AGTA Geographia 2018

Welcome to the latest edition of Geographia, the national newsletter of the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association.

AGTA Membership.
The Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) has seven members being the geography professional associations in each State and Northern Territory.

Individuals, schools and other institutions, non-government organisations and businesses should join the relevant member association in each State or Territory (NT).

AGTA’s 15 directors consist of two directors from each member affiliate, one being the President of the Affiliate Association and the other being nominated by the member.

Individuals can only make representation to AGTA through their association to bring issues to the national attention.

AGTA exists as a national body representing the interests of Geography Teachers across Australia.

If you have an issue that you believe would merit national attention you can raise it through your local state Geography Association.

You can inquire about membership and connect with your local associations.

New South Wales
Northern Territory
Queensland
South Australia
Tasmania
Victoria
Western Australia

GAWA
GHTANT
GTANSW
GTAV
GTAQ
The AGTA Board

The 2018 AGM was held in Hobart in October.

Executive Chair          Trish Douglas (VIC)
Vice Chair               Darryl Michie (WA)
Immediate Past Chair     Grant Kleeman (NSW)
Secretary                Anna Griffin (WA)

Directors & Nominated Directors:
Lorraine Chaffer (NSW)
Susan Caldis (NSW)
Anna Hind (NT)
Julie Hearnden (NT)
Julie Davis (QLD)
Shane Albertson (QLD)
Joanne Wegener (SA)
Elise Walker (SA)
Rowan Harris (TAS)
Greg Calvert (TAS)
Lachlan Zubevich (VIC)
AGTA invite you to join us on the Gold Coast between 1st and 4th October 2019 for our biennial conference. The conference theme is ‘The Innovative Geographer’.

The conference program will provide opportunities for teachers from across Australia to share and reflect on their own innovations in the Geography classroom. The social activities, including Welcome Drinks, and the Conference Dinner will provide an ideal opportunity to network with fellow geographers from across the country. We are incredibly excited to announce that Anna Rosling Rönnlund, co-founder of Gapminder, founder of Dollar Street and co-author of ‘Factfulness’ will be one of our keynote speakers at the conference.

Check out the AGTA 2019 website for further details and to sign up for updates.

We look forward to seeing you on the sunny Gold Coast in October 2019.
AGTA Conference 2019 continued... Call for Presenters

The conference committee is looking for geographers who are introducing new methods, ideas or practices to share with the Australian Geography community.

An innovator is not just the educator who is using digital technology in their classroom. They consider the role of ‘enterprise skills’ such as communication, clear thinking, creativity and problem solving in the curriculum. They consider how they are developing their pedagogy to improve the learning of all students. They are also on the constant search for new knowledge and content, to strengthen their own understanding and, in turn, improve the learning of their students.

Interested in presenting? Click on this link for further information.

Submissions close January 31st, 2019.
The 2018 annual Australian Geography Competition (AGC) was held in schools from Thursday 17 May to Thursday 31 May and attracted 782 schools entering 72,256 students which was an increase in numbers from 2017.

This year, prizes were awarded to 7 schools and 76 students excluding 16 Year 11 students who participated selection for the 2018 Geography’s Big Week Out. It is worth noting that there were 19 equal-first in Australia for Year 8. Names of students and schools who won prizes are placed on the Competition website.

Prizes are awarded to students who come top in their Year level for Australia, and each State and Combined Territories (ACT, NT and External Territories). To be eligible for a prize, the student must be enrolled in geography, or an integrated social science which includes geography. The top 10 schools across Australia are acknowledge below.

- Sydney Grammar School, NSW
- Sydney Boys High School, NSW
- Canberra Grammar School, Combined Territories
- Northern Beaches Secondary College, NSW
- Knox Grammar School, NSW
- Merewether High School, NSW
- Shore School, NSW
- Brisbane Grammar School, QLD
- Wesley College - St Kilda Road Campus, VIC
- Trinity Grammar School, VIC

The top schools for each state or combined territory also received a prize, and this included:

- Pembroke School, SA
- St Michael’s Collegiate School, TAS
- St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School, WA

The 2019 Australian Geography Competition will return to Term 1 and be sat in schools from Wednesday 27 March to Wednesday 10 April.
Congratulations to the four young Australian geography students who represented Australia at the XV International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held in Quebec City, Canada, from July 31 to August 6, 2018. The Olympiad was organised under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) with the support of Université Laval, North America’s second oldest university.

The four-member Australian team were selected through their outstanding performance in last year’s Australian Geography Competition (AGC) and Geography’s Big Week Out (from left to right):
- Phoebe Blaxill  St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School, WA (Bronze Medal)
- Harry Hall  Trinity College (Gawler), SA
- Hannah Wright  Walford Anglican School for Girls, SA (Bronze Medal)
- Sophie Ohlin  Sydney Girls High School, NSW

Forty-three countries took part in this highly prestigious one-week international competition with the Romanian team declared the overall winners at this year’s event. To test the best young geographers in the world, the iGeo programme involves three academic challenges over the course of a week, presentations by teams and a cultural session showcasing Canadian cultures, and visits to Old Quebec (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and Forêt Montmorency.

The value of the iGeo experience cannot be underestimated; participating students appreciate not only the opportunity to travel abroad and challenge themselves, but also the experience of meeting and making friends with passionate geography students from all over the world.

“The iGeo was a fantastic opportunity not only to learn about geography, hearing
from bright minds in the field and undergoing insightful fieldwork, but also to make friends from all around the globe. Being around such a wide variety of international cultures, personalities and languages is a rare event, and because of it the experience was invaluable,” said Harry Hall.

Kath Berg, Australian Team Leader commented that “The iGeo is a prestigious international contest. It inspires active interest in geographical studies among students and contributes to greater intercultural understanding through the friendships developed between students from different countries.”

The four-student team that will represent Australia at the 2019 iGeo in Hong Kong, China, will be announced in February 2019. They will be selected from the sixteen high-achieving Year 11 students who participated in the 2018 Australian Geography Competition and Geography's Big Week Out.

Australia’s participation at the annual iGeo is organised and funded by the Australian Geography Competition and in 2018 was made possible with the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, and Competition sponsors: Macquarie University (Department of Geography and Planning and Department of Environmental Sciences), Monash University (School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment and School of Social Sciences), and The University of Queensland (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences). The role of geography in schools is continuously supported by the Australian Geography Competition, which is a joint initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (www.rgsq.org.au) and the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association.

Bernard Fitzpatrick, Executive Officer
The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland
2018 Geography Big Week Out

Organised by GTASA again, 2018 Geography Big Week Out returned to Kangaroo Island to investigate different aspects of sustainable tourism. Students aimed to answer the key question “How can sustainable tourism on Kangaroo Island be achieved in the future?”

Throughout the week, students were involved in various activities designed to enhance their geographical skills. This included data collection using EpiCollect5, quadrat surveys, biodiversity surveys and interviews with tourists and residents to ascertain the importance and impact of tourism on Kangaroo Island.

Students began by visiting Kingscote and Penneshaw to compare the towns and identify any differences between them. They continued their investigations by assessing the biodiversity at major tourist sites, including Admiral’s Arch, Remarkable Rocks and Seal Bay. A number of presentations were also organised in order to provide different perspectives on tourism and sustainability.

The presenters included:
- Mayor Peter Clements
- Peggy Rismiller and Mike McKelvey, Pelican Lagoon Research Centre
- Darren Smith, Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat
- Kylie Bamfield, Regional Tourism Manager
- Ranger Reece Boulder, Flinders Chase National Park

At the end of the week students worked together in groups to analyse the data collected and assess their original hypothesis, then present their results, concluding the week with the final exam.

The GBWO was great and I had so much fun meeting and living with other teenagers from all the states around Australia for a week. I got to develop and learn new geography skills and apply them to real world things like tourism and sustainability.

Kimberley, Western Australia
Prior to departing for South Australia as part of GBWO, I was unsure of what to expect; spending a week with people that I’ve never met before was a daunting thought. However, the trip turned out to be an unforgettable experience. Meeting fantastic people from all over Australia, investigating sustainable tourism in an engaging manner, and having plenty of fun along the way made the Big Week Out a highly enjoyable visit to Kangaroo Island. We all took plenty out of the week, learning about various methods of fieldwork data collection and analysis, developing group work and oral presentation skills, and creating many new friendships throughout the course of the trip.

Stefan, Victoria
I had no idea what to expect when I joined GBWO, but when I came into Adelaide I met an amazing group of students (and adults) and spent an incredible 6 days with them. Kangaroo Island was such an remarkable place and we got to see so many different native plants and animals. Everyone was interested and engaged and I feel like I got to see so much Geography in action.

Zoe, Victoria
This event wouldn’t be possible without the invaluable support and contributions from Kath Berg, Simon Roos-Freeman and Chelsea McCormack. Further information about the GBWO please visit:
http://www.geographycompetition.org.au/geography%E2%80%99s-big-week-out
https://www.facebook.com/GBWO18/

Liam Sloan (Convener, GTASA)
The Tasmanian Geography Teachers Association turned 50 on July 27th. The TGTA was formed after a seminar at UTAS in July 1968. The late Professor Peter Scott, Dr Jack Davies and Dr Bob Solomon did presentations for matric teachers and then a meeting forming the association was conducted afterwards.

To celebrate this milestone the Governor Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner held a reception at Government House on September 18. There were 60 people in attendance (current and former members and their partners). The two remaining Foundation members, Lorraine Jones and Liz Parkes, attended the evening, together with Dr Bob Solomon.
GEOGSPACE is a website created by AGTA offering quality primary and secondary geography resource materials for all teachers of geography, including those that are very experienced and those just commencing their involvement. The materials will support teachers to develop their knowledge, skills and pedagogical capacity to teach geography of the highest quality.

This unit of work supports Year 10 students to be able to undertake a virtual fieldwork tour of Lake Monger, Western Australia, and use this example to investigate an environment of their choice using a human-environment systems model. Resources are provided to support your students in how to collect and analyse water samples.

Featured Resource: Measuring Environmental Change through water testing (Year 10)

Visit the Geogspace website here to download the full resource.
Geography can make an important contribution to your school’s literacy enrichment program. To help promote literacy in secondary schools, AGTA offers the relevant resource, *Geography Literacy Unlocked*. The text incorporates a wealth of material covering written, visual and oral literacy.

**Geography Skills Unlocked Textbook**

Looking for a current textbook to support the teaching of geography skills in your classroom? *Geography Skills Unlocked* is written by teachers for teachers.

This exciting skills book is up-to-date with the demands and requirements of teaching geography today. Written with the Australian Curriculum and contemporary student in mind, the book covers the range of skills young geographers require to dive deeply and successfully into the study of geography. It contains step-by-step explanations, descriptions and worked examples. With a wealth of stimulus material, it is also a great reference for teachers.

More details are available [here](#). Contact your state or territory affiliate to order an inspection copy, or class set, of either text.

More Geography Unlocked in 2019…

Watch this space for news on AGTA’s next publication in the Unlocked series. *Geography Fieldwork Unlocked* is being developed to support teachers with ideas and skills for incorporating fieldwork into their primary and secondary classrooms.
GAWA New York City Teacher Orientation Study Tour

Early July, 2018, 19 participants, comprising of GAWA members and some of their partners, with tour leaders Darryl Michie and Matthew Hildebrandt ventured to NYC for the inaugural GAWA New York City Teacher Orientation Study Tour. The purpose of the tour was to supplement and illuminate the West Australian Year 12 Unit 4 ATAR Geography course – Planning Sustainable Places - and expose teachers to the unique urban culture found within this famous city.

Activities focused on: general familiarization with NYC, the internal morphology of NYC, demographic change across the boroughs, and challenges facing NYC – with an emphasis on economic restructuring in Brooklyn and Manhattan plus transport issues. A day ‘upstate’ at Columbia University’s Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory Campus was also facilitated, which focused on the Earth Sciences in relation to measuring climate change. This was a welcome change from the urban environment of NYC and gave participants the opportunity to see the Greater New York Metropolitan Area and some natural forest and woodlands.
The feedback from tour participants at the conclusion of the tour was overwhelmingly positive. Some points highlighted included:

- The organization and knowledge of the tour leaders
- The cost of the tour and the value for money
- The accommodation, specifically the facilities and central location
- The tailored, genuine nature of the tour that addressed the requirements of the ATAR course
- The tour itinerary, a right blend of activities as well as free time

GAWA is proposing to run a similar tour in July of 2020 for West Australian teachers. AGTA proposes to start running some teacher study tours in the future, with NYC definitely on the agenda, so watch this space for more information in the New Year!

Darryl Michie – AGTA Teacher Study Tour Coordinator
GAWA

2018 saw the relaunch of our student Geography competition titled GAWA’s Young Geographer of the Year Competition. The task for students from Year 5 through to Year 12 was to consider how their favourite Western Australian place is shaped by geographical processes – both physical and human: the people and connections that make this place meaningful; and the sustainability of their favourite place.

For the first time we held a presentation ceremony to our winners during the teacher’s conference. We invited the winning students and families to the ceremony and morning tea afterwards.

GAWA is pleased to announce the release of their latest Geography textbook; WA ATAR Geography: Unit 1 and 2. Chapters include:

Unit 1 – Natural & Ecological Hazards
- Overview of natural & Ecological Hazards
- Earthquakes
- Bushfires
- Tropical Storms
- Malaria
- Nuclear
- Ebola

Unit 2 – Global Networks & Interconnections
- Overview of Global Networks & Interconnections
- Automobiles
- Fast food – McDonald’s
- Wine
- Football
- Music
- Fashion

Anna Griffin, President
A key priority of the Geography and History Teachers’ Association of the NT in recent years has been to expand our reach beyond Darwin. In September this resulted in the first GHTANT Conference held in Alice Springs.

Teachers in central Australia are a long way from most professional development opportunities and we are proud to have been able to offer our colleagues a full morning of workshops with presenters from Darwin and interstate.

It is hoped that this will become an annual event. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive and voiced a clear desire for more quality PD in the Red Centre.

Anna Hind, Vice-President
GTANSW

The 2017-2018 has had a very busy and highly successful year providing professional support for Geography teachers and students across NSW and the ACT.

The largest event on the GTANSW 2018 calendar was the two-day GTANSW Annual Conference in April with the theme “My Challenging Geography Classroom”. The theme highlighted the challenges facing teachers to implement the new K-10 Geography Syllabus as well as developing new content, implementing new pedagogical practices, developing geographical skills and building confidence with spatial technologies.

For the first time, and with great success, interested parties were able to submit a proposal to deliver master classes, presentations or workshops. The final program consisted of 41 sessions that were attended by over 220 teachers each day. Examples of workshops varied from Academic Literacy, Project Based Learning, Flipped Classroom and Inquiry Learning to Spatial Technology in the classroom.

There was a diversity of content based sessions such as Water, Mobile connections (a web based resource for the topic Interconnections) and Sydney Harbour (a new case study for Environmental Change and Management). There were also 32 exhibitors, over 30 presenters and 15 GTA councilors present on the day.

Lorraine Chaffer, President
GTAQ
President: Julie Davis (QUT)
Vice President: -
Secretary: Shane Albertson (Stretton College)
Treasurer: Kaye Schwede (Wynnum SHS)
Archivist: Margaret McIvor
Elected Council Members: Anne-Marie Gerlach (Canterbury College), Alice Constantine (Brisbane State High School), Dr Elin Charles-Edwards (University of Queensland), Mick Law (DNRME)
Co-opted Council Members: Wendy Bolton (Stuartholme School), Jackie Dunk (QCAA), Leree Roberts (Brisbane School of Distance Education), Jenny Knight (All Hallows’ School), Joanne Paxton (Bundamba State Secondary College), Jamie Clothier (Brisbane State High School), Jenny Knight (All Hallows School)

Julie Davis has been elected president as Jamie Clothier has stepped down to take maternity leave. We congratulate Jamie and Ben on the birth of their son and thank Jamie for her time as President. We welcome back Jenny Knight who is returning from maternity leave as a co-opted member and we welcome Joanne Paxton to the team. We have commenced a process of strategic planning with an external facilitator and a number of members have been interviewed and provided some valuable information about the history of GTAQ. The final two meetings will be held in November 2018 and from this we will have a clear vision, mission and operating plan.

Our Annual conference #ignitethepassionforgeography was held in August and was very well attended and we received exceptional feedback. This year we returned to the University of Queensland (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences) after holding the past three conferences at Queensland University of Technology. We were able to use the six green star Global Change Institute building for breakout sessions and trade exhibits.

In response to feedback from our members who have identified the need for upskilling in the implementation of spatial technologies to meet the requirements of the new Geography 2019 syllabus we have provided two spatial technology workshops in far north Queensland in partnership with Mick Law from DNRME. There is one final workshop to be presented in December in Gladstone. We have also relocated to new premises. The Royal Geographic Society of Queensland, where we are housed, recently bought a new office in Spring Hill and it was decided to maintain our long standing relationship with the Society and also move to the same premises.

Julie Davis, President
GTASA

GTASA current membership for 2018 stands at 102. In August, GTASA in conjunction with the University of Adelaide hosted our annual Year 12 Geography night at Adelaide University. Over 100 students from schools across metropolitan Adelaide attended the event. Students had the pleasure to learn from Dr Doug Bardsley and Dr Helen Barrie who respectively spoke about Population Trends & Environmental Hazards, and Ageing Cities.

Dr Bardsley presented students with the question: Was Malthus correct? Have we reached our limits to growth? Dr Bardsley explored this question by considering the impact of European colonialism and the Green Revolution, while also examining the current issues facing our planet, particularly water issues related to climate change, i.e. water as a resource, and water as a hazard. He concluded that climate change will make it more difficult to sustainably support growing populations.

Dr Barrie had students consider the implications of being an ageing person in our cities, places where urban populations are increasing. She presented students with questions such as:

• How could an ageing population influence the use or function of urban spaces?
• How could an ageing population influence the design of urban spaces?
• Are urban spaces good places to grow old?

These are very important questions for Australian policy makers to consider as we adapt to the needs of an ageing population. For further information about Age-friendly spaces, refer to the work of the WHO Agefriendly environments. Resources from the Year 12 Night can be found on the GTASA website: http://www.gtasa.asn.au/yr-12-information-night

Joanne Wegner, President
**TGTA**

The TGTA became 50 on July 27. To celebrate this milestone the Governor Her Excellency Kate Warner held a reception at Government House on September 18.

The AGM was held on September 17th. The Karen Caporelli was elected as Secretary and Greg became Treasurer.

**President:** Rowan Harris  
**Immediate Past President:** Debbie Claridge  
**Secretary:** Karen Caporelli  
**Treasurer/Public Officer:** Greg Calvert  
**Committee Members:** Caryn Shield & Bianca Coleman

On August 23 Guilford Young College hosted a conference for students with a focus on Geography pathways. This event was supported by TGTA. Approximately 200 students from around the state attended the event with guest speakers from UTAS Geography Department and Asia Institute.

During August/September TGTA promoted fieldtrips and symposiums organised by Landcare for Senior Secondary Geography classes from the north and the south of the state. Classes in the south of the state conducted fieldwork at Marchweil, near Bream Creek. Classes in the north of the state went to Connorville, near Cressy. Both were valuable learning experiences for both students and teachers.

A joint Humanities conference is planned again with TGTA, THTA and TATE in 2019 following on from the one conducted this year in Launceston. Detailed planning will get underway in November.

Rowan Harris, President
GTAV

Geography Teachers’ Association of Victoria Term 4 sees the release of the final module (Spatial Technology) of the GTAV’s Certificate of Geography Competency, an online course designed to up-skill existing Geography teachers or introduce new teachers to the field of the needs and requirements of this particular subject. The response from those taking the course has been encouragingly positive, and we are pleased that the NSW Education Standards Authority has recently provided endorsement to the GTAV as a provider of NESA Registered Professional Development at the Proficient Teacher level.

The other modules are Geography Concepts, Geography Skills, and Fieldwork.

Lachlan Zubevich, GTAV President