



## Queensland History Teachers' Association

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### Online Newsletter September 2007

Welcome to the third edition of **QHTA eNewsletter** for 2007. The QHTA looks forward to providing you with your copies of journals, eNewsletters and email updates throughout the year. 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, 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. Check out the new digital *The History Teacher* eJournal. We hope third term has gone well for you and look forward to seeing you at the HTAA National Conference from 2-5 October 2007.

*Dr Glenn Davies* (editor)

### Have you registered for the National HTAA Conference?

**The History Teachers' Association of New South Wales is presenting the 2007 History Teachers' Association of Australia Conference**

***Source, Text, Memory - Exploring the Place of History***

**2-5 October 2007**

**Shore School, North Sydney**

Registration form available at <http://www.qhta.com.au/forteachers.htm>

### National History Curriculum activity

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

#### **Open Letter to Hon Julie Bishop MHR and Hon Stephen Smith MHR from QHTA**

The Queensland History Teachers' Association has become increasingly concerned about the process of national curriculum development for Australian history.

It is now more than twelve months since the Australian History Summit in August 2006. Since then a process has been implemented that sidelines HTAA and its State and Territory affiliates.

Specifically in the context of the Curriculum Review Panel, HTAA and its affiliates have failed to receive any:

1. detailed information about the role of the Panel, and any perceived weaknesses in Associate Professor Taylor's draft curriculum
2. indication of the timeline in which the Review will be conducted
3. assurance that teacher practitioner experts - i.e. ourselves - have an ongoing role in the development of an Australian history curriculum
4. indication of the role to be played by State and Territory curriculum authorities and experts.

Good curriculum is the result of an extensive range of discussions among a range of stakeholders (e.g. academics, parents, students, education experts and teachers). What has occurred so far for Australian history is an over reliance on a narrow group of experts. This is not a good curriculum development process. If there is to be a workable Australian history model for a national curriculum, the flaws in the process must be addressed.

The position in which HTAA and its affiliates has been placed - that of bemused bystanders - means that we approach our Annual General Council meeting with no clear idea of the progress so far, and what might happen into the future. Thirteen months after the Summit, if nothing is clarified, we have essentially nothing concerning a national history curriculum to discuss at our AGM. As a member of HTAA, QHTA cannot accept that this is a viable position in which to be placed.

Exacerbating the problem is the short notice that has, on occasion, been given to the HTAA and its affiliates when information or participation in a particular process is requested. No meaningful time is allowed for consultation with our membership; hence, what response is forthcoming is not always as representative of the membership as it could and should be. As most members of the Executive of the HTAA are fulltime teachers, we cannot deal with matters too quickly. It needs to be remembered that the teachers in our professional association and its affiliates give their services voluntarily.

So that we can be better informed at our AGM, and bearing in mind the imminence of the election, we invite Ms Bishop and Mr Smith to clarify their position by answering the questions below. We ask that this be done before the end of September, as our AGM is on 1 October. The answers provided would initially be circulated via the HTAA website and the websites and publications of our affiliates.

1. How should a general national curriculum be developed to ensure the best possible curriculum for Australian students?
2. What is your rationale and vision for a national Australian history curriculum?
3. What bodies and groups should be involved in developing high quality curriculum?
4. How would you ensure, in the light of other fulltime employment, the involvement of teacher practitioners in curriculum development?
5. Can you outline an anticipated timeline for the development of an Australian history curriculum?

I look forward to receiving you responses.

Yours faithfully

Ros Korkatzis  
President QHTA, Vice-President HTAA

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

### **Summer Schools for Teachers. Applications Open NOW - Close 17 October 2007**

*Are you a great teacher? Or do you know a great teacher?*

Up to 1000 of Australia's best teachers will have the opportunity to attend a 10 day residential Summer School in January 2008. Summer Schools are being offered in literacy and numeracy, English, science, mathematics and Australian history.

Applications are open to all classroom teachers registered with government and non-government authorities, including teachers in identified leadership positions, specialist teachers, principals, deputy principals and assistant principals where at least half their allocation involves teaching.

To apply for the Summer Schools, complete the online application at <http://www.summerschools.dest.gov.au> For further information call 1300 363 079

## **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. A list of state winners will be posted on the QHTA website by the end of September 2007.



An overview of each of the winning 2006 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 are invited for the **2007 QHTA Historical Writing Competition** again this year. The topic may relate to a historical piece from ancient or modern times - see the competition conditions and application form on our website at

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



**Due Date: Friday 21 September 2007**

## What's on ...

**21 September 2007 - Judges on the Screen. Popular Culture and the Representation of Judges.** A lecture by Hon Justice Glenn Martin. Supreme Court Library Committee, 5.30pm. RSVP to [aladin@scqld.org.au](mailto:aladin@scqld.org.au)

**27 - 30 September 2007 - Old Stories New Ways: 2007 National Oral History Conference.** Brisbane has been chosen as the venue for the biennial event which brings together oral historians from here and overseas. Further information at <http://www.ohaaqld.org.au>

**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". For a conference flier go to <http://www.htansw.asn.au/profdevt/2007%20HTAA%20CONFERENCE%20FINAL%20Program.pdf>

**17 October 2007 - National History Challenge.** State Prize ceremony.

**17 October 2007 - Book Launch** - Brisbane Boys College will hold a book launch for the new Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome for Senior Students series. Both textbooks have been written explicitly for the new **Queensland Ancient History syllabus**. Schools who adopt either of these new ancient history titles will be given a free three-month subscription to the Gale History Database. Afternoon tea will be provided from 4pm, with the launch from 4.30 - 5.30pm. Contact: [marquerite.barnes@cengage.com](mailto:marquerite.barnes@cengage.com)

**18 October 2007 - SOSE - Worth Saving?** An open forum to discuss current federal initiatives that threaten the continuing teaching of society and environment in our schools. Global Learning Centre, 102 McDonald Road, Windsor. 7-9pm. For more information contact [schultzes@bigpond.com](mailto:schultzes@bigpond.com)

**14 December 2007 - Simpson Prize closes.**

## Recent news articles of interest ...

**27 June 2007** - <http://www.crikey.com/Politics/20070627-Reviewing-history-whose-interpretation-do-we-go-by.html>

### 'History students may skip Gallipoli', *The Australian*, 27 June 2007

Justine Ferrari

High school students would be able to avoid studying Gallipoli and the Anzacs under the draft Australian history curriculum prepared as a result of last year's history summit.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,21975316-2702,00.html>

### 'To know yourself, get to know the dead', *The Times*, 20 July 2007

Ben Macintyre

History, someone said, is just one damn thing after another. But according to a recent report from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, it is just one damn thing over and over, namely Nazism.

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/ben\\_macintyre/article2106450.ece?print+yes](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/ben_macintyre/article2106450.ece?print+yes)

### 'Students must value dialogue about our past', *The Age*, 23 July 2007

Peter Job

For those of us who teach history at Australian government secondary schools, the past few years have been a chastening time. <http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/students-must-value-dialogue-about-our-past/2007/07/22/1185042944423.html>

### **Inquiry into Academic Standards of School Education. Public Hearings and Transcripts.**

May - July 2007

[http://www.aph.gov.au/SEnate/committee/eet\\_ctte/academic\\_standards/hearings/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/SEnate/committee/eet_ctte/academic_standards/hearings/index.htm)

### 'History lessons will be left to Hollywood', *Telegraph*, 24 August 2007

Graeme Paton

Thousands of teenagers are dropping GCSEs in history - sparking fears that knowledge of the past will be shaped by Hollywood stereotypes.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/08/24/ngcse424.xml>

**13 September 2007 - Summer schools for our best teachers.** The Federal Minister has announced the successful providers of Summer School and called for teacher applications for the 2008 Australian Government *Summer Schools for Teachers* initiative. The Australian History Summer School will be held at the Australian National University, 14-25 January 2008. Applications close on 17 October 2007. For more information see <http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Bishop/2007/09/b002130907.asp>

## Have you seen these new resources...

The first edition of the online version of *The History Teacher*, QHTA's long-standing professional journal, was recently posted on the QHTA website. The decision to move to electronic delivery of *The History Teacher* was taken after much serious discussion, and not without pangs of regret. See *The History Teacher. The e-Journal of the Queensland History Teachers' Association*, Vol.45, No.1, August 2007 at <http://www.qhta.com.au/resources.htm>

### **Modern History website**

**Third World Traveller** posts articles and book excerpts that offer an alternative view to the US mainstream media about the state of American democracy, media, and foreign policy, and about the impact of the actions of the United States government, transnational corporations, international financial institutions, and the corporate media, on democracy, social and economic justice, human rights, and war and peace, in the Third World. See <http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com>

**The Map as History.** Animated maps for a better understanding of history. Covering European and World History, **The Map as History** offers a new way to understand the major events as they move across continents over the centuries. <http://www.the-map-as-history.com>

**The View from Connor's Hill by Barry Heard.** Colourful, poignant, and often very funny, this memoir reveals a young man who, among the devastation of loss and constant upheaval, celebrates the joy of living in the bush, and delights in the love of his faithful dog Rover and his headstrong horse Swanee. Capturing the detail of a lost world of country and suburban life in Australia - a world of matinees, country dances, and manual dunnies - Barry Heard delivers his

memories with an unwavering honesty and candour. Contact [shornbeck@scribepub.com.au](mailto:shornbeck@scribepub.com.au) for orders.



### **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 - September 2007.** Read it online at <http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/news>

## **ABC Education Television - Schools Program**

### **Middle Primary - Tuesday, 10.25am - 10 mins**

#### ***Colonists Arrive***

- 4 September: Tensions
- 11 September: Resistance
- 18 September: Towards Reconciliation

#### ***Australia Over Time***

- 25 September: Eating - then and now
- 16 October: Schooling - some changes
- 23 October: Isolated Schooling
- 30 October: Schooling - memories
- 6 November: National Parks
- 13 November: Rabbits
- 20 November: Koalas

#### ***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.

- 5 September - Betty Cuthbert
- 12 September - Ned Kelly
- 19 September - Janet Holmes a Court
- 26 September - Neville Bonner
- 17 October - Gough Whitlam
- 24 October - Dame Roma Mitchell
- 31 October - Sister Elizabeth Kenny
- 7 November - Dr Faith Bandler
- 14 November - Dame Enid Lyons
- 21 November - Ruth Cracknell
- 28 November - Charles Kingsford Smith
- 5 December - Koiki (Eddie) Mabo

### **Upper Primary/Lower Secondary - Friday, 10.30am - 3 x 5 mins**

- 7 September - Caroline Chisolm, Mandawuy Yunupingu, R.M. Williams
- 14 September - Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, Truganini, Edith Cowan
- 21 September - Nancy Wake, Sir Mark Oliphant, Nancy Bird
- 28 September - Betty Cuthbert, Rev. John Flynn, Ned Kelly

19 October - Dr. Victor Chang, Sally Morgan, Sir Douglas Mawson  
26 October - Janet Holmes a Court, Jenny Kee, Dr. Helen Caldicott  
2 November - Neville Bonner, John Curtin, Malcolm Fraser

## 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...

**UK School Research Project.** Since the 1990s non-fiction history programming has flourished on British and other national televisions. This interdisciplinary project asks how do we get the kinds of television histories we do, and why. See <http://tvhistory.lincoln.ac.uk/Statement.htm>

**Royal Historical Society of Queensland** - At the AGM on 16 August 2007, Mr Denver Beanland was elected President, Mr Manfred Cross, Dr Kay Cohen and Dr Hilary Fisher were elected Vice-Presidents, Dr Ruth Kerr was elected Secretary, and Ms Elizabeth Teed was elected Treasurer. See <http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au>

**RHSQ Lecture Program** - Requests to present papers in the 2008 Royal Historical Society of Queensland Lecture Program can be submitted to Ian Hadwen at [hadmed@powerup.com.au](mailto:hadmed@powerup.com.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 QHTA Membership Forms** are now available on the QHTA website - <http://www.qhta.com.au>

**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](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](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](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, 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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