

Minister to Attend State SRC Congress

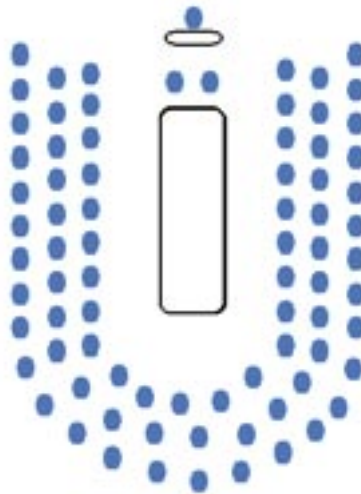
Friday 31 July - Saturday 1 August; Oasis Camp, Mt Evelyn

The VicSRC Congress is back again in 2009, and this year it's due to be bigger and better than ever! As well as students from all over Victoria, the Victorian **Minister for Education** (Bronwyn Pike) will be attending to hear what students have to say and to recognise the importance of student participation in education decision-making.

This **VicSRC Congress** will bring together over 100 secondary school students from all over Victoria at the Oasis Camp in Mt Evelyn. They will represent their schools, network with other SRCs, discuss important issues and make their voices heard.

You will arrive on the first day with a warm greeting of "Welcome, Congress Members!" and then, after a brief introductory session, will take part in games, skills activities and discussion workshops.

The Congress is the VicSRC's key event for the year.



Each day, Congress members will also participate in a **formal parliamentary-style Congress**, where motions are put forward, discussed, amended and voted upon. Decisions from Congress form the basis of the work of the VicSRC Student Executive for the next year.

The **VicSRC Executive** is also elected at Congress. Any students wishing to take part in this excellent leadership opportunity should definitely attend and be prepared to nominate for election for the next 12 months.

Initial offers for Congress are for **two students per school**. Check out the poster and registration form inside this newsletter. Places are limited, so get in quick! Register by **Friday, 5 June**.

Make sure your SRC is represented!

Michael Kurtanjek
Congress Coordinator

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More SRC Bushfire Appeal Action

Camberwell High SRC

On Friday 13th February, the Camberwell High School SRC organised fund raising activities for the Bushfire Appeal. Money was collected by a group of year 12s and year 10s at the front and side entrances to the Assembly Hall where people donated before entering for our first whole school assembly. But that wasn't all. A lunchtime sausage sizzle was also organised for further donations. Again, a group of year 12s and year 10s volunteered to help out with the barbeque. The staff also did their part. After school, there was a function to give a chance for the staff to contribute to this worthy cause.

At the end of the day, \$2659.15 was collected from morning assembly, \$1472.70 was collected from the lunchtime barbeque and \$263.80 was collected from the staff. After deducting expenses, a grand total of \$3955.08 was raised.

Camberwell HS SRC

Canterbury Girls' SC SRC

We were reading the current **Student Advocate** magazine recently and thought you might like to have some details about CGSC's bushfire relief free dress day recently.

We were very proud of the wonderful achievements and are going give the money raised to local affected schools and the animal wildlife fund.

Canterbury Girls' Secondary College's SRC and Social Service committees organised a fundraising event to help raise funds for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. All students were asked to come dressed in casual clothes. We had a sausage sizzle, soft drinks, sushi, fairy floss and lolly bag stalls, as well as the *Renditions* performing in the hall. Altogether we were able to raise well over \$8400. We would like to thank all students and their families for their generous donations; it was a tremendous effort.

Canterbury Girls' SC SRC President

This issue of the VicSRC Student Advocate was edited by Ashlee Frye and Georgia Kennelly.

Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston SRC Cluster Grows

The Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston SRC Cluster continues to grow in leaps and bounds! After launching in late 2008, we held our first 2009 meeting on the 12th of March. We think we may have even set a state record for the largest number at an SRC Cluster meeting, with 61 attendees. A fantastic result for a group that is less than six months old.



The large number of participants at our meeting illustrates the importance that young people place on student voice in our community, and we are very pleased to now have an SRC Cluster which can mobilise student participation and action in our area.

Our first meeting of the year was a chance for SRC representatives to hear from a wide range of guest speakers who enthused, motivated and informed the group.

Sarah Thomas, who recently won the Bayside Youth Citizen of the Year Award and is a Year 10 member of the Sandringham College SRC, spoke about the importance of being part of your community and the difference that one person can make in local, national and international issues.

Sarah Chadzynski, a former VicSRC Executive and local SRC Cluster (Banyule DART Board) member, spoke about her experiences as an SRC representative at a school, regional and statewide level. Sarah emphasised the important role that SRCs can play in harnessing student opinions and voices, and the way in which collective student action can influence government policy.

Students also heard from a number of community organisations (Victoria Police, Youth Connect and Bayside City Council) that are supporting our SRC Cluster and offer a variety of youth programs and services in our region. Already some of our SRCs are looking to those organisations to support projects in their schools or speak to groups of students about the services they can offer.

Our next meeting will be held in Term 2, with students requesting that the meeting have a focus on youth leadership and involve a parliamentary guest speaker. We will also be using that meeting to choose a catchy name for our Cluster, and in time we also hope to get our own logo designed as well!

We're very excited about what the future may hold for our Cluster and look forward to sharing our news with the VicSRC and with other SRCs across the state for many more years to come.

*Fiona Waugh, BGK LLEN
research@bgkllen.com.au*

Western Metropolitan Student Alliance

The Western Metropolitan Student Alliance held their first meeting on the 27th March, at Copperfield College. Three schools were present: Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Copperfield College and Taylor's Lake Secondary College. We aim to help our community and schools by educating teenagers on drugs and alcohol. As a cluster, we felt that we were not educated enough about our wellbeing and it is something we need to reinforce in our community. The cluster plans to have different sessions on the effects of binge drinking, smoking and taking drugs, and we also plan to help students identify peer, media and family pressure.

We also discussed about having a second student alliance in the Western Metropolitan area – with the same aim, and involving regular meetings, and with both alliances reporting back to students. It is a large area to cover, so this is something we are looking forward to in the near future.

Jennesse Cruz

Regional SRC Conferences

Dates have now been set for the following Regional Conferences:

Bendigo:

Thursday May 21st

Leongatha:

Wednesday May 27th

Western Melbourne:

Friday May 30th

Wodonga:

Tuesday June 16th

Kew:

Thursday June 18th

This year's conferences will enable participants to develop Case Studies of each other's SRCs, learn how to develop action proposals and debate issues that will inform the agenda for the 2009 State Congress. Registration and further information about these events will be sent to relevant regional schools early in Term 2.

Other Areas

Further conferences are in the pipeline for **Whittlesea, Bayside** and **Seymour** but dates for these events have not yet been confirmed.

If none of these locations are close enough to you and you are able to assist with hosting or organising a conference in your area, please contact the VicSRC on **03 9267 3744** or email **conferences@vicsrc.org.au**

New VicSRC Web Domain

It's simpler, easier to remember and more direct!

The VicSRC has a new web domain.
You can now find us at:

www.vicsrc.org.au

Tri-UMPH Festival: Tri-schools United Making Poverty History

September 1st 2008: A Festival inspired by youth to reach out to the local community and to people suffering poverty

There was nothing small about the TriUMPH Festival for the three Catholic secondary schools from the city of Geelong: Sacred Heart College, St. Joseph's College and Clonard College.



Tri-schools United to Make Poverty History, or **TriUMPH** for short, was a one day music festival held on September 1st, 2008 to raise much needed funds for the Viqueque region of East Timor. The idea was initiated by a group of year 12 leaders from the three colleges as a way of bringing the three communities closer together. What it grew into was something that none of us would have believed possible back in October of 2007.

Regular meetings during the summer holidays resulted in the plan for the three schools to get together for a day of music and socialising, with a good cause being supported by the profits and some much needed awareness being raised. In nearly 12 months it took the efforts of over 30 committed students and a dozen staff to put the day

together, with the committee meeting every Wednesday for two to three hours. What we created has become history.

Monday September 1st saw over 3500 students and 400 staff congregate on the ovals of St Joseph's college, where two stages had been decked out with sound systems, 5-metre TV screens, portaloos, aid organisation stalls and dozens of food vendors from the Geelong region. "The food was great and the *Galvatrons* rocked" was the conclusion of a group of beaming Year 7 students. The happiness was also evident in the senior year levels, as heard from a very content Year 12 class: "let's do this every day."

Students were asked to purchase a hand-made wristband from the slums of Kenya as an entrance pass, costing \$10

for junior students and \$15 for seniors. Together with t-shirt sales and significant personal donations this has resulted in an expected amount of \$50,000 for the East Timorese cause. The funds, which will be distributed through *Caritas*, are in support of several health, training and education projects.

The Galvatrons, Borne, Carus, Sleep Decade, the Basics, Sol Nation and Perfect Fit all generously donated their time to perform for the crowds, entertaining a captivated audience.

TriUMPH was a massive success for all involved and the resounding feeling of the organising committee was one of pride. More than once we had heard that such a big idea would never come to fruition and that we were crazy for believing that a student-run event could be held without incident. We proved that the sky is the limit when trust is placed in the student leadership team.

The great passion of students in leadership roles can produce the most memorable and significant events in a school community when combined with the support and backing of the school administration team.

Damian Flanders

St Joseph's College, School Captain

Renee Pirrottina and Aleisha Smith

Clonard College, Joint School Captains

Jess Kearney

Sacred Heart College, Vice Captain

Idea File:

Consumer Affairs - Youth Talks

Consumer education and financial literacy are critical skills in today's society. Consumer Affairs Victoria Community Educators give FREE talks and workshops that are practical, fun, scientific, effective and free. Topics covered in the talk include: consumerism, shopping and services, mobile phones, credit and debt, buying a car, renting and tenancy and scams.

An SRC can book someone to come in for a free talk. Contact 8684 6465 or communityed@justice.vic.gov.au

VicSRC Members

The VicSRC welcomes the following new members:

- *Ballarat Secondary College - East Campus;*
- *Bright P-12 College;*
- *Daylesford Secondary College;*
- *Drouin Secondary College;*
- *Girton Grammar School;*
- *Hillcrest Christian College;*
- *Padua College - Rosebud Campus;*
- *Princes Hill Secondary College;*
- *Sale College - Guthridge Campus;*
- *Sandringham College - Beaumaris Campus;*
- *Templestowe College;*
- *Vermont Secondary College*

Join the VicSRC

If you receive this newsletter, it doesn't mean you're a member of the VicSRC! It is sent to all secondary colleges in Victoria, four times a year. VicSRC members also receive copies of *Connect* magazine every two months (one is about to be mailed to the SRC - later in April), plus discounts to all VicSRC events, discounts on training through *Second Strike* (VicSRC partner), membership to *YACVic* and *YouthLaw*, plus many other benefits ... If in doubt, phone the VicSRC office and check your membership status.

Not a member? Become one NOW!

You should join the VicSRC because ...

- ***we all benefit from working together - we can help each other;***
- ***we can speak more confidently to the Government on behalf of secondary students;***
- ***there are great economic and practical benefits for your SRC.***

Check the VicSRC website for membership details and forms:

www.vicsrc.org.au

Meet Some Executive Members:

Jeffery Sun

I'm from Wodonga Senior Secondary College. I am in Year 12 and am in my school's SLC. I have been on the Student Council not only in Australia but in China as well for many years.



My teacher told me about the VicSRC and then I went to Congress. I joined the Exec because I was interested in what the VicSRC does. My portfolios are: Liaison with Other Groups and Resolution 15.

I play the violin, which I have been playing since I was six years old.

Monique Hemman

I'm in Year 12 at Templestowe College. Last year was the first year I managed to get on our oh-so-popular SRC and I am so happy that I was able to do so. On the SRC I have done a lot of fundraising and created a new logo for our new school canteen, now known as Café 08.



This was the first I had heard of the VicSRC and I am thrilled that I was able to be a part of the new Executive for 08/09. I was allowed to be the meeting organiser and I am in charge of the minutes and agenda at the VicSRC. I really like Batman. PS: I am not a nerd, but you may call me a geek.

Ryan Lim

I'm in Year 10 at Taylors Lakes Secondary College. I have been on the SRC for three years now and I really enjoy it. Since I have been on the SRC, I have been involved in Mental Health Week, which I really enjoyed – it was really quite fun.



My portfolios for the VicSRC are SRC Assistance and the mysterious Resolution 16. I am better than David.

Contact us:

The **VicSRC** is based at the *Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic)* and can be reached there on 03 **9267 3744** or, for the cost of a local call from outside Melbourne on **1300 727 176** or by email: vicsrc@yacvic.org.au