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Welcome

Welcome to the HTAA e-bulletin, which celebrates the outstanding work by teachers and affiliates in promoting history in the past six months.

THTA and HTAA worked together to present a one-day conference in Hobart for primary and secondary teachers in Tasmania. With a diverse program delivered by presenters from Tasmania and across Australia, this was a true celebration of the benefits of an Australian Curriculum. Paul Foley (HTASA), Maree Whiteley (HTAWA), Paul Kiem (HTANSW) joined local presenters including Gemma Davie (Education Officer for Port Arthur and Cascades Female Factory) and David Boon (THTA) to deliver a wide range of topics from pedagogy, to local history and digital resources.

Hobart also provided the perfect backdrop for the National History Challenge judging. This year saw even more growth in the primary category and a proliferation of museum displays. Tasmania built on their success in the 2012 NHC, taking out the most categories at the national level in 2013. The national presentation was held in Parliament House, Canberra, and

provided an opportunity to showcase the excellent work produced by students as well as to thank all the sponsors, teachers, coordinators and parents for their ongoing support of the NHC.

This e-bulletin reflects the significant engagement of teachers across Australia who have implemented the Australian Curriculum. The wealth of resources produced, and professional learning delivered, to support teachers has been phenomenal and represents the significant amount of time teachers and HTAs have invested into the curriculum. On 10 January, the federal minister for education, Christopher Pyne, announced a review the Australian Curriculum as part of the Coalition government's Students First policy. Embarking on a review soon after the implementation of Stage 1 has generated a large amount of debate and media coverage. HTAA will provide a submission for the review based on feedback from affiliates. For more on this, please refer to the Letter for HTAA members within this issue.

Louise Secker
President, HTAA

Calendar

This calendar is a monthly guide to what is coming up in 2014. Please visit each state association's website for more information about the events and professional learning sessions that you see on the calendar.

April	May	June
<p>5 American Case Studies for Extension Students & Teachers (NSW)</p> <p>12 Registration for 2014 Australian History Competition closes</p>	<p>3 Delving into Depth Studies (Years 7-10) (VIC)</p> <p>9 Canberra History Teachers' Day (ACT, NSW)</p> <p>10 Student Seminar Day (WA)</p> <p>15 Teachers New to VCE Revolutions: China & America (VIC)</p> <p>16 Bomaderry History Teachers' Day (NSW)</p> <p>19 Newcastle History Teachers' Day (NSW)</p> <p>22 Wodonga Primary Day (NSW, VIC)</p> <p>23 Wodonga History Teachers' Day (NSW, VIC)</p> <p>26 HTAV/GTAV Primary School Conference (VIC)</p> <p>28 2014 Australian History Competition Runs</p> <p>29 HTAWA Senior Australian Curriculum Workshop (WA)</p> <p>30 Armidale History Teachers' Day (NSW)</p>	<p>12 VCE Unit 2 Twentieth Century (VIC)</p>
July	August	September
<p>24-25 HTAV Annual Conference (VIC)</p>	<p>2 Stage 4/5 History Teachers' Day: NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum (NSW)</p> <p>3 VCE Unit 4 History & IB Student Lectures (VIC)</p> <p>14 VCE Exam Refreshers: Australian, Revolutions, Renaissance Italy (VIC)</p> <p>18 Primary School Conference (VIC)</p> <p>21 HTAWA Professional Learning (WA)</p>	<p>1 HSC History Study Day at Wagga Wagga (Teachers and students) (NSW)</p> <p>13 Student Seminar Day, Year 12 (WA)</p> <p>30-2 Oct HTAA National History Conference, Brisbane Grammar School (QLD)</p>

Competition News



Australian History Competition

The HTAA History competition is running again in 2014. It is open to students from Year 7 – 10 and follows the same format as previous years. Entries close on 12 April. Costs are the same as last year. [WEBSITE](#)



The National History Challenge

The Theme for 2014 is 'Changing Perspectives.' It is free to enter and schools can register for the Challenge online. [WEBSITE](#)



The Simpson Prize

The question for this year's Simpson prize is: 'To what extent did Australians enlist in 1914 to defend the "Mother Country"?' The winners will be travelling to Gallipoli in 2015, the centenary year of the landing. There is no cost to enter. [WEBSITE](#)



THE SIMPSON PRIZE

'To what extent did Australians enlist in 1914 to defend the "Mother Country"'

ENTRIES CLOSE: Friday, 17 October 2014

A competition for Year 9 and 10 students

The 2015 Simpson Prize Question requires students to respond to the question using both the 2015 Simpson Prize Australian War Memorial Source Selection (<http://www.awm.gov.au/education/simpson-prize-question-2015/>) and their own research. It is expected that students will make effective use of a minimum of three of the sources. It is also expected that up to half of their response will make use of information drawn from their own knowledge and research.

Entries via www.simpsonprize.org

NATIONAL HISTORY CHALLENGE



The theme for the 2014 National History Challenge is:
'Changing Perspectives'

ENTRIES CLOSE: Friday, 29 August 2014

A competition for students from primary to Year 12

The National History Challenge is an exciting contest that encourages students to use research and inquiry-based learning to discover more about the past. They can investigate their community, explore their own and their family's past and explore ideas throughout history. The NHC encourages inquiry-based learning, the use of primary and secondary sources and offers a variety of presentation styles that can cater to individual learning styles. It rewards students with generous cash prizes and travel opportunities.

Entries via www.historychallenge.org.au

HTAA Update

RESPONSE TO MINISTER FOR EDUCATION CHRISTOPHER PYNE'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

On 10 January this year, federal minister for education, Christopher Pyne, announced a review of the Australian Curriculum as part of the Coalition's Students First policy. The review will be undertaken by Prof. Ken Wiltshire and Dr Kevin Donnelly.

In his press release, Minister Pyne stated that the Australian Curriculum had been heavily criticised over a 'lengthy period of time' and identified concerns about the curriculum being overcrowded and overly prescriptive. He also queried elements such as the cross-curricula priorities.

HTAA has been involved in discussions concerning a national history curriculum with the Howard government prior to 2008 and with the development of the current Australian Curriculum since 2008. While HTAA has also been vocal in its concerns about the volume of content in the history curriculum, especially after the recommended time allocation was removed from the final curriculum, HTAA has strongly advocated choice within the curriculum.

In his press release, and in subsequent interviews, Minister Pyne has stated that the curriculum had been criticised for not having 'sold or talked about the benefits of western civilisations.' He has called for a balanced curriculum that 'tells the truth of the way we've treated Indigenous Australians' and celebrates the national story.

HTAA has been vocal in the past regarding the need for students to know their own national history. However, the Association questions Minister Pyne's underlying belief that the curriculum has a 'left wing' bias. The curriculum development was undertaken by a number of individuals and underwent numerous consultations involving representatives from a wide range of schools, associations and jurisdictions. HTAA had members involved in the process from the outset. The extent of responsiveness to consultation with specialist educators and historians in the field means that the document presently being implemented is officially version five. HTAA regrets that comments about political interference and ideological bias had been circulating in the media before the recently announced review began.

A key concern for HTAA is for teachers in different jurisdictions who have already invested considerable time and effort in implementing the curriculum. Those teachers require support and certainty to ensure they can focus on delivering the programs they have created. With this consideration uppermost, HTAA recommends that no mandatory changes be made to the history curriculum.

HTAA is also concerned with Minister Pyne's generalised link between the Australian Curriculum and falling PISA results. As Minister Pyne has noted, Australia's PISA results have been declining for some time, while the Australian Curriculum only commenced implementation in 2011. Furthermore, the Australian Curriculum includes disciplines that are not covered by PISA testing. To associate the falling results in international testing with the curriculum in disciplines such as history is unconvincing. The performance of Australian students internationally is too important an issue to be confused with the side issue of perceived ideological bias.

HTAA recognises that Prof. Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly have considerable knowledge of international testing models and curriculum in nations that currently outperform Australia. HTAA calls on the minister to enable Prof. Wiltshire and Dr Donnelly to be able to use their expertise to focus their review on those aspects that pertain to international standards.

HTAA is keen to engage in broad discussions regarding the history curriculum that may lead to an evaluation and revision in the future, but not before the curriculum has been fully implemented. Furthermore, HTAA continues to support genuine moves to address teacher quality and professional learning that will enhance teacher delivery and student experience of the curriculum.

Louise Secker

HTAA President

21 January 2014



Australian Capital Territory

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The second half of 2013 was rich in professional development for our members, and built on our strong relationships with the Australian National University. In August, in place of our usual monthly meeting, we visited the ANU Classics Museum, where we were taken on a conducted tour by the co-ordinator, Jill Greenwell. Dr Douglas Craig, Head, ANU School of History also kindly invited history teachers and small groups of Year 11 and 12 students to attend the school's research seminars. A wide range of topics was presented from July to October, giving us a great extra opportunity for professional learning.

At our September monthly meeting, we were fortunate to have a distinguished guest speaker, Dr Albert Palazzo, who gave a presentation on 'The Significance of Military History.' Dr Palazzo is a military historian with the Australian Army, with many publications to his credit.

A group of committee members travelled to Hobart in early October for the national AGM, judging of the National History Challenge and the Tasmanian state conference, held at Clarence High School. We spent three very stimulating days immersed in student work of amazing quality and interesting new ideas for professional development.

October also saw our presentation of state awards for the National History Challenge. This was held at the National Archives of Australia and included a short talk by Deborah Sulway from the Museum of Australian Democracy. Committee members also attended the national presentation at Parliament House in November.

Our first meeting for 2014 will be held on 6 February, followed by our AGM on 5 March. All meetings are held at the National Archives of Australia, another institution that has been extremely supportive of ACTHTA.

We are currently finalising arrangements for our first PD session for 2014. This will be held at Radford College on 12 March. Starting at 4.30, there will be a launch of the National History Challenge for 2014, followed by finger food and drinks. Participants will then divide into primary and high school groups for an introduction to the AC History units.



Our state winners.



Ms Deborah Sulway from the Museum of Australian Democracy.

Our next project for the year will be an outreach program for both primary and high schools. We plan to visit staff meetings at as many schools as possible to publicise our association, let teachers know about PD opportunities and gather suggestions for future sessions, and tell them about the possibilities for their students in national competitions such as the Simpson Prize and the NHC. We are hoping this direct, personal approach will be much more effective than flyers and emails.

Ann Parry
President, ACTHTA

Queensland



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Queensland History Teachers' Association was formed in 1963 when a dedicated band of teachers joined to form an association which would further the goal of teaching history in Queensland schools. From the very first, the all-volunteer association has aimed to identify and share those teaching practices which will ensure Queensland students become capable thinkers with a firm understanding of our past so that they can become effective citizens of the future. Last year was the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Queensland History Teachers' Association, and one thing that has been a feature of the past fifty years is the dedication and professionalism of our members.

QHTA members go above and beyond what is required of them in so many ways – by organising to take their students to senior student seminars (details about this year's dates are here) and by attending teacher workshops and conferences (details about next year's conference is here). They also keep up to date with professional discussion on Facebook, Twitter or the QHTA Discussion Group – all of which were started this year (details about how to sign up are here).

They enter their students in a range of competitions – the National History Challenge, the Australian History Competition, the Simpson Prize, the Premier's Anzac Prize, as well as our own QHTA Historical Writing Competition. They send their students to the Historical Writing Workshop, and do everything possible to enrich the learning of young Queenslanders.

This year we are proud to host the History Teachers' Association of Australia National Conference in Brisbane from 30 September to 2 October. The conference aims to provide professional development opportunities to ALL teachers of history, from Senior Modern and Ancient History to teachers of history in earlier years, including primary years. The conference theme is: History for the Future: What Future for History?

Presentations may take the form of lectures with time for audience questions, or seminars and workshops. First time presenters might want to share a quick teaching tip or resource in one of the thirty minute timeslots. Presentations may focus on a specific historical issue, history pedagogy, issues such as integrating IT into history lessons, history and special needs students, history and gender differences, or aspects of the Australian Curriculum: History.

All correspondence should be directed to the Conference Chair, Sue Burvill-Shaw on s.burvill-shaw@staidan.qld.edu.au. Please indicate QHTA in the subject header. All expressions of interest forms should be submitted by email before Friday, 5 April. More information can be found here.

Finally, QHTA recognises that for teachers of history, the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: History has provided both opportunities and challenges. Even if you work in a school which is adopting Education Queensland C to C resources, there remains the need to examine these resources carefully and to select those learning activities which you know will best suit the learning needs of students in your classrooms. And we know that the range of learning needs in Queensland classrooms is wide indeed. Finding the 'safe passage' through the Australian Curriculum: History is no easy journey. As we know from experience, the implementation of a new curriculum requires years of fine tuning.

QHTA hopes to assist its members in this journey in whatever way we can. There are a number of ways you can communicate with QHTA and fellow members. We now have a Facebook page which aims to provide updates for members. We also have a discussion group where members (or interested history teachers) can share ideas or resources. To join:

- Go to Google and join Google Groups;
- Search for the QHTA Discussion Group;
- Decide on how you would like to participate (e.g. individual emails, digest or web only);
- Ask to join.

You should get a welcome message within 48 hours and then you can participate. It is worth remembering that the QHTA members page on the website has links where you can contact an experienced teacher of Senior Ancient and Modern History and an experienced teacher of the Australian Curriculum: History. We invite members to contact us to let us know what we can do to help you. Finally, we can always be contacted by email on: qhta@qhta.com.au

We look forward to helping Queensland teachers achieve their goals in 2014.

Sue Burville-Shaw
President, QHTA

History for the Future: What Future for History?

Call for speakers and workshop presentations

Brisbane Grammar School

Tuesday, September 30th

Wednesday, October 1st

Thursday, October 2nd

QHTA invites teachers and other educators to offer a presentation or workshop at the 2014 National Conference or to join with fellow professionals to present as a team. Conference presenters receive a free day registration to the conference!

The conference aims to provide professional development opportunities to ALL teachers of history, from Senior Modern and Ancient History to teachers of history in earlier years, including primary years. The conference theme is: **History for the Future: What Future for History?**

Presentations may take the form of lectures with time for audience questions, or seminars and workshops. First time presenters might want to share a quick teaching tip or resource in one of the thirty minute timeslots. Presentations may focus on a specific historical issue, history pedagogy, issues such as integrating IT into history lessons, history and special needs students, history and gender differences, or aspects of the Australian Curriculum: History.

Presenters can nominate to present a short teaching tip session of thirty minutes, or a longer presentation or workshop of sixty minutes or ninety minutes.

All correspondence should be directed to the Conference Chair, Sue Burvill-Shaw on s.burvill-shaw@staidan.qld.edu.au. Please indicate QHTA in the subject header. All expressions of interest forms should be submitted by email before **Friday, 5 April**.

New South Wales

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The NSW HTA ended 2013 celebrating awards for outstanding service to two major contributors to the HTA executive, Beatriz Cartlidge and Toni Hurley. Beatriz and Toni have made contributions to the teaching and learning of history in NSW. Their recognition by the Professional Teachers Council was richly deserved, and is in some small way a thank you for all the time, energy and knowledge they have so generously shared with our history community over the years.

2014 is certainly shaping up as another busy year as NSW moves to implement its new history syllabus. It will be supported by our new Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES), which is the new acronym we will be adjusting to this year. The HTANSW will be providing a range of support to assist teachers with the implementation of the new syllabus, including a range of opportunities in rural areas, as well as the traditional days in Sydney. We are particularly looking forward to staging collaborative events with HTAV (Wodonga) and ACTHTA (Canberra).

The introduction of the new syllabus will provide some degree of stability, as it has been widely consulted on and comes with a high level of acceptance from all stakeholders. This should mean that the syllabus will have the opportunity to be consolidated in classrooms free from political distractions. BOSTES President, Tom



HTANSW Executive members Toni Hurley (left) and Beatriz Cartlidge being presented with Professional Teacher Council Awards for Outstanding Service.

Alegounarias, made this point in an interview with the *Sydney Morning Herald*. He described the NSW syllabus development process as formal and thorough, and pointed out that teachers and students were entitled to stability. THE NSW HTA certainly endorses this approach, and will be doing our best throughout 2014, to ensure that the new syllabus is implemented efficiently and in a manner that decreases the stress placed on staff and students.

We are also looking forward to celebrating the success and achievements of history students at our annual awards presentation at the University of Sydney in March. It is always inspiring to hear history students speak about what they have gained from studying the subject we hold so dear to our hearts.

Bernie Howitt
President, HTANSW



South Australia

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The HTASA was delighted at the strong attendance at our annual conference, once again held at the Art Gallery of SA and the South Australian Museum in August. We find this precinct and the venues to be most conducive to the success of the day. While we all remember various workshops and presentations we attended, I hope most importantly, connections and networks between teachers were established. This is important for all teachers regardless of their experience, as shared experience leads to best practice.

History will certainly be very much in the spotlight this year as we begin the first of what will be significant commemorative years regarding the Great War. I personally believe we will face two distinct challenges over these commemorative years. Firstly to foster the ability of our students to examine with scrutiny the commemorative experience as interpreted through the media. The second challenge will be to remind our students of the importance of individual stories which provide perspective to the major events in history. It is very important to sometimes consider the reverse of general thinking, for example, why had 'relative' peace prevailed in Europe for 99 years prior to August 1914? There is one thing of which we can be assured, the amount of public discussion and coverage in the media will be

unprecedented. I was fortunate to spend a year teaching in London in 1995 during the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe and it was an extraordinary experience to witness.

My final comments are reserved for the recent National History Challenge presentation ceremony. A highlight for the association and of course the students was the attendance by the governor of South Australia Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR. In his speech, the governor emphasised the place of research in the broader context of lifelong learning; 'I am sure that the hard work of doing real historical research, checking the facts, piecing the story together; and the joy of solving historical puzzles will live on in the memories of all the students who have thrown themselves into the challenge. It will help in other school work and in life.' It was heartening to hear His Excellency endorse what we all do every day in our classrooms.

In conclusion, the HTASA look forward to another exciting year where our enthusiastic committee strives to support and engage with history teachers throughout the state, we just wish it would be a little cooler here at times in this parched but beautiful state of South Australia.

Paul Foley
President, HTASA

Victoria

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*National History Challenge Victorian Launch 2014
'Changing Perspectives'
Portable Iron Houses
Thursday, 27 March*

It has become an annual Victorian National History Challenge tradition to hold the competition launch in a different National Trust property each year. For the 2014 launch we were fortunate to be hosted by the Portable Iron Houses in South Melbourne. This is an unusual and often overlooked property that provides an antithesis to the grand houses often run by the National Trust. Property manager Pauline Reid gave a summary of the significance of the cottages as 'kit homes' of the mid 1800s and most guests had a turn at climbing the extremely tiny vertical steps up to the attic bedrooms.

The official party of the launch included NHC co-chairman and HTAV executive officer Richard Smith, Ashley



NHC Launch at the Portable Iron Houses, South Melbourne

Wood (president of the HTAV), Dr Rosalie Triolo (past president of the HTAV), Martin Green (National Trust of Australia), Joe Virgato (Department of Veterans' Affairs), Helen Simpson (Asia Education Foundation), Alexis Watson (Victorian coordinator) and Jo Clyne (Victorian



coordinator). Apologies were sent by Colin Pearce (Victorian coordinator) and Ross Gibbs (National Archives of Australia).

Richard launched the 2014 theme of 'Changing Perspectives' as a wonderful opportunity for students

across each year level to consider how values and ideas change over time. Alexis shared a teacher's perspective on the measurable benefits of entering students into the challenge, and Jo discussed how the NHC provided opportunities for pre-service teachers.

We thank all teachers, pre-service teachers and sponsors who attended the launch and we are looking forward to seeing what students will make of the dynamic 2014 theme of 'Changing Perspectives.'

Our thanks go to Martin Green, learning & interpretations manager, The National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Pauline Reid (property manager of the Portable Iron Houses) and the team of volunteers who assisted with the properties on the day of the launch.

Jo Clyne (HTAV), Alexis Watson and Colin Pearce
Victorian coordinators, National History Challenge

Western Australia

HTAWA

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Continuing the Conversation was the theme for the HTAWA state conference held in August 2013. After the success of hosting the HTAA conference in 2012, HTAWA members were invigorated by the formal workshops as well as the informal 'conversations' that occur when likeminded people gather in one place.

Annabel Astbury's keynote address on 'The joy of teaching history in a digital world' set the tone for the day with audience members tapping away on their devices checking out the sites referred to in a way that would never have been possible, or permissible, in a classroom in the late twentieth century.

The potential of the digital world for history in and beyond the classroom was also evident in Shiona Herbert and Andrew Bowman's workshop 'AC online resources – Objects Alive: virtual museum resources and exploring local heritage.' As director of the Carnamah Historical Society and curator of the Museum respectively, Shiona and Andrew showed the incredible opportunities the digital world presents for maintaining heritage and extending

the audience of regional museums. The virtual museum also encourages people to be Virtual Volunteers, to assist with transcription and editing of historical records. This inspirational workshop was enthusiastically received and I encourage everyone to visit the virtual museum from the comfort of your own sofa.

The National History Challenge continues to grow in Western Australia. 2013 saw more entries, more museum displays, more variety of topics and even more museum displays! The state presentation had a change of venue to accommodate the greater number of students, parents, teachers and museum displays. Western Australian students were again nationally successful with winners in the categories of Year 9 level, Year 7 level, Great Sportspeople, Migration and Human Rights. The focus of the winning essays was very diverse, from Yagan to Nelson Mandela, the Battle of Red Cliff to the Sandakan Death Marches.

Louise Secker
President, HTAWA

THTA – From Strength to Strength

The last twelve months have witnessed a period of growth and development for the THTA. The association continued to build on traditional successful programs such as the National History Challenge as well as introducing a number of new initiatives. Tasmanian students once again had outstanding success in the National History Challenge with six national winners and the association witnessed a rapid growth in membership.

North West Tasmanian History Teachers

The establishment of a North West Cluster has enabled teachers in that region to access support and share their expertise. Activities of this group included a local conference, presentations at the Tasmanian state conference and online meetings. Support has also been provided to enable this group to provide professional learning on the ESA AC History Units. Already the group, which began in the Table Cape area, are attracting membership from the broader North West region. Thanks must go to Dione Parker for her leadership of this local network. It was wonderful to have Dione in Canberra to present at the 2013 National Conference of the HTAA.

State Conference

With support from the HTAA, the THTA ran a successful state conference in October 2013. A varied program across three strands (Primary, Secondary and K-10) was well received by those who attended. The HTAA must be congratulated for their support of regional areas of Australia through providing organisational and financial support to professional learning. With expert presenters from both within Tasmania and from other states, Tasmanian teachers were provided with the opportunity to experience sessions that would normally only be expected at a national-level conference.

Museum Partnerships

The THTA have a focus on working collaboratively with museums to ensure that their education programs successfully support teachers in teaching the

Australian History Curriculum. A number of initiatives took place in 2013 and more are planned for 2014 and beyond.

Work continues with support from the THTA on a Years 2 and 5 program at the Australian Army Museum Tasmania. This utilises many of the visible thinking approaches also used in the [Year Two AC History Unit](#). Similar approaches were used in a partnership with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to develop a [teacher resource](#) for the *Our Changing Land* exhibition. Planning has begun on a resource for the Maritime Museum of Tasmania utilising funding from a successful grant application supported by the THTA.

The Channel Heritage Centre at Margate has taken out a membership of the association and has been working with the THTA to provide professional learning to their volunteers as well as to align their exhibits to the Australian Curriculum.

Membership and AGM

The THTA welcomes existing and new members to be involved in the activities of the Association in 2014. The AGM will take place in the third week of March. Membership payments are also due at that time.

David Boon

President, THTA

The Premier of Tasmania, Lara Giddings, and some of the successful Tasmanian students at the Tasmanian presentation ceremony for the National History Challenge

