



'IMPACT THE FUTURE, LEADING TODAY'S LEARNING FOR TOMORROW'

The Victorian Association of Catholic School Principals held their biennial conference from March 26-29, 2019 in Lorne. The theme was 'Impact the future, leading today's learning for tomorrow'. It was hosted in partnership with the Catholic Education Office Ballarat, Catholic Education Melbourne, Catholic Education Sale, Catholic Education Office Sandhurst and Australian Catholic University.

Michael Gray, Principal of St Joseph's Primary School in Warrnambool, is the Association's President and in his welcome message said "The VACPSP biennial conference is one of the very few opportunities for Victorian Catholic Primary Principals to learn together in a collegial atmosphere. The conference is designed specifically by colleagues for colleagues to not only explore our challenges together but to support each other in the ministry of Catholic leadership."

In discussing the theme, 'Impact the future - Leading today's learners for tomorrow', many experts believe that the next ten years will see the equivalent of more than a 100 years of change. In the McKinsey Report we are told that the most fundamentally important issue of our time will be our need to re-skill and to provide the safety net and the incentives to do lifelong learning. This is going to be critical for society and it is happening a lot faster than we are prepared to deal with it. If educational institutions, businesses and societies do not get it right, we're going to have a massive societal disruption. We will have a world with increasing inequality. It is suggested that up to 30% of current work will be displaced by automation by 2030, affecting up to 3.2 million workers in Australia alone.



- The Foundation students starting in schools this year will enter the workforce in 2031. How are we preparing them for this world?
- What should we be implementing in the schools that we are leading today?
- What will the schools and workplaces of tomorrow look like?
- How will the extreme technological changes occurring in the world impact these?
- What role will faith based beliefs play in this new world order?
- What are the key skills and attributes we must be teaching our current primary aged students to ensure they are successful, contributing members of the new world society?

Master of Ceremonies was Jennifer Byrne, with keynote speakers including Mark McCrindle, whose highly valued research and reports have developed his renown as a futurist, demographer and social commentator and who spoke to the topic *Primary Schools in Changing Times: Understanding and responding to the generational trends now and towards 2030*; Dr Jordan Nguyen, a charismatic young biomechanical engineer whose inspirational presentations resonate with businesses and educational institutions seeking to understand the big implications of innovative, game-changing technologies and what they mean for dealing with change in the way we live and work. Dr Nguyen spoke on *Evolving Technology, Advancing Societies, & Our Upcoming Superhuman Generations*; Dr Gill Hicks is considered to be one of the most thought provoking, powerful and life affirming speakers in Australia and the UK. She is globally known as an Advocate for Sustainable Peace and a valuable resource in Countering Violent Extremism. Dr Hicks talked on *The Brilliance of Being Human*. Other keynote speakers included Cosentino, Illusionist and Escapologist; Debbie Poole, Chief Operating Officer Bunnings Aust/NZ; Ben Crowe, Co-Founder and Head Of Global Sports Marketing Unscriptd Ltd; Dr Janelle Wills, Associate Director - Marzano Research, Solution Tree Australia; Michael Gray, President VACPSP and Principal St Joseph's PS Warrnambool and Tyson Brennan, Brennan Law Partners.

The conference was very well received with one principal stating in their newsletter: "I was truly blessed to be able to attend an inspirational conference. The opportunity to hear from such high quality and passionate people was truly a privilege. All speakers had incredible life stories to tell, yet all had one thing in common – knowing and challenging both themselves and us to be clear on what our purpose is".

<http://www.vacpsp.org.au/>



Photos:

1. Michael Gray and Debbie Poole
2. Audrey Brown
3. Fr Wally Tudor
4. Michael Gray, Jordan Nguyen and Jennifer Byrne