

## ELISA LITVIN

Position: **President\*** & **Director**

I have been privileged to work for the history teaching community in various ways over my teaching career. I have served on the Board as a Director since 2015, and I have been honoured to serve as President of the Board for the past year. During this time, I have always strived to do the best for the good of the HTAV. In addition to my work on the Board, since joining the HTAV I have presented at various conferences, from Middle Years to VCE to Annual and national conferences hosted by the HTAV. I have also co-authored the *Forging America* textbook for HTAV and have written several articles for *Agora*. I am passionate about helping teachers to improve their pedagogy around the teaching of History, especially with regard to historical thinking skills. In my previous roles as the Humanities Leader at both Assumption College and St Aloysius College, I acted as a facilitator and coach of curriculum improvement around the teaching of History and the Humanities, assisting teams in the creation of robust history learning tools that embed the explicit use of historical thinking skills. While I currently have a wider role at St Aloysius as Director of Curriculum Documentation and Reporting, my continued passion is to support history teachers to develop to their fullest capacity in order to best teach their students to be critical evaluators of the past in order to inform their views on the present. If I am chosen to be returned as President and/or Director for another year, I pledge to continue to guide the HTAV to respond to the needs of the history teaching community and to advocate for history teachers to the wider community.

## CHRISTOPHER HART

Position: **Vice President\***

I have been honoured to work on the Board as First Vice President since 2022 and would like to continue to serve. For almost 30 years I have been committed to providing quality education with an emphasis on History since 2012. I have delivered many lectures for HTAV from Teachers New to Revolutions to specific historical content to Middle Leaders since 2013. I received the *Excellence in History Teaching by a Secondary Teacher* and *Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching and Learning of History and to the HTAV by an Early Career Educator* before joining the Board. In addition, I have co-authored the American Revolution textbook for HTAV and have assisted at every major HTAV conference since on the Board. I maintain that advocacy for History Education and educators is essential in this age of disinformation and uncertainty. I have enjoyed supporting our President, the Board, Deb Hull and the entire organisation in whatever capability I can and wish to continue to do so as Vice President.

Position: **Director**

I have been honoured to work on the Board as a Director since 2021 and would like to continue to serve. For almost 30 years I have been committed to providing quality education with an emphasis on History since 2012. My undergraduate degree was in History at Gettysburg College amongst the Civil War battlefields in Pennsylvania. I have delivered many lectures for HTAV from Teachers New to Revolutions to specific historical content to Middle Leaders since 2013. I received the *Excellence in History Teaching by a Secondary Teacher* and *Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching and Learning of History and to the HTAV by an Early Career Educator* before joining the Board. In addition, I have co-authored the American Revolution textbook for HTAV, written for *Agora* and have assisted at every major HTAV conference since on the Board. I maintain that advocacy for History Education and educators is essential in this age of disinformation and uncertainty. Furthermore, I have served as Vice-President since 2022. I am proud of my work with the organisation and wish to continue in this capacity.

## JO LEECH

Position: **Vice President\*** & **Director**

I wish to reapply to continue to be on the HTAV Board from 2025 as over the last two years as my position as a Director, I have learnt about good governance and the work which is done by the staff at the HTAV, who are all committed to running a successful organisation which meets its goals, including supporting History Teachers (P to 12), and students throughout Victoria. At my time on the Board, I have been able to contribute to various decisions which have been implemented by the HTAV; these have continued to grow their capacity to find ways to improve their reach to engaging and bringing together those who at the forefront of delivering History education.

Further, in my time on the Board, I have been able to be involved in reviewing policies and understanding the importance of decisions made in relation to monitoring the daily operations of the HTAV to continue operating ethically, risk free, and in a financially sustainable position. I have appreciated the opportunity to work with other passionate educators of History and have also appreciated the opportunity to be able to volunteer, and support HTAV employees, and their volunteers at conferences, and in other decision-making capacities, which has included *Agora* and nominations for various HTAV awards. I am happy to continue as a director, however I also feel comfortable to step into the role of Vice President (if required), as I have a clearer understanding of the requirements of this role.

My reason for reapplying, is that I do not think that two years has been enough time, to fully learn and emerge myself into the ways of thinking and requirements of a Board member. I can see that for those members whose terms have been years longer, they have developed better knowledge and insight into the decision-making processes and the developing needs of HTAV as an organisation. Therefore, I would like the opportunity to continue my position as a Director (or as one of the Vice President positions) on the Board from 2025.

\* *There were the same number of candidates as there were vacancies for President and Vice President positions. These candidates are therefore considered elected and will be put forward for member endorsement at the HTAV AGM.*

*Scroll down to view the Candidate Statements for Director positions and to scan the QR code to vote.*

## NICK ADENEY

Position: **Director**

Nick Adeney has been a primary classroom teacher since 2001 and an HTAV director since 2016. Since becoming connected with HTAV in 2013 he has presented at conferences, contributed to publications and judged competitions. He has served on the Board's Finance committee including as chair and on VCAA advisory panels. He has been recognised with the award for contribution to the teaching and learning of History and to the HTAV by a Primary Teacher. Nick has a Bachelor of Commerce, a Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) and a Master of Education.

In the current context where Primary Teachers are seen as pure generalists, Nick has followed his interest and been an advocate for the study of History in the classroom and beyond. He is currently teaching Year 6 at Preshil, championing History by running a "Young Historians" elective in the primary school and introducing the two-day Sovereign Hill costumed school camp program to the curriculum.

## ROMY GREENBERG

Position: **Director**

I am a graduate secondary teacher of English and History, working at McKinnon Secondary College. Whilst completing my double degree at Monash University (Bachelor of Education (Honours), Bachelor of Arts - Major in History), I worked in government school settings within Integration teams. This gave me extensive experience in supporting students with a range of physical and learning abilities through varying differentiation strategies. I also completed placement as a pre-service teacher within a range of secondary government schools, providing me with insight into the ongoing implementation of contemporary and creative History-specific classroom strategies. I continue to advocate for increased accessibility within History classrooms across the public education system.

I currently teach Year 10 History and English, and Year 7 English. As a longtime, passionate history student myself, I am committed to supporting ongoing subject development, particularly in fostering an interest in history for as many students as possible. As an early career teacher, I can offer insight and a fresh perspective into finding these opportunities in the Humanities classroom. I have seen the ability for history to engage young people critically with contemporary global events and crises, this is something I continue to advocate for within the subject.

As a new teacher, I understand the importance of ensuring that graduate teachers can find relevant, useful resources and support from a range of organisations. This is vital for retaining high quality teachers within the profession, a prominent and relevant issue that I believe organisations such as the HTAV can help to alleviate. I hope to support the HTAV Board in continuing to provide these excellent resources and professional learning opportunities to all History teachers.

## ADRIAN PUCKERING

Position: **Director**

My enduring association with the HTAV, coupled with my nearly 30 years as a history teacher, drives my desire to serve as a Board Director. I am passionate about strengthening the HTAV's role in promoting historical literacy and informed citizenship.

As a Board Director, I will contribute to the strategic direction of the HTAV, focusing on initiatives that empower teachers to cultivate critical thinking and navigate the challenges of AI and misinformation. I will advocate for resources and professional development that equip our members to address these challenges effectively.

I will prioritize collaboration and open communication, working alongside fellow board members to ensure the HTAV is responsive to the needs of its members. I will contribute my experience and insights to support the association's mission and ensure its continued success. I am committed to working collaboratively to make the HTAV a vital resource for all history teachers in Victoria.

## DAFINA SPAHIU

Position: **Director**

I am a secondary teacher of English, Geography, History, and Sociology. After completing a double degree at Monash University (Bachelor of Education in Secondary Education - Honours; and a Bachelor of Arts - Major in History) I went on to work within secondary government schools in Melbourne. Currently at McKinnon Secondary College, I am working as a Senior School Student Manager and am teaching VCE English, Geography and VM Literacy.

While at Monash University, I worked as a Student Engagement Officer within the Education Faculty, a position which tasked me with guiding and helping pre-service teachers to get the most out of their degree and their teaching placements. During my time at Dandenong High School as an early career teacher, I worked as a Learning Leader of the English, EAL, Humanities and Languages Domain and served on the school's Consultative Committee. Having grown up in Dandenong and seeing the empowerment that history learning can bring to all young people, I am a strong advocate for the public education system.

Being a lifelong learner of history first, and a teacher of history second, I am passionate and dedicated to the ongoing development and growth of the subject of history within schools. My interests lie greatly within the professional development of early career teachers, and I continuously seek to improve the position of the HTAV to best suit the needs of this demographic. I know how integral the HTAV has been to my own professional development and growth and hope to work as a voice for other teachers who are new to the profession and the subject.

I have served on the HTAV Board as a Director since June of 2022 and have contributed to the strategic planning and direction of the organisation to ensure the interests and needs of all members are met. I also represented the HTAV at the Annual Conference. I hope to continue to represent this outstanding organisation both as member and a Board Director.

**VOTE  
TODAY!**



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