

# HTAA e-bulletin

January 2017



Students exhibit their passion projects at HTAA's HEP Highlights Exhibition



2016 National Conference Keynote speaker Stan Grant, centre, with HTANSW's Treasurer Dr Denis Mootz and President Toni Hurley



HTAA PL at Notre Dame University

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## Welcome

It is with great pleasure on behalf of the HTAA that I welcome all History teachers across our nation to our first E-Bulletin for 2017. This year provides us with much to examine about the past as well as to anticipate in the future. 100 years ago, Europe witnessed the horror of war and a revolution which would 'shake the world.' Meanwhile, we currently find ourselves in the midst of dramatic change which is as unpredictable as the leaders and events surrounding them.

In many ways there has arguably never been a more critical time to be a History teacher. Intrinsic to our profession is that we find connections between the past and present. Through such an analysis of these patterns and cycles in History, we can assist our students in the substantial challenge of making sense of their world.

While we all negotiate, plan and implement new curriculum, there is one continuity which we History Teachers wrestle with in the classroom and that is the skill of

critical thinking. With rapid access to an abundance of media forms and information in such diversity our students need, more than ever, a finely tuned antenna for reliability, perspective and accuracy. These are essential and, in fact they have never been in greater demand in the classroom or for that matter, the workplace.

I urge you all to embrace our History competitions in the course of 2017. The Australian History Competition, The National History Challenge and The Simpson Prize each await your students' participation.

In addition, your amazing volunteers working in your local HTA's are only an email or phone call away from providing support and solutions. So I wish you all well as you enthusiastically commence 2017. Enjoy reading about History teaching across Australia.

Yours Sincerely,

**Paul Foley**

President, HTAA  
January 2017

**HTAA 2017 National Conference**

# **BREAKING BOUNDARIES**



## **HTAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 27-29 SEPT 2017. BRISBANE**

All Hallows' School, Ann Street, Brisbane

Hosted by the **Queensland History Teachers' Association**

For enquiries, contact QHTA at [qhta@qhta.com.au](mailto:qhta@qhta.com.au) or visit the [QHTA website](#).

## Calendar

The calendar is a monthly guide to what is coming up in 2017. Events are subject to change. The HTAA website includes a [calendar of events](#) for professional learning opportunities across Australia hosted by state and territory HTA's.

February	March	May
<p><b>10</b> SACE Stage 2 <b>HTASA</b></p> <p><b>10</b> <a href="#">VCE Unit 1: Twentieth Century, Global Empires, Ancient Mesopotamia</a> <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>24</b> <a href="#">February VCE Unit 3 History Conference and Examiner's Report</a> <b>HTAV</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> HTAV AGM</p> <p><b>16</b> <a href="#">Teaching the Victorian Curriculum (Levels 7–10)</a> <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>17</b> STE(A)Ming into History: Swan River Colony and Gold - Primary <b>HTAWA</b></p> <p><b>18</b> HTAWA Conference <b>HTAWA</b></p> <p><b>25</b> <a href="#">Stage 6 History Teachers' Day</a> <b>HTANSW</b></p> <p><b>27</b> <a href="#">New Teachers' Day: Early Career History Teaching</a> <b>HTANSW</b></p> <p><b>29</b> <a href="#">Solving the Crowded Curriculum (Levels F–6)</a> <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>30</b> <a href="#">Solving the Crowded Curriculum (Levels 7–10)</a> <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>31</b> <a href="#">Australian History Competition registrations close</a> <b>HTAA</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> Coolamon History Teachers' Day <b>HTANSW</b></p> <p><b>6</b> Historical Skills: Making a Better World - Primary <b>HTAWA</b></p> <p><b>6</b> Secondary <b>HTAWA</b></p> <p><b>10</b> VCE Revolutions (America) <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>10</b> VCE Revolutions (China) <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>12</b> Bega History Teachers' Day <b>HTANSW</b></p> <p><b>19</b> Port Macquarie History Teachers' Day <b>HTANSW</b></p> <p><b>24</b> Australian History Competition <b>HTAA</b></p> <p><b>29</b> HTAV/GTAV Primary Conference <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>30</b> Solving the Crowded Curriculum (Levels F–6) Bairnsdale <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>31</b> Solving the Crowded Curriculum (Levels 7–10) Bairnsdale <b>HTAV</b></p>
June	July	August
<p><b>8</b> VCE Unit 2: Twentieth Century, Global Empires, Ancient History: Egypt, China <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>20</b> Teaching VCE Ancient History <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>20</b> Teaching VCE Australian History <b>HTAV</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> Cairns Secondary and Primary PD <b>QHTA</b></p> <p><b>20</b> Townsville Secondary and Primary PD <b>QHTA</b></p> <p><b>20 &amp; 21</b> HTAV Annual Conference <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>24</b> Mackay Secondary and Primary PD <b>QHTA</b></p> <p><b>26</b> Toowoomba Secondary and Primary PD <b>QHTA</b></p> <p><b>27</b> Bundaberg Secondary and Primary PD <b>QHTA</b></p> <p><b>28 &amp; 29</b> <a href="#">NSW History Teachers' State Conference</a> <b>HTANSW</b></p>	<p>(day TBC) Introduction to Extension History Day <b>HTANSW</b></p> <p><b>9</b> VCE Exam Refreshers: Australian History, Revolutions and Ancient History <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>15</b> National History Challenge Competition closing date <b>HTAA</b></p>
September	October	November
<p><b>2</b> STE(A)Ming into History: Fremantle convict - Primary <b>HTAWA</b></p> <p><b>12 &amp; 13</b> History Enrichment Program (HEP) – Primary <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>9 &amp; 20</b> History Enrichment Program (HEP) – Secondary <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>27 – 29</b> <a href="#">HTAA Conference</a> All Hallows' School, Brisbane <b>HTAA</b></p>	<p><b>13 – 14</b> Rottneest Island excursion: Indigenous and World War <b>HTAWA</b></p> <p><b>20</b> Middle Years Conference <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>31</b> HEP Highlights Exhibition <b>HTAV</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Solving the Crowded Curriculum (Levels F–6) Horsham <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>16</b> Solving the Crowded Curriculum (Levels 7–10) Horsham <b>HTAV</b></p> <p><b>23</b> Teaching VCE History in 2018 <b>HTAV</b></p>

## Competitions

### Australian History Competition

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

**Competition date: 24 May 2017**

Registrations close: 31 March 2017, 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 focus on the significance of Anzac Day and to consider what Anzac Day means to them and to Australia.

**Details of the 2018 question and submission date will be posted on the website.**

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 an historian, 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 2017 is "Making a better world?"**

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



Further information on the respective competitions can also be found on the following pages.

## Australian History Competition Report



**T:** 03 6231 2885

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**W:** <http://australianhistorycompetition.org.au>

The Australian History Competition continues to grow with registrations increasing by 20% in 2016. Many schools took up the opportunity to enter students in Grade 7 and 9 with students from these cohorts now being acknowledged separately in the awards category.

The AHC offers a fantastic opportunity to promote History in schools as well as providing teachers with insight into the historical skills and understanding of their students within and across year groups. Once schools have completed the competition the source and question booklets can be used by classroom teachers to pretest subsequent cohorts as they begin their History unit, either as assessment items or even through using the source booklet to develop historical skills and understanding with their students.

Congratulations to the following students who were the national winners:

Year 7 – Roy Chalmers, Joshua Berry and Sarah Berry (Vic)

Year 8 – Christina Gao and Jiani Yang (ACT), Bill Vickerman (Qld), Indigo Bew (WA)

Year 9 – Leila Heinrich (NT), Oliver Papillo (Vic)

Year 10 – Emma Belgraver (SA)

In 2017 the Australian History Competition also identified the top schools for each category. Congratulations to

Year 7 – Scotch College (Vic), Williamstown High School – Bayview St (Vic), Fort Street High School (NSW), Koonung Secondary College (Vic), Home Education Network (Vic)

Year 8 – Radford College (ACT), Brisbane State High School (Qld), Perth Modern School (WA), Glenunga International High School (SA), Scotch College (Vic)

Year 9 – Perth Modern School (WA), Glenunga International High School (SA), Chatswood High School (NSW), Balwyn High School (Vic), Kelmscott Senior High School (WA)

Year 10 – Sydney Girls High School (NSW), NBSC-Manly Selective High Campus (NSW), St Joseph's College – Hunters Hill (NSW), Penrith High School (NSW), Goulburn Valley Grammar School (Vic)

Competition date: 24 May 2017

[Registrations due:](#) 31 March

More details can be found on the Australian History Competition [website](#).

Louise Secker

AHC Coordinator

HTAA Vice President



Photo: Indigo Bew Year 8 National AHC winner

## National History Challenge Report



**T:** 02 8007 5858  
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The culmination of the Challenge in 2016 was the national awards ceremony in Parliament House. The Federal Minister for Education, the Hon Simon Birmingham, announced the national Young Historian, Rachel Wang, and various sponsors presented prizes to the year group and special category winners. There were glowing comments about the quality of the work presented and the range of topics covered under the theme Triumph or Tragedy?.

Each state and territory, through the hard work of their volunteer coordinators, ran a very worthwhile competition which provided students with the chance to indulge in their own pet topics and to present their findings in either traditional essay formats or impressive multi media productions. We noticed an increase in both upper primary and lower secondary entries which took full advantage of the opportunities provided by the Australian Curriculum. Australian history topics predominated; however, teachers and students had also engaged with the world history elements of the new curriculum. 2017 offers both a new theme, Making a Better World? as well as new methods of submission. All teachers will need to read the [website](#) carefully to see where changes have occurred.

Best of luck everyone!

Liz McGuinness

NHC Coordinator



National winners at the National History Challenge awards ceremony, Parliament House Canberra



Minister for Education, Hon. Simon Birmingham and the Australian Young Historian, Rachel Wang

## Simpson Prize Report



**T:** 03 9417 3422

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**W:** <http://www.simpsonprize.org>

The Simpson Prize Competition has continued to retain its position as the only national commemorative study tour for Australian students. The 2016 tour covered exciting new territory. Eight prize-winning students and two teachers travelled extensively throughout Vietnam, visiting specific locations where Australian military forces operated between 1962-1972. Between 11–21 August 2016, the tour visited Ho Chi Minh City, Mekong Delta, Cu Chi, Vung Tau and Long Tan. The students were also present at the Official Long Tan 50th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony. The ceremony occurred at exactly the same time of the day as did the events which unfolded on 18 August 1966.

The tour was superbly led by Mr. Michael Kelly, Official War Historian, Australian War Memorial and by local expert guide Mr. Hai Truong. In a celebration of the wonderful work conducted by teachers in regional Australia, the 2016 teacher chaperones were; Ms. Charlene Conroy, Katherine High School, Northern Territory and Ms. Cendall Slattery, Lock Area School, South Australia.

At the time of writing, the 2017 Simpson Prize Competition winning students and teachers are being contacted and will be presented with their awards in Canberra in March, 2017. In addition, the 2018 Simpson Prize question and sources will have been launched and we encourage students and teachers to once again embrace this exceptional competition. The competition, as always, welcomes participation as a class activity due to its accessibility for students in its unique combination of personal research and source analysis.

So please explore the Simpson Prize Competition and its extraordinary offerings at; <http://www.simpsonprize.org>

Yours Sincerely

Mr. Paul Foley

Chair, Simpson Prize



Simpson Prize Tour winners and chaperones outside Long Tan



Simpson Prize Tour winners inside Australian artillery bunker at Nui Dat Task Force site

## Primary Report

**E:** [mwhiteley@ais.wa.edu.au](mailto:mwhiteley@ais.wa.edu.au)

**W:** [Primary History Teachers Australia](#)

Looking back at 2016, the superstar resource for primary teachers has been the professional dialogue and sharing within the [Primary History Teachers Australia Facebook group](#), which attracted 550 members since it was formed in February 2016. This platform was also instrumental in sharing news from other HTAA-related social media sites, such as the National History Challenge. The judges were delighted to see an increase in the number of primary students entering the NHC last year and we congratulate all those students who entered. There was much excitement when the 2017 theme, [Making a Better World?](#), was announced in November. The depth and breadth of this theme really is an incredible opportunity to add real purpose and audience to the teaching and learning of History, as outlined in the Australian Curriculum HASS inquiry skills:

### **Questioning – Researching – Analysing – Evaluating – Reflecting – Communicating**

As we move forward, we must continue to embrace this inquiry approach to investigate historical and contemporary events and issues. The General Capabilities provide us all with another set of skills to plan better student engagement. To demonstrate this, as part of the HTAWA Conference this year, a pre-conference day is being planned specifically for primary teachers to adopt and adapt current historical inquiry skills using ICT integration and STEM tools. This **STEAMing into History** PL event will see teachers as learners, AppSmashing as they are guided through the HASS inquiry process of questioning, researching, collaborating and finally creating a resource to take back to their students. Stay tuned for the outcomes of this fun day of professional and personal learning in the next HTAA e-Bulletin.

A wonderful example of this type of innovative Project-based learning, was hosted by HTAV last November and they are hoping to involve students from around Australia in a similar event in 2017. The following article below from Dr Jo Clyne from HTAV, summarises the active involvement of the primary presenters at this amazing Kids' Conference.



Primary students presenting at the 2016 Kids' Conference



A student presenter receives her Kids' Conference certificate from Merrillee Chignell, Assistant Director Department of Veterans' Affairs



*The Kids' Conference provides a platform for primary and secondary students to present innovative digital projects they have created in the disciplines of history, geography and related inquiry.*

*Primary students showcased projects using green screening, Minecraft, stop motion, a school radio station and digital stories developed with an aged care centre. Some students even combined several apps together in developing their project. One of the most interesting projects was developed by Moreland Primary School: an app on the environmental problems facing bees in their local community. After this session, presenters were inundated with questions on both their experiences as developers and the ongoing value of their work.*

*Feedback showed that students valued the freedom to choose their own subject matter and technology. They also remarked on how seeing other students present had inspired them to experiment with a variety of digital tools. You can find out more about the Kids' Conference [here](#).*

*The Kids' Conference is a partnership between the History Teachers' Association of Victoria, the Australian Catholic University and the Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria. It is sponsored by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.*

Maree Whiteley  
HTAA Primary Years Consultant  
HTAWA Vice-President (Primary)



## Australian Capital Territory



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On May 18 we held a workshop at Old Parliament House, in conjunction with the Museum of Australian Democracy and the Australian National Maritime Museum. This was a great chance for ACT teachers to hear from out of state presenters, as well as local ones and the material was excellent. We also ran an information stall at the Australian Catholic University in April to inform pre-service teachers about the work of the association.

We continue to reach out to teachers having difficulties attending meetings and we encourage greater participation. We are conducting surveys to establish what teachers need/want and are also experimenting with different formulas for our meetings, with our August one becoming “History at the Pub”. This proved to be a great success. In September, we used our usual meeting time to attend “A History of the World in 100 Objects” at the NMA, becoming the first group taken through the exhibition.

The state NHC Awards ceremony was held with the wonderful support of MoAD, who co-ordinated the event and set out the afternoon tea. Dr Michael McKernan gave a wonderful speech on what History has meant to him, and both sponsors and parents mentioned how much they had enjoyed the proceedings.

With only a small number of entries received, we were delighted to find that amongst those entries we had three national winners – Year 11/12 (Julia Cooper), Year 7 (Harry Gibbs) and Sport (Madeleine Fuller).

Ann Parry

ACTHTA President



Local ACT MP Ms Gai Brodtmann, with national NHC winners, Harry Gibbs, Julia Cooper and Madeleine Fuller.

## New South Wales



**T: 02 9518 4940**

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One of the highlights of our second half year was undoubtedly this year's National Conference 'Challenging History' which was hosted by HTANSW at Sydney Grammar in late September. We had a marvellous line up of keynote speakers and presenters from around the country across the three days. Delegates from all the state were heard to complain of 'too much choice'! Anne Summers opened the conference with her reflections on how far we have – or haven't – come in the gender equality battle in the 40 years between the first and most recent edition of her *Damned Whores and God's Police*. Stan Grant's keynote on the second day was a powerful and moving reflection on his own journey as an Indigenous Australian in the context of the national struggle for rights and freedoms. It is too hard to single out here the many stimulating and challenging lectures, workshops and forums across the three days of the conference. It was wonderful to have our interstate colleagues both presenting and facilitating. Thank you to all! A very enjoyable opening cocktail party was hosted by the National Maritime Museum, courtesy of Greek Consul-General, Dr Stavros Kyrimis, on the Wednesday evening. This was an opportunity to commemorate Australia's Greek connections in two world wars. The Greek island of Lemnos was particularly remembered on this occasion: Pascalia Kyrimis, a Year 10 student and daughter of the Greek Consul-General, dressed as a WWI Anzac nurse and read a letter from one of the nurses who had served on Lemnos in 1915.

Another notable event of this second half year was the prize-giving cocktail party held at the NSW State Library to honour this year's winners of the Premier's Teaching Scholarships. This year's winners of the NSW Premier's HTA History Scholarships were Jonathon Dallimore (Smiths Hill HS, Wollongong) and Kathleen McDonogh (Kincumber High School). Jonathon's research will focus on the centenary of the Russian Revolution while Kathleen will travel to Canada and the US to research teaching and learning strategies adopted in these countries for the teaching of the histories of Indigenous peoples.

Apart from the National Conference, we have had our busiest ever year of Professional Development. Initiatives this year included very successful twilight PD events targeting pre-service teachers. We have also just run our first twilight PD to induct some new teacher talent into our Teacher PD and Student Study Day speaking programs. With new senior syllabuses in Ancient, Modern and History Extension due for release early in 2017, we are already planning an even busier year of PD for 2017. Best wishes to all for the new academic year!

Toni Hurley

HTANSW President



2016 National Conference Keynote Speaker  
Dr Anne Summers with June Cassidy from  
Davidson High School



HTANSW President Toni Hurley at the 2016  
National Conference Welcome Cocktail Party  
with the Consul General of Greece, Dr Stavros  
Kyrimis, and his daughter Pascalia



Winners of the 2016 NSW Premier's HTA  
History Scholarships: Kathleen McDonogh,  
Kincumber High School and Jonathon  
Dallimore, Smith's Hill High School  
Wollongong

## Queensland



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It has been a very busy and productive year for the Queensland History Teachers' Association as we continued to grow our many programs and publications, and considered how the nature of national and international events will influence schools, the work of teachers and the learning undertaken by students. This is a time when we need to learn from the past to shape our futures and there has never been a stronger need for all Australian children to appreciate the importance of studying History. This consideration will certainly become a vital part of curriculum discussions as Queensland adopts a new system for Senior Schooling, and implements new syllabus documents and assessment processes.

QHTA is also preparing for the 2017 HTAA National Conference. The theme for the conference is 'Breaking Boundaries' and the conference will be held at All Hallows School from the 27-29 September. Keynote Addresses by Peter Fitzsimons and Associate Professor Alastair Blanshard (University of Queensland) will be highlights, as will a special panel presentation on pedagogy and historical thinking featuring Dr Brian Hoeffler, Associate Professor Deborah Henderson (QUT) and Mr John Whitehouse (University of Melbourne). The end of September also aligns with the Brisbane Festival which includes many cultural attractions. More information will be available during Term One, but now would be a good time to start looking at accommodation options. Our Executive looks forward to welcoming you to the conference, and we hope some of you will consider presenting a workshop or seminar.

In reflecting on the successes of 2016, one of the many highlights of our school year program were the Senior Ancient and Modern History Student Seminars. Dr Tom Stevenson and Dr Caillan Davenport, from the University of Queensland, travelled from Brisbane to Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast to speak to students about interpretations of ancient written and visual sources. Dr Andrew Bonnell, also from the University of Queensland, and Dr Brian Hoeffler undertook a 'road show' with their Modern History seminars from Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Dr Bonnell presented an engaging seminar about Nazi Germany and the role of ordinary citizens within the regime, while Dr Hoeffler challenged students to make connections between past historical events to modern terrorism.

The Queensland History Teachers' Association Executive would like to thank the many individuals, schools and institutions who have supported our State Conference, professional development workshops, student seminars, competitions and publications throughout 2016. We hope to see you all in Brisbane at the National Conference in September 2017.

Pip MacDonald  
QHTA President



QHTA Conference delegates

## South Australia



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2016 was a vibrant and exciting time for the HTASA. We continued to grow in membership numbers and for the fourth year in a row our state conference was fully subscribed. The committee continues to evolve in terms of vision, direction and structure. This includes a commitment to diversity in the delivery of professional development, the roll-out of new curriculums, partnerships with tertiary institutions and engagement with pre-service teachers.

Our New Senior SACE History Curriculum will be implemented in Stage 1 in 2017 and the all-important Stage 2 the following year. In essence, there has never been a more important time for teachers to support teachers. The HTASA is very proud of its relationship with the SACE Board and its staff. The lengthy and inclusive consultative process resulted in what SACE Board EO Neil McGorin regards as 'world class curriculum.' The challenge for us is to ensure the curriculum leads to a new generation of secondary students who thoroughly enjoy the rigour and pleasure of studying History. The implementation involve a number of professional development events which we will facilitate in the course of the next two years.

The HTASA would also like to mention several important achievements.

Firstly, at our recent State Conference, a terrific team effort led by Conference Coordinator Ms. Kirsty Raymond, the HTASA bestowed Life Membership on Mr Daryl Best. This is in recognition of a long term commitment to the teaching of History in South Australia. It is a most appropriate title to add to the many achievements which Daryl has already accomplished. Congratulations Daryl!

In addition, at the recent World Teachers Day Award Ceremony conducted by CEASA at the National Wine Centre on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October, we presented Ms Patricia Fabian with an award for 'Exceptional and Long Term Service' to the HTASA. Patricia has quietly gone about the business of facilitating and promoting professional development amongst History teachers in South Australia over many years. It was a fitting tribute to an individual who has given generously to our noble profession.

In the same ceremony the 'University Awards' were presented for their respective outstanding Pre-Service Teachers. In 2016 the University of Adelaide winner, a History specialist, was Ms Alanah Rowe.

Finally, I would like to briefly reflect on our two keynote speakers at the HTASA Conference in August. Dr Martin Polkinghorne invigorated us with the thought that we are just at the beginning of understanding the breadth and complexity of the Ancient Khmer Empire. This is surely an era of history which will continue to reveal more through the blend of archaeological and technological developments across our lifetimes. Then was the memorable reflections of the Honourable Mr Hieu Van Le AC The Governor of South Australia. His story is undeniably a timely and indicative reminder of Australia being, as Prime Minister Paul Keating stated, 'Part of Asia not apart from Asia.' The Governor used words to paint an indelible picture in our minds when he described his arrival in Darwin in 1975, "carrying my invisible suitcase."

May our discipline of History continue to thrive as we guide, impart and foster its study amongst our students and fellow colleagues.

Yours Sincerely,  
Paul Foley  
HTASA President



World Teachers' Day presentation Ms Alanah Rowe and Ms Patricia Fabian with Mr Paul Foley, President HTASA

## Tasmania



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**W:** <http://www.tasmanian-history-teachers-association.org>

The highlight for the Tasmanian affiliate in 2016 has been our State Conference which was held in Launceston in August. Whilst we would normally only offer a State conference every second year, when someone at the University of Tasmania offers to run a conference in the North of the State, how could we refuse! Our immense thanks to Dr Louise Zarmati and her team at the Launceston campus of U Tas for putting on a most thought provoking and exciting conference which has us talking for the remainder of the year. A conference that tackles the 'difficult' histories, as this one

did, serves as a reminder that History teachers have a challenging role in provoking students to tackle the subjects that must by necessity be tackled. We were blessed to have Dr Nicholas Clements from Launceston Grammar School and U Tas deliver our keynote and Shirley Gilbert from the Western Sydney University deliver a plenary – each of these kick-started the conversations and had us grappling with the less comfortable aspects of our early Tasmanian history. Workshops throughout the day provided plenty of opportunity to hear of innovative and sensitive ways by which to teach invasion, genocide, transportation, the Stolen Generation and the Holocaust. Our thanks to all in attendance.

Tasmanian students have once again embraced the learning opportunities offered via the Australian History Competition, Simpson Prize, Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize and the National History Challenge. We were thrilled to have three of our students travel to Canberra for the National History Challenge Awards at Parliament House. The choice of the battle for the Franklin River as the topic for the National Archives of Australia special category was a dream come true for Tasmanian students this year and we were pleased to see the entry from Beatrice Thurston-Regan of Taroona High School win at the National level. The museum entry from Laura Ashby of Sheffield District School impressed the State judges at shortlisting and blew the National judges away. As Laura's exhibit takes its place at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra we know it will continue to impress all who come to see it. It is an extraordinary piece of work. Tasmania was ably represented in the Young Historian stakes by Ruby van Ommen-Brown from the Friends School who researched the expeditions of Ernest Shackleton.

My thanks to our small but hardworking committee for their work this year. We look forward to continuing our promotion of history teaching in Tasmania in 2017.

Wendy Frost

THTA President



Tas Young Historian, Ruby van Ommen-Brown with Tasmanian Premier, Hon Will Hodgman MP



Laura Ashby winner of the NHC Museum Display category

## Victoria



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2016 has finished positively for HTAV. In July the Annual Conference with the theme ‘History Makers’ was held at Flemington Racecourse and was very well received. Our keynote speakers, including Dr Brendan Nelson from the Australian War Memorial and Associate Professor Frank Bongiorno reflected the theme of the conference which set the scene for two days of collegial interactions. This was followed in October with the Middle Years Conference, with Dr Anna Clark from the University of Technology Sydney delivering the keynote session, ‘Private Lives, Public History’.

This year also saw HTAV undertake a second year of the History Enrichment Program (HEP) in partnership with Federation University and made possible through the funding of the Strategic Partnership Program. Through the program HTAV has been able to reach advanced thinkers in regional areas of Victoria. This year the program was held in Gippsland and two days of gifted and talented workshops for both primary and secondary students culminated in the HEP Highlights Exhibition in October with over 140 in attendance to see the students exhibit their passion projects. Some of those students went on to present at HTAV’s Kids’ Conference in November. 2017 will see the program taken to Horsham in Victoria’s Western District.

A number of new HTAV titles, including new editions of the always popular two-volume Twentieth Century History series – *Between the Wars and Post-war Challenges* – has meant that 2016 has been one of the busiest years for HTAV Publishing.

2017 is shaping up to be another busy year with two important professional learning opportunities in February for Unit 1 and Unit 3 senior history. HTAV’s AGM will be held on Thursday, March 9, and the Annual Conference will be July 20-21 at which we hope to see many interstate colleagues.

Ashley Wood  
HTAV President



Photos: HEP Highlights Expo Collage

## Western Australia



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Wow, who can believe we are nearly finished with 2016? We had our first Year 12 cohort doing the new ATAR senior secondary course, transition into our new lower school course (WA Curriculum) and the first year of our year 12 General course (and its dreaded Externally Standardise Task). We had two of our committee members get married, a new constitution in development, a social media policy developed as we wrangled with how to have a productive and coherent social media voice.

HTAWA has become the largest Humanities and Social Science Association in WA (membership-wise) and our committee has worked very hard throughout 2016 to deliver excellent support for WA History teachers. Since July HTAWA has offered professional learning workshops to support teachers in the delivery of our new courses as well as network meetings to enable teachers to collaborate on writing Mock examination papers.

Members of our committee have been very active beyond HTAWA, supporting teacher development and student engagement in History. These include Maree Whiteley's PL and workshops offered as AISWA representative, Crystal Rice's work with various networks on History skills and WA curriculum (through her role as Kelmscott TDS coordinator) and Alex Kopp's work as part of WA Museum on "Exploring explorers" and "Snapshots in a suitcase".

We were very proud to nominate David Murray for his tireless work and effort for the Professional Teaching Council of WA's Outstanding Contribution Award, which he deservedly won and Alycia Bermingham for her hard work and dedication to regional WA was shortlisted as a runner up for the Curtin University Excellence in Regional Education Award. Alycia also won the People's Choice Award. Alex Kopp published her book on Yagan so we are very proud of our Executive members!

Western Australia had a strong number of entries in both the Australian History Competition and National History Competition, which is a good reflection of the quality of the competitions considering many teachers were struggling to keep their head above water curriculum-wise and may see competitions as extra work.

The HTAWA committee has worked hard this year and I am thankful for their efforts. I want to recognise Rosinda Seara who is retiring from the committee after 10 years to concentrate on being a Rotary President, as well as Bernadette Lhota, Susan Thomson and Brad Snell, our Secretary, who are all stepping down to pursue other commitments after years of service on the HTAWA committee.

Cathy Baron  
HTAWA President



David Murray recipient of the PTCWA Outstanding Contribution Award



Alycia Bermingham at the Curtin University Excellence in Regional Education Award ceremony



HTAWA PL at Notre Dame University