

Citation for Colin Pearce Award - Alexis Watson
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It is a distinct honor to stand before you today to celebrate an individual whose dedication and profound impact on the field of history education in Victoria is truly exemplary. The Colin Pearce Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching and Learning of History and to the History Teachers' Association of Victoria is only awarded to a highly experienced teacher who has demonstrated continuing excellence in and a rare level of commitment to the teaching of history and the activities of the Association. This year, we are privileged to acknowledge someone who embodies its spirit with grace and unwavering commitment.

Alexis Watson has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary passion for teaching, inspiring countless students to engage deeply with the past. Her work extends far beyond the classroom, shaping curriculum, mentoring pre-service teachers, and fostering a vibrant community of learners.

For over a decade, Alexis has been a beacon of innovation in curriculum development, leading initiatives that have enriched the educational experience for students across various year levels, from early secondary to pre-service teachers. She has championed the integration of historical thinking, inquiry-based learning, and interdisciplinary approaches, ensuring that history is not just taught, but truly experienced.

Her influence is evident in the remarkable achievements of her students, who consistently excel in historical research and critical analysis. This success is a testament to Alexis' ability to cultivate intellectual curiosity and provide a supportive learning environment where every student feels empowered to explore and question.

Beyond her direct teaching, Alexis has made significant contributions to the professional development of educators. She has been a tireless advocate for best practices in history education, sharing her expertise through numerous HTAV workshops, conferences, and publications. Her commitment to fostering a collaborative spirit among teachers has strengthened our collective ability to deliver high-quality history education.

She has also played a pivotal role in giving students experiences that extended beyond the classroom, particularly through her work with the National History Challenge from 2005 to 2018. This work included acting as one of the Victorian State Coordinators for six years.

Her leadership, vision, and enthusiasm also served her well during her time on the HTAV Board of Directors. Alexis provided valuable insights and contributed to the governance of the HTAV for several years in various roles on the Board.

It is clear that Alexis' work is driven by a deep belief in the transformative power of history—the power to cultivate critical thinking, empathy, and an understanding of our shared human experience. Her work will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations of historians and educators.

Therefore, it is with immense pleasure and profound respect that we present the Colin Pearce Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching and Learning of History and to the History Teachers' Association of Victoria to Alexis Watson.

Elisa Litvin
HTAV President