HISTORY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

history council of victoria



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FROM THE CHAIR

When I wrote my 2019-20 report a year ago we envisaged that 2021 would see a return to some level of pre-pandemic 'normality', particularly in-person seminars and meetings. Of course, that has not been the case, and we have needed to take advantage of online meeting platforms to present our public program as well as to conduct the History Council's business. In fact, we have been busier than ever.



The History Council has produced:

- The 2020 Annual Lecture, superbly presented on 8 October by Associate Professor Ruth Morgan of the Australian National University.
- The 'Making Public History Series' in conjunction with the Monash University History Program and Old Treasury Building.
- A new 'Book + Author' series for Friends. Our guest authors have included Lizzie Collingham, Grace Karskens, John Merriman and Gideon Haigh.
- Most important, the online delivery of our annual History Roadshow, funded by the Department of Education & Training. This is aimed at VCE students in regional schools and was a great success, with online video presentations from prominent academics available to a higher number of students.

The History Council has been particularly active in its advocacy work over the past year, making representations to government or in the media on a range of issues, including:

- The ACARA Australian Curriculum Review.
- The funding of the National Archives.
- Various matters pertaining to Indigenous cultural heritage.
- The Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020.

In the interests of advocacy we have taken steps to strengthen our links with other History Councils in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

Of particular concern to us have been the repeated assertions of ministers of education that have undermined the place of history in the school and university curriculum. We have sought to highlight the evidence of the range of employment outcomes of students who study history (and other humanities and social sciences), and have also highlighted the public function of historical literacy as a foundation of citizenship, in particular:

- The skills and sensitivities we learn in understanding people separate from us in time, place and culture, and therefore in understanding ourselves.
- The civic importance in a multi-cultural society of a perspective which emphasises cultural understanding, evidence, careful judgement, flexibility of outlook and respect for difference.

These core principles are elaborated in our Value of History statement: <u>www.historycouncilvic.org.au/value_of_history</u>

Philanthropic generosity from people who care passionately about the place of historical literacy in our society have enabled us to establish two prizes:

- The Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy (to be awarded in October this year)
- The Lynette Russell Schools Prize for First Peoples' History (from 2022)

These and other activities have kept the Council busy! We have been fortunate to have the skills and enthusiasm of Alicia Cerreto, our Executive Officer. Her knowledge of the public history sector and expertise in producing a range of online events have been vital to our work. Her predecessor Margaret Birtley has continued to offer invaluable administrative assistance.

We are fortunate to have a Board of committed individuals drawn from cultural and educational institutions and heritage bodies; history teachers and curriculum advisors; academic and professional historians; and other organisations.

Our work has also been facilitated by small emergency grants from both the Commonwealth and State governments: these have enabled us to continue the wide range of our activities in challenging circumstances.

Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM, Chair

THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

During the period of 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, the HCV transformed most of its activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by using video-conferencing for meetings and events that would otherwise have been held 'in person', and by using the HCV's website, email bulletins and social media to provide current and relevant information.

Ongoing activity included extensive advocacy of the value of history. Core programs were maintained: the Annual Lecture, HCV Friends, the History Roadshow program for VCE students, and the Making Public Histories seminar series in partnership with Monash University and the Old Treasury Building. The HCV continued to sponsor the Years 9 and 10 Historical Fiction Competition organised by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria.

New initiatives were the HCV Book Club (launched in April as an exclusive activity for the HCV Friends) and the Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy (with the inaugural award to be presented in October 2021).

The HCV continued to work collegially with the other History Councils in Australia to advocate on issues of nationwide importance. In December, the four History Councils entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise their relationship.

Become a Friend of the History Council of Victoria

friends

council

of victoria

of the

Be a champion for history Access exclusive events Support history education history Advocate for the value of history Be part of Victoria's history community

Join us: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/friends



BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Dr Liz Rushen resigned from her membership and as Deputy Chair at the AGM in September. Members expressed gratitude for her contributions, including her major achievements as Chair from 2016 to 2019: a major reform of the Rules (including introduction of the Board Charter), the inauguration of the Friends program, and completion of the HCV's involvement in a major publishing project.

During this year, Liz provided significant input into new procedures, terms of reference and structures for the HCV's committees and working groups.

The HCV extends special congratulations to Liz (pictured, below) who was awarded an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) in the Queen's Birthday honours list (June 2021) for her significant service to community history and heritage preservation.

A change of employment led to the resignation of Sarah Morris as the representative of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Victoria) in May 2021. She was succeeded by Dr Ashley Robertson.

Associate Professor Susie Protschky resigned as the representative of Monash University when she accepted employment at Deakin University. Her role with the HCV continues as an Individual Member (appointed in May 2021).

Monash University appointed Professor Nathalie Nguyen as its representative in May 2021.

The Board is the governing body of the HCV. Its membership corresponds with the full membership of the association. The table on the following page shows the Board members as at 30 June 2021.



Representatives of member organisations

Organisation	Representative	Start date
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Michelle Rayner	13 Jul 2005
Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Vic) (AMAGA Victoria)	Dr Ashley Robertson	20 May 2021
Department of Education and Training	Penny Addison	9 Jun 2020
Heritage Council of Victoria	Professor Andrew May FASSA	10 Aug 2018
History Teachers Association of Victoria (HTAV)	Bronwyn Cook	22 Nov 2018
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (NTAV)	Dr Annette Shiell	20 Feb 2020
Museums Victoria	John Patten	2 Mar 2017
Professional Historians Association (Vic/Tas)	Katherine Sheedy MPHA	1 Feb 2005
Public Record Office Victoria	Tara Oldfield	23 Nov 2016
Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV)	Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV	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 FFAHS	21 Jan 2016
Deakin University	Professor David Lowe FASSA	28 May 2020
La Trobe University	Dr Yves Rees	3 Jun 2020
Monash University	Professor Nathalie Nguyen	20 May 2021

Individual members

Name	Start date
Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO FAHA FASSA FFAHS	7 Nov 2018
Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM FAHA FASSA	21 Nov 2019
Associate Professor Susie Protschky	10 Jun 2020

GOVERNANCE AND BOARD ACTIVITIES

During this year, all meetings of the members, the Board and its committees were conducted by video conference or other online technology.

The members met for the AGM on 17 September 2020.

The Board met in 2020 on 16 July, 28 August, 17 September and 19 November, and in 2021 on 18 March and 20 May.

Professor David Lowe was appointed as Deputy Chair by the Board at its September meeting.

Board positions as at 30 June 2021 were held by Professor Peter McPhee (Chair), Professor David Lowe (Deputy Chair), Katherine Sheedy (Hon. Treasurer). These people served on the HCV's Executive committee, with Bronwyn Cook, Professor Graeme Davison and Tim Hogan elected to the committee by the Board.

Margaret Birtley resigned as Secretary with effect from 6 December 2020 and Alicia Cerreto was appointed as her successor.

Many Board members serve in small teams to advise on key areas of HCV activity. Additional experts are appointed to assist where appropriate. In September, the Board approved new procedures and terms of reference for its committees and working groups. The Executive committee provides guidance on governance, strategic planning, financial planning and management, and risk management. Other committees guide the Public Fund, Communications, Development (including the Friends program and the management of awards and prizes), Events and History Education (including the *History Roadshow* program). The HCV acknowledges the invaluable support and input of the Board, its committees and the Executive Officer.

The Making Public Histories series is organised by a partnership between HCV, Monash University and Old Treasury Building. The Board's representative on the partnership committee was Dr Susie Protschky, succeeded by Professor Nathalie Nguyen. Administrative support for the seminar/webinar series is provided by the Executive Officer.

The Board established a judging panel to assess the entries for the Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy. (The inaugural winner will be announced at the Annual Lecture in October 2021).

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 comprising Boyce Pizzey OAM, Dr Charles Fahey and Dr Geoffrey Robinson.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

The Department of Education and Training has funded the History Roadshow for VCE history students since 2006 through its Strategic Partnerships Program. The triennial funding for 2018-2020 was extended to cover a fourth calendar year in 2021. The HCV was eligible for several grants issued by governments in response to the pandemic. From the Australian government, the HCV received the JobKeeper Wage Subsidy and Cash Flow Boost payments. From the Victorian government, the HCV received a Business Support grant. These funds provided timely and much appreciated assistance. The HCV enjoyed generous in-kind support from the employers of its members and from many of the organisations represented on its Board. The RHSV hosted the HCV as a tenant at reasonable rates.

Monash University, Old Treasury Building and the HCV collaborated effectively to plan and deliver the Making Public Histories series. In response to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, Monash kindly used its Zoom webinar account to host the series remotely. Monash University Publishing generously supplied books as gifts for the speakers at each seminar.

The HCV acknowledges the many historians who contributed their time and specialist knowledge to the HCV's programs, including the History Roadshow, the Making Public Histories seminars and the Annual Lecture. The presenters at these events are mentioned in sections 10 and 11, below. Appreciation is extended to all speakers, many of whom gave their services pro bono.

The HCV is very grateful to the many kind people who made donations to the Public Fund and thereby support the HCV's cultural program. Thanks are extended to all the HCV's supporters and contributors for their good will and assistance.

ADVOCACY

As the peak body for history in Victoria, the History Council makes submissions on current issues. In doing this, the HCV Board is guided by its Advocacy Policy and by the Value of History statement that was developed co-operatively by the HCV and the History Councils of New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

During this year, the HCV contributed the following:

- Professor Graeme Davison (Board member) and Professor Peter McPhee (Chair) signed an Open Letter to the Prime Minister on the under-funding of the National Archives of Australia (June 2021). Related activities by Professor McPhee were:
 - Letter to The Age, 'Learning from history' (published 30 April 2021).
 - Article in the Australian Book Review, 'The Digital Cliff: Protecting the National Archives of Australia (published in ABR no. 432, June 2021).
- A statement following the Supreme Court injunction to halt roadworks on the Western Highway, urged the State government to pause and rethink its approach to matters of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (30 October 2020).
- To the Australian Electoral Commission regarding the naming (and potential renaming) of Victoria's electoral divisions of the House of Representatives. HCV encouraged the AEC to use this opportunity to recognise one or more Victorian women and one or more Victorian Indigenous persons (30 October 2020).
- To the Senate Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020. HCV lodged this submission on behalf of all four History Councils in Australia (10 September 2020).
- To the public consultation on the Exposure draft for the Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020 (14 August 2020).
- To the National Archives of Australia on its principles for selection of items for the collection (3 August 2020).
- To the Australian Parliament (Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia) inquiry into the destruction of 46,000-year-old caves at the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, submitted on behalf of all History Councils in Australia by Professor Peter McPhee (30 July 2020).

ADVOCACY (CONT.)

 To the 21 July 2020 meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee of the City of Melbourne, supporting Agenda item 7.3, 'Notice of Motion, Cr Watts: Arts and Humanities Higher Education funding' (20 July 2020). The motion was carried unanimously.

The HCV's website provides more detail: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/advocacy

COMMUNICATIONS

- The website is the HCV's primary means of communication. Content on the website is additionally promoted via email and social media.
- The HCV began engaging with social media through Twitter in June 2015 and six years later has 2, 016 followers. HCV staff members are normally the author of tweets, including 'live tweets' from HCV events such as the Making Public Histories webinars. The HCV's Facebook page is used to promote its news and public events.
- The HCV has continued to improve both the content and the distribution of its free and occasional E-news bulletin. At the end of June 2021, the E-news mailing list contained approximately 2120 email addresses. 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 twelve occasions this year: on 7 August, 4 September, 5 October, 21 October, 26 November and 21 December 2020, and on 15 February, 25 March, 12 April, 10 May, 7 June and 21 June 2021.
- All HCV Friends receive the E-news bulletin. They also receive the Friends 'Alert' email which was published seven times during the year: on 20 August and 21 December 2020, and on 16 March, 24 March, 12 April, 7 May and 28 May 2021.

ADMINISTRATION

In November, the Board adopted several working principles for managing the HCV's business records and archives, including a commitment to retaining and preserving digital records as the primary format.

The Board is assisted by its part-time staff. In December, Margaret Birtley resigned after seven years in the role of Executive Officer. Her successor is Alicia Cerreto who had been working as Deputy Executive Officer since May 2020. The Board thanks both Margaret and Alicia for their dedicated and diligent service.

The bookkeeping is done by Resolve UBM Business Management Services which initiated several improvements to the HCV's accounting systems during the year, resulting in the adoption of more streamlined and efficient procedures.

From 6 December, Margaret Birtley was appointed as the voluntary Finance Officer, a part-time role that reports to the Executive Officer and the Treasurer.



PUBLIC EVENTS

The HCV's range of programs aims to ensure that key audiences are targeted effectively. Making Public Histories

The Making Public Histories series traditionally attracts audiences with specialised interests and expertise. Delivered in webinar format from July 2020, the series became accessible to people from outside Melbourne, including regional Victoria, interstate and overseas. Audience sizes increased dramatically. A recording of each webinar was posted to the HCV's YouTube channel and thus became available to people who were unable to attend the 'live' discussion, and discoverable by new audiences that were previously not aware of the HCV.

Registrants for the three webinars held in 2020 were surveyed in mid-November. Their feedback was positive and constructive.

The events were facilitated by Professor Alistair Thomson (Monash University) Dr Susie Protschky (HCV and Monash), Alicia Cerreto (HCV), Margaret Birtley (HCV) and Margaret Anderson (Old Treasury Building).

Topics and presenters were:

• Tuesday 14 July 2020: 'Public Monuments - Contested Histories'

Professor Peter McPhee (University of Melbourne and HCV Chair); Claire Baxter (graduate of the University of Glasgow) and John Patten (Museums Victoria and HCV Board member).

• Tuesday 11 August 2020: 'Remembering the Atomic Bombs: History, Memory and Politics in Australia, Japan and the Pacific'

Professor Robin Gerster (Monash University), Dr Gwyn McClelland (University of New England) and Dimity Hawkins AM (Swinburne University). Convenor: Professor Alistair Thomson (Monash University) The audio of this webinar was broadcast by Radio National's Big Ideas program on Monday 24 August 2020.

• Tuesday 10 November 2020: 'Victoria's Native Vegetation: History, Heritage, Politics' Dr Gary Presland (professional historian), Professor Mike Clarke (La Trobe University) and Dr Lilian Pearce (RMIT and the University of Tasmania).

• Thursday 4 March 2021: 'Teasing Women's Stories from the Archives'

Dr Carolyn Rasmussen (public historian), Dr Kathleen Neal (Monash University) and Dr Alana Piper (University of Technology Sydney).

- Thursday 22 April 2021: 'Infectious Disease and Public Health: Lessons from History' Dr Guy Geltner (University of Amsterdam and Monash University), Professor Warwick Anderson (University of Sydney) and Geraldine Fela (PhD candidate, Monash University).
- Thursday 27 May 2021: 'Populism, Democracy and Covid-19'

Professor Peter McPhee (University of Melbourne and HCV Chair); Dr Jon Piccini (Australian Catholic University) and Associate Professor Imogen Saunders (Australian National University).





Making Public Histories INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PUBLIC HEALTH: LESSONS FROM HISTORY



FROM HIS FORS
Guy Gettner (Monash University)
"Public health in the premotem world:
 The end of an oxymoror.
Warvick Anderson (University) of Sydney)
Crisis in the Herd: A Short History of R0
 and Disease Modelling.
Geraldine Fela (Monash University)
"From Condoman to Community Control:
genous public health, nursing and HVI in the 1980
Spm, Thursday 22 April via Zoom
Book via the HCV website:
www.historycoundive.org.au/
infectious_disease.public_health



5pm, Thursday 4 March via Zoom book via the HCV website: historycouncilvic.org.au/teasing.womens_stories_from_the_archives_20210209 Proudly trought to you Monash University History Program, the History Council of Victoria and the Old Treasury Building



Making Public Histories

book vio the HCV website: https://www.historycouncilvic.org.au/populism_democracy_covid19 Proudly brought to you Monash University History Program, the History Council of Victoria and the Old Treasury Building

History Roadshow

The History Roadshow was originally designed to offer VCE History students from rural and regional schools the opportunity to hear from highly experienced academic and professional historians and to have rich curriculum-related experiences, close to home in regional Victorian towns, to support their learning. Following the imposition of health restrictions in March 2020, excursions became impossible or impractical for both schools and presenters. The HCV consequently redesigned the History Roadshow program for online delivery, in two parts.

Part One was a series of recorded 30-minute video lectures from expert historians. These were supplied to participating schools as a password protected video. Registered participants received unlimited access to the videos from mid-September until mid-November.

Part Two was a series of 45-minute, live Q&A sessions, matched to the video lectures. Using videoconferencing software, these facilitated sessions were delivered to registered students and teachers during the week of 12-16 October by the same expert historians. Each session included a conversation about the range of career pathways that can develop from the study of history.

In recognition of the severe disruptions that Year 12 students experienced during 2020, the program focused on the three most popular history subjects at that level and offered access for students in the Greater Melbourne region. Participation by students and teachers greatly exceeded what has previously been possible via the face-to-face

tours



The video lectures and Q&A sessions covered:

• Australian History

UNIT 3: Transformations: Colonial society to nation Area of Study 1: The reshaping of Port Phillip District / Victoria, 1834-1860

with Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM (La Trobe University) Area of Study 2: Making a people and a nation 1890-1920 with Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO (Monash University) UNIT 4: Transformations: Old certainties and new visions Area of Study 1: Crises that tested the nation 1929-1945 with Geraldine Carrodus (History education consultant) Area of Study 2: Voices for change 1965-2000 with Professor Sean Scalmer (University of Melbourne)

Revolutions – The French Revolution of 1789
Area of Study 1: Causes of revolution and Area of Study 2:
Consequences of revolution
with Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM (University of Melbourne)

• Revolutions – The Russian Revolution of October 1917 Area of Study 1: Causes of revolution with Associate Professor Paula Michaels (Monash University) The Russian Revolution

with Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick (Australian Catholic University)









Annual Lecture

The 2020 Annual Lecture was presented online on Thursday 8 October by Associate Professor Ruth Morgan, Director of the Centre for Environmental History at the Australian National University. Her lecture was entitled 'Futures Past and Possible: Histories of and for Tomorrow'. Focusing on Australian climate futures, past and possible, the lecture considered the ideas and ideals that animated settler understandings of the continent's climes and how their legacies may shape tomorrow.

A recording of the lecture can be viewed via the HCV's YouTube channel.

Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy

At the conclusion of the Annual Lecture, the HCV Chair, Professor Peter McPhee, announced the establishment of a Prize to recognise the efforts of a group or individual that has advocated for the value of history (of any society and/or period), the work of historians and/or the importance of a history education.

The prize is named in honour of Jane Hansen AO whose passion for history and its advocacy is widely acknowledged. Through the Hansen Little Foundation, which aims to create a legacy of significant and positive change that inspires and enables Australians, Ms Hansen has provided generous philanthropic support for history and historians in a number of organisations. Her unsolicited donation to the HCV in 2020 inspired the Board to create this prize.

Entries opened in March and closed on 30 June. The inaugural winner will be announced at the Annual Lecture in October 2021.



Are you an advocate for history?

Or do you know someone who has gone the extra mile to promote the value of history, the work of historians and/or the importance of an education in history?

The History Council of Victoria is pleased to announce that entries are now open for the inaugural Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy



To find out more, go to www.historycouncilvic.org.au



FRIENDS PROGRAM

The HCV Friends program aims 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. These benefits and opportunities are communicated when relevant through the occasional 'Alert' bulletin that is sent to each Friend by email. During 2020, all existing Friends' subscriptions were extended by 12 months in recognition of the HCV's inability to offer the same range of events. Students who completed a History major, honours or higher degree at a university in Victoria, were also eligible for a free 12-month subscription to the Friends of the History Council of Victoria. Activities resumed thanks to video conferencing and the following events attracted good audiences:

- Tim Hogan, an HCV Board member, gave a lunchtime talk on Thursday 29 October. Tim spoke in his role of Principal Librarian, Victorian and Australian Collections, at the State Library of Victoria. Introduced by the HCV Chair, Professor Peter McPhee, Tim's topic was 'Pandemics and epidemics from the past: The Victorian experience revealed through the collections of the State Library of Victoria'. He shared images of many items from SLV, including photographs and ephemera.
- The end-of-year Friends' event was a panel discussion on Thursday 3 December featuring three Board members. Each reflected on an aspect of 'History in a Time of Pandemic': Professor Peter McPhee spoke about nourishment; Dr Susie Protschky about consolation; and Dr Yves Rees about guidance. The event was convened by Margaret Birtley whose opening remarks included some reflections on her seven years with the HCV as she prepared for a change of pace. The Q&A discussion was facilitated by Alicia Cerreto and the HCV's Deputy Chair, Professor David Lowe. The event concluded with Peter McPhee's tribute to Margaret, and a warm chorus of remote farewells from the audience.

FRIENDS PROGRAM (CONT.)

 In April the HCV Friends were able to have a walking tour led by Graeme Davison which explored how to read statues and debate how best to conserve, interpret and augment our monumental heritage. This event was first promoted to the Friends then opened to a wider audience to help promote the Friends.

The HCV Book Club was launched in early 2021 as a Friends-only activity. The Book Club's first three meetings were:

- Tuesday 13 April with author of *The Biscuit*, Lizzie Collingham, in conversation with Professor David Lowe
- Tuesday 11 May with author of *People of the River*, Grace Karskens, in conversation with Dr Yves Rees
- Tuesday 8 June with author of *The Dynamite Club*, John Merriman, in conversation with Professor Peter McPhee

The HCV encourages everyone to become a Friend – not only for the opportunity to participate in the Book Club and other activities, but also in order to help our association advocate for history and educate Victorians about the value of history.







Advants inside 7 - Dash Lable Brane Olda

FRIENDS PROGRAM (CONT.)



Pandemics and epidemics from the past

Thursday 29 October 12 - 1pm

From mask wearing to the or of quarantine systems, vaccir educational campaigns, improvements in water and werage systems, and adaptations hospital and medical practices ind hygiene regulations, the social inpact of pandemics has been

Presented by Tim Hogan, a Principal Librarian, Victorian and Australian collections, State Library of Victoria

Book here: www.historycouncilvic.org. au/pandemics_from_the





Book + Author

The HCV Book Club

7pm, second Tuesday of the month Featuring special guests, conversations and audience Q&A



Book and/or become a Friend: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/friends

UNTOPPLED **STATUES**







https://bit.lv/3ge77ip Offer closes 31 October 2020

Twitter: @History Vic Facebook: HistoryCouncilVic

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Historical Fiction Competition

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. HCV Board members Bronwyn Cook and Tim Hogan served as the judging panel. The winner was Adele Eastwood (Presbyterian Ladies' College) for her story, 'The Hills'. Two students from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Bentleigh, also received awards: Alexis Egan's 'A Journey to Freedom' was the runner up, while Halle Schroor's 'Stolen Love' was highly commended.

These works of historical fiction are available to read via the HTAV website: <u>https://www.htav.asn.au/students/htav-historical-fiction-competition</u>

Collaboration with other History Councils

The HCV collaborates with the History Councils in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia on matters of shared interest. In December, the four History Councils entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise their relationship. The MoU reflects their willingness to co-operate on: maintaining and developing the Value of History Statement; and advocating for the discipline of history, the work of historians, and history in the broader public sphere.

