

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2014-2015

### 1. OVERVIEW

The History Council of Victoria (HCV) has completed a productive year. Highlights included: the continuation of the *History Roadshow* program with a substantial increase in the triennial funding granted by the Department of Education and Training; strong attendances at the *Making Public Histories* seminar series; and the renewal of contact with the History Councils in NSW, SA and WA. Diane Gardiner, a founding member of the HCV and its current Chair, was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2015 Queen's Birthday list. The *Annual Lecture* was presented in conjunction with the 'AIDS 2014: 20th International AIDS Conference' in Melbourne. The Board undertook a major Re-Visioning activity to support its organisational review and forward planning. The HCV has comprehensively revised its Rules.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP

The HCV welcomed the Women's HERitage Centre Victoria as a member and confirmed the membership of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Museums Australia (Vic).

All member organisations have appointed their representatives.

### 3. BOARD

The Board is the governing body of the HCV. Its current membership is published on the HCV website. At 30 June 2015, the Board members were:

#### Representatives of organisations:

| Organisation                                  | Name                | Start date  |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| Australian Broadcasting Corporation           | Michelle Rayner     | 13 Jul 2005 |
| Department of Education and Training          | Victoria Hall       | 10 Apr 2014 |
| Heritage Council of Victoria                  | Emma Russell        | 8 Feb 2011  |
| History Teachers Association of Victoria      | Jo Clyne            | 8 Feb 2011  |
| National Trust of Australia (Victoria)        | Martin Green        | 12 Jun 2014 |
| Museums Australia (Victoria)                  | Laura Miles         | 10 Feb 2009 |
| Museum Victoria                               | Jen Brook           | 8 Nov 2011  |
| Professional Historians Association (Vic)     | Dr Nikki Henningham | 19 Feb 2015 |
| Public Record Office Victoria                 | Lauren Bourke       | 13 Feb 2014 |
| Royal Historical Society of Victoria          | Dr Judith Smart     | 10 Feb 2009 |
| State Library of Victoria                     | Andrew Hiskens      | 31 Jan 2005 |
| Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority | Pat Hincks          | 14 Mar 2006 |
| Women's HERitage Centre Victoria              | Judy Maddigan       | 16 Feb 2015 |

#### Individuals

| Name                 | Organisation        | Start date  |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Dr Charles Fahey     | La Trobe University | 9 Feb 2010  |
| Diane Gardiner AM    |                     | 20 Jun 2001 |
| Dr Ruth Morgan       | Monash University   | 11 Apr 2013 |
| Dr Geoffrey Robinson | Deakin University   | 14 Feb 2011 |
| Dr Liz Rushen        |                     | 14 Feb 2013 |

Diane Gardiner was on leave from the Board from 23 September 2014. Dr Judith Smart kindly served as Acting Chair for the remainder of the reported year, although Diane attended Board meetings in May and June 2015.

Katherine Sheedy was on maternity leave from February 2015. The HCV congratulated Katherine and her husband Matthew Rogers on the birth of Charlotte. For the remainder of the reported year, Andrew Hiskens kindly served as Acting Treasurer and Dr Nikki Henningham represented the Professional Historians Association Victoria.

## 4. VALE

Mary McGregor, the HCV's Executive Officer from 2010 to 2013, passed away in December 2014. The HCV expressed its condolences to her many friends.

## 5. GOVERNANCE

The Members met for the AGM on 11 September 2014 and for a General Meeting on 11 June 2015.

The Members amended the HCV Rules on 11 June 2015 to meet the requirements of the Register of Cultural Organisations.

The Board of the HCV met in 2014 on 14 August, 11 September and 20 November and in 2015 on 14 February (electronically), 9 April, 15 May and 11 June.

Board positions as at 30 June 2015 were Dr Judith Smart (Acting Chair), Andrew Hiskens (Hon. Treasurer), Dr Liz Rushen (Minutes Secretary) and Margaret Birtley (Secretary). These people served *ex officio* as the HCV's Executive Committee, with Diane Gardiner (Chair) contributing when not on leave.

Many Board members serve in small teams to advise on key areas of HCV activity. Sub-committees guide the Public Fund, the *Historical Perspectives* program (including the *Annual Lecture* and the *Making Public Histories* seminar series), the *History Roadshow*, and a Book project. Fixed-term Working Groups were established to analyse the risks facing the HCV and to make recommendations for a new content management system for the HCV website.

The Board congratulated its Chair, Diane Gardiner, on her award as a Member of the Order of Australia 'for significant service to public administration, particularly in the heritage preservation and historical museum sectors, and to education'.

## 6. PUBLIC FUND COMMITTEE

To meet its obligations through the Register of Cultural Organisations and as a Deductible Gift Recipient, the HCV has a Public Fund Committee. Its members are Boyce Pizzey OAM, Dr Charles Fahey and Dr Geoffrey Robinson.

## 7. ADMINISTRATION

The Board is assisted by its part-time (0.2) Executive Officer. In this reporting year,

the HCV has approved an Asset Register & Depreciation Schedule, and a Risk Analysis & Management Matrix. The HCV has joined Connecting Up and through that organisation has been able to purchase computer hardware and software with substantial discounts. The HCV has thereby upgraded the office computer.

## **8. SOURCES OF SUPPORT**

The HCV enjoys generous in-kind support from the employers of its members and from many of the organisations represented on its Board. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria hosts the HCV as a tenant at very reasonable rates. The Old Treasury Building, the State Library of Victoria and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) kindly hosted the HCV's Board and General meetings. Monash University and the State Library of Victoria led the coordination and hosting of the *Making Public Histories* seminar series. The State Library of Victoria hosted the *Annual Lecture*.

The Department of Education and Training (formerly the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development) has funded the *History Roadshow* since 2006 through its Strategic Partnerships Program. Triennial funding has been granted for the period 2015-2017. The *History Roadshow* program enjoys the support of many schools and the HCV is especially grateful to the schools that serve as hubs for their regions by hosting tours.

Dr Adrian Jones OAM (La Trobe University, and former Chair of the HCV) and Dr David Carment AM (President of the History Council of NSW) kindly facilitated important Board discussions towards the Re-Visioning of the HCV.

The HCV acknowledges the invaluable support and input of the Board, the Executive Committee, the other sub-committees and the Executive Officer.

The HCV is grateful to all its supporters and contributors for their good will and assistance.

## **9. ACTIVITY PROGRAM, JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015**

The HCV's current program ensures that key audiences are targeted effectively. Its activities are reported on the following pages in two categories:

Core and ongoing program

Activities dependent on grants received

| Activity   | HCV team  |
|--|---|
| <b>CORE AND ONGOING PROGRAM</b>  |   |
| <p><i>Annual Lecture</i><br/>Thursday 24 July 2014<br/>'Worlds Apart: A Comparative History of Responses to AIDS in Australia and the United States'<br/>Dr Paul Sendziuk (University of Adelaide)</p> | <p><i>Working Group:</i><br/>Judith Smart, Katherine Sheedy, Andrew Hiskens and Jen Brook</p>   |
| <p><i>Making Public Histories Seminar Series</i><br/>(in association with Monash University and the State Library of Victoria)</p> <p>The seminars held in 2014-2015 were:</p>                         | <p><i>Working Group, 2014:</i><br/>Ruth Morgan (and her Monash University colleagues)<br/><i>'Historical Perspectives' Sub-committee, 2015:</i><br/>Ruth Morgan, Lauren Bourke and Michelle Rayner; <i>Exec Officer:</i><br/>Margaret Birtley</p>   |
|  | <p>Thursday 7 August 2014<br/>'The city and the stage: musical theatre in Melbourne'<br/>Dr Peter Wylie Johnston, University of Melbourne</p>   |
|  | <p>Thursday 25 September 2014<br/>'Cultivating Community: garden making and public history'<br/>Richard Aitken, co-editor of Australian Garden History, author and heritage consultant<br/>Christina Dyson, co-editor of Australian Garden History and heritage consultant<br/>Sharon Willoughby, Manager of Public Programs at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne</p> |
|  | <p>Thursday 30 October 2014<br/>'Oral History in the Digital Age'<br/>Professor Michael Frisch, University of Buffalo</p>   |
|  | <p>Thursday 20 November 2014<br/>'Remembering Black Saturday: Five Years On'<br/>Liza Dale-Hallett, Senior Curator, Sustainable Futures, Museum Victoria<br/>Dr Robert Kenny, Senior Research Fellow, Alfred Deakin Research Institute, Deakin University</p>   |
|  | <p>Thursday 30 April 2015<br/>'Treasures and troves: the secret lives of books'<br/>Des Cowley, History of the Book manager, State Library Victoria<br/>Richard Overell, former Rare Books Librarian, Monash University<br/>Dr Anna Welch, curator, State Library Victoria</p>  |

| Activity   | HCV team  |
|--|---|
| <b>ACTIVITIES DEPENDENT ON GRANTS RECEIVED</b>           |   |
| <i>History Roadshow</i>                                  | <p><i>Working Group (2014):</i><br/>Diane Gardiner,<br/>Katherine Sheedy,<br/>Andrew Hiskens, Jo Clyne</p> <p><i>Sub-committee (2015):</i><br/>Judith Smart, Lauren Bourke, Pat Hincks; <i>Exec Officer:</i> Margaret Birtley</p>   |
|  | <p>Sessions were delivered for VCE students from schools outside the Melbourne metropolitan area, in History of Revolutions (China, France and Russia) and Twentieth Century History. In 2015, a session on Career Pathways is also included.</p> <p>The academic presenters were:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Anthony Bidgood (Monash University)<br/>Briana Chapple (Nossal Hugh School)<br/>Jo Clyne (History Teachers' Association of Victoria)<br/>Dr Zeb Leonard (Federation University)<br/>Professor Peter McPhee AM (University of Melbourne)<br/>Elizabeth Morgan (Nossal Hugh School)<br/>Dr Yana Ostapenko (RMIT University)<br/>Dr Darius Von Guettner (University of Melbourne)</p> <p>Thanks are extended to all speakers, several of whom gave their services <i>pro bono</i>.</p> |
|  | Three Roadshow tours were conducted during the year:  |
|  | <p>Friday 1 August 2014<br/>Hosted by Geelong High School &amp; Matthew Flinders Girls High School</p>  |
|  | <p>Tuesday 19 August 2014<br/>Hosted by Ballarat Secondary College</p>  |
|  | <p>Thursday 28 May 2015<br/>Hosted by Goulburn Valley Grammar School</p>  |
|  | The History Roadshow program is evaluated and reported regularly to the Department of Education and Training.   |
| <i>A History of Victoria's State Secondary Education</i> | <p><i>Contracted authors:</i><br/>Dr John Andrews<br/>Dr Deborah Towns</p> <p><i>Sub-committee:</i><br/>Katherine Sheedy, Liz Rushen, Emma Russell;<br/><i>Exec Officer:</i> Margaret Birtley</p>   |