



## Queensland History Teachers' Association

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### Online Newsletter November 2006

#### Australian History Summit update

Opening the **HAA National Conference** in Fremantle on Friday, 6th October, federal minister Julie Bishop made a significant speech. She affirmed her intention to push ahead with a 'model curriculum' in Australian History for students in Years 3-10 in all Australian schools. She also attacked existing syllabuses and curricula, referring to 'social engineers working away in State government education authorities' and 'ideologues who have hijacked school curriculum'. The next day, HTAA National Council responded by welcoming the federal government's interest in promoting Australian History in schools, repeating HTAA's willingness to be involved in the process, but criticizing Minister Bishop for her comments about state education department 'social engineers' and 'ideologues'.

The post-Summit working party chaired by Dr John Hirst had its final meeting on 31st October. The next stage now begins. A leading history educator has been appointed by the Minister to consult widely and to produce a framework/guidelines document that will inform the eventual writing of the 'model curriculum'. (The name of that person has not been publicly released by DEST but those in the know believe it's a sensible choice. The name should emerge soon, once the consultation process begins.)

QHTA members will be forgiven for thinking that QHTA has been rather quiet during the whole Summit process. To explain ... HTAA Council decided months ago that all HTA responses to the Summit process should be channeled through HTAA, to avoid conflicting and competing messages coming from the various state HTAs.

QHTA Executive has been busy however. The Executive had a special meeting to discuss and respond to the Summit and its aftermath. And QHTA convened a meeting of selected practicing teachers to produce a separate response. The reports of those two meetings have been sent to the state and federal Education ministers, Dr John Hirst and other interested parties. You can read both reports on the Sunshine Project website:

<https://olt.qut.edu.au/udf/SUNPRO/> That site also provides over 30 articles and reports related to the whole History Summit process.

Further, QHTA is combing with SOSEAQ, GTAQ, QETA, HENA and a collective of Australian historians to write to state minister Rod Welford, asking that he convene a Queensland Summit in April 2007 to discuss the whole issue of Australian History in schools. By April the report of the current consultation/framework process should be available for consideration.

Another source to review the **Australian History Summit** public debate and its aftermath is at <http://www.htansw.asn.au/what/History%20Summit/historysummit.htm>

#### 2007 Modern History Student Seminars

In 2007 QHTA will again offer the very successful Modern History Student Seminars - with a difference. To make it easier for schools to attend, the seminars will be presented on four consecutive days in different parts of Brisbane, as well as on the Sunshine and Gold Coasts.

The four Brisbane seminars will be on Tuesday, 8 May - Friday, 11 May 2007. Three tentative venues are in central Brisbane, Bald Hills and Springfield. QHTA is seeking a fourth Brisbane

venue, preferably in either the outer East (Carindale/Wynnum district) or outer South (Mt Gravatt/Springwood district). If you can offer your school please email Brian Hoepper [b.hoepper@qut.edu.au](mailto:b.hoepper@qut.edu.au). The venue needs to be a theatre with at least 200 seats and large-screen data projection. Schools make their venues available free of charge, but the school's students attend without any fee (saving also on transport costs).

To make it even easier for schools attending, the seminar sessions will be from 10am - 12.20pm on each day. This will eliminate the peak hour bus trip.

The Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast seminars are tentatively planned for the following week, possibly on Tuesday, 15 May and Thursday 17 May 2007.

More details will be circulated as soon as they are available.

## The Simpson Prize Topic 2007

### **The Simpson Prize 2007 - A national competition for Year 9 and 10 students.**

Eight students, one from each state and territory, accompanied by two teachers are flown to Gallipoli or the Western Front to attend the dawn service and other Anzac Day ceremonies in 2007. The topic for the 2007 Simpson Prize is:

***Consider what values and characteristics demonstrated by the ANZACs at Gallipoli and later reinforced at the Western Front, continue to influence Australians today.***

More details at <http://www.afsse.asn.au/index.htm>



## 2006 National History Challenge

**The National History Challenge** is a research-based competition for students. The theme for 2006 was "Turning Points". The Queensland winners for 2006 are:

### **Year 7/8 Prize**

Emily Peters, Emerald State School

### **Year 9/10 Prize, The Life and Times of John Curtin Prize & Primary Sources Prize**

Jacinta Livingstone, Brisbane Girls Grammar School

### **Year 11/12 Prize & Australia's Heritage Prize**

Danielle McCarthy, Albany Creek SHS

### **Indigenous Australia Prize**

Sabina Myers, Brisbane Girls Grammar School

### **2006 Premier's Young Historian Award**

Jacinta Livingstone, Brisbane Girls Grammar School

An overview of each of the winning essays is at

<http://www.qhta.com.au/competitions.htm>

The theme for the 2007 National History Challenge will be "Lessons from the Past".

More details on **National History Challenge** at

<http://www.historychallenge.com.au>



## 2006 OHTA Historical Writing Competition

The winners of the **QHTA Historical Writing Competition** can be viewed at <http://www.qhta.com.au/competitions.htm>

The standard of entries this year was very high and the judges commended both the students and their teachers for the way in which students showed their ability to research, interpret evidence and make historical judgements.



### What's on ...

#### **29 November 2006 - "Conversations about Controversies: The History and Geography Debates".**

Final evening seminar of the SOSE@SUNSET series. Venue: Brisbane Catholic Education Centre (Staffroom), 243 Gladstone Road, Highgate Hill. RSVP Ms Leone Buckley ( 38400457 or [lbuckley@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lbuckley@bne.catholic.edu.au) )

**8 December 2006 - Final date for submitting 2007 Simpson Prize entries.** See <http://www.afsse.asn.au/index.htm> for more information.

#### **21-24 January 2007 - ANU Summer School on Islam, Australian National University, Canberra.**

The Freilich Foundation, with support from ANU National Institute of Social Sciences and Law, are offering 10-15 funded places for the "Understanding Islam" summer school. For more information go to <http://www.anu.edu.au/hrc/freilich>

**2-5 October 2007 - 2007 History Teachers' Association of Australia Annual Conference, Shore School, North Sydney.** The conference theme is "*Source, Text, Memory - Exploring the Place of History*". **Expressions of Interest** are open for those who would like to attend or present at the conference. For a conference flier go to <http://www.htansw.asn.au/what/documents/HTAA%20Conference%20Flier%202007%20working.pdf>

### Have you seen these new resources...

#### **World War II Daily.**

This is the centrepiece programming of <http://www.ww2daily.com> a new web-based entertainment broadband channel that will encompass every aspect of World War II. One of the main features of the site will be the opportunity for children and grandchildren to post webpage tributes to relatives who are World War II era veterans. There will also be features on books, movies, television shows, events, tributes and reunions. Guest hosts, commentators and newsmakers will also be featured.

#### **Operation CLICK Anzac to Kokoda**

Department of Veterans' Affairs - Distributed to all schools. Resources include book, CD and websites. More information at <http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/operationclick>

**National Archives - Vrrroom beta is live.** To access information go to <http://Vrrroom.naa.gov.au>

**Global Education News - October 2006.** Read it online at <http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/news>

### Digital Learning Objects

**The Le@rning Federation** employs emerging technologies to produce world-class online curriculum content to encourage student learning and support teachers in Australian and New Zealand schools. Listed below are 9 History DLOs. For more information see <http://www.thelearningfederation.edu.au> Brisbane Catholic Education has several DLOs available. You will find them at <http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=10715>

#### **1. Dorothy Griffin: great Australian women**

Help an editor to produce a series of magazine issues about outstanding Australian women such as Dame Nellie Melba and Edith Cowan. Choose from a shortlist of women well known in these fields: writing, the arts, business, social reform and 'firsts'. Review and compare historical material, including photographs. **Year levels: 9, 10**

#### **2. Fiona Chiu: Chinese family tree**

Make a storyboard for a documentary film about Chinese Australians. Explore the family history of a young woman whose Chinese ancestors migrated to Australia during the Victorian gold rush. Trace the ancestors' experiences in Australia, including racial prejudice they suffered. **Year levels 7, 8, 9**

### **3. Maggie O'Rourke: Eureka Stockade**

Investigate events that led to the miners' uprising in Ballarat in 1854. Help a teenage girl to understand why her brother wants to join the miners in the Eureka Stockade and protest against the government. Browse background notes and interviews of several characters. Do a SWOT analysis to decide whether or not to support the miners' protest. **Year levels: 8, 9**

### **4. Mervyn Bishop: photographer**

Explore a personal perspective on Australia's Indigenous heritage through the photos of Indigenous photographer Mervyn Bishop. Examine his photos and personal notes. Find out how he became one of the first Aboriginal people ever to work on a major Australian newspaper. Trace his career, including barriers he faced. **Year levels: 9, 10**

### **5. Nellie Gibson: life during wartime**

Help a teenager put together a scrapbook of her experiences living in Perth during World War II. Browse through a scrapbook about her life before the war. Look at family photos, newspaper cuttings, documents and other souvenirs. Examine maps showing locations of major battles fought during World War II in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific. **Year levels: 9, 10**

### **6. Nhu Minh: multiculturalism in Australia**

Meet Nhu Minh, a Vietnamese-Australian studying in Melbourne in 1987. Explore Nhu's cultural background, showing how multiculturalism has enriched life in Australia. Examine photos, personal notes and historic materials. Use these materials to build a storyboard, including captions and voiceovers. **Year levels: 7, 8, 9**

### **7. Norman Dean: Great Depression**

Make a storyboard for a documentary film about the Great Depression in Australia. Examine a series of photos and descriptions of life during the Great Depression. Explore the Depression's impact on unemployment, housing, poverty levels, family life and health. Choose images linking personal stories, lifestyle changes and the bigger picture of Australian society in the 1930s. **Year levels: 9, 10**

### **8. Peter Dalton: enlistment and the call to war**

Help a teenager to decide whether to enlist for Australian military service in World War I. Look at a summary of key military and political events. Interview people with a range of opinions. Examine background materials about recruitment drives, voluntary enlistment and conscription. Do a SWOT analysis and explore the consequences of your decision. **Year levels: 9, 10**

### **9. The Circle: a summer in Antarctica**

Explore life on a summer trip to Antarctica. Look at roles such as a doctor, biologist, photographer and field safety officer. Look at transport, rescue procedures and safety hazards. Explore the sights, sounds and history of Antarctica. Compare the challenges faced by early polar explorers with today. **Year levels: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10**

## **Other matters...**

**2007 QHTA Membership Forms** are now available on the QHTA website - <http://www.qhta.com.au>

**Writing Opportunity** - Teachers are invited to submit articles and lesson activities for *The History Teacher*. This will be published in February 2007 and will be the last edition as the QHTA moves to the annual publication of *QHHistory*. Any reflections on the life of *The History Teacher* are also welcome. Please forward all submissions and queries to [sharph@usq.edu.au](mailto:sharph@usq.edu.au)

### **2007 HTAV Primary Teacher Fellowship.**

Program runs from Sunday, 21 January 2007 to Wednesday, 24 January. The Fellowship includes visits and workshops at many of the major cultural institutions. Fellowship covers travel and accommodation. All queries to Michael Spurr at [m.spurr@htav.asn.au](mailto:m.spurr@htav.asn.au)

**History Matters** - To subscribe to an email service providing updates and insights into implementing the new AHS & MHS syllabus contact Mary-Anne Vale, Standards & Assessment

Officer, QSA at [maryanne.vale@qsa.qld.edu.au](mailto:maryanne.vale@qsa.qld.edu.au)

Have you visited **The National Centre for History Education** to find: units of work - *Making History* - *Ozhistorybytes* for themes on sport and history, refugees, terrorism - Professional Digest - All this and much, much more at <http://www.hyperhistory.org>

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