

VCE TOP STUDENTS CELEBRATED



View of the audience in the Copland Theatre, University of Melbourne

The Victorian School of Languages celebrated the academic achievements of 2010's VCE students at the University of Melbourne on 7 March 2011.

More than 500 family and friends attended the VCE Top Scorers' Evening to acknowledge the VSL students who excelled in their chosen language by obtaining scores between 40 and 50.

VSL Principal Frank Merlino welcomed Parliamentary Secretary for Education Hon Inga Peulich and other distinguished guests, including consular officials, teachers, students and families to the event which is a major occasion in the school calendar to meet as a school community to celebrate the success of VCE language students.

Mr Merlino spoke of the VSL's "significant contribution to Victoria's outstanding record as a harmonious, diverse and cosmopolitan community. The Victorian School of Languages devotes a lot of time and energy to improving the quality of language teaching and in promoting the study of languages. The VSL plays an important role

in assisting other schools in the delivery of LOTE by providing extra choice. The VSL is the oldest Department of Education

Continued Page 2



Principal Frank Merlino (L) with Indonesian students



Portuguese students and Consul - General, Dr Carlos De Lemos



Mrs Inga Peulich (L) with Vietnamese students.

STOP PRESS

2011 Premier's VCE Awards Record number of VSL Winners

In May 2011 a record number of VCE students will receive a Premier's Award for a VCE language. The number of VSL recipients each year tends to fluctuate between three and four. This year our students have received seven Premier's awards which we think is our highest number ever since the Awards began. In addition, we think that it is the first time that Awards have been given to two of the languages, namely Persian and Hindi. Congratulations to our VCE teachers and our students.

Another pleasing aspect is that the Awards have come from a number of different Centres around Victoria and from five of the nine Education Department Regions. The Awards ceremony will be held on Monday, 30 May 2011 from 1.00pm - 3.00pm at the Melbourne Convention Centre and will be attended by the VSL students, parents, VCE teachers and Area Managers.

Premier's Award Winners for 2011:

- Moin Amin - Persian (Box Hill Centre)
- Mina You - Korean 2nd Language (Blackburn Centre)
- Yen Ngoc Bao Ho - Vietnamese (Footscray Centre)
- Angelica Maria Avilla Lemos - Spanish (Collingwood Centre)
- Erica Waller - Japanese 2nd Language (Distance Education)
- Nupur Goyal - Hindi (Glen Waverley Centre)
- Kacper Filip Kardas - Polish (Princes Hill Centre)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VCE Top Students Celebrated; Premier's Awards	1-2
New VSL patron - Professor Joe LoBianco	3
Profiles of Top VCE Students	4-6
Sinhala NY Celebrations: Greek Music Awards	7
School Updates Term 2: Key Term Dates;	8
PD: New Publications	8

Continued from front page

language specific school and it began in 1955 with two languages in one centre."

Mr Merlino (picture insert) explained the growth from this small beginning and the increasingly important role the VSL has in the changes to language education delivery across Australia. "Last year we also contributed to the development of a Victorian languages policy and we are now playing a part in the process to make language education compulsory up to Year 10 level. We are also making our contribution to the development of a national curriculum for languages," he said.



Mr Merlino then spoke of the future challenges created by a national curriculum with particular concern with the under performance nationally in Asian languages. Mr Merlino referred to a report in *The Age* which identified that 84 per cent of Australian board members that operated businesses in Asia and whom had plans to expand there, "did not speak an Asian Language and lacked the skills to take advantage of the Asian boom."

The Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Hon Inga Peulich, (picture insert) addressed the audience and shared her experiences in her past as a teacher and VSL Croatian language student. The Minister explained that "not only do languages have the power to connect people of different cultures but it has power to connect different generations within the same culture. In the globalised economy, the economic benefit to have a population that is skilled in different languages is of enormous significance to Victoria and Australia."



The Minister acknowledged the important role of the VSL and outlined State government initiatives to take advantage of the benefits of language education. "The Victorian Government has committed to introducing compulsory LOTE classes for every Victorian primary school with a long term goal to provide language programs for every government school student from Prep to Year 10 by 2025."

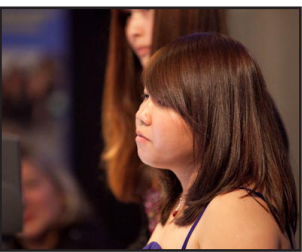
"To help us achieve this goal we will increase the number of qualified language teachers by funding 210 scholarships over the next 4 years for teachers to retrain as LOTE teachers. We will also invest \$1million in start up grants to assist schools as they take up the teaching of LOTE courses." The Minister congratulated the students and later presented them with certificates.

School Council President, Dr Bruno Mascitelli (picture insert), also congratulated the students on their achievement. Dr Mascitelli spoke of how "the VSL model is one which many world language specialists envy and is worthy of emulation. Over the years the VSL has made its cause to promote, defend and argue the cause for all languages." Dr Mascitelli spoke glowingly of the VSL teachers and the technology used to deliver the services.



Outstanding results were again achieved across the spectrum of different languages, the centres and through distance education. Three VSL students achieved a perfect 50 and Yen Ho and Erica Waller recounted their personal experiences.

Yen said "I chose to study with the VSL because I believe that the VSL is a well-known language school in Australia with a long history of academic excellence. The VSL provides a positive learning environment, comprehensive curriculum and qualified teachers." She also pointed out the global, cultural and personal importance of learning Vietnamese. "As a migrant from Vietnam, I am still struggling to adapt to the environment in Australia. Attending Vietnamese classes gave me a sense of belonging, acceptance and also a sense of family."



Erica Waller (picture insert below) said she took advantage of the benefits of VSL Distance Education as "it allowed me to schedule my study time more flexibly around my other commitments. Personally, I found it difficult to stay motivated to keep up with my work at times as I did not have to physically attend classes. However, I also think that learning to motivate myself is a very positive life skill that I have acquired partly through studying via distance education."



The students were presented with their certificates by the Minister. Students who topped the state in their language also received a book voucher from the school. Members of the Consular Corps also made presentations to students.

The audience was also entertained by classical guitarist Tasos Psychoulas and a Tari Cendrawasih (Balinese) dance was performed by Mira and Yana Millane (pictures on page 8).

At the conclusion of the Top Scorers' Evening, students, parents, special guests and VSL staff gathered in the Copland Theatre foyer for a light supper and a further opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the VCE Top Scorers of 2010.



New VSL Patron - Professor Joseph Lo Bianco AM, FAHA, FACE



The Victorian School of Languages is delighted to announce that one of Australia's foremost champions of the teaching of languages, Professor Joe Lo Bianco, has accepted the invitation of the VSL School Council to become the

school's patron. He follows in the footsteps of Professor Michael Clyne.

Dr Joe Lo Bianco is the Professor of Language and Literacy Education at Melbourne Graduate School of Education in the University of Melbourne.

He is well known as the author of the 1987 *National Policy on Languages*, adopted by the Australian government as a national plan to cover all of Australia's language needs and interests. It launched programs in all of the following areas, several of them for the first time in Australian education: English literacy for adults and children, English as a second and foreign language for adults and children, indigenous language research and teaching, Asian and European language teaching, language services such as research, translating and interpreting, and deaf sign language programs. The policy is used in teaching programs around the world today as a model of how to do rational language planning.

From 1990 to 2002 he was Chief Executive of the National Languages and Literacy Institute of Australia (also known as Language Australia). In this role he managed and directed a large number of language research activities across Australia.

He has been a consultant advising on language and literacy, bilingualism, integration of minority children, girls and literacy, and other areas of education in many countries including Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Thailand, Italy, Vietnam, several Pacific Island nations and Scotland. In the last two years he has been working with UNICEF on early literacy and bilingualism in East Timor, with the Royal Institute of Thailand on a national language plan for the Kingdom of Thailand, with the Republic of Ireland on a 20 year strategy to revive the Irish language, Gaelic, and has just published a major work documenting English in China and the debates about its compulsory teaching. Professor Lo Bianco has worked extensively with UNESCO and addressed the United Nations, in New York and Tokyo, on



A youthful Joe (cut off far left) at the 1987 state-wide VSL Conference, together with former School Councillor Sasha Ceferin and former Principal Joe Abiuso

language rights in the world.

He has more than 120 refereed publications including 30 major reports and books.

Professor Lo Bianco has been recognised for his 35 years of international language policy work. He was elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Fellow of the Australian Council of Educators, was awarded the Order of Australia, the 2000 Centenary Medal, the title of Commendatore nell'ordine di merito della Repubblica Italiana. He was awarded the Australian College of Educators 2007 College Medal. In 2009 and then in 2010 he was elected President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

"I feel honoured," states Professor Lo Bianco, "to have been asked to act in the role as patron of the VSL and I thank those who nominated me. I look forward to making whatever contribution I can to support the excellent work and important social and educational function of the VSL. I have sung the praises of the concept of the VSL in many parts of the world and now is my chance to make my small contribution to its vision and standing in the community. I can think of few organisations that so closely mirror the ideals that our culturally diverse society has espoused for inclusion and equality as the VSL.

"It seems incredible that in this deeply global age of history we still struggle to have the wider society recognise the importance of multilingual capability, and yet the status of language teaching in Australian schools is far below what it should be, with low enrolments at the Year 12 Certificate level and every year fewer and fewer languages offered at tertiary level. Even at the primary level many schools have reduced the amount of time they devote to languages or closed them down altogether, and yet as a nation we are moving towards adopting our first ever national curriculum, in which languages will have a central place.

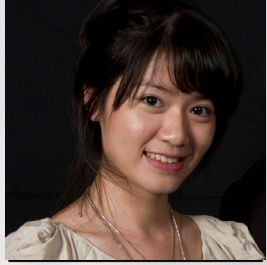
"I can see a productive and unique place for VSL in achieving this long awaited national recognition of bilingualism."



Prof Lo Bianco presenting at a VSL Staff Seminar, Dec 2009

Top VCE Language Students in Victoria

The following students received the top marks in Victoria in their language at the 2010 VCE examinations. In the following pages they outline some of their experiences.



Thanh Nhan Nguyen

Perfect Score of 50 for Vietnamese

My aim is to become a business woman who specialises in international business. Studying a language gives me the opportunity to enhance my career prospects. I will be able to confidently communicate with other people in their own language make sales and negotiate contracts. My personal advice for studying a language

is "practice makes perfect!". Study hard, and try to practise the language with other people as much as you can. Reading books and even watching a movie will help. Throughout the year I put a lot of effort into improving my skills as well as trying to link anything I have learned in preparing for the exam. I'm currently studying Bachelor of Commerce at Melbourne University with double majors in Finance and Accounting.

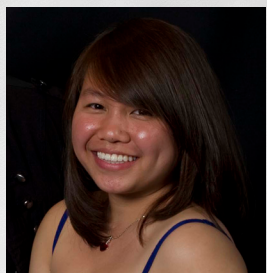


Erica Ann Waller

Perfect Score of 50 for Japanese 2nd Language Premier Award Winner

I studied Japanese Second Language via the distance education section of the VSL, as the course was not offered at my school. I think learning another language not only allows one to communicate in a completely different way, but provides insight into the culture of the country through the nuances found in the semantics of words and the way in which the citizens

interact/communicate with one another. As well as this, I think that learning a language other than English cultivates a broadened and enhanced perspective and understanding of the world. I found the VSL materials to be thorough in content, easy to follow, and engaging. All aspects of the language were covered through a range of activities and mediums. I hope to continue to learn about Japan and its culture through literature, films, and direct exposure via conversation and travel. I also think my language skills may aid my employment prospects.

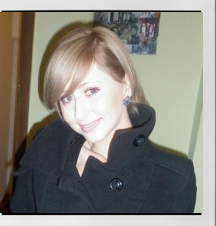


Yen Ngoc Bao Ho

Perfect Score of 50 for Vietnamese Premier Award Winner

I chose to study with the VSL because I believe that the VSL has a long history of academic excellence. As a migrant from Vietnam, I am still struggling to adapt to the environment in Australia. Attending Vietnamese classes gave me the opportunity to meet other Vietnamese friends who had the same

cultural background as myself. This gave me a sense of belonging, acceptance and also a sense of family. Learning a different language helps with communicating with people from different backgrounds, with travelling, increases your ATAR score and opens up career opportunities. I aspire to study medicine and become a paediatrician. I would be very happy to use my language skills to contribute to the Vietnamese community in Australia and if possible, I would consider travelling to Vietnam to work.



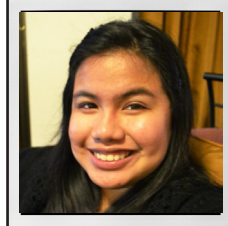
Mirha Muminovic

Top student in State for Bosnian

I studied the language as an additional subject in Year 12 and I was able to use my free study periods to prepare for the class and revise. It was great to have this opportunity.

My study tip for other students is to not

delay your study until the last minute. You never know how you're going to feel like a couple of days before the due date, you just might not be up to it. Studying a language really contributed to my ATAR score. Had it not been for studying Bosnian, I might not have been able to undertake the course I'm doing now. Putting that aside though, while studying Bosnian I learnt things about not only the Bosnian language, but also Bosnia's history that I might not have learnt had I not undertaken the VSL course. I loved it! I'm currently studying Criminal Justice Administration at RMIT. When I finish, I'd like to get a job as a Customs Officer, or possibly even work for Victoria Police.



Joyce Anne Pimentel

Top student in State for Filipino

I migrated to Australia and it was a joy for me to discover that I could study Filipino as part of my VCE. My study tip to other language students is to be disciplined and consistent. I really tried hard to finish the set homework

on time. And because of that, I was able to be consistent the whole year round. Studying languages must also be enjoyable. I liked being able to meet people with the same interests and the opportunity to celebrate several occasions the way we do it in our culture. Everyone in the class became a family to me.

Learning a language has many benefits and it is rewarding. It can help nurture one's culture and one can become truly proud of it. At the moment, I am taking a gap year and working to save up for the university fees to further my studies. Once I have completed studying I hope to become an engineer.

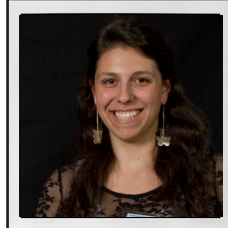


Ines Josipa Tokic

Top student in State for Croatian

I studied Croatian to improve my communication skills. I moved to Australia at a young age, so I wanted to maintain and preserve my culture and be able to speak Croatian. I was able to sharpen my Croatian in an

atmosphere that was friendly and fun. You need to have a deep desire to learn a language. Learning languages takes time and commitment, so you must enjoy your learning. Making mistakes and not understanding is acceptable. You will learn from those mistakes, but remember that the only way to learn a language is to practise, practise and practise. Read some books, watch movies, write essays and speak the language as often as possible. Language study can open up so many career opportunities. Next year I would love to study Medicine at Monash University.



Adi Debora Kaufman

Top student in State for Hebrew

I love languages. I think it is a great tool to have in life, and not only because it allows one to communicate with people from overseas, but it gives another perspective on life. A good tip is to know the structure of the language,

and its cultural meaning. By knowing that, one should be able to make sentences on the spot - creating a flowing conversation. Getting closer to other cultures diminishes prejudices and studying another language is FUN! Since I've studied my native language, I was rewarded by getting to know other people from my home-country who now live in Australia.

I want to become a doctor, either a general surgeon or pediatrician. I am convinced that as a doctor, to be able to help people with different backgrounds, I will need to use my language skills, whether it is at home, while travelling or working around the world.

Top VCE Language Students in Victoria



Nupur Goyal

Top student in State for Hindi

The initial reason for me to study Hindi was because it was my mother tongue. I felt that being an Indian Australian, it was very important for me to stay in touch with my Indian culture and studying my language

was a great way of ensuring that. However, soon after I discovered the thrill of studying a language which is so vastly different to English. The differences in perception, the hidden connotations, and the cultural beliefs associated with certain words really intrigued me and motivated me to continue studying it as a VCE subject. We have already borrowed so many words such as 'guru', 'karma' 'bazaar', 'avatar' etc. in the English language; carry sophisticated meanings and help enrich our language. We could learn much more from learning the whole language. I have now started my first year at Monash University where I am studying Medicine.



Seyhakline Chea

Top student in State for Khmer

I am from Cambodia and being able to speak Khmer is important to maintain my cultural identity. I also want to be able to speak to my parents and relatives in Cambodia.

It is important when studying a

language to concentrate in class, and read all the information provided by the teacher, as it is all really helpful and useful.

My most positive experience in studying Khmer with the VSL is that I got to know more interesting facts about Cambodia and its history and I was able to speak, read and write Khmer better.

It is really important to keep our own language for yourself, family and especially future generations so that no one will forget about their background. It isn't easy to be bi-lingual and it is important that you try to maintain it.

Once my studies are complete I want to work in IT project management.



David Liptai

Top student in State for Hungarian

Coming from a Hungarian background, I chose to study it as a language because I felt that while I could speak it fluently, I still had much to learn. I wanted to learn more about my heritage as well as meet new people

from the same background. I also saw studying a language as an opportunity to boost my ATAR score for VCE. The most important thing is to always complete the homework, and to make sure you do it to a high standard. The more practice you do, the better you'll be.

My language studies will be of value when searching for a job, as employers are increasingly looking for people who are multi-lingual in this globalised world.

After finishing with a science degree and honours in university, I wish to get involved in research, as I have always aspired to make a difference in our world.



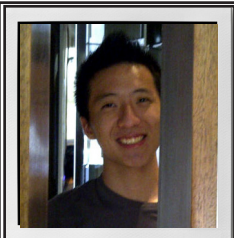
Hye-Yeon Baek

Top student in State for Korean First Language

Learning a language can provide opportunities and choices later in life. The second language may be the difference between you and somebody else who is competing for

the same opportunity. Studying Korean in Australia also gave me a different perspective on life because it is much different here than it is in Korea. It broadened my language skills and I believe it helped improve my English.

I recommend that students should read and write as much as possible to improve their language skills. I tried to read news articles or social columns on the internet regularly. I read at least 3 to 4 columns a week and formed my own opinions. I also tried writing an essay every week and got feedback from my teacher before re-writing them. I want to study Commerce at Melbourne University and become a Stockbroker.

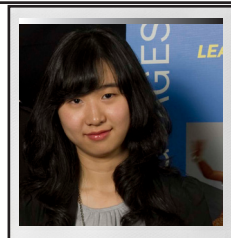


Swardika Angkawijaya

Top student in State for Indonesian

I was driven to study Indonesian because of my cultural background. A language defines your identity, your sense of belonging and is something that you should be proud of. From a language you can learn about a nation

and offer something to other people. It is also a platform to obtain a different point of view through words and poetry. Reading is the most valuable and critical part for language study. I recommend reading different books to improve your vocabulary. I have enjoyed meeting other students from the same background and building new friendships. I highly recommend learning a language to other students. Language is not something you should be afraid of learning, as it is always in you, and gives the opportunity to learn more about yourself. I'm interested in studying music, law or commerce at University.



Mina You

Top student in State for Korean Second Language

Premier Award Winner

I studied Korean because I felt learning the language would provide me with the opportunity to learn more about the

Korean culture.

My tip for other language students is to practice as much as possible whenever you can.

I enjoyed gaining a more academic outlook on Korean culture and society such as the transformation of women in Korean society during the past 50 years.

Learning a language has its benefits. It provides opportunities to interact with a variety of people and understand the world in more depth. You can gain added perspective and a greater appreciation of cultural diversity. I plan to study medicine.



Miku Yokohama

Top student in State for Japanese First Language

I studied Japanese FL to increase my capability to understand and to think critically. I think that literacy in your first language is central in the way it influences your values and perspective

of the world. I improved my language skills by writing many essays on different topics. In addition, it helps a lot in evaluative essays to have general knowledge on current affairs. The study of Japanese developed my ability to think logically. In class, we discussed various events in Japanese society throughout the year. "The detailed study of post-war Japan" for example, required complicated analysis. But it was very interesting as it became an opportunity to realise that Japan's present situation is largely affected by both admirable and negative qualities. I intend going to university in Japan and take a commerce course after Year 12.



Simona Markusevska

Top student in State for Macedonian

I decided to study a language because I believe that being able to speak a second language is positive and valuable in a range of different ways. Also, it was especially important for me to be familiar with my parents' native

language and my cultural background. I advise anyone studying a language not to stress unnecessarily right before exams because it will distract you from doing your best. When it comes to preparing for the exams it's really helpful to start preparing for the oral exam well in advance, that way you can plan out what you are going to talk about and you also have more time to consult your teacher and improve your speech. With the written exam I would recommend doing a few past exam papers that can be found on the VCAA website.

After I finish high school I am hoping to go on to university and undertake a science course.

Top VCE Language Students in Victoria



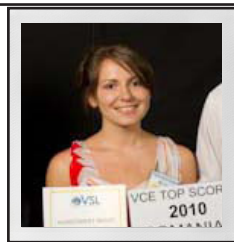
Moin Amin

**Top student in State for Persian
Premier Award Winner**

Why did I study Persian? I found learning a different language to be an adventure. I believe that studying Persian will become very helpful in understanding another culture.

Language study is difficult and my tip for other students is to remember that it is important to not cause yourself unnecessary stress. You should relax. I had many positive experiences with my language study and I particularly enjoyed the social aspect. I enjoyed myself with my friends and I also met a lot of new people. I like the fact that I can now speak to people I would not otherwise have been able to communicate with. Learning Persian also presents me with new career opportunities.

Currently I'm planning to become a brain surgeon but that is a long way ahead of me and lots of things can change.



Naomi Ana Lazar

Top student in State for Romanian

I studied Romanian because I enjoy speaking it and I felt confident about having it as one of my VCE subjects. My study tips include a lot of writing, listening and speaking. I found that rephrasing ideas, speaking the

language more often and reading were a great indication of which areas I had to improve in.

There are many benefits with language study. My most positive experience while studying a language was that I learnt more about my country of origin and I was able to do this with my friends. When studying a language, people should consider that being able to speak the language really well is not enough. It is important that students are consistent in their effort at all times.

My career plan is to one day teach Chemistry and Biology at VCE level and who knows, maybe even a language.



Kacper Filip Kardas

**Top student in State for Polish
Premier Award Winner**

The primary reason for studying a language for me was maintaining an ongoing connection with the culture, as well as keeping up my skills, especially in writing. As a native speaker of Polish

I also expected to achieve a high score and so to improve my overall VCE results. My tip for language students is to have conversations with people who speak the language.

The best part of studying a language for me was meeting other people who speak the same language and making friends at the language school. There are plenty of benefits in studying a language. It allows people to travel and be able to communicate. It can also provide career opportunities and offers a chance to discover a culture (or to maintain one's connections to it). I don't have specific plans yet, but for now I'm enjoying studying History and Italian at university level.



Marija Ugrcic

Top student in State for Serbian

I studied Serbian to be able to communicate with others in a sophisticated manner. Also I wanted to study the complexity of Serbian language in a formal style and really appreciate the way it's formed. Most of all, I wanted

to get more in touch with my culture and not forget my roots. I recommend VCE students to do as many previous exams as they can and also make sure their study pattern is interesting & appealing. Learning a language gives you the opportunity to step inside the mind & context of another culture. It is also of benefit to be able to communicate with other nationalities when travelling and to increase your knowledge. It's a useful skill in general and it opens up opportunities to many more jobs. In the future I am hoping to become a psychologist & a teacher in the later years. My passion is helping people, so any job within that field would be a dream come true.

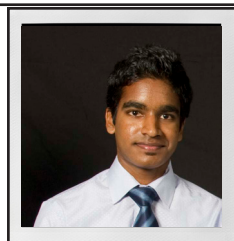


Brenda Silva

Top student in State for Portuguese

I've always been interested in different languages, not only because I love learning about other cultures but also because of the doors they can open. Originally, I intended to study Italian. I had just moved schools and my new

one didn't offer any languages, so I went to the VSL in the hope of continuing my Year 11 language. That's when I found out the VSL offered Portuguese. Having moved from Brazil only a year and a half before that, I didn't think twice about pursuing further studies in my own language. My study tip is to try to be exposed to the language as much as you can. If your family speaks the language, try to speak to them. If not, music, cinema and internet are great ways to practise it. If you want to succeed professionally, knowledge of other languages and cultures is essential. I am studying a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne and my goal is to become an author.



Amila Chathuranga Sedarage

Top student in State for Sinhala

I believe that it is a great sense of achievement to be able to express yourself in a variety of languages and as an Australian of Sri Lankan origin I take great pride in mastering my native language, Sinhala. Studying a language

and culture is rewarding. It gives you a broader perspective on the community and allows you to interact with various groups. For me, studying a language was a great experience as it was a great bonding opportunity with friends from the same cultural background.

I found out that to achieve better results it is really important to complete as many past exam papers as possible and never to leave revision til the last minute.

I am currently studying Year 12 at Glen Waverley Secondary College and I expect to complete an engineering degree at Monash University.



Navpreet Kaur

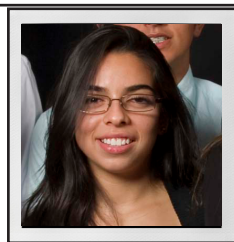
Top student in State for Punjabi

I decided to study Punjabi as a way to enrich my knowledge about my culture. Having a background, originating from Punjab, in India, I had a curiosity to learn more about the rich and diverse values and the customs that my family,

as Punjabis, cherish. My interest in my culture and origin provided me with the motivation to actively participate and to put in the best effort in my work.

I would definitely advise students to find something that motivates them, and use it as a strength throughout the year. Also, consistency and practice, as well as listening to the advice from your teachers, is a definite plus if you are working towards a high score at the end of the year.

I have not decided what I will do next. I have an interest in Health Science and other associated fields and I do hope to pursue this interest at the University of Melbourne.



Angelica Maria Avilla Lemos

**Top student in State for Spanish
Premier Award Winner**

I studied a language as I have always known that it opens many doors to the world. Also, as I aspire to one day be a lawyer focused in the area of international law, I believed that

learning a language other than English would be of great benefit. Learning a language also enables you to learn more about different cultures and traditions. It is amazing the huge range of meanings varying things have for different people. It builds general knowledge and tolerance as you begin to understand others. My study tip is to set goals. You sit down at your desk with a task staring at you, set a goal of finishing it or finishing part of it. This reduces procrastination. When you have achieved that small goal, reward yourself! One day I would like to become involved with the UN where three of the main languages for this organisation are English, Spanish and French.

Sinhala New Year Celebrations

On 9th April 2011 the Roxburgh Park and Mill Park Centres of the Victorian School of Languages celebrated the Bakmaha Asiri Sara, the Sinhala and Hindu New Year Festival. In Sri Lanka the festival is a public holiday and marks the end of the harvest season.

The students and their parents met on the wind-blown grounds of the Thomastown Secondary College and the festivities commenced with the lighting of the oil lamp.

After speeches by Mr Merlino and several guests, the audience was entertained by a number of music and dance items presented by the students. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a range of food prepared by the parents, students and other volunteers. This was followed by fun filled games and competitions for children.

A few weeks earlier, the Northern Melbourne Sri Lankan Association organised its New Year celebrations at the Lalor Centre in May Road.

Congratulations in particular to our Co-ordinator, Mrs Himalee Karunasena, and our Sinhala teachers and parents for their hard work in organizing the functions.



VSL Greek Students Star in Tsicaderis Music Awards



Nikolaos Xylouris (left)



Stratos Gianakakis and Kristen Kalantzis



Giorgis Rirakis and Nikolaos Xylouris

Students of Greek at the Victorian School of Languages won all of the top awards at the last Costas Tsicaderis Music competition.

The awards are in honour of the late Costas Tsicaderis, a Greek Australian musician. Costas came to Australia in 1954 when he was nine years old. He learned to play the guitar and formed a musical ensemble in the 1980's. He performed at numerous cultural events and presented weekly music programs on 3ZZZ and 3XY as well as composing original songs. He died suddenly in 2004 aged 59 and friends established a foundation with the aim of providing financial assistance to promising young musicians.

At the 2010 awards held at the Hellenic Museum in William Street the following students received awards/scholarships:

First Prize - Nikolaos Xylouris, Year 12 VSL Distance Education student, who plays the Cretan lyra, laouto, and mandolin.
Received \$1,500 scholarship.

Second Prize - Selene Messinis, Year 11 VSL student at Glen Waverley Centre, who plays the saxophone, oboe and piano.
Received \$1,000 cholarship.

Third Prize - Stratos Gianakakis, Year 9 VSL Distance Education student, who plays the bouzouki and bass guitar.
Received \$500 scholarship.

Composition - Kristen Kalantzis, Year 12 VSL Distance Education student, who plays piano and guitar, and also composes music and writes lyrics.
Received \$250 scholarship.

Congratulations to all four VSL students. Students of Greek are encouraged to enter the 2011 competition later this year.



Selene Messinis with Principal Frank



Nikolaos (centre) with grandparents, Bill and Lorna Hannan, and teacher Maria Foscolos



Poet (and former VSL teacher) Dimitrios Tsaloumis with Frank

School Updates

www.vsl.vic.edu.au

Key 2011 Term 2 Dates

27 April	Distance Education Teachers return
30 April	Term 2 Centre classes commence
2 May	Final day for VCE enrolment / withdrawal
11 June	Queen's Birthday weekend - No Centre Classes
2 July	Final Day of Centre Classes for Term 2 VELS Report Distribution
18 July	First Day of Centre Classes for Term 3



Section of crowd from this years Top Scorers' Evening

TERMS 2 and 3 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Date	Activity name	Location
14 May 2011	Centres Annual Professional Development Day – Student Engagement Policy	
24 May 2011	Distance Education Certificate IV in Training and Assessment NMIT <i>Professional Learning Teams, presented by Figen Mustafa</i>	
28 May 2011	at 1.00pm – 2.30pm, incorporating E5 model	Thomastown Secondary College
18 June 2011	at 1.00pm – 2.30pm, incorporating E5 model	Sunshine Secondary College
13 August 2011	at 1.00pm – 2.30pm, incorporating E5 model	Collingwood College
20 August 2011	at 1.00pm – 2.30pm, incorporating E5 model	Box Hill High School
3 September 2011	at 1.00pm – 2.30pm, incorporating E5 model	Haileybury College

VSL PUBLICATIONS

The following key curriculum and administrative publications for staff and students were produced late last year and are available

- VCE LOTE Teacher Manual
- VCE LOTE Student Handbook
- Year 1-10 Class Planning and Assessment Book
- VELS Class planning & Assessment Book
- Staff Handbook

The Class Record Book and VSL Passport are printed and available in Centres.

The VCE LOTE Student Handbook is available online for VCE students.

The school also published LOTE specific materials in a variety of languages and these have been distributed

Other New Language Publications or Initiatives

- Turkish 7-8 Student textbook
- Turkish VCE Guide to Text Types

Other initiatives

- New VSL ground floor reception and videoconferencing / meeting room under construction
- German Teacher Assistant arrived

2011 VCE Top Scorer Evening



Tari Cendrawasih (Balinese) Dance

Mira and Yana Millane

2011 VCE Top Scorer Evening

