

# Paradise with a Past

## 2016 HTA Norfolk Island Conference

HTA's January 2016 Norfolk Island Conference was our first offshore venture.

HTA is very grateful to all who contributed to such a successful conference:

- The keynote presenters who were so generous with their time and wonderfully varied expertise: Norfolk Island Museum's Janelle Blucher, the University of New England's Pauline Reynolds (and husband George), Commonwealth Heritage Officer Matt Alexander, Rick Kleiner and Cyclorama artists Sue Draper and Tracey Yager.
- The workshop presenters who brought their powerpoints and handouts on holiday: Greg Keith, Kate Cameron, Denis Mootz, Paul Kiem, Angela Casey and Amanda Paroz.
- The teachers from Norfolk Island Central School who presented workshops and involved their students in the conference: Susie Hale and Nicky Beadman.
- The site study guides who inspired us all with the multi-layered history of Norfolk Island.
- The people of Norfolk Island who embraced us in so many ways.
- The conference delegates who supported an idea and made it work when they came together from around Australia as colleagues for a week in the South Pacific.
- Our hosts and collaborators:
  - Michelle Nicholson, Principal of Norfolk Island Central School, and her staff.
  - Rebecca Christian and her staff at Norfolk Island Travel Centre.



"Thanks to Denis for expanding my vocabulary. Can I use dialectics in a sentence?"  
 "The Cyclorama was spectacular." "Cyclorama stunning."  
 "Loved every minute. What a wonderful excuse to see Norfolk."  
 "Presenters very varied and informative. A great day at the Central School."  
 "Staff at resorts and Norfolk Travel exceptional."  
 "Unforgettable - thank you everyone involved."  
 "Very well organised and great value for money."  
 "A lot of excellent material packed into the conference."  
 "Has inspired a new direction to Stage 5 history."  
 "A highlight was the Polynesian element."  
 Site studies: "Some of the best experiences of my life..." "Brilliant."  
 "A great way to connect to the island's history."  
 "Best conference I have been to, a great balance of lectures, tours, leisure ..."  
 "Inspirational." "Enchanted by George."  
 "A unique experience about an area of history that I otherwise wouldn't have explored."  
 "The presentations were relevant, engaging and high quality."  
 "The location, its significance and timelessness so valuable to us as History teachers..."  
 "Michelle Nicholson [Principal NICS] and her team showed island hospitality at its best."  
 "What a treat! What an affirmation of the important role of a History teacher..."  
 "I have loved the interaction with local people."  
 "It was great to attend a smaller conference."  
 "Great conference dinner, a lovely way to connect."  
 "...exceeded my expectations."  
 Other suggestions: "Wouldn't dare! This was perfect."

