

PHA (Vic & Tas) Professional Reading Group models:

Local History

Online Reading Group

Historical Fiction

Biography and Life Stories

Indigenous Reading Group

Heritage and History Reading Group

General guidelines -

Professional Reading Groups meet either in-person or virtually approximately every 4 to 6 weeks, or as decided by the group, to discuss the chosen book, journal article, or book chapter. Groups tend to have a break around the end of December until end of January. Groups can decide individually when and if they meet in person.

Coordinator:

Generally, each year someone different within the group takes on the role of coordinator. This can vary depending on the group. This role as coordinator involves liaising with the PD committee representative as well as keeping the group on track with book choices and timing.

Book/article/chapter choice:

Reading material for the group can vary. Typically they have been published fairly recently and for the most part they have been within the Australian context, but members are welcome to pick something that appeals to the group and that they think will create engaging discussions.

Host duties:

Hosts generally differ from coordinators by hosting the meetings, reminding the group a week or so prior to the meeting, starting discussions, and closing the session with a

few words. Generally, the host differs for each meeting, or is rotated as agreed upon by the group.

Meetings:

Usually, the host will start off the discussion with a précis and a few prompting questions and then others will contribute. Members can offer as many or as few comments as they like. Groups are free to determine individually how long each meeting will be.

What I am Reading Now:

These segments (usually once or twice a year) allow the group to discuss whatever they happen to be reading in that month. This often encourages members to try different books and inspires book selections for the coming months.

Local History

General Guidelines: The Local History Group meets once a month in person from 6pm – 8pm at the East Melbourne library meeting room, nine times a year. Each year a theme is set (i.e. 2021 focused on the effect of negative events and their impacts on local communities. The event may be political, economic, or natural. 2022 focused on Melbourne's women and explored the role of women's group or an individual. 2023 is focused on Melbourne's waterways and how they shaped local history)

Coordinator: The shared model reduces the need for a formal coordinator, although there is an honorary coordinator.

Book/article/chapter choice: The reading will generally rely on journal articles or other short published works rather than a book chapter.

Host duties: Each member is responsible for choosing the topic, facilitating the discussion for their allocated month and providing refreshments. Each member only hosts reading group session once a year.

Meetings: The group number is capped so that each member facilitates the meeting once a year from February to October and November is reserved for an end of the year dinner where the following year's theme is determined.

Online Reading Group

General Guidelines: The Online Reading group usually meets over Zoom every 6 weeks.

Coordinator: The current coordinator is Karen Wykes.

Book/article/chapter choice: The Online Reading group enjoys a wide variety of history material, reading books, articles, or listening to podcasts on any historical topic.

Historical Fiction

General Guidelines: The Historical Fiction group usually meet face-to-face and occasionally on zoom. When meeting in person, the group will gather at a member's house, who is located centrally in Carlton or North Fitzroy.

Coordinator: The shared model reduces the need for a formal coordinator, although there is an honorary coordinator.

Book/article/chapter choice: The reading material chosen is a book.

Biography and Life Stories

Currently on hold

Indigenous Reading Group

General Guidelines:

Coordinator:

Book/article/chapter choice:

Heritage and History Reading Group

General Guidelines: The Heritage and History Reading group usually meets over Zoom every 6 weeks.

Coordinator: The current coordinator is Elizabeth Offer.

Book/article/chapter choice: The Heritage and History Reading group enjoys a wide variety of heritage/history- related material, including articles and book chapters.