



Queensland History Teachers' Association

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Online Newsletter November 2007

Welcome to the fourth edition of *QHTA eNewsletter* for 2007. Throughout the year the QHTA has provided you with your copies of eJournals, eNewsletters and email updates. In December you will also receive in the mail the annual journal, *QHistory*. In this edition we have information on National History Curriculum activity, details on the 2008 Simpson Prize, links to the 2007 National History Challenge winners and QHTA essay winners, upcoming dates in What's On, web links to new resources, some more weblinks to news articles of interest, and, finally, some 'other matters' happening in the world of history teaching. We hope you have had the chance to look at the second eJournal accessible in full only to members by security password. We wish you all a relaxing and safe vacation in preparation for what is shaping up to be a big year in 2008 for history teachers.

Dr Glenn Davies (editor)

[2008 QHTA membership forms are now available](#)

2008 National HTAA Conference

The Queensland History Teachers' Association is presenting the 2008 History Teachers' Association of Australia Conference

Looking Back, Looking Forward, Looking Out

30 September - 3 October 2008

John Paul College, Daisy Hill, Logan City

[Download information on 2008 HTAA Conference](#)

National History Curriculum activity

On Thursday, 11 October 2007 the then Prime Minister John Howard launched the '**Guide to the Teaching of Australian History in Years 9 and 10**'. The document outlines a course, to be taught over at least 150 hours in the two years, as a separate discipline-based subject. The proposed course includes roughly 70 milestones, 9 major topics and 9 perspectives. This expands considerably on the draft prepared by Professor Tony Taylor. History teaching associations and academics from around the country have generally noted that this proposed course is overly crowded and would be a challenge for teachers and students. It has also been noted that there will need to be considerable support, particularly in the area of professional learning, to ensure that there are enough teachers to actually teach the subject. The '**Guide to the Teaching of**

Australian History in Years 9 and 10' can viewed at <http://www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/0B8BB929-AD4F-4A1E-8CDB-F73AB8E312A4/18868/Guidetoteachinghistory.pdf>

[Open Letter from Nick Ewbank, President HTAA, to Federal Minister Julie Bishop and Federal Shadow Minister Stephen Smith, regarding Australian History curriculum](#)

To review the **2006 Australian History Summit** public debate and its aftermath go to <http://olt.qut.edu.au/udf/SUNPRO/>

The **Australian History Summer School** will be staged in Canberra from 14 - 25 January 2008. The aim of the program is to provide teachers of History with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with and engage in the current developments in historical research and history education pedagogy. The program also entails ongoing sessions and research at key national institutions and research centres. The school will be run by a consortium led by the Australian National University which also includes the Australian War Memorial, National Archives of Australia, National Capital Education Tourism Project, National Museum of Australia, Old Parliament House, the HTAV, HTAA and ACTHTA.

The 2008 Simpson Prize

The 2008 Simpson Prize is a national competition for Year 9 and 10 students.

Eight students, one from each state and territory, accompanied by two teachers will be flown to Gallipoli or the Western Front to attend the dawn service and other Anzac Day ceremonies in 2008. The topic for the 2008 Simpson Prize is:

To what extent was Simpson a hero? How have his heroic qualities been demonstrated by other Australians since 1915?

For full details about this competition go to

<http://www.simpsonprize.org>



2007 Simpson Prize winners - follow their travels at

<http://blog.awm.gov.au/gallipoli2007/>

2007 National History Challenge

The National History Challenge is a research-based competition for students. The theme for the 2007 National History Challenge was "Lessons from the Past". The NHC closed on 18 July 2007, essays have been judged, and state winners selected.

An overview of each of the winning 2007 Queensland essays is at <http://www.qhta.com.au/competitions.htm>

More details on **National History Challenge** at

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

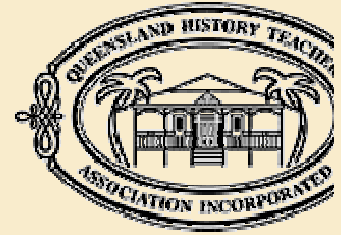


2007 QHTA Historical Writing Competition

Submissions for the 2007 **QHTA Historical Writing Competition** closed on Friday, 21 September 2007.

Students could choose a topic that related to a historical piece from ancient or modern times.

A list of the 2007 winners is at <http://www.qhta.com.au/competitions.htm>



What's on ...

6-7 December 2007 - Second International Conference on Racisms in the New World Order. For information and registration visit <http://www.usc.edu.au/Research/Centres/CMCD/Second+Racisms+Conference.htm>

14 December 2007 - Simpson Prize closes.

Recent news articles of interest ...

"PM's 'white history' under fire", *News.com.au*, 12 October 2007.

Melanie Christiansen

Historians are divided over whether Prime Minister John Howard's blueprint for how history should be taught adequately covers the nation's past.

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,22570057-2,00.html>

'Howard's missing moments in history', *News.com.au*, 12 October 2007.

A list of events not mentioned in Prime Minister John Howard's guide to teaching Australian history.

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,22570058-2,00.html>

"If dissecting Howard's history, use your brain", *The Bulletin*, 12 October 2007

Jack Marx

A response to the News.com report that chastised John Howard for promoting a selectively 'white Australia' history to be taught in school.

http://thebulletinelection.ninemsn.com.au/if_dissecting_howards_history_use_your_brain.htm

"Students fail to cope with hard knocks", *The Australian*, 17 October 2007.

Miranda Rout

One third of Australian students are stressed and struggling to cope with the pressures of school, the menace of bullying, and of having to live up to parental expectations.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22599458-13881,00.html>

Have you seen these new resources...

Lets Play Productions has produced two Australian documentaries and accompanying Study Guide Kits. Both films have been aired on the Nine network.

A Debt of Honour explores the untold stories of two companies of Australian soldiers, separated by over 60 years. The fates of these soldiers give an insight into the depth of the Australian soldier's service in East Timor from WWII till the present day. The film identifies the moral, social, political and historical complexities of Australia's relationship with East Timor. Loyalty and mateship between the Australian soldiers and the Timorese

people have been passed down through generations, and have continued as our current Australian troops carry out their peacekeeping duties in the new nation, Timor Leste. **Eyes of the Tiger - Diary of a Dirty War** is an explicit account of the real Vietnam War told through the vivid stories of some of the members of the first Australian Reconnaissance Platoon. This elite platoon of soldiers, made up of national servicemen and of regular army volunteers from 5RAR, became the eyes and ears of the 5RAR Tiger Battalion. This is a film of unique heroic, humorous and adventures tales of survival. Accounts of great and difficult ambushes are interwoven with intimate stories of the Veteran's struggles to move past lingering memories and the cold harsh realities of war. More information at <http://www.letsplayproductions.com>

The second edition of the online version of *The History Teacher*, QHTA's long-standing professional journal, was recently posted on the QHTA website. The full version is only available to members in a security password protected area. All members recently received username and password by email. <http://www.qhta.com.au/membersonly.asp>

The History Files has an extensive coverage of the history of the British Isles, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Far East. It contains extensive lists of historical rulers, comprehensive features and maps. <http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/index.html>



Ancient Shapes for sale.

Ancient Roman and Medieval artefacts over 1000 years old.

For more information see <http://www.qhta.com.au/resources.html>

QHTA resource for sale

Studies of Conflict. Harold v William 1066

Kay Bishop

This booklet is a source based inquiry into the conflict between King Harold of England and William of Normandy, culminating in the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The organisation of the material is based on the Aspects of Inquiry, as set out in the Queensland Ancient History Syllabus. There are sections on the background of the conflict and the strengths and weaknesses of the available sources. Each Chapter has a wide range of primary sources and tasks for students based on the sources.

[View 'Order Form for Harold v William'](#)

Global Education News - November 2007. Read it online at

<http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/news>

ABC Education Television - Schools Program

Middle Primary - Tuesday, 10.25am - 10 mins

Snowy Scheme

27 November: Construction

4 December: Moving a Town

Upper Primary/Lower Secondary - Wednesday, 10.55am - 5 mins

This series of short documentaries presents biographical accounts of Australian

personalities, both past and present, drawn from various facets of Australian life.
28 November - Charles Kingsford Smith
5 December - Koiki (Eddie) Mabo

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. 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>

Other matters...

Proclamation Day - be a part of the annual celebration of the proclamation of Queensland as a separate state at Newstead House on Monday, 10 December from 5pm. Further details available on 32161846 and 32214198

John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction - the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Professional Historians Association (Qld) invite nominations from individuals and organisations for the award for excellence in historical writing and research in any one or more fields of Queensland history. Nominations kits will be available from January 2008. Nominations close 31 March 2008. Further information contact RHSQ at info@queenslandhistory.org.au

Museum of Brisbane - keep an eye out for more details on upcoming exhibitions and events by visiting <http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/mob>

2007 QSA Combined Ancient and Modern Workshop. The powerpoint slides that support this workshop are available at http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/yrs11_12/subjects/ancient_history/index.html and http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/yrs11_12/subjects/modern_history/index.html

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

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, national museums and identity - Professional Digest - All this and much, much more at <http://www.hyperhistory.org>

Queensland State Archives at 435 Compton Road, Runcorn, are open Monday to Friday from 9am - 4.30pm and on the second Saturday of each month from 9am - 4.30pm.

National Archives of Australia at 16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill, are now open every Wednesday to Friday from 9am - 4.30pm and on the third Saturday of each month from 9am - 1pm. Records must be pre-ordered. Phone 3249 4226.

[2007 QHTA AGM was held on 1 March 2007 at the State Library. Click here to see a list of the 2007 Executive.](#)

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