

VCAA Bulletin

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Achieving gender balance of text authors

As we approach International Women’s Day on Friday 8 March, for the first time the number of works written by women on the VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) and VCE Literature text lists exceeds the number of works written by men.

Things have changed since 2008, when only eight female authors were included on the VCE English text list, compared with 28 male authors. Back then, literary works by women accounted for approximately a quarter of what was on offer for VCE students to study.

Jump forward to 2019 and the number of female authors selected for the VCE English and EAL text list has more than doubled to 20, with male authors now at 16. Among the works are Kate Grenville’s *The Lieutenant*, Toni Jordan’s *Nine Days* and Ursula K Le Guin’s *The Left Hand of Darkness*. Following a study redesign of VCE Literature in 2017, the number of female authors also outnumbers male authors on the study text list (16 compared to 14), with students offered the pick of works by women, including historian Sheila Fitzpatrick, playwright Yasmina Reza and poet Petra White.

The text lists for VCE English and EAL and VCE Literature are approved each year by the VCAA Board. Each text is selected on literary merit, must be an excellent example of form and genre, sustain intensive study by raising interesting issues and providing challenging ideas, and reflect current community standards and expectations in the context of senior secondary study.

The text lists have to be suitable for a diverse student cohort from a range of backgrounds and contexts, including students studying English as an additional language. They must reflect the cultural diversity of the community, include texts by Australian authors (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples), and provide a balance of classic and contemporary literature, exposing students to a variety of genres and writing styles.

‘I think the most pleasing achievement is the balancing of canonical writers with women from marginalised groups who have traditionally been ignored, silenced and ridiculed,’ comments a member of the VCE Literature Text Advisory Panel.

‘Virginia Woolf “ventured to guess that Anon, who wrote so many poems without signing them, was often a woman”. Were she to peruse the text lists, she would be well-pleased to note the gender parity,’ says another member.

For more information, including study text lists from previous years, go to the respective webpages for [VCE English and EAL](#) and [VCE Literature](#).

In this issue

Excellence and awards

Early Years

F–10

VCE

VCAL

VET

Professional development

Bulletin board

Contents: [page 2](#)

Contents

Excellence and awards

VCE Season of Excellence	
VCE Season of Excellence 2019 begins	3
Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarships	
Music Composition scholarship announced	4

Early Years

Early Years Twilight Seminar: Wednesday 13 March	5
--	---

Foundation–10

Curriculum	
Using online language assessment resources to assess language learners in your classroom	6
Seeking expressions of interest to participate in Formative Assessment Rubrics professional learning	6
Coming soon: New resources to help implement the Victorian Curriculum F–10	7
Assessment	
NAPLAN Test Administration website	7
NAPLAN Equating Study	7
NAPLAN Online	8
Sign up to use On Demand testing	8
Measuring excellence in the Arts and in Critical and Creative Thinking	8

Victorian Certificate of Education

Curriculum	9
2019 VCE School-based Assessment Audit	9
VCE Health and Human Development clarification for World Health Organization priorities	9
VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable briefing for prospective providers	9
Survey to determine student numbers	9

Victorian Certificate of Education

Assessment	10
Training for the conduct and administration of 2019 VCE external assessments	10
2019 GAT centres, appointment of supervisors and principal's agreement	10
Armenian written examination	10

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

Teacher interviews now available	11
----------------------------------	----

Vocational Education and Training

New VCE VET program booklets	11
Scored assessment workshops	11
State reviewer vacancies	11
65th anniversary Victorian Training Awards nominations open	12
Revised VASS certificate types – VE1, VE2, VE3	12

Professional development

VCE Systems Engineering professional learning sessions	13
--	----

Bulletin board

VCE Teachers' Conference	13
--------------------------	----

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VCE Season of Excellence

VCE Season of Excellence 2019 begins

The VCE Season of Excellence 2019 has officially begun, with the inaugural Top Talks taking place on Friday 15 February at State Library Victoria. The inspiring sold-out event, showcasing four outstanding VCE Extended Investigation students from 2018, was a fitting way to begin this year's program.

The Top Class concert series began on Thursday 21 February with Top Class Dance, celebrating exceptional 2018 VCE and VCE VET Dance student performances.

Top Class Sound was held at its original home, the Iwaki Auditorium at ABC Studios, Southbank. Fourteen students were invited to present their original music compositions to a delighted audience. Each work was composed for various forms and instrumentation, including big band, chamber and jazz.

The Top Class concert series will continue with Top Class Drama and Theatre Studies on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 March, and Top Class Music on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 March at the Melbourne Recital Centre. The Top Class Music concerts on Tuesday 19 March have sold out and tickets to the concert on Monday 18 March are selling fast.

On Thursday 7 March the short films, documentaries, music videos and animations of talented 2018 VCE Media students will be launched at the highly anticipated Top Screen film festival. During the festival's nine-week run, attendees will have the opportunity to meet up-and-coming filmmakers, listen to industry professionals and participate in talks that explore the process behind each student's work. Top Screen closes on Tuesday 7 May.

Melbourne Museum will again be hosting the Top Designs 2019 exhibition, which opens on Saturday 30 March. Top Designs features the diverse work and folios of students who studied VCE Media, Product Design and Technology, Systems Engineering, Theatre Studies and Visual Communication Design, and VCE VET Creative and Digital Media in 2018. School groups will have the opportunity to participate in education programs presented by VCAA representatives and industry guests until Friday 17 May, with the exhibition continuing to Sunday 14 July.

Top Arts is presented by the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). The showcase runs from Friday 22 March to Sunday 14 July, and features magnificent works by VCE Art and Studio Arts students. Professional learning opportunities for teachers and folio viewings will be offered in conjunction with the exhibition, which can be booked through the NGV.

The final event in the Season of Excellence program is Top Acts, a stand-alone concert of performances from the Top Class series. Top Acts blends original, contemporary and classical music, dance, drama and theatre studies acts into one spectacular evening. This showcase event will take place on Friday 10 May at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

The Season is a remarkable opportunity for current and future students to gain insights from their peers, and prepare them for artistic and creatively oriented VCE studies. Students who attend the Season gather inspiration for their own work, and learn valuable information from VCE assessors and industry professionals in their field of expertise. For further information on the events being held across the Season, including ticket bookings, visit the [VCE Season of Excellence 2019](#) webpage.



Panel session (L to R) Madison Schenk (Alumnus), Luca Imerci (Fitzroy High School), Stephanie Barito (The University High School), Kailyn O'Connor (Morrington Secondary College), Ryan Walker (Melbourne High School), Maxine McKew (MC), Top Talks 2019



Conor Whitty, Kardinia International College, Geelong, Customisable Glockenspiel Music Box, Systems Engineering, Top Designs 2019



Tarni Jarvis, Ballarat High School, Ballarat, Parramal puna-punai, Product Design And Technology, Top Designs 2019

Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarships

Music Composition scholarship announced

Nathan Zammit has been awarded the 2019 Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarship for Composition. The former student of the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School was presented with his scholarship at the Top Class Sound concert on Friday 1 March at the Iwaki Auditorium.

Margaret Schofield's family established the memorial scholarships in 2006 in recognition of Schofield's achievements as a musician and her commitment to music education. The scholarships, awarded annually for Music Composition and Music Performance, each provide \$7000 towards the cost of tertiary study in music.

'I feel extremely honoured to be the sole recipient of an award that is selected from many equally deserving entries', says Nathan.

'I am grateful that my musical language has been received by the selection panel. I hope that my compositions will continue to contribute positively to society and that I will find work as a composer.'

At the Top Class Sound concert, Nathan presented his composition *Life*, based on a short film he created in Year 12. 'The film was a springboard of ideas that inspired my composition, and my composition equally inspired my film,' explains Nathan.

'When I began writing *Life*, I focused on curating minor-based, soulful harmonic movement through a variety of complimentary instrumental timbres, making for an energetic, and at times sparse and delicate, piece.'

Having played piano since the age of four, Nathan's sights have long been set on becoming a film and television composer. This year, the scholarship will help him to study Interactive Composition at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.

'The scholarship is paid directly to the University of Melbourne and gives me the financial security of having a significant portion of my first year of university fees paid off. This will allow me to invest in recording equipment and synthesisers, and travel internationally to grow connections to music professionals overseas', says Nathan.

The selection panel for the Margaret Schofield Scholarship considers students who will continue their music studies at a tertiary level. Applicants' study scores for VCE Music Style and Composition, VCE Music Investigation, VCE Music Performance and VCE VET Music are also considered.



Nathan Zammit performs his composition *Life* at the Top Class Sound concert



Scholarship trustee Fiona Cochrane presents Nathan with the scholarship certificate

VCAA Performing Arts Curriculum Manager, Margaret Arnold, said the selection panel was presented with a competitive field but Nathan's passion and dedication was particularly impressive.

'Nathan clearly thrives on writing music for others to play, and shows respect for their contribution to the process as performers,' says Margaret.

'His work demonstrates a mature approach to composition, with his skillful exploration of a variety of musical techniques, including blending traditional instruments with new techniques and technologies.'

The winners of the scholarships for Music Performance will be announced at the Top Class Music concerts on Tuesday 19 March.

Early Years Twilight Seminar: Wednesday 13 March

Book now for the first Early Years Twilight Seminar for 2019, a panel discussion about leading assessment for learning and development. The aim of the seminar is to strengthen local decision-making and develop a shared dialogue between early years services and school leadership teams.

Assessment for learning and development is one of the practice principles of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, which sets out practices and outcomes to guide early childhood professionals in their work with families and children from birth to eight years.

Joined by host Bec Haig (Director, Early Childhood Implementation Branch, DET Regional Services Group), Dr Anne Kennedy (consultant, researcher, trainer and writer) and Matt Knight (Principal, Cobram Primary School) will discuss their experiences of working in a network to improve children outcomes.

[Book now](#) to participate:

- in person at the Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership, North Melbourne
- through video conferencing at a regional or metropolitan network venue (Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Berwick, Blackburn, Camperdown, Fitzroy, Moe, Sale, Shepparton, Werrimull, Wodonga and Woori Yallock)
- online through YouTube Live.

The seminar highlights the *Leading Assessment for Learning and Development: A Community of Practice approach* professional learning, which will be offered from May 2019 to early childhood leaders and school leaders in five areas (Mallee, Wimmera South West, Brimbank Melton, and Inner and Outer Gippsland).



Dr Anne Kennedy



Matt Knight

Curriculum

Using online language assessment resources to assess language learners in your classroom

The VCAA is hosting two webinar sessions for F–10 Language teachers to learn how the suite of online language assessment resources can be used to support teacher assessment practices.

Currently, over 290 schools are registered to use the free online Language Assessments developed by the VCAA with the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

The online Language Assessments are:

- a resource that schools may use to support their teaching of Languages from Levels 5–6 onward in the F–10 or 7–10 sequences
- a useful diagnostic tool of student progress in listening and reading
- an online bank of test items available anytime
- capable of providing results immediately.

The two sessions will be of particular interest to teachers of Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek and Spanish, Levels 5–10.

Session 1: An Introduction to Using the VCAA Online Language Assessments

For teachers unfamiliar with VCAA language assessment resources.

3.45–4.45pm

Tuesday 19 March

[Register online](#)

Session 2: Applying the VCAA Online Language Assessments in your Classroom

For teachers with some familiarity with VCAA language assessment resources who would like to start using these resources in the classroom.

3.45–4.45pm

Thursday 21 March

[Register online](#)

For more information, go to the VCAA [Professional Learning Languages](#) webpage and the ACER [VCAA Language Assessments](#) webpage.

Seeking expressions of interest to participate in Formative Assessment Rubrics professional learning

To support teachers to use formative assessment rubrics when teaching the Victorian Curriculum F–10, the VCAA has developed the *Guide to Formative Assessment Rubrics* (the Guide) with the University of Melbourne's Assessment Research Centre (ARC).

The Guide is designed to assist Victorian teachers to develop and use formative assessment rubrics to progress student learning. It also supports teachers to work together to interrogate the curriculum and use their professional expertise and knowledge to develop rubrics with measurable, student-friendly descriptions of skills and knowledge.

The VCAA seeks expressions of interest from experienced teachers to participate in a series of professional learning workshops based on the principles outlined in the Guide. In the workshops, teachers will develop, trial and refine their own formative assessment rubrics, including gathering and assessing student work.

The free workshops will be held in the Melbourne CBD. The VCAA will cover three days of casual relief teacher payments, and travel and accommodation costs will be covered for regional participants.

For further information, including how to register your expression of interest, go to the [Seeking Expressions of Interest for Formative Assessment Rubrics Professional Learning](#) webpage.

Coming soon: New resources to help implement the Victorian Curriculum F–10

Teachers are reminded that the VCAA publishes a range of free F–10 teaching resources across all curriculum areas.

The following are some of the new resources due to be published in Term 1:

- Mathematics – resources unpacking the content descriptions around computational thinking
- Intercultural Capability – teacher guide and sample units of work
- Home Economics – sample units of work.

To find out when new resources become available, refer to the *VCAA Bulletin* and subscribe to the [F–10 Curriculum Update](#). For previously published resources, go to the [Curriculum Area Advice](#) webpage.

Assessment

NAPLAN Test Administration website

The NAPLAN Helpdesk team thanks schools for their cooperation in completing the tasks relating to the enrolment phase of the administration process. The NAPLAN Test Administration website will reopen on Tuesday 23 April with student enrolment information for the test phase. During this phase, schools will be asked to complete tasks related to student participation in the tests. Instructions for using the website to complete tasks during the test phase will be made available in Term 2.

Schools with queries related to any aspect of NAPLAN 2019 should contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk: vcaa.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au or 1800 648 637 (free call).

NAPLAN Equating Study

Each year the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority undertakes the NAPLAN Equating Study to enable the results from NAPLAN tests to be reported on the same scales from year to year.

The NAPLAN Equating Study is a very important aspect of the NAPLAN testing program, as it ensures consistency and fairness in the reporting of student results.

The VCAA will soon notify schools that have been selected to participate in this mandatory study.

NAPLAN Online

The VCAA is providing refresher training sessions for NAPLAN coordinators between Monday 4 March and Friday 22 March. This training, alongside the NAPLAN coordinator's guide, will cover the requirements to successfully use the Platform to administer NAPLAN Online.

The training sessions are three hours in duration (9am–12pm or 1–4pm), with morning and afternoon tea provided. The VCAA will provide full-day casual relief teacher payments for up to two staff from each school.

The VCAA strongly recommends taking this opportunity to ensure your school is best prepared to administer NAPLAN Online in 2019. Training is required to ensure the online tests are effectively and efficiently delivered.

[Register online](#) (places subject to availability).

From Tuesday 12 March, schools completing NAPLAN Online will receive a NAPLAN Grid Card Package. This package will contain all supporting material for NAPLAN online testing in 2019.

Sign up to use On Demand testing

To register your school for access to On Demand testing or for other queries, contact the On Demand Helpdesk: vcaa.ondemand.support@edumail.vic.gov.au or 1800 827 721 (free call).

Further information and support documentation is available on the [On Demand Testing](#) webpage.

Measuring excellence in the Arts and in Critical and Creative Thinking

In 2019 the VCAA will conduct sample assessment programs in the Arts and Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT) with a sample of schools across Victoria. This is an exciting opportunity for schools to be involved in the collection of statewide data in both areas.

The assessments support the Education State targets and were previously conducted between 2016 and 2018. Student participation will play a significant role in tracking these important targets.

The details of the 2019 assessment periods are as follows:

- Arts – Monday 27 May to Friday 28 June (Term 2, weeks 6–10) and Monday 15 July to Friday 16 August (Term 3, weeks 1–5)
- CCT – Monday 22 July to Friday 9 August (Term 3, weeks 2–4).

If your school is selected to participate, your principal will be notified by email in Term 1 with additional details.

Curriculum

2019 VCE School-based Assessment Audit

Each year, schools are audited for at least one VCE study, and all VCE studies are subject to the annual School-based Assessment Audit. Schools were notified of their Unit 3 requirements for the 2019 audit through VASS on Monday 25 February.

The screen in VASS where schools can access the list of studies selected for audit at their school is:

School Program > VCE > School-based Assessment Audit (ensure the search function is filtered to view only Unit 3 studies).

The first stage of the School-based Assessment Audit consists of a study-specific audit questionnaire completed online by teachers on behalf of the school. Responses to the audit questionnaire must be submitted by Monday 18 March and detail the planned approach to assessment for Unit 3 in 2019.

Refer to [Notice to Schools 15/2019](#).

VCE Health and Human Development clarification for World Health Organization priorities

From 2019, students undertaking VCE Health and Human Development will study and be assessed against the priorities and work of the World Health Organization's *Thirteenth general programme of work 2019–2023*.

Refer to the World Health Organization priorities 2019–2023 resource on the [VCE Health and Human Development](#) webpage.

Refer to [Notice to Schools 14/2019](#).

VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable briefing for prospective providers

As notified in the [February 2019](#) issue of the *VCAA Bulletin*, VCE providers wanting to offer the VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable (NHT) to students in Victoria are required to apply for authorisation to deliver the NHT. Access to VASS enrolments for NHT students will be available only to authorised VCE providers.

Prospective providers are invited to attend a briefing about the VCE on a NHT on Wednesday 3 April between 3pm and 4.30pm at the VCAA, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. [Register online](#) by Monday 1 April.

Authorisation application forms will be available from Monday 25 March by contacting Renee Whitehouse, Business Lead, VCE Northern Hemisphere Timetable: whitehouse.renee.r@edumail.vic.gov.au or (03) 9032 1750. The deadline for receipt of authorisation applications is Monday 6 May.

Further information about VCE on a NHT, including the studies available and the authorisation process, is available on the [VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable](#) webpage.

Survey to determine student numbers

The VCAA is surveying schools to obtain an indication of the number of students studying each of the prescribed Units 3 and 4 texts for VCE English and English as an Additional Language (Text Lists 1 and 2) and VCE Literature.

Refer to [Notice to Schools 18/2019](#).

Assessment

Training for the conduct and administration of 2019 VCE external assessments

All newly appointed chief supervisors of 2019 VCE external assessments must attend training before starting their roles. School personnel who are responsible for the conduct and administration of VCE external assessments, and are new to this role, should also attend a training session (even if their school has an ongoing, experienced chief supervisor).

Training sessions will be held between Monday 13 May and Wednesday 22 May at the VCAA Assessment Centre, Coburg. Registrations close Thursday 18 April.

Refer to [Notice to Schools 12/2019](#).

2019 GAT centres, appointment of supervisors and principal's agreement

VCE providers with students enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence must meet the VCAA requirements for the conduct and administration of VCE external assessments, as outlined in the **2019 Agreement to conduct and administer VCE External Assessments** form.

Additional documentation and forms relating to the confirmation or establishment of GAT centres and the appointment of supervisors must also be read, completed and returned to the VCAA by Thursday 7 March.

Refer to [Notice to Schools 11/2019](#).

Armenian written examination

Teachers of Armenian should note that there will be a change in the font used in the Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages Armenian examination from 2019. The new font will be Arial Armenian Unicode.

Refer to the [NSW Education Standards Authority](#) for further information.

Teacher interviews now available

Interviews with teachers who delivered the revised Literacy and Numeracy Skills Strand Units in 2018, before full implementation in 2019, are now available to view on the [Numeracy Teacher interviews](#) and [Literacy Teacher interviews](#) webpages.

Vocational Education and Training

New VCE VET program booklets

VCE VET program booklets are now available on each [VCE VET Program](#) webpage. The booklets are to be used in conjunction with the *VCE VET Program guide 2019* and provide program-specific advice for each VCE VET program.

Scored assessment workshops

A series of free professional development workshops for teachers, trainers and assessors of scored programs (school and Registered Training Organisation) will be held in March at the State Netball and Hockey Centre in Parkville.

Refer to [Notice to Schools 17/2019](#).

State reviewer vacancies

Applications are invited for the vacant VCE VET state reviewer positions in the following program areas:

- Integrated Technologies
- Music (Sound Production)
- Information, Digital Media and Technology
- Furnishing.

For more information, refer to the [February 2019 VCAA Bulletin](#) or contact the VET unit: vet.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.

65th anniversary Victorian Training Awards nominations open

Nominations are now open for the 2019 Victorian Training Awards.

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

The winner of the award receives \$5000 and becomes the Victorian nominee for the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year at the Australian Training Awards.

Nominations close midnight Friday 3 May.

For further information, go to the [Victorian Training Awards](#) webpage.

Revised VASS certificate types – VE1, VE2, VE3

The VASS certificate types that relate to VET: VES, NAP and VFE will be changing from 2019. Advice regarding the new certificate types and credit calculation is now included on VASS.

VE1 – VCAA approved VCE VET Programs

- Freely available for enrolments on VASS.
- Designated credit.
- Scored assessment available for 15 programs.

VE2 – Apprenticeships and traineeships

- All apprenticeships and traineeships with an approved Victorian Registrations and Qualifications training scheme for School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.
- All qualifications are restricted. To gain VASS access, Training Plans must be emailed to VCAA.
- Credit follows corresponding certificate type VE1/VE3.

VE3 – Block credit recognition

- Any qualification not in VE1.
- Institutional delivery of any VE2 qualification.
- High-level qualifications.
- Revised block credit arrangements.

Professional development

VCE Systems Engineering professional learning sessions

The VCAA is working with the Design and Technology Teachers Association Victoria to deliver free professional learning sessions on the Wolfram SystemModeler software. The sessions will be held in Melbourne and Bendigo for teachers of VCE Systems Engineering.

Refer to [Notice to Schools 16/2019](#).

Bulletin board

VCE Teachers' Conference

Social Education Victoria is holding its annual VCE Teachers' Conference on Friday 15 March. Focussing on VCE Sociology and VCE Australian and Global Politics, the conference will feature lectures and workshops with experienced teachers and academics covering all aspects of the study designs, including ethnicity, social change, crime and climate change. The conference will be held from 9am to 3.45pm on Friday 15 March at the Melbourne Business School, Carlton. Register through the [Social Education Victoria](#) website.