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## News



### From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the November and December edition of the Global Learning and Engagement (GL&E) newsletter.

Over the past couple of months, our global learning and engagement programs have seen some remarkable developments and celebrations, which highlight the strong global connections Victoria continues to build.

One of the key highlights was the 20th anniversary of the Jiangsu Forum, established in 2005 to promote mutual learning and cooperation. This year, the forum brought together hundreds of participants from 16 countries, including Victorian principals, to discuss innovations in AI and STEM education, explore AI-empowered teaching, and consider the sustainable development of AI education. These engagements not only showcase the strength of Victoria's education system but also provide invaluable opportunities to strengthen global partnerships.

Our engagement efforts extended beyond China, with further events marking the 30-year anniversary of the International Student Program (ISP) in Vietnam and Cambodia. More information on these celebrations is available later in the newsletter.

Back home in Victoria, celebrations continued with Storm Hor, who was recognised as the International School Student of the Year, Ambassador Award at the Victorian International Education Awards, hosted by Study Melbourne. Storm delivered a memorable acceptance speech, acknowledging the support she has received and highlighting the transformative power of education in shaping the lives of women around the world. Her achievement is a wonderful reminder of the impact that global learning and cross-cultural engagement can have on students' lives.

Thank you for your continued support of GL&E throughout 2025. Your commitment to providing meaningful learning opportunities helps enrich students' learning, expand their perspectives, and develop skills that will continue to benefit them beyond the classroom. We look forward to continuing this important work together in the year ahead.



### **Celebrating 30 years of welcoming international students**

Over recent months, we held a series of alumni events in Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh, Shanghai, Tokyo and Melbourne to celebrate the ISP's 30th anniversary. The alumni events brought together about 200 alumni as well as school staff to recognise their combined contribution to the program since its establishment in 1995. The Melbourne event featured an address by Shirely Luong, alumna and current international student coordinator, who said, "This program didn't just give me an education, it gave me perspective. It taught me resilience, empathy, and courage." The celebrations also gave us an opportunity to connect with alumni over the decades including Katlyn from Strathmore Secondary College, Emma from Balwyn High School and Hok from Wellington Secondary College.

To watch their story, see: [ISP Alumni](#): or visit: [ISP 30 Year Anniversary](#), for more information.

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### **Winner of the 2025 Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award**

This year, Albert Park College has been awarded the Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award as part of the 2025 Victorian Education Excellence Awards.

The college's global learning program was recognised for its commitment to building students' global awareness and real-world engagement. Year 9 students study global environmental and social issues through the unique Da Vinci Program, a dedicated campus initiative.

Students benefit from a rich mix of language study and international exchange, including the International Baccalaureate (IB), French and French-immersion programs, and sister-school partnerships with schools in France, Greece, and Italy. These connections provide in-country immersion and online collaboration opportunities that help broaden students' global perspectives.

The Award recognises schools that excel in global teaching and learning, highlighting Albert Park College's focus on global citizenship, cultural understanding, and meaningful international engagement.

Congratulations to Albert Park College and all involved in this outstanding achievement.



### **Connecting Schools with Indian Communities program highlights**

In the previous edition, we highlighted [Keysborough Secondary College](#) and its involvement in the Connecting Schools with Indian Communities (CSIC) program. This month, we are highlighting the broader impact of the program across Victoria.

In 2025, 7 individual Victorian schools and 3 clusters representing 11 schools received CSIC funding to design activities that strengthen relationships between students, families, educators, and the Indian community. These initiatives have included:

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- Traditional Indian dance, music and art lessons.
- Community and cultural days for students, staff, families and community partners to celebrate Indian food, traditions, and language.
- Workshops delivered by Indian business owners and community leaders for staff, students, and families.

To view some of the highlights and outcomes from this year's grant recipients, you can watch the [2025 CSIC highlights video](#), which captures the program journeys of the participating schools. For more information, visit our [website](#).

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### **Fostering global partnerships through photography and cultural exchange**

Following the introduction of the 22nd APCEIU Photo Class in Victoria in the recent editions, students from Korea and the Northern College of the Arts and Technology (NCAT) came together in September to participate in photography lessons, global citizenship workshops and cultural activities.

As part of the program, students visited Victoria's cultural and natural landmarks, including Hanging Rock, the Royal Exhibition Building, and the Mornington Peninsula, capturing their experiences through photography while learning about the historical and cultural significance of these sites. Workshops led by Korean photographers and NCAT staff encouraged collaboration and reflection on different cultural perspectives. The program culminated in an exhibition celebrating students' work and achievements. Participants received certificates and shared their photographs with family, friends, and guests from the Consul-General of the Republic of Korea, APCEIU, NCAT, and the department.

This collaboration demonstrates how even short-term international projects can foster meaningful intercultural learning and lasting connections. By participating, students develop global citizenship skills, broaden their perspectives, and form friendships across cultures. This aligns with the Global Learning and Engagement Framework, which encourages schools to build authentic global partnerships. To support this, the department offers a range of programs to help schools establish international connections, including sister school partnerships.

To know more about the Sister School program, visit our [website](#), or watch highlights of NCAT's inspiring collaboration: [APCEIU-NCAT Photo Class](#).

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## **Professional Development**



### **Women Leading with Global Vision – Continuing the journey**

Part 2 of the Women Leading with Global Vision series was delivered throughout October and November, providing 22 participants with the tools to use the Global Learning and Engagement Framework and reflect on their school's approaches to global learning. During this stage, participants planned school-based inquiries to embed intercultural capability and global citizenship into their school communities, while exploring leadership practices that reflect equity, inclusion and global awareness.

Building on this work, Part 3 of the program, Women Leading In-country Engagement India, will take place from 7 to 17 February 2026. This immersive program in Chennai and Kochi will include school visits, cultural activities, and professional learning workshops with Indian education leaders. Participants will gain further insights to enhance their inquiry focus plans and develop meaningful connections with schools and women leaders in India.

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To learn more about how the [Global Learning and Engagement Framework](#) can support global learning and engagement in your school, complete the [eLearn module](#).

## For Students



### Global Design Challenge 2026

The Global Design Challenge program is developed for secondary school students to enhance their critical and creative thinking skills, and global competencies through the lens of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

In 2026, the department will be working in partnership with the STEM Centre of Excellence at Science Gallery Melbourne and Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre to deliver the Global Design Challenge activities.

Level 9 and 10 Victorian students will work collaboratively with peers in South Korea, China, India and Sri Lanka to design innovative solutions to real-world problems using new technologies.

A [video](#) from this year's program showcases student collaboration and the practical application of STEM skills in solving complex problems.

For more information and to express interest in the program, email: [global.learning@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:global.learning@education.vic.gov.au)

## MULTICULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL 2026



### Submissions open for the Multicultural Film Festival 2026

The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), in association with Swinburne University of Technology, is inviting emerging and established filmmakers from multicultural backgrounds to submit their original short films for the 2026 Multicultural Film Festival (MFF). Films can explore the differences and distinctions inherent in Australia's cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity.

All award-winning films will receive a range of prizes, including a monetary prize of \$2,500, a professional development session, and screening at the 2026 MFF Premiere Screening in June at ACMI Cinemas in Melbourne.

Entries close on 10 March 2026. For more information on the award program and entry requirements, visit: [MFF 2026](#).

## Resources



### Soundwalks in Mandarin: A creative way to introduce language learning

Soundwalks in Mandarin from ABC Education is an audio-based resource designed to support primary students in developing foundational Mandarin vocabulary through storytelling and immersive soundscapes.

Suitable for Foundation to Year 6, the series blends simple Mandarin with themes such as emotions, nature, problem-solving, and wellbeing. Each episode encourages students to listen,

imagine, and interact with their surroundings, helping build language confidence while supporting social-emotional development.

Aligned with the Australian Curriculum, Soundwalks in Mandarin can be used as a classroom warm-up, a mindfulness activity, or as part of a broader Languages program. Teachers can also use it to integrate intercultural understanding into interdisciplinary lessons.

All episodes are available through [ABC Education](#).

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