

# geographia



AGTA News  
Sept 2014

- AGTA Conference
- Review of Australian Curriculum
- State Association Reports  
*see what's happening around the country...*

## September AGTA News

Welcome to the third edition of the new look Geographia AGTA news.

For further information about AGTA you can visit our [website](#).

### AGTA Membership.

Membership of AGTA: as of the last board meeting in October with a new constitution; AGTA now has 15 directors. These 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 Teachers Association.

You can inquire about membership and connect with your local associations through these links:

[New South Wales](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Victoria](#)

[Western Australia](#)



Caption???

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## Review of the Australian Curriculum.

The newly elected federal government announced a comprehensive review of the curriculum to be held that would hear all submissions and report back by the middle of the year. AGTA developed a response document on behalf of all affiliates and Grant Kleeman was asked to appear before the review body to present this document and answer any questions. The review panel had very specific areas of focus – the

curriculum development process and potential bias and the applicability of the cross curriculum priorities. The review panel did not appear to have closely read any of the submissions.

AGTA (Grant Kleeman) was given a series of questions to respond to, these were sent out a week before, these focussed on the process of the curriculum development. The allocated meeting time

only enabled progress to Q3. The panel did focus on process. AGTA played a major role in the formation of the curriculum. AGTA highlighted the role that state jurisdictions ended up having especially with regard to specific agendas.

Also raised the issue of multiple hats –writer, reviewer, adviser, and jurisdiction representative could be the same person and this did impact on how the curriculum was developed. AGTA supported the notion that the relationship between AGTA and ACARA was supportive and was only superseded in the final months where the pressure of the timeline took over.

The most likely outcome appears to be that recommendations are made to strip back the AC to a very basic and general series of core content statements – with contextual information, priorities or competencies left to the jurisdictions. On behalf of AGTA Grant Kleeman lobbied for more geography teachers to be trained.

More information will be available here [Australian Curriculum Review](#)

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## AGTA 2015 New Zealand AGTA 2015 Conference

Registrations are rolling in for the exciting 2015 AGTA conference to be held in New Zealand in January.



The AGATA Conference website has all the information you might need.

Registrations are rolling in for the 2015 AGTA conference

Joanne Wegner of Concordia College, South Australia was the lucky winner of the free flight for early board registrants.

In addition Nick Hutchinson has prepared some background papers for participants to really get a flavour of the venue and build their knowledge beforehand.

They can all be accessed here:

[AGTA 2015 Conference Pure Canterbury](#)

[AGTA 2015 Conference A millennium ago](#)

[AGTA 2015 Conference Far North District](#)

[AGTA 2015 Conference A Notional Transect Across Volcanic Plateau](#)

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

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## AGTA website

The AGTA Website is your “go-to” site for any information about AGTA and national geography issues and activities.

[Australian Geography Teachers Association Website.](#)

Jump on and register for the email newsletter to keep up to date or check out the [Teaching resources](#), competitively priced and information for students about [GeoCareers: Geography opens a world of careers](#)



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## AAAE Founding Membership

AGTA is proud to be a founding member of the newly formed [AAAE](#).

AAAE is a body specifically formed to represent the interests of teacher professional associations at a national level. There are 23 founding member associations, and the AAAE will be able to lobby at a federal level on issues affecting teachers and their professional practice. More information will be available later in the year but in the meantime checkout the website for further details.



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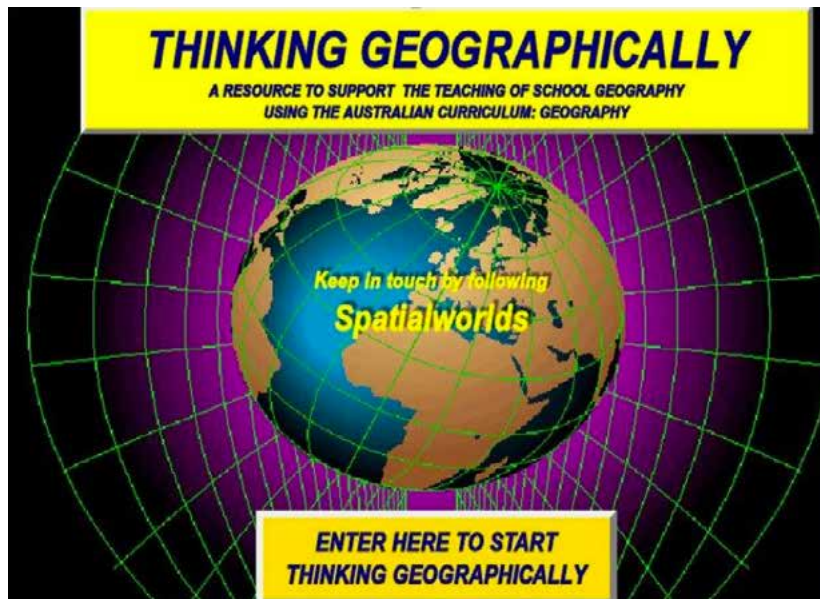
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## Teaching Resources

AGTA is delighted to offer teaching resources to support the implementation and delivery of the Australian Curriculum – Geography in your classroom.

Thinking Geographically ([purchase here](#)) has been fully revised and updated in line with the AC and contains the following:

- geographical thinking examples, exercises and articles
- over 50 “Thinkpieces” on geography (thought provoking articles on geographical education in schools)
- curriculum planning and assessment processes and templates
- 100s of direct links to Internet sites to support geographical thinking and the teaching of geography
- presentations and video resource links to support professional learning



## Exploring 21st Century Geography

This DVD is an interactive resource ideal for use in Geography Faculties and to develop a richer understanding of the new directions geography is taking.



It contains a collection of teaching resources including spatial technologies/GIS units:

- articles and resources on 21st century Geography
- GIS skills development, GIS in Physical Geography and Historical GIS books – course processes and activities with geographical data
- 21st Century Internet sites
- technology in the geography classroom articles, internet sites and resources
- inquiry project design and work samples.

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## AC- Professional Learning

*AGTA has been active in the provision of PL opportunities for a range of teachers across the whole country.*

AGTA continues to fund experts to attend workshops and forums in different locations where a need has been identified. If you would like more information about this please [contact AGTA](#) to see if we can help.

## GEOG SPACE

*Don't forget to keep interacting with the GeogSpace resources [available here](#).*

It is an evolving teacher resource with new material added regularly and existing resources refined and updated.



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## National Geography Competition.

*The RGSQ continues to offer the National Geography Competition for schools and students and in 2014 over 70 000 students took part.*

It is a great opportunity to inspire your students and to identify high achievers

at your school. Winners of the competition can also be invited to join the Geography



**NINE GOOD REASONS**  
to enter the Australian Geography Competition  
24 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2014 – Entries close 28 February 2014

- 1 PUTS GEOGRAPHY IN THE SPOTLIGHT IN YOUR SCHOOL
- 2 CHALLENGES YOUR STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
- 3 GOOD PRACTICE FOR EXTERNAL MULTIPLE-CHOICE EXAMS
- 4 LOW FEE OF \$3.00 PER STUDENT, WITH NO MINIMUM CHARGE
- 5 FLEXIBLE TIMING BETWEEN 24 MARCH AND 2 APRIL, TO SUIT YOUR SCHOOL'S NEEDS
- 6 ACCORDING TO THEIR TEACHERS, STUDENTS ACTUALLY ENJOY IT!
- 7 ALL STUDENTS GET RESULTS AND GRADED CERTIFICATES IN THREE AGE DIVISIONS
- 8 REWARDS STUDENT EXCELLENCE WITH GREAT PRIZES
- 9 FIRST STEP IN SELECTION FOR AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY TEAMS

Olympiad team, see here for past glories International Geography Olympiad 2013 and attend Geography's Big Week Out.

The Olympiad team represents Australia in 2014 at the international competition to be held in Krakow Poland. GeoOlympiad 2014 . Next years competition will be held in March, for further information on how to enter please [visit the website](#).

## Decadal plan for Geography.

This is a new initiative by the Academy of Sciences to work on a long term plan for the development of Geography as an academic discipline with strong and real connections to developing the key skills needed in the 21st Century.

AGTA is keen to be partner in this as a major player in the teaching and development of geography in schools. There will be some funding available for affiliates to get involved in the process and to ensure that school based geography remains a major focus for the work. An example of a decadal plan for space science can be viewed [here](#).



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## Around the Affiliates:

### GTANSW

Currently, GTANSW has 370 members. The 2014 GTANSW Council stands at 22 members (20 from NSW and 2 from ACT). Whilst there has been a change in President - Nick Hutchinson stepped down and Susan Caldis was elected to fulfil the role - the Council has remained the same from 2013.

The agreed focus for professional learning in 2014 is firstly around providing support for early career teachers and those new to teaching Geography via the creation of a mentoring network (either online and/or face to face); and secondly around Stage 5 and 6 Geography – skills, content, inquiry based learning and fieldwork.

There will be 7 events focused on professional development

and the promotion of Geography, including the workshop delivered by Rod Yule from World Vision.

The Annual Conference: ‘Liveability – Geography comes alive’, will be on 5 August 2014 with Professor Phillip O’Neill as the opening keynote speaker. The conference will include fieldwork which is a move away from recent annual conference programs.

GTANSW were very proud to have 2 Council members work on behalf of AGTA in contributing to Australian Curriculum Review. The AGTA submission was developed by Nick Hutchinson, and Dr. Grant Kleeman participated in a formal roundtable discussion with Dr. Kevin Donnelly.

### GHTANT

It is with sincere regret that GHTANT farewells Kate Minahan on her retirement at the end of 2013. Kate has been a driving force behind this association for the last few years and she will be sorely missed. We wish Kate all the best with her new life down south and have conferred honorary life membership upon her in recognition of her outstanding work. Loraine Caldwell is Acting President until the next AGM.

We would also like to welcome Cathy Deans and Marg Girdham to the GHTANT Committee. Cathy specialises in middle school Humanities, and Marg is at present a consultant in the NT Department of Education and is an experienced Geography and Science T-9 teacher.

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**GHTANT (cont.)**

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A major project for GHTANT has been the initial discussions with the NT Legislative Assembly educational representatives to align educational programs offered with the national curriculum civics and citizenship, geography and history outcomes.

The NT Legislative Assembly hosts a wide range of teacher and student parliamentary programmes, and we hope to deliver a joint professional workshop which develops the Ethical Understanding capability in the Geography and History classroom.

The 2014 Dry Season is a busy time in the Territory, and GHTANT is happy to announce a number of professional development opportunities and initiatives to support the classroom teacher. The new NT Geography Challenge will be launched at the June AGM. August PDs includes WorldVision: Engagement with Indonesia and the History and Geography Mini Conference.

**GTAQ**

The year began with strong membership numbers and an enthusiastic committee. Financial numbers are 193 and growing, plus 17 life members. The theme for this year’s conference being held on Saturday 26 July at the University of Queensland St Lucia campus is “Rising Tides - People, Places and Pedagogy. On Friday 25 July, delegates will have the opportunity to participate in a number of pre-conference field workshops. It is anticipated over 200 delegates including pre-service, Primary, Middle and Geography school teachers will attend. The program will cater for all education sectors, providing the latest on local and global issues and demonstrating best practice in the teaching and learning of Geography.

Other Professional Development opportunities this year have included “Developing Effective Assessment – Short



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The GTASA executive has benefitted from the energy and technological savvy of newer members as we move towards a revamped website and journal.

### GTAQ (cont.)

Response and Report writing” and “Australia’s Engagement with Asia: Indonesia” presented by Rod Yule in Brisbane and Toowoomba. Our first journal for the year is underway and our website provides current news to members.

In 2014 Queensland schools have begun to teach, assess and report using the P-10 Australian Curriculum: Geography. The following Queensland Studies Authority website <https://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/26025.html> provides a variety of advice, guidelines and resources. Don’t forget Geospace as a great resource for the P-10 Geography Curriculum. This is an exciting time to be a geographer in Queensland.

### GTASA

We expect to have approximately 100 members again this year. The GTASA executive has benefitted from the energy and technological savvy of newer members as we move towards a revamped website and journal.

Ian Johnson convened the May 15/16 GTASA Conference with great success. Australian Curriculum: Geography continues to be a significant focus. Keynote speakers are Rod Yule, Alaric Maude and Mick Law. Sponsorship is up and publishers that have been keen to attend. Malcolm McInerney and John Butler continue to fly the flag for GTASA presenting Australian Curriculum based workshops. Malcolm ran an Introduction to Australian Curriculum presenters workshop in December. Hopefully, this will result in us being able share the load a little better when schools ask for PL support.

A new GTASA website was presented to teachers at the May Conference. Future volumes of SA Geographer will be housed in a ‘Members only’ section in electronic form. The 2014 Year 12 Study guide has been produced on CD again this year and was available for purchase at the May Conference.

The move to Eventbrite has streamlined the booking process for the Conference. GTASA representatives will be involved in Australian Curriculum workshops, and we will be running the Conference in May and Year 12 Geography Night at Adelaide University in August. A continued lack of commitment to Australian Curriculum: Geography in Yrs. 9 & 10 may negate the improvement we have seen in the number of schools offering Geography at Stage 1&/or 2 this year.

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### GTAV

Membership is currently 627 including free memberships to pre-service teachers, a large increase on this time last year. In the first half of 2014 we have offered ten professional development activities, a number of which have been new initiatives.

For example, sessions aimed specifically at primary teachers: a joint PD with the History Teachers Association of Victoria and another on literacy and digital media in conjunction with the Australian Children's Television Foundation and Australian Teachers of Media. Our Global education team has continued with sessions for pre-service teachers in universities as well as working in primary and secondary schools.

We have continued to develop a wide range of resources. Due to be launched in August are our Geography Concept Poster sets – one for Primary and another for Years 7-10 accompanied by support activities for the classroom.

Scoop.it, Facebook and Twitter are growing in usage as a means of communication with members.

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### GAWA

GAWA's Professional Learning program has doubled this year with the presentation of separate secondary and primary events. We have determined to hold 1 key event per term for both primary and secondary sectors.

137 teachers attended our second annual full day Australian Curriculum: Geography Professional Learning event held in November 2013, with presentations from Malcolm McInerney, Rod Yule and Maree Whiteley. We held a special AGTA/GAWA AC: Geography Curriculum Leaders Professional Learning Day in February. 35 targeted cross sector primary and secondary curriculum leaders and consultants attended. Our New and Beginning Teachers Days attracted 50 secondary and 30 primary teachers.

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Former GAWA President and AGTA board member Mike Hanrahan was the GAWA nominee and recipient of a PTCWA Outstanding Professional Service Award

### GAWA (cont.)

Other PL events for the year will include Mike Bryant from the Water Corporation exploring Water in the World and our Inaugural Primary Geography Conference in June with John Butler as a keynote speaker and workshop facilitator. Semester 2 will see the Annual Secondary GAWA Conference, on Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th of August, a Primary focused 'Geog Meet' and our AC: Geography Professional Learning Day.

Our Year 8 Australian Curriculum: Geography/History textbook, 'People, Places and Perspectives' was launched in December 2013 and has enjoyed good sales. The Year 9 edition is currently being written and

will be available for 2015 with the Year 10 edition to follow. Recently retired Curtin University geographer and Course Advisory Committee member Professor Roy Jones and Norm Snell are presently writing our new Year 11 ATAR Geography text.

Former GAWA President and AGTA board member Mike Hanrahan was the GAWA nominee and recipient of a PTCWA Outstanding Professional Service Award, recognizing his many years of service to geography teachers in WA and Australia in general.

The state government and the School Curriculum & Standards Authority released the new WACE ATAR and General Courses for Year 11 and 12 on 31st March. These new senior school courses

will be introduced to Year 11 students in 2015 and Year 12 in 2016. SCSA have determined to undertake a major review of all P – 10 Australian curriculum courses for Western Australia. To facilitate this review, separate 20 member cross sector and subject HASS P – 6 and 7 – 10 Course Advisory Committees are being formed by SCSA to review the AC: Humanities subjects during the second half of 2014. SCSA and the Minister of Education have determined that full implementation of AC: P – 10 courses will occur in 2017.

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### TGTA

TGTA ran a very successful Geography workshop with 85 primary and high school teachers from independent, catholic and government schools from around the state attending. It was presented by Malcolm McInerney with excellent verbal and written feedback from participants.

As a result of the workshop, four primary and high schools have joined TGTA. Membership, however, has stayed fairly stable with a number of retirements. There was a large increase in the numbers of students and schools from Tasmania participating in the Australian

Geography Competition in 2014. The number of students nearly doubled from 559 in 2013 to 1,031 and the number of schools was up from 15 to 26.

There is currently a vacuum in the writing of syllabuses for senior secondary courses with the assessment authority (TQA) withdrawing its services. A meeting called by the Secretary of the State Education Department agreed to the idea of the three education sectors working together on syllabus writing. Hopefully, the 3 sectors are discussing such a proposal so that writing can re-commence and new syllabuses (including Geography) can be written

and approved for 2015. The Geography syllabus is currently being written voluntarily by two teachers in their spare time.

Curriculum personnel started promoting the new Geography curriculum in the government sector in afternoon seminars in September around the state. They are also promoting the AGTA workshop with Malcolm at the end of their seminar and will advertise it in their curriculum newsletter so that all government schools are aware of it.

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