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Established 2001; incorporated 2003
Association Registration Number: A0045117K / ABN 29 687 468 421

FROM THE CHAIR

The past year has been another lively, at times divisive, year in public discourse and policy about the place of history in Australian life. The old adage 'history matters' has been as resonant as ever.

There have been major public issues around the safety and funding of major research collections, the funding of humanities programs in universities and, above all, whether a proposed 'Voice to Parliament' for First Peoples will be an effective step in addressing historically produced inequities.



The HCV has involved itself in all of these issues. Among our initiatives in advocating the importance of historical awareness and the resources necessary to sustain that have been:

- A <u>submission</u> to the National Cultural Policy from the History Council of Victoria.
- A <u>letter</u> from the combined History Councils of Australia regarding the archives at the ABC.
- Direct involvement with Federation University on a restructuring of its Bachelor of Arts course.
- Approaches to Minister Tony Burke regarding funding collecting institutions and the Trove resource.
- An HCV statement on a Voice to Parliament.

We have continued to highlight the value of an education in history and the centrality of historical literacy to the quality of our public life. These core principles are elaborated in our Value of History statement: https://www.historycouncilvic.org.au/value_of_history

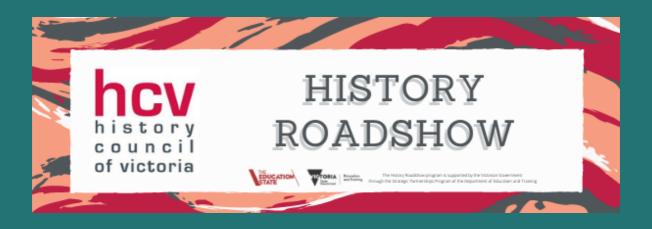
We share these values with closely aligned bodies such as the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the History Teachers' Association of Victoria.

FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

The HCV has had a successful year in terms of delivering its four major activities:

- The Annual Lecture, in October 2022. Professor Catherine Kovesi from the University of Melbourne delivered a beautifully crafted and warmly welcomed lecture entitled Beauty in Response to Plague: the city of Venice.
- The Making Public Histories series, delivered in conjunction with the Monash University History Program and the Old Treasury Building, and expertly managed by Professor Al Thompson. Each event aims to explore issues and approaches in making public histories. 2023 is the sixteenth year for this successful series.
- The Book + Author series for Friends of the HCV. Our guest authors in 2022-23 have included Frank Bongiorno, Mark McKenna, Janet McCalman, Grace Karskens, Alexis Bergantz and Jane Carey.
- The online delivery of our annual History Roadshow, funded by the Department of Education & Training. This is for VCE students in regional schools and was again a great success in September 2022, with online video presentations from prominent academics available to a higher number of students and schools.

I am very grateful to the Board, our Executive Officer and others who sustain our important work with our Friends, schools and the wider community. We have a Board of talented individuals drawn from cultural and educational institutions and heritage bodies; history teachers and curriculum advisors; academic and professional historians; and other organisations. These are all busy people whose commitment to the place of history in our society nevertheless motivates them to organise, participate in and support our activities.



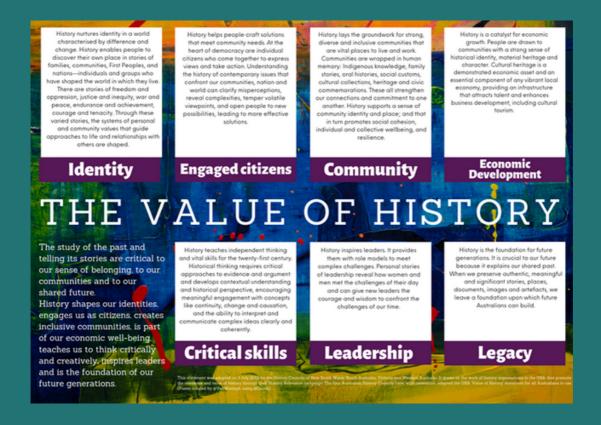
FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

The HCV has recurrent funding from the Department of Education & Training for its History Roadshow program. It seeks to supplement this income through Friends membership fees, donations and, where possible, grants from philanthropic trusts and individuals. Despite this modest funding base, the History Council is able to sustain a wide range of activities. For this we are indeed fortunate to have the creative talents and management skills of Alicia Cerreto, our Executive Officer, who continues to oversee and produce events of high quality. Her predecessor Margaret Birtley has continued to offer most generous administrative assistance in the financial area.

Finally, we are grateful for the generosity of people who care passionately about the place of historical literacy in our society. This has enabled us to undertake an update of our website, and has funded two prizes:

- The Jane Hansen Prize for Advocacy (first awarded in 2021)
- The Lynette Russell Prize for First Peoples' History in Schools (from 2023)

Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM, Chair



BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The HCV was formed as an advisory body in 2001 and incorporated in 2003. It comprises representatives from cultural and educational institutions and heritage bodies; history teachers and curriculum advisors; academic and professional historians; and local, community and specialist history organisations.

In 2022 - 2023 the Board farewelled Penny Addison and Dr Ashley Robertson, as representatives of the Department of Education and Training and Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Victoria) respectively, and Associate Professor Susie Protschky, an individual member. We were very pleased to welcome Jackie Fraser to replace Ashley, and Nell Musgrove from Australian Catholic University.

Representatives of member organisations in 2022-2023

Organisation	Representative	Start date
Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Michelle Rayner	13 Jul 2005
Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Vic) (AMAGA Victoria)	Dr Ashley Robertson	20 May 2021
	Jackie Fraser	19 Dec 2022
Department of Education and Training	Penny Addison	9 <u>Jun</u> 2020
Heritage Council of Victoria	Dr Helen Doyle	16 Sep 2021
History Teachers Association of Victoria (HTAV)	Bronwyn Cook	22 Nov 2018
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (NTAV)	Dr Annette Shiell	20 Feb 2020
Museums Victoria	Deb Tout-Smith	18 Nov 2021
Professional Historians Association (Vic/Tas)	Katherine Sheedy MPHA	1 Feb 2005
Public Record Office Victoria	Tara Oldfield	23 Nov 2016
Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV)	Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV	10 Feb 2009
State Library Victoria	Tim Hogan	1 Mar 2017

Representatives of other organisational members

Organisation	Representative	Start date
Old Treasury Building	Margaret Anderson FFAHS	21 Jan 2016
Deakin University	Professor David Lowe FASSA	28 May 2020
La Trobe University	Dr Yves Rees	3 Jun 2020
Monash University	Professor Nathalie Nguyen FASSA	20 May 2021
Australian Catholic University	Associate Professor Nell Musgrove	10 Mar 2023

Individual members

Name	Start date
Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison AO FAHA FASSA FFAHS	7 Nov 2018
Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM FAHA FASSA	21 Nov 2019
Associate Professor Susie Protschky	10 Jun 2020

GOVERNANCE AND BOARD ACTIVITIES

During this year, all meetings of the members, the Board and its committees were conducted by video conference. The members met in 2022 on 18 August and 20 October and in 2023 on 16 February, 20 April and 15 June.

Board positions as at 30 June 2023 were held by Professor Peter McPhee (Chair), Professor David Lowe (Deputy Chair), Katherine Sheedy (Honorary Treasurer). These people served on the HCV's Executive committee alongside Bronwyn Cook, Professor Graeme Davison and Tim Hogan. The Executive committee provides guidance on governance, strategic planning, financial planning and management, and risk management. The Executive Committee is used as an expert sounding board and only has formal meetings if needed.

Other Board members serve in small teams to advise on key areas of HCV activity: Public Fund, Communications, Development (including the Friends program and the management of awards and prizes), Events and History Education (including the *History Roadshow* program). Additional experts are appointed to assist where appropriate. The HCV acknowledges the invaluable support and input of the Board, its committees and the Executive Officer. Each year the Board establishes judging panels to assess entries for the Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy, the Lynette Russell Prize for First Peoples' History in Schools and the Historical Fiction Competition organised by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria.

GOVERNANCE AND BOARD ACTIVITIES (CONT.)

The Making Public Histories series is organised by a partnership between HCV, Monash University and Old Treasury Building. Board members on the partnership committee are Associate Professor Susie Protschky, Professor Nathalie Nguyen representing Monash and Margaret Anderson representing Old Treasury Building with Executive Officer Alicia Cerreto.

Collaboration with other History Councils

The HCV collaborates with the History Councils in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia on: advocating for the discipline of history, the work of historians, and history in the broader public sphere and highlighting the Value of History Statement.









PUBLIC FUND COMMITTEE

To meet its obligations through the Register of Cultural Organisations and as a Deductible Gift Recipient, the HCV has a Public Fund Committee comprising Boyce Pizzey OAM, Dr Charles Fahey and Dr Geoffrey Robinson.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

The Department of Education and Training has funded the History Roadshow for VCE history students since 2006 through its Strategic Partnerships Program. The triennial funding for 2018-2020 was extended to cover a fourth calendar year in 2021 and we were successful in our submission for funding across 2022-2023.

In June 2023 we were notified that we had been successful in our application to the Vera Moore Foundation for support for our in-person History Roadshow, to be presented in conjunction with Federation University in Ballarat in August 2023.

The HCV enjoyed generous in-kind support from the employers of its members and from many of the organisations represented on its Board. The RHSV continues to host the HCV as a tenant at reasonable rates.

Monash University, Old Treasury Building and the HCV collaborated effectively to plan and deliver the Making Public Histories series. Monash University Publishing generously supplied books as gifts for the speakers at each seminar.

The HCV acknowledges the many historians who contributed their time and specialist knowledge to the HCV's programs, including the History Roadshow, the Making Public Histories seminars and the Annual Lecture. Appreciation is extended to all speakers, many of whom gave their services pro bono.

Thanks are also extended to all the HCV's supporters and contributors for their good will and assistance, in particular the many kind people who make donations to the Public Fund and thereby support the HCV's cultural program. We are especially grateful to our new donor members, both individuals and organisations. Recent donations have been specifically directed towards newer initiatives such as:

- Supporting recent history graduates with a free one-year Friends membership
- Developing our capacity for online and hybrid communication

ADVOCACY

As the peak body for history in Victoria, the History Council makes submissions on current issues. In doing this, the HCV Board is guided by its Advocacy Policy and by the Value of History statement that was developed co-operatively by the HCV and the History Councils of New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

During this past 12 months the following actions have been taken:

2022

Letter to Minister Blandthorn re Alfred Deakin Residence.

Response from CEO, VCAA CEO to a letter from our Chair re Victorian history curriculum.

A <u>Letter to the Editor</u> of *The Age* regarding the National Library.

A <u>submission</u> to the National Cultural Policy from the History Council of Victoria.

A <u>letter</u> from the combined History Councils of Australia regarding the archives at the ABC, and the <u>response</u> from Managing Director David Anderson.

2023

Letter to Minister Tony Burke re funding collecting institutions and the reply.

Statement on a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

Victorian Community History Funding: Article in *The Age*, action from RHSV, HCV, PHA and AHA.

COMMUNICATIONS

The HCV aims to communicate with a wide range of interested people, through social media, our regular newsletters and website.

On Twitter and Facebook, our Executive Officer highlights our events and those of the broader history community. The HCV's Facebook page has a community of 2,100 followers and over on Twitter we have 2,437 followers. The members of the Communications Committee have also offered valuable contributions to our Twitter followers with regular tweets highlighting history. We have 135 subscribers to our YouTube Channel and well over 5,000 views of our various videos.

The HCV's regular newsletter is currently received by over 3,200 subscribers. The E-news contains not only announcements about HCV events and programs, but also selected information from the history community in Victoria. It is published every second month.

All HCV Friends receive our regular newsletter as well as the Friends 'Alert' email, which contains early notice of events and special information for Friends. Friends Alerts are published every second month.

Our HCV website has received a significant visual upgrade thanks to our Communications Committee alongside our Executive Officer.



ADMINISTRATION

Our Executive Officer, Alicia Cerreto, works two days per week for the HCV. A professional historian, Alicia brings her experience in history, project management, communications and philanthropy to the role.

Our former Executive Officer Margaret Birtley continues as the voluntary Finance
Officer, a part-time role that reports to the Executive Officer and the Treasurer.
The bookkeeping is managed by Resolve UBM Business Management Services.





PUBLIC EVENTS

Making Public Histories

The Making Public Histories series traditionally attracts audiences with specialised interests and expertise. Delivered in webinar format, the series is accessible to people from outside Melbourne, including regional Victoria, interstate and overseas. A recording of each webinar is posted to the HCV's YouTube channel and thus is available to people who are unable to attend the 'live' discussion, and discoverable by new audiences that were previously not aware of the HCV. Registrants for the webinars held in 2022 were surveyed in December. Their feedback was positive and constructive.

The events were facilitated by Professor Alistair Thomson (Monash University),
Associate Professor Susie Protschky (HCV and Monash), Alicia Cerreto (HCV), Margaret
Anderson (Old Treasury Building) and Professor Nathalie Nguyen (Monash) and
supported by Monash University Publishing.

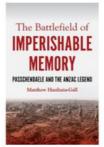








the discussion starts here publishing.monash.edu







Topics and presenters for 2022 were:

July: Making Australian History

Associate Professor Anna Clark and Professor Alistair Thomson

September: Doing Environmental History in urgent times

Professor Andrea Gaynor, Professor Katie Holmes and Associate Professor Ruth

Morgan

November: Refugee Lives, Memories and Communities

Associate Professor Ruth Balint, Ms Chi Vu and Associate Professor Shameran Slewa-

Younan

Topics and presenters for 2023 were:

March: A 'National Disgrace': the (long) history of violence against women in Australia

Dr Zora Simic, Dr Alana Piper and Professor Lisa Featherstone

May: The Changing Face of Melbourne's History: Transforming our Statues and

Memorials

Associate Professor Catherine Bell and Kristine Ziwica



Making Public Histories

DOING ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY IN URGENT TIMES

Professor Andrea Gaynor, Professor Katie Holmes and Associate Professor Ruth Morgan in conversation







5pm, Thursday 22 September via Zoom book via the HCV website: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/doing_environmental_history

Proudly brought to you Monash University History Program, the History Council of Victoria and Old Treasury Building

MAKING PUBLIC HISTORIES

A 'National Disgrace': the (long) history of violence against women in Australia

Dr Zora Simic, Dr Alana Piper and Professor Lisa Featherstone







5pm, Thursday 30 March via Zoom

Free and online, bookings: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/national_disgrace



OLD TREASURY BUILDING







History Roadshow

In 2022, the History Roadshow program was delivered online. Originally designed to offer VCE History students from rural and regional schools the opportunity to hear from highly experienced academic and professional historians and to have rich curriculum-related experiences, the online approach has enabled even more students the opportunity to participate.

Part One was a series of recorded 30-minute video lectures from expert historians.

These were supplied to participating schools as a password protected video. Registered participants received unlimited access to the videos from August until December.

Part Two was a series of 45-minute, live Q&A sessions, matched to the video lectures. Using videoconferencing software, these facilitated sessions were delivered to registered students and teachers by the same expert historians. Each session included a conversation about the range of career pathways that can develop from the study of history.

In 2022 we offered the following subjects:

Revolutions: France with Professor Peter McPhee

Revolutions: Russia with Professor Mark Edele and Dr Julie Fedor

Revolutions: China with Dr Rebecca Cairns

Ancient History Units 1&2 with Associate Professor Andrew Jamieson

Ancient History Units 3&4 with Professor Tim Parkin

Empires with Dr Richard Trembath

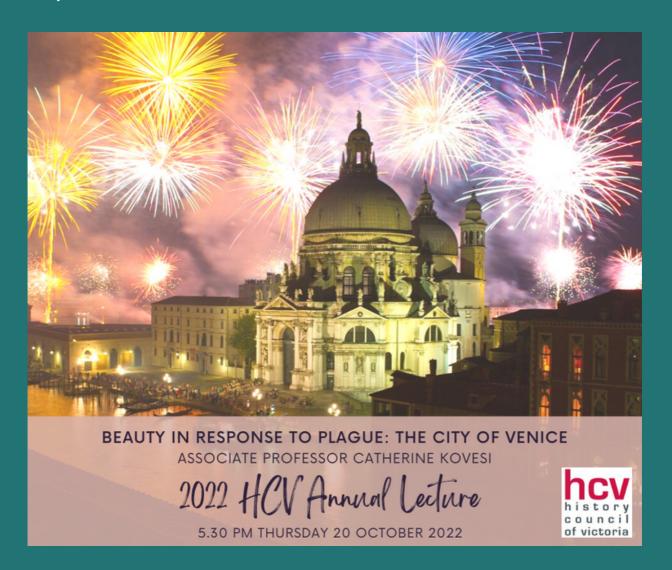
Australian History with Professor Richard Broome and Dr Richard Trembath

General History Resources

Annual Lecture

Each year, the History Council of Victoria presents a public lecture that shares fresh thinking and new evidence on an historical topic. In 2022 Associate Professor Catherine Kovesi presented on Beauty in Response to Plague: the City of Venice. The event exceeded 350 bookings and is one of our most popular recordings on YouTube.

The lecture outlined Venice's comprehensive systems for pandemic control in the face of the 1347 plague, before concentrating on the breathtaking model it provides for a response of beauty even in the face of unbearable trauma and death.

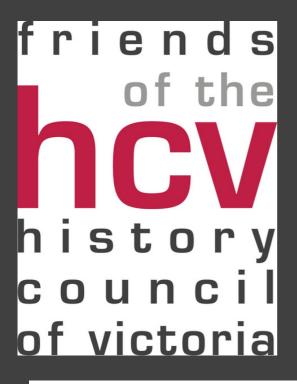


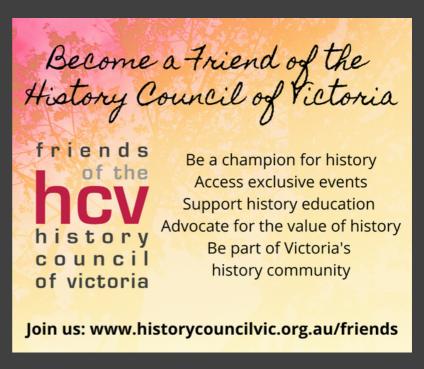
FRIENDS PROGRAM

The HCV Friends program aims to offer current and future supporters a way to engage with and demonstrate support for HCV while receiving tangible benefits in return for an annual subscription fee. Our HCV Friends support our advocacy for history, have priority access to events, are part of our Book+Author HCV Friends Book Club and help to educate Victorians about the value of history. We keep all Friends informed of future events via an additional email newsletter.

With the support of our donor members, both individual and institutional, we were very pleased to offer students who completed a History major, honours or higher degree at a university in Victoria a free 12-month subscription to the Friends.

The HCV encourages everyone to become a Friend – not only for the opportunity to participate in the Book+Author Book Club and other activities, but also in order to help our association advocate for history and educate Victorians about the value of history.





FRIENDS PROGRAM (CONT.)

Gatherings of our Book+Author events are held every second month. These online events welcome our HCV Friends to hear an author speak about a recent book and participate in a question and answer.

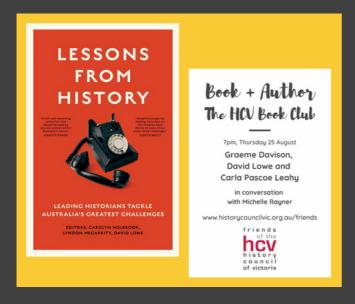
2022

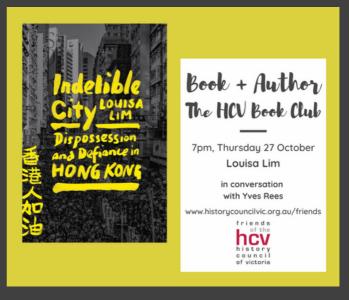
Graeme Davison, David Lowe and Carla Pascoe Leahy in conversation with Michelle Rayner

Louisa Lim in conversation with Yves Rees

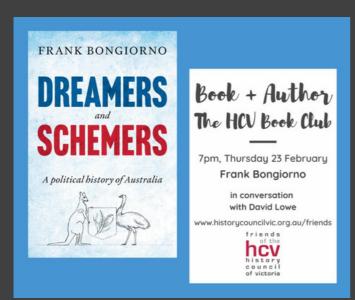
2023

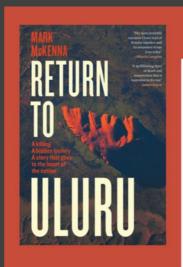
Mark McKenna in conversation with David Lowe Frank Bongiorno in conversation with David Lowe Jane Carey in conversation with Katherine Sheedy





FRIENDS PROGRAM (CONT.)





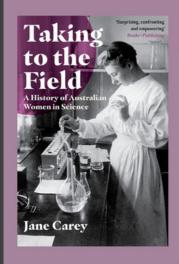
Book + Author The HCV Book Club

7pm, Thursday 27 April Mark McKenna

in conversation with David Lowe

www.historycouncilvic.org.au/friends





Book + Author The HCV Book Club

7pm, Thursday 29 June

Jane Carey

in conversation with Katherine Sheedy

www.historycouncilvic.org.au/friends



HIGH SCHOOL, MY SCHOOL

Reflections on public education and democracy

EMERITUS PROFESSOR GRAEME DAVISON,
PROFESSOR JOY DAMOUSI,
EMERITUS PROFESSOR PETER GRONN

HCV FRIENDS' END OF YEAR EVENT 5PM THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER DRILL HALL, RHSV



Free event, bookings required

FRIENDS PROGRAM (CONT.)

In December 2022, for our end of year our HCV Friends and Board gathered to hear:

- Professor Joy Damousi, Balwyn High School and Australian Catholic University
- Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison, Essendon High School and Monash University
- Emeritus Professor Peter Gronn, Camberwell High School and Monash University explore 'High School, My School Reflections on Public Education and Democracy'.

A century and half after the passage of Victoria's 'free, compulsory and secular' Education Act, the democratic hopes of its makers remain unfulfilled. Although the 1872 Act established state schools for primary age children there were no state high schools until 1910 and it was only after World War Two that high schools providing a path from primary school to university opened all over the state.

The three speakers, high school students in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, were among those to benefit from that remarkable expansion of opportunity. Since the 1980s, however, high schools have lost ground as government funding has swung towards independent schools. They have become the poor relations, lower in resources, prestige and morale. In this informal conversation, Joy, Graeme and Peter reflect on their personal experience, celebrate what their schools and teachers gave them, and take up some of the questions now raised by critics of 'meritocracy'. What has become of the hopes that democrats once rested in state education as a path to social opportunity and equality? Was their vision flawed or is it yet to be realised?

This special event was for HCV Friends, guests and the HCV Board and was held in person at the Drill Hall, Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

PRIZES

Historical Fiction Competition

The Board continued its sponsorship of the Year 9 and 10 Category of the Historical Fiction Competition organised by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria. HCV Board members Bronwyn Cook and Tim Hogan served as the judging panel.

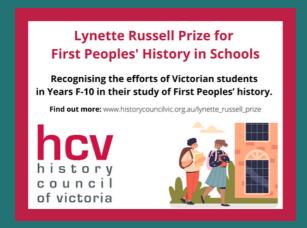
- Winner: Ashna Sajeev, Marymede Catholic College, The Partition of Hatred
- Runner Up: Laura Edwards, Marymede Catholic College, Cher Ami Heroine of Man
- Highly Commended: Matilda Brereton, Marymede Catholic College, <u>To Dance Through</u>
 the Fire

More here: www.htav.asn.au/students/htav-historical-fiction-competition

Lynette Russell Prize for First Peoples' History in Schools

The Lynette Russell Prize for First Peoples' History in Schools was established in 2021 to recognise the efforts of Victorian school students in years 7-10 in their study of First Peoples' history. In 2023, we expanded the prize to recognise contributions from Foundation to Year 10.

The prize was established by Professor Lynette Russell AM to encourage the creative engagement and deeper knowledge of a wider number of primary and secondary school students in this area.





PRIZES (CONT.)

Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy

The Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy recognises the efforts of a group or individual that has advocated for the value of history, the work of historians and/or the importance of an education in history.

The 2022 winner of the Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy was **Gideon Haigh**. The judges recognised his extraordinary achievement in leading the successful campaign to secure additional funding for urgent preservation of film and audio material at the National Archives of Australia. The judges felt that Gideon went over and above his role as a journalist and writer and has had extraordinary national impact. They also acknowledged the exceptional range of his own recent publications of significance, and his eminence as a historical researcher and writer.

The judges also highly commended **Susan Jennison** for her outstanding range of work at a local level. This has included saving buildings, restorations, history advocacy, tours, events, publications and leadership of Keilor Historical Society.

The prize's founder Jane Hansen AO commented: 'Gideon is an outstanding example of why I supported the establishment of this prize. As I am sure we would all agree, it is vital to continue to raise broad awareness of the importance and relevance of history - as we look to the past for answers today and guidance tomorrow.'



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Women's History Month

The HCV hosts a Women's History Month calendar on our website. This collaborative calendar lists public events that relate to women's history and is scheduled to occur during the month of March. The events are hosted by a range of organisations - government, academic, professional and community-based - in the history sector.





Thank you for your continued support of the History Council of Victoria.

Ways to support:

Subscribe to our newsletter: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/subscribe
Endorse the Value of History statement: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/endorse
Find us on socials: Twitter / Facebook / YouTube

Ways to donate:

Make a one-off donation: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/donate
Become a Friend of the HCV: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/friends
Encourage your workplace or organisation to become an institutional donor: www.historycouncilvic.org.au/friends

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