



## Queensland History Teachers Association

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## Online Newsletter September 2006

### Have you registered for the HTAA National Conference?

#### "Pushing the Boundaries"

University of Notre Dame, Fremantle Campus,

Perth

5-8 October 2006

Registration form available at <http://www.qhta.com.au/forteachers.htm>

### Modern History Student Seminars 2007 - help!

In 2007, QHTA hopes to offer the very successful Modern History Student Seminars at a range of locations around Brisbane, as well as on the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coasts. QHTA appreciates the long distances some schools traveled in 2006 to attend the seminars and hopes the new arrangements will make attendance easier.

Can you help? QHTA is seeking six schools each prepared to host just one day of the seminars. The venue needs to be a lecture theatre with at least 200 seats, equipped with data projection for computer and DVD. The arrangement to date has been that the host school receives no fee for the venue, but that the school's students attend for free (with the added bonus of no bus hiring fees).

We are looking for a school in each of these areas: Brisbane West; Brisbane North; Brisbane East; Brisbane South; Inner Brisbane; the southern part of the Gold Coast. (Existing venues at Immanuel College (Buderim) and St Hilda's School (Southport) will hopefully also be available in 2007).

The Brisbane seminars are likely to be in early May with the Coast seminars one or two weeks later. Under new arrangements for 2007, there will be just one session (two seminars) each day, from 10am - 12.30pm. If you think your school might be able to host a seminar, please contact Brian Hoepper at [b.hoepper@qut.edu.au](mailto:b.hoepper@qut.edu.au)

### Simpson Prize Topic 2006-2007 ...

**Simpson Prize 2007 - A national competition for Year 9 and 10 students.** Eight students, one from each state and territory, accompanied by two teachers are flown to Gallipoli or the Western Front to attend the dawn service and other Anzac Day ceremonies in 2007.

The topic for the 2007 Simpson Prize is:

**Consider what values and characteristics demonstrated by the**



**ANZACs at Gallipoli and later reinforced at the Western Front, continue to influence Australians today.**

More details at <http://www.afssts.asn.au/index.htm>

## 2006 QHTA Historical Writing Competition

Submissions are invited for this competition again this year. The topic may relate to an historical piece from ancient or modern times - see the competition conditions and application form on our website at <http://www.qhta.com.au/competitions.htm>



Due Date: **Friday, 22 September 2006**

## What's on ...

**5-8 October 2006 - HTAA National Conference 2006 - "Pushing the Boundaries"**, University of Notre Dame, Fremantle campus, Perth. See <http://www.qhta.com.au/forteachers.htm> for registration form.

**18-20 October 2006 - Celebrating Democracy Week.** The feature event will again be the Every Voice Counts! Student Forum to be held in Canberra. Year 10 and 11 students are invited to apply for fully funded places (including meals, travel and accommodation). Selected students, four from each State and Territory, will meet in Canberra to discuss the topic: "Living harmoniously in our democracy. How young people can influence the future of our democracy." Successful students will receive a behind the scenes view of Parliament, a tour of some of the national cultural institutions, and a certificate from the Minister for Education, Science and Training, or her representative. Applications close on **Friday 8 September 2006**. Applications forms are available at <http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/> and go to Celebrating Democracy Week 2006

**27 October 2006 - Celebrate Australia Day Competition closes for Upper Primary Students.** The competition asks students to create a visual essay which celebrates a "day in the life of their community". More information available at <http://www.australiaday.gov.au/default.asp>

**15 December 2006 - Final date for submitting Simpson Prize entries.** See <http://www.afssts.asn.au/index.htm> for more information.

## Australian History Summit.

There has been a great deal of national discussion about the teaching of Australian history in schools during 2006. In January, Prime Minister John Howard criticised the fact that there was "no structured narrative" to the teaching of history in most Australian schools. He stated, "I think we have taught history as some kind of fragmented stew of themes and issues, rather than some kind of proper narrative". On 18 July 2006, the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop announced there would be an Australian History Summit to discuss the teaching of Australian History in schools. She stated, "It is essential that we put a structured narrative back into the teaching of Australian history so that by the time students finish secondary schooling, they have a thorough understanding of their nation's past, and how we have become a modern liberal democracy." Bishop said that to progress this important discussion she would invite some leading Australian historians, public figures who promote the study of history, and educational leaders, to participate in the summit in Canberra on 17 August 2006. See <http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Bishop/2006/07/B001180706.asp>

**23 July 2006** - Michelle Grattan comments in the *Sunday Age* on the "History Summit" on teaching Australian history in schools convened by Julie Bishop. See <http://www.theage.com.au/news/michelle-grattan/beyond-the-history-wars/2006/07/22/1153166630334.html>

**14 August 2006 - ABC Radio National. Counterpoint.** What should Australian students know about our history? Transcript - Micahel Duffy, Julie Bishop, Greg Melleuish, and Nick Ewbank (President, HTAA). See <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/counterpoint/stories/2006/1712562.htm>

**17 August 2006 - Summit agrees on national approach to history teaching.** A history summit in Canberra has recommended Australian history be taught as a core, stand alone subject in years nine and 10. See

<http://www.optusnet.com.au/news/story/abc/20060817/18/domestic/1717611.inp>

**17 August 2006 - Butt out of history teaching, urges Lawrence.** A senior Labor figure says the Federal Government's real motive for calling a summit on Australian history is to win the cultural wars, not improve teaching standards. See

<http://www.optusnet.com.au/news/story/abc/20060817/18/domestic/1716824.inp>

**The History Summit Transcripts** - the transcript of the Summit proceedings is available at [http://www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/5B7E6762-18E9-4D98-A08E-6BCAA7C1B1DE/13766/history\\_summit\\_transcript.pdf](http://www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/5B7E6762-18E9-4D98-A08E-6BCAA7C1B1DE/13766/history_summit_transcript.pdf)

**The History Summit: Collected materials** - Over 20 articles, letters, memos and reports related to the History Summit have been collected and posted on the Sunshine Project website. See

<https://olt.qut.edu.au/udf/SUNPRO/gen/index.cfm?fa=displayPage&rNum=493261>

**After the History Summit** - this DEST website includes the two papers prepared for the Summit (Tony Taylor; Greg Melleuish), the final communique and related statements by minister Julie Bishop. See

[http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school\\_education/policy\\_initiatives\\_reviews/key\\_issues/Australian\\_History\\_Summit/Default.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/policy_initiatives_reviews/key_issues/Australian_History_Summit/Default.htm)

As a result of the Federal Government-convened history summit held in Canberra last month, a five-person working party has been set up to develop a set of open-ended questions. Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop will present the findings to the States as a model curriculum.

### Have you seen these new resources...

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) has developed a nationwide "**RSL Civics and Citizenship Education**" program to mark the 90th anniversary since the formation of the League in Australia in 1916. The program encourages students to understand why the RSL was established and comprises three curriculum modules published in "Studies" magazines - a special anniversary CD Rom titled "Serving the Nation" sent in July 2006, and a website <http://www.servingthenation.info> combining wartime voices, interactivities and a curriculum guide for teachers. "Studies" magazines were distributed to all state and non-state secondary schools free of charge in March, July and October 2006.

#### **Operation CLICK Anzac to Kokoda**

Department of Veterans' Affairs - Distributed to all schools. Resources include book, CD and websites. More information at <http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/operationclick>

**National Archives - Vrroom beta is live.** To access information go to

<http://Vrroom.naa.gov.au>

**Global Education News - August 2006.** Read it online at

<http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/news>

**Digital Learning Objects** - The Learning Federation employs emerging technologies to produce world-class online curriculum content to encourage student learning and support teachers in Australian and New Zealand schools. See

<http://www.thelearningfederation.edu.au> Brisbane Catholic Education has several DLOs available. You will find them at <http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=10715>

### Other matters...

Schools with a Year 12 cohort on the **NEW** syllabus must have an approved work program by the September holidays.

**Writing Opportunity** - QHTA Journal editor is inviting teachers to write about their experiences with the new senior syllabus. Publication will be in the next journal. Contact Heather Sharp on 34704343 or email [sharph@usq.edu.au](mailto:sharph@usq.edu.au)

The debate: "*That Government Schools Should Be Privatised*", is to be hosted by **The Brisbane Institute** with **The Brisbane Metropolitan Group of the Australian College of Educators** on Tuesday 12 September 2006 at The Long Room, Customs House, 359 Queen

Street, Brisbane. Doors open 5.30pm, debate commences 6pm. Cost \$22 general admission. RSVP by 11 September 2006 to [rsvp@brisinst.org.au](mailto:rsvp@brisinst.org.au) or phone 32202198

It is important that all members of the education community familiarise themselves with the new **Queensland College of Teachers**. Further information is available at <http://www.qct.edu.au>

Have you visited **The National Centre for History Education** to find: units of work - *Making History - Ozhistorybytes* for themes on sport and history, refugees, terrorism - Professional Digest - All this and much, much more at <http://www.hyperhistory.org>

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