



# Conference 2010 Report

prepared by Linnet Hunter    Education Officer

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# 1. Overview

## 1.1 Introduction

The VALA conference for 2010 was held on March 19, at Rydges Bell City Preston was generally hailed as a great success and generated many conversations and positive feedback. This report summarises the event, the range and scope of the day, the new features of the conference added this year and looks at the lessons learned from the continually evolving and developing professional development that VALA provides through this one-day focus.

## 1.2 Themes

The conference was organised around four themes brought together under the title, Learning on the EDGE. The themes were:

- ◆ Technology: an exploration of the links between technology and its role and useful application as an applied learning tool
- ◆ Designing futures: applied learning curriculum, units and module designs that engage and enable young learners
- ◆ Sustainability: innovative approaches to incorporating models of sustainability of resources ( including applied learning teachers)
- ◆ Narrative of learning: successful stories of skill building approaches to inspire and invigorate.

## 1.3 Call for papers

A call for papers was sent out this year to encourage presenters from a range of backgrounds to apply and to enable the organisers to create a program with scope and depth that related directly to the advertised themes. The structure of the day required approximately 4 X 10 workshops (40) and 38 applications were received. Extra presenters were sought out and solicited.

## 1.4 Venue

The organisation of the conference began in mid 2009 with a search for an alternative venue to Moonee Valley Racecourse as a result of feedback received regarding that venue. Rydges Bell City was selected as it can accommodate the multitude of concurrent sessions.

## 1.5 Keynote

The keynote speech was entitled Engaging at the Edge and was given by Andrew Douch. See [http://web.mac.com/andrewdouch/Site/About\\_Andrew.html](http://web.mac.com/andrewdouch/Site/About_Andrew.html) for information and background.

The keynote was acknowledged as one of the highlights of the day- see Section 3 Evaluations

## 1.6 Sessions

Overall, 34 workshop sessions were run involving 51 presenters and 11 student event trainees as assistants.

## 1.7 Attendance

The conference was attended by 227 people including 152 attendees and 51 presenters.

## 1.8 Program

The full program is attached in Appendix 1.

## 2. Event trainees

### 2.1 Description

Working from an idea to model applied learning practice by incorporating students into the planning and organisation of the event, an invitation was issued to the VALA membership base for ten VCAL students to assist on the day. The invitation was publicised via an email to the mailout list within a newsletter and the first application was received within two minutes.

In all, over 16 institutions volunteered to be part of this idea before the applications were closed off.

### 2.2 Selection

The group of eleven Holmesglen Vocational College students were selected on the following basis:

- ◆ the institution was a member of VALA
- ◆ the applications was the first received
- ◆ the Senior VCAL students were undertaking event management units.



### 2.3 Training and liaison

The VALA education Officer liaised with the HVC staff, in particular, Lilly Smolenska and Jackie Prince and the following timetable of training and liaison was planned and took place.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Feb 9          | Linnet visited Holmesglen Vocational College, met Jackie, and spoke to the students about their part in the event.  |
| Feb12-March 12 | Linnet and Jackie emailed each other regarding the roles and requirements of the students and training topics. Jackie incorporated these into her teaching of the Event Management units.   |
| March 12       | The students attended training session run by Linnet and Don and assisted by Jackie at the venue. Fiona McKelvie from Rydges also donated her time and gave the students a full tour of the facility. An outline of the training day is included in Appendix 2. |



*Students find out about conference planning from Don*



## 2.4 On the day

On the day of the conference students arrived bright and early. They were dressed very smartly and began immediately to assist and support Don, Jan and Linnet.

Their tasks included:

- ◆ welcoming
- ◆ directing participants to the correct registration desk
- ◆ offering coffee
- ◆ distributing conference folders and name tags
- ◆ answering queries
- ◆ assisting organisation with their displays
- ◆ helping presenters get set up

Students were in charge of the room management for one workshop space. They were required to assist the presenters with the setup and

- ◆ manage a presentation room
- ◆ introduce the speaker
- ◆ solve any logistical problems such as lack of chairs
- ◆ ensure water was provided and the technology was working as required
- ◆ call for the technician to fix any difficulties if they arose
- ◆ thank the speaker and present them with a gift

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The students were presented with a certificate of appreciation from VALA at the conclusion of the day by Vice President, Michelle O'Brien. The inclusion of the student trainees in the organisation and running of the day was very well received by both participants and presenters, and the students were very positive in their feedback about their learning and in the words of their teacher " really enjoyed the experience, and because they got so many compliments on their performance on the day, feel very confident about approaching new work in the future."

# 3. Evaluations

## Overview

Three types of evaluation were gathered: from participants, presenters and display organisations.

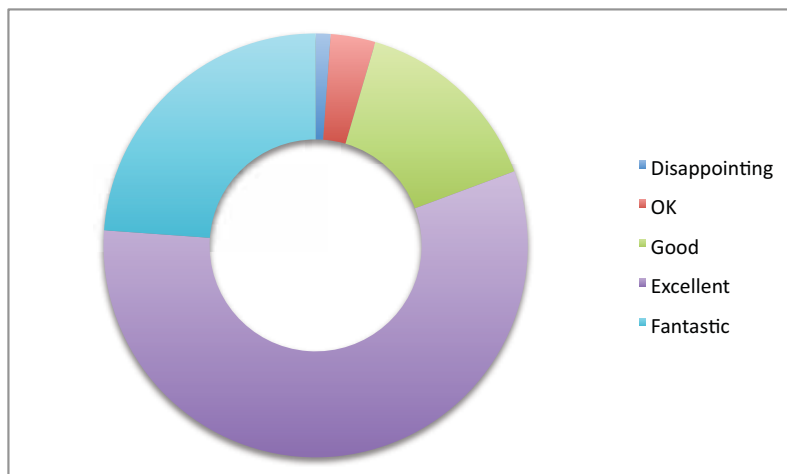
### 3.1 Method

Evaluation forms were included in conference packs and prizes given at a draw at the end of the day to encourage the collection of these. 99 evaluation forms were received. Presenters and display people were contacted via email and asked for their comments.

### 3.2 Participant summaries

The evaluation form asked for an overall rating of the conference on a scale of 1-5 where 1 was disappointing and 5 was fantastic. 84% of the respondents rated it as good or better,

The comments gathered are summarised below and available in full in Appendix 3.



#### 3.2.1 General comments

In general the comments focused on the inspiration gained from the keynote, the wonderful venue and the excellence of the food. Comments were also made regarding the range of presentations, the diversity of topics and the organisation. Quite a few people would prefer to have seating available at lunchtime or some kind of formalised networking available. A few references were made to difficulties for example wireless connectivity and the cancellation of a couple of sessions.

#### 3.2.2 What was the most valuable part of the day for you?

Participants all had something positive to say about the sessions they attended and the valuable learning they had gained, but the overall remarks focused on the keynote speech and the networking available at such a gathering. The introduction to technology given in the keynote seemed to have removed barriers for some participants and they were keen to learn more. The opportunity to form working partnerships and to learn from other practitioners was rated as important.

### **3.2.3 Was there anything you would have liked done differently?**

Twenty six of the respondents were happy with the organisation and the number and length of sessions. Seventeen requested less sessions in the day that ran for longer, to allow the presenters to explore the topic more fully and incorporate active learning to a greater extent. Other comments related to the lack of seating at lunchtime.

### **3.2.4 Other comments**

In this section many people commented on the great job done by the event trainees students and the professionalism and smooth organisation of the day. Many comments seem to contradict each other, especially in reference to people 'selling' resources, while others were grateful for the 'free' resources. This depends on the sessions attended and there is a recurrent theme in the feedback about presenters 'selling something.' In our briefing document to presenters we did ask them to be upfront about this if they had a product associated with the workshop, but it seems to have backfired in some way that could require further investigation.

## **3.3 Display organisation feedback**

Feedback from organisations that had displays on the day indicated that the parking and access to the rooms were great, although one organisation would have liked to have the table allocated to them named (although this is not usual practice at conferences where a first come first serve basis is common). Overall, those in the Marquee were positive about the display space and the numbers of participants who they spoke to. Those in the New York room tended to be less positive about the value of the display for their organisation – although there were some exceptions to this. While morning tea seemed to be a busy time for all, the type of food served at lunch, required people to find somewhere to sit and some displayers in the New York room reported that there was little interest in displays.

## **3.4 Presenter feedback**

Presenters were asked three questions via email. Fifteen replies were received and are summarised here.

### *1. What did you think of the venue? Did it work for you?*

Presenters were unanimous in liking the venue and the improvement in soundproofing from Moonee Valley, and had some useful points to make regarding finding the way around and the distance between rooms. They commented on the pleasant spaces and the professional corporate atmosphere.

### *2. Do you have any comments regarding the length of time allowed for presentations (55 minutes)*

Most presenters were happy with 55 minutes, although many of them noted that they did not actually get that long as participants took a while to get from one session to another, and the movement and this and settling in ate into their time allotment. One person suggested a 90 minutes session would give time for a more in depth look at the topic.

### *3. What were your experiences of the AV equipment and the support offered?*

Experiences varied from fault -free and excellent to utterly disastrous ( one case). In most instances presenters were delighted with the speedy response from the technicians and the kind of equipment provided.

# 4. Recommendations

## Lessons learned

Based on the evaluations detailed in Section 3, verbal feedback given on the day and other relevant information included below, Jan, Don and Linnet discussed the lessons learned during a debriefing meeting held on March 26. These are highlighted here with some emergent questions to be discussed further.

### 5.1 Numbers

Numbers were significantly down from last year, (from 300-200). This may be due to:

- ◆ a shorter term = competition with other PD + less time to publicise it
- ◆ a popular and over subscribed Induction Day held 4 weeks earlier-95 people attend a day planned for 75

A certain number of paying participants is calculated to make the conference financially viable. Consideration needs to be given to the balance between the size of the event, the effort and time devoted to it, how its overall success is measured and what part it plays in the overall PD program for the year.

### 5.2 Venue

The venue was very popular and should be used again. It is affordable, professional has excellent catering and staff and is in an accessible position. It is recommended that the venue be used again with the proviso that the following issues are addressed:

- ◆ air conditioning
- ◆ sofas/couches/chairs for networking
- ◆ continuous tea and coffee and water available.

### 5.3 Audio Visual equipment

The expense of the audio visual equipment was high and the lack of internet access caused problems. It is recommended that:

- ◆ full internet access be a requirement and included in the overall quote
- ◆ less AV is offered to presenters
- ◆ presenters are requested to bring their own laptops

### 5.4 Program

The program is highly intensive with ten sessions running simultaneously. This creates specific needs in terms of rooms, AV, room management and movement within the venue. Some alterations to the program, such as a reworking of the Marketplace idea, a panel session, more (structured) networking time and an add-on event such as a pre-conference dinner, would provide a different pace and energy to the event, allowing a more timely consideration of its offerings.

### 5.5 Event trainees

The participation of the students from HVC was a highlight of the conference for many people and should be repeated, with the requirements added that the institution be closer to the venue, and the teacher be involved from the outset.

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**Questions to committee**

- ◆ Is VALA committed to running the conference annually or are there other alternatives?
- ◆ Is the conference sustainable PD?
- ◆ What changes to the program could be effective?
- ◆ How might the committee be more involved in this event?



# Appendices

## Appendix 1 Program

### Session A 10.10 am to 11.05 am

<b>A2</b>	<b>Searching for SI: Beyond Gardiner's intelligences</b> <i>Karen Dymke, Luther College</i>	Beijing
<b>A3</b>	<b>What's my theme? Integrated literacy and numeracy</b> <i>Chris Tully &amp; Pauline Morrow, Kangan TAFE</i>	Dubai
<b>A4</b>	<b>VCAL by stealth!</b> <i>Julie Connell, NETschool Bendigo - Bendigo Senior Secondary College</i>	Vienna
<b>A5</b>	<b>E-portfolios: your learning pass-port!</b> <i>Allison Miller, Australian Flexible Learning Framework</i>	London
<b>A7</b>	<b>VCAL@TAFE: Challenges and solutions</b> <i>Jan Lambert, Holmesglen Vocational College</i>	Manhattan
<b>A8</b>	<b>Developing 21st century learning capacities</b> <i>Dr Adrian Bertolini, Intuyu Consulting</i>	Paris
<b>A9</b>	<b>VCAL and learning in the community</b> <i>Cornelia deBrincat, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority</i>	United Nations
<b>A10</b>	<b>Parliamentary government and your AL project!</b> <i>Rod Espie and Daryl Evans, Education Section, Parliament of Victoria</i>	Vancouver

### Session B 11.35 am to 12.30 pm

<b>B1</b>	<b>Marketplace - PYE: supporting school partnerships</b>	Ballroom 1 and 2
<b>B2</b>	<b>Testing the scaffold: theories that support Applied Learning</b> <i>David Gallagher, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority</i>	Beijing
<b>B3</b>	<b>EMPower :New approaches to numeracy for VCAL Students</b> <i>Beth Marr, Numeracy Education Consultant</i>	Ballroom 3
<b>B4</b>	<b>Leaping off the edge: School to work transition</b> <i>Kim McKenzie &amp; Terrie Honeysett, Gippsland Technical College</i>	Vienna
<b>B5</b>	<b>Take it with you: Using mobile websites for learning</b> <i>Caryl Oliver, caryloliver.com</i>	London
<b>B6</b>	<b>Careers, enterprise and opportunity: Innovative businesses</b> <i>Brett Van Berkel, Lavalla Catholic College</i>	UN
<b>B7</b>	<b>Digging the soil: Creative media engagement</b> <i>Jon Staley, Youthworx Media/NMIT TAFE</i>	Manhattan
<b>B8</b>	<b>Teacher sustainability</b> <i>Jayne Pitard, Victoria University</i>	Paris
<b>B9</b>	<b>Totally funkyed up: Photography, film making and storyboarding</b> <i>Kamini Singh</i>	Dubai
<b>B10</b>	<b>Armed &amp; Dangerous: Digital film making</b> <i>Adam Whitbread and Adam Cooper</i>	Vancouver

### Session C 12.35 pm to 1.30 pm

<b>C1</b>	<b>Marketplace -Technology</b>	Ballroom 1 and 2
<b>C2</b>	<b>Hands up, for hands on: a historical review</b> <i>Mike Brown, University of Ballarat</i>	Beijing
<b>C3</b>	<b>Engaging your VCAL students in maths and numeracy</b> <i>Dave Tout, Australian Council for Educational Research</i>	Ballroom 3
<b>C4</b>	<b>Building learning: all about HOL</b> <i>Russell Kerr, Hands on Learning</i>	Vienna
<b>C6</b>	<b>Living history: bringing history to life through stories</b> <i>John Tabone, Patsy Williams, Catholic College Bendigo</i>	United Nations
<b>C7</b>	<b>Day in the life: A multiliteracies project</b> <i>Damien Neil, Shepparton ACE College</i>	Manhattan
<b>C8</b>	<b>Feel good, think smart: the role of emotion in thinking</b> <i>Mervyn Edmunds, Human Givens Australia</i>	Paris
<b>C9</b>	<b>SAFE-T1 update - OHS resources for students and their teachers</b> <i>Jan Hagston, Victorian Applied Learning Association</i>	Dubai
<b>C10</b>	<b>Effective learning using multimedia as an AL tool.</b> <i>Shane O'Connor and Roslyn Mullins, Consumer Affairs</i>	Vancouver

### Session D 2.15 pm to 3.10 pm

<b>D1</b>	<b>Marketplace - Pathways</b>	Ballroom 1 and 2
<b>D2</b>	<b>"I'm not really a theory person": Examining the balance between theory and practise</b> <i>Cam Woolcock, Marion College</i>	Beijing
<b>D3</b>	<b>Pain free percentages: Connecting students to numeracy</b> <i>Beth Marr, Numeracy Education Consultant</i>	Dubai
<b>D4</b>	<b>Big Deal!: a gambling education program for 16-24 year olds</b> <i>Jean Evans, Council for Adult Education</i>	Vienna
<b>D5</b>	<b>More cool tools: Creating engaging e-learning activities</b> <i>Debbie Soccio, e-Works</i>	London
<b>D6</b>	<b>Regenerate and revegetate: a sustainable PDS project</b> <i>Anne-Maree Burgoine, Portland Secondary College</i>	Ballroom 3
<b>D7</b>	<b>Challenging youth to lead sustainably: VCAL students and Environment Victoria's Youth Eco Challenge</b> <i>Deb Roberston, Goldfields Employment &amp; Learning Centre &amp; Murray Irwin, Sustainable Living-Environment Victoria</i>	Manhattan
<b>D8</b>	<b>What am I doing?: Behaviour management strategies</b> <i>Tennille Alivizatos, Layered Learning</i>	Paris
<b>D10</b>	<b>Virtual business: Developing the tools of achievement in an applied learning environment</b> <i>Judy Sinclair &amp; Donna Reid, Virtual Enterprise Australia</i>	Vancouver

## Appendix 2 Event Trainees training program

VALA 2010 Conference Event Trainees



VALA Training Day

WHEN: Friday March 12 10am -2.30pm

WHERE: At Rydges Bell City Preston 215 Bell St Preston

for map go to: <http://www.vala.asn.au/10conf/venue.htm>

9.00	OUTLINE Group leaves Holmesglen Vocational College	
10.00	Arrive at venue and proceed to Beijing room	
10.05	Welcome- introductions- overview of today	Linnet
10.10	Run through of conference program	Linnet
10.25	Behind the scenes- administration Outline of logistics of conference-numbers- presenters- timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Website</li> <li>▪ Database -</li> <li>▪ Anticipating issues at the planning stage</li> <li>▪ How to plan for uncertain numbers, special needs</li> <li>▪ Timeline</li> </ul>	Don
10.50	Morning tea break-	self-catering
11.00	Introduction of the role of Event Manager	Fiona
11.10	Tour of Rydges	Fiona
11.40	return to Beijing room Q&A	Fiona
12.00	Outline of responsibilities of trainees	Linnet and Don
12.30	Skill sets	Linnet and Don
1.00	Lunch	provided by VALA- sandwiches, soft drinks and cakes
1.45	Photos- Your role on the day- rehearsal/contingencies	Linnet and Don
2.30	Close- Group boards bus	

## Appendix 3 2010 Conference evaluations

### General comments

Venue and lunch great! The day went quickly

Where did the day go? Very informative and relevant

Thank you for another great VALA day - resources and news ways to do VALA

It was worth the trip from Sale! As a new member (VCAL teacher and co-ordinator) I really appreciated being able to meet colleagues and get ideas. Very inspired

The keynote speaker Andrew was fantastic as were the resources. However, I only got something out of session D - behaviour management

A great day. Having the students/guides is a great addition - a fantastic opportunity for them

Inspiring keynote speaker - really worthwhile session. I am now inspired to change the way I deliver my classes

Given the theme of today wouldn't it be great for attendees to view a podcast of sessions they didn't get to

Huge variety of resources, ideas and starting points

Well organised but seating at lunch should have been provided. Food was terrific

Fantastic keynote speaker, he brought tears to my eyes

Excellent facilitators/presenters, very informative, took away lots of information and ideas

Excellent keynote

Overall a great opportunity to network, venue was a good change, lovely food, perhaps somewhere to sit at lunch time would have made networking easier

Well organised, some really useful session

Lunch time let the day down, nowhere to sit comfortably with meal

Amazing but made me feel a trifle inadequate

Great selection of topics for study, really good ideas in all sessions

I may have been looking for a few QA examples at Senior level

Very interesting workshops, informative, practical ideas

Very ("applied") practically orientated and motivational

Keynote address was fantastic. The structure of the day was great also. The facilities were quite good too, reasonably central etc. Helpers were a good idea

Remember to provide water with glasses. Yummy food! Provide A/C in all sessions

Morning tea needed more variety, fruit. All presentations could have been compiled onto 1 CD and given out in our package, as we would like to have been able to attend more than our 4 electives.

VALA continues to organise all my favourite conferences, so relevant and engaging and exciting

More time please for networking, i.e.. Longer lunch session

The day ran very smoothly, great organisation, lunch was spectacular

Well worth coming down for

Food - excellent. Venue was too spread out, not enough instructions or directions, too many communal areas, nothing drawing people together

From talk to chalk, from blackboard to white board, from tv to dvd, from iPod to podcast, from desperation to inspiration - in a day - cool

Speakers/presenters appeared rushed, not sure about audience, lack of handouts for participants

Well organised day, thank you

Much better venue

The workshops I attended were excellent

Excellent conference

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Excellent catering

Extremely disappointed iPod session cancelled. Most were about showing their (student) programs not the how to. Really frustrated with what I got for payment. Learnt little of what I was hoping to come away with. More promos for organisation agendas than helping us as teachers implement

Most presenters good - useful info. Keynote speaker very good - relevant

Good

Fantastic keynote speaker!

Great overall, could have had more time in workshops

Andrew Douch was incredibly inspiring, thank you for having him start the day. Displays fantastic, very helpful. All presenters brilliant

Great venue, I totally depended on the guides, I loved the wide range of topics

Best VALA conference so far

Apart from the keynote speaker, most other workshops were very disappointing. No real learning here for me, in some cases I wondered what was the point of the workshops

Great range of diverse topics, well covered, something for everyone, a good taster, can go to find out more

Great venue, well organised, yummy food, interesting topics to choose from

Presenters experienced and helpful, Venue excellent for country people, can stay overnight, having conference on a Friday good choice, stay in Melbourne for weekend

Very well organised. Given that most sessions displayed URLs it would have been useful to have wireless connectivity, most phones today can access the web

Venue excellent, great for regional people, stayed night before and ample carparking. Food excellent

Great choice of sessions

Some great ideas and good opportunities to discuss and think tank ideas

Some more chairs at lunch would have been good

Well organised and worthwhile

The opening keynote inspiration, fantastic, thank you

It was generally very informative

It would be great to have a venue that is easily accessible to all e.g.. city, so that train can be taken by people from most locations

The student helpers today were well prepared, very helpful and friendly. They did an excellent job! Well done!

Session C10, sound didn't work on machine, presenters were good to work around it, but hard to present media with no sound

I think the cost was way too much. I expect the venue cost a lot and the food was nice but didn't need to be so grand.

Thanks anyway.

The venue was great to have a conference. The food was yummy

Thanks for the invitation to be here

Well organised, lots of variety, fresh and up to date workshops

Parking easier and closer than at Moonee Valley. Venue closer to me than Sunshine. Stairs narrow and slow to get down from Ballroom in first session. Like places to sit at lunch together, hard to find people at lunch time

Great speakers and really valuable information, stands also very worthwhile

Great venue, great food, excellent presentation

Well organised

Needed more tangible and new ideas. More handouts on integrated VCAL (esp. literacy) units of work

Sessions were too rushed, less sessions more time

Excellent variety and facility (except seating for lunch)

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**What was the most VALUABLE aspect of the day for you?**

Networking

Keynote speaker and e-folios

The marketplace and the presenters that showed their projects meeting outcomes and motivating students in new ways

The whole lot

The resources and brochures/ideas, behaviour management session

Opportunity to look at and handle resources

Keynote speaker address excellent, inspiring

Finding out I'm on the right track and the issues I have are shared with others

Connection to others

Getting resources and hearing about other projects

The resources and the keynote speaker

Innovative ideas

Andrew Douch's presentation was very inspiring, HOL with Russell again inspiring

Networking, resources, some new fresh ones which was great

Keynote speaker presentation, hearing others' ideas and experiences

Keynote, session A

Keynote speaker, resources he uses

Networking with other applied learning teachers

Collect resources, explore use of technology and film-making in teaching

Seeing new ideas and broadening my knowledge base

David Tout's session on engaging students in numeracy

Keynote speaker, so motivational, marketplace for resources, hearing about successful programs in other schools

Enjoyed thoroughly all sessions attended, gave good food for thought

Idea of ??? HOL (awareness of)

Changed some of my concepts, improve my teaching

New ideas, people are doing amazing things, hands on training

Hands on learning

Networking, resources

Kit

Networking

Ideas from the keynote speaker and session A that I can use in the classroom

Douchy!! Listening to what other schools are doing

Hearing about options that are already available waiting to be implemented

It felt short, we always ran out of time

Picking up ideas from presenters and attendees

Understanding different people's needs to support teaching and learning

Resources, access, new ideas

Re-affirming for a lot that we are doing - keynote was particularly useful

Talking to other teachers

The keynote - inspiring

All of it, great to get onto resources and also networking

Networking

Andrew Douch, well what can I say, or maybe I should say it via pod, blog, wiki or just simple words - "thanks for the wakeup call"

Keynote speaker and session 2, practical school application VCAL program

VALA

A few great ideas from other teachers

Networking with others

Some new thoughts and ideas to ponder and put into action back in the classroom

Engaging topics

Chance to meet and talk to people

Resources available, partnerships

Learning so much about technology, I'm now dying to try some of it, and not scared of it

Hearing about practical applications

Andrew Douch is always a great inspirer but been at other presentations before

Keynote, inspiring

Session B6, clear adaptable project, good presenter

Networking

Keynote speaker, how inspiring, motivating and engaging!

Getting resources to use in class

Workshops

Keynote speaker

Discovering the options available, access to resources, networks and just talking to others

The wide range of topics

Lots of hands on presentations, lots of great ideas, excellent range of resources on show for perusal at breaks

Keynote speaker

Meeting other VCAL facilitators

As a newcomer to VCAL, gaining a greater understanding of the VCAL focus

Session B10 and getting a whole unit of ideas to work on

The opening presentation - "Douchy"

The guest speaker

Networking and meeting 'experts', displays great for regional providers

Keynote speech, outstanding example of using technology, inspiring

Networking and establishing contacts, new ideas to facilitate activities

Getting new ideas

Andrew Douch, really excellent presentation

Session D1, mat program

Gaining valuable tools for teaching numeracy

The guest speaker at the beginning of the day. He was very engaging and inspirational, gave some great ideas

Parliament information

Reinforcing some of the activities I am doing in numeracy

The keynote speaker is inspiring and invigorating

Gained knowledge and skills to be used in my VCAL classes

Seeing VALA in action

Ideas and inspirations

All of it

Networking, catching up with people I only see at these things, also great workshops

Gaining lots of information and activities to assist

Session C8 was fantastic, great use to me

I got something out of all sessions

Conferring with others

Session A3, the idea of using props to brainstorm projects, will work well with students

VALA

Douchy

The keynote address was excellent, gave me lots of ideas

Networking

**Was there anything you would have liked done differently? for example the length and number of sessions?**

No, it was all good

No

Happy

Behaviour management could have been longer

Not so sickly cakes for morning tea!

Please let us sit at a table to eat

Maybe a weekend session to avoid disruption at school

No

More seating for lunch

No

Sessions were quite long (as a presenter) but otherwise there are too many moves - so good length all things considered

Perhaps ensuring there was ample air cond in every room

No, worked well

More real life, hands on numeracy ideas rather than games

Number of sessions good, tables for lunch needed

Good timing

Structure was good, unfortunately the errors in the outline were misleading

Could there be some TAFE providers showcasing programs?

Did not end too late

Yes, more time for sessions. Session 1 needed much more time to get info

3 sessions

More time for behavioural management

No

Maybe just 3 sessions so they can be longer or run conference over two days, so much to learn

Provide bigger carry bags!! With wheels!

Length was good. Four was plenty

Well being side, i.e.. Session C8

Longer sessions, more time to travel between sessions being such a large venue

Length of lessons

Offer some double sessions for presenters to really get into material

Sessions should not have been cancelled, number of sessions a little overwhelming

No, good length, no over top

No

More practical resources

No - seemed much better and tighter this year

Presentation room with tables (my fault, I should have asked for)

I would like more time in sessions

Dave Tout very repetitive over conference ???

No

A5 a waste of time

Wouldn't change anything

VALA

Tables and chairs for lunch and morning tea, more WRS sessions

Try and extend so we can attend more workshops

Yes, less sessions more time

Session times need to be slightly longer, so much info

Earlier lunch, some people have an early start so breakfast was some time ago, might have to by pass morning tea cakes

Marketplace PYE too little time for each segment

No, but I think you should view an outline of content beforehand

No, good number of session, not too long

2 days? I would have liked to have gone to more

No

No, I thought all the organisation was excellent

Good to get to lots of sessions

Disappointed B5 (mobile phones) didn't run

Good format

No, length was fine

The session length was about right

One hour sessions are good. There were at least two or more sessions that I would have liked to do in each session

No

Lunch and session B/C were juxtaposed on running sheet, confusion

No

No

Perfect, more seating for lunch would have been good

Lunch, like all in communal place so you can catch up with people

More sessions, smaller time

More take home or information which can be retrieved outside

This part was good

Presenters ran out of time (longer sessions) maybe 3 for the day

Nope

More detailed explanation of sessions i.e.. with technology whether it was for beginners or not

**Any other comments?**

Well done! A terrific day. It felt like a very manageable day, the kids did a brilliant job, good range of speakers and nice opportunity to catch up with people. Like the venue. Good for VALA to feel professional

Thanks

Well done and I liked the venue

Some sessions (9, C9) could have been covered through a bit of personal reading, not worth going to a session on

Excellent conference, great presenters, good location, great food! Well done! Chairs would have been welcome. Networking around a table and chairs at lunch is beneficial

Thank you

Fabulous day - need more / a little bit of overload

All presentations were of a high calibre - an excellent day

Thanks

Excellent conference! The guides were needed and well briefed. Chairs for lunch please, it was hard to juggle everything

All government initiatives should be available for free

Well organised, well run

Need seats at lunch time

Supporting students with special needs in VCAL - programs, resources available? Perhaps an alternative setting could showcase next year

VALA

Thank you

Thanks. It was really wonderful. The food was amazing. Excellent free resources! Friendly staff at Rydges and VALA people were great too!

Great day!

Fantastic

Gambling Education Program - Big Deal, resources should be free esp. for government initiatives

Well done again VALA! Don is an Angel, thanks guys

Session B - opening comment was about book she'd written, may have been great activities but needs to back off 'commercial' presentation

Venue, easy to get to for a country traveller, need chairs to sit on when having lunch, my first VALA conference, thanks

Temperature needed to be monitored more closely, many rooms were FREEZING, it was very distracting

Love the venue, mobile website, shame it was cancelled

Good day with great choices

Great idea to have the Holmesglen students involved, this is a concept worth developing further, students from other TAFEs and schools

Great conference

It was a great day, the partnership workshop was fantastic, although we ran out of time, which was disappointing for us but for the organisations

Enjoyed the variety - was happy to have the principle of applied learning reinforced. Well worth the trip from the Mornington Peninsula (for someone who hates city driving!)

I am normally very positive but as teachers we want to know the how to do things of technology, not about who can be paid (no funds) to come in ??? Of other student work. I really felt let down today

Tables and chairs for lunch

Thank you for opening my eyes to what is available in Applied Learning and for the opportunity to meet like-minded colleagues

Please remind people not to chat in sessions, I am hard of hearing and found it hard to hear some speakers because people at the back were chatting

Excellent venue except air conditioning was a problem, freezing in Ballroom and roasting in Dubai. Food was fantastic

Food - lunch very good, morning tea very poor, no healthy options. Also no place to sit down to have lunch

Great venue and thanks to Holmesglen students, great job

Maybe spend a little more money on the paper wallets handed out as mine broke easy. A fantastic day overall

The venue was excellent. Being from the country the ability to gain 'cheap' accommodation on site is excellent

Overall, an excellent day, great venue, good food, excellent sessions

I sill find such conferences beneficial to my applied learning practice

Great venue

Good food

Well organised day

Food was fantastic

At lunch there needed to be seating available, quite difficult sitting on the ground, balancing a plate with a skirt on

As I stated, 'Pathways' for Marketplace sounded like post school options. Our school is already using MAT programs and I would have chosen differently for that session had I known

Thank you, it was nice to see the VCAL students in action. Anything where they are exposed and challenged like that is good

I thoroughly enjoyed the day

Thanks

I would really like to be actively occupied for most of most sessions, especially at the start, technology not working in 2 workshops was very distracting

VALA

Limited air con, very hot rooms, no place to sit after collecting lunch

Another great day, well done VALA

Thank you

The food was very good. The venue worked well. The Holmesglen students were very helpful, they had obviously been well briefed on both their role and the venue layout