



CRTS Newsletter

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Hang in there
- 1 Accessing your
Payroll Details
- 1 New VIT Cards
- 2 ID Badges
- 2 Professional
Development
Activities
- 2 Answering Machines
- 2 CRT Conditions in
Victoria
- 2 Delete 101

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS SOON?

Don't forget to notify STS if you are changing your home address, phone or email address. Otherwise payslips, accounts, newsletters and notices will not arrive.

USA Converts to Wind Power

The Lone Ranger and Tonto arrive at the local saloon and hitch their horses outside. Lone Ranger's horse, Silver looks hot and tired so (in typically racist manner) the Lone Ranger asks Tonto to run fast in circles around Silver to create a breeze and thus cool him off. With nothing to do but wait, the LR goes inside for a beer. Minutes later a tall cowboy strides into the bar and asks "Who owns the big white horse outside?"
"I do" says LR. "Is it OK?"
"I think so", says the cowboy "but you've left your injun running".

Hang In There

While things are busy enough in some areas, work has been scarce in others. But it will pick up.

A combination of no flu season and government underfunding is contributing to considerably less work than this time last year. While work rates are improving it is unlikely that we will reach the heady records achieved last year. But, here's hoping.

Accessing Your Payroll Details

You all should receive a pay sheet on Wednesdays (fortnightly) with a basic pay summary. Further details can be accessed on our website. Simply go to: southern-teaching.com.au/bookings.php. You must enter the code (see box in right lower corner of your paysheet and your date of birth (use format yyyy/mm/dd). It will show what grades you worked in during the fortnight and how many hours were spent in each. You have only 10 days to check this before it gets wiped in preparation for the next pay.

New VIT Cards

We regularly remind you to ring us before photocopying, certifying and posting new VIT cards. Many don't... and as a result almost 1/3 of documents received each year are invalid and need to be re-done. This costs you precious time and possibly a loss of work in the interim. You must :

1. Get 3 photocopies of the back of the card ONLY. (That's the side with your signature on it.) **Do NOT photocopy both sides**. The copies should be 20-25% bigger than normal and each photocopy must be on a separate white A4 sheet.
2. Take all 3 copies to the nearest police station (along with the original) and ask the police officer to certify each copy with a **BLUE** pen. (Take your own blue pen in case they don't have one). Must not be signed in **BLACK!**
3. a) Post ONE certified copy to:
Southern Teaching Services, P.O. Box 6030, Frankston Vic 3199
b) Replace the old one in your parcel with the new one.
c) File the third one in case of any future loss.

From 30 days after expiry we will not offer work unless you have a written letter from VIT granting permission to work. From 60 days after expiry we will not offer any work until a correctly certified copy arrives on our desk. If you're not sure if you've done this correctly, or at all ring Russell on 97662777.



Professional Development Activities

On our website there is a Registration Activities Record sheet which may be useful. Print off 3 or 4 pages and staple them together in a book or else set it up on your computer in excel. It will self-calculate your total hours. As each activity arises complete the details and store safely till registration time.

Ripe For The Picking

Mandy (aged 9) sees little brother Ivan (aged 7) carrying a small bag. "What's in the bag, Ivan?" enquires Mandy. Juicy, fresh peaches", says the young boy. "If I can guess how many are in there, can I have one?" Pleads Mandy. " I'll make a bet with you." says Ivan, "If you guess wrongly you have to give me a dollar. If you guess right you can have them both". !!!

Term Dates for 2009

- Term 1 28 Jan - 3 April
- Term 2 20 April - 26 June
- Term 3 13 July to 18 Sept
- Term 4 5 Oct to 18 Dec

ID Badges

If your ID Card is damaged or faded, feel free to post us a fresh photo (don't forget to include your name). We will forward a new badge. If your pin-clip is damaged, you can buy new pin-clips (or a lanyard- type if you prefer) from most newsagents for around \$2. All CRTs MUST wear ID at all times in schools... it's NOT optional.

Answering Machines

We advise CRTs to switch on their answering machine whenever they go out. Do NOT leave it switched on while you are at home or when you go to bed. Correct habits will help you get a lot more work. Remind your children not to adjust or re-set your answering machine without your permission. Put your personalised message on your machine including your name but keep it brief eg.

"Hi, this is Mary and John's phone (or "the Wilsons' phone")."
 " We're out. Leave a message."

Long-winded or comedy routines slow us up when we're in a hurry to get through 30 calls.

If you have a cordless phone keep it near you at all times in the mornings (bed, shower, toilet, in the garden) whether or not you already have work.... Just in case we need to reach you.

CRT Conditions in Victoria- Do Something!

I complained last year about the dwindling pay rates for CRTs in Victoria. overseen by uncaring Victorian Governments and a union that doesn't want to know you. However, the more people that pester state politicians.... the more likely something will be done. If you want to do something, follow these steps.

1. Read and print-off the 2 attachments on our website "Letter to My Representative" and "CRT Conditions- Discussion Paper". 3 pages.
2. Complete and sign page 2 of the first attachment.
3. Fax or email both attachments to 3 or 4 of your local state members.

The names and contact details of all state representatives can be found on www.parliament.vic.gov.au/mlas.html (legislative assembly) and www.parliament.vic.gov.au/mlcs.html (legislative council)

If you want to discuss or ask about any of the attached details, or if you want some addresses of local politicians ring Russell on 9766 1667.

Congratulations and thankyou to those who already sent letters to your local MP re. CRT pay and conditions. Many of you have received the same condescending generic response from the Minister's department. That response does NOT address any of the issues and is just a way of saying "give up and go away". One wonders whether your original letter has even been read by the Minister or your MP. but don't give up! Those of you who are aggrieved by this lack of respect should contact your MP again and demand that a more thoughtful and precise response is necessary... then email a copy of the Minister's response to that same MP and ask if they can find answers therein to your specific queries.

Delete 101

Many thanks to those who have disengaged "101" or "Voicemail" from their landline. You probably had to ring Optus/Telstra 10 times to do it. We do not leave bookings or messages on 101 or Voicemail. Leaving either on your landline will cost you heaps of work (money). Most of you now have realized the importance of this issue.

Best Wishes from everyone at STS.

