Dear colleagues,

Welcome to our HTAA mid-year e-Bulletin. While much of the nation experiences the cold and darkness of winter, a great deal of light has been cast upon history curriculum documents Australia-wide. In four states and territories new Senior History documents are in the process of being finalised or implemented. The experience of change often brings challenges, however, new opportunities exist. At a recent gathering of affiliate presidents there was a genuine mood of sharing common experience and a desire to ensure that the very best, innovative and engaging History curriculum documents exist across Australia.

I recommend that each and every one of you, (recently estimated at over 3,500 teachers of History across the nation) actively engages in discussions on methodology, curriculum and assessment. Amidst the greatest beneficiaries of these rich discussions are early career teachers who are the future of our profession. Recently I was privileged to present awards at the University of Adelaide for achievements in curriculum and methodology. There was certainly no lack of enthusiasm and passion amongst the approximately 100 pre-service teachers. I listened to their conversations at the post-ceremony lunch and a number of topics consistently presented themselves. These included discussions of, ‘Where do I go online or “in person” if I have questions?’ And, ‘Will other teachers willingly share ideas and resources?’ In relation to the latter, I repeatedly replied; “Yes they will.” After all, these conversations and the sharing of resources and expertise are the processes through which our own early careers were nurtured and are, to this day, the processes by which we continue to refine our craft.

This spirit of giving and collaborative learning is the foundation of our vocation and profession. It is also the reason why face-to-face workshops and conferences continue to be such valuable learning experiences.
President’s Welcome (continued from front page)

I encourage all of you to embrace the professional learning opportunities that your national and local associations offer. These could include attending the HTAA National Conference in Brisbane, September 27-29, 2017, or your State and Territory conferences, or local networking events where unit plans are shared and task exemplars are collectively examined to benchmark assessment. This is the core business of teacher professional associations like our HTAs and it is the work we have always done and will continue to do with pride.

Please enjoy reading this e-Bulletin, and thank you for your spirit of generosity and professionalism.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Foley
President, HTAA
July 2017

Calendar

The calendar is a monthly guide to events 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 HTAs.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>25 NHC entries close</strong></td>
<td>2. STE(A)Ming into History: Fremantle convict - Primary HTAWA</td>
<td>20 Middle Years Conference HTAV</td>
<td>NHC National presentation close HTAA</td>
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<td><strong>25 HTASA conference</strong></td>
<td>12 &amp; 13 History Enrichment Program (HEP) – Primary HTAV</td>
<td>31 HEP Highlights Exhibition HTAV</td>
<td>10 Simpson Prize entries close HTAA</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>15 Lismore Stage 6 Day</strong> - New Syllabuses HTANSW</td>
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<td><strong>15 Solving the Crowded Curriculum (Levels F–6)</strong> Horsham HTAV</td>
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<td><strong>9 &amp; 20</strong> History Enrichment Program (HEP) – Secondary HTAV</td>
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<td><strong>16 Solving the Crowded Curriculum (Levels 7–10)</strong> Horsham HTAV</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>27 – 29</strong> HTAA Conference All Hallows’ School, Brisbane HTAA</td>
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<td><strong>23 Teaching VCE History in 2018 HTAV</strong></td>
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HTAA 2017 National History Teachers’ Conference

27-29 September 2017 | All Hallows’ School, Ann Street, Brisbane

#Breaking Boundaries

Designed by teachers, for teachers, the HTAA National History 2017 Conference will be hosted in beautiful Brisbane by QHTA at the historic All Hallows’ School.

Join us for three days of inspiration, innovation, conversation and collaboration which will provide loads of ideas and knowledge to assist with making your classrooms engaging and challenging for your students.

A variety of keynotes, innovative workshops, seminars and plenty more will ignite discussion on topics from the ancient to the modern world. Challenge yourself to learn more about history and historical debates, or immerse yourself in innovative pedagogical approaches that have been tried and tested in classrooms with Australian students.

Program and online registration www.qhta.com.au
## Competitions

### Australian History Competition
This is 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:** 23 May 2018


### The Simpson Prize
**Closing date:** 10 November 2017

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](http://www.simpsonprize.org)

### National History Challenge
**Closing date:** 25 August 2017

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?”**

Australian History Competition Report

2017 saw another year of growth in the Australian History Competition with an increased number of schools participating. It is wonderful to see numerous regional schools, as well as our first international school, participate in this competition.

The top five schools for each category this year are:

Year 7 – International Grammar School (NSW), Scotch College (Vic), Merewether High School (NSW), Shore School (NSW), NBSC – Manly Selective High Campus (NSW)

Year 8 – NBSC – Manly Selective High Campus (NSW), Perth Modern School (WA), Merewether High School (NSW), Brisbane State High School (Qld), Scotch College (Vic)

Year 9 – Darwin Middle School (NT), NBSC – Manly Selective High Campus (NSW), Scotch College (Vic), Shore School (NSW), Perth Modern School (WA)

Year 10 – Goulburn Valley Grammar School (Vic), John Curtin College of the Arts (WA), Killara High School (NSW), St Joseph’s College – Hunters Hill (NSW), St George Girls’ High School (NSW)

National and state winners will be notified throughout August.

The national winners for each category this year are:

Year 7 – Kaya Sayer (NBSC - Manly Selective High Campus), Zoe Fraser (All Hallows School)

Year 8 – Sarah Berry (Home Education Network)

Year 9 – Benjamin Jones (Belconnen High School), Alan Xiong (Scotch College – Vic)

Year 10 – Benjamin Lawrence (Bendigo South East College)

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Australian History Competition in 2017.

Competition date: 23 May 2018
Registrations due: 2 April 2018

More details can be found on the Australian History Competition website.

Louise Secker
AHC Coordinator
HTAA Vice President
A great deal of activity has taken place in relation to the Simpson Prize. In March this year the winners and runners-up from each State and Territory travelled to Canberra to receive their prize medals and certificates in an official ceremony at Parliament House from The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, the Hon Dan Tehan MP.

The 16 students and two teacher chaperones received an all-expenses paid tour of the nation's institutions. These included three visits to the Australian War Memorial, including one visit to the Australian War Memorial warehouse facility in Mitchell, and visits to the Museum of Australian Democracy and National Archives of Australia. The group’s personal tour of the Australian War Memorial with Director Dr Brendan Nelson was indeed another highlight. The group also enjoyed an official dinner at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

In April, the Simpson Prize winners from each State and Territory participated in an overseas 14-day study and commemorative tour. This year the eight students and two teacher chaperones travelled to London, France and Belgium. They visited museums, historic sites, battlefields, war grave cemeteries and of course the highlights of Paris, London and Versailles. The group was also in attendance at the 2017 Anzac Day Commemorative Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux.

2017 Simpson Prize Runners-Up

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Samuel Melhuish</th>
<th>Marist College Canberra</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Kefah Ferache</td>
<td>Asquith Boys High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>Lachlan Anderson</td>
<td>Darwin Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>Rachel Leeson</td>
<td>St Monica's College</td>
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<td>SA</td>
<td>Hillary Thursby</td>
<td>St Mary's College</td>
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<td>TAS</td>
<td>Madeleine Pearn</td>
<td>St Patrick's College</td>
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<td>VIC</td>
<td>Sabrina Tse</td>
<td>Camberwell Girls’ Grammar School</td>
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<td>WA</td>
<td>Char Min Ng</td>
<td>Willetton Senior High School</td>
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2017 Simpson Prize Winners

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<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Elizabeth Spollard</th>
<th>Burgmann Anglican School</th>
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<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Lucinda Hogan</td>
<td>Loreto College Kirribilli</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>Finlay Dale</td>
<td>Palmerston Senior College</td>
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<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>Riley Smithers</td>
<td>Pimlico State High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Charlotte Matthias</td>
<td>Loreto College Marryatville</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>Sasha Massey</td>
<td>St Patrick’s College</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>Katia Testarotta</td>
<td>Camberwell Girls’ Grammar School</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Jae Brieffies</td>
<td>Willetton Senior High School</td>
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The 2017 Simpson Prize teacher chaperones were Mr Owen Laffin, Norwest Christian College, NSW, and Ms Emilie Reynolds, Holy Cross College, WA.
Simpson Prize Report

The 2018 Simpson Prize question and sources are currently attracting a great deal of interest. Teachers and students have already demonstrated a genuine engagement with the question and the diverse sources. I encourage all teachers to embrace this unique commemorative and learning experience as a Year 9 assessment task or as an extension activity for Year 9 and 10 students. All entry details, access to sources and the closing date are available at [www.simpsonprize.org](http://www.simpsonprize.org).

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Foley

Chair, Simpson Prize

Students at the Australian War Memorial
Primary Report

E:  mwhiteley@ais.wa.edu.au
W:  Primary History Teachers Australia

We are delighted to announce the release of a new resource specifically designed for primary teachers of History in Australia. This online publication was produced by the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) in collaboration with the History Teachers’ Association of Victoria (HTAV), as a response to providing additional primary units, written by classroom teachers, similar to the excellent History units developed by the History Teachers’ Association Australia (HTAA) in 2012: AC History Units.

The choice of year levels included in the History in the Making project was a direct result of the positive feedback from teachers about the depth and breadth of the teaching and learning sequences of the AC History Units and requests for the ‘missing year levels’ to complement the existing Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 units.

Two launch events were held last month to congratulate the writers and acknowledge their input in sharing their classroom ideas and, in doing so, reflect on their pedagogical approach to teaching historical inquiry.

Samantha Wynne, writer of the pre-primary and Year 1 units, which focus on the concept of Time and the progression of students’ historical thinking in the Early Years.

Bek Duyckers, writer of the Year 6 unit Journeys to Australia, which follows the same format as the AC History Federation unit, but continues the Year 6 narrative with a focus on Migration.

Jennifer Langley, writer of Celebration and Commemoration, being a Year 3 unit that models the inquiry process in the first half of the program, before introducing a ‘student-led’ inquiry.

Maggie Catterall, writer of Commemorating the ANZAC Legend which requires students to understand the importance of Australia’s identity and diversity in both a local and broader context.

Marion Littlejohn, writer of The Australian Gold Rushes, being an inquiry-based unit that presents students with a range of visual primary sources to spark curiosity about life in the 1800s.

Maree Whiteley, History in the Making Project Manager and Coordinating Editor.

A detailed report about this resource, including reviews and feedback from the teacher trials, will be published in the July 2017 edition of the HTAA Primary e-Bulletin.

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

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W: http://acthta.wikispaces.com

The ACTHTA has made a concerted push this year to consolidate membership and enliven proceedings, and appears to have been very successful. This is due to the hard work, enthusiasm and efficiency of the very small committee who, collectively, punch well above their weight.

The committee has conducted a survey of members to establish what they want from the association, and when. This has led to some innovations in activities in 2017, such as:-

» We have changed our meeting day to accommodate some valuable members who had previously been unavailable

» We have made a policy of alternating “business” meetings with lighter events, such as the ones listed below, to encourage teachers to attend

» We have both a Teachmeet and a movie night in the pipeline for July. The latter will include a networking/sharing element. Our local theatre is very happy to work with us whenever it is showing something with an historical base. We are hoping to provide free tickets for members and are keen to see if this attracts new faces.

» We are looking at plans to revamp our website and make it more responsive to events.

In March, we ran our launch of the National History Challenge at the National Museum of Australia, with presentations from various national institutions. These were designed to give teachers useful ideas on resources that could help students make a start. We also provided a simplified “Getting started’ sheet for schools thinking of entering the competition; it seemed popular.

In April, the association presented at an Information Fair for Year 4 pre-service teachers at the Australian Catholic University. Many students took up the offer of free membership to ACTHTA, and we hope to encourage them to events as they commence their careers.

In May, we held another History in the Pub evening with Dr Duncan Wright from the ANU speaking on Indigenous archaeology and chronology, to the great enthusiasm of his audience.

My thanks to and admiration of the committee members who have made all of this happen.

Anne Parry
ACTHTA President
In March this year the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) formerly the NSW Board of Studies (BOSTES) released the new senior syllabuses in Ancient, Modern and Extension History. NSW HTA has been busy building a Professional Learning program to support teachers preparing to implement the Year 11 curriculum in 2018 and the Year 12 in 2019. At this stage, the specifications for the revised HSC examination for our History subjects have yet to be released, and there is some anxiety among teachers about what NESA’s ‘Stronger HSC Standards’ will mean for the revised examinations.

We have had a big turnout of teachers for the PD days so far conducted, and expect a similar large attendance at our State Conference at the end of July—where the focus will be on the new syllabuses. We are also delighted with the line-up of presenters for the conference. Our keynotes include Prof Tom Griffiths (ANU) Prof Grace Karskens (UNSW) and Glen A. Baker (aka ‘Rock Brain of the Universe’). Our regional conferences held all around NSW during May attracted good numbers as well. This year we visited Bega, Port Macquarie (pictured) and Coolamon.

This year, the Renée Erdos Award (named in honour of the founder of NSWHTA) was made to a 2016 HSC student, Trent Hugler, (pictured) from Parramatta High School in Western Sydney. Trent achieved an amazing First Place in Ancient History, 2nd Place in History Extension and 3rd Place in Modern History at the 2016 HSC examinations. Trent is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Ancient History course at Macquarie University.

Best wishes to Queensland HTA for the success of the September HTAA conference in Brisbane! For those of you looking for an offshore historical summer holiday, visit our website for details of the 2nd Norfolk Island ‘Paradise with a Past’ Conference to be held in January 2018.

Toni Hurley
HTANSW President
Dear History teachers,

The Queensland History Teachers’ Association looks forward to welcoming you to sunny Brisbane for the 2017 HTAA National Conference (27–29 September). The conference will be held at All Hallows’ School which, in addition to being in the middle of the city, overlooks the beautiful Brisbane River.

We are very excited to have Peter FitzSimons, Dr June Oscar AO, and Professor Alastair Blanshard present keynote addresses. Associate Professor Deborah Henderson, Dr Brian Hoepper and John Whitehouse will also form a panel to discuss challenging pedagogical issues facing History teaching. In addition, Jessamy Gee, from Think in Colour (www.think-in-colour.com.au), will join the panel to present their ideas in graphic form.

We encourage you to check the full program of presenters who are sharing all things History education—pedagogy, innovation, and assessment in the primary, middle and senior years. The program for teachers of the primary years has a strong focus on literacy and numeracy using the HASS structure adopted by many states. On the other hand, the sessions identified for teachers of secondary have a strong focus on the Australian Curriculum and topics which support the senior syllabuses released across Australia. You can access the full program at www.qhta.com.au

Special events on the program include the wine and cheese afternoon (27 September), the ‘Plantagenet Dinner Under the Stars’ (28 September), and a special viewing of the Gladiators exhibit at the Queensland Museum (29 September). Tickets for these events can be booked during registration for the Conference, or intending participants can email QHTA at qhta@qhta.com.au. The Brisbane Festival is also taking place at this time, with a huge range of pop up restaurants, cultural events and fireworks (Saturday 30 September) on offer.

We look forward to seeing you in Brisbane in September.

Best wishes,

Pip Macdonald
QHTA President

2017 HTAA National Conference Keynote presenters Peter FitzSimons, June Oscar and John Whitehouse
The HTASA has been very busy providing professional development, working on resources and planning for future Professional Development on the New SACE Senior Modern History Curriculum. 2017 witnesses the implementation of the new Stage 1 (Year 11) curriculum to be followed by Stage 2 (Year 12) in 2018. Our first PD events have included a Stage 2 examination and moderation review afternoon in February and, on a Saturday morning in mid-March, we shared best practice in curriculum, methodology and assessment which was gratefully received by the attendees. The success of such events can be easily measured in the rich discussions, sharing of resources and the relief amongst teachers that they are ‘on track’.

Our PD Team is now working on our annual HTASA State Conference under the stewardship of Conference Coordinator Ms Kirsty Raymond. This year’s event, to be held on Friday 25 August, under the title ‘History’s Shifting Perspectives’, will provide a diverse range of options for delegates. This year we move to a new venue at the University of Adelaide Club and we are excited by the opportunities this new location will offer presenters and delegates. Our two keynote speakers are Honorary Professor Allan Gyngell from ANU’s College of Asia and the Pacific. Professor Gyngell is the author of the recently highly acclaimed book *Fear of Abandonment: Australia in the World since 1942*. Our other keynote is Dr Karen McLeod-Adair of Monash University who will address the relationship between war, conflict and genocide on one hand, with art on the other.

This year the HTASA has launched an exciting and fun initiative, this being a film evening for each season of the year. Our inaugural autumn screening at the Capri Cinema, ‘The Zookeeper’s Wife,’ was a terrific success and the upcoming winter screening will be the much awaited film, ‘Dunkirk.’ Events such as these are highly productive as they bring History teachers together and foster professional relationships in an informal and enjoyable setting.

Paul Foley
HTASA President
In February this year, a small group of Tasmanian teachers gathered at New Norfolk in the Derwent Valley to take part in a teacher professional learning event suitably titled ‘A Dirty Weekend: Professional Learning for Teachers’. A joint project between Flinders University’s Department of Archaeology (Dr. Heather Burke) and the University of Tasmania’s Faculty of Education (Dr Louise Zarmati), this professional learning opportunity introduced teachers to the methods for incorporating historical thinking and archaeological thinking in their teaching. Part of this experience was a visit to a constructed dig site at the Willow Court, Tasmania’s colonial mental health institution c.1829-2001. Working under the supervision of team leaders, participants in the project assisted children as they worked on the ‘dig’ and uncovered its stories. The feedback from participants was excellent and all reported a newfound confidence in using artefacts and historical inquiry back in their classrooms. We are hoping to run the program again this year at Willow Court, and provide a similar ‘constructed dig’ as part of our professional learning offerings throughout the remainder of the year to Tasmanian pre-service and in-service teachers.

After many years at the helm of the National History Challenge in Tasmania, Angelique Bowe has decided to call it a day. There are many teachers and students across Tasmania who owe Angelique an enormous debt of gratitude; her enthusiasm for the teaching of History has proved infectious for all us on the committee, in her classrooms and across school communities. John Bennett from Kingston High School has now taken over the reins and is excited about the challenges of his role and the Challenge itself!

A series of professional learning opportunities is currently being designed for the second half of the year. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and Twitter feed for upcoming events.

Wendy Frost
THTA President
Teacher professional associations and their members sustain a heady pace, apparent all the more when a midyear report of activity exceeds what would have been a full year’s activity less than a decade ago.

In terms of publications across the six months, HTAV’s Board, Staff and many talented contributors have produced two *Agora* journals (with *Agora* celebrating its 50th birthday) and nine member bulletins of diverse updates. A special member bulletin noted the passing of Life Member, Colin Pearce, after whom the Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching and Learning of History and to HTAV is now named. Colin’s funeral brought together in person or in respectful written remembrance many long-standing and significant contributors to the life of HTAV.

In challenges and changes of different kinds, Ingrid Purnell stepped down from two years as Executive Officer to return to work in consulting roles for HTAV Publishing. As EO, Ingrid brought to the association high quality corporate compliance as well as History disciplinary and curriculum knowledge. Many members have expressed relief that she is contributing her History education expertise to high quality HTAV VCE resources which teachers are requesting in support of new VCE offerings.

HTAV swiftly advertised nationally—and Dr Deborah Hull commenced as the new EO on 7 August. Deb had worked for six years at the University of Melbourne as the Director of Learning at Ormond College. She led a team of program managers and teachers supporting tertiary students across all disciplines, and offering 130 classes each week and 180 additional learning events each year. Prior to this, Deb was an independent consultant assisting the Department of Education, the regional offices and Local Learning and Employment Networks with a diverse range of evaluation, professional learning and strategic planning projects. Deb has a PhD in History, a deep respect for the work of teachers, and an ardent desire to support them.

HTAV has organised 13 professional learning events to-date, the most recent being the successful two-day Annual Conference offering a total of 48 different sessions after thought-provoking keynotes and essential curriculum updates. Members have commenced registering for the Middle Years Conference to be held in Melbourne CBD on Friday 20 October. HTAV is also updating its Constitution, has worked on a new Enterprise Agreement with the eleven staff, and is poised to introduce other workplace documents.

HTAV is further seeking in 2017 to increase its member schools’ uptake of the HTAA-organised national competitions and all Executive and Board members have assumed specific responsibilities.

At the halfway mark of 2017, History education is strong in Victoria and I must thank the HTAV Executive, Board and Staff for their enthusiastic and high quality work.

Dr Rosalie Triolo
HTAV President
2017 commenced with some changes in our committee. I am very pleased to welcome back Maree Whiteley as Primary Vice President, Roseanne Leece as Secondary Vice President, Louise Secker as Vice President, David Murray as Treasurer and Emily Donders as Secretary. Emily replaced Brad Snell, being big boots to fill, but she is doing an excellent job so far. We are fortunate to have retained most of our amazing and talented volunteers from last year, along with a few new faces on our committee. HTAWA members are lucky (not just because we have not increased our membership fee since 1997) but because our large committee means that we are able to diversify and offer wide support to WA History teachers. I am grateful for the honour of leading this band of hardworking volunteers. We do not have any paid officers, and the depth and breadth of knowledge and commitment consistently floors me. I recently said to someone that one of the things I love about the HTAWA Committee is being around people who are doing amazing things in their schools or workplace. I walk away from the meetings inspired.

In the first six months of the year, we have held our State Conference, which was well received, and our Student Seminars which had nearly 500 students. Both ran very smoothly. We have held PL for both primary and secondary teachers, had our inaugural ‘new to teaching upper school History’ pub meet (strangely popular), and a HTAWA ‘welcome to the new year’ breakfast at the wonderful YHA at Fremantle Prison. This included a fascinating and informative tour on female prison history. Not to forget, we have produced our Good Answer Guide for Ancient and Modern History based on the 2016 WACE exam as well as an online resource looking at Sikh and Indian History in Australia. HTAWA committee members further presented at a State Heritage Conference.

David has bought HTAWA into the age of STEM through updating our technology so we can now stream our student seminar days and support History teachers and students across our great state.

Our next semester will be busy with an Ancient History mini conference in August, with upper school student sessions and workshops for Ancient History from year 7-12 across a range of contexts. We have an upper school teacher PL looking at building contextual knowledge, and a South-West Student Seminar day. And we must not forget a trip to Rottnest, primary and secondary teacher PL, Year 11 and 12 Student Seminar Days, National History Challenge and Simpson Prize judgings as well as NHC State presentations.

Cathy Baron
HTAWA President