

Making History

Museum Victoria



Teaching History in the 21st century

Making History is an interactive website where students can research, create and share their community's history, interact with professional historians and access Museum Victoria's online collection. By sharing research and stories on the *Making History* channel, students showcase their work while contributing to the knowledge and collections of the museum. *Making History* is a collaboration between the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Museum Victoria and the Public History Department at Monash University.

In its pilot sessions, Making History has brought students from across Victoria together with prominent historians in one virtual classroom. In early pilot sessions, Professor Graeme Davison spoke with more than 40 students from Maffra Secondary College, Fairhills High School, Sacred Heart College, Kyneton and the Victorian School of Languages, about his work as a historian. He answered questions from the virtual floor for over an hour, using the web to link the computer lab at Melbourne Museum to classrooms across Victoria.

Students moved from personal queries like: 'If you got to own one of the things in a museum what would it be?' to 'What happens when you have something at home that looks old but you don't know its history and no one in your family does?' In a second session, Dr. Seamus O'Hanlon responded to questions in a virtual classroom of over 100 students from Castlemaine North Primary School, Tongala PS, Kyabram P-12 and Lalbert Primary School.

Making History reflects 21st Century educational pedagogy which places students at the centre of the learning experience and challenges them to "create, collaborate and share". It draws on family and community experience to make meaningful and authentic connections to history and heritage.

The themes within the Making History project – Living With Natural Disasters; World Events, Local Impacts; Cultural Identity, Migration Stories; Family and Community – have been selected for their connection with the Australian Curriculum and their relevance nationally. They also anticipate major forthcoming events eg World Events, Local Impacts links with the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli and World War 1. <http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/websites/making-history/themes/>

The themes can engage tertiary students as well as primary and secondary students – the tertiary students pilots will take place in 2012. An unexpected aspect of the project is the number of student works exploring migration and cultural diversity with the student digital histories featuring languages such as Chinese, German and Italian.

Making History was launched in October 2011.

See <http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/websites/making-history/>