



# VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET

Regulations and information about curriculum and assessment for the VCE, VCAL and VET

Principal  VCE/VCAL/VET Coordinators  VCE/VCAL/VET Teachers

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## Plain English Speaking Award

Over 200 students aged between 15 and 18 years of age took part in the 2008 Plain English Speaking Award, coordinated in Victoria by the VCAA.

Demonstrating their skill in speech-writing and their confidence in speaking to audiences across the state, they covered a wide variety of topics which proved that the youth of today are socially aware and keen to make changes in their world.

The culmination of all the regional and semifinals was the Victorian State Final which took place on Friday 25 July. The winner was Hannah Gould from MacRobertson Girls' High School. Her topic was *Falling in a well unknowingly*, an interesting and amusing examination of languages.

The adjudicators were very impressed with all the speakers and awarded two runner-up places to Mathew Reiman from Greensborough Secondary College and Justin Powell from Brauer College, Warrnambool.

The other finalists were: Medina Hajdarevic (Al Taqwa College), Bernadette Spencer (Marist-Sion College, Warragul) and Joseph Valente (Xavier College, Kew).

Congratulations to Hannah who was presented with a personal trophy and a school trophy by the president of the Australia-Britain Society, Mr Andrew Hilton. The Society generously sponsors the Award in Victoria.

Hannah will now go to Adelaide for the National Final on Monday 18 August where all Australian states and territories will be represented by young people with a passion for speaking out in Plain English.

The six finalists were presented with book vouchers (also donated by the Australia-Britain Society) by Dr Mary-Rose McLaren who was the first ever winner of the Award in 1977 (see page 4).



Dr Mary-Rose McLaren and Hannah Gould



L to R: Mathew Reiman, Justin Powell, Bernadette Spencer, Hannah Gould, Medina Hajdarevic and Joseph Valente

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## Important administrative dates

Full details of dates appear in Supplement 1 to the October 2007 VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET No. 53.

V = VASS critical date

2008	
<b>Monday 11 August</b>	Arts Performance Examination and LOTE oral component examination advice slips available to schools.
<b>Friday 15 August</b>	
<b>V</b>	<b>Enrolment 4</b>
	This data should contain 2008 VCE, VCAL and VET enrolment data that is known and available to schools.
	After this date VASS will <b>not</b> allow schools to:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>modify Assessment Plans or RTO details for scored VCE VET programs</li> </ul>
	Partnership details must be entered on VASS for VCE Unit 4 coursework.
<b>Monday 8 September</b>	October/November examination centres available through VASS.
	Special Examination Arrangements available through VASS.
<b>Friday 19 September</b>	<b>SIEG 2</b>
	<b>Indicative Grades for Arts Performance examinations are required.</b>
	After this date VASS will <b>not</b> allow schools to enter Indicative Grades for Arts Performance examinations.
	Final day for:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lodging applications for enrolment in 2009 in <b>Chinese Second Language, Chinese Second Language Advanced, Indonesian Second Language, Japanese Second Language or Korean Second Language</b></li> <li>students to lodge <b>requests to inspect scripts for examinations in the June</b> examination period.</li> </ul>
	End of Term 3.
	Start of Term 4.
<b>Monday 6 October</b>	
<b>Monday 6 October to Sunday 2 November</b>	Arts Performance examinations and LOTE examinations: oral component.
<b>Monday 13 October</b>	
<b>V</b>	<b>SIAR 3</b>
	<b>Scores for VCE School-assessed Tasks.</b>
	After this date VASS will <b>not</b> allow schools to enter SIAR 3 scores.
	See Appendix 1.1.3 for a list of relevant studies.
<b>Thursday 16 October</b>	LOTE (CCAFL) written examinations.
	Final day for lodging application forms for Top Designs, Top Arts and Top Screen (VCE Media only) in the VCE Season of Excellence 2009 (VCE Design and Technology, Food and Technology, Systems Engineering, Media, Art, Studio Arts, Visual Communication and Design).

## CEO's column



Year 12 in Victoria is a community education experience. It involves directly some 55 000 students and their immediate families. When you factor in extended family, friends and neighbours it seems that, in any given year, more people than not are directly affected by the Year 12 experience. (Incidentally, I write as a parent in this regard as well as from my day job.)

In the middle of it, as we are now – how does it feel? Some students have ambivalent feelings about their Year 12, not least because the threat/opportunity aspect of pathways being opened up (or temporarily closed) can be a source of anxiety. It seems to me that collectively we have a lot more communicating to do to provide a balanced perspective for everyone on this aspect. Increasingly, young people take pathways post school that combine university, work, gap years, volunteering, Vocational Education and Training in all sorts of combinations and orders. This is a cause for celebration and we should use it much more actively to alleviate some of the perceived pressure still inaccurately associated with a single score at the end of Year 12.

Most schools now work positively with their students to maximise the perception of the year as one primarily focused on opportunity. The multiple entry points to virtually all post-school pathways can't be stressed too much to assist students to take a balanced view of their Year 12. For most, it is a genuinely culminating year when the group solidarity of the year level is at a peak, when the sense of shared experience and mission is heightened and when they experience a marked change in their relationship with their teachers. Where this works well, the idea of partnership often emerges, the realisation that within

the competitive aspects of VCE assessment and reporting, the benefits of cooperation and the greater wisdom of the group can be creatively harnessed for mutual benefit.

As we start to think about how the National Curriculum may eventually impact on Years 11 and 12, the VCAA needs to develop clear views about what we most value in our VCE and VCAL programs. Much of what students most value of their Year 12 experience is not directly attributable to specific pieces of curriculum content. Some of it is due to broader aspects of the design and requirements of our two certificates – the very existence of the two of them in such a supportive and mutually reinforcing relationship is itself a key and unique contribution.

The valuing of different ways of learning in both certificates is surely a key message we bring to the national table. The ways in which vocational pathways are valued in each certificate is related. Within and across our various subjects we will be identifying what we think works best and calling on our schools to help us in this task.

The VCAA has recently reiterated its commitment to making national curriculum work. We will not be adopting an attitude of 'non-negotiable' positions. Rather we are looking to ensure that we articulate clear views, based on what is working well, together with perspectives on how we can use this opportunity for national momentum to further improve the learning programs available to all young Australians.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Firth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Firth  
Chief Executive Officer  
August 2008

from: PAGE 1

Adjudicating the Plain English Speaking Award State Final this year was the first ever winner of this public speaking competition – Dr Mary-Rose McLaren – whose speech about feminism earned her first place in 1977. Dr McLaren is now a senior lecturer in education at Victoria University and she has maintained her involvement in public speaking competitions over the years.

Dr McLaren spoke to the audience about her memories of that event and reflected on the enthusiasm she experienced as a young student. Now, 30 years on, she looks back on how well her generation has achieved the goals she espoused in her 1977 speech.

This Award aims to encourage and maintain the best use of clear and effective spoken English among young people and over the years Dr McLaren has seen how this competition helps students build self confidence and extend their skills in researching, speechwriting and public speaking.

The other two adjudicators were Ms Marion White and Mr Denis O'Donnell from the VCAA, both of whom are English specialists.



Dr McLaren 1977



Dr McLaren 2008

VCE and  
VCE VET  
GENERAL  
ADVICE

## VCE Examinations

### Training days for VCE Examination assessors

This information is for teachers who have applied to assess the 2008 October/November VCE Written examinations and for principals and daily organisers of their home school. Listed below are the assessor training dates for these VCE Written examinations.

Only those people who have applied and subsequently been appointed by the VCAA to be assessors or emergency assessors can attend these training meetings. Assessors will be notified of the training venues on confirmation of appointment.

Where indicated by \*, the examinations are centrally marked (i.e. appointees can only assess scripts at the VCAA's Assessment Centre in Coburg; otherwise examination scripts are taken home to assess after training).

#### Training dates (Written examinations)

- 19/10 Albanian\*, Arabic\*, Bosnian\*, Hebrew\*, Korean First Language\*, Korean Second Language\*, Macedonian\*, Persian\*, Punjabi\*, Russian\*, Sinhala\*, Turkish\*, Yiddish\*
- 21/10 Dutch\*, Hindi\*, Maltese\*, Portuguese\*, Romanian\*, Swedish\*, Tamil\*
- 30/10 Auslan\*
- 1/11 English\*
- 2/11 Drama, English\*, ESL\*

- 3/11 English\*
- 4/11 and 5/11 and 6/11 – NO training meetings
- 7/11 Music: Group, Agricultural and Horticultural Studies, Biology, History: Renaissance Italy, Specialist Mathematics Examination 1, VET Sport and Recreation (Outdoor and Community)
- 8/11 Accounting, English Language, Further Mathematics Examination 2, Sociology
- 9/11 Health and Human Development, Literature, Psychology, VET Electrotechnology
- 10/11 Economics, History: Australian
- 11/11 Mathematical Methods Examination 1, Mathematical Methods (CAS) Examination 1
- 12/11 Mathematical Methods Examination 2, Physical Education, VET Financial Services, Music Solo Pre-training
- 13/11 Classical Societies and Cultures, Design and Technology, Music: Solo, Specialist Mathematics Examination 2, VET Hospitality (Food and Beverages), VET Multimedia (comp 2 – practical)
- 14/11 Dance, IT Applications, Mathematical Methods (CAS) Examination 2, Studio Arts, VET Business, VET Multimedia (comp 1 – short answer), Visual Communication and Design
- 15/11 History: Revolutions, Legal Studies, National Politics, Physics, VET Hospitality (Commercial Cookery), VET Community Services, VET Equine Industry, VET Music Industry
- 16/11 Business Management, Chemistry, Geography, Software Development, Systems Engineering, VET Furnishing

- 17/11 Art
- 18/11 NO training meetings
- 19/11 VET Information Technology, Media, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Philosophy, Theatre Studies, Japanese First Language\*, Japanese Second Language\*, Latin, Spanish\*, Vietnamese\*
- 20/11 Food and Technology, Music Styles, Religion and Society\*, Texts and Traditions\*, German\*, Greek\*, Indigenous Languages of Victoria\*, Italian\*
- 21/11 Industry and Enterprise, International Studies, French\*
- 22/11 Environmental Science, VET Engineering, VET Laboratory Skills, Chinese First Language\*, Chinese Second Language\*, Chinese Second Language Advanced\*, Indonesian First Language\*, Indonesian Second Language\*

#### **Note**

Those not successful in gaining an offer of appointment are placed on a waiting list (these people will be advised by email).

It is usual that an appointment to one examination in a particular assessment period precludes a person from assessing any other study in that period.

Assessing scripts normally commences immediately after the training meeting.

### **Information about training meetings**

The VCAA provides school principals with information about the appointment of assessing staff from their schools, the dates of assessor training meetings and the availability of Casual Relief Teacher (CRT) payments to secure the release of staff. In requesting the school to agree to the release of staff the VCAA acknowledges the professional development benefits and the commitment required to do the work in very tight timelines.

If an offer of appointment is made by the VCAA, school based staff undertaking these VCAA activities in school hours are advised to ensure that their release has been approved and confirmed with their school. Assessors should be aware that the VCAA may need to contact their school for administrative or audit purposes.

### **Payment arrangements for training meetings**

Where release is required from school duties a CRT payment is made available to the home school (as given by the assessor in their application registered on the online application website – SSMS) to gain the release of the teacher from their duties and to cover the absence.

Where release is not required from school duties a payment for attendance at the meeting is made available to the assessor.

Information on this matter was previously published on page 8 of the August 2007 VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET No. 51.

Enquiries can be directed to Marlwood Ryder on (03) 9225 2302 or email: ryder.marlwood.f@edumail.vic.gov.au

## **Special Examination Arrangements**

### **Extra reading time**

The VCAA Board recently endorsed a change to the method of allocation of 'extra reading time' for approved Special Examination Arrangements.

Currently extra reading time cannot exceed 15 minutes for any examination, irrespective of its length.

For all future examinations, approved extra reading time will be allocated at up to 10 minutes per hour with a cap determined by the length of an examination. Extra reading time will continue to be incorporated into the examination writing time to enable the student to more effectively utilise the extra reading time.

The Board decision will be implemented for the 2008 October/November written examinations. This change will impact on previously approved 2008 applications. Amended extra reading time arrangements for students will be available on VASS from 8 September 2008. Schools should print the special arrangements slips after that date.

Please contact the VCAA's Special Provision team on (03) 9225 2219 or 1800 205455 if you have further enquiries in relation to this matter.

## **Student Records and Results**

### **Full-fee-paying overseas students**

Second Round Invoices for full-fee-paying overseas students were sent to schools on Monday 4 August for students with outstanding payments and for those newly flagged full-fee-paying overseas students. Payments are due at the VCAA by Friday 12 September 2008.

The VCAA emphasises that schools must not pay for newly flagged full-fee-paying overseas students until these students have received an invoice from the VCAA. It is essential that schools do not alter invoice amounts. If you have any enquiries concerning full-fee-paying overseas students please contact the Student Records and Results Unit on (03) 9651 4616.

## Second Language Applications 2009

VCE LOTE Second Language studies in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean are designed to cater for students who have learnt all they know of the language in an Australian school or similar environment. All enrolments in these studies for Units 3 and 4 must be approved by the VCAA. The home school is responsible for submitting applications for eligibility in LOTE Second Language studies Units 3 and 4. Enrolment in VCE LOTE Second Language studies Units 1 and 2 does not need to be approved by the VCAA.

**Applications for enrolment in VCE LOTE Second Language Studies in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean for 2009 should be submitted by Friday 19 September 2008.**

Home schools should ensure that students are informed of eligibility requirements and that the deadline for applications is met so that students are aware of their Second Language status.

Applications will be processed as they arrive at the VCAA with the eligibility of individual students visible to schools on VASS. Eligibility will be determined from the information and evidence provided. If a student is deemed ineligible based on the available evidence, the application will only be reviewed if the home school provides additional information.

**Schools are notified of Second Language eligibility approvals through VASS. Student Programs → VCE Report → Second Language Applications → Select year → Run.**

Application forms may be found on our website at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/schooladmin/forms/vce/vce.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/schooladmin/forms/vce/vce.html)

Application forms will be available on the website on 14 August 2008.

The forms will also be available for download on VASS.

All pages of the application form must be completed in full. All supporting documentation must be in English or translated into English by a recognised translation authority.

### 2009 Criteria

The criterion for eligibility for Indonesian, Japanese and Korean Second Language, Chinese Second Language and Chinese Second Language Advanced studies are unchanged.

#### *Chinese Second Language*

A student is NOT eligible for Chinese Second Language if they have had either:

- twelve months or more education in a school where Chinese is the medium of instruction, or
- three years (36 months) or more residence in any of the VCAA nominated countries or regions. The nominated countries and regions are China, Taiwan, Hong Kong or Macau.

#### *Chinese Second Language Advanced*

A student is eligible for Chinese Second Language Advanced if:

- they have had no more than seven years of education in a school where Chinese is the medium of instruction, and

- the highest level of education attained in a school where Chinese is the medium of instruction is no greater than the equivalent of Year 7 in a Victorian school.

The time periods referred to in these criteria will be counted cumulatively since the time of the student's birth.

As the formal education commencement age for a Victorian student is five years of age, then all applicants will be deemed to have commenced formal education by the end of their fifth year of age, regardless of the setting.

#### *Indonesian Second Language*

A student is eligible for Indonesian Second Language if they have had no more than seven years of education in a school where Indonesian or Malay is the medium of instruction.

#### *Japanese Second Language*

A student is eligible for Japanese Second Language if they have had no more than seven years of education in a school where Japanese is the medium of instruction.

#### *Korean Second Language*

A student is eligible for Korean Second Language if they have had no more than seven years of education in a school where Korean is the medium of instruction.

Applications are due at the VCAA by Friday 19 September 2008.

Applications will be processed as they arrive with the eligibility of individual students visible to schools on VASS. Eligibility will be determined from the information and evidence provided. If a student is deemed ineligible based on the available evidence, the application will only be reviewed if the home school provides additional supporting documentation, relevant to the deficiencies in the original application.

### Exceptional circumstances

If the principal of the home school considers that a student, apparently ineligible for the second language for which they have applied, has exceptional circumstances that the VCAA should consider, then this should be communicated with the original application. An exceptional circumstance case requires an explanatory letter from the principal and supporting evidence that can be verified by the VCAA.

Difficulties in obtaining documents to explain non-attendance at school is not an exceptional circumstance. Appropriate documents must be provided.

Approval for Second Language Status will not be granted because of a student's standard of writing, speaking or listening in the language.

### Contacts

Any enquiries about applications for second language should be directed to the Student Records and Results Unit on (03) 9651 4402 (metropolitan callers) or 1800 653045 (non metropolitan callers) or email: [student.records@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:student.records@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Any enquiries about the curriculum for second languages should be directed to the VCAA Curriculum LOTE team on (03) 9651 4620.

## Program redevelopment

Progress has been made on the redevelopment of the six VCE VET programs identified in the July 2008 VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET No. 61.

Notification of the program title, structure and VCE VET unit entitlement for the revised Business and Interactive Digital Media programs will be via the VCAA website in the first instance. It is anticipated that this information will be available online in the week commencing 4 August 2008.

The publication, printing and distribution of program booklets for these two programs is planned to be completed by the end of Term 3.

Notification regarding the remaining programs under review will be provided in future VCAA Bulletins.

## Sessional Staff Applications

### Sessional Staff Management System

#### Call for applications

Applications are currently being taken on the Sessional Staff Management System (SSMS) for November written examination assessors (some studies still need further applicants).

Practising teachers are strongly encouraged to consider the excellent professional development opportunity afforded by examination assessing.

#### 2009 VCE Examinations Setting and Vetting panels

Applications are now being taken for positions on the 2009 panels. These panels are responsible for the development of the 2009 examination papers. Panel members cannot be teaching

Units 3 and 4 of the study in 2009 but recent teaching experience is very highly regarded. Also, applicants involved in activities such as the production of textbooks, student resource material or conducting lectures, seminars or study-related sessions with students such as tutoring, need to discuss their eligibility to apply with the VCAA.

Typically panels consist of a Chairperson and two or more members who develop the examination paper according to the study design or other relevant curriculum documents. Vetting roles usually consist of a Study Specialist Vetter, and an Examination Sitter Vetter and each examination is vetted by an ESL expert appointed by the VCAA. Other positions may be necessary depending on the type of examination and a number of VCAA staff are involved during the process.

Please note that the following 2008 positions are closed and processing is complete:

- NAPLAN markers (Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 English)
- VCAL Quality Assurance Panels
- VCE Mid-year examinations and GAT assessing
- VCE LOTE Orals and Arts Performance assessing
- VCE School Assessment Visitation reviewing
- VCE School Assessment Coursework Audit
- VET State Reviewers.

#### Coming events

Opportunities are advertised as they arise and publicised in the VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET. To see what jobs are available go to <[www.ssms.vic.edu.au](http://www.ssms.vic.edu.au)> and select the link 'Currently available positions'. If a particular job is not listed, it means that applications have closed.

Information on when to apply to mark NAPLAN in 2009 will be advertised on the SSMS bulletin boards shortly.

#### SSMS

SSMS is maintained by Assessment Services and Resources staff and all enquiries should be directed as follows:

Implementation/development

Marlwood Ryder

Telephone: (03) 9225 2302

Email: [ryder.marlwood.f@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:ryder.marlwood.f@edumail.vic.gov.au)

SSMS Helpdesk: Technical/access issues

Telephone: (03) 9225 2305

Email: [assessment.administration.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:assessment.administration.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## VCE English/English as a Second Language

### Units 3 and 4

#### Area of Study 2: Creating and Presenting

English teachers are advised that support materials on the VCAA website <[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/english/index.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/english/index.html)> now include a collection of sample pieces of writing. For further information, contact Marion White on (03) 9651 4580.

## VCE Systems Engineering

### Amendment to *VCE Systems Engineering Study Design* glossary

The current gear and gear ratio definitions included in the Glossary in the *VCE Systems Engineering Study Design* have been extensively discussed by teachers.

The VCAA wishes to clarify the gear ratio definition in relation to its transformation into a formula. Use of the derived formula (driver over driven) has not been applied uniformly.

The current definitions in the glossary in the Systems Engineering study design for 'gear' and 'gear ratio' are to be removed and replaced with the following definitions for 'gear', 'simple gear train', 'compound gear', 'compound gear train' and 'gear ratio' to provide greater clarity around these terms and to assist in understanding the calculation of gear ratio.

Changes to the glossary terms are effective from **1 January 2009**.

The replacement definitions for the VCE Systems Engineering glossary are as follows:

**Gear:** a toothed component that meshes with another to transfer motion in mechanical systems.

**Simple gear train:** two or more gears that mesh, used to increase or decrease speed; and/or to change direction.

**Compound gear:** a compound gear is made up of two or more gears that are joined together and share the same shaft.

**Compound gear train:** a compound gear train is a combination of gears and axles or shafts that have at least one axle or shaft with a compound gear.

**Gear ratio:** the relationship of the number of turns between two gears expressed as a ratio, that is, the number of turns of the driver to one turn of the driven (x:1) For example, (for a reduction gear box) a driver gear has 40 teeth and the driven gear has 80 teeth; using the formula  $\text{driven} \div \text{driver}$  the ratio is expressed as 2:1 or for two turns of the driver gear the driven gear turns once.

## VCAL update

### New VCAL providers in 2009

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a qualification designed to expand pathways for Years 11 and 12 students from school education to apprenticeships, traineeships, employment, further education and training.

VCAL is a key part of the government's aim to improve school retention and to increase the proportion of young people who successfully complete post-compulsory education.

In 2007, 418 education and training providers (schools, TAFE institutes and adult and community education (ACE) organisations) delivered the VCAL to over 14 000 students.

Prospective new providers who are already delivering the VCE and wish to deliver VCAL for the first time in 2009, are invited to lodge an Expression of Interest with the VCAA.

New providers who have not previously delivered the VCE, and are now interested in delivering the VCAL in 2009 should contact the VCAA to discuss additional registration requirements that may apply to these organisations.

A copy of the VCAL 2009 Guidelines, Expression of Interest form and information regarding delivery of the VCAL can be obtained by contacting David Gallagher, VCAL Manager on (03) 9651 4532 or email: [gallagher.david.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:gallagher.david.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)

The completed Expression of Interest form should be returned by 29 August 2008.

### Literacy and Numeracy Skills Unit Review

The consultation process for the review of the VCAL Literacy and Numeracy Skills units has now closed. The VCAA would like to thank all teachers who took the time to provide comments/feedback via the online survey.

### Induction Workshop for new VCAL providers

The VCAL Unit will again run an Induction Workshop for new VCAL providers and for providers with new VCAL Coordinators in 2009. The date for the workshop is 5 November at Moonee Valley Racing Club, Moonee Ponds. Details including the registration process will be forwarded to providers at a later date.

## Notices

### 2008 Victorian Furnishing Industry Training Awards

Christopher Nittoli gained the First Superannuation Furniture Maker of the Future Secondary Schools Award, for producing three pieces: a traditional writing desk, a side table and a chair. Christopher completed VCE VET Certificate II in Furnishing (Pre-Apprenticeship Cabinet Making) at St Helena Secondary College in 2007. He is currently an apprentice carpenter.

Christopher explains: 'I have always loved working with timber and making things with my hands'.

'The desk, side table and chair combined sleek lines with narrow components and a simple but delicate detailed finish,' he added.

The materials used to make the three pieces included Tasmanian Oak, Jarrah, veneer ply and brass handles. The items were French polished.

'My career goal is to become a licensed builder and to be able to apply the same detail and skill into much larger projects.'

Michael Rogers was awarded the RMIT School of Design Furnishing Design and Technology Furniture Design and Technology Secondary School Student Award. Christopher and Michael received their awards at the 2008 Victorian Furnishing Industry Training Awards gala dinner at the Victorian Arts Centre in Melbourne on 21 July 2008. The Awards are held each year to promote furnishing as a creative and exciting career.

Michael Rogers completed VCE Design and Technology at Trinity Grammar School in 2007. He is currently studying Architecture at the University of Melbourne.

Michael designed and constructed a 'foosball' table. He explains his selection of product for his School-assessed Task 'Foosball is table-soccer, a game with figurines mounted on rods which spin, with the aim of getting the ball in to the goal'.

'Everybody at school made Jarrah tables and I wanted to make something different that people looked at and said "wow"', he added. 'My table is something you want to touch and interact with.' The materials used to make the foosball table include steel, Jarrah, electronic components and glass.

Michael's work, along with fellow finalists in this category Tom Baulch (The Geelong College) and David Charles (Trinity Grammar School) was included in the recent Top Designs Exhibition at the Melbourne Museum.

The Furnishing Industry Association of Australia (Vic/Tas) Inc (FIAA). is the state, peak representative body established to promote the profitable growth, competitiveness, innovation and export readiness of all Furnishing and Allied Industry participants. The FIAA promotes the value of training to the industry and encourages young people to consider the huge variety of careers available.



L to R: Graeme Parrent, St Helena Secondary College, VCE VET Certificate II in Furnishing teacher; Christopher Nittoli, St Helena Secondary College, Furniture Maker of the Future Secondary Schools Award winner; Graeme Russell, First Superannuation representative, Award sponsor.



L to R: Foster Adem, Trinity Grammar School, VCE Design and Technology teacher; Michael Rogers, Trinity Grammar School, Secondary School Award winner; Hendrikus Berkers, RMIT Head of School, School of Design TAFE, Award sponsor.

Photos courtesy of FIAA (Vic/Tas) and Furnishing Training Victoria.

### History Teachers Association of Victoria Annual Conference

#### History: The Days Ahead

**23–24 October 2008 Hemisphere Conference Centre, Moorabbin**

The theme for this year's Annual Conference is 'History. The Days Ahead'. Planning is well underway and programs will be mailed to schools in August. The conference will focus on providing a challenging and rewarding program of presentations and workshops that will appeal to teachers of History. Right across the program, the quality of sessions will hit the mark and put members in the best possible position to improve student learning outcomes. You will walk away with some practical classroom ideas, closer networks with colleagues and organisations, and maybe even some prizes! Keep your eyes open for the program when it arrives in schools. For further information please log onto <[www.htav.asn.au](http://www.htav.asn.au)> or contact Meri Rametta, Manager, Events & Programs on (03) 9417 3422 or [m.rametta@htav.asn.au](mailto:m.rametta@htav.asn.au)

## VCE Season of Excellence

### VCE Media, Technology, Visual Communication and Designs

#### Top Designs 2008 catalogue

The Top Designs 2008 exhibition is over but the catalogue and CD-ROM live on.

The catalogue features all works exhibited for Media, Design and Technology, Food and Technology, Systems Engineering and Visual Communication and Design. Every work is illustrated in full colour with a statement by each exhibitor. The catalogue also includes introductions to the practical outcomes in each study.

The CD-ROM comprises an electronic copy of the catalogue with selected pages from folios, records of planning and design plans.

The cost of the Top Designs 2008 catalogue and CD-ROM is \$20.00 which includes GST, postage and handling.

To purchase the catalogue please use the order form available at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonofexcellence.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonofexcellence.html)

**Note:** Payment must be returned with the order form. School purchase orders are not accepted.

On receipt of payment, a Tax Invoice and Receipt will be mailed with the catalogue.

### Top Class Sound, and Art, Studio Arts, Media, Music Performance, Music Styles and Visual Communication and Design

Top Class Sound was a new program included in Season 2008. It featured performances (acoustic, digital and/or screen based) of original musical works by VCE students in a range of studies who created original music as part of Units 3 and 4 and assessment tasks. The 2008 program included a film score and music composed for ensembles and solo musicians.

Inclusion is by submission. The application forms will be online on 1 September and due on Thursday 16 October.

The Top Class Sound concert celebrates VCE student creativity at the highest level and will be held in mid-March 2009. Check website for details.

### VCE performing arts

#### Top Acts 2008 DVD

Top Acts 2008 was performed at The Arts Centre, Hamer Hall on 23 May. The concert DVD is now available featuring outstanding VCE performances in Drama, Theatre Studies,

Music Solo Performance, Music Group Performance and Dance.

To purchase the DVD please use the order form at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonofexcellence.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonofexcellence.html)

**Note:** payment must be returned with the order form. School purchase orders are not accepted.

On receipt of payment, a Tax Invoice and Receipt will be mailed with the DVD.

### Applications for Top Arts, Top Designs and Top Screen

Application forms for these VCE Season of Excellence events will be online in the first week of September at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonofexcellence.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonofexcellence.html)

All students and staff should be aware of copyright requirements for exhibiting work in Season events. While works created for Assessment do not require copyright clearance once student work is exhibited in the public domain its legal status changes and copyright clearance is required. This applies to all non-original material including logos, music, film clips etc.

The deadline for Top Arts, Top Designs and Top Screen (Media) is Thursday 16 October. The deadline for Top Screen (VCE VET Multimedia) is Thursday 13 November.

### Expression of Interest forms for Season panel members

Representatives are required for three selection panels that choose works for the VCE Season of Excellence visual arts program.

There is a vacancy on the Media panel that chooses works for both Top Screen and Top Designs; and a vacancy for a regional representative on the selection panel for Systems Engineering for Top Designs.

A regional or metropolitan representative is also required for the Visual Communication and Design panel.

Panel members meet for one day in the second or third week of November to short list applications at the VCAA office in East Melbourne, and for one day at the VCAA's Coburg office for final selection in the week of 8 December.

The expression of interest forms for each position appears at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonofexcellence.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonofexcellence.html) and are due on 10 October.

Being on a panel does not prevent your students from submitting applications.

Enquiries: Merren Ricketson, Manager, Season of Excellence tel: (03) 9651 4347 (Monday–Thursday).

# Distribution

26 June 2008 to 23 July 2008

## Memoranda to Schools

- 55/2008 re Submission of SIAR 2 – VCE Unit 3  
School-assessed Coursework scores
- 59/2008 re Submission of Enrolment 3 Data
- 60/2008 re New VCAL Providers In 2009
- 61/2008 re Reporting Arrangements for Final VCE  
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Results 2008
- 62/2008 re ON TRACK Survey 2008 School Reports

## Publishing

- July 2008 VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and  
VET No. 61

## Internet

### Additions

- July 2008 VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and  
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- English as a Second Language:** Updated examination descriptors
- Music Solo and Music Group:** Updated performance examination criteria
- VCE Business Management:** study design consultation draft, Summary of Changes, Consultation questionnaire
- VCE Classical Societies and Cultures:** study design consultation draft, Summary of Changes, Consultation questionnaire
- VCE English/English as a Second Language:** Sample pieces of Context writing
- VCE Music Solo performance:** Prescribed List of Notated Solo Works list of instruments 2009.
- VCE Philosophy:** assessment criteria for end-of-year examination
- VCE Text and Traditions:** study design consultation draft, Summary of Changes, Consultation questionnaire

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- VCE Examination advice: October/November written examinations (online only as separate study specific PDFs)

**Bulletin No. 56**

1. 2008 Administrative advice for school assessment
2. 2008 VCE Music: Group performance: Units 3 and 4 Prescribed list of arrangements
3. VCE English/ESL Text list 2008–2009 VCE Literature Text list 2009

**Bulletin No. 57**

1. VCE 2008 Drama and Theatre Studies performance examinations

**COPY DEADLINES FOR 2008**

Issue No. and Month	Date of publication	Copy deadline
No. 63 September	Monday 8 September	Wednesday 20 August
No. 64 October	Monday 6 October	Wednesday 17 September
No. 65 November	Monday 10 November	Wednesday 22 October
No. 66 December	Monday 8 December	Wednesday 19 November

*The VCE Achiever Award is coordinated by the VCAA to recognise the efforts of VCE students in promoting community involvement in their local school and wider community. VCE Achievers actively participate in such activities as the arts, environmental protection, aged care, hospitality, local council initiatives, fundraising and public speaking. Monthly finalists receive a three-month subscription to the Herald Sun, and in December one overall winner will receive a notepad computer donated by Lenovo Australia and New Zealand Ltd. Students in government, Catholic and independent schools may apply for the award in 2008 by using the application form on the VCAA website (Excellence and Awards > VCE Achiever Award).*

‘Although I live on a farm, I think it is important to participate in the wider community’, Birchip P–12 School student Brianna Smith notes. As Treasurer and former President of the Birchip Youth Group, Brianna has organised many social activities, like junior discos and fundraising initiatives, such as folding letters and assembling large mail-outs for local businesses.

Every year the youth group helps to organise the local drug and alcohol free FReeZA event.

‘We do-up the local hall and organise, publicise and budget the event. We have to coordinate the bus schedule and organise food. We have as many as 500 people attend.’

Brianna is highly involved with sports in school and at the community level. ‘I started off playing netball, then I filled in for someone at a hockey game and I haven’t stopped playing since’. Brianna plays in the women’s team and has been coaching the junior ‘Minky’ hockey team for the last five years. This year she has also taken on the role of coach for the Under-16 mixed hockey team, ‘I was asked to coach the team as soon as I was too old to play!’

At Birchip P–12 School Brianna was elected School Captain by her teachers and peers. She also holds other leadership roles including Sports Captain, Bus Captain and SRC member. ‘These roles require me to be approachable and a role model to other students.’ Her leadership duties include collecting trophies and making speeches at assemblies and other school gatherings. Brianna’s public speaking experience has helped make the task of giving speeches less daunting than it used to be. She has participated in the VCAA’s Plain English Speaking Award and the Lions Youth of the Year Quest.

At school Brianna also helps to organise social and fundraising events and has recently been raising money for a new school barbecue that will be built by one of the students. She has also been raising money for the Salvation Army who have provided a lot of assistance to people in the community who are effected by drought.

As a role model for the community and school, Brianna was asked to talk about her experiences in a short film called Birchip Stories made by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI).

Brianna was surprised and honoured to have been awarded an Australia Day Young Citizen Award from the Boluke Shire for her work within the community. She considers this to be one of her proudest achievements.

For Brianna community involvement is something that is always a positive experience. ‘I really enjoy being involved with everyone in the community. It is really rewarding to work with kids in particular because they are always excited to see you.’

Next year Brianna would like to travel around Europe, taking in Italy and France. After that, she would like to start a chef’s apprenticeship.



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The VCAA Bulletin is also available online at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

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