

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### HISTORY ROADSHOW VISITS VCE STUDENTS IN GEELONG

The History Roadshow visited Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College in Geelong on Tuesday 6 September 2016 with a team of renowned academic and professional historians who spoke with VCE History students about Twentieth Century History, Australian History and Revolutions, as well as providing advice on career pathways.

The History Roadshow is a free program of presentations tailored to the needs of regional Victorian students of History in Years 11 and 12. The Roadshow has been coordinated for over a decade by the History Council of Victoria, with funding from the Victorian state government's Department of Education and Training.

#### FAST FACTS from the History Roadshow in Geelong

- 156 students and their 15 teachers attended the History Roadshow.
- The event was hosted by Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College in Geelong
- Participants came from nine schools in Geelong, Camperdown and Hamilton.
- Five expert historians presented their insights and experiences. They were:
  - Professor Peter McPhee AM from the University of Melbourne (French Revolution)
  - Ms Elizabeth Morgan from Nossal High School (Revolutions exam and the Chinese Revolution)
  - Dr Yana Ostapenko from RMIT University (Russian Revolution)
  - Professor Joe Siracusa from RMIT University (Twentieth Century History)
  - Dr Ben Wilkie from Deakin University (Australian History)
- Feedback from students and teachers praised the speakers' enthusiasm and knowledge, and appreciated the close connection between the sessions and the VCE curriculum.
- Students agreed (99.9%) that they learned new things that will be useful in their History exams.
- This was the final History Roadshow for 2016. Other locations visited this year were Ballarat, Bendigo, Leongatha, Rosebud, Sale and Shepparton.

Ms Margaret Birtley, Executive Officer of the History Council of Victoria, coordinated the History Roadshow program. "Our highly experienced university lecturers and professional historians have a passion for history that is truly contagious. They each have the knack of making history relevant to every student's life, and they give dynamic presentations that are directly relevant to the 2016 VCE History curriculum." says Ms Birtley.

Ms Birtley also led the session on career pathways. In it, she emphasised the importance of history students hearing as many voices and viewpoints as possible. "The History Roadshow helps by bringing expert voices and viewpoints to VCE students in regional Victoria," said Ms Birtley.

Ms Birtley added: "History can be brought to life in so many ways and the History Roadshow program is a fantastic way for students to gain valuable exposure to the experts."

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