QHTA Early Career Conference

Saturday 20 February 2027

Stuartholme School, 365 Birdwood Terrace, Toowong.

Cost
Members: $70
Non-members: $90
Preservice: $40

Arrival and Registration

- Sign in at the QHTA table near the café (Joigny building).
- Collect conference bag and a coffee voucher to use at the cafe.
- Please wear your school name badge

Other information

- Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Your dietary needs have been passed to the caterer.
- We will be taking photographs during the day for our own publications and website, so please let the photographer know if you do not wish to be photographed.
- Parking: See the map for parking options. You can park in any of the parking areas.

Conference schedule

8.00 - 8:30 am	**Registration – outside school café (café will be open)**	
8.30 – 8.45	**Stuartholme Library – central space** **Welcome to delegates - Louise Brown, President QHTA and Ben Hegerty, Host and EC Conference Manager QHTA**	
8:50 – 9:45	**Session 1A: 'Historical Hooks – Capturing student curiosity'** **Melissa Alexander, St Aidan's AGS**	**Session 1B: 'Utilising game thinking to enhance student critical thinking'** **Michelle Brown, Albany Creek SHS**
9:50 – 10:45	**Session 2A: 'The Anatomy of a Lesson: Keeping Students Engaged in Their Learning During Extended Lesson Times'** **Angelique Arden, St Luke's Anglican School**	**Session 2B: 'What I wish I knew in my first year: An early career teacher's guide to behaviour management and classroom engagement'** **Emma Henrich, Albany Creek SHS**
	Session 2C: 'Spot the Shift: Exploring the Years 7-10 History Achievement Standards' **Greg Sikich, QCAA**	
10:45 – 11:15	**Morning Tea - outside school café (café will be open)**	
11.15 - 12.10	**Session 3A: 'Strategies for teaching source analysis'** **Nigel Page, ACGS**	**Session 3B: 'Everyone at the Table: How to hold a classroom discussion for inclusion AND deep insights'** **Louise Brown, St Margaret's AGS**

12.10 – 12:55	**Lunch - outside school café (café will be closed)**	
1.00 – 1.55	**Session 4A: 'Giving effective feedback'** **Katherine Hart, CHAC**	**Session 4B: 'Nailing Process: Understanding and Implementing Senior Syllabus Requirements'** **Dr Alison Bedford, USQ**
2.00 – 2:30	**Plenary session in Library – Panel discussion with early-career teachers, moderated by Louise Brown**	

Session descriptions

Session 1A: Melissa Alexander – 'Historical Hooks – Capturing student curiosity'
Whether you use the language 'hook', 'icebreaker' or 'warm up', there is undoubtedly something powerful about an engaging start to your History lessons. Join Melissa to explore the science, our 'Gen Alpha' students and some tried and tested ways to connect with your classes, leaving with a portfolio of techniques and activities to integrate into your planning!

Presenter Bio:
Melissa Alexander is the Learning Area Leader for Business, Economics and Social Science and Curriculum Leader for History at St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School. In her time as a Legal Studies, Modern and Ancient History and Psychology teacher, Melissa has taught in the public and private sectors in New South Wales and Queensland. Initially a personal injuries and family law solicitor before entering the teaching profession, she has since held both pastoral and curriculum middle leadership roles, supported by a Masters in Curriculum and Pedagogical Leadership. Melissa's interest in the way students learn, pedagogy and cognitive load considerations continue to shape her practice. Melissa's co-founding of the Psychology Teachers' Association of Qld, and her current involvement in the Queensland History Teachers' Association and ACEL's Queensland Chapter of Pivotal People reflects her passion for fostering strong relationships within the teaching community.

Session 1B: Michelle Brown – 'Utilising game thinking to enhance student critical thinking'
In a world where students are looking for 20 second sound bytes and instant gratification, how do you teach them to slow down, ask questions and be curious for longer than 20 seconds?
Game thinking – incorporating points, camouflaging difficult thinking as fun, role-plays and simulations provides a contextual environment that rewards complex decision making skills.
Michelle will provide an example of a decision- making 'game' based on work done by Tim Gurry and Robert Lewis (Ryebuck media).

Presenter Bio:
Michelle Brown is a teacher at Albany Creek State High School. She has been presenting for the Queensland History Teachers' Association since 2000.

Session 2A: Angelique Arden – 'The Anatomy of a Lesson: Keeping Students Engaged in Their Learning During Extended Lesson Times'
Extended timetable blocks such as 70- to 90-minute periods present both a challenge and an opportunity for History educators. Without a clear structure, student focus naturally wanes, leading to fatigue and passive learning. In this practical session, delegates will unpack the 'anatomy' of a high-impact History lesson designed to maintain momentum and cognitive engagement. Participants will explore strategies for chunking content, pacing activities, transitioning smoothly between tasks, and embedding interactive analysis into extended time slots.

Presenter Bio:
Angelique Arden is the Head of Faculty - Humanities and Ethics & Faith at St Luke's Anglican School in Bundaberg. With over 10 years of experience teaching History across metro and rural schools in both the Catholic and Anglican sectors, she is passionate about practical curriculum design, student engagement, and supporting early career educators.

Session 2B: Emma Henrich – 'What I wish I knew in my first year: *An early career teacher's guide to behaviour management and classroom engagement'*
Practical strategies for managing behaviour, reducing cognitive load and creating engaging History lessons, including brain breaks, behaviour flowcharts and Academic Controversy.

Presenter Bio:
Emma Henrich is a third-year secondary teacher specialising in Humanities and Media. Passionate about creating engaging, inclusive classrooms, they focus on practical strategies that support positive behaviour, active learning and meaningful student participation.

Session 2C: Greg Sikich – 'Spot the Shift: Exploring the Years 7-10 History Achievement Standards'
How do historical knowledge, understanding and skills develop from Year 7 to Year 10, and what does this mean for your History classroom? This interactive workshop challenges early career teachers to spot the shift in the Years 7-10 History achievement standards in Australian Curriculum v9.0. Through hands-on activities using QCAA resources, teachers will spot the shifts to uncover how historical thinking develops across year levels. Walk away with greater confidence in interpreting the History achievement standards and practical strategies to inform purposeful planning, teaching, and assessment design.

Presenter Bio:
Greg Sikich is Principal Project Officer: Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), with the Australian Curriculum K–10 Branch at the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

Session 3A: Nigel Page – 'Strategies for teaching source analysis'
The presentation will review the forms of Analysis in the AC9 and QCE Modern History, with a brief look at what is and is not included across the year levels. Specific examples will be presented, with activities and resources that address some of the more common as well as perhaps more unusual forms of analysis activities that might find a place in your history classroom.

Presenter Bio:
Nigel Page is Head of Humanities at Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie), Brisbane, and an experienced curriculum and assessment leader. He has worked extensively with QCAA in senior Humanities curriculum and assessment and has particular interests in boys' education and evidence-informed pedagogy.

Session 3B: Louise Brown – 'Everyone at the Table: How to hold a classroom discussion for inclusion AND deep insights'
Students love to share their opinions. But how do you actually manage a discussion in the History classroom? One that allows for a range of responses, functions as a check for understanding and progresses the learning of all students, not just the most confident. It's a delicate balance: behaviour management meets opportunities for deep historical thinking.
Rest assured: this session will provide a series of small before, during and after steps that keep you in control whilst keeping everyone involved.

Presenter Bio:
Louise Brown is President of Queensland History Teachers Association, and an experienced History leader and educator who taught in the UK for over 20 years before emigrating to Australia in 2017. She now leads the Sociocultural Faculty at St Margaret's Anglican Girls School in Brisbane. Louise has presented her work on

literacy at several conferences, hosts QHTA's termly 'TeachMeets' and writes about teaching 'From Bradford to Brisbane' in her blog, secondarysource.com.au.

Session 4A: Katherine Hart – 'Giving effective feedback'
This workshop will explore classroom feedback strategies that are specific to 7-12 History, with the goal of making students more active participants in the feedback cycle. It will look at a number of strategies including self and peer feedback and the use of exemplars and non-exemplars to both improve student outcomes and minimise "marking burnout" for Humanities teachers. The session will look at these practices in the context of preparing for short response exams, essay exams and research tasks with an emphasis on historical skills.

Presenter Bio:
Katherine Hart is a Highly Accomplished Teacher (HAT) and Ancient History teacher at Cannon Hill Anglican College. In 2022 Katherine received a grant to work with Independent Schools Queensland and The University of Queensland to explore the role of student-centred feedback in improving student outcomes and increasing student self-efficacy. She has presented at the State and National Conferences for QCAA and the UQ Learning Labs Symposium. Katherine is also a QCAA confirmer and external assessment marker for Ancient History.

Session 4B: Dr Alison Bedford – 'Nailing Process: Understanding and Implementing Senior Syllabus Requirements'
This session will provide a clear overview of the expectations of QCAA senior syllabus quality assurance processes, with a focus on endorsement and confirmation and your role as a teacher. The second part of the session will provide assessment design advice to support successful endorsement applications, and discuss strategies for using the ISMG to determine student results for confirmation.

Presenter Bio:
Dr Alison Bedford is a Senior Lecturer (Curriculum and Pedagogy) at the University of Southern Queensland. Her research explores history curriculum design and inquiry pedagogies. Dr Bedford also has almost 20 years experience as a senior History teacher in Queensland, and served for more than a decade in various quality assurance roles with the QCAA.