

in this issue >>>

Changes to structure of DEECD
Jindi Worabak Day
Our Land Our Languages
Community Forums
Celebrating our Year 12 Students
2012 Wurreker Awards
VACSAL Sports Carnival



issue
three
2012

...a quarterly update on Koorie education & training in Victoria

VAEAI newsletter



Our Land, Our Languages >>>

A landmark parliamentary inquiry has found that Aboriginal Languages are inseparable from culture, kinship, land and family and that Language is the foundation upon which the capacity to learn, interact and to shape identity is built. The report highlights the importance of recognising, encouraging and preserving Indigenous languages still spoken by communities in Australia, and makes recommendations including first language assessment of Indigenous children entering early childhood education, and importantly, alternative NAPLAN methods and reporting for students whose first language is not Standard Australian English. The Inquiry received more than 154 submissions, including submissions from VAEAI and the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL).

PaCE forum dates*

Seymour	TBA
Wodonga	TBA
Swan Hill	14 th November
Kerang	15 th November
Mildura	27 th November (tentative)
Robinvale	28 th November
Bendigo	29 th November (tentative)
Echuca	4 December
Shepparton	TBA

*please contact sheree@vaeai.org.au to confirm closer to the date.

Welcome...

...to the October issue of VAEAI's community newsletter!

VAEAI's community newsletter is back in 2012! Our newsletter brings you all the latest on Koorie education and training in Victoria every 3 months – so look out for it!

VAEAI @ the VACSAL Sports Carnival!

The VACSAL state-wide Junior Carnival was held on Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th September in Ballarat.

VAEAI was involved in the marquee expo on the day, handing out VAEAI show bags filled with goodies for all the kids including puzzles, lollies and hats. The VAEAI snapback caps were a big hit with kids of all ages, including Marlu Riley-Brown and



Jordan Proctor (pictured)! Kids were entertained throughout the day, playing not just netball and football but a variety of sports and games including soccer, Auskick and dance workshops.

VAEAI also conducted surveys with parents and carers throughout the day, and discussed the role and future of education for Koorie kids. We had a great response from parents and carers, and collected 140 surveys! This valuable information will be used in ongoing discussions and negotiations with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), and will inform VAEAI's policy and strategic advice to the government.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 VACSAL State-wide Sports Carnival!

Netball	Football
Black Eagles 1	Geelong
Under 12s	Under 12s
Fitzroy Stars	Fitzroy Stars
Under 15s	Under 15s
Geelong	Ballarat
Under 18s	Under 18s

~ The VAEAI Team

Wurreker update

2012 Wurreker Awards!

On October 4 VAEAI hosted the 9th annual Wurreker Awards at the Aborigines Advancement League. The Awards recognise and celebrate progress achieved under the Wurreker Strategy. Fourteen awards were presented to individuals and organisations who have demonstrated commitment and achievement in training and employment partnerships and pathways. The 2012 Wurreker Award winners are:

Koorie Organisation	Koorie Employment Enterprises
Teacher/Trainer	Ashley Egan
Learn Local	Community College Gippsland
Special Recognition	Uncle Albert Mullet
Private Sector Employer	Whelans Earthmoving
Community Based Employee	Lee-Anne Carter

TAFE Institute	GippsTAFE
Community Based Employer	Lake Tyers Health & Children's Services
Local Government	East Gippsland Shire Council
Public Sector Employee	Dennis Mitchell
Private RTO	VACCHO
Private Sector Employee	Les Solomon
University	The University of Melbourne
Public Sector Employer	Department of Sustainability & Environment



VET Government Training Subsidies

The revised funding model for Vocational Education and Training in Victoria came into effect on 1 July 2012. Under the revised model, course concessions will no longer be provided at a flat rate. Concessions are now 20 per cent of the total course fee. For example, if a course costs \$1000.00, the concession fee is \$200.00.

Koorie students will continue to only pay the concession fee rate for courses.

Support will continue for Wurreker Brokers and Wurreker implementation plans. Funding for Koorie Liaison Officers will continue.

VAEAI will be monitoring the impact of the revised funding model on Koorie students and communities.

For more information please contact VAEAI's TAFE unit or your region's Wurreker Broker

Aboriginal Languages in Schools workshop

More than 30 teachers, school principals and Koorie community members interested in Aboriginal language programs in schools were involved in an exciting professional development workshop held on the 13th July - organised by the VCAA, VAEAI and VACL. Participants who were officially welcomed in Woiwurrung and English by Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung traditional owners Mandy Thomas and Fay Muir, heard from members of the Thornbury Primary School Woiwurrung Language Program and the Heywood & Districts Secondary School Gunditjimarara Languages Program - where both schools are piloting Aboriginal language teaching this year. Participants also heard from the Victorian Corporation for Languages (VACL) about the current language situation in Victoria, working with historical records and Community language revival initiatives and methodologies in second language teaching demonstrated by Aboriginal linguist and educator Vicki Cousins. Online resources being developed through a collaborative project to support Aboriginal languages in Victorian schools, including protocols around the teaching of Aboriginal languages in schools can be found online at:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/pages/alcv/about.aspx>.

Early years update

IPSU: Indigenous Professional Support Unit

VAEAI is excited to announce that our application to deliver the Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU) program for 2013 - 2016 has been successful!

As of 1 January 2013, VAEAI will be responsible for the coordination and delivery of the IPSU Program which includes:

- Providing support and training to management and employees of indigenous BBF funded services – the six MACS and six supported Playgroups
- Support to raise cultural competence of mainstream early childhood services
- Developing and reviewing the IPSU State/Region Plan
- Communication and promotion, networking and collaboration activities

Review of Budget Based Funding

In July, the Minister for Early Childhood Development and Child Care, The Hon Kate Ellis, announced that the Government was commencing a review of the Budget Based Funding (BBF) program, which currently funds a selection of early childhood programs across the state, including the Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS) centres.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that the BBF program is well targeted to the contemporary needs of these services and delivers the very best quality early childhood education and care.

VAEAI has lodged a submission with DEEWR advocating for the importance of MACS to our communities and the need for continued funding and support.

For more information please contact VAEAI's Early Childhood Unit

Wannik update

Changes to the structure of DEECD

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) have released a proposal for changes to their regional structure. Currently DEECD is made up of nine regions, however the proposed changes will involve creating four new regions:

Northern Victoria – combining Northern and Loddon Mallee Regions;

Eastern Victoria – combining Eastern and Hume Regions;

Southern Victoria – combining Southern and Gippsland regions; and

Western Victoria – combining Western, Grampians and Barwon South Western regions.

A Regional Support Group will work across regions to assist with coordinating delivery of services, while a Koorie Strategy Unit will focus on strategic programming and policy development.

What will this mean for Koorie education?

Some activities under the Wannik strategy will remain with the Koorie Strategy Unit (based in the Central office of DEECD). Other action items, such as the Wannik Dance Academy and Clontarf Sporting Academies, will be the responsibility of the Regional Support Group. Some responsibilities will be shared by Regional Support and the Koorie Strategy Unit.

School-Community Partnership Agreements

To help facilitate and support schools and communities who have already developed or would like to develop a School-Community Partnership Agreement, VAEAI has developed a set of guidelines. The guidelines, also known as the Koorie Parent and Community Engagement (KPaCE) Model, clearly outlines the steps that schools and communities are recommended to take in developing a successful school community partnership agreement. The KPaCE Model also provides a list of resources to help this process. This valuable document will be available later this year.

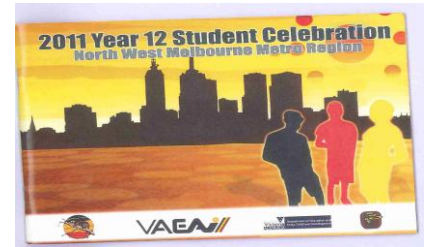
PaCE Forums

After travelling along the Murray River region throughout June-August, the PaCE program is now compiling information gathered from each community forum and organising dates to hold follow-up meetings in each location of Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill, Bendigo, Kerang, Echuca, Seymour, Shepparton and Wodonga. In addition to providing feedback and answers to community questions, representatives from the government, catholic and independent schools sectors will be invited to this next round of forums.

For more information on the PaCE forums and forum dates please contact

Sheree@vaeai.org.au

**For more information please contact
VAEAI's Schools Unit on 9481 0800**



Celebrating Our Year 12 Students!

Year 12 Koorie Student Yearbook

Last year VAEAI published a Year 12 Student Yearbook for the North West Metropolitan Region of Melbourne (above). The Yearbook celebrated the success of Koorie Year 12 graduates. In 2012 VAEAI is looking to extend the Yearbook to the whole of the Metropolitan area. The aim is to grow the yearbook so that in the future it will cover Koorie Year 12 graduates across the State. VAEAI will be distributing information to students on how to be included in the Yearbook. The book will be something for students and their families to keep as a record of their achievement.

Year 12 Celebration Dinners

Last year the Catholic Education Office hosted their first celebration dinner for Year 12 Koorie students. The evening was such a great success that on the 9th October the Catholic Education Office again hosted a celebration dinner for 2012 Year 12 students and their families at William Angliss, celebrating the 54 Koorie students completing Year 12 in Victorian Catholic schools this year.

VACSAL will also again be hosting a Year 12 celebration dinner for 2012 graduates of the Northern and Western Metropolitan regions. For information on VACSAL's Year 12 Celebration Dinner please contact Jamie Baxter on 9484-5310.

Jindi Worabak Day!

On Wednesday 5 September 2012 Methodist Ladies College in Kew hosted Jindi Worabak Day. Jindi Worabak is a Woiwurrung phrase meaning "coming together". The Day brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous students from Catholic and Independent secondary schools across Victoria.

The keynote speaker for the day was Kyle Vander Kuyp (right), who spoke about his life story. Kyle is an Indigenous athlete of the Worimi & Yuin tribe of North and South Coast NSW. At 5 weeks of age, he was adopted by Pat and Ben Vander-Kuyp. Kyle spoke about his journey from his childhood, becoming interested in sports, to training to become a world class athlete and



competing in the hurdles at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Workshops were held in the areas of dance, filmmaking, animation, poetry, art, music, writing, Indigenous plants and building cultural knowledge. Michael Graham, VAEAI's Schools Officer, presented on being a young Koorie working in Koorie education.

Q: What's happening with the Gonski Review?

A. VAEAI has been collaborating with other Indigenous Education Consultative Bodies (IECBs) across the country to lobby the Australian Government to make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are funded appropriately in a way that acknowledges the shared and individual aspects of each student's background and experiences in the schooling system. We have been successful in pressuring the government *not* to accept the Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling recommendation that Indigenous students only attract additional funding if they make up at least 5% of the school population. The Prime Minister has now announced that *every* Indigenous student will attract additional funding! The new funding model will be implemented in 2014.

[policy & research unit >>>](#)

Vaso@vaeai.org.au

Katie@vaeai.org.au

Policy & research update

Research projects

Our research projects into family-school literacy and code-switching are in their final stages and will be available on our website in the coming months.

We have also been working on a *National IECB Network* position paper on pre-service teacher training, in-service teacher professional development and Aboriginal studies, which was presented at the National Forum – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education held in Brisbane in July. This paper will also be available on our website or on request.

Submissions

VAEAI made a submission to DEEWRs Indigenous Youth Careers Pathways Program in April, advocating for the need to provide tailored pathways and transition support to all Koorie



students leaving the compulsory schooling system. VAEAI has contributed to the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Committee's (IHEAC) submission to the *Refreshing National Research Priorities* consultation paper. We also contributed to a speech delivered by the National Congress to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Language Learning in Indigenous Communities.

Working groups

We are in the process of putting together two VAEAI Working Groups to guide the progress of our *Framework for Embedding Koorie cultures, Histories and Perspectives in Victorian Schools*. VAEAI has sent out invitations to community members and industry experts to join Working Groups that will lead and advise in the further development of the VAEAI Framework for Embedding Koorie Cultures, Histories and Perspectives in Victorian Schools. The first Working Group meeting will be held in the coming months.

**For more information please contact
VAEAI's policy & research unit**

...and the Victorian Koorie Student of the Year Award goes to...

VAEAI wishes to congratulate Tiffany Hunter (above), winner of the Victorian Koorie Student of the Year Award at this year's Victorian Training Awards.

Tiffany is passionate about improving the outcomes for Koorie youth. Last year, she successfully completed a Diploma in Community Services following a Certificate IV in Youth Work, and has been employed as a community-support worker and Homework Program Coordinator with Yarra Valley Aboriginal Health Service for two years. Her goal is to support other young people who have experienced barriers and challenges in their own lives to reach their full potential.



Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated

144 Westbourne Grove, Northcote 3070 **Ph:** (03) 9481 0800 **Fax:** (03) 9481 4072

PO Box 113, Northcote 3070 **Email:** vaeai@vaeai.org.au

Registration No: A3874 **ABN:** 44 429 269 156



Got a question for us?

If you have a question about Koorie education and training send it to us for publishing in our newsletter! Also feel free to share with us your thoughts and experiences related to Koorie education and training. Just email vaeai@vaeai.org.au or write to us at PO Box 113, Northcote 3070.

coming soon >>>

- More Q&As answered
- PaCE program updates
- Student stories
- Information on the Australian Curriculum
- What's happening in higher education
- Celebrating 2012!



our staff...

Lionel Bamblett	General Manager
Lowana Moore	Programs Manager
Neville Atkinson	Wurreker Manager
Kim Powell	Early Years Manager
Anjee-Lee Solomon	HR Manager
Vaso Elefsiniotis	Policy & Research
Katie Brickwood	Policy & Research
Mary Booth	Finance/Payroll
Wanda Wellington	KPaCE Officer
Sheree Lowe	PaCE Officer
Michael Graham	School Project Officer

***Farewell to Megan Giles, Naomi Murphy & Bianca Simpson – thank you for all your hard work!**

Wurreker Brokers

Rob Britten	Metropolitan
Barry Fary	Loddon Campaspe
Peter Lovett	Central Highlands Wimmera
Vicki Atkinson	Goulburn Valley
Lowell Hunter	South Western
Jennifer Mitchell	Murray Valley
Nicole Hood	East Gippsland