

The History Teacher

The e-journal of the Queensland History Teachers' Association Inc.

Volume 45, No. 1

August 2007

Editorial

2007 is a pivotal time in the history of history teaching in Australia. History seems to be increasingly privileged in the curriculum landscape. As the federal election looms, the much-heralded but still secret 'model History curriculum' sits in Julie Bishop's top drawer. Primary principals have just declared that Australian History will sit alongside literacy, numeracy and science in the front row of offerings in their schools around the nation. In Queensland, the QSA redevelopment of the senior curriculum appears to accord History a special place. Meanwhile, History is kept in the public mind in many ways - through an endless stream of popular history books being published, the publicity surrounding the Prime Minister's inaugural 'History Prize', and such random yet significant events as the discovery of an Australian mass grave on the old Western Front battlefields and the ceremonial honouring of the Japanese sailors entombed in the recently-discovered third midget submarine off Sydney.

At the same time there are dangers, not the least of which is federal Minister Bishop's stated intention to impose external examinations on all senior students in Australia.

As these developments unfold, the role of *The History Teacher* will be to provide stimulating ideas and valuable resources for the growing ranks of teachers of History.