



Represent! SRC Resource Kit

In the coming months SRCs around the state will be receiving their very own, brand spanking new copies of **Represent!**, a Resource Kit for SRCs, students and teachers. The kit was put together by some of the most experienced SRC students and teachers from across the state.

The kit itself is split into six sections and contains information – from **setting up an SRC at your school**, right to great **templates** to enhance your SRC meetings, to make even the most advanced SRC more effective in representing their students' needs and interests.

Part 1 introduces the concept of SRCs and the need for them in schools, and outlines the qualitative characteristics of an effective SRC. **Part 2** expands on this idea and goes into the nitty gritty of how to establish an SRC at your school – which is also useful for established SRCs to review their own processes of brainstorming, decision-making and taking action. **Part 3** is a must read for everybody on the SRC as it discusses the day-to-day doings of an SRC, and most importantly the role of the representative within the school and the SRC itself, reminding students it's not all pretty horses and rainbows on SRC. **Part 4** talks about the needs of the SRC not only in financial terms, but also in human resources and investing in training to create more effective representatives. **Parts 5 and 6** are used as endnotes containing all the templates that an SRC can use in meetings.

Whilst this is just a brief summary of the Resource Kit, it is by no means complete. For even the most experienced SRCs or for the student wanting to start an SRC, the Resource Kit is great for handy hints, tips, tricks, hoodwinks and bamboozles. At the VicSRC we use the Kit as a benchmark to ensure that we, as an organisation, are running as effectively as we can in representing the interests of over 50,000 students in Victoria. This year we encourage all students to take the time to read through **Represent!** in the knowledge that it'll reignite your SRC fire.

Megan Shellie

VicSRC Executive Member 2010/11

VicSRC Competition!



A first ever for the VicSRC – we're holding a competition for all SRCs across the state to enter! Great prizes are up for grabs – including a **Flip HD video camera and a Lenovo netbook computer** generously donated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Here's what your SRC needs to do: **create a digital video promoting your SRC and the benefit of having a strong and involved SRC at your school.**



We want to hear about what you think makes a great SRC and why your school SRC fits this description. Give us your tips for creating strong student representation and participation at your school.

Be creative! Your video could be in the format of an advertisement, a news presentation, a documentary or whatever you feel is the best way to communicate your ideas! Have fun and involve as many students as possible.

The video must be 3 minutes in length and in digital format to be eligible to win.

What better way to get your SRC motivated for the year ahead than to take part in our competition!?

The competition opens on **February 8th** and entries are due on **Friday 20th of May**. Winners announced in early June.

Further details about the competition will be available on the VicSRC website from the 8th of February: www.vicsrc.org.au



Inside

- 2 VicSRC Recognition Awards
- 2 BGK Cluster Meeting
- 3 VicSRC Website Relunched
- 3 SRC Leadership Camp
- 4 SRC Executive Members
- 4 VicSRC Poster



VicSRC Recognition Awards 2011

Think your SRC does an awesome job at representing students?

Has your SRC completed a successful special project in your community?

Do you think your SRC deserves **RECOGNITION**?

After the success of 2010's Awards, the VicSRC is once again offering our **SRC Recognition Awards** to acknowledge SRCs across Victoria that are making valuable contributions to their schools and communities through student representation.

Awards will be given in *four* categories in 2011:

- The **Connect** Award for *Integration*, recognising SRCs that are strongly connected to the school's decision-making processes, that are strongly responsive to student needs and voices, and that is linked strongly with the School Council/Board and its committees.
- The **Second Strike** Award for *Enterprise*, recognising SRCs that, through use of strategic planning and strong leadership structures, have completed a highly successful school or community project.
- The **VASSP** Award for *Informed Representation*, recognising SRCs that are truly democratic and fully representative of students.

We are pleased to announce a *new category* for our recognition awards – the **VISTA** Award for *Outstanding Teacher Adviser*, sponsored by the Victorian Institute of SRC Teacher Advisors (VISTA).

- The **VISTA** Award seeks to recognise and highlight the support that teachers provide to Student Councils.

Schools may apply for more than one award.

We highly recommend that students are involved in writing your awards application. Extra credit will be given to applications written by students.

So what happens if we win?

Your SRC will be presented with a plaque and will receive a one-year free membership to the VicSRC, normally valued at \$70. Benefits of membership include discounts at VicSRC events, \$75 off Second Strike SRC Training Days, free subscription to *Connect* Magazine and membership to a heap of other youth organisations. We may even use an interview with your SRC to create a case study outlining SRC best practice!

Applications will open from **15th March** and are due on the **10th of June**. Finalists will be contacted in mid June and winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2011 VicSRC Congress (**August 5-7**).

Application forms will be available from the VicSRC website and on request from the VicSRC coordinator: coordinator@vicsrc.org.au

Bayside-Kingston-Glen Eira Cluster

On 12th of December 2010, a Bayside-Kingston-Glen Eira cluster meeting was held in Highett. Students from at least nine different schools participated, bringing forth some great ideas and opinions and having a whole lot of fun. Like many other local clusters, the day was facilitated by Erin Young (VicSRC Conference Facilitator) and accompanied by several executive members.

Although we began with a late start, the day ran smoothly. Ice breaker activities, such as team bridge building and speed dating, allowed everyone to warm up to each other. Jumping right into activities, the focus was based around *Individuality*. Everyone had to write something they thought they brought to the cluster on a sticky note, and stick it up on a wall. Some good discussions also came about relating to personal decisions and influences. Another activity included brainstorming ways to encourage individuals at school to feel confident about themselves. This resulted in some interesting conclusions, such as a brand new *YOUUnique* program and the establishment of Role Models.

Over break time, cookies and juice were a great addition while everyone got a chance to socialise with newly made friends. The day involved many other activities, but finished off with a mini Congress. Students teamed up to discuss 'change not charity' and created motions around issues like body image, discrimination, violence, safety and more. It was fantastic to see people cooperating and getting along so well with fellow students they'd never met before. The day was a success and I personally enjoyed every minute of it.

If you would like to host or seek more information about clusters in your area, feel free to contact Kate Walsh at coordinator@vicsrc.org.au or visit www.vicsrc.org.au for upcoming events. I highly recommend this beneficial and enjoyable event, which promotes youth leadership within and between local schools. Without students to participate, there would be no cluster, so don't hesitate! Looking forward to seeing new faces.

Shaf Shariff

VicSRC Exec
2010/11



Come On, Click On!

VicSRC Website

The VicSRC has relaunched our new improved website.

We have refreshed its look to give it a fresher vibe and to make it easier to navigate through our pages.

The website upgrade coincides with a new VicSRC Executive, new resolutions, new resources and new achievements.

The relaunch significantly enhances our communication with all schools and provides a greater variety of tools and resources for both students and teachers.



Furthermore, it allows the VicSRC a greater presence on the world wide web and creates a more effective space for our voices to be heard.

The quality, presentation and useability of this site has dramatically increased. It contains information on who we are, Student Executive members and their portfolios, how far we have come, upcoming events and conferences, issues affecting schools, resources established by the VicSRC (such as **Represent!**, the VicSRC **Environmental Resource Kit** and **Principal Resource Kit**) and a variety of other resources.

Our new website also offers the opportunity for you and your school to participate in monthly polls and become a member of our *Facebook* and *Twitter* pages.

Check it out:

www.vicsrc.org.au

Elizabeth Kalas
VicSRC Executive
Website Portfolio

What is the VicSRC?

The VicSRC (Victorian Student Representative Council) consists of students from across Victoria who have set up a democratic network of SRCs. We are working to strengthen the capacity of all SRCs to speak and take action on behalf of secondary students. The VicSRC is a membership-based organisation, entirely student owned and run, and supported by many organisations and individuals. Its work is funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Join the VicSRC

There are many practical benefits from being a VicSRC member. You get copies of *Connect* magazine every two months (a copy will be mailed to member schools in February), plus discounts to all VicSRC events, discounts on training through *Second Strike* (a VicSRC partner), membership to *YACVic* and *YouthLaw*, plus many other benefits ... If in doubt, phone the VicSRC office and check your membership status.

By joining the VicSRC:

- 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.

Not a member? Become one NOW!

Membership forms are on the VicSRC website:

www.vicsrc.org.au

SRC Leadership Camp

Ever thought of having an **SRC Leadership Camp** to kick off a great year? This could be held at the start of the year or at the end of the previous year. We had one last October at our school and it provided lots of ideas and plans for this year. Here are some details:

Twenty determined students from Narre Warren South P-12 College attended their first Leadership Camp in 2010. Students ranging from Years 9 to 11 attended a week-long camp at Nayook Outdoor Education Centre and returned with an experience which really tested their limits and strengthened their bonds.

Some activities included orienteering, rock climbing, underground caving, backpack hiking, overnight camping, and low and high ropes courses. Amidst these activities, everyone was assigned roles such as navigators or someone in charge of environmental awareness for example, which meant full involvement and a chance to take charge. Aside from physically leading, it was

learnt that leadership could be portrayed through bravery, smart thinking, positive motivation and much more. Many challenges that were faced were overcome through strong teamwork, an important aspect of the camp. 'Thinking outside the box' was also something that students learnt to do.

Overall, it was a valuable and enjoyable time. It is recommended that they should start leadership camps at their own schools. If you wish to know more about setting up a leadership camp, feel free to contact me at shafshariff@hotmail.com or visit www.rubicon.vic.edu.au and follow the links to the Nayook campus. Happy camping!

Shaf Shariff
VicSRC Exec 2010/11

SRC Training

VicSRC partner *Second Strike* offers training for SRC teachers and students, and for form, house and school captains. For details of their 2011 program, see their website: www.second-strike.com

Meet some VicSRC Executive Members

Kimberly Pellosis

(Year 12 at Frankston High School)

I love my sport, coffee and science and I recently moved here from the Philippines, the personal shopping capital of my world. I joined the VicSRC to challenge myself, as the chance to represent your views is an exciting privilege and opportunity to be proactive and make a difference.



Tim Eric

(Year 11 at Frankston High School)

I joined the VicSRC because I wanted to help change schooling for the better. I'm a very determined person; once I plan, think or join something I don't give up, and I can talk at supersonic speeds apparently. So in a nutshell that's me; no, me in a nutshell would panic.



Ellie Patterson

(Year 10 at Melbourne Girls' College)

I moved here from a small English village near Oxford last year and have since moved into a popular Melbourne suburb full of quirky individuals. I joined the VicSRC to enhance student voice and representation in schools around Victoria! At school, I particularly enjoy learning French and PE, and I play clarinet at grade 5.



Megan Shellie

(Year 12 at Mentone Girls Grammar School)

I joined the VicSRC because I love being involved and helping out, and so far it's been an awesome experience. My life ambition is to write a tell-all book, that becomes a worldwide box office smash and creates a spin-off TV series and/or Broadway show. Surely it can't be that hard.



SRC Poster for your SRC noticeboard

The VicSRC is pleased to unveil our first poster – that recognises the importance of student voice within schools. Every secondary school within Victoria will be receiving a copy of the poster, along with our latest publication **Represent!**

The poster was designed by Executive members Elizabeth Kalas and Samantha Mountford, working with Joe Collier, Communications Officer from the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria to create the final product.



Please put the poster up in a prominent location within your school to draw attention to your SRC and the fantastic job you do as the voice of students, and to the

importance of the SRC role within your school.

Thanks to Princes Hill Secondary College for allowing us to carry out a photo shoot at their school and also to Rosa Coyle-Hayward and David Mould for the photography.

Additional copies of the poster are available for A3 and A4 PDF download from our website: www.vicsrc.org.au

Jenesse Cruz

Every now and then some exceptional people are discovered who do great things and ask for nothing in return. It is sad that we have to bid goodbye to *Jenesse Cruz* who has left her position on the VicSRC Executive to concentrate on her studies. Jen has played a proactive part with the Exec for three years, successfully completing various portfolios and contributing towards many VicSRC achievements. Her dedication, passion and desire for change are qualities which will be missed. We shall cherish all the experiences we had together, as we wish her the best of luck with her future endeavours. Thanks Jen; we know you will do great things.



VicSRC Executive 2010/11

Contact us:

The **VicSRC** is supported by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. It is auspiced by and 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

For more information:

Check the **VicSRC** website for membership details and forms:

www.vicsrc.org.au