

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

LEGACY & INNOVATION



Scan the
QR code or visit
www.htav.asn.au
to register.

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST



VCE



MIDDLE YEARS



GENERAL



BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

9:00 AM REGISTRATION

9:50 AM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS / WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

10:20 AM SESSION 1: Please choose one option from this session.

T1A The Storyteller's Classroom: Engaging History Students Through Narrative



Ben Lawless, Aitken College and Lawless Learning

Storytelling is what separates us from other animals. We History teachers are in a unique position to harness this form of teaching to develop knowledge in our learners. There is an abundance of enthralling history stories that we can use to engage, inspire and challenge our students. In this workshop, you'll learn the crucial narrative elements required to supercharge learning. In this highly interactive presentation, participants will also receive a set of narrative suggestions for how to incorporate storytelling into Levels 7–10 History classrooms, from Cleopatra to Churchill. Join us for a session that will reimagine your History teaching.

BYOD | GENERAL

Ben Lawless is a multi-award-winning educator, author, researcher and game designer. He has worked at the University of Melbourne's Assessment and Evaluation Research Centre for over 15 years studying developmental learning theory under Patrick Griffin. Ben brought developmental rubric pedagogy to the successful textbook series Good Humanities and has written units of work for the National Museum. He has presented widely on History pedagogy, game-based learning and assessment; has won several awards, including Hume's Graduate Teacher of the Year; and was a finalist for the ResourceSmart Teacher of the Year award. As a writer, Ben has written first-person historical narratives for topics ranging from ancient and medieval history, keynote addresses, world history summaries as part of his textbook series, and a variety of other curriculum resources freely available on his website lawlesslearning.com.

T1B Fanny Kaplan: Martyr, Madwoman or Catalyst?



Adrian Puckering, Marymede Catholic College

This workshop will explore the contested historical narrative surrounding Fanny Kaplan's attempted assassination of Vladimir Lenin. We will examine the post-October Revolution era, Kaplan's motivations, and resistance from the Socialist Revolutionaries. We will also analyse how this act catalysed the Red Terror, enabling the Bolsheviks to consolidate power through propaganda, suppression and centralisation. This workshop will grapple with diverse interpretations of Kaplan as a revolutionary martyr, a psychologically troubled individual, or as an agent of change. Through primary sources, we will consider the long-term consequences on the Russian Revolution and the emergence of the Soviet state.

VCE REVOLUTIONS

Adrian Puckering is a Humanities teacher with over 30 years' experience teaching Levels 7–12 History. Adrian is a regular HTAV contributor, presenter and author.

T1C Embedding History Skills in Revision Activities**G***Russell Quill, Toorak College*

This workshop aims to provide strategies for developing students' historical skills in the classroom. We will explore a variety of sample revision tasks that target the key historical skills of understanding continuity and change, cause and consequence, evaluating significance, using perspectives and interpretations, and constructing arguments.

GENERAL

Russell Quill has over a decade of experience teaching VCE History across the state, Catholic and independent sectors. He has taught a range of History subjects including Revolutions, Ancient History, Modern History and Empires. This workshop stems from an interest in developing his students' historical skills and finding more time to develop those skills within the curriculum.

T1D The Bomb That Changed the World: Hiroshima and Its Legacy**M***Stephen White, Oxley Christian College*

The atomic bomb that dropped on Hiroshima killed up to 160,000 people, contributed to the end of World War II, and radically changed the nature of warfare and foreign policy. In this workshop, you will learn about the context in which the bomb was dropped, the cases for and against its use, and the experiences of those who lived through it. Leave this session with a wealth of resources and assessment ideas to teach this important topic to your class.

LEVELS 9–10

Stephen White is an experienced History teacher of Levels 7–10 and VCE Revolutions. He is also the Gifted Education coordinator at Oxley Christian College. Stephen is a regular presenter at HTAV conferences and a contributing author to HTAV publications.

T1E Avoiding Deficit Discourse: Teaching First Nations History**V M***Lyndon Pratt, Bacchus Marsh Grammar*

This workshop explores strategies to avoid deficit discourse in teaching First Nations history and emphasises strategies that highlight Indigenous knowledge, cultures and perspectives. By shifting from a deficit model (which often portrays First Nations peoples as victims of historical injustices) to one that highlights resilience, agency and contributions, educators can foster a more accurate and respectful understanding of history. This workshop will provide practical tools and resources for educators to integrate Indigenous voices, promote critical thinking, and encourage students to engage with history in ways that empower First Nations communities and recognise their ongoing impact.

BYOD | LEVELS 7–10 | VCE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Lyndon Pratt is a Head of Humanities at Bacchus Marsh Grammar. He is passionate and knowledgeable about History. Lyndon has written for Agora on the topic of Australian Indigenous history and has experience teaching VCE Modern, Ancient and Australian History. He is also co-author for the upcoming revision of the Cambridge Humanities textbooks.

T1F A City in Crisis? New Discoveries at Pompeii, From Sulla to the Eruption**V***Dr Andrew Connor, Monash University*

Pompeii was a city that had its share of crises: it was besieged by Sulla, wracked by earthquakes, beset by sports hooligans, and finally buried by the neighbouring volcano. The archaeological site that ensued is one of the most famous in the world and can not only capture student and public attention, but also provide incomparable evidence for many aspects of Roman life and history. This session will introduce and contextualise some recent discoveries from Pompeii and further explore how the city and its people lived with and responded to the crises of their time. In addition, it will highlight how a range of evidence can be used to better understand the past, while offering some memorable examples from Pompeii.

VCE ANCIENT HISTORY

Dr Andrew Connor is the Senior Lecturer in Ancient History at Monash University's Department of Archaeology and Ancient History. He teaches the history and archaeology of Greece and Rome, as well as the Latin and Ancient Greek languages. Andrew serves as the Honorary President of the Classical Association of Victoria, Co-Director of the Egyptology Society of Victoria, and Head of Orion College. He is the author of Confiscation or Coexistence: Egyptian Temples in the Age of Augustus (2022), co-editor of Unending Variety (2024), and has published numerous ancient papyri, ostraka and graffiti.

T1G Collecting, Curating and Engaging with Artefacts in the Classroom

Tom Stammers, Tintern Grammar

This workshop aims to step through some of the strategies Tintern Grammar has been employing to engage its students with hands-on primary source investigations. Tom will show you how to collect and curate your own classroom 'artefacts box' and will demonstrate some of the ways his school uses this to heighten students' engagement with History. Collecting and curating material can be a positive step for teachers and students alike. We aim to ensure that you leave this workshop ready to start your own artefact archive!

BYOD | LEVELS 7-10

Tom Stammers has been teaching Levels 7-12 History for the past decade, with a specific focus on practical 'hands-on' primary source investigations. He is currently teaching at Tintern Grammar and previously worked on designing and implementing education programs at the State Library and ACMI. Tom also received the HTAV Award for Excellence in History Teaching by a Secondary Teacher in 2025.

11:15 AM MORNING TEA

11:50 AM SESSION 2: Please choose one option from this session.

T2A Understanding 'isms': Enhancing the Revolutions Curriculum with Political Philosophy

Timothy Ringwood, Carey Baptist Grammar School

Political philosophy is inherent in studying VCE Revolutions—from Marxism in Russia to Maoism in China, Modern Liberalism in France, and Republicanism in America. Students may navigate the revolutionary basics without a rich understanding of these 'isms', but being able to recognise and embed such vocabulary into their work makes for deeper and more enriched historical scholarship. This workshop will outline the key political philosophies present in the VCE Revolutions course and demonstrate methods for introducing them to students at varying levels of complexity.

BYOD | VCE REVOLUTIONS

Timothy Ringwood teaches VCE Revolutions and Politics, with a background in Political Philosophy and Anthropology. He is passionate about extending students into the network of academic theory and bringing real-life historical scholarship into the Year 12 classroom. His approach situates the Revolutions course into broader academic debates and gives students the vocabulary to discuss course content with sophistication.

T2B Tackling Modern History

Natalie Shephard, Hume Anglican Grammar

This practical workshop will look at ways to deliver Modern History Unit 2, Area of Study 1. We will focus on strategies to navigate the Cold War (AOS1) and cover suggested topics that provide a coherent chronology of events, with a view to meeting the assessment outcomes of explaining cause and consequence. We will also focus on approaches to addressing challenge and change (AOS2) through civil rights. The session will provide strategies, resources and activity ideas to support your teaching.

BYOD | VCE MODERN HISTORY

Natalie Shephard is a History and Humanities educator with over two decades of teaching experience. She is currently teaching at Hume Anglican Grammar. An active contributor to HTAV, Natalie not only presents at events and conferences but also enhances educational resources through her involvement in HTAV publications. In addition, she co-authored the Good Humanities 9 and 10 textbook series. Natalie is also a HTAV Board member and a mentor in the HTAV mentor program. Committed to enriching History education, she provides accessible resources and innovative teaching ideas.



T2C The Courage to Be a History Teacher**G***Jonathon Dallimore, HTANSW*

Perhaps now more than ever, teachers are bombarded with competing claims about what is 'right' in education. Major fluctuations in policy or school agendas can be taxing. This workshop argues that finding a long-term conceptual architecture rooted in the discipline of History can help sustain teachers over their career.

GENERAL

Jonathon Dallimore is currently the Executive Officer (Professional Services) at the History Teachers' Association of NSW. He also teaches History Methods at UNSW and, periodically, at the University of Sydney. He is the author of the newly published Teaching History. A Practical Guide for Secondary School Teachers.

T2D The Environmental Impacts of Colonisation and Gold**V M***Andrew Pearce, Sovereign Hill Museums Association*

The colonisation of Victoria, through farming and the subsequent gold rush, had a dramatic impact on the longstanding interactions of our First Nations peoples with the land. This understanding of changing land use has taken a more prominent place in the new Victorian Curriculum (V2.0) across year levels, with students expected to engage with the impact these settlement patterns had on the local environment and the consequences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Through primary sources, this workshop will explore these changing interactions and perspectives and further examine their legacy on the landscapes of central and western Victoria.

LEVELS 9–10 | VCE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Andrew Pearce is a Learning Program Leader at the Sovereign Hill Museums Association. He is passionate about History education, with a focus on inquiry and object-based learning. With a background in using technology to improve educational outcomes, Andrew has been working in museum education for 10 years. Prior to working at Sovereign Hill, Andrew was Learning Manager at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka.

T2E Engaging in History with Adobe Express**G***Dr Tim Kitchen, Adobe*

This hands-on workshop focuses on enhancing creative communication and digital literacy skills within the teaching of any History unit. All Victorian schools have access to Adobe Express, which is a set of free browser and mobile-based applications to help tell stories and enhance creativity in any curriculum area. No Adobe experience is required. For details about Express, please go to www.adobe.com/education/express.

BYOD | GENERAL

Dr Tim Kitchen has been an educator for over thirty years and has been Adobe's Senior Education Specialist for Asia Pacific since 2013. He is a regular presenter at HTAV conferences and a passionate advocate for creativity in education. Tim is an author and presenter for national and international education events.

T2F Engaging with First Nations Histories in the Victorian Curriculum V2.0**M***Associate Professor Al Fricker, NIKERI Institute and Deakin University*

The History curriculum in Victoria has been a site of tension for many years. Following the recent update prompted by Australian curriculum reform, the VCAA took the opportunity to explore ways to enhance and expand First Nations content within the discipline. This presentation will detail the latest adjustments and provide insight into how these can be met in History classrooms moving forward.

LEVELS 7–10

Associate Professor Al Fricker is a proud Dja Dja Wurrung academic at the NIKERI Institute at Deakin University. He is a former secondary school teacher and is currently researching how decolonial praxis in Australian classrooms can benefit all students. Al was also featured as a keynote speaker at the HTAV conference in 2024.



T2G It's Everyone's History! Differentiation in the Classroom**G***Kath Burke and Peter Leete, St Margaret Mary's College QLD*

History encourages students to think critically, communicate clearly and engage with the world around them. So how do we open these opportunities to students who may struggle to access the curriculum? Can History studies offer an alternative to the traditional vocational pathway, and what does this look like in the classroom? In this workshop, we will look at differentiation strategies in junior school and how this led to the development of History skills in senior school. We will also discuss experiences and resources that have successfully engaged students and helped them prosper in their History studies.

GENERAL

Kath Burke has been teaching Humanities for over 25 years in Far North Queensland and the United Kingdom. She is an unashamed history nerd. Kath has been Head of Humanities at St Margaret Mary's College since 2019, where she enjoys teaching History across Years 7-12, shared running of the Diplomats' Club, and promoting History and its importance at every given opportunity.

Peter Leete has been teaching English and Humanities for over 20 years in Far North Queensland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. He currently teaches English and Humanities at both the junior and senior schools at St Margaret Mary's College. Ancient History in all its forms is his passion, and he tries to inspire his students to witness the relevance and impact of the ancient world on the world today.

12:50 PM KEYNOTE SESSION: Shutting Up and Listening!*Professor Clare Wright OAM, La Trobe University*

The Uluru Statement from the Heart encourages us to engage as a nation in acts of truth-telling. Politically and historically, it's time. But how do we learn to shut up and listen to the truths that are being told, and what are the barriers that have prevented Australians from hearing these truths before? Historian, author, broadcaster, podcaster and public commentator Professor Clare Wright has been grappling with this question: on country, in archives, in classrooms, in museums and in her latest book, *Näku Dhäruk The Bark Petitions*, the third instalment of her acclaimed Democracy Trilogy, which is based on a decade of research and community consultation in North-East Arnhem Land.

In this 'in-conversation' style presentation with HTAV's Executive Officer Dr Deb Hull, Clare will also respond to questions from the HTAV community.

Following the presentation, Clare will be available for book signing. Clare's books will also be available for purchase throughout the conference at the HTAV Publishing exhibition table.



*Professor Clare Wright OAM is an award-winning historian, author, broadcaster, podcaster and public commentator who has worked in politics, academia and the media. Clare is currently Professor of History and Professor of Public Engagement at La Trobe University. She has written five works of history, including the best-selling *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* (winner of the 2014 Stella Prize) and *You Daughters of Freedom*. Her latest book, and the final instalment in her Democracy Trilogy, is the highly acclaimed *Näku Dhäruk The Bark Petitions*.*

*Clare has written and presented history documentaries for the ABC and is Associate Producer of the feature film *One Mind, One Heart*, written and directed by Larissa Behrendt. She also hosts the ABC Radio National history podcast, *Shooting the Past*, co-hosts the La Trobe University podcast *Archive Fever* (with Yves Rees), and is Executive Producer of *Hey History!* the first Australian history podcast designed for use in the classroom. In 2020, Clare was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours list for 'services to literature and to historical research'. Clare is Chair of the National Museum of Australia Council and was Board Director of the Wheeler Centre.*

1:45 PM NETWORKING LUNCH**2:35 PM EXHIBITOR PASSPORT PRIZE DRAWS**

2:50 PM VCAA UPDATE: New Victorian Curriculum F-10

Adam Brodie-McKenzie, Curriculum Manager (History and Civics), Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Adam will provide details and requirements of the revised History curriculum as part of the Victorian Curriculum 2.0.

Adam Brodie-McKenzie is the Curriculum Manager (History and Civics) at the VCAA. In this role he leads, manages and supports the production, review and development of curriculum and assessment for the Victorian Curriculum and VCE. He is also currently studying a Doctor of Education at the University of Melbourne. Prior to this he was the inaugural Master Teacher of the Humanities at the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership and has worked as a lecturer, school leader and high school teacher for over a decade.

3:15 PM SESSION 3: Please choose one option from this session.

T3A The Teachers' Toolbox



Emily Wilkinson, Box Hill High School

If you've ever found yourself trying to plan a lesson on the walk from your desk to the classroom, or are struggling to engage your junior students during the hectic VCE exam season, then this workshop is for you! This workshop will provide you with ideas for a 'teacher toolbox' containing a series of resources, items and activities that can be used in multiple ways, regardless of content or year level. This suite of resources will save you planning time while providing creative and engaging access to History for your students. We promise to deliver a handy workshop for new and experienced teachers alike.

GENERAL | LEVELS 7-10

Emily Wilkinson has a Master of Teaching from the University of Melbourne and has been teaching History for 12 years, with a focus on VCE Revolutions. She is interested in creating fun and inclusive ways for all students at all schools to engage with History and experience success. Emily has previously presented at HTAV conferences on revision techniques, whole-school History planning, and using historical films in the classroom.

T3B Teaching Australian Indigenous History as a Non-Indigenous Teacher



Alyssa Prowd, Bairnsdale Secondary College

Many non-Indigenous History and general Humanities teachers don't feel qualified to teach about Australian Indigenous history. Many of us received negligible education on this topic in our own schooling and feel ill-prepared, particularly with Indigenous students in our classrooms. This workshop will focus on how to increase your confidence in teaching Indigenous history and taking on the responsibility of doing so in partnership with Indigenous historians.

BYOD | GENERAL

Alyssa Prowd is a History teacher at Bairnsdale Secondary College, where she has taught Humanities for Levels 7-12. Moving to and working in a rural setting as an early career teacher has sparked her passion to help students see themselves as agents of change in the world and to view history as a lens through which they can live beyond their borders.

T3C Moving Beyond TEEL: Explicit Literacy Pedagogy in History

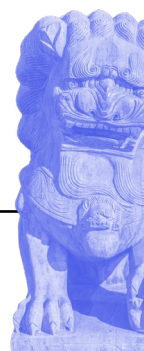


David Thomas, Elisabeth Murdoch College

This workshop will briefly introduce a functional grammar approach to teaching the language and literacies of History. It will provide a sequence of explicit, tangible strategies that have improved student reading and writing in VCE Revolutions (France, Russia) and Modern History. These strategies help students to frame, structure and signal analysis; condense their ideas; reference sources and integrate evidence. This session will also outline the professional learning options that are available to help teachers explore this approach in their classrooms and discover opportunities to develop students' historical literacy skills.

VCE REVOLUTIONS

David Thomas is a VCE History and English teacher and Head of Humanities at Elisabeth Murdoch College (EMC). David has led the implementation of a whole-school approach to explicit language and literacy pedagogy in History for Years 7-12. He has delivered professional development for English and Humanities staff at EMC, focusing on the instruction of a functional language approach to improve student reading and writing.



T3D Introducing Ancient History to Your School*Justine Bell, Loyola College*

The workshop focuses on how to build a VCE Ancient History course (Units 1–4) from the ground up. Participants will gain practical insights into reading, interpreting and implementing the VCAA Study Design to ensure alignment with curriculum requirements, including suggestions on SAC structures. The session will cover sourcing primary and secondary materials, with a focus on integrating archaeological sources. Practical advice will be provided on engaging students through critical thinking, inquiry-based learning, and interactive activities that emphasise the relevance of ancient history.

VCE ANCIENT HISTORY

Justine Bell is a dedicated educator with over 10 years' experience teaching History and English. Known for her enthusiasm and expertise, she successfully introduced Ancient History at the VCE level at her current school, inspiring students to connect with the past. Justine has taught both Modern and Ancient History across VCE and junior levels, blending engaging lessons with real-world insights. Through her passion for History, she brings ancient civilisations to life and fosters a love for History in her students.

T3E Investigating Australia (1750–1914) with Artefacts and Object-Based Learning*Gurmeet Kaur and Katy Warner, Museums Victoria*

Uncover fascinating stories and diverse perspectives from Australian history through objects from the Museums Victoria Collections. In this hands-on workshop, teachers will learn about significant but often overlooked people, groups and movements, with a close investigation of artefacts and object-based learning techniques. Using items from both Melbourne Museum and the Immigration Museum, we will explore how objects can support teaching and learning in History, with a focus on Australia from the period 1750–1914.

BYOD | LEVELS 9–10

Gurmeet Kaur is the Education Programs Producer at the Immigration Museum. She is an experienced former classroom teacher of Humanities and English in Australia and the United Kingdom. Gurmeet studied International Relations and History at the London School of Economics and Political Science, before completing her qualifications in Education.

Katy Warner is the Education Program Producer (Humanities) at Melbourne Museum. She worked in the classroom for over a decade, teaching Drama, English and Humanities in secondary and primary schools in Western Australia and Victoria. Prior to her role with Museums Victoria, she was the Education Program Manager for the Port Arthur Historic Site and the School Program Manager at Arts Centre Melbourne. She is passionate about developing engaging learning experiences for students of all ages.

T3F Voices of the Past: Lessons for Australia's Future*Dr Dvir Abramovich and Jeremy Kalbstein, Holocaust Education Australia*

Holocaust Education Australia is a free, innovative digital platform that connects the Holocaust to Australia's past and present. Grounded in the Harvard Visible Thinking framework, it uses thought-provoking activities to engage students through explicit teaching and inquiry-based learning. This modular, adaptable resource features interactive storytelling, survivor testimonies and lesson plans, highlighting the experiences of Australians and Australia's role before and during the Holocaust and in postwar migration. In this workshop, you will discover how this platform supports the development of teachers' content knowledge and fosters critical thinking, empathy and meaningful discussions with students about combating anti-Semitism and discrimination, while inspiring a more inclusive future.

BYOD | LEVELS 9–10 | PUBLISHER SESSION

Dr Dvir Abramovich is Chair of the Anti-Defamation Commission, Australia's leading civil rights organisation fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, and is the Israel Kipen Director of the Program in Jewish Culture and Society at the University of Melbourne. He was also President of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies for three terms. Dvir has been interviewed on local and international radio and TV, has written eight books, and was the editor of the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies.

Jeremy Kalbstein is an experienced educator specialising in immersive learning through multimodal storytelling. He is the Learning Designer and Director of Education for Click Against Hate and Holocaust Education Australia. Jeremy has extensive experience and expertise in teaching, leadership and consulting. He endeavours to empower educators and students through workshops and incursions that foster critical thinking and ethical reasoning.

T3G Teaching 'Australians at War' Using HTAV Resources and Projects*Kaye De Petro, HTAV*

As the Education Officer at HTAV, Kaye creates free educational resources that are available on the HTAV website for any teacher to use. She also curates the Free Resources database, which gives HTAV members access to a wealth of free digital resources that have all been carefully vetted and curated by Kaye. In this workshop, Kaye will show you how you can use the HTAV's most recent projects on World War I and World War II, plus the Australians at War section of the Free Resources database, to support your teaching of the new Year 9 Victorian Curriculum topic 'Australians at war' and/or VCE Australian History: 'War and upheaval'.

BYOD | LEVELS 9–10 | VCE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Kaye De Petro taught History and was a teacher-librarian for 28 years before becoming a publisher of History textbooks. For the past eight years, she has been the Education Officer at HTAV, where she develops educational resources for students and instructional design for teachers. She curates advice for members on finding quality teaching resources and supports HTAV Publishing projects. Kaye's interests include ancient Rome and Egypt, medieval Europe, American history, and Australians in the world wars. She is passionate about helping History teachers make History teaching and learning accessible and effective for all.

4:15 PM SOCIAL HOUR: Networking drinks for conference participants

Join colleagues, catch up with old friends, meet new people, harvest good ideas, and enjoy a complimentary drink and a selection of canapés at the HTAV Social Hour.

Social Hour will take place at the Hawthorn Arts Centre conference venue.

Sponsored by The Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize.

**Premier's Spirit
of Anzac Prize**

Check out the
workshops.

Log into the website to unlock
your member discount.

Register for the
conference!



Scan the QR code or visit www.htav.asn.au to register.