



School Snippets

Looking back into history with an eye on future exams

WHAT are the buzzwords VCAA assessors looking for in this year's history exam?

That was just one of the topics up for discussion when the History Roadshow, presented by the History Council of Victoria, visited Leongatha Secondary College.

However, as assessor and visiting VCE history teacher Elizabeth Morgan (Nossal High School) said, knowing those 'buzzwords' and chronological dates won't be enough.

"Know your chronology, but expand on the who - the stakeholders," she said noting that when discussing the revolutions 'the people' was too vague.

"Discuss the why, the ideology behind the events, tell us about the consequences, then do your evaluation and views, including contemporary perspectives and modern interpretations."

Students were warned there are only a few weeks until the history exam on November 7.

Ms Morgan said while there is only 104 days, that's "still a lot of time to do a lot of good things".

In her exam preparation session she urged students to train their brains to be at top working capacity during the exam time (3pm), which she noted for high school students seemed to be 'snack time' and prime afternoon nap time.

Ninety-three students from Lowanna College (Moe), Mary MacKillop College, Newhaven College and Chairo Christian School (Drouin), took copious notes from the sessions (career pathways, Twentieth Century History), Revolutions (Chinese and Russian), and the Civil Rights Movement.

Presenters included Elizabeth Morgan, Dr Yana Ostapenko (RMIT University, and Ukrainian who brought incredible insight into the Russian Revolution and Cold War discussions), Dr Liz Rushen (History Council of Victoria/Monash University and local Foster historian), Professor Joe Siracusa (RMIT University, who spoke specifically on the Cold War and its implications today, and the Civil Rights Movement, in which he was involved as a young man in Chicago), and Margaret Birtley (History Council of Victoria).

The session at Leongatha Secondary College was the second and last of two roadshows in the east of Victoria.



VCAA approved marker and history teacher Elizabeth Morgan ran sessions at Leongatha Secondary College, discussing what assessors are looking for in this year's history exam. D013016.

Leongatha Secondary College hosted the event, which Josh Peach, Humanities Professional Learning Team leader, described as a wonderful opportunity.

"Access to this type of thing is quite limited for country students," he said.

"The History Teachers of Victoria (of which

I'm a member) do the exam sessions but it's often in the city which can be difficult to get to.

"What this provides is an opportunity for these leaders in their field to share their knowledge and understanding - a different perspective.

"Hopefully these discussions will stick in students' heads when they're doing their exams."



Professor Joe Siracusa from RMIT University and Chicago native described to Year 11 students studying the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement, the impact it had on him. Prof Siracusa's lecture was a who's who of history, describing his meetings with President Ronald Reagan at the height of the Cold War and travelling through the Soviet Union as an American civilian: "I wanted to see what they had [the Soviet Union] that we wanted so badly, that we were prepared to go to war for.

"What I concluded was that the Cold War started off as a political struggle, morphed into a military struggle with 'hot spots' around the globe, engulfed in an ideological struggle," he said before elaborating on how this struggle was still playing out today in the 'War on Terror'. D023016.