victoria – Special Examination Arrangements – timetable clashes – earlier starting time – approval of hiring fees for sites in the community used by two or more schools.
Monday 26 July	SIAR 2 scores for Unit 3 School-assessed Coursework due at the VCAA. After this date VASS will not allow schools to enter SIAR 2 results.
Wednesday 28 July	VCE Unit 3 School-assessed Coursework audit material due at VCAA.
Monday 2 August	June examination results and Studio Arts grades available to schools.
Friday 6 August	Arts Performance and LOTE oral component examination advice slips available to schools.
Friday 20 August	Enrolment 4 data due at the VCAA. This data should also contain all 2004 VCE VET, VET FE and VCAL enrolment data. After this date VASS will not allow schools to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – amend VCE VET assessment plan data – enter or withdraw enrolments for VCE VET modules for scored VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences. Partnership details must be entered on VASS for Unit 4 coursework.
Monday 6 September	October/November examination centres available on VASS. Special Examination Arrangements available on VASS.
Monday 13 September	Indicative Grades for Performance examinations due at VCAA.
Friday 17 September	End Term 3 Final day for lodging applications for enrolment in 2005 in Chinese Second Language, Chinese Second Language Advanced, Indonesian Second Language, Japanese Second Language or Korean Second Language.
Monday 4 October	Start Term 4
Monday 4 October to Sunday 31 October	Performance examinations and LOTE examinations: oral component.
Friday 8 October	Enrolment 5 data due at VCAA. After this date VASS will not allow schools to enrol or withdraw students in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – VCE Units 1 and 2 – VCE VET and VET FE units of competence/modules – VCAL units



VCE June examinations

Thank you to all those involved in the VCE June examinations. Approximately 50 000 students sat one or more of the subject examinations and 79 000 students sat the GAT. Results will be issued to schools on 2 August. As a snapshot of the examinations the following statistics might be of interest.

June 2004 statistics

Processing Period	33 days
Number of GAT students	79 347
Number of students completing June examinations in Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Physics Pilot and Psychology	49 938
Total student examination responses to be processed	129 285
Number of expected examination paper markings (incl. June examinations and GAT)	410 000
Number of assessors – GAT and examinations	580
Number of VCE examination centres – June	486
Number of Examination Chief Supervisors	2413
Number of Examination Assistant Supervisors	3513

Changes to the reporting of Study Scores and GAT scores

At its recent meeting, the Board of the Authority agreed to changes in the way study scores and GAT scores are reported to schools. Schools increasingly rely on comprehensive data provided by the VCAA on student performance to improve teaching and learning. In future, schools will be able to access the full range of both GAT and Study Scores for every student. In the past, Study Scores below 20 have not been available on VASS but will be available from 2004. Students will also be able to access the full range of their scores via the Internet, SMS service and the telephone results service. However, the Statement of Results for each student will not show scores below 20. Score of less than 20 will be reported as < 20. More details of these changes will be available in the near future.

VCAA Review of VCAL

The Review Committee will be conducting consultations with stakeholders including focus group meetings from 23 June until 29 July to collect feedback from stakeholders and to support the development of recommendation/s. The Review Committee will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders who cannot access a focus group meeting to have input into the VCAL review via the VCAA website.

Recommendation/s from the review will be forwarded to the VQA in late 2004. Any changes which are made to the VCAL as a result of the review process will be communicated to providers during 2005 and will be implemented in 2006.

Mid-year certificates and results for VCAL students

Students who have completed the requirements for a VCAL by 21 June will now have the opportunity to receive their Certificate and a Statement of Results in July rather than waiting until December.

Under new procedures developed by the VCAA, schools that entered their students' VCAL Unit results by 21 June will be able to determine which students have qualified for their VCAL. These students will then receive their Certificate and Statement of Results in the first week of Term 3 when they will be mailed to schools. Sixty-eight students will receive Certificates in July.

VCAA finalist in The ATOM (Australian Teachers of Media) awards

The ATOM awards recognise the achievements of Australian and New Zealand professionals, educators and students in 31 categories. *Annotated Work Samples: the Arts – Music* is an interactive CD-ROM that supports the implementation of the Music strand in The Arts Curriculum and Standards Framework (CSF) II for students in Years 5 to 10 and is a finalist in the 'Best Instructional Resource for Educators' category of the awards. It provides a reference for teachers for incorporating use of contemporary technologies in their teaching and learning programs. The product was developed by the VCAA in cooperation with Melbourne Enterprises International Ltd and prepared for publication by Curriculum Corporation.

Curriculum Reform Project

The consultation period for the curriculum reform project finished on 25 June. Thank you to all who participated in the workshops and who made written submissions. Response to the consultation paper continues to be positive with major issues raised by participants focusing on accountability and implementation issues. The VCAA is now preparing the detail of the new Essential Learning Framework and will release the new framework in Term 4.

AIM Assessments

A proposal for strengthening the procedures for the implementation of AIM has been endorsed by the Board. All Principals will have received a letter outlining the new arrangements which will contribute to ensuring testing results continue to provide reliable and consistent information to schools, teachers and to parents. A general leaflet about AIM has also been prepared. These leaflets will be sent to schools with their test materials in July.

AIM Online

This year 73 secondary schools with a total enrolment of 10 264 Year 7 students have joined the AIM Online state-wide testing program. These students will complete their Year 7 English and Mathematics AIM tests online, rather than using pencil and paper. The tests are individualised and computer adaptive. About 10 per cent of these students will also do the pencil and paper test. In 2004, the program has been extended into Year 3 and Year 5 in 42 schools with total enrolments of 3142 students participating in the Year 3 and Year 5 AIM Online pilot.

On-Demand Testing – new development

The VCAA has enhanced the AIM Online system to include classroom assessment resources for teachers. The resources consist of calibrated computer based tests for teachers to use when and how they choose. There are both computer adaptive tests and standard tests, which students can do online and are marked by computer, giving immediate results for students

and teachers. Tests can also be downloaded and printed. The software includes a range of options for displaying and reporting results and for analysing student and class results.

The program is currently being piloted in 29 schools with a further 33 schools joining the pilot during June. Training of schools was completed throughout June. The outcomes of the pilot will be evaluated prior to releasing the software to all schools in Term 3.

New Manager Corporate Governance

The VCAA has appointed Mr John McSwiney as the new Manager Corporate Governance. John comes to the position with a significant background in providing expert legal, regulative and legislative advice, having previously worked in the Cabinet Liaison and Legislation Office.

New Manager Public Affairs

The VCAA has appointed Mr Justin Shortal as the new Manager Public Affairs. Justin comes to the position having built a strong reputation at Schools Television as producer, writer, presenter, media trainer and promotions expert. Justin will be responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of the VCAA's communications and public relations strategies together with the coordination of VCAA information, promotional campaigns and events.



Michael White
Chief Executive Officer
July 2004

Derived Examination Score Applications – June

All Derived Examination Score (DES) applications have been processed for the June examination period. For each student, schools will have received an email advising them of the outcome of their application. The outcome decision can also be viewed on VASS (Results Admin>Special Provision>Reports>Individual or Group). Students should also have received a letter outlining the decision on their application.

Approved DES applications

If a DES application has been approved for an examination, a DES will be calculated prior to the end-of-year results being published. The final grade reported for the examination will be the grade which corresponds to the higher of the DES or the achieved examination score. This final examination score will be used to calculate the final Study Score reported on the student's Statement of Results. This Study Score will then be sent to VTAC.

When schools receive the June examination results in August, the results will show the students' achieved examination grade/s. These grades will be annotated with a 'd' to indicate that the student has applied for a Derived Examination Score and that this has been approved by the VCAA. This grade may change after the calculation of the DES in December.

Not Approved DES applications

If a DES application has not been approved for an examination, students have the option of lodging an appeal against the decision. Students should only appeal if they can provide **additional independent evidence** to support their original application. If the appeal letter only supplies the same evidence as was included in the original application, the appeal will not be considered by the Derived Examination Score Panel.

The VCAA is unable to respond to individual calls from students, their families or their professional consultants requesting information or advice about DES appeals. To assist students with their decision about whether or not to lodge an appeal, a 'Derived Examination Score Appeal 2004 – Student Information Sheet', was sent to students and a copy is included on pages 5 and 6 of this Bulletin.



STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

DERIVED EXAMINATION SCORE APPEAL 2004

If your application for a Derived Examination Score (DES) was not approved, you have the option of lodging an appeal against the decision. You should only appeal if you can provide additional independent evidence to support your original application. If your appeal letter only supplies the same evidence as you included in your original application, your appeal will not be considered by the Derived Examination Score Panel.

Why wasn't your DES application approved?

You should carefully review your original application. Your application would not have been approved for one of the following reasons:

Your application did not meet the criteria for granting a DES.

OR

The independent evidence supplied in Section C did not provide sufficient details on how your illness/ circumstance impeded your performance, or prevented you from attending the examination.

OR

Your application form was not completed correctly and the VCAA was unable to process it.

See below for further information on each of these reasons.

Your application did not meet the criteria for granting a DES.

- Did your illness/accident/personal trauma occur outside the two week period leading up to your examination? *If the answer is yes, you are ineligible for a DES, unless there are exceptional circumstances.*
- Is your illness or circumstance a chronic one? *If the answer is yes, your application is ineligible. (See the section on chronic circumstances at the end of this information sheet.)*
- Is your situation/circumstances included on the list of ineligible circumstances on the information page on the front of the DES application form? *If the answer is yes, your application is ineligible.*

The independent evidence supplied in Section C did not provide sufficient details on how your illness/ circumstance impeded your performance, or prevented you from attending the examination.

The VCAA will not approve applications if there was insufficient, timely, independent evidence to substantiate the application.

- Is the independent evidence based on consultations which occurred immediately before or immediately after each examination?
A key factor in determining eligibility for a DES is the interval between the medical or professional consultation and the examination in question. For many illnesses or situations, it is unlikely that a student's symptoms and the effect of these symptoms could reasonably be predicted for an examination that is several days before or after the consultation. If the medical or professional report does not contain sufficient and conclusive evidence of the effect of the symptoms at the time of the examinations the VCAA will not approve your application for a DES.
- Did the independent evidence in Section C include the following?
 - *The date of onset and duration of your condition including dates of all consultations for your condition.*
 - *A factual account/observation of the symptoms you were suffering at the time of the consultation.*
 - *The effect these symptoms have had on your ability to perform in that examination.*
 - *The effect these symptoms will have on your ability to prepare or complete a subsequent examination. If it is not clear that you will be impaired for a further examination in the following days then further medical or other independent evidence will be required for that particular examination.*

See reverse

Your application form was not completed correctly and the VCAA was unable to process it.

Specific instructions on how to complete the form are outlined on the cover sheet for the DES Individual Application 2004. Sections A, C and D must be completed.

Preparing your appeal

If there is **additional independent evidence** to supplement your original application, you may wish to proceed with your appeal. Please note the following:

- You should provide a covering letter with your **full name, student number** and your **school name**.
- You should outline the basis of your appeal and attach the **appropriate additional independent evidence**. Original copies please, not photocopies.
- Send your appeal letter marked 'confidential' to:
Project Manager, Special Provision
VCAA
41 St Andrews Place
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Appeals must reach the VCAA seven days after the receipt of your letter from the VCAA that advised that your application was not approved. The VCAA panel will review all the evidence supplied with an appeal.

Please note that no late appeals will be accepted. You may only appeal once.

How the VCAA handles your appeal

The DES Panel is supplied with your complete application file, i.e. your initial DES application together with the additional documentation forwarded with your appeal.

Your appeal is independently reviewed by at least two panels, no member of which has previously considered your original application.

The VCAA will advise your school by email of the decision on your appeal. You will be advised of the appeal decision by mail to your home address. In most cases decisions on appeals will be made by Monday 2 August 2004.

Students with long-term or chronic circumstances

If you are suffering from long-term or chronic illness or personal circumstances you may be eligible to apply through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) for assisted entry into tertiary courses through the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) for Year 12 Chronic Circumstances.

This scheme assists students who have experienced circumstances that have adversely impacted on their final year of secondary schooling. You should check the VTAC website for further details: www.vtac.edu.au



Program update

VCE VET Financial Services

Examination advice regarding FNBFIN68A *Prepare reports for management.*

Schools are advised that for the examination for VCE VET Financial Services Units 3–4 the following forms of financial reporting may be examined:

- Cash Budget
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Financial Performance

The Assessment Report for the 2003 Financial Services examination is available on the VCAA website:
www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

VCE VET Sport and Recreation

Status for 2005

The four training packages in the sport and recreation industry have been revised. However, the release and implementation of these four revised training packages is occurring at different points over a two year period. In order for a single transition to the revised packages to occur, the VCAA has determined that the current VCE VET Sport and Recreation will continue for 2005, with a revised VCE VET program to be implemented in 2006.

The current VCE VET Sport and Recreation program utilises all four packages and enables students to be awarded certificates in the Community Recreation, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation sectors.

For 2005, the following certificates are available for delivery within the *VET in the VCE Sport and Recreation* program:

- SRC20201 Certificate II in Community Recreation
- SRF20201 Certificate II in Fitness
- SRO20299 Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation

However, schools are advised that students wishing to undertake Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation **MUST** be enrolled before **30 June 2005**. Qualifications from the SRO99 Outdoor Recreation training package will no longer be available for enrolments after 30 June 2005.

The VCE VET program and recognition arrangements published in the VCE VET Sport and Recreation program booklet in October 2001 will continue for 2005.

School Based New Apprenticeship booklets

Due to popular demand, the VCAA has reprinted *A Guide to School Based New Apprenticeships for Victorian Secondary Students*.

Schools/RTOs may contact the VET Unit for copies of this booklet by emailing Kate Rule:
rule.catherine.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

VCE Statement of Marks

A Statement of Marks/Inspection of Scripts application form for the June Examination period will be available for download from VASS and the VCAA website <www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/schooladmin/forms/vce.htm>. Please note that the closing date for Inspection of Scripts applications for June examinations is Friday 15 October 2004.

VCE Eligibility 2005 – Changes to requirements

Schools are advised that the VCAA and the VQA have determined that the requirements for VCE eligibility will change as of 2005.

- Students expecting to complete their VCE in 2005 will still be required to satisfactorily complete the equivalent of 16 units, including three units from the English group and three pairs of units at 3/4 level other than English.
- The 16 units may include an unlimited number of units of Vocational Education and Training.
- Students **will not be required** to satisfactorily complete at least two units from Group A studies and at least two units from Group B studies.

Schools are advised that these changes to VCE eligibility rules do not change the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) requirements for student eligibility for an Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER). Any queries on the ENTER should be directed to VTAC.

Overleaf is an A4 flier containing this information and some frequently asked questions and answers. This flier may be photocopied and distributed to current Year 10 and Year 11 students and/or photocopied and displayed in classrooms or common rooms.

Any further enquiries relating to VCE Satisfactory Completion should be directed to the Student Records and Results Unit, tel (03) 9651 4402, fax (03) 9651 4470 or email student.records@edumail.vic.gov.au



Satisfactory completion of the VCE – Requirements for 2005

Students expecting to complete their VCE in 2005 must satisfy the following criteria:

- **COMPLETION OF AT LEAST 16 UNITS**
 - The 16 units must include at least three units from the English group.
 - The 16 units must include three pairs of units at the 3 and 4 level, other than English.
 - The 16 units may include an unlimited number of units of Vocational Education and Training.

What has changed?

Students who will complete their VCE in 2005 will not be required to satisfactorily complete at least two units from Group A studies and at least two units from Group B studies.

Does a student still need to do two Group A and two Group B subjects?

No, if students are eligible to complete their VCE in 2005 they will not have to satisfy the Group A and B rule. However, those students who will attain their VCE in 2004 are required to satisfy at least two units from Group A and two units from Group B.

Why has the Group A/B rule changed?

The abolition of the Group A and Group B rule allows the VCE to be more flexible and allows students to choose programs of study best suited to their needs and interests.

Can students choose all Group A or Group B subjects?

Yes, students who will satisfactorily complete their VCE in 2005 can choose all Group A or all Group B subjects as long as the other criteria are satisfied.

Will the classification for Group A and Group B subjects exist in 2005?

No, from 2005, studies will not be classified as either Group A or Group B.

Do these eligibility rules apply to those students who are in Year 11 in 2004?

Yes, students who are currently in Year 11 will not have to ensure that their 16 units include two from Group A or two from Group B.

If a current Year 11 student has no Group A (or Group B) studies in their program, are they required to include these studies in Year 12?

No, the Group A and Group B rule applies only to those current Year 12 students who will satisfy their VCE in 2004.

Will the changes to the VCE eligibility rules change the VTAC requirements for eligibility for an ENTER?

All enquiries regarding the ENTER, including eligibility rules must be directed to VTAC on 1300 364 133.

VCE Examinations

VCE Review

Examination periods 2005 and 2006

The following dates for VCE Examination periods in 2005 and 2006 have been approved:

2005

June Examinations	Monday 6 June – Wednesday 8 June (GAT)
October Performance/LOTE oral	Monday 3 October – Sunday 30 October
November Examinations	Friday 28 October – Friday 18 November

2006

June Examinations	Monday 5 June – Wednesday 7 June (GAT)
October Performance/LOTE oral	Monday 2 October – Sunday 29 October
November Examinations	Friday 27 October – Friday 17 November

Australian Indigenous Languages of Victoria 2004 examination

The 2004 examination for Australian Indigenous Languages of Victoria will not be offered this year in November.

There are no student enrolments in Unit 3 and Unit 4 for this study.

VCE Art

Advice about the written examination is given in the *VCE Assessment Handbook Art 2004*. The description of the examination on page 35 of the handbook states that all questions in the examination are compulsory. Section A will be consistent with the question types identified in the advice and sample questions published in Supplement 4 to the March 2004 VCAA Bulletin, No. 11. Please note that Question 2 of the Section A question types in the published sample material does provide a choice for discussing the artwork illustration provided in the examination. If this type of question appears on the examination paper in any particular year it will provide alternative approaches. Otherwise all questions on the 2004 examination in both Sections A and B are compulsory.

Visual Communication and Design

The 2004 examination question and answer book will be printed on Impress Matt Art 130 gsm paper (identical to that used in 2003).

Consultation

The draft study designs for the studies listed below were approved the Post-compulsory Curriculum and Assessment Committee for consultation with teachers and key stakeholders. They will be implemented in 2006 and include:

- Biology
- English/English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Legal Studies
- Outdoor and Environmental Studies
- Physical Education
- Mathematics
 - Foundation Mathematics
 - Further Mathematics
 - General Mathematics
 - Mathematical Methods
 - Mathematical Methods (CAS)
 - Specialist Mathematics.

Teachers who have not joined the VCAA Consultation Register can access a copy via the VCE study page on the VCAA website. Consultation response questionnaires can also be downloaded from the website and returned to the VCAA by mail or fax. The questionnaires can also be completed and submitted online via the VCE study page on the VCAA website. All responses are forwarded to the Study Review Committees for consideration before the final draft of the study design is prepared.

Information Technology

As part of the ongoing review of VCE studies, the VCAA is evaluating the impact of curriculum changes incorporated into the VCE Information Technology Study design (2003–2006). Teachers are invited to contribute by responding to an online survey which can be located on the VCAA website:
www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/infotech/infotechindex.html

The closing date for the survey is 16 July 2004. Data is confidential and will be used to inform the review process.

If you have any questions regarding the survey please contact Paula Christophersen on (03) 9651 4378 or christophersen.paula.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

VCAL Update

VCAL 2005

The delivery of VCAL will continue to expand in 2005. An additional 46 schools have been approved to deliver VCAL through the Expression of Interest process and these schools will offer VCAL programs in 2005.

Government schools	36 schools
Catholic schools	10 schools

There will also be additional providers in the Adult and Community Education (ACE) sector. The total number of VCAL providers in 2005 will be in excess of 365 across Victoria. A full list of new providers will be published in the August 2004 VCAA Bulletin and on the VQA website www.vqa.vic.gov.au

Erratum

In the May 2004 VCAA Bulletin, No. 13, in the VCAL eligibility table on page 14, in the Foundation column for Industry Specific Skills the following bullet point should be added:

- **Further Education General Curriculum Options modules[†].**

[†]e.g. Certificates in General Education, Adult

VCAA Review of VCAL

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) has commenced the review of VCAL. A VCAL Review Committee of key stakeholders has been established and the terms of reference of the review are:

- review the current structure of the VCAL including VCAL course requirements, strands (Work Related Skills, Industry Specific Skills, Personal Development Skills, and Literacy and Numeracy Skills) and the three levels of the VCAL
- assess the need for the development of further accredited VCAL units
- assess the need for any further development of VCAL.

Information on the review has now been forwarded to VCAL schools/providers, Local Learning and Employment Networks and VCAL Regional Consultants.

As part of the VCAL Review a number of focus groups will be convened across Victoria. VCAL providers are invited to attend these focus groups and provide feedback to the VCAL Review Committee. Schools and other VCAL providers are encouraged to invite students and parents to attend and contribute to the discussion.

To attend any of the focus group meetings, please contact the VCAL Regional Consultant (see details below) responsible for that focus group meeting.

VCAL Review Regional Focus Group Meeting Details

Venue	Date	DE&T Region	VCAL Regional Consultants
Clocktower Centre Cnr Pascoe Vale Rd and Mt Alexander Rd Moonee Ponds 3039	23 June	Western (WMR) and Northern (NMR) Metropolitan Regions	WMR Rick Avery Telephone: (03) 9291 6512 or NMR Ross Patterson Telephone: (03) 9488 9420
Sundowner Motor Inn 525 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool 3280	13 July	Barwon South West	Graham Lee Telephone: 5272 8338
LCM DE&T Regional Office Cnr White and Havlin St, East, Bendigo 3550	15 July	Loddon Campaspe Mallee	Graeme Lynas Telephone: 5440 3110 or Marilyn Tangey Telephone: 5440 3113
Gippsland DE&T Regional Office Cnr Kirk and Haigh Streets, Moe 3825	19 July	Gippsland	Onno van den Eynde Telephone: 5127 0400
Sandown Regency Motor Inn 477 Princes Highway Noble Park 3174	21 July	Eastern (EMR) and Southern (SMR) Metropolitan Regions	EMR Sharon Capon Telephone: (03) 9881 0227 or SMR Emanuel Merambeliotis Telephone: (03) 9794 3548
Parklake Motor Inn 481 Wyndam Street Shepparton 3632	29 July	Goulburn North East	Merilyn Gander Telephone: (03) 5761 2113

If stakeholders are unable to attend the focus group meetings they can provide input via the VCAA website. For five weeks from 23 June to 30 July 2004 interested parties can respond to the review at the following web address www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vcal/index.html

If you require any further details please contact David Gallagher, VCAL Project Manager on (03) 9651 4532 or email gallagher.david.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

June 2003 to June 2004

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VCAA Videos Now Available

VCAA Privacy Statement

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is a statutory authority established under the *Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority Act 2000*. The VCAA is committed to protecting all personal information collected and handling this data in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2000*. All of the information we collect from you will be kept secure and confidential.

Drama Ensemble – Features three Drama ensemble performances. This video was very popular when first released and is reissued due to popular demand. The video is accompanied by Teacher Notes.

Top Acts 2004 – Features outstanding VCE performances from Music Performance, Dance, Drama and Theatre Studies in the 2004 VCE Season of Excellence.

Plain English Speaking Award – Features student speakers from the state final of the VCAA Plain English Speaking Award 2003. The video is accompanied by Teacher Notes. A valuable aid for teachers of Public Speaking and particularly for those who plan to enter students in the 2004 VCAA Plain English Speaking Award.

The cost of one video is \$33, two or more videos cost \$27.50 each. These prices include GST, postage and handling.

Please note:

- Make cheques payable to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (ABN: 82 628 957 617).
- On receipt of payment, a Tax Invoice/Receipt will be mailed with the video to the purchaser.
- For further details contact Information Services (03) 9651 4544.

Please note that the VCAA will not send out a Tax Invoice prior to payment and school purchase orders are not accepted.

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Order Form – VCAA Videos

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Distribution

27 May 2004 to 23 June 2004

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- 51/2004 re VCAA Review of VCAL
- VCAL Review Regional Focus Group Meeting Details
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- 52/2004 re VASS Release Version 7_61
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- 54/2004 re Curriculum Reform Project: Online Questionnaire
- 55/2004 re Submission of SIAR 1 for Studio Arts School-assessed Task 1
- 56/2004 re Career Information for Years 9 and 10 Students
- 57/2004 re VCAA Plain English Speaking Award State Finals
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June 2004 VCAA Bulletin

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VCE Assessment Handbooks 2005: Business Management, Psychology

Where to Now? Guide to the VCE, VCAL and Apprenticeships and Traineeships for 2005

Special Provision in 2004 brochure

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VCE Examination Papers and GAT 2003 CD-ROM

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June 2004 VCAA Bulletin

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Physics (Pilot) Written examination: June

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Action Plan

COPY DEADLINES FOR 2004

Issue No. and Month	Date of publication	Copy deadline
No. 16 August	Monday 16 August	Wednesday 28 July
No. 17 Exam Issue	Monday 17 September	Wednesday 25 August
No. 18 September	Monday 13 September	Wednesday 25 August
No. 19 October	Monday 11 October	Wednesday 22 September
No. 20 November	Monday 15 November	Wednesday 27 October
No. 21 December	Monday 13 December	Wednesday 24 November

VCE Achiever



VCE
ACHIEVER

The VCE Achiever Awards are open to all VCE students participating in community service activities whilst undertaking their studies. To qualify for these monthly awards, students need to be engaged in activities which assist their school and local community, such as fundraising, caring for the environment, local council events, participation in the arts, sporting programs and caring for the disadvantaged. Monthly winners are presented with their awards at Parliament House following the November examinations. The overall winner receives a laptop computer from IBM Australia Ltd. Schools are encouraged to nominate their students to participate in these awards. To find out more about the awards, please contact Vera Hemkes on (03) 9651 4557.

June's VCE Achiever Luke Bo'sher of Melbourne High is a young man committed to making a difference. Passionate about youth issues and youth participation, he is enthusiastic about the valuable contribution young people make to their communities. 'I believe that positive change can occur when young people are given an equal and meaningful say in the decision making process.'

In March, Luke presented his ideas to the Federal Minister for Youth Affairs, Mr Larry Anthony, as one of three students from across Australia to interview the Minister for ABC Radio. During preparation for the interview Luke found the Minister's advisers were 'blown away by our questions and ability to think holistically'.



He particularly enjoyed the discussions on the National Youth Roundtable, a subject he has written articles about for the VIBEWIRE website and Australian Children's Rights' News. Currently, he is putting together a feature presentation for SYN FM, Melbourne's Youth Radio Station to facilitate discussion on the Roundtable and present views from across the community

Luke is President of Footprints Forever, an organisation whose focus is on education and referral for youth and mental

illness. Realising the importance of access to information for young people, Luke is also involved with the ReachOut! website <www.reachout.com.au>, an organisation which helps youth through tough times, where he advises on content, format, and communication devices. He also maintains sponsorship through conference presentations and promoting the organisation. With 60 000 hits to the site in May and youth radio stations producing segments on stories picked up from the site, Luke believes the Internet is a powerful tool for engaging young people.

When Luke chose to write about his school's theme for 2003, 'Be yourself, build yourself', in the Lions Youth of the Year competition, the District Governor described him as someone with 'boundless energy ... a youth who takes opportunities given to him'. Receiving awards in many areas of his life, Luke has had a great deal of personal satisfaction, but it is the strength of community that he really hopes to build: 'It is important to create a perception of an integrated and cooperative community for people to work towards'.

Luke has been striving for this in his work with the Frankston Council. As the only person under 20 on the Community Safety Management Team he says, 'It can be a challenge to break down the stereotypes of how young people think and be taken seriously in a predominately adult thinking environment. The CSMT has made an amazing change to the reputation of Frankston, internally and throughout Melbourne'. Working with Council's decision makers on policies has been a great experience. Luke has had 'to think not only in terms of youth but as a citizen who is part of a whole community'.

It's a concept he has explored as a founding member of 360, a youth consultation and participation group, working closely on Council's youth strategy. The name 360 represents 'the circle of life and the cycle of involvement'. Luke believes that no matter where you are in that cycle you have a part to play. As part of his own involvement Luke recently organised the My Best Feature art exhibition in Frankston. Knowing nothing about art he enjoyed experiencing something new and 'giving young people the opportunity to express themselves'.

Luke says the keys to his success are commitment and a love of what he does. He describes his greatest achievement as being a member of the steering/organisational committee on the 2003 Children as Partners Conference for Plan International, which brought together NGO's, government departments and 12 student delegates from third world countries to discuss youth issues.

Michael White, CEO of the VCAA commends Luke on his commitment to improving our understanding of youth issues.

PESA 2004 regional finals

One hundred and eighty aspiring young public speakers across the state attended regional finals of the VCAA Plain English Speaking Award in June. The range of topics they chose for their speeches was an indication of the concerns of young people today. Many of them turned to the situation in Iraq and Australia's involvement in the war on terror for their topic while others found lighter subjects to discuss.

The last of the 20 regional finals took place at the offices of the VCAA where nine speakers from five schools participated. The winner and runner up at that final have a lot in common. Both are students at Brighton Secondary College and both came to Australia from Russia as young boys. They went into an accelerated learning class at Year 7 and are now in Year 12.

The judges had difficulty choosing between them but in the end Roman Rozenberg came out as the winner with his topic: Media treatment of the Thorpe-Stevens issue.

As English is not their first language and Russian is spoken at home, both Roman and runner up Nick Kashin, value the opportunity to practise their oral skills at school and expressed their appreciation of teachers who have nurtured these skills through debating and public speaking.

'I enjoy public speaking because I am able to communicate with an audience,' says Roman. 'When I try to express something complex I find I have often talked about it at home in Russian and then I have to find the English words and this is a challenge.'



Nick Kashin and Roman Rozenberg

The judges at the VCAA obviously believed that both Roman and Nick found all the English words they needed for both their prepared and their impromptu speeches.

Roman will join 20 other winners from the other Victorian regional finals on Monday 26 July at the Treasury Theatre in Melbourne. From these, eight will be selected to go on to the state finals the following day. Details are on the front cover of this Bulletin.

Subscription to the VCAA BULLETIN

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