

HCV E-news - 23 March 2020

HCV Executive Officer <info@historycouncilvic.org.au>

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To: HCV Executive Officer <info@historycouncilvic.org.au>



Dear colleague --

In this E-news we are pleased to share the following items of HCV news:

- Changes to the Board
- Our latest responses to COVID-19
- *Making Public Histories* – March and May seminars cancelled
- *History Roadshow* – update on plans for 2020
- Share your online events in our calendar!

Changes to the Board

On 19 March 2020, the Board accepted with sincere regret Professor Graeme Davison's resignation as our Chair. Graeme continues as a member of the HCV Board.

As the new HCV Chair, the Board appointed Professor Peter McPhee AM FAHA FASSA. Peter has published widely on the history of modern France, is an HCV Friend, and has contributed to many of our History Roadshow tours in recent years. Congratulations, Peter, on this new role!

The Board has recently welcomed two new members: Dr Annette Shiell (representing the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)) and Sarah Morris (representing the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Victoria)).

Our latest responses to COVID-19

Due to the international Coronavirus pandemic and the current state of emergency provisions, the HCV has cancelled or postponed its program of face-to-face activities. Meanwhile, we are active virtually, making use of our website, the online environment and emails until further notice. The Board now meets by teleconference.

We have adopted an [Epidemic-Pandemic Policy and Procedure](#) to guide our work during these extraordinary times.

We have endorsed [A Journal of the Plague Year: An archive of COVID19](#), a global project that aims to create an historical resource for the future, providing evidence of how COVID-19 has affected our lives. The Melbourne History Workshop at the University of Melbourne has organised [a local node of the Journal](#).

The [home page](#) of the History Council's website now provides a range of timely information for people wanting to engage with History while socially isolated or in quarantine. Check it out, get involved, and let us know if you have suggestions for additional content. We expect to keep adding to the page, so please visit it every so often to see what's new.

Information about the HCV that was previously on the home page has been moved to the [About](#) section of our website.

Via our Facebook page ([@HistoryCouncilVic](#)), we have invited people to respond to this question: *Which history books would you recommend to people who are in quarantine or maintaining social distance because of COVID-19?* If you have a Facebook account, please reply to our post with your suggestions, and enjoy the reading recommendations posted by others.

We will soon be contacting the HCV Friends regarding our 2020 program.

Making Public Histories – March and May seminars cancelled

The seminars scheduled for March and May were cancelled last week in order to protect our speakers, staff and audience members from the risks associated with COVID-19. Each seminar had attracted widespread interest and strong bookings. Each may be rescheduled at a later date, or communicated in other ways. The organising committee (including representatives from HCV, Monash University and the Old Treasury Building) feels that it's premature to make decisions about the July, August

and November seminars but will provide updates [via the MPH webpage](#) and future E-news bulletins.

History Roadshow – update on plans for 2020

The Board of the HCV has reviewed the way in which the [History Roadshow](#) program will be delivered this year for VCE History students in regional Victoria, in light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are aware of school closures and the measures that the Victorian and Australian governments are taking to try to limit the spread of the coronavirus, including an early start to the school holidays. Our customary funded tours to regional centres are simply not possible in the current environment or in the foreseeable future.

We hope to be able to offer the *Roadshow* tours as a face-to-face experience, later this year.

Meanwhile, we have emailed all teachers on our mailing lists, seeking their guidance on what the HCV can do to assist teachers and students during this extraordinary and challenging year.

VCE History teachers in regional Victoria who would like to receive updates from us should contact the Executive Officer using the details at the foot of this web page.

Share your online events in our calendar

If you are organising an event that relates to History, we encourage you to publicise it via [the calendar on our website](#). At present, we welcome especially the addition of **online-only activities** that will help people stay connected and productive during the current period of social distancing that the Coronavirus has forced on us all.

We normally give access only to [HCV Friends](#), [HCV Board Members](#) and people from organisations that are represented on our Board, but, under present circumstances, we invite contributions from others as well. (People who haven't yet [signed up to the Friends](#) are warmly invited to do so.)

Please share this information with your friends and networks.

Kind regards,

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