

## in this issue >>>

*Koorie languages in schools*  
*How the State budget affects you*  
*Good news in the early years*  
*VAEAI unit updates*  
*The Koorie Academy pilot*  
*NAIDOC Week events*  
*Staff contacts*



issue  
**two**  
2012

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

# VAEAI newsletter



## key dates >>>

### NAIDOC Week!

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sun 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012

- *Flag Raising Ceremony – Mon 10am @ AAL*
- *Elders Luncheon – Tues 10am @ AAL*
- *Yappera Disco – Tues 6-9pm @ AAL*
- *VAHS Open Day – Wed 10am-3pm @ VAHS*
- *VAEAI Movie Day – Wed 1pm @ Hoyts Northlands*
- *ACES Breakfast – Thurs 7.30-9.30am @ ACES*
- *VACSAL Variety Night – Thurs 6.30pm @ AAL*
- *NAIDOC March – Fri 10am @ VAHS*
- *Fitzroy Stars NAIDOC Game – Sat 12-4pm @ Victoria Park*
- *NAIDOC Ball – Sat 6.30-11.30pm @ Crown Palladium*

...Please contact *Sharon Slater* or *Rachel Stewart* on 9418 5999 for a full list of events!



1-8 JULY 2012

SPIRIT OF THE  
**TENT EMBASSY**  
40 YEARS ON

## Welcome...

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

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

### VAEAI COM meeting

VAEAI's Committee of Management (COM) had their first meeting for 2012 on the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> of March. Members of the COM including LAECG representatives, VAEAI Office Bearers, Specialist Representatives and other community members made valuable contributions to the meeting, held over a 2 day period in Geelong at Deakin University's Institute of Koorie Education (IKE).

The COM discussed upcoming priorities for 2012 and current issues affecting Koorie education and training in Victoria, including cultural awareness in schools, the development of working groups to support the VAEAI *Framework for Embedding Koorie cultures, histories and perspectives in Victorian schools*, The Koorie Pathways Schools, institutional racism, constitutional recognition and much more.

### VAEAI AGM

We held our 2012 Annual General Meeting for the 2011 year on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May at the Aborigines Advancement League. Over 30 people attended the AGM, where we were proud to release our published *Annual General Report 2011* booklet.

This booklet provides a great overview of all that we have accomplished in 2011, and is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of all our staff, LAECGs and community members.

We would like to acknowledge Wendy Brabham, who held the position of VAEAI Treasurer for many years, and thank her for her commitment. In 2012 we welcome Wayne Muir to the position of Treasurer, Toni Bowen as Primary School Specialist Representative and April Pender as Tertiary Specialist Representative.

### Welcome

VAEAI is lucky enough to welcome four staff members to our team! **Sheree Lowe** is returning to VAEAI as PaCE Officer, **Michael Graham** is new to VAEAI and is the School Project Officer, **Wanda Wellington** is again taking on the position of KPace Officer and **Bianca Simpson** is also returning to the Policy and Research unit.

~ The VAEAI Team

# Wurreker update

## Budget changes

Since the 2009 introduction of the Victorian Training Guarantee (VTG), there has been rapid growth in student numbers in VET. As a result the cost to government has also increased and from July 1 2012 there will be changes to subsidies for VET places. Subsidy rates for VET courses will be refocused to target areas of identified greatest public benefit and future jobs growth. For example, all apprenticeship subsidy levels have increased, and foundation skills, aged care and child care courses will be subsidised at higher rates than arts, design and fitness courses, which are not identified priorities.

All Koorie students eligible for the VTG will continue to attract concession fees under the *Indigenous Completions initiative*. Koorie students already studying in 2012 will continue to pay the current concession fee until the end of the year. From 1 July 2012 all new Koorie

students will pay 20 per cent of what non-concession students are charged.

From 1 July there will be three loadings paid to training providers. For Koorie students, where the student is eligible, the loadings can be applied as a triple multiplier to the course subsidy:

- 1.A 1.5 Koorie loading for training a person who identifies as Indigenous and is of any age
- 2.A 1.3 youth loading for training a young person aged 15 to 19 years who has not completed VCE, VCAL or a higher level qualification.
- 3.A new 1.05 loading for regional areas from 1 July 2012

There is no change to funding of Koorie Liaison Officers (KLOs) in TAFEs, and TAFEs will continue to be funded to implement the Wurreker Strategy through the Wurreker Implementation Payment triggered by their Wurreker Implementation Plan.

## Wurreker Review

VAEAI and DEECD are undertaking a review of the Wurreker Strategy. There will be a comprehensive evaluation of the programs delivered by VAEAI and DEECD through the Wurreker Strategy that support improved Koorie outcomes in vocational education and training (VET) in Victoria.

This review will be undertaken by a consultant chosen from the DEECD panel. The project will commence mid June and be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

Findings from the review will contribute to the development of an integrated DEECD approach for Koorie education and training that supports learner outcomes through a lifetime of learning. It will also support the whole of government focus on Aboriginal economic development as a key driver for social and economic inclusion for Koorie communities. Consultations will involve key stakeholders including community, education and training providers and employers.



The **Koorie Academy of Excellence (KAE)** is a pilot program aimed at engaging and inspiring Koorie students to take control of their education and future.

The KAE began in Term 2 this year, with the official launch held at the AAL with a great turn out from the parents and families of the selected students. Thirty students – 15 from Year 7 and 15 from Year 10 have been selected to undertake a diverse program of social, cultural and leadership activities that will build their confidence and broaden their education horizons.

The KAE is a joint initiative between VAEAI and DEECD NMR, with the current pilot program funded by DEECD NMR with contributions from Mission Australia.

The KAE aims to nurture the next generation of Koorie leaders, academics, artists, athletes, politicians and role models. Once the NMR pilot has been evaluated, the next step for the KAE program will be to roll it out in regions across the state to ensure that every Victorian Koorie student has the same opportunities and support available to them.

## early years unit >>>

Kim@vaeai.org.au

# Early years update

## The early years are looking bright...

The early years of learning are the most important to starting a healthy life long education. Our Koorie children are getting off to a great start in Victoria, with participation in Kindergarten higher than ever before!

The 3 year old kindergarten participation rate has increased from 13% in 2008 to 39% in 2011. 4 year old kindergarten participation rates have similarly increased to well over 70% and in 2011 there were 742 Koorie children participating.

There is more good news in the area of Maternal and Child Health (MCH), where the gap in participation between Koorie and non-Koorie children for the first home visit is *almost zero!* The gap in participation at other key age and stage visits is also getting smaller, and is at 3% for the 2 week visit and 10% for the 4 week visit.

These results show that our young ones are getting off to a healthy, bright start to life and education. We need to make sure we give these children all the support and encouragement we can to see them excel in schooling and in their communities.

## Children and Family Centres

The Children and Family Centres Leader Forum was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> May at Rydges on Bell in Preston. Over 140 delegates from around Australia attended the forum, and CFCs from across Australia provided presentations on their progress, successes and challenges.

In Victoria, Bubup Wilam is already operating and Dala Yoroo has commenced building works at GEGAC.

The Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre Grand Opening was held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June (pictured below) and was attended by over 200 people, including the Minister for Early Childhood Development, Wendy Lovell.



# Schools update

## PaCE Forums

Our PaCE Officer Sheree Lowe has started her journey along the Murray River holding parent and community forums.

These forums are to provide the community with information relating to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2012-14* (ATSIEAP), Wannik and other education programs and opportunities available to Koorie students. Importantly, they also give parents and caregivers an opportunity to ask questions and express their opinions about how Koorie education in their area is going.

Two forums will be held in each of the following locations during 2012: of Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill, Bendigo, Kerang, Echuca, Seymour, Shepparton and Wodonga.

Initial forums have already been held in Robinvale and Mildura (pictured below), and the remaining locations are scheduled for July and August (see top right).



## School-Community Partnership Agreements

Our KPaCE Officer, Wanda Wellington, has been active in the Northern and Southern Metropolitan Regions brokering new and supporting existing School-Community Partnership Agreements.

Wanda has met with the LAECGs, school and community representatives from Reservoir High School and Doveton Secondary College

## Year 12 completions

VAEAI is proud to report that year 12 completions for Koorie students are continuing to increase under the Wannik Strategy. According to data from the 2011 Australian Census, there has been a 53% improvement in the number of Victorian Koorie people who have completed year 12 or equivalent since the 2006 census. This is more than any other jurisdiction except Northern Territory.

While many of our graduates go into the VET sector to further their education and training, 38% of 2011 year 12 graduates enrolled in University in 2012 (*source- 2012 On Track Data survey*). This is up from 22% in 2008, and 30% in 2011.

These trends are very promising and VAEAI would like to congratulate all Koorie year 12 graduates!

## PaCE Forum Dates:

26<sup>th</sup> July Seymour      2<sup>nd</sup> Aug Bendigo  
27<sup>th</sup> July Wodonga      7<sup>th</sup> Aug Echuca  
31<sup>st</sup> July Swan Hill      8<sup>th</sup> Aug Shepparton  
1<sup>st</sup> Aug Kerang

For more information on the PaCE forums please contact [Sheree@vaeai.org.au](mailto:Sheree@vaeai.org.au)



## A Bass Coast Learning Stones story...

The 'Learning Stones' initiative is a project that fosters positive partnerships with the Bass Coast and South Gippsland LAECG, DEECD, Bass Coast and South Gippsland shires, School Focused Youth Services and local schools.

The launch of the 'Learning Stones' initiative took place at Korumburra Primary School in South Gippsland earlier in the year. The 'Learning Stones' launch was attended by parents, friends and community members.

Gunai-Kurnai Elder, Uncle Wayne Thorpe, conducted the smoking ceremony at the location of the 'Learning Stones' space. The students from KPS performed a song in honour of Uncle Wayne, which included a verse in Gunai-Kurnai Language.

## If you're at school...

The Federal Government has replaced the existing education tax refund (ETR) with a new payment that will be paid to parents from 2013 in two instalments - one at the beginning of the school year and one in term 3 (July). A one-off bonus payment of \$820 for every teenager at school and \$410 for every primary school child will be paid directly into parents' bank accounts in June 2012 to cover rising education costs. The State Government has also made budget changes affecting school education.

The School Start Bonus (SSB) of \$300 when

children start prep and year 7 will be stopped at the end of 2012. To offset the discontinuation of the SSB, disadvantaged families will receive higher payments under the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). All EMA payments will now go directly to parents and schools will no longer receive their portion of the EMA. Preps will receive an EMA of \$200, up from \$117.50, students in year 1 to year 6 will receive \$150, up from \$117.50, year 7 students \$300 up from \$235 and students in year 8 to year 12 \$250, up from \$235.

# Budget changes: what do they mean for you?

The Victorian State Budget for 2012 has introduced some important changes to the education sector – but how do they affect you?



# Got a question for us?

If you have a question about Koorie education and training it's likely that you're not the only one! Send us your questions for publishing in our newsletter and you could be helping many people in your Community find an answer. Also feel free to share with us your thoughts and experiences related to Koorie education and training, just email [vaeai@vaeai.org.au](mailto:vaeai@vaeai.org.au) or write to us at PO Box 113, Northcote 3070.



policy & research unit >>>

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## Policy & research update – languages special!

### Koorie Language pilot programs

**Thornbury Primary School** commenced their Woiwurrung Language and Culture Program in mid-May targeted this year at prep to year 2 students. Higher year levels are included through the regular Indigenous Studies program at the school. Lessons are conducted by Koorie Educator Phil Cooper, with the support of Wurundjeri Council member and Woiwurrung language specialist Mandy Thomas, and LOTE teacher Leeann Sartorel. Lessons have focused around Wurundjeri people, language, land and stories, language games, greetings, introductions and goodbyes, including the learning of a goodbye song: *Twaganin*, and welcome song: *Wominjeka* to help with learning and remembering.

**Heywood & District Secondary College** officially commenced their Gunditjimarara Languages and Culture Program at the beginning of term 2.

Lessons are taught by Aboriginal languages educator Yaraan Bundle, and supported by Gunditjimarara languages specialist Joel Wright from VACL and program coordinator Steph Tashkoff. Lessons currently involve all students in Years 7 & 8. The focus this term has been *People and Family*, with lessons covering people, the body, Gunditjimarara Language Group dialects and boundaries and kinship terms. During

Reconciliation Week, classes focused on developing an understanding of the meaning of reconciliation, and learning an Acknowledgement of Country in language.

Both Thornbury PS and Heywood & District SC are pilot schools trialing a collaborative project involving the VCAA, VACL, DEECD and VAEAI, which aims to support Aboriginal languages in schools through information technology.

**‘Ngarakeetan ngan: ngeerang pa peepay pa wartee Nick pa koko Ryan pa kalat Sharna. Ngarakeetan ngan papkoorook Sue pa kooparr Donald.’**

*Gunditjimarara Translation: My family is mum and dad and my older brother Nick and my little brother Ryan and my older sister Sharna. My family is my mum's sister (aunty on mum's side) Sue and my dad's brother (uncle on dad's side) Donald.*



Woiwurrung words



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### coming soon >>>

Wannik: 4 years on

The 2012 Wurreker Awards

PaCE and KPaCE program updates

Wannik teaching scholarships

Koorie Languages in schools update

Student profile

VAEAI unit updates



### our staff...

Lionel Bamblett	General Manager
Megan Giles	Executive Assistant
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
Bianca Simpson	Policy & Research
Mary Booth	Finance/Payroll
Wanda Wellington	KPaCE Officer
Sheree Lowe	PaCE Officer
Michael Graham	School Project Officer

### Wurreker Brokers

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