

ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES, 2018-2019

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1. FROM THE CHAIR



The History Council of Victoria has completed another constructive year of growth and achievement. As we prepare to launch the Value of History statement at the annual conference of the Australian Historical Association, it is timely to reflect on the role history plays in our lives.

The Value of History statement emphasises the value of studying the past and telling its stories to our sense of belonging, to our communities and to our shared future, by:

- shaping our identities,
- engaging us as citizens,
- creating inclusive communities,
- contributing to our economic well-being,
- teaching us to think critically and creatively,
- inspiring our leaders, and
- providing a foundation for future generations.

The statement recognises the contribution that an understanding of history makes to our national life to ensure that ethical, historical and cultural perspectives inform discussions regarding Australia's future challenges and opportunities.

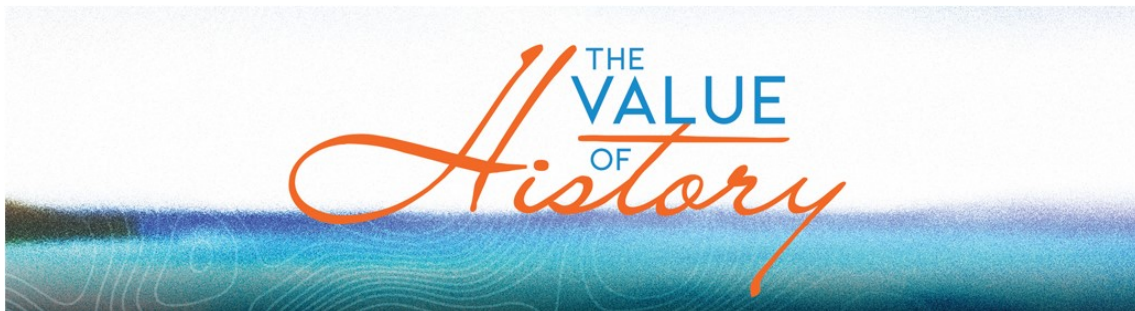
With common agreement, commitment, and open conversation about why history is important, the four Australian History Councils (NSW, WA, SA and Victoria) believe the historical community can change perceptions of the value of history and articulate its important role in the public sphere. History and creativity, for example, make a great partnership and we celebrate the work of historians. History offers a fundamental perspective that inspires cultural experiences and informs creative expression. Historians' outputs include writing, publication, illustration, design, animation, narration, display, exhibitions, performances, archiving and collection management. The work of historians covers any place, any person, any period.

History is a fascinating, vital discipline that is essential to a deep understanding of the present. Political, social, cultural and economic issues of today are better interpreted when placed in historical context, and at a time when we see astonishing world events, it seems particularly pertinent that we stop and examine the past. The Value of History statement will be an extremely useful tool as we embrace the many opportunities and challenges created by pressing environmental issues, globalisation, technological change and flexible ideas about what it means to be human.

The History Councils call on individuals and organisations in Australia to endorse, share, and use this statement about the value of history in contemporary life. The ideas expressed in the statement can be incorporated into projects, funding applications, training materials, mission statements, websites, marketing materials, submissions and other organisational outlets. It can be downloaded from our website.

The Value of History statement will help to sharpen our focus and strengthen our resolve as we advocate for history and the work of historians. I commend it to you and welcome your feedback.

Dr Liz Rushen
Chair



2. THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

The HCV's activities during 2018-2019 included the development of the HCV Friends' program (launched in 2017), continuation of the *History Roadshow* program with funding from the Department of Education and Training, delivery of the *Making Public Histories* seminar series in partnership with Monash University and the Old Treasury Building, and continuing sponsorship of the Historical Fiction Competition organised by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria for students in Years 9 and 10.

'A secondary education for all'? - *A History of State Secondary Schooling in Victoria*, by Dr John Andrews and Dr Deborah Towns and funded by the HCV, won the Collaborative Community Award in the Victorian Community History Awards, presented in October 2018. The HCV extends its sincere congratulations to the authors and to Australian Scholarly Publishing.

The HCV continues to communicate actively using digital media via the website, by email and through engagement with social media (Twitter). The HCV opened a Facebook account in September 2018; it reaches new and wider audiences for our events and information.

The HCV works collegiately with the other History Councils in Australia, having instigated and helped to finalise the joint statement about the Value of History.

3. MEMBERSHIP

We have had several changes in membership: in September 2018 the Board appointed Emeritus Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor Graeme Davison AO FAHA FASSA FFAHS as an individual member of the HCV; Judy Maddigan resigned as an individual member on 4 December 2018.

Four changes in organisational membership occurred during the year:

- The Professional Historians Association (Victoria) merged with its Tasmanian counterpart to create a combined association for Victoria and Tasmania.
- The Heritage Council of Victoria appointed Professor Andrew May FASSA as its new representative following the conclusion of Garrie Hutchinson's term on 30 June 2018.
- Clinton Markwell resigned as the representative of the History Teachers Association of Victoria on 13 October 2018. The HTAV appointed Bronwyn Cooke as its new representative.
- Museums Australia (Victoria) changed its name to Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Victoria) in early 2019. Its representative, Laura Miles, resigned with effect from 14 December 2018 following her appointment as Museum and Historical Services Manager with Victoria Police. AMaGA Victoria appointed Kitty Owens as its new representative.

4. BOARD

The Board is the governing body of the HCV. Its membership corresponds with the full membership of the association. At 30 June 2019, the Board members were:

Representatives of member organisations

Organisation	Representative	Start date
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Michelle Rayner	13 Jul 2005
Department of Education and Training	Victoria Hall	10 Apr 2014
Heritage Council of Victoria	Professor Andrew May	10 Aug 2018
History Teachers Association of Victoria	Bronwyn Cooke	22 Nov 2018
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)	Martin Green	12 Jun 2014
Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Victoria)	Kitty Owens	5 Jun 2019
Museums Victoria	John Patten	2 Mar 2017
Professional Historians Association (Vic/Tas)	Katherine Sheedy	1 Feb 2005
Public Record Office Victoria	Tara Oldfield	23 Nov 2016

Organisation	Representative	Start date
Royal Historical Society of Victoria	Dr Judith Smart	10 Feb 2009
State Library Victoria	Tim Hogan	1 Mar 2017

Representatives of other organisational members

Organisation	Representative	Start date
Old Treasury Building	Margaret Anderson	21 Jan 2016
Monash University	Dr Kathleen Neal	22 Feb 2017
Victoria University	Adjunct Associate Professor Rob Hess	24 Feb 2017

Individual members

Name	Start date
Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison	7 Nov 2018
Dr Liz Rushen	14 Feb 2013

5. GOVERNANCE AND BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Members met for the AGM on 20 September 2018. The Board of the HCV met in 2018 on 16 August, 20 September and 22 November and in 2019 on 21 February and 16 May.

Executive Board positions as at 30 June 2019 were Dr Liz Rushen (Chair), Dr Judith Smart (Deputy Chair) and Katherine Sheedy (Hon. Treasurer). Margaret Birtley is the appointed Secretary. These people served on the HCV's Executive committee, with Adjunct Associate Professor Rob Hess also elected to the committee by the Board.

Many Board members serve in small teams to advise on key areas of HCV activity. Additional experts are appointed to assist where appropriate. The Executive committee guides the Friends' program while other committees guide the Public Fund, fundraising and the HCV's social media and website communications. Committees also plan the *Public Events* program (which includes the *Making Public Histories* seminar series) and the *History Roadshow*. The HCV acknowledges the invaluable support and input of the Board, its committees and the Executive Officer.

When available, a Board member accompanies each *History Roadshow* tour. Their contributions include networking discussions with presenters and participating teachers, and as panelists in the Career Pathways session. Board members also lead events such as tours and seminars.



Tessa Quinlan of Victory Lutheran College receives her Year 9/10 winner's prize from Garrie Hutchinson.

The Board continued its sponsorship of the Year 9 and 10 Category of the Historical Fiction Competition organised by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV).

Board member Tim Hogan and former Board member Garrie Hutchinson served as the judging panel and made presentations to the winner and the runner up at a ceremony arranged by the HTAV on 19 October 2018. Particular thanks are extended to Garrie Hutchinson for assisting the HCV in this co-opted role.

6. PUBLIC FUND COMMITTEE

To meet its obligations through the Register of Cultural Organisations and as a Deductible Gift Recipient, the HCV has a Public Fund Committee comprising Boyce Pizzey OAM, Dr Charles Fahey and Dr Geoffrey Robinson.

7. REPRESENTATION



Dr Rushen (on the left) with Christine Grayden.
Photo credit: Simon Fox, Deakin University

Dr Liz Rushen attended a number of events in her capacity as HCV Chair, including awards presentations, book launches, seminars and presentations.

On 29 August 2018, at the 25th Victorian Museum Awards, she presented the Award for Lifetime Achievement to Christine Grayden in recognition of Christine's four decades of volunteer work documenting the history and protecting the heritage of Churchill Island and Phillip Island.

8. SOURCES OF SUPPORT

The HCV enjoys generous in-kind support from the employers of its members and from many of the organisations represented on its Board. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) hosts the HCV as a tenant at reasonable rates. The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and the Old Treasury Building have kindly hosted the HCV's Board, general and committee meetings.

Monash University, the Old Treasury Building and the HCV collaborate effectively to plan and deliver the *Making Public Histories* seminar series. The School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies at Monash sponsors the Old Treasury Building as the venue partner. Monash University Publishing kindly supplies books as gifts for the speakers at each seminar. The June 2019 seminar was presented jointly with Oral History Victoria.

The Department of Education and Training has funded the *History Roadshow* for VCE history students since 2006 through its Strategic Partnerships Program. Current funding is for the triennium 2018-2020. The *History Roadshow* program enjoys the support of many schools in regional Victoria. The HCV is especially appreciative of the venues – either secondary schools or the regional campuses of universities – that serve as hubs for their regions by hosting the tours.

The HCV is grateful to the many historians who contributed their time and specialist knowledge to the HCV's programs, including the *History Slam*, the *History Roadshow* and the *Making Public Histories* seminars. The presenters at these events are acknowledged in section 11, below. Appreciation is extended to all speakers, many of whom gave their services *pro bono*.

The HCV thanks all its supporters and contributors for their good will and assistance.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

The website is the HCV's primary means of communication. Content on the site is additionally promoted via email and social media. The HCV began engaging with social media through Twitter in June 2015 and four years later has 1,477 followers. The Executive Officer is normally the author of tweets, including 'live tweets' from HCV events such as the *Making Public Histories* seminars and the *History Roadshow* tours. During this year the HCV started a Facebook page and is using this to promote its news and public events.

The HCV has continued to improve both the content and the distribution of its free and occasional E-news bulletin. At the end of June 2019, the E-news mailing list contained 1143 addresses. The E-news bulletin contains not only announcements about HCV events, but also selected information from the history community in Victoria. It was published on six occasions this year, on 14 September, 2 October and 24 December 2018, and 2 April, 5 and 17 June 2019.

All HCV Friends receive the E-news bulletin. They also receive the Friends 'Alert' email which was published eight times during the year.

10. ADMINISTRATION

The Board is assisted by its part-time (0.2) Executive Officer, Margaret Birtley AM, who also represents the HCV at each of its public events.

Bookkeeping services are provided by Resolve UBM Business Management Services.

11. MAJOR PROGRAMS

The HCV's current range of programs ensures that key audiences are targeted effectively.

History Slam



For History Week 2018, the HCV collaborated with Museums Victoria and the Professional Historians Association (Vic/Tas) to present History Slam, a curated program of seven short presentations about contested history.

The historians who presented were Sarah Rood, Amber Evangelista, Monica Cronin, Lisa Hilli, Dr Caitlin Mahar, Paul Michael Donovan, Dr Rachel Buchanan, and Isobel Morphy-Walsh. The program was expertly facilitated – through thoughtful and witty words and song – by Mama Alto.

Making Public Histories

The *Making Public Histories* seminar series often attracts an audience with specialised interests and expertise. Six seminars were offered during the year. The topics and presenters were:

Tuesday 10 July 2018: 'Making Aboriginal histories'

Participants: Alexandra Roginski, Australian National University; Dr Billy Griffiths, Deakin University; Dr Shannon Faulkhead, Museums Victoria and Monash University; Professor Lynette Russell, Monash University (convenor). The seminar was presented as part of NAIDOC Week.

Tuesday 28 August 2018: 'History and Fiction'

Participants: Dr Linda Weste, The University of Melbourne; Dr Kelly Gardiner, La Trobe University; Dr Ali Alidazeh, Monash University; Dr Kathleen Neal, Monash University (convenor).

Tuesday 13 November 2018: 'Curating the Anzac Centenaries: War, Memory and the Museum'

Participants: Jean McAuslan, Shrine of Remembrance; Deborah Tout-Smith, Museums Victoria; Professor Alistair Thomson, Monash University (convenor).

Tuesday 12 March 2019: 'Death, disease and pandemics'

Participants: Mary Sheehan, Living History; Professor Janet McCalman, The University of Melbourne; Lucy Bracey, Way Back When Consulting Historians; Professor Alistair Thomson, Monash University (convenor).



Tuesday 14 May 2019: 'Historians, places and the past'

Participants: Dr James Lesh, University of Sydney; Kate Gray, Lovell Chen Architects and Heritage Consultants; Chris Johnston, founder of Context heritage consultancy and a Research Associate at La Trobe University; Professor Graeme Davison, Monash University (convenor). The seminar was presented as part of the Australian Heritage Festival and Law Week.

11 June 2019: 'Living histories: innovative approaches to oral history'

Participants: Kirby Fenwick, Lee Valentine and Ryan Gustafsson, and Rose Turtle Ertler; Professor Alistair Thomson, President of Oral History Australia (convenor). The seminar was run jointly with Oral History Victoria.

History Roadshow

Eight *History Roadshow* tours for VCE History students in regional Victoria and their teachers were conducted during the year:

- 1 August 2018, hosted by Federation University Australia (Churchill), Gippsland
- 13 August 2018, hosted by Deakin University, Warrnambool
- 17 August 2018, hosted by Federation University Australia (Mt Helen), Ballarat
- 31 August 2018, hosted by Northern Bay College, Corio
- 7 September 2018, hosted by Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta
- 11 September 2018, hosted by Girton Grammar School, Bendigo
- 18 June 2019, hosted by Grovedale College, Geelong
- 27 June 2019, hosted by La Trobe University, Shepparton

Sessions were delivered in subject areas relating to the curriculum and matching local demand. In 2018-2019, these subjects were Ancient History, Australian History, Global Empires, Revolutions (Chinese, French and Russian) and Twentieth Century History. A general session on Career Pathways was included as part of each tour. The *History Roadshow* program is evaluated and reported regularly to the Department of Education and Training.

The academic presenters were: Dr Yana Ostapenko and Professor Joe Siracusa (RMIT University); Dr Darius Von Güttner (La Trobe University); Professor Keir Reeves, Dr Zeb Leonard and Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter (Federation University Australia); Dr Rebecca Cairns, Dr Joanna Cruickshank and Dr Bart Ziino (Deakin University); Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM and Dr Julie Fedor (University of Melbourne); Dr Michael Adcock (Melbourne Grammar School); Nick Freeman (Bendigo Senior Secondary College); Ned Johnson (Centre for Adult Education); Richard Malone (Luther College); Elizabeth Morgan (Girton Grammar School).



History Roadshow presentations at (left) Deakin University (Warrnambool) by Dr Yana Ostapenko, and (right) Galen Catholic College (Wangaratta) by Richard Malone.

Collaboration with other History Councils

The HCV collaborates with the History Councils in NSW, SA and WA on matters of shared interest. During this year the main focus has been on developing a shared statement on the Value of History.

Annual Lecture

There was no *Annual Lecture* during 2018-19 because two lectures were presented in the previous year.

12. FRIENDS PROGRAM

The HCV Friends program aims to offer current and future supporters a way to engage with and demonstrate support for HCV while receiving tangible benefits in return for an annual subscription fee.

Friends receive a range of benefits including a discounted rate for tickets to HCV events; early notification and priority booking for all HCV events; exclusive access to Friends-only events such as behind-the-scenes tours; access to mentoring/networking opportunities; discounts with publishers, and full entitlement to post events to the HCV's online calendar. These benefits and opportunities are communicated when relevant through the occasional 'Alert' bulletin that is sent to each Friend by email.

During 2018-19, groups of Friends participated in the following special events:

14 July 2018: Field trip to the Central Goldfields, visiting the Central Goldfields Art Gallery (Maryborough), the Maryborough Midlands Historical Society, the impressive Maryborough Railway Station, the Maldon District Museum and the Maldon Vintage Machinery Museum.



The Central Goldfields trip was well reported by the *Tarrangower Times*.



HCV Friends admire an exhibition about local wedding photography in Maryborough.



Tim Hogan introduces some of the stored collections of State Library Victoria.

25 September 2018: Behind-the-scenes tour at State Library Victoria hosted by Board member Tim Hogan.

21 November 2018: End-of-year dinner at Young and Jackson's Hotel with Friends and members of the Board, prefaced by a talk by archaeologist Megan Goulding about the excavations at the Metro tunnel site.

18 June 2019: Guided tour of the Library of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne hosted by HCV Friend Maj-Gen. Michael O'Brien.

Friends also received discounted tickets for the History Slam on 'Contested History' in October 2018 as part of History Week.

The HCV encourages everyone to become a Friend!

