

VCE HISTORY CONFERENCE



2026

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

NOVOTEL HOTEL, PRESTON

**Catch the
earlybird
rate!**

Get ready for HTAV's expanded VCE History Conference!

HTAV is proud to present a bigger program in 2026 designed to inspire, inform and support VCE History teachers. This program features:

- Targeted professional learning to help you unpack examination reports and refine your exam preparation strategies
- 22 workshops to choose from to help expand your content knowledge, pick up classroom-ready tips and resources, think deeply about VCE assessment
- Networking opportunities to catch up with peers and mentors from all over Victoria.
- 4 workshop sessions across the day, to pack in extra learning and value

And so much more!

Making Sense of the Examination Reports plus Best Practices in Exam Preparation

The VCAA has advised Chief Assessors that they will no longer be able to deliver sessions/events such as 'Examination Reports' or 'Meet the Assessors' as they have done for many years.

To ensure History teachers have access to these rich conversations, HTAV have invited highly experienced VCE History teachers to bring their insights, expertise, triumphs and past pitfalls to unpack the demands of examination preparation.

Drawing on published Examination Reports and other sources available on the VCAA website, the presenters will share their expertise on things like:

- What did the last *available* VCAA Examination Report for History highlight for your subject?
- What are some of the features of a high-scoring response to different question types?
- What are some of the most common mistakes students make?
- What are some of the main difficulties teachers should be aware of?

From their own experiences, the presenters will also cover some or all of the following:

- What to do if students are running out of time?
- How to best use/refer to sources?
- What strategies can be helpful in boosting students' confidence walking into an exam?
- What do their highest performing students tend to do when preparing for exams?
- How do you go about teaching students to improve their essay writing?
- What traps have you noticed students fall into when completing SACs and practice exam questions? How do you help them to overcome these by exam day?

Preparing all of your students for the exam can be rewarding and challenging. This workshop will provide teachers with the opportunity to build more understanding and confidence while strengthening connections with your VCE History teaching colleagues.

9.00 AM	Registration
9.50 AM	Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners / Welcome and Housekeeping
10.10 AM	VCAA Advisory Session: 2026 VCAA Update <i>Dr Adam Brodie-McKenzie, Curriculum Manager (History and Civics), Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority</i> Adam will reflect on the first three years of implementation of the VCE History Study Design 2022 and outline what the VCAA has prepared for 2026.
10.30 AM	Session 1: Please choose <u>one</u> workshop from this session.
1A	VCE Units 3 and 4 Revolutions: Making Sense of the Examination Reports plus Best Practices in Exam Preparation <i>Sam Cavnoudias, Haileybury</i>
1B	VCE Units 3 and 4 Australian History: Making Sense of the Examination Reports plus Best Practices in Exam Preparation <i>Bill Lewis, Haileybury</i>
1C	VCE Units 3 and 4 Ancient History: Making Sense of the Examination Reports plus Best Practices in Exam Preparation <i>Isabella Webster, Loreto Mandeville Hall</i>
1D	Feedback Matters <i>Amanda Hann and Chloe Tayler, Coburg High School</i> VCE UNITS 1-4 TEACHING IDEAS GENERAL BYOD
11.25 AM	Morning Tea
12.00 PM	Session 2: Please choose <u>one</u> workshop from this session.
2A	Fragile Foundations: The Early Days of Weimar <i>Stephen White, Oxley Christian College</i> VCE UNITS 1 & 2 MODERN HISTORY CONTENT KNOWLEDGE BYOD
2B	Teaching the Russian Revolution in Times of War <i>Dr Natasha Wilson, The University of Melbourne</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 REVOLUTIONS: RUSSIA CONTENT KNOWLEDGE BYOD
2C	Understanding the Delian League Through Evidence and Research <i>Namrata Shipstone, Melton Christian College</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 ANCIENT HISTORY: GREECE CONTENT KNOWLEDGE BYOD
2D	Gamification and Creative Student Engagement in the Empires Classroom <i>Sarah Mandie, Wesley College</i> VCE UNITS 1 & 2 EMPIRES TEACHING IDEAS
2E	1776 vs 1856: The American Revolution in Australia <i>Dr Zachary Gorman, Robert Menzies Institute</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 AUSTRALIAN HISTORY CONTENT KNOWLEDGE
2F	Beyond the Terror: Teaching the Consequences of the French Revolution <i>Athena Kavaleris, Westbourne Grammar School</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 REVOLUTIONS: FRANCE TEACHING IDEAS

Unpack the exam reports and refine exam prep strategies

22 workshops to choose from

4 workshop sessions across the day

Catch up with peers and mentors

HTAV members receive a discount!

12.55 PM	Session 3: Please choose <u>one</u> option from this session.
3A	Teaching the Cold War <i>Professor Michael Birkner, Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania</i> VCE UNITS 1 & 2 MODERN HISTORY CONTENT KNOWLEDGE
3B	Drama, AI and Social Media: Breathing Life Into History <i>Adele Zolott, Ruyton Girls' School</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 REVOLUTIONS: RUSSIA & CHINA GENERAL TEACHING IDEAS BYOD
3C	Power, Politics and Pedagogy: Bringing VCE Empires to Life <i>Hilary Tieri, Assumption College</i> VCE UNITS 1 & 2 EMPIRES TEACHING IDEAS
3D	Teaching Writing Skills in VCE Revolutions <i>Jake Bloom, Ivanhoe Grammar</i> <i>This workshop has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.</i>
3E	Making the Switch to Australian History <i>Tania Ragusa, Mercy College</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 AUSTRALIAN HISTORY TEACHING IDEAS BYOD
3F	Teaching Middle Kingdom Egypt <i>Geoff Trevaskis, Carey Baptist Grammar School</i> VCE UNITS 1 & 2 ANCIENT HISTORY: EGYPT TEACHING IDEAS BYOD
1.50 PM	Networking Lunch and Exhibitor Passport Prize Draw
2.55 PM	Session 4: Please choose <u>one</u> option from this session.
4A	The Chinese Revolution in Art, Music and Film <i>Ian Lyell, Mentone Girls' Grammar School</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 REVOLUTIONS: CHINA TEACHING IDEAS
4B	The Catholic Church and the French Revolution <i>Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM, The University of Melbourne</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 REVOLUTIONS: FRANCE CONTENT KNOWLEDGE
4C	Using Sources in VCE Australian History <i>Bill Lewis, Haileybury</i> VCE UNIT 3 AUSTRALIAN HISTORY TEACHING IDEAS
4D	Making the Cold War Hot Again <i>Siobhan Dwyer, Blackburn High School</i> VCE UNIT 2 MODERN HISTORY TEACHING IDEAS
4E	'Don't Lose Your Head': Tried and Tested Strategies for the Revolutions Classroom <i>Sally Elliott, Cranbourne East Secondary College, and Natalie Shephard, Hume Anglican Grammar</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 REVOLUTIONS TEACHING IDEAS BYOD
4F	Designing SACs with Wellbeing in Mind <i>Stephanie Ruth, Mac.Robertson Girls' High School</i> VCE UNITS 3 & 4 REVOLUTIONS: RUSSIA AND CHINA TEACHING IDEAS
4.00 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 in Stampton Bar located in the Novotel Hotel conference venue.

About HTAV

Our Mission

The History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV) is a dynamic professional organisation committed to nurturing and leading History education.

What We Do

HTAV exists to provide History teachers and educators with the skills, knowledge and values necessary to be creative, responsible and effective. We seek to ensure that History is the most enlivening, memorable and formative learning in which students engage.

Membership of HTAV provides access to high-quality resources, networks, mentoring and professional learning.

HTAV Patron

Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM,
The University of Melbourne

HTAV Board

Ms Elisa Litvin,
St Aloysius College (President)

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Yarra Valley Grammar (Vice President)

Ms Jo Leech, Carey Baptist Grammar
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Dr Kerri Anne Garrard, Deakin University

Ms Romy Greenberg,
McKinnon Secondary College

Mr James Sach, Fintona Girls' School

Ms Natalie Shephard,
Hume Anglican Grammar

Ms Dafina Spahiu,
McKinnon Secondary College

Ms Kara Taylor,
Irymple Secondary College



Scan the QR code for program details and to register

Introducing HTAV's new conference venue!

Novotel Hotel, Preston

215 Bell Street, Preston

www.novotelmelbournepreston.com



We look forward to welcoming everyone.

- Northeast of Melbourne and only 30 minutes from the CBD by car.
- 400 undercover all-day parking spaces at \$5 per day.
- Easily accessible by car from the eastern and southeastern suburbs without needing to drive through city congestion.
- Easily accessible by public transport with the No. 86 tram from the CBD to Preston and a 5-minute walk to the Novotel Hotel. Bell train station is a 10-minute walk to the hotel.
- Early arrivals can pay 20% less for a buffet breakfast at the onsite Stampton restaurant.
- Barista coffee available onsite for purchase from Stampton & Co café.
- Large, light-filled conference rooms.
- Lively exhibition hall and conference hub.
- Social Hour at the Stampton bar and restaurant conveniently located onsite.
- Delegates can choose to stay on for dinner in the Stampton restaurant.

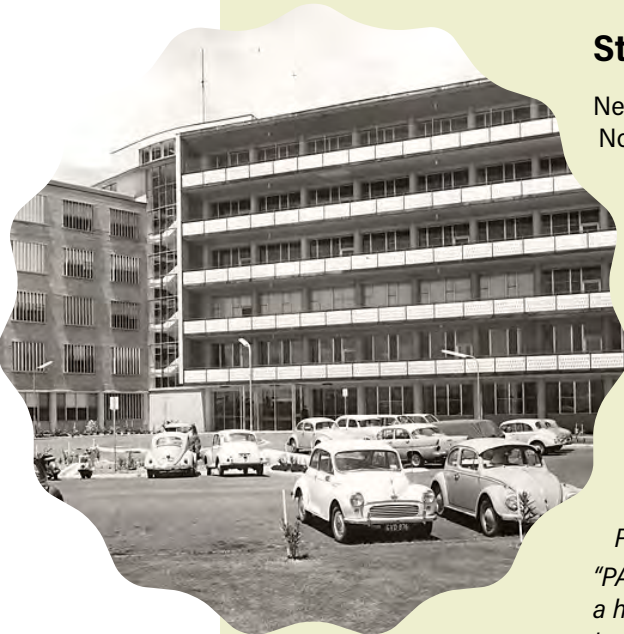
Step into History at Novotel Hotel, Preston

Nestled in the heart of the northeast suburb of Preston, the Novotel Hotel is more than just a place to stay or conference venue – it's a living piece of local history. Wander its corridors and you'll find yourself walking through time, as the building still echoes its original purpose from the 1960s, when it proudly stood as the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital, affectionately known as PANCH.

"The story of PANCH began during the years of World War II, born from a vision to provide the growing Preston community with its own healthcare hub. After years of planning and post-war construction, the hospital officially opened its doors on 3 July 1960, by then Premier Sir Henry Bolte.

"PANCH served the community for 38 years before its doors as a hospital closed in 1998 and the Northern Hospital in Epping took over.

"Today, while the building has transformed into a modern hotel and conference venue, its walls still whisper tales of compassion, resilience, and community spirit."



Getting There

Parking

Plenty of onsite parking is available. With 400 undercover parking spaces (enter via Hotham Street) at \$5 all day for conference attendees you can avoid any parking stress. Delegates will receive a QR code to register for parking at this special HTAV conference rate offer closer to conference week.

Please note: ONLY undercover parking will secure the special conference parking rate of \$5.

Standard parking rates apply to the open-air parking bays. If staying at the hotel overnight, parking is available at the standard \$20 overnight rate.

Public Transport

- Tram: The No 86 tram travels from Melbourne CBD to Preston and is only a 5-minute walk to the Novotel Hotel, Preston.
- Train: The Mernda train line travels from Melbourne CBD to Bell Station which is approximately a 10-minute walk to Novotel Hotel, Preston.

Check ptv.vic.gov.au for more public transport information, including timetables, fares, route information and the Journey Planner.

Accommodation

Novotel Hotel, Preston

215 Bell St, Preston VIC 3072 | (03) 9485 1000

Use the HTAV VCE History Conference accommodation link below to access discounted accommodation rates for stays ranging from 24 February – 2 March 2026. You can save up to 50% on a standard room compared to the public room rate.

Novotel Hotel, Preston: [HTAV VCE History Conference Accommodation Booking Link](#)

It is also convenient to stay in the Melbourne CBD. The conference venue is approximately 30 minutes by car or 50 minutes by public transport.

Arriving Early?

Those who arrive early can enjoy 20% less for a buffet breakfast in the Stampton restaurant located onsite.



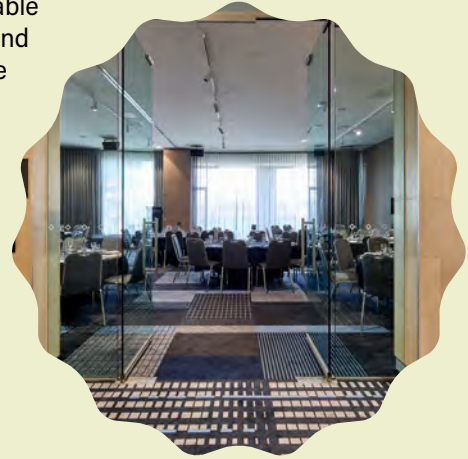
Devices

Some sessions may require the use of a device – such as a tablet or smartphone – to access some of the presenter’s content. Look out for the following symbol in the program.



Catering

Tea and coffee are available on arrival. Morning tea and lunch are included in the registration fee. Those with special dietary requirements should indicate their needs when registering online and must be received by Wednesday 11 February 2026.



Accessibility and Special Needs

Novotel Hotel, Preston is wheelchair accessible. If you have any special needs or mobility issues, please contact Myra Karantzias (HTAV Events Manager) via email at m.karantzias@htav.asn.au.

Health and Wellbeing

HTAV values and encourages the respectful exchange of diverse views and perspectives. We are also committed to the cultural and psychological safety of our delegates and participants. We encourage you to contact HTAV’s Event Manager at events@htav.asn.au if you have any concerns about your experiences at our events.

HTAV and Novotel Hotel, Preston are committed to ensuring everyone’s safety at the conference. Sanitising stations will be available, and we encourage our attendees to bring and wear a mask.

We request that anyone experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms does not attend the conference, and to contact HTAV to discuss a refund under these circumstances.

[HTAV’s Events Terms and Conditions](#)

Social Hour

Networking drinks for conference participants

Friday 27 February, from 4.00 pm

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 in Stampton Bar located in the Novotel Hotel conference venue.

Any questions?

Check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or contact HTAV at events@htav.asn.au.

"I learned more about the Study Design and how it is examined. The content presentations I attended contributed to my on-going enthusiasm."

Conference attendee

See the HTAV website to register, how to get to the conference and how to tell us your dietary requirements.

While you're there, why not check out membership benefits, exclusive discounts and special offers. There are also opportunities to demonstrate your progression into highly accomplished and leading teacher status through peer mentoring, workshop presenting and article or resource writing.

Not an HTAV member?
It's always cheaper to become an Individual member first and get the member discount when you register for the conference.
Visit www.htav.asn.au for more information about HTAV membership.

HTAV Membership Types	Earlybird Rates - for registrations completed before 11.55pm on Friday 6 Feb	Discount	Rates for registrations completed after 11.55pm on Friday 6 Feb
Non-HTAV Member	\$532		
HTAV Individual Member (metro)	\$319	40% off	
HTAV Individual Member (country)	\$266	50% off	+\$80 to each rate
HTAV School/Organisation Member (metro)	\$399	25% off	
HTAV School/Organisation Member (country)	\$346	35% off	
HTAV Pre-service Teacher Member	\$106	80% off	

All prices are GST inclusive. Country rates apply if the address provided is greater than 50 kms from the Melbourne CBD.

HTAV members!

Don't forget to log into the HTAV website with your unique login to register for the conference and obtain the appropriate discount.



Visit us at the 2026 VCE History Conference

www.htavshop.com.au
RESOURCES YOU CAN TRUST

HTAV
PUBLISHING