

# HTAA e-bulletin

August 2019



UK curriculum expert, Christine Counsell, speaks at the HTANSW Teaching History Symposium



ACT teachers at the ACTHTA Teach Meet



2019 Simpson Prize Tour Group visiting and sharing research at Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, France

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## President's Welcome

A warm greeting to our History colleagues across the nation. It is said that cooler temperatures provide the optimum conditions for study; therefore, our students should be producing excellent work in our classes!

The year thus far has no doubt provided excellent opportunities for learning. Some of the best learning is achieved through relationships: between groups of experienced teachers, between experienced teachers and pre-service teachers, between any teachers and students, and between students. The richest discussions between teachers centre on planning and on classroom management that will facilitate the delivery of a curriculum in the most engaging manner. In relationships between experienced teachers and pre-service teachers, benefits exist also for the 'mentor' who reflects on their own practice and quite possibly gains new perspective on their own school students. There is much to be gained from pausing to observe the dynamics of another teacher working with students and in questioning which teaching approach is appropriate at what time: 'the sage on the stage, the guide on the side or the meddler in the middle'? There is much also for students to gain when a teacher pauses after a question to allow the students' silent thinking time. Teachers are often tempted to rush into a 'silent thinking space' and provide answers but these are the very moments where the critical and creative thinking occur. On the subject of learning, please take a look at this year's [History Teachers' Association](#)

[of Australia National Conference](#) to be hosted by the History Teachers' Association of South Australia in Adelaide, 1-3 October, Loreto College Marryatville. The keynote and sub-keynote speakers will provide excellent springboards into discussion and complementary workshops in each day's program. Over the three days, 64 workshops are on offer, providing rich professional learning opportunities for teachers at all stages of their careers. Please visit the conference website, prepare to visit Adelaide and treat yourself to excellent professional learning, fine food and wine and of course, great company!

At this time, I recognise also the tremendous energy and generosity of all State and Territory competition coordinators in promoting the learning opportunities for students of all ages through the National History Challenge, and by engaging other groups of students in the Australian History Competition and the Simpson Prize Competition. I would also like to thank the individual teachers who encourage students to participate in these competitions and reap every learning opportunity they present.

Please enjoy reading about the wonderful events and achievements of History teacher colleagues across Australia. The profession of History teaching is in such capable hands. Those of you browsing through this e-Bulletin should recognise your contributions to the high quality learning that occurs in our schools.

Paul Foley  
President: HTAA

# *History Teachers' Association of Australia National Conference*

1 - 3 October, 2019  
Loreto College Marryatville, Adelaide

**[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL PROGRAM  
AND TO REGISTER](#)**

*With Guest Speakers:*



Dr Richard Harris  
*Australian of the Year*



Dr Michelle Arrow  
*Associate Professor  
& Author*



Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG  
*Jurist, Educator &  
Former Justice: High Court  
of Australia*

## 'HISTORY MATTERS'



LORETO COLLEGE  
Marryatville, South Australia



## Competitions

### Australian History Competition

This competition is run in conjunction with The Giant Classroom. While a primary goal has been to provide an interesting and challenging competition for students, this is also an opportunity to support teachers in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: History. The competition is open to students in Years 7 - 10.



**The next competition will be in June 2020, date to be advised**

Entries via <http://australianhistorycompetition.org.au>

### The Simpson Prize

The Simpson Prize is a national competition for Year 9 and 10 students. The competition encourages participants to use selected primary sources and their own research in response to a question about Australian military and homefront experiences a century ago.



**Closing date: Friday 8 November 2019**

Entries and further information via <http://www.simpsonprize.org>

### National History Challenge

The National History Challenge is a research-based competition for students. It gives students a chance to be historians researching world history, examining Australia's past, investigating their community or exploring their own roots. It emphasises and rewards quality research, the use of community resources and effective presentation.



**The theme for 2019 is "People and Power"**

Entries via <http://www.historychallenge.org.au>

## Australian History Competition Report



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The Australian History Competition is open to students in Years 7–10. The competition comprises a question booklet containing 50 multiple choice questions and a document booklet containing a range of source material such as photographs, maps, text excerpts and graphs that enable

students to develop the historical skills and understandings found within the Australian Curriculum.

Congratulations to the top students in each State and Territory and the national winners **(in bold below)**.

Year 7		
ACT	John Webber	Lyneham High School
<b>NSW</b>	<b>Samuel Rose</b>	<b>Northern Beaches Secondary College - Manly Selective High Campus</b>
NT	Samuel Ricketts	The Essington School Darwin
QLD	Haoyu (Jason) Liu	Brisbane State High School
SA	Matthew Jones	Blackfriars Priory School
SA	Rylan Hopkins	Endeavour College
SA	Samuel Misailidis	Temple Christian College
TAS	Titus Cardona Peart	Marist Regional College Burnie
TAS	Penny Tassicker	Marist Regional College Burnie
TAS	Zara Musk	Scotch Oakburn College
VIC	Daniel Churchland	Hoppers Crossing Secondary College
WA	Oisin Carrigan	Bunbury Senior High School
WA	Ethan Turnbull	Churchlands Senior High School
WA	Caitlin Moncur	John Curtin College of the Arts

Year 8		
<b>ACT</b>	<b>Matthew Lim</b>	<b>Pembroke School</b>
<b>NSW</b>	<b>Kalen Routley</b>	<b>Newcastle Grammar School</b>
NT	James Smith	Darwin Middle School
QLD	Yejun Lee	Brisbane State High School
QLD	Yujin Lamuri	Brisbane State High School
QLD	Ruizhe Yu	Brisbane State High School
QLD	Christopher Dias Sumanasekera	Brisbane State High School
QLD	Sarah Leonard	Cannon Hill Anglican College
SA	Nathan Low	Glenunga International High School
TAS	Henry Gell	New Town High School
VIC	Karis Yap	Presbyterian Ladies College
VIC	Joshua Qin	Scotch College
WA	William Horabin	Perth Modern School
WA	Anya Chen	St Mary's Anglican Girls' School

## Australian History Competition Report (continued)

Year 9		
ACT	Colette Paterson	Merici College
NSW	Daniel Holland	Fort Street High School
NSW	Matilda Kearnes	Fort Street High School
NSW	Oliver Simmonds	Fort Street High School
NSW	Anders Ernest	Penrith High School
NSW	William Wulff	Shore School
NT	Piper Mules	The Essington School Darwin
<b>QLD</b>	<b>Zachery Hope</b>	<b>Brisbane State High School</b>
SA	Claire Grosser	Seymour College
TAS	Bailey Reardon	St Patrick's College Prospect Campus
VIC	Silas Chan	Donvale Christian College
WA	Max Macey	Shenton College

Year 10		
<b>ACT</b>	<b>Samuel Johnston</b>	<b>Lyneham High School</b>
NSW	Samuel Wise	Arden Anglican School
NSW	Thomas Cannane	Fort Street High School
NSW	Alexander Todd	Northern Beaches Secondary College - Manly Selective High Campus
NSW	Matthew MacDougall	Newcastle Grammar School
NSW	Daniel Michelmores	The Illawarra Grammar School
NT	William Thomas	Haileybury Rendall School
<b>QLD</b>	<b>Jasmine Muir</b>	<b>Westside Christian College</b>
SA	Michael Jansen	Concordia College - Concordia Campus
TAS	Eleanor March	St Patrick's College Prospect Campus
VIC	Suzanne Martinez	Lakes Entrance Secondary College
VIC	Nicholas Buckley	Scotch College
WA	Sophia Gunning	St Mary MacKillop College

Louise Secker

Chair: Australian History Competition



## National History Challenge Report



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The National History Challenge with the themes of 'People and Power' has set underway well this year with every school informed of the new theme and provided with posters to display.

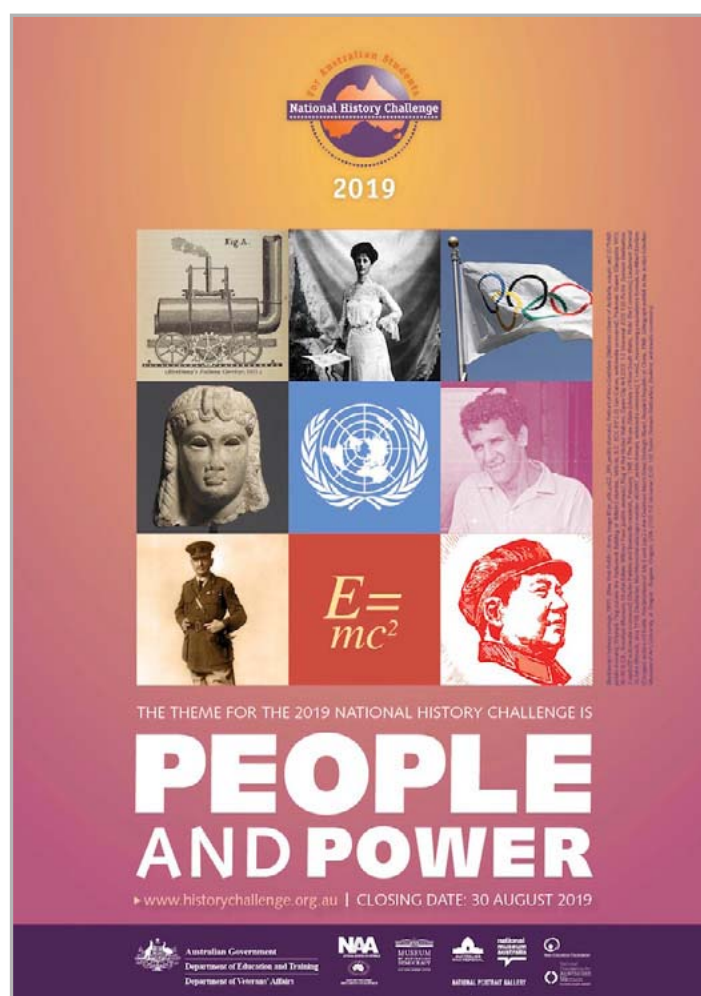
Registrations so far have reached 552; the breakdown of entries from each State and Territory at the time of writing this report follows. More entries are, of course, likely:

ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
18	176	13	82	30	38	96	99

Each State and Territory launched the Challenge in its jurisdiction and students are now working on their entries to be submitted by the closing date of 30 August. Online submission via the website ([historychallenge.org.au](http://historychallenge.org.au)) will be the most common method, but the Challenge can cope this year with those few schools who may still need to post entries. The State and Territory coordinators were briefed in Sydney on 10 August to ensure that the 2019 submission and judging process works smoothly. National judging will take place in Adelaide in conjunction with the History Teachers' Association of Australia National Conference in early October. The national awards ceremony will be held at Parliament House in Canberra on 2 December.

Liz McGinnis

Chair: National History Challenge



## Simpson Prize Report



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Welcome History teachers to this update on the Simpson Prize.

Since the last report, students have experienced an exceptional Canberra program and European Commemorative Study Tour. The highlight of the Canberra Program held in March 2019, was the Award Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. Student winners and runners-up from each State and

Territory were presented with their certificate by the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson AO. In addition, the two teacher chaperones, Ms Kimberly Vanzetta from Queensland and Mr Mark Johnstone from New South Wales, were awarded their certificates.

The eight prize-winning students, teacher chaperones and Australian War Memorial Guide, Dr Lachlan Grant, travelled to Paris, the Western Front and London between 16 and 30 April 2019. Understandably, this commemorative study tour has an enormous impact on the students. This was especially the case when the students visited the graves or memorials to Australians they had researched. The group also visited museums in each major destination, including the first Simpson Prize Tour to visit the Sir John Monash Centre at Villers-Bretonneux, France. The 2019 Simpson Prize Tour group also participated in the Anzac Day commemorative ceremony at Polygon Wood and the 5th Australian Division Memorial. The final official activity was a further new element of the tour. The students participated in a study day at King's College London, meeting fellow students from British schools who had also won a commemorative competition. Both groups listened to presentations from historians who specialise in studies of the Great War. The students returned to Australia with a deeper understanding of commemoration and the significance of studying History, having developed also a variety of life skills.

The 2020 Simpson Prize question was launched at the March Simpson Prize Ceremony in Canberra. The proposition and question are: "Allied victory brought an end to war, suffering and challenges for Australia and its people." To what extent do experiences of 1919 support this view? Once again, excellent Simpson Prize sources related to the question offer starting points and will inspire students to conduct their own thorough research. Additionally, this year's sources prompt students to reflect deeply on the legacy of war in all of its dimensions. All teachers of Years 9 and 10 are highly encouraged to take up this year's Simpson Prize Competition - itself a ready-made classroom activity and potential assessment task, that can fit seamlessly into Year 9 programs - to be submitted by Friday 8 November 2019. Our generous and hard-working Simpson Prize Coordinators in each State and Territory, along with their judging panels, look forward to your students' entries.

In conclusion, it is appropriate to acknowledge the exceptional and innovative leadership of Dr Brendan Nelson AO who has retired from his role as Director of the Australian War Memorial. Dr Nelson has superbly led the extraordinary staff at the AWM through the entire Anzac Centenary commemorative period, and the Simpson Prize has benefitted from Dr Nelson's support of, and engagement with, the competition.

Paul Foley

Chair: Simpson Prize Competition



2019 Simpson Prize Winning Students on Anzac Day at the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division Memorial, Polygon Wood Cemetery, Belgium



2019 Simpson Prize Tour Group visiting and sharing research at Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, France

## Australian Capital Territory



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2019 has been a quieter year for ACTHTA, with the focus largely on consolidating previously successful events and succession training for executive positions.

The association ran both an Information Fair, to launch the National History Challenge, and a Teach Meet Dinner at Old Parliament House, both of which drew good numbers and were well received by attendees. The latter was costly to run but proved very good use of available funds.

The Movie Night unfortunately did not proceed due to the cinema deciding not to run the requested movie, 'Kursk', for commercial reasons. ACTHTA plans to finding another venue at which to screen movies in the future. The next event will be History at the Pub, featuring Indigenous speakers from the Tent Embassy.

ACTHTA has visited two schools to present student sessions on entering the NHC, and addressed the Calvary Hospital Auxiliary, and hopes that these activities will increase both the quality and number of entries in 2019. Like most associations, ACTHTA wishes there was more time and that there were more people available for face-to-face support visits and other professional learning opportunities.

After the very successful History Teachers' Association of Australia National Conference last year, there were requests for teaching materials to accompany the fascinating Indigenous DNA work of Professor Alan Cooper from the University of Adelaide, and there is finally progress in forming a team to meet in Adelaide during this year's HTAA National Conference. More updates on this soon.

ACTHTA's new website is now functional, with the regular attention of Matt Noonan, the invaluable ACTHTA secretary. Everyone is encouraged to take a look at the new site <https://www.acthta.com.au> to see ACTHTA in action and boost search ratings.

ACTHTA has now established a 'Lifetime Membership' category to recognise the sterling work of several long-standing members, now semi-retired. Two members, Chris Kenna and Merrillee Chignell, have now been nominated and voted in as the first life members. They will no longer pay yearly fees and will be honoured at a yearly dinner, where they can pass on their many years of wonderful knowledge to newer members. Two other members will likely be acknowledged in the near future.

I would like to thank the executive and committee members for their excellent work for ACTHTA including their wonderful support of each other and of me. Deb, Liz, Chris, Matt, Daniel, Merrillee, Karen, Sarah, Lorna and Louise all deserve special mentions!

Ann Parry

President: ACTHTA



ACTHTA's inaugural life members –  
Merrillee Chignell and Chris Kenna



The Information Fair in full swing



ACT teachers focused on their  
work at the Teach Meet



## New South Wales



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With the implementation of the very first new Stage 6 Ancient, Modern and Extension History Higher School Certificate examinations this year, the History Teachers' Association of New South Wales has been committed to delivering professional learning opportunities to support the needs of teachers and students across the State. The Student HSC study lectures were attended in record numbers over the three days, and HTANSW published the first set of Trial HSC exams and released updated Study Guides for each of the new courses.

In April, there was a wonderful display of collegiality across the two day Teaching History Symposium held at the State Library of NSW. A range of presenters and participants from Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and all over NSW engaged in stimulating professional discussion. The evaluations were very positive and suggested how welcome was the special pedagogical and curriculum focus, especially when informed by an inspiring keynote and workshop by the United Kingdom's education expert, Christine Counsell. The keynote may be accessed as an HTANSW podcast available for download from iTunes and Soundcloud.

Throughout May, HTANSW conducted Regional Professional Development conferences at Wagga Wagga High School, Nowra High School and at The Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo. Topics included Teaching the Russian National Study; Simulated marking of the Ancient and Modern Core; Approaches to teaching the Holocaust and South Africa; Embedding Aboriginal perspectives in 7-10 History; Sparta beyond the Military; Preliminary Fromelles Gamification; and Differentiation in Stage 4. Teachers travelled up to several hours to attend from a wide range of places: Bega, Queanbeyan, Warilla, Narooma, Batemans Bay, Moruya, Goulburn, Batlow, Young, Griffith, Albury, Temora, Tumut, West Wyalong, Hillston, Finley, Leeton, Moree, Katoomba, Kelso, Orange, Tamworth and, impressively, Broken Hill.

HTANSW's Annual Trivia Night was well-attended, hosted by the engaging Dr Craig Barker from the Nicholson Museum, and with special thanks to Professor Ray Laurence of the Macquarie University Ancient History Department for volunteering to give a school lecture as the first prize. The event was a fantastic opportunity for members to engage socially in a fun, yet competitive environment.

In conjunction with Academy Travel, Professor Stephen Hodgkinson from the University of Nottingham presented at the HTANSW State Conference and also regionally in Newcastle and Canberra on the very popular HSC topic of Ancient Sparta. HTANSW further thanks Professor Geoff Masters from the Australian Council for Educational Research for his insights on the progress of the NSW Curriculum Review, as well as the other wonderful keynotes - Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick, Dr Marco Duranti, Dr Estelle Lazer and Professor Lyndall Ryan.

In acknowledgement of her scholarship, dedication and contribution to Archaeology and the education of so many students and teachers, Dr Estelle Lazer was awarded HTANSW's most prestigious honour, the Renee Erdos Award. In partnership with the University of Sydney, she is currently working on the Pompeii Cast Project to utilise the latest developments in digital imaging and scientific analysis to understand the human victims of the Vesuvian Eruption of 79CE. Dr Lazer is a most deserving recipient of this award for such a long history of supporting HTANSW.

Robyn McKenzie

President: HTANSW



UK curriculum expert,  
Christine Counsell



Dr Estelle Lazer, Recipient of the  
Renee Erdos Award, with HTANSW  
President, Robyn McKenzie



Wagga Wagga Regional PD Conference, 2019

## GHTANT

### Geography and History Teachers' Association of the Northern Territory

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2019 has so far been a time of much activity for GHTANT.

Exploring the flexibility provided by the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training/South Australian Certificate of Education, GHTANT presented a workshop on a Year 12 subject called Community Studies B (Humanities) which gives schools and teachers an opportunity to provide a program for students who may find the prescribed assessment regime too challenging. These are the students who are interested in History, but who find the thought of an external examination of a 2000-word investigation too stressful or difficult, including students with learning difficulties. Community Studies B allows such students to experience the valuable learning of Year 12 History programs (or any Humanities subject) while being assessed in ways that directly align to their needs. GHTANT has also developed resources to support teachers in understanding the requirements of this non-ATAR subject.

In conjunction with the English Teachers Association of the Northern Territory, GHTANT ran a mini-conference on 6 April. Four workshops were offered. Charleen Conroy delivered a session called 'Bringing Humanities and Social Sciences to Life', teaching teachers a range of activities for engaging their middle and primary years' students in learning about humanities. Loraine Caldwell ran a fantastic session looking at the pitfalls and opportunities of inquiry-based learning which prompted much excellent discussion. I also delivered two workshops, with one on using historical sources in an 'escape room' scenario, where students evaluate sources to crack the code of a locked box. I also outlined how teachers can use Thinglink to annotate online photographs and videos, such as historical maps, as an interactive way to engage students in using information and communication technologies. The day was well-attended and GHTANT received excellent feedback.

The forthcoming highlight is the biennial Festival of Teaching which will have been held by the time this bulletin goes to print. The festival is an opportunity for all Northern Territory professional teacher associations to come together to run a big, combined event to attract a good crowd. As a very small education jurisdiction, Northern Territory associations can struggle to attract an audience. The further challenge is the inability for keen participants to receive permission and other support for release to attend our initiatives. Nevertheless, GHTANT is offering four workshops at the Festival, of which three are directly relevant to History education – Charleen is extending on her April workshops with new ideas for a session called 'Captivating HASS', Loraine is test-running her workshop for the HTAA conference on 'Fake History' and I am running a practical session on using online tools to develop infographics, including timelines.

GHTANT has funded scholarships for four members to attend the HTAA conference in October, and the committee and teacher-members look forward to ideas and resources shared with, and learned from, other teachers, as well as the networking with our interstate colleagues.

Steve Hawkins

President: GHTANT



Charleen Conroy helping Territory teachers learn how to bring HASS to life



Loraine Caldwell delivering a workshop on effective inquiry-based learning in history

## Queensland



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The Queensland History Teachers' Association has had another busy year in seeking to expand programs and the support offered to teachers. The State Conference in June was a fantastic day where over 250 History teachers gathered for workshops and seminars on a diverse range of topics. In particular, Senior History teachers were eager to gain some insight and new ideas as they implement the new Senior Syllabuses this year and next. The QHTA would like to thank all presenters, delegates, sponsors and exhibitors for ensuring that the conference was such a success.

At the conference, QHTA again presented The Dr Russell Cowie 'Excellence in History Education' Award which was established in 2017 in memory of Dr Russ Cowie. The 2019 Award was presented to Dr Brian Hoepper with the following citation:

Awarded to Dr Brian Hoepper for excellence in teaching and his unparalleled leadership in History education. He is recognised by the Queensland History Teachers' Association as an intelligent, passionate, innovative and inspiring teacher and leader, who has shaped the teaching and learning of History in Australia. As a classroom teacher, Brian has been instrumental in developing a love of history in secondary students and has inspired his tertiary students to become skilful, passionate and dedicated teachers. As an interesting and thought-provoking presenter at conferences, he has motivated and equipped teachers around the nation to enhance their pedagogy and, as a researcher, writer and editor of History texts, he has provided all with invaluable teaching and learning resources. Additionally, Brian's dedicated advocacy of History education and contribution to curriculum development and implementation has been outstanding.

For all of these reasons, Dr Brian Hoepper is deeply admired and respected and, as such, is deserving of the 2019 Dr Russell Cowie 'Excellence in History Education' Award.

Also at the conference, QHTA introduced a new award to recognise the work of Queensland History teachers. The QHTA Outstanding History Teacher Award was presented to each of Mrs Diana Platt (Carmel College), Mrs Kerry Daud (St Paul's School), Mr Michael Cocks (Toowoomba Grammar School), Associate Professor Andrew Bonnell (University of Queensland), and Associate Professor Tom Stevenson (University of Queensland). QHTA extends congratulations to all award recipients.

QHTA has further undertaken a new program of networking afternoons. This was motivated by a need to offer ongoing professional development to teachers in a less formal setting that would still provide time and opportunity for the sharing of ideas, assessment and planning. QHTA looks forward to continuing these across Queensland during Semester Two.

I would like to acknowledge our extended network of patrons, teachers, academics, university staff, schools and students who work with us to ensure that we are offering programs, conferences, publications and professional development that meet the needs of our teaching community in Queensland.

Pip Macdonald

President: QHTA



Conference delegates at the QHTA State Conference, 29 June 2019



Dr Brian Hoepper, recipient of the Dr Russell Cowie 'Excellence in History Education' Award

## South Australia



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The History Teachers' Association of South Australia is very excited, whilst at the same time, very busy, preparing for the HTAA National Conference to be held in Adelaide during the coming school holidays, 1-3 October 2019. The keynote speakers of Professor Michelle Arrow, the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and 2019 Australian of the Year, Dr Richard Harris, lead what is an outstanding array of presenters. The HTASA Committee hopes that many colleagues from across the nation can make Adelaide their Spring holiday destination for a magnificent professional learning event.

While planning the National Conference, HTASA has continued to provide members with a wide range of services and professional learning opportunities. Since the last HTAA e-Bulletin, HTASA has provided a highly successful Saturday morning professional learning event for pre-service and early career teachers at Nazareth College in Adelaide's western suburbs. The formula for this event continues to be highly successful. Four experienced teachers share their assessment tasks, unit plans and teaching resources. Each teacher focuses on a unit of work from the Australian Curriculum: History. From Years 7-10, the delegates share sequential learning across the four secondary school year levels. Delegates then pause for a 'fruit platter and scones, jam and cream massacre' and return to work with a fifth presenter providing samples of work. In groups, delegates apply the performance standards. Two messages from the morning were evident to all present; firstly, how effective professional teacher associations can be in providing high quality and relevant professional development and, secondly, that delegates highly value the professional learning provided by competent teachers.

HTASA's other major recent event was the SACE Stage 2 Modern History Examination Preparation Evening at the University of Adelaide. Guest Speakers, Dr Vesna Drapac and Dr Thomas Buchanan, provided excellent lectures examining the historical content on the 'Nations' component of the examination. The remainder of the evening focused on the skills required in the Sources Analysis Task. This year, students of Modern History will, for the first time, complete their examination electronically. In light of this, HTASA and presenters discussed the necessary preparation for this experience.

For many students, the evening also provides their first opportunity to visit a university and experience what awaits many of them the following year. The evening is a tremendous example of a strong and productive alliance between a professional teacher association and a leading university, also as a fruitful and mutually beneficial combination with students at the centre of the event. Add to this how food is always a strong currency with senior students, their appetite for historical knowledge and understanding was matched by their enthusiasm for pizza and soft drinks.

HTASA warmly welcomes you all to Adelaide in October for a further feast of professional learning experiences.

Paul Foley

President: HTASA



Active learning at the HTASA Pre-Service and Early Career Teacher Professional Learning event, 15 June 2019



## Tasmania



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The Tasmanian History Teachers' Association had a busy but rewarding start to 2019 with the Humanities *Crossing Borders* conference held in May. Following the success of last year's conference, THTA was keen to continue working with colleagues from the English and Geography teacher associations, TATE and TGTA, to deliver a program of subject-specific but also interdisciplinary and collaborative workshops and presentations. Many teachers travelled from across the State as well as from interstate to Hobart and there was wonderful collegiality. Following the opening keynote delivered

by author John Marsden, a thought-provoking panel discussion addressed the questions of each subject's relevance to life today. THTA would like to thank Dr Nicholas Clements for representing History on this occasion, and thanks also Nick Adeney and Dr Rosalie Triolo of the HTAV for once again contributing to a THTA conference; your continued support is greatly appreciated.

THTA is pleased to announce a new initiative to support teachers in attending the annual HTAA National Conference. Two teachers will be selected to attend the conference, this year to be held in Adelaide, and will receive financial support to cover their three day conference registration and \$300 contribution towards travel expenses. In recognition of her long service to HTA communities both in Tasmania and nationally and her especially generous support of Tasmanian history teachers, the scholarship is named in honour of former president, Alison Grant. Applications for the THTA Alison Grant Scholarship are to be made via the link on the THTA website [www.tasmanian-history-teachers-association.org](http://www.tasmanian-history-teachers-association.org). Applications close 7 September, 2019.

Keen to meet the needs of members and the broader History teacher community in Tasmania, THTA is seeking feedback on existing professional learning opportunities and requests for future professional learning opportunities. All teachers are encouraged to complete the feedback survey also able to be found on the THTA website. All completed surveys will go into the draw to win a \$50 gift voucher. The survey will be live until 15 September, 2019. Good luck!

Finally, THTA congratulates Tasmania's student State Champions in the Australian History Competition held earlier this year:

Year 7 – Titus Cardona Peart and Penny Tassicker, Marist College, and Zara Musk, Scotch Oakburn College

Year 8 – Henry Gell, New Town High School

Year 9 – Bailey Reardon, St Patrick's College

Year 10 – Eleanor March, St Patrick's College

Wendy Frost

President: THTA



At the *Crossing Borders* conference



## Victoria



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The History Teachers' Association of Victoria seeks constantly to improve its advocacy for, and provision of, high quality teaching and learning experiences and resources for Victoria's History students, teachers and other educators at primary, secondary and tertiary education levels and in non-school History education settings.

HTAV is halfway through an impressive calendar of events. While there have been fewer events, each has been strategically timed and located to capture larger numbers of teachers and other stakeholders per opportunity. Compared to most States and Territories, Victoria is geographically a small jurisdiction, but HTAV has committed itself anew to reaching teachers who struggle to achieve release for Melbourne-based events. The first of what are planned to be annual summits in different Victorian regional or remote rural locations was held in March in Ballarat, being a curated Friday program of workshops that had achieved the best evaluations at Melbourne-based events in 2018 and a Saturday of visits to Ballarat's historio-cultural venues and field-sites. The number of attendees and positivity of feedback surpassed expectation, as was the result of the two-day flagship Annual Conference. Other Victorian Certificate of Education teacher professional learning and student events, as well as F-10 support and enrichment programs, the forthcoming Middle Years Conference (with Primary stream) and programs for teachers 'new to History' form the remainder of the year's appealing program.

VCE History programs are presently under different types of review. In particular, the Australian History course is undergoing major review in the hands of competent curriculum officials, teachers, Australian historians and other History education stakeholders committed to ensuring that an exciting and rigorous Australian History course at Year 12 not only survives in Victoria, but gains in take-up. The first draft is out for consultation and conversations pertaining to it have been heartening.

HTAV's small publishing team manages an exemplary output of resources, especially for VCE, and hosts a pool of Victoria's best teachers as its writers. The attention given to HTAV's journal, *Agora*, means that member orders for it 'in paper' remain high as are 'hits' on the online version.

While never losing sight of the longer-standing contributors to HTAV, including to publications and professional learning events, HTAV has actively sought and encouraged many new contributors to the life of the association. Indeed, HTAV is especially keen to mentor a strong 'next generation' of History educators and advocates. Greater publicity and activity associated with HTAV's Peer Mentoring Program as well as Teacher Networks have resulted in more mentors and mentees, as well as teachers participating in social media or other informal networking opportunities. In terms of HTAV's current and future Board leadership and overall governance, Board members have participated in formal or informal learning activities associated with financial knowledge and responsibility and organisational leadership. The Board is a collegial and united force and a pleasure to meet with monthly and work with constantly. All Board members, along with the HTAV staff, are committed to creating and sustaining the best possible History education experiences that Victoria can offer.

Dr Rosalie Triolo

President: HTAV



HTAV Annual Conference Delegates use ICT as learning and teaching platforms



An international collection of World War I postcards facilitates an inquiry-based introduction to the war



Networking and lunching in a corner of the conference exhibitors' space

## Western Australia



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2019 has been a busy year so far with committee members involved in a range of activities to support History education in Western Australia.

The History Teachers' Association of Western Australia held the Modern History Student Seminar Day in May and the next series of seminars will happen soon, with seminars in the South West and Fremantle next month. HTAWA also just held the Ancient History Student Seminar which coincided with an excellent public lecture by Professor of Egyptology at the University of Milan, Dr Patrizia Piacentini, on archaeological excavation and archives as tools for understanding the ancient world. There have also been several successful professional learning events for secondary teachers, with all events, especially the State Conference in March, being well-attended.

As part of HASS Week, HTAWA worked in conjunction with the four HASS associations to host an Australiana quiz night to celebrate and recognise the hard and combined work of all HASS teachers. The night was much fun for all involved.

Governor Kim Beazley invited HTAWA to send representation to an event at Government House celebrating the hard work of Arts and Culture teachers in supporting the educational outcomes of Western Australian students.

HTAWA is very proud of those schools with dedicated History teachers who seek to 'value add' to their students' educational experiences by entering them in the Australian History Competition and the National History Challenge. Because of the extra work involved, I want to congratulate those teachers who give their students such wonderful opportunities. Special congratulations go to the Western Australian students who achieved highly at national level and to the teachers who supported them to that achievement.

The committee has given much time to discussing strategies for the promotion of History in schools. It is important that expert teachers who love and value the subject work collegially to encourage as many students as possible to study it and derive all benefits from a high quality History education. In Western Australia, students need to pass English in order to receive their WACE. This requirement has been established to ensure that students have basic literacy skills to function adequately as adults. These literacy skills are also taught in History where students learn to comprehend and analyse sources and communicate clearly in both written and verbal form. The bonus with History is that students learn further very important skills in critical literacy and creative problem solving. Therefore, HTAWA has commenced discussions that perhaps if a student passes ATAR History, then that should be acknowledgment of achievement of basic literacy requirements. I look forward to talking more about this with interested colleagues at the HTAA National Conference this year.

Cathy Baron

President: HTAWA



Some of the members of the HTAWA Committee, 2019