

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."

