VCAL Achievement Awards 2015

On Monday 20 June, more than 150 guests attended the 2015 Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Achievement Awards to celebrate the outstanding work of students, teachers and partner organisations, with 37 awards presented across 19 categories.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino, MP opened the ceremony and spoke about the significant contribution VCAL can make to students’ lives, helping them build strong links with the community and develop the confidence and skills necessary for their futures. He reinforced the Victorian Government’s continued commitment to keeping more young people engaged in education and training, and noted that without the option of VCAL, many students may have disengaged from learning.

Awards were presented to students, teachers and VCAL partners who have worked together to strengthen their communities. Partnerships and activities that were acknowledged at the ceremony included a cafe and education centre working with a local school to deliver a unique restaurant for their community; students working with the Vietnam Veterans Association of Victoria to build a memorial garden; and students raising funds and awareness to support a local charity organisation providing accommodation for homeless men.

Dharna Nicholson-Bux, from Narre Warren South P–12 College, received the award for VCAL Koori Student Achievement. In a compelling speech, Dharna, who is from the Yorta Yorta and Wurundjeri peoples, shared her VCAL experience and explained how the program helped develop her skills and confidence.

As part of her VCAL, Dharna completed a work placement at the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council. Her achievements included presenting Welcome to Country ceremonies, assisting with presentations on Aboriginal culture, and participating in major events, including Murrum Turukuruk, a women’s coming-of-age ceremony, and Tanderrum, a coming-together ceremony of the five tribes of the Kulin nation from south central Victoria. Dharna was also the face of Melbourne Museum’s First Peoples exhibition, alongside noted elders and leaders.

VCAL gave Dharna the opportunity to be an ambassador for her community and advocate for multiculturalism as part of her secondary school education. Dharna said that her experience in VCAL has shaped her life and given her the self-confidence to reach her potential.

The VCAL Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Narelle Dickson from Sacred Heart College, Geelong. In 2015, Narelle successfully revitalised the Intermediate Work Related Skills course at her school to include the Certificate II in Business and a Social Enterprise partnership with fair-trade coffee importer WithOneBean.

Dharna Nicholson-Bux is presented with the VCAL Koori Student Achievement Award by Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino, MP.
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The VCAA does not endorse the products or services of any external organisation’s articles published in the VCAA Bulletin.

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These initiatives enabled students to get hands-on experience running a small business, while learning about social enterprise and sustainability and raising money for coffee farmers in Timor-Leste.

The VCAL Chair's Award was presented to David Gallagher, former manager of the VCAL Unit at the VCAA. This award represents outstanding achievement in delivering or promoting VCAL. David was responsible for the VCAL for over a decade and played a crucial role in developing the highly successful program. He remains very passionate about VCAL and continues to mentor and provide professional development and advice to VCAL teachers and providers throughout Victoria on a range of applied learning topics.

Congratulations to all the VCAL Achievement Award recipients, who have committed themselves to their education and to their local communities. For more information on the VCAL Awards please visit the VCAA website.

Government school to deliver the VCE in China

Northcote High School will be the first government school to deliver the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) in China, thanks to the Victorian Government's newly expanded VCE Offshore program.

In early July, VCAA CEO John Firth visited Melbourne's sister city, Tianjin, to attend a conference of VCE providers in China, during which the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino, MP signed the historic agreement. The agreement will see Northcote High School and Tianyi High School work together to deliver an Australian secondary school qualification in China.

Northcote High School will provide resources, professional learning and mentoring to its Chinese counterparts, who will then deliver the curriculum to Chinese students. The move builds on the 17-year sister-school relationship between Northcote High and Tianyi's parent school, Huaibei Number One Middle School. Other government schools are expected to have similar programs approved in the future.

Northcote High School joins six other Victorian schools delivering the VCE offshore. As well as encouraging more international students to study in Victoria, the visit forms part of the Victorian Government's ambitious China Strategy, which will improve Victoria's economic, cultural and personal ties with China and create more jobs and business opportunities. Graduates who completed their VCE in China last year have been accepted into 21 different universities across Australia, with Group of Eight institutions continuing to be the most popular and sought after university destinations. Victoria was the preferred destination for overseas VCE graduates with 53 per cent of students choosing to undertake their tertiary education at one of its universities.

The Victorian Government’s commitment to supporting international education was bolstered earlier this year by $31.9 million to implement a new International Education Sector Strategy. International education was worth over $5.6 billion to Victoria's economy last financial year, while the International Student Program in government schools is estimated to generate more than $141 million for the economy and create more than 1000 Victorian jobs each year. Education has become the state's largest services export, valued at $5.6 billion, with 175,000 international students choosing to study at Victorian schools and universities in 2015. Education is central to Victoria's future prosperity. In an increasingly globalised and competitive world, its capacity to innovate and lead the world in knowledge-based industries will be key to its success.

The VCE is delivered at a number of locations in the Asia-Pacific region and has become the most widely delivered Australian senior secondary certificate in China, with 468 students completing their VCE at schools there in 2015. By promoting partnerships with overseas schools, the VCAA contributes to the Victorian Government's International Education Sector Strategy and provides opportunities for all Victorian schools to play a key role in maintaining Victoria's place as a leader in international education.

For more information, read the International Education Sector Strategy, visit the VCAA International website, and find out more about the VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable, which is available to schools both in Victoria and overseas.

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VCE Leadership Award

Gemma Martin, Leongatha Secondary College

A strong belief in the importance of community, especially in regional and rural areas, is deeply woven into the fabric of Gemma Martin’s leadership style. ‘Some people associate rural and regional areas with disadvantage,’ she explains. ‘I want young people to know the advantages of living in the country, and to feel a sense of pride and belonging in their community.’

In 2014, Gemma became an ambassador for the Beacon Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to keeping students engaged in education and assisting them in the transition to meaningful employment. Gemma partnered with local businesses and the community to run networking and career information events to help students understand their options after school and encourage them to aim high when thinking about their future.

In the last two years, Gemma mobilised her community to raise more than $18,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave. She spent more than a year organising the 2015 campaign, including partnering with local businesses and community groups to raise funds, organise logistics and promote the event. Reflecting on the experience, Gemma says it reinforced the importance of collaboration, and that ‘to turn ideas into reality, you need to rally passionate people to support you.’

Gemma shaved her head at the 2015 event and donated her 60cm ponytail to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths program, to be used in wigs for women undergoing chemotherapy. Of her decision to do away with her long hair, she explains how important it is to ‘step out of your comfort zone and challenge perceptions’ to promote positive change.

According to Russell Odgen, Senior School Leader at Leongatha Secondary College, Gemma is driven to create meaningful and tangible outcomes by investing in people and connecting students with the community. This year Gemma supported another group of students to raise funds for the cause, sharing her wisdom and experience from behind the scenes, a role she relished.

Resilience and perspective are important to Gemma and she has used her leadership skills to overcome her own setbacks. For many athletes, being told they must stop playing sport due to an injury is devastating. But for Gemma, her doctor’s advice to stop playing netball just made her more determined to help others find their confidence on the field. ‘I wasn’t content with the idea of just sitting on the sidelines, and not being involved in sport anymore,’ she says.

Gemma has dedicated herself to assisting and coaching her local junior sports teams, including organising a two-day leadership program for the junior players in the Meeniyan Dumbalk United Football Netball Club, and an On Track workshop for the local Little Athletics group. She says she has seen the skill and confidence levels of players flourish along with a fun, welcoming and supportive team culture.

Gemma’s leadership abilities and participation have been widely recognised. She received an Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year Award in 2016, the University of Melbourne Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar award in 2015, and the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Award for Youth Leadership and Teamwork in 2014. Her local community has also recognised her outstanding contributions with a Meeniyan Young Citizen of the Year Award in 2016.

The VCAA congratulates Gemma on all her achievements and commends her for exceptional leadership in both her school and local community.
VCE Season of Excellence

VCAA Board Appreciation Awards 2016

Congratulations to Sol Dasika (Haileybury College) and Rosemary Duffy (Melbourne Girls’ College), winners of the 2016 VCAA Board Appreciation Awards.

The Board Appreciation Award was established last year to acknowledge and celebrate the talent, hard work and dedication of VCE students whose work has been included in exhibitions during the VCE Season of Excellence. Both winners receive a certificate and $1000 to put towards their continued education and exploration of their chosen fields.

Top Designs exhibitor Sol, impressed the Board with his handmade *Wood Timpani Drums*, constructed from four types of timber, aluminium, bamboo, stainless steel and vinyl. Sol is an accomplished percussionist and performed in the Top Class and Top Acts concerts in 2015. Through his work he has sought to convey the depth of connection between the musician and the instrument. Sol said that he enjoyed the challenge of committing to a large project and seeing it through until completion. ‘I am really happy to see that everything was worth it now, and am grateful to Top Designs for enabling the timpani to be enjoyed by as many people as possible.’

Rosemary was recognised for *Grace*, a stunning portrait created by injecting different shades of acrylic paint into a large sheet of bubble wrap to recreate a photograph. Rosemary’s work, exhibited at StArt Up: Top Arts at the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, explores the contrast between self-representation in the digital and real worlds by contrasting the tidy, sanitised image on one side of the work with the messy reverse, where dripping paint and smudges form an imperfect reflection. Rosemary was excited and honoured to receive the VCAA Board Appreciation Award and said that she was amazed to see how people were enjoying and connecting with her work.

Chris Wardlaw, Chair of the VCAA, said that after a phenomenal VCE Season of Excellence, the Board acknowledged works that caught their eye, describing the works by Sol and Rosemary as impressive and compelling. Rosemary and Sol are commended for their spectacular works and for their commitment to their VCE and the arts.

Feedback on 2016 events

Teachers, students and staff who attended VCE Season of Excellence 2016 events are encouraged to participate in the event feedback surveys about the Top Designs exhibition, Top Screen screenings and Top Class and Top Acts concerts. Feedback from our attendees is valuable and will contribute to further improvements to the VCE Season of Excellence program.

Please complete the relevant event feedback survey:

- Top Designs
- Top Screen
- Top Class
- Top Acts

Surveys close on Monday 15 August 2016.
Updated copyright permissions for the 2017 Season

Applications for the VCE Season of Excellence 2017 will be opening soon. To best prepare students for their applications, teachers should review the updated copyright permissions resources.

There are new guidelines and letter templates, for students to use when seeking copyright permission, on the VCE Season of Excellence webpage.

Teachers should remind students that works submitted to the VCE Season of Excellence must comply with the copyright guidelines. This includes obtaining the correct permission for the use of any third-party work to be displayed or performed in a public space. Works that do not comply with these copyright guidelines will not be considered by the selection panel.

Applications for next year’s Top Arts, Top Screen, Top Designs (excluding VCE VET Interactive Digital Media) and Top Class Sound close on Thursday 13 October 2016.

Plain English Speaking Award

Invitation to the 2016 State Final

Teachers and students are invited to attend the State Final of the Plain English Speaking Award (PESA) on Friday 22 July, from 9.00am to 1.00pm, at Treasury Theatre.

The 2016 semifinals were held on Monday 20 June and Tuesday 21 June, and featured outstanding speeches on a range of topics such as locker-room culture, climate change and the Australian dream. The 24 semifinalists were also asked to give a three-minute impromptu speech on a set topic (‘Uniformity stifles individuality’; ‘Life is what you make it’, ‘You get what you give’ or ‘Where do we go from here?’) over the four semifinal sessions.

The VCAA congratulates Chloe Gration (Lauriston Girls’ School), Luke Macaronas (St Kevin’s College), Eloise McLean (The Hamilton and Alexandra College), Daniel Rabbat (St Joseph’s College Geelong), Arman Riazati (Melbourne High School) and Madeline Wang (Ballarat Grammar), who will compete in the State Final, with the winner representing Victoria at the National PESA finals in Sydney in August 2016.

PESA is sponsored by the Victorian branches of the English Speaking Union and the Australia-Britain Society. The competition gives young people, aged 15 to 18 years, and from government, Catholic and independent schools, the opportunity to research and present on topics about which they are passionate. Student participants are able to develop their self-confidence and extend their skills in oral communication, speech writing and research.

Entry to the State Final is free, and Parliament station is the closest public transport to the venue. Bookings are essential. Please RSVP via the online form by 5.00pm Monday 18 July 2016.
Early Years

See also Professional Development

New Harvard University research report

The revised Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework includes a strengthened focus on the importance of early learning in the birth-to-three-year period. Self-regulation and executive functioning are particularly important, and although these skills are best learnt early, it is never too late to build on core capabilities.

Building core capabilities for life, a recent report from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, combines research from the biological and behavioural sciences with practical, on-the-ground knowledge from working with adults and families to provide effective solutions for helping individuals develop skills for coping with adversity.

The report describes the trajectory of the development of executive functioning skills, and provides insight into how core capabilities are built, restored and fostered by professionals. The report is available from the Center's website.

Foundation–10

See also Professional Development

NAPLAN

Important dates for 2017

NAPLAN 2017 tests are scheduled to be conducted from Tuesday 9 May to Thursday 11 May 2017. Please note that as NAPLAN transitions from paper-based to online, the test period will be extended for a further week for online tests only. All schools completing the NAPLAN test online in 2017 and 2018 will therefore have a two-week test period. Please refer to the NAPLAN Online webpage for details.

Information regarding the schedule of testing and times allocated can be found on the NAP website.

Reporting NAPLAN 2016 results

NAPLAN results will be made available in the week beginning Monday 15 August:

- to schools via the secure web-based NAPLAN Data Service
- to parents via an individual Student Report.

Prior to this, principals will receive a letter with a new password for the NAPLAN Data Service. Student Reports will be delivered to schools for distribution to parents. The format of the Student Reports is consistent with previous years.

Access to NAPLAN Writing test images

Schools will be provided with access to images of their students’ NAPLAN writing test responses to assist with interpretation of results. They can also be used by teachers to provide feedback to students on their NAPLAN writing performance.

The Writing test images will be available via the NAPLAN Test Administration website. Access to the images will be provided from Monday 15 August 2016, which will coincide with the release of NAPLAN 2016 reports. The images will be available for a five-week period until the end of Term 3.

Details on how to access the website and instructions on how to download images will be sent to school principals with the NAPLAN school reporting packages. Please note that schools only have access to images of their own students’ Writing tests and those images are available strictly for internal school use.
Victorian Curriculum F–10

Resources now available

Personal and Social Capability elaborations
The Victorian Curriculum F–10 website has been updated to include elaborations for the Personal and Social Capability. Teachers are reminded that elaborations are provided as advice on how the content descriptions can be used in classroom activities. Teachers may choose to develop their own elaborations to teach the content descriptions.

To access these, use the ‘elaboration view’ for Personal and Social Capability. If you are not familiar with how to change view options, please watch these short navigational videos.

Templates for whole-school curriculum plans
One very important step in implementing the Victorian Curriculum F–10 is to document a whole-school plan. The aim of this plan is to provide a high-level summary of the coverage of all the curriculum areas through the teaching and learning program, and to reflect the school’s goals, vision and areas of specialisation or innovation. Schools have considerable flexibility in determining how best to organise and structure their teaching and learning programs.

To support schools in documenting this high-level information, the Victorian Curriculum F–10 Unit has developed a range of sample templates. The templates provide options for schools to consider when deciding how to best represent their teaching and learning program, while ensuring coverage of all the learning areas and capabilities. There is a template for each band of schooling, as well as a number of alternative representations. The templates are published in Excel format and schools can modify the templates to meet their needs.

The templates are available on the Curriculum planning, assessment and reporting page. Later this year the Victorian Curriculum F–10 Unit will publish examples based on the Victorian Curriculum F–10. These new examples will cover whole school, curriculum area, year level and unit/lesson plans, and will be available on the Curriculum Planning Resources website. If teachers would like to share their completed examples, they should contact the Victorian Curriculum F–10 Unit: vcaa.f10.curriculum@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Quick guide
The VCAA has produced a quick guide to locating information that supports schools teaching the Victorian Curriculum F–10. The single-page guide provides an overview of three interrelated websites: the Victorian Curriculum F–10, the VCAA web resources that support the curriculum, and the Curriculum Planning Resource. The guide is available on the Resources and Support webpage.

Online professional learning
Schools are reminded that there are still opportunities to attend a range of online professional learning sessions in Term 3, 2016. In addition to the previously published schedule, three additional online professional sessions have been scheduled to meet requests from teachers:

- Tuesday 30 August: Towards Foundation Level Victorian Curriculum for students with disabilities
- Thursday 1 September: Capabilities overview
- Wednesday 7 September: Curriculum planning and reporting.

Each session has a capacity of 500 registrations, and runs from 3.45pm to 4.45pm. Schools are encouraged to register once for sessions they wish to attend and to organise their technical resources to attend as a group, if appropriate. Sign up to these sessions on the professional learning page. Presentation material from the sessions will be published under ‘Past professional learning sessions’ on the this webpage.
Curriculum

Implementation briefings for revised VCE studies

Teachers are advised that registration for implementation briefings on some revised studies for implementation in 2017 is now open. Details of the implementation program, held in collaboration with relevant subject associations, are available on the study pages for Business Management, Economics, Texts and Traditions, Physical Education, Studio Arts, Religion and Society and Music.

All teachers of these VCE studies are encouraged to attend one of the briefings, in which highly experienced VCE educators will:

- provide an overview of the changes to the study design
- discuss the impact of the changes on assessment
- provide the opportunity to discuss the revised study design, and answer questions.

The metropolitan and regional briefings, including online access for some sessions, are being held until September 2016. Participants should bring a copy of the revised study design to the workshop. There is no cost for attending these sessions.

Registration and full details for these briefings are available from the relevant study page:

- Business Management (accreditation period 2017–2021), briefings resume on Monday 18 July and conclude on Thursday 21 July
- Economics (accreditation period 2017–2021), briefings resume on Tuesday 12 July and conclude on Thursday 21 July
- Texts and Traditions (accreditation period 2017–2021), a single online briefing on Thursday 21 July, 4-6pm
- Physical Education (accreditation period Units 1 and 2, 2017–2021; Units 3 and 4, 2018–2021), briefings from Tuesday 19 July to Tuesday 23 August
- Studio Arts (accreditation period 2017–2021), briefings from Thursday 21 July to Friday 19 August
- Religion and Society (accreditation period 2017–2021), briefings on Wednesday 3 August and Wednesday 10 August, and an online briefing on Wednesday 17 August.
- Music (accreditation period 2017–2021), online-only briefings:
  - Music Performance: Wednesday 31 August
  - Music Investigation: Monday 5 September
  - Music Style and Composition: Wednesday 7 September.

For more information, contact VCE Curriculum: vcaa.vce.pd@edumail.vic.gov.au

Study design review: Consultation closed

The drafts of the proposed study designs for Algorithmics (HESS), Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Sociology and Visual Communication Design were made available for consultation with teachers and other key stakeholders in June 2016.

The consultation period has now ended. The VCAA would like to extend thanks to 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 deliberation by the VCAA Board.
Advice for Teachers: Business Management, Economics, Physical Education

Advice for Teachers relating to VCE Business Management, Economics and Physical Education are now available on the relevant VCE study pages. For revised and new studies, Advice for Teachers combines the two previous advisory documents (Assessment Handbook and Advice for Teachers) into a single publication. Advice for Teachers provides schools with a single source of advice for learning and teaching activities, and assessment.

School-based Assessment Audit

Notification of the studies selected for audit in Unit 4 of the School-based Assessment Audit were released to schools on Friday 24 June. The following screen in VASS contains this information: School Program > VCE > School-based Assessment Audit.

The first stage of the Unit 4 audit is the completion of a study-specific online questionnaire detailing the planned approach to assessment. Teachers of the studies that will be audited are required to complete the online questionnaire by Friday 29 July 2016. The outcomes of the submission to the online questionnaire will be released on Monday 5 September.

A full version of the Unit 4 online questionnaire can be downloaded from VASS or requested by email: school.assessment.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.

If there is more than one person teaching Units 3 and 4 of the VCE study being audited, please make sure the submission is a combined response. Only one submission will be considered from each school.

Further information on the School-based Assessment Audit is available on the VCE General Advice and Policy webpage, or by contacting Merry Young or Julia Quagliani, VCE Curriculum: (03) 9032 1735 or school.assessment.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Music Performance and Music Investigation

Schools and teachers are advised that updates have been made to the Prescribed list of notated solo works for each of the following: Clarinet B Soprano, Flute, Guitar – Classical, Oboe, Pianoforte, Trumpet, Violoncello and Voice – Contemporary popular. The changes are mainly editorial; information about each change is provided on the updated lists. Further questions about the lists should be addressed to Helen Champion, Curriculum Manager, Performing Arts: champion.helen@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Theatre Studies Unit 3 Outcome 3: Production analysis

Teachers should be aware of the recent clarifications of VCE Theatre Studies Unit 3, Outcome 3. Please refer to Notice to Schools 59/2016 for details.

Philosophy and Texts and Traditions

The VCE Philosophy prescribed texts for 2017 and VCE Texts and Traditions set texts, themes and passages for special study 2017 are now available on the respective study pages.

For further information contact Monica Bini, Curriculum Manager, Humanities and Social Sciences, VCAA on (03) 9032 1693 or bini.monica.m@edumail.vic.gov.au.
Written examination development panels

Applications are now open for positions on all 2017 VCE and VCE VET examination development panels. Teachers and academics who are interested in examination development and have appropriate experience and qualifications are invited to apply. Further information about the different positions on examination panels and the relevant conditions of appointment can be found on the VCAA website. Applications can be lodged via the Sessional Staff Management System (SSMS) website.

Applicants for the following panels should be aware that they may also be working on examinations for the 2018 VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable:

- Accounting
- Arabic
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Chinese First Language
- Computing: Informatics
- English/EAL
- Further Mathematics Exam 1 and Exam 2
- Mathematical Methods Exam 1 and Exam 2
- Physics
- Specialist Mathematics Exam 1 and Exam 2.

Applications close on Sunday 14 August 2016. For more information, contact the VCE Examinations Unit on (03) 9032 1789 or examinations.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Changes to the format and placement of formula sheets and inserts

Teachers and students of VCE Mathematics, VCE Systems Engineering, VCE VET Integrated Technologies and VCE Studio Arts are advised of changes to the format and placement of formula sheets/inserts for the 2016 written examinations in these studies.

As advised in Notice to Schools 39/2016, the formula sheets for all six VCE Mathematics examinations will be printed separately, rather than included as a detachable insert in the centrefold of the question and answer book. Sample formula sheets are available on the assessment pages for Further Mathematics, Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics.

The written examinations for VCE Systems Engineering and VCE VET Integrated Technologies will include a formula sheet as a detachable insert in the centrefold of the question and answer book, rather than printed on the last page of the question and answer book.

The detachable insert in the centrefold of the VCE Studio Arts question and answer book will contain visual stimulus material that relates only to Section A. Any written and/or visual stimulus material that relates to Section B will be contained within the body of the question and answer book.

Examination materials and advice, such as examination covers and instructions, data books, formula sheets and sample multiple-choice answer sheets for all 2016 examinations will be published in early October.
2017 VCE examination periods

The VCAA Board has approved the dates for the 2017 General Achievement Test (GAT) and VCE examination periods. In determining these dates, the VCAA considers the following:

- timing of religious holidays
- ensuring there is a balance of available teaching days before and between the GAT and the commencement of the main period of VCE written examinations
- ensuring sufficient time is provided to complete performance and Languages oral examinations and the Extended Investigation oral presentations prior to the main period of VCE written examinations
- the impact of examination period dates on other key processes within the school year, that is, enrolment requirements and the release of final results.

The 2017 VCE examination periods are available on the VCAA website.

VCAL awards video highlights

Don’t miss the video highlights of the award ceremony, held on Monday 20 June. In the video students share what the VCAL means to them.

Reference groups for VCE VET program reviews

The following VCE VET programs will undergo review in Term 3, 2016 as a consequence of revisions to qualifications contained within them. The Training Packages have been endorsed and appear on training.gov.au:

- VCE VET Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- VCE VET Furnishing
- VCE VET Agriculture, Horticulture and Land Conservation.

The reference groups will be formed following the confirmation of nominal hours for units of competency by the Department of Education and Training. Expressions of interest should be emailed to the VET Unit: vet.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Industry Pathways in the VCE or VCAL

Schools planning to introduce Industry Pathways programs for VCE or VCAL students in 2017 should ensure that they refer to the information on the VCAA website. CRT funds may be available to support some of this planning. For further information please contact Daryl Sutton: sutton.daryl.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Workplace Learning Project

A proposal to provide credit in the VCE and VCAL for the time a student spends in a workplace aligned to a VET certificate is being considered by the VCAA. A formal planning meeting will be held in Melbourne in the week commencing Monday 25 July. School personnel registered their interest through the VET and VCAL briefings at the end of 2015. Other organisations are welcome to register their interest in participating by emailing the VET Unit: vet.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.
Submission of Enrolment 3 data

Schools are reminded that VCE, VET and VCAL Enrolment 3 data is due on Monday 18 July 2016. Please refer to Notice to Schools 63/2016.

Professional Development

Newly appointed VASS users

Professional development sessions for new users of the Victorian Assessment Software System (VASS) will be held on Tuesday 26 July and Wednesday 27 July at the Coburg Assessment Centre. Please refer to Notice to Schools 65/2016 for details.

Drama Victoria

Drama Victoria invites teachers of Drama, Music, Media Arts, English and Humanities to gather for a discussion about how social issues can be explored, debated and analysed through creative partnerships that work across curriculum learning areas. Donna Jackson, theatre-maker and author of Art and Social Change: Dust a Case Study, will lead the discussion about useful and fun ideas for using her work in school settings and techniques for creating scenes using verbatim theatre. The discussion will be held on Monday 22 August, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. For more information about this free event, and the Dust project, contact Emily Atkins, Director of Programs at Drama Victoria: director@dramavictoria.vic.edu.au.

Geography Teachers’ Association of Victoria 50th Annual Conference

This year’s GTAV conference will include these specialised streams: geography F–12, citizen science, global education, supporting learners with disability, spatial technologies and fieldwork. Keynote speakers include Julian Burnside AO QC, Tarini Casinader Bureau of Meteorology Regional Director (Vic) and Victorian scientist Leonie Walsh. The conference will be held on Sunday 21, Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 August at Melbourne’s Karstens/CQ Conference Centre. Full details are available on the GTAV website.

Help! How Do I Teach Geography?

This professional development is designed for teachers who haven’t taught geography before or recently. Geography in the new Victorian Curriculum F–10 will be outlined, resources shared, basic mapping skills demonstrated, engaging teaching strategies modelled, geo-tech skills (such as using Google Earth, GIS and GPS) practised, and information on how to organise successful fieldwork will be provided. This professional development will be held on Friday 15 July at The University of Melbourne, Hawthorn Campus. Details are available on the GTAV website.

Dance Interrogations

As part of the Footscray Community Art Centre’s artistic program, Dance Interrogations 2016 opens on Saturday 16 July. This exploratory performance has been six years in development by Melinda Smith, a dancer with cerebral palsy, and Dianne Reid, a ScreenDance artist. Live performance will meet graphic installation, exploring risk through perspectives of diverse embodiment and technological intervention. For more information visit the Footscray Community Arts Centre website.