

Global Learning and Engagement Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the July/August edition of the Global Learning and Engagement (GL&E) newsletter.

I hope you all had a restful Term 2 break and are now well settled into the new school term.

There are many exciting updates and professional development opportunities to share with you in this edition. We have recently held our first-ever Emerging Leaders Program for students in Years 5 and 6. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm and excitement of the participating students as they are provided with interactive opportunities to improve their leadership, intercultural capability, and communication skills. We also wrapped up delivery of the Victorian Young Leaders (VYL) to China program and commenced delivery of the VYL to Indonesia Virtual Pilot Program where students are building their language and leadership skills, and developing a deeper understanding of Indonesia, its people and culture.

I would like to remind you that applications are still open for our 2023 programs. These programs foster student voice and agency, improve public speaking skills, and enhance the participants' understanding of global issues. Here's an example of a student dialogue session from one of our previous events where you will find the student panel examining local, global and intercultural issues: [Student dialogue](#).

Hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Expressions of interest: GL&E Focus Group

The department's International Education Unit is undertaking an evaluation of the current GL&E offerings provided to schools and reimagining what future opportunities could be provided. These include a mix of student programs and teacher and school leader professional learning designed to inspire every student to become informed and active global citizens. We highly value school input to help shape our program offerings and invite those interested to join a GL&E focus group.

To express interest in being part of the GL&E Focus Group, please contact: Sharon Armstrong at Sharon.Armstrong2@education.vic.gov.au

Empowering Young Leaders: Wrapping Up Victorian Young Leaders to China cohort 3

The 2023 VYL to China was recently delivered to its largest virtual cohorts, involving 111 students from 10 Victorian schools. The two-week online language and culture intensive program was delivered in synchronously by Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) and Meg Languages. The program kicked off with a speech from Amy Lyons, an Australian social media influencer who shared her story of being a food, lifestyle and travel influencer on YouTube and Chinese social media. Amy's story of becoming a social media sensation while striving to improve her Mandarin skills resonated perfectly with the program's objectives and the participant age group. Throughout the two weeks, students engaged in many enriching language and culture experiences, including:

- + 10 hours of intensive language learning
- virtual excursions to the Great Wall of China and Qianmen
- augmented reality Culture Quest on the Great Wall, to enable students to apply cultural knowledge and problem solving skills
- language exchange opportunities with Chinese students
- immersive cultural workshops on calligraphy, Chinese painting, Kung Fu, and gymnastics routines.

To watch the 2023 cohort 3 program highlights, see: [VYL China](#).



Connecting cultures through Bahasa Indonesia: Victorian Young Leaders to Indonesia Program 2023

The VYL to Indonesia Virtual Pilot Program has recently commenced with 86 Year 9 students from Victoria and Indonesia. This innovative 3-week online Bahasa Indonesia learning experience is facilitated by Asia Education Foundation at the University of Melbourne and is led by experienced VIT registered Indonesian language teachers.

The program encourages creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking and is providing an opportunity for the participants to engage in daily two-hour sessions to develop a joint bilingual campaign focusing on good health and wellbeing. At the conclusion of the program, students will present their projects through presentations and will showcase their improved Indonesian language skills.

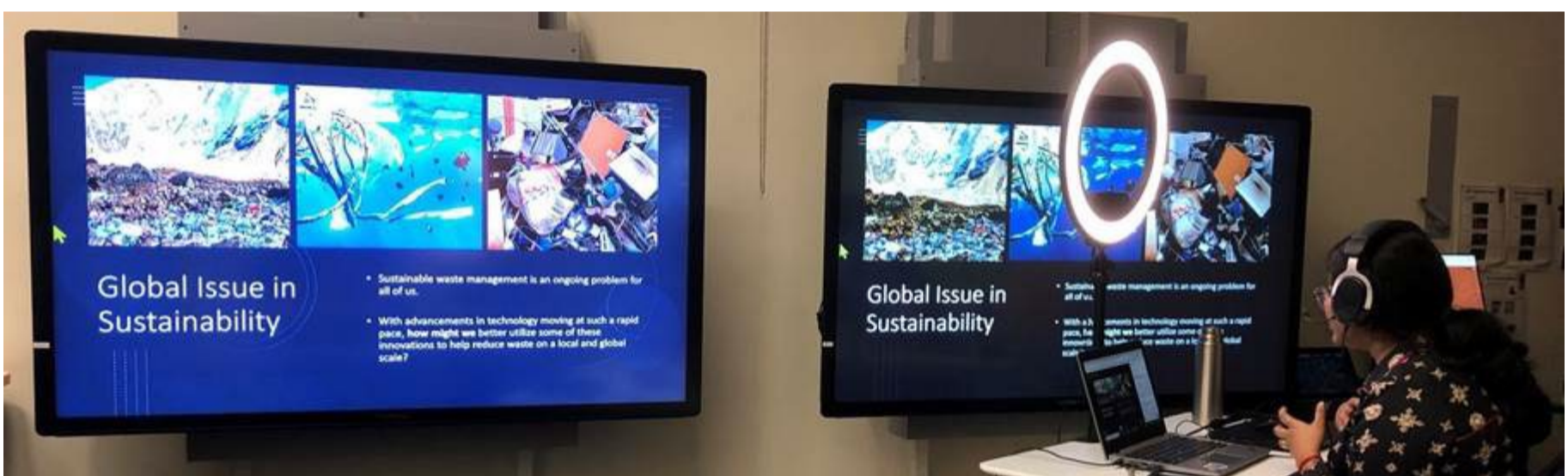
More updates from the program will be shared with you in the next edition.



Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2023

Nominations for the annual Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence are open until 3 September, to recognise, celebrate, and appreciate outstanding Victorians and organisations for their service to multicultural Victoria. The awards will be awarded in 15 categories, including the Education category to recognise early childhood services, schools and vocational education and training settings. It will also include not for-profit organisations for delivering outstanding programs to enhance the social inclusion, wellbeing and education outcomes for children and students from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.

If you or someone you know has positively impacted Victoria’s multicultural communities, nominate them today: [Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence](#).



Tech Schools Global Design Challenge

The department commenced delivery of the Global Design Challenge Pilot Program in Term 3, in partnership with Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC)/Swinburne University. The program involves Year 9 students from Western Port Secondary College, Dandenong High School and Rowville Secondary College, and international partner schools in Akshar Arbol in Chennai, India, and Gateway College in Sri Lanka.

The students undertake two STEM design thinking programs: TrashBot and Forensic Science Online over the course of the term to develop their global citizenship, STEM skills and intercultural understanding. The Forensic Science Online Program allows students to become forensic investigators by finding the suspect in the case provided. The students conduct sampling testing, like a real forensic investigator to explore different fields of science, mathematics, and programming, whilst problem solving with their peers from Victoria, India and Sri Lanka to identify who the suspects are in the case. The TrashBot Program is a hands-on learning program where students explore the challenges to waste management in their school community. The students develop smart rubbish bins prototypes that utilise artificial intelligence for waste management.

In late Term 3, Geelong Tech School will run their version of the Global Design Challenge through the Design for Humanity Core Program with international partners from Hong Kong International School and the Independent Schools Foundation Hong Kong (ISF).

For information, visit: [Geelong Tech School](#), or register your interest at: [Global Design Challenge - Design for Humanity](#).

Principals selected for overseas professional learning program: Women in School Leadership

The department is pleased to announce the names of the principals shortlisted to participate in the Women in School Leadership (WISL) program 2023-24:

- Kim Mitchell, Aintree Primary School
- Erin Norman, Mitcham Primary School

- Tania Sorbello, Fitzroy North Primary School
- Ann Turner-Call, Edgars Creek primary School
- Giselle Allgood, Lake Bolac College P-12
- Josie Millard, Kew High School
- Jodie Bray, Clyde Creek Primary School
- Lauren Harvey, Lyndhurst Secondary College
- Donna Wright, Bandiana Primary
- Sarah Tyrell, Cowes Primary
- Elizabeth Davey, Quarters Primary School
- Sally Webb, Cranbourne Carlisle Primary School.

The schools represent the department's four major regions, including metropolitan and regional areas which will showcase the breadth of experience Victoria's educators have to share. This cohort will travel to India for 10 days in October. The first half of the in-country immersion will be based at Delhi and enable Victorian principals to learn and collaborate alongside Indian principals through a series of workshops focused on leadership, cultural intelligence, and comparative education policy. The cohort will then travel to West Delhi, Noida or Gurugram for a multi-day in-school placement to observe best practice approaches to learning, wellbeing, and engagement. The second half of the immersion will be delivered at Bengaluru where principals will attend the DIDAC Conference, Asia's largest exhibition in teaching and skills. Principals will actively participate in bespoke workshops aimed at strengthening bilateral dialogue on topics related to women in leadership and EdTech solutions for wellbeing. The conference will also provide unique networking and partnership opportunities for Victorian schools.

A reciprocal visit for up to twelve Indian principals will occur in Term 2, 2024. The WISL program will culminate with a showcase of action-research focused on one of the following themes:

- Girl's Education for Empowerment
- Engaging Community for Learning and Wellbeing
- Learning Ecosystems for Diversity and Inclusion
- Cultural Intelligence for Leading Self and Others.

For more information about the WISL Program, how it supports [Victoria's India Strategy: Our Shared Future](#), see: [WISL 2023-24](#), or contact, Sharon Armstrong at: Sharon.Armstrong2@education.vic.gov.au

Professional Development



Culturally Sustaining Schools training

The Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) is offering a free training session for school staff to help them develop a shared vision of teaching and learning. The session aims to explain concepts of culture and identity, eliminate barriers to culturally sustaining schools, empower student, family and community voice and help participants engage in cultural self-reflection.

To reserve a spot, visit: [Culturally Sustaining Schools – CMY](#).

Harvard Principals' Centre in Australia

The Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership (the Academy), through its partnership with Harvard Graduate School of Education, has secured a number of places for Victorian principals and school leaders at the Harvard Principals' Centre in Australia. This leadership program is specifically designed to enhance and strengthen management and leadership skills of the participants.

The five-day workshop will be hosted in Sydney in January 2024 to bring together colleagues from across Australasia and explore research-based techniques and best practices to support and develop tailored leadership plans for schools.

To register your interest, visit: [Harvard Principals' Centre in Australia](#).



Thought Leadership Series

The Academy is hosting a series of free webinars to connect Victorian educators to expert local and global perspectives on education and leadership. The webinars feature nationally and internationally renowned thought leaders in education, including Helen Street, Peter DeWitt, James Nottingham and Bruce Armstrong. By attending these sessions, participants will learn new skills, practice techniques and strategies to enhance student engagement, lead school improvement and positively impact student outcomes.

Schools can visit the Academy's Resource Library to view past [Thought Leadership Series recordings](#) and find out more about the global names and concepts pushing boundaries in education.

To find out more and book, visit: [Thought Leadership Series](#).

For Students



Globally Engaged Learners Program: Connect Global Youth Forums

Applications are open for the Connect Global Youth Forum for Victorian students in Years 10 to 12. The forum is delivered to schools as part of the department's Globally Engaged Learners (GELs) program, to bring together students from a regional cluster of Victorian schools with their peers from schools in the Asia-Pacific. This virtual one-day event encourages collaboration and discussion and provides an opportunity for the participants to examine a relevant issue that impacts both local and global communities. Through this program, students can build meaningful connections and explore the diversity of impacts, how the issue affects different communities, and potential actions they can take to make a positive impact.

For further information, or to express interest in this activity, contact: Supreya Blyth at: s.blyth@asialink.unimelb.edu.au



Model United Nations Conference

Expression of interest is still open for Victorian schools with an existing sister school relationship, to participate in the Model United Nations Conference pilot program. The program offers schools the opportunity to strengthen sister school relationships, enhance their understanding of key global issues and develop public speaking skills.

The half-day program is conducted online in English to allow Victorian schools and their sister schools to connect and work together using the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Victoria Model UN conference format. The program involves an interactive simulation of the UN General Assembly debate where participants adopt the perspective of a country representative and propose solutions to a shared global issue.

The program is delivered by UNAA Victoria on behalf of the department. To participate, contact Sally Northfield at: sally@unaavictoria.org.au, or visit: [Model United Nations Conference](#).

Resources



Doing diversity differently in a culturally complex world: critical perspectives on multicultural education

This book explores the challenges facing multicultural education in the 21st century. The authors, Megan Watkins and Greg Noble explore the understandings and demonstrate that ideas around culture and identity don't match the complexities of the social contexts of schooling in migrant-based nations such as Australia.

[Doing diversity differently in a culturally complex world: critical perspectives on multicultural education](#) is available at the department's Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre.

Key organisations for working with culturally and linguistically diverse families

Culturally and linguistically diverse populations are growing in Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], 2022). As indicated by 2021 ABS Census data, more than half (51.5%) of all Australians are first- or second-generation migrants. To support practitioners and service providers working with families and children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, the Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) resource sheet directory presents a summary of key organisations and peak bodies across Australia, and within the states and territories.

To access this useful resource, see: [CFCA resource sheet](#).

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