

# ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES, 2017-2018

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## 1. INTRODUCTION, BY THE CHAIR



This year, the History Council of Victoria joined with the School of Historical & Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne to host Professor David Christian in delivering the Kathleen Fitzpatrick lecture.

In his thought-provoking lecture, Professor Christian took us through the immense power of human truth-maps and the urgency of good mapping for our future. He challenged and inspired us. He compared 'good science' which, he argued is based on consensus about basic questions and research methods with scientists normally agreeing on fundamentals which leads to coordinated and more efficient research, to history, where each historian has to decide on basics. It is a point that those of us involved in the promotion and teaching of history could take on board. Rather than focussing on points of difference, perhaps there is room to work more collaboratively through collective learning, 'shared truths' leading to human truth maps which are extraordinarily powerful.

The HCV charter expresses our serious commitment and responsibility to contribute to Victoria's cultural and material heritage sector. Mandated by the government as the peak body for history in the State, the Council connects the different education and community sectors that shape the historical imagination that helps define us: schools, universities, professional researchers and writers, local historians, curators, archivists and media people. With ready access to the considerable expertise of its member organisations, the HCV has the potential to act quickly on behalf of each member without being tied to any particular group. The History Council is in an excellent position to promote and advocate for history in our State.

This financial year began with the very successful launch of our Friends program by the History Council's inaugural Chair, Professor Emeritus Stuart Macintyre, as illustrated below. For the first time, the HCV has invited members of the public to join a group that supports our work. Friends of the History Council assist us to continue to share Victoria's history through our programs; by helping to advocate for history, by educating Victorians about the value of history, including the concept of 'big history'.

Dr Liz Rushen  
Chair



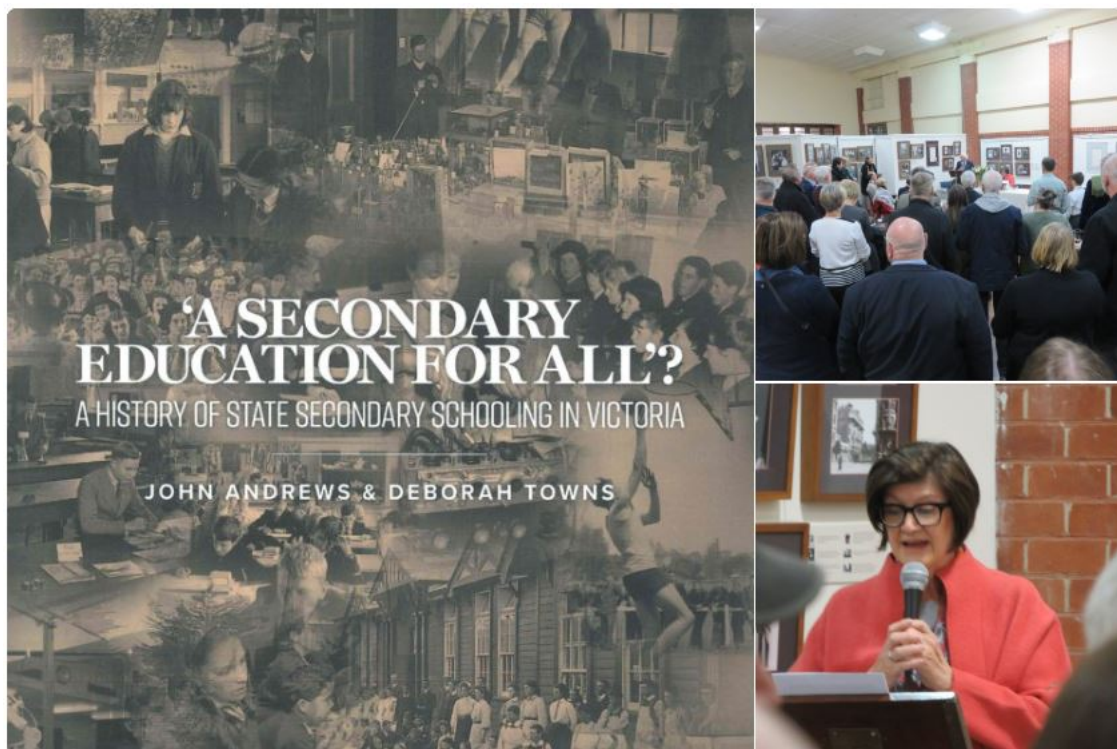
## 2. THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

The HCV's activities during 2017-2018 included the launch of the HCV Friends' program; continuation of the *History Roadshow* program with funding from the Department of Education and Training; strong attendances at the *Making Public Histories* seminar series; co-hosting two well-attended public lectures with the University of Melbourne; and continuing sponsorship of the Historical Fiction Competition organised by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria for students in Years 9 and 10.

Another highlight of the year was the completion of a funding arrangement with Australian Scholarly Publishing that resulted in the publication of two works by Dr John Andrews and Dr Deborah Towns: a major book, *'A secondary education for all'? - A History of State Secondary Schooling in Victoria*, and an accompanying compendium, *Unlocking the Past: What Stories Does Your School Have to Reveal?*

As a 21<sup>st</sup>-century organisation, the HCV continues to communicate actively using digital media – via the website, by email and through engagement with social media (Twitter).

The HCV works collegiately with History Councils Australia-wide and in July 2017, participated in a History Councils Roundtable at the Australian Historical Association conference, hosted by the University of Newcastle, NSW.



The HCV supported the publication of this impressive history and Dr Liz Rushen, HCV Chair, spoke at the launch.  
[Photo compilation courtesy Dr Rob Hess.]

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

Two changes in organisational membership occurred during the year. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority advised in October 2017 of its withdrawal from all representative relationships, including its membership of the HCV. We accepted this situation with regret and thanked Gerry Martin for his contributions. The Board noted with appreciation that he would still be available to provide occasional updates and advice on curriculum matters to the Board and in relation to the *History Roadshow* program. Garrie Hutchinson's appointment to the Heritage Council of Victoria concluded on 30 June 2018. The representative of the Heritage Council for the new financial year will be Professor Andrew May.

### 4. BOARD

The Board is the governing body of the HCV. Its membership corresponds with the full membership of the association. At 30 June 2018, the Board members were:

#### Representatives of member organisations

Organisation	Representative	Start date
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Michelle Rayner	13 Jul 2005
Department of Education and Training	Victoria Hall	10 Apr 2014
Heritage Council of Victoria	Garrie Hutchinson	12 Aug 2015
History Teachers Association of Victoria	Clinton Markwell	21 Feb 2017
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)	Martin Green	12 Jun 2014
Museums Australia (Victoria)	Laura Miles	10 Feb 2009
Museums Victoria	John Patten	2 Mar 2017
Professional Historians Association (Vic)	Katherine Sheedy	1 Feb 2005
Public Record Office Victoria	Tara Oldfield	23 Nov 2016
Royal Historical Society of Victoria	Dr Judith Smart	10 Feb 2009
State Library Victoria	Tim Hogan	1 Mar 2017

#### Representatives of other organisational members

Organisation	Representative	Start date
Old Treasury Building	Margaret Anderson	21 Jan 2016
Monash University	Dr Kathleen Neal	22 Feb 2017
Victoria University	Assoc. Prof. Rob Hess	24 Feb 2017

#### Individual members

Name	Start date
Judy Maddigan	16 Feb 2015
Dr Liz Rushen	14 Feb 2013

## 5. GOVERNANCE AND BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Members met for the AGM on 21 September 2017.

The Board of the HCV met in 2017 on 17 August, 21 September and 16 November and in 2018 on 22 March and 21 June. The Board also met to discuss forward planning, on 8 February 2018.

Board positions as at 30 June 2018 were Dr Liz Rushen (Chair), Dr Judith Smart (Deputy Chair) and Katherine Sheedy (Hon. Treasurer). Margaret Birtley is the appointed Secretary. These people served as the HCV's Executive committee, with Associate Professor Rob Hess elected to the committee by the Board.

Many Board members serve in small teams to advise on key areas of HCV activity. Additional experts are appointed to assist where appropriate. Committees have guided the Public Fund, fundraising, the publishing project with Australian Scholarly, and the HCV's social media and website communications. Committees also plan the *Historical Perspectives* program (including the *Annual Lecture* and the *Making Public Histories* seminar series) and the *History Roadshow*. Particular thanks are extended to former Board members who continue to assist the HCV in co-opted roles: Emma Russell (a member of the Book Project committee) and Andrew Hiskens (a member of the Fundraising committee). The HCV acknowledges the invaluable support and input of the Board, its committees and the Executive Officer.

When available, a Board member accompanies each *History Roadshow* tour. Their contributions include networking discussions with presenters and participating teachers, and as panelists in the Career Pathways session.

The Board continued its sponsorship of the Year 9 and 10 Category of the Historical Fiction Competition organised by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV). Board members Garrie Hutchinson and Tim Hogan served as the judging panel and made presentations to the winner and the runner up at a ceremony arranged by the HTAV on 20 October 2017.

## 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, Margaret Birtley AM.

Bookkeeping services are provided by Resolve UBM Business Management Services.

## 8. REPRESENTATION

Dr Liz Rushen attended a number of events in her capacity as HCV Chair, including awards presentations, book launches, seminars, and presentations. She was interviewed on 3 May 2018 by journalist Simon Leo Brown on the questions 'Why is Melbourne's Flinders Lane not called Little Flinders Street?' for the ABC's Curious Melbourne segment and web-page.

Dr Judith Smart represented the HCV at meetings of the Her Place Women's Museum.

Margaret Birtley represented the HCV at each of its public events.



Dr Liz Rushen (HCV Chair) (on the left) and Assoc. Prof. Kate McGregor (The University of Melbourne) congratulated Professor David Christian (Macquarie University) following his Kathleen Fitzpatrick Lecture in April 2018

## 9. 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 (RHSV) hosts the HCV as a tenant at reasonable rates. The National Trust of Australia (Victoria), the Old Treasury Building, Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) and State Library Victoria have kindly hosted the HCV's Board, general and committee meetings. Prior to its meeting in March 2018, the Board was treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Victorian Archives Centre, led by Justine Heazlewood (PROV Director and Keeper of Public Records) with assistance from Judy Maddigan and Tara Oldfield.

Monash University, the Old Treasury Building and the HCV collaborate effectively to plan and deliver the *Making Public Histories* seminar series. The School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies at Monash sponsors the Old Treasury Building as the venue partner. Monash University Publishing kindly supplies books as gifts for the speakers at each seminar.

At the invitation of The University of Melbourne, the HCV co-hosted two public lectures with the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies. Each lecture was held at the University and was preceded by a

catered reception, courtesy of the School. Details of these lectures can be found in section 11, below.

In October 2017, as part of the History Week festival, Professor Stuart Macintyre AO FAHA FASSA spoke at the Old Treasury Building about 'History and Heritage' to launch the HCV Friends program. With light refreshments provided by the HCV, the launch event enabled effective networking amongst the capacity gathering of Friends, past and present Board members and staff, and recent presenters from the *History Roadshow* and the *Making Public Histories* seminars. Dr Judith Smart generously donated a copy of the RHSV's publication *Remembering Melbourne* as the door prize.

The Department of Education and Training has funded the *History Roadshow* since 2006 through its Strategic Partnerships Program. The funded triennium for 2015-2017 was completed satisfactorily and a new grant was secured for the period 2018-2020. The *History Roadshow* program enjoys the support of many schools and the HCV is especially grateful to the venues that serve as hubs for their regions by hosting the tours. The host venues have usually been secondary schools with strong VCE history programs; in August 2017, however, a variation was introduced and the Warrnambool tour was generously hosted by Deakin University.



The History Roadshow in Warrnambool was hosted by Deakin University. During an introductory session, the HCV's Executive Officer facilitated discussion by the panel of presenters on the question: Where can History take you?

The HCV is grateful to the many historians who contributed their time and specialist knowledge to the HCV's programs, including the *Annual Lectures*, the *History Roadshow* and the *Making Public Histories* seminars. The presenters for the *Roadshow* and the seminar series are acknowledged in section 11, below. Appreciation is extended to all speakers, many of whom gave their services *pro bono*.

The HCV thanks all its supporters and contributors for their good will and assistance.



Elizabeth Morgan presented on Revolutions for the Roadshow at Girton Grammar School, Bendigo



Dr Yana Ostapenko presented at Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Leongatha on the Russian Revolution

## 10. COMMUNICATIONS

The HCV has continued to improve both the content and the distribution of its free and occasional E-news bulletin. In June 2018 the E-news mailing list contained approximately 1415 addresses (an increase of 415 over the year). The E-news bulletin contains not only announcements about HCV events, but also selected information from the history community in Victoria. It was published on ten occasions this year, on 18 July, 8 and 28 August, 14 September, 10 October and 20 December 2017, 2 March, 6 April, 6 and 26 June 2018.

All HCV Friends receive the E-news bulletin and they also receive the Friends 'Alert' email which was first published on 13 September 2017, approximately five weeks after the HCV announced the opportunity to sign up for the Friends program. In 2018, the 'Alert' email was published on 5 February, 2 March, 23 March, 9 May and 25 June.

On 1 January 2018, the HCV started to receive data via Google Analytics about use of the website. For the six-month period ending 30 June 2018, the website was visited by 2,627 users (average 438 per month). These users engaged with the website through 3,286 sessions (average 548 per month).

The HCV began engaging with social media through Twitter in June 2015 and three years later has 1,256 followers. The Executive Officer is normally the author of tweets, including 'live tweets' from HCV events such as the *Making Public Histories* seminars and the *History Roadshow* tours.

Shown here is a 'live tweet' from the *History Roadshow* in Geelong (September 2017); it gained 3,221 'impressions' and was the HCV's 'top media tweet' for the year.





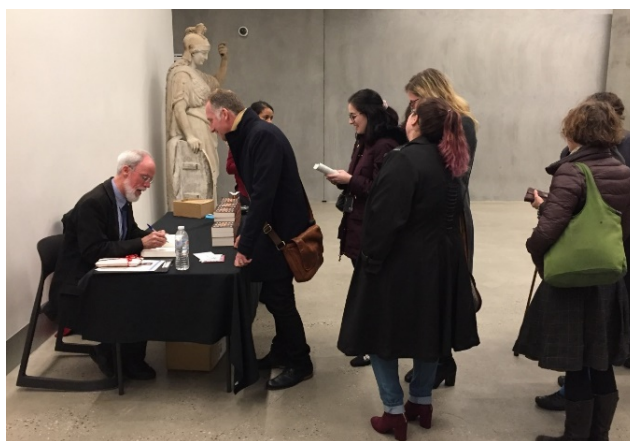
## 11. MAJOR PROGRAMS

The HCV's current range of programs ensures that key audiences are targeted effectively.

### Annual Lecture

The *Annual Lecture* reaches professionals and the general public with interests in history. Two such lectures were presented during the reported year:

- 'The Craft of History in the Age of Fake News' was presented on 5 September 2017 by Professor Tom Griffiths AO FAHA of the Australian National University. This lecture was presented jointly by The University of Melbourne (as the Ernest Scott Lecture) and the HCV (as the Annual Lecture for 2017).
- 'Big History and Truth: Knowledge as Mapping' was presented on 19 April 2018 by Professor David Christian of Macquarie University. This lecture was presented jointly by The University of Melbourne (as the Kathleen Fitzpatrick Lecture) and the HCV (as the Annual Lecture for 2018).



Following his Ernest Scott Lecture & HCV Annual Lecture 2017, Professor Tom Griffiths signed copies of his award-winning book, *The Art of Time Travel*, at the University of Melbourne

### Making Public Histories

The *Making Public Histories* seminar series often attracts an audience with specialised interests and expertise. Six seminars were offered during the year. The topics and presenters were:

#### 24 July 2018: 'Slavery and its Legacies'

Participants: Manisha Sinha, University of Connecticut; Clare Corbould, Monash University; Christina Twomey, Monash University (convenor).

#### 3 October 2017: 'The Medieval Past in Melbourne'

Participants: Stephanie Trigg, The University of Melbourne; Felix Nobis, Monash University; Helen Young, La Trobe University; Kathleen Neal, Monash University (convenor).

### Tuesday 5 December 2017: '1917: Melbourne at War'

Participants: Joy Damousi, The University of Melbourne; Judith Smart, RMIT University; Alistair Thomson, Monash University (convenor).



The HCV Chair with speakers at the 'Slavery and its Legacies' seminar.  
L-R: Liz Rushen, Christina Twomey, Manisha Sinha, Clare Corbould

### 6 March 2018: 'Podcasting History'

Participants: Emma Lancaster, University of Technology Sydney; Andrew J. May, University of Melbourne; Alistair Thomson, Monash University (convenor).



Professor Andrew May spoke about podcasting history  
at the March seminar

### 8 May 2018: 'Material Culture: Stories from Objects'

Participants: Sarah Hayes, Deakin University; Margaret Anderson, Old Treasury Building; Margaret Birtley, History Council of Victoria (convenor).

This seminar was presented as part of the 2018 Heritage Festival.

### 12 June 2018: 'Wikipedia and history'

Participants: Mary Tomsic, The University of Melbourne; Justine Clark, Parlour; women, equity, architecture; Murray Phillips, The University of Queensland; Pru Mitchell, Wikimedia Australia (convenor).

## History Roadshow

Six *History Roadshow* tours for VCE History students in regional Victoria and their teachers were conducted during the year:

- 28 July 2017, hosted by Mary Mackillop Catholic College, Leongatha
- 10 August 2017, hosted by Girton Grammar School, Bendigo
- 16 August 2017, hosted by Deakin University, Warrnambool
- 23 August 2017, hosted by Catholic College Sale
- 31 August 2017, hosted by Ballarat High School
- 12 September 2017, hosted by Christian College, Geelong

Sessions were delivered in subject areas relating to the curriculum and matching local demand. In 2017-2018, these subjects were Ancient History, Australian History, Global Empires, Revolutions (American, French and Russian) and Twentieth Century History. A general session on Career Pathways was included as part of each tour.

The academic presenters were: Dr Michael Adcock (Melbourne Grammar School); Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter (Federation University Australia); Dr Joanna Cruickshank (Deakin University); Dr Rhiannon Evans (La Trobe University); Dr Julie Fedor (University of Melbourne); Dr Tony Joel (Deakin University); Dr Kit McPhee; Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM (The University of Melbourne); Elizabeth Morgan (Nossal High School); Greg Naylor (Geelong College); Dr Yana Ostapenko (RMIT University); Professor Joe Siracusa (RMIT University); Dr Josh Specht (Monash University); Dr Mathew Turner (Deakin University); Dr Ben Wilkie (Deakin University) and Dr Bart Ziino (Deakin University).

The *History Roadshow* program is evaluated and reported regularly to the Department of Education and Training.



Dr Kit McPhee (Global Empires) and Dr Tony Joel (Twentieth Century History) presented to Year 11 students at Christian College Geelong. This host venue welcomed the largest History Roadshow tour of the year, accommodating the 248 students who participated from 10 schools in the Geelong region.

## 'A secondary education for all'?

In 2005, Associate Professor Adrian Jones OAM (then Chair of the HCV) and Dr Deborah Towns (then Senior Project Officer, Department of Education) organised *Students and Teachers Take Over Parliament*, a three-day celebration of the centenary of State-funded secondary education in Victoria.

The celebration was a great success and demonstrated wide-ranging community support for government schooling, with participation by parents, students, teachers, community leaders and organisations from across the State.

After the celebration and the formal acquittal of grants, the balance of funds was allocated to the preparation of a book relating to the history of State secondary education in Victoria. The HCV commissioned Dr Towns and also Dr John Andrews as the authors, and later engaged Australian Scholarly to work with the authors so that their work could be appropriately published.

The two volumes by Dr Andrews and Dr Towns were released by Australian Scholarly in February 2018: a major book, *'A secondary education for all'? - A History of State Secondary Schooling in Victoria*, and an accompanying compendium, *Unlocking the Past: What Stories Does Your School Have to Reveal?* Australian Scholarly kindly extended a discount offer to members of the HCV Friends. The book was subsequently launched by Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey at the RHSV with our Chair, Dr Liz Rushen the Master of Ceremonies.

### **Collaboration with other History Councils**

The HCV collaborates with the History Councils in NSW, SA and WA on matters of shared interest. Representatives of each History Council participated at a Roundtable seminar at the July 2017 conference of the Australian Historical Association, hosted by the University of Newcastle, NSW. At the seminar, each History Council confirmed its agreement to develop a shared statement on the Value of History. Work on this project is continuing.

## **12. FRIENDS PROGRAM**

The HCV Friends program was opened to subscribers in late August 2017 and officially launched in October by the inaugural Chair of HSV, Emeritus Professor Stuart McIntyre. The main aim of the program is to offer current and future supporters a way to engage with and demonstrate support for HCV while receiving tangible benefits in return for an annual subscription fee.

Friends receive a range of benefits including:

- Discounted rate for tickets to HCV events
- First notification and priority booking for all HCV events
- Exclusive access to Friends-only events, behind-the-scenes tours, field trips and roadshows
- Access to mentoring/networking opportunities
- Discounts with publishers
- Entitlement to post events to the HCV Calendar

These benefits and opportunities are communicated when relevant through the occasional 'Alert' bulletin that is sent to each Friend by email.

The HCV encourages everyone to become a Friend!