As part of its schools 75th Anniversary celebrations, the Victorian School of Languages held a reception at Parliament House in Semester 2 last year to acknowledge the support of the education community, in particular the host school principals of its 44 Centres.

The function in the historic Legislative Council Committee Room brought together many organisations and individuals who contribute to the School’s ongoing success. These included DEECD Officers, representatives of the Independent and Catholic schools, Consular representatives, Parliamentarians from the major parties, members of the media and host school principals.

The VSL provides face-to-face language classes for 13,000 students and distance education studies for 1,400 students.

The guests heard addresses from several speakers including Minister James Merlino, and the then Shadow Minister for Education, Mr Martin Dixon. Other Parliamentarians included Janet Powell, Nick Kotsiras, Liz Beattie and John Pandazopoulos.

Guests were welcomed by VSL School Council President, Dr Bruno Mascitelli, and school Principal, Mr Frank Merlino.

Mr Merlino acknowledged the partnership between the VSL and its 44 host schools, their principals and their school councils.

“This partnership is founded on goodwill, with the sole aim of providing additional language choices for students,” he said. The partnership with host schools in some cases had existed for several decades, with the oldest being University High School, which has had a continuous 68 year link as a VSL centre, first offering classes in 1942.

Mr Merlino noted the VSL’s newest centres which included Hume Central Secondary College and the first non-government school partnership at Haileybury College.

The Principal of Hampton Park Secondary College, Mr David Finnerty, also addressed guests. Mr Finnerty was a long-time principal of Cleeiland Secondary College which hosted a VSL Centre and is now at Hampton Park, which has become a booming VSL Centre in recent years. The college is known for its partnership of students, staff and parents working together to meet the needs of students and supporting their active participation in local and global communities.

Members of the consular corps have been strong supporters of the VSL, with consular staff attending graduation ceremonies, presenting student awards and supporting cultural events.

The Consul of the Republic of Poland, Dr George Luk, took part in the official proceedings on behalf of the consular corps.

A final address was given by Mr Joe Abiuso, VSL principal from 1982-91. Mr Abiuso has maintained a keen interest in the School’s progress since his retirement.

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### 2010 TOP VCE STUDENTS

The Victorian School of Languages congratulates all of its 2010 VCE students. The following students distinguished themselves by receiving marks between 40 and 50. Names in **bold** indicate top mark in the State in their language.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>1st Language</th>
<th>2nd Language</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Abodallah Abdallah</td>
<td>Omar Abd-Lelah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mohammad Aldweik Husam</td>
<td>Khalid Gamal Elsaafien</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Farah Jamal Elsabayn</td>
<td>Reem Faiq</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnian</td>
<td>Mirha Muminovic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jingqiu Ada Hu</td>
<td>Suting Li</td>
<td>Yitong Lin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mengyuan Tang</td>
<td>Jiangyue Wang</td>
<td>Hongzhi Zhang</td>
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<td>Czech</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Eliza Amy Jackson</td>
<td>Margot Hellene Lassale</td>
<td>Hugh Gordon Matthews</td>
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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Tamara Anders</td>
<td>Ashleigh Claire Freckleton</td>
<td>Emily Rose Crosthwaite</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eleanor Taylor</td>
<td>Sangavi Thamboo</td>
<td>Steven Mike Voser</td>
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<td>Greek</td>
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<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>Adi Debora Kaufman</td>
<td>Rafael Rapoport</td>
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<td>Hindi</td>
<td>Nupur Goyal</td>
<td>Aastha Chadha</td>
<td>Shetali Yadav</td>
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<td>Hungarian</td>
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<td>Indonesian</td>
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<td>Savilla Lucky Bahar</td>
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<td>Joanna Bloore</td>
<td>Olivier Bolli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Miku Yokohama</td>
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<td>Korean</td>
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<td>Polish</td>
<td>Kacper Filip Kardas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>Brenda Silva</td>
<td>Christiano Grosso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punjabi</td>
<td>Navpreet Kaur</td>
<td>Maninder Kaur</td>
<td>Divleen Singh</td>
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<td>Turkish</td>
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<tr>
<td>New or Emerging Languages</td>
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</table>

To be finalised.
School Dinner and Staff Awards

As everyone who is familiar with our school knows, our Centre teachers are very busy people and do not have much time to socialize with each other while our teaching sessions are held.

Hence our 2010 Staff Dinner provided a great opportunity for staff from around Victoria to mingle in a relaxed setting. The 2010 75th Anniversary School Dinner was held at the elegant and colourful St Kilda Town Hall. The evening’s entertainment was provided by the Paolo Taliana Band.

The greatest strength of our school over the past 75 years has been our teachers, whose enthusiasm and dedication have made our classes special. As well as teaching, our teachers are involved in producing a variety of local teaching materials, publicizing our classes, and organizing VCE seminars, cultural concerts and Year 12 graduation ceremonies.

Despite today’s emphasis on global classrooms and the internet, a good teacher still makes a vital difference to student outcomes. It is widely accepted that the quality of a teacher has a greater impact than the curriculum setting, physical resources, or even the nature of the school itself.

As one educationalist, Howard Gardner, put it: “The most important event in a child’s education is a discovery of a domain of strength of interest. Once this has been found the student can be expected to thrive, and if it has not been found, the student may never appreciate the excitement of learning”. Good teachers facilitate this discovery in their students and support them in deepening their understanding and love of their particular language.

During the night the VSL acknowledged a small number of teaching staff, administrative staff and community members for their contribution in three categories. The awards were presented by Minister Tim Holding, on behalf of the Minister for Education, who also gave an inspirational speech on the importance of language study.

**Teacher of the Year Awards**
- Sandra Mlikota – Croatian
- Anh Nguyen – Vietnamese
- Angela De Lucio Huerta – German
- Thien Basiroh – Vietnamese
- Damayanti Idrus – Indonesian
- Sukhvir Singh Judge - Punjabi
- Enzo Calati – Italian
- Maria Lednik – Polish
- Keiko Aitchison – Japanese

**Community Awards**
- Dorota Paczkowska – Polish parent
- Chandranath Athaudage – Sinhala parent
- Pei Fen Li – Chinese teacher

**Recognition Awards**
- Luisa Lay – Chinese Co-ordinator
- Nazih Salama – Supervisor
- Ali Kasapgil – Former Supervisor

School Council President, Dr Bruno Mascetelli thanked the staff for their enthusiasm and professionalism. He congratulated all who were involved in the preparation of the state-wide dinner and also thanked all individuals and organisations who have assisted in the partnership to provide language courses to the students in Victorian schools.

On a sad note, it was the last VSL school function attended by the great scholar, linguist and School Patron, Professor Michael Clyne, who sadly passed away last December.

*Teacher and Parent Award recipients with senior school personnel and guests*

*Guests, Teachers and Staff*

*Professor Michael Clyne (seated right) with Mrs Donohoue Clyne and guest Tim Holding MP*
One of the highlights of the 2010 school anniversary year was the VSL Distance Education Awards Day.

The function was held on the 4th December 2010 at the VSL Head Office in Thornbury and was attended by students in Years 7-11 and their families.

The aim of the function was to promote student excellence and to encourage current distance education students to continue with their language studies. It also provided an opportunity for parents (and some of the students who hadn’t yet visited the school) to find out how the VSL operates.

For over a decade the school has held a Top Scorers Night for its VCE students but this was the first time that we had organized a function specifically for our distance education students, many of whom live in country or regional Victoria.

The response to the invitation was outstanding and we had a total of 350 students, teachers and staff. Some students travelled long distances for the function, one even coming from South Australia.

The Master of Ceremonies was Assistant Principal, Pandora Petrovska, who welcomed the students and parents and then introduced past VSL students, Mira and Yana Millane, who performed a traditional Balinese dance, the Tari Cendrawasih.

Principal Frank Merlino then gave an overview of the wide range of language services provided by the Victorian School of Languages and briefly spoke about the school’s long history and its valuable service to students in all school sectors (Government, independent and Catholic). Also in attendance were School Council members Steven Dinh, Ian Sutherland and Ray Amos.

Holly Jones (picture insert), who last year received the perfect score of 50 for French, spoke enthusiastically about the importance of learning a language.

This was followed by the presentation of Academic Achievement and Best Effort awards to the students. Special thanks go to publishers and cultural institutions for donating prizes for the students.

The function ended with a series of guided tours of the school facilities by the distance education teachers and morning tea. This allowed the teachers to informally spend time with the students and their families.

Congratulations to Enzo Calati for co-ordinating the arrangements and to all of our teachers and office staff and presenters.

Parents and students went away with a very positive view of our distance education provision.

The following photographs give a snapshot of the occasion.

MC Pandora Petrovska
New VSL Centres

(i) Beaconhills College (Pakenham)

The demand from students, parents and schools for new VSL Centres continues unabated. For a number of years meeting this demand has been difficult without an increase to our funding. The school is therefore delighted that, after a rationalization process, it was able to open two new Centres. The first is at Beaconhills College (Valley Campus) in Pakenham which opened its doors on a very wet Saturday on 5 February. The Cardinia municipality continues to be one of the fastest growing in Victoria and there has been a pressing demand for new classes for some years, especially in the Pakenham area. Following discussions between the two Principals, Mr Tony Sheumack and Frank Merlino, it was decided to start a partnership between Beaconhills and the Victorian School of Languages with the aim of providing a wider language curriculum choice to primary and secondary school students from all three school sectors (Government, Independent, Catholic) in the Pakenham and surrounding areas. The initial languages to be taught are Chinese, Hindi, Sinhala and Spanish - with other languages being considered in the course of the year. For information and student enrolments, please contact the Area Manager Angela Natoli on (03) 9791 9289.

(ii) Cobram Secondary College

After much research, planning and organisation, a new VSL country Centre was opened in Cobram in the course of last year. With the strong commitment and support of Ms. Vicki Nolan, Principal at Cobram Secondary College, the centre commenced with 5 Arabic classes from Year 1 to VCE, catering mainly for the Iraqi community in Cobram. Subsequently, as the community became further aware of the VSL and its high teaching standards, another class was established.

The new Centre was greeted with much enthusiasm from the local multi-cultural community, schools in the district and other interested groups. The VSL has been able to fill an educational void for the Arabic-speaking community in Cobram.

The Area Manager, Ms. Antonella Cicero, along with Mr Khalaf Greis, VSL Area Manager North and President of the Arabic Teachers Association, have organised several Professional Development sessions for the newly appointed teachers to bring them up to speed with current educational policies and teaching standards. Students have embraced their studies with enthusiasm and ease.

The supervisor, Ms Sally Moore, has also been instrumental in the promotion of the centre and maintaining the high standards synonymous with the VSL.

The VSL would like to see this centre expand in 2011 to cater for other language groups in the region. The school can offer additional languages provided there is sufficient community interest. For further information, please contact Antonella Cicero on (03) 9474 0562.
The VSL School Council 2011 Election

The following details are provided to the VSL community about the 2011 School Council Election.

The Victorian School of Languages is a government school providing instruction to approximately 15,000 students in languages other than English. The school's language program is delivered through both face to face teaching in centres across the State and through distance education mode. The face to face classes are held during out of school hours in 29 metropolitan and 11 country and regional centres. The VSL distance education section offers 10 languages from beginners to VCE.

School Council

The VSL is governed by a School Council and this body provides leadership and direction in language programs offered by the school.

Parents of VSL students are eligible to stand for election and/or vote for parent candidates.

1. FOR PARENTS OF VSL STUDENTS

There are 3 vacancies for 2011-2013, and 1 vacancy for 2011-2012.

CANDIDATES for one of the above positions should nominate on the correct form (see the next page of this Bulletin). Nominations must be delivered to the Head Office of the VSL, 315 Clarendon Street Thornbury, or mailed to PO Box 1172 Thornbury 3071, no later than 4pm on 21 February 2011. The PARENTS category also includes guardians or people who have the custody of a VSL student.

2. FOR VSL STAFF EMPLOYED WITH THE VSL MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS.

There is one vacancy for 2011-2013.

A separate nomination form is available from the Centre or the VSL Head Office. The nomination date is the same.

3. FOR VSL STAFF EMPLOYED LESS THAN 8 HOURS PER WEEK

(ie. Instructors/non teaching staff in VSL centres)

There is one vacancy for 2011-2013. CANDIDATES for this position should nominate on the correct form available from the Centre or the Head Office and deliver nominations no later than 4pm on 21 February 2011 to the Head Office of the VSL or mail to PO Box 1172 Thornbury 3071.

THOSE WHO NOMINATE AND/OR SECOND A CANDIDATE MUST BE ELIGIBLE VOTERS.

A LIST OF CANDIDATES will be posted at each VSL centre and the VSL Head Office on 21 February 2011.

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

To be eligible to vote you must either be a parent or guardian of a student, or be employed by the VSL.

The VSL School Council

2011 Election

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School Council

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Parents of VSL students are eligible to stand for election and/or vote for parent candidates.

SCHOOL COUNCIL COMPOSITION

The Council of the Victorian School of Languages comprises the following membership:

- 6 Parents (non DE&T employees) (elected)
- 2 DE&T staff* employed more than 8 hours per week (elected)
- 2 staff* employed less than 8 hours per week (elected)
- 4 representatives from relevant agencies (nominated)
- 1 representative from DE&T (nominated)
- 2 community members (nominated)
- 1 Principal

*Staff refers to VSL employees. (DE&T is now DEECD)

President to be appointed from one of these categories.

1. FOR PARENTS OF VSL STUDENTS

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CANDIDATES for one of the above positions should nominate on the correct form (see the next page of this Bulletin). Nominations must be delivered to the Head Office of the VSL, 315 Clarendon Street Thornbury, or mailed to PO Box 1172 Thornbury 3071, no later than 4pm on 21 February 2011. The PARENTS category also includes guardians or people who have the custody of a VSL student.

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(ie. Instructors/non teaching staff in VSL centres)

There is one vacancy for 2011-2013. CANDIDATES for this position should nominate on the correct form available from the Centre or the Head Office and deliver nominations no later than 4pm on 21 February 2011 to the Head Office of the VSL or mail to PO Box 1172 Thornbury 3071.

THOSE WHO NOMINATE AND/OR SECOND A CANDIDATE MUST BE ELIGIBLE VOTERS.

A LIST OF CANDIDATES will be posted at each VSL centre and the VSL Head Office on 21 February 2011.

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

To be eligible to vote you must either be a parent or guardian of a student, or be employed by the VSL.

VOTING FOR CANDIDATES

For all people eligible to vote - you may vote by post. To collect the ballot papers and envelopes, you need to attend the VSL centre listed in the section below marked - VOTING BY POST OR, for parents in country locations, a ballot paper and envelopes could be forwarded on request by the VSL (Tel. 03 9474 0500), OR you may vote by coming to the Head Office on 15 March 2011 before 4pm. The Election Meeting will be convened at 3.30pm although you may vote at any time during the day between 9am and 4pm.

VOTING BY POST

To collect a ballot paper and envelopes for voting you should attend a nearby VSL Centre at the times indicated. If uncertain, ring the VSL Head Office.

Metropolitan and Geelong Centres – 26 February

Voting will take place at all metropolitan and Geelong Centres on Saturday 26 February 2011.

Other Centres – Between 26 February and 12 March

The following country centres will be contacted by the Area Manager separately Ballarat, Bendigo, Doncaster (mid-week), Gisborne, Glen Waverley (mid-week), Horsham, McKinnon, Mildura, Shepparton, Traralgon, Warrnambool, and Wodonga.

VSL Head Office – 9 March

Staff based at the VSL Head Office will vote on 9 March.

VOTING TIMETABLE

The postal votes, whether mailed or hand delivered, must reach the Head Office of the VSL by no later than 4pm on 15 March 2011.

Frank Merlino
Principal
### School Council Elections

**NOMINATION FORM FOR PARENT MEMBER CATEGORY 2011**

The persons whose names appear under Nominator and Seconder nominate -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positions</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Term of Office**

- Parent member (casual) From 1 March 2011 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013
- Parent member (term) From 1 March 2011 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013

**NOMINATION FORM FOR DEECD EMPLOYEE CATEGORY 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positions</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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</table>

**Term of Office**

- DEECD employee member (now) From 1 March 2011 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013
- DEECD employee member (term) From 1 March 2011 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013

**Notes**

1. The Victorian School of Languages is a government school providing leadership and direction in language programs for the education of students in Victoria.

2. The Council of the Victorian School of Languages consists of 6 members elected to serve for a term of at least 90 days.


4. Parents (non DE&T employees) (elected)

5. The nomination date is the 15 March 2011.

**VOTING TIMETABLE**

- **Voting by Post**
  - Nominations must be delivered to the Head Office of the VSL or mailed to PO Box 1172 Thornbury 3071, no later than 15 March 2011 at 4pm.
  - A List of Candidates will be posted at each VSL centre and the VSL Head Office on 21 February 2011.
  - The Declaration of Election will be made on 28 February 2011.
  - Voting for the election to the Parent member category of the school council of the Victorian School of Languages will be held between 26 February and 12 March 2011.
  - Ballots may be voted for at the school centre and the VSL Head Office.

- **Voting by Poll**
  - If uncertain, ring the VSL Head Office.

- **Electorate of the school** means the DEECD employee electorate of the school and the parent electorate of the school, other than those who are DEECD employees or who opt or are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DEECD employee electorate of the school.

- **DEECD employee** -
  - (a) a person employed for eight hours or more per week in either an ongoing capacity or for a fixed term of at least 90 days;
  - (b) does not fall within the definition of a DEECD employee under the Public Sector Management and Employment Act 1998; or
  - (c) is a person employed under a contract for service of the employees of the contracted personnel of such person.

- **Parent** -
  - (a) a parent of a student at the school and a DEECD employee to whom paragraph 2(a) below does not apply;
  - (b) does not fall within the definition of a parent of a student at the school for the purposes of these regulations;
  - (c) is a person employed under a contract for service of the employees of the contracted personnel of such person.

- **Candidate to complete**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>I am a* (please tick):</td>
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*If uncertain, ring the VSL Head Office.

**CANDIDATE MUST BE ELIGIBLE VOTERS.**

1. To nominate or second a candidate for election to the Parent member category, or accept a nomination for election to the DEECD employee member category, the candidate must be eligible to vote, and you are not a member of one of the categories of people listed in (a) or (b) below, then the nomination form will be invalid.

**TERMS OF OFFICE**

1. The term of Office of a VSL employee shall be 2 years.

2. The term of Office of a person employed for eight hours or more per week shall be 12 months.

3. The term of Office of a person employed for less than eight hours per week shall be 12 months.

**MORAL CONDUCT**

1. The Victorian School of Languages will not tolerate any unprofessional or immoral conduct.

2. The Victorian School of Languages will not employ any person who has been guilty of any unprofessional or immoral conduct.

**SCOTLAND**

1. The Victorian School of Languages will not employ any person who has been guilty of any unprofessional or immoral conduct.

2. The Victorian School of Languages will not employ any person who has been guilty of any unprofessional or immoral conduct.

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19. The Victorian School of Languages will not employ any person who has been guilty of any unprofessional or immoral conduct.

20. The Victorian School of Languages will not employ any person who has been guilty of any unprofessional or immoral conduct.
Key Term 1 Dates

- **20 January**: Head Office staff return
- **29 January**: Centre staff return for 2011 Professional Development Day
- **1 February**: Distance Education Teachers return
- **5 February**: 2011 Centre classes commence
- **23 February (tbc)**: Induction Seminar for new VSL staff: VELS & VCE
- **26 February - 15 March**: School Council Election
- **7 March**: VCE Top Scorers’ Evening - Melbourne University
- **12 March**: Labour Day Weekend - no classes
- **2 April**: Final day Centre classes for Term 1
- **30 April**: Term 2 Centre classes commence

Other New Language Publications

- Two Arabic “Primary Activities” books
- “Coming Out on Top”, Chinese Second Language and
  Second Language Advanced,
  Year 12 Course book & Audio CD (Unit 3, Unit 4)
- Greek “VCE Guide to Text-Types” & CD
- Greek Grammar Synopsis
- Arabic VCE Units 1-2 textbook
- Arabic VCE Units 3-4 textbook
- Greek Junior Grammar Booklet & CD
- French Grammar Chart
- Italian Grammar Chart (Junior)
- Italian Reading Comprehension (VCE)

Other initiatives

- New VSL Printing and Publications Centre built and operating
- Chinese, Croatian, and German Teacher Assistants arrived

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.

TERM 1 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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<th>Activity name</th>
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<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>Centre Staff PD</td>
<td>Area sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-3 Feb</td>
<td>Distance Ed Staff PD</td>
<td>VSL Head Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Feb</td>
<td>New VSL staff and New VCE staff PD</td>
<td>VSL Head Office</td>
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School Council Member

Anne Cavedon receives Order of Australia

On Australia Day long standing VSL teacher and School Council Vice President Anne Cavedon received the Order of Australia.

Anna has been Secretary of the cultural association Dante Alighieri Society (equivalent of the Alliance Française) for many years. Anna joined the Committee in 1983, and among other things, she has been running the Dante Poetry competition since 1984, an amazing 27 years. Last year about 5,000 students participated in the poetry competition. Anna started teaching with the VSL in May 1978 at the Maribyrnong Centre and subsequently transferred to the Brunswick Centre, where she continues to teach to this very day.

Congratulations to Anna on receiving this well deserved award.