



AGTA's First Fifty Years

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Preface

It is hard to imagine that it is fifty years since the Australian Geography Teachers Association or AGTA was formed. The bringing together of the various geography teacher organisations from each state was a significant milestone in fostering the development of an association which represents geography teachers from across the country.

AGTA aims to maintain a professional network which can inform education decision-making bodies at a national scale. In addition, it provides a vehicle for the promotion and circulation of the results of research into geography education. AGTA and its members also work to foster the teaching and learning of geography in Australian schools and enhance awareness of its applications in society.

Geography teachers are well known for their collegiality, their willingness to share resources and, above all, their passion for the subject. This supplement highlights the positive attitude of those involved across the years, despite some bureaucratic roadblocks. It takes us from the AGTA's formation through the various

approaches to the subject, including the SOSE era, to the evolution of the Australian Curriculum: Geography.

The history of AGTA outlined here documents some of the many contributions made by key individuals across the years. As with its member organisations, AGTA is dependent on the goodwill and generosity of its Board members who have donated hours of their time. This has not only ensured the organisation has functioned smoothly but has enabled the development of significant curriculum resources which have not only benefitted AGTA financially, but have also enhanced teaching and learning across the country.

As this record of AGTA's past fifty years demonstrates, the strength of AGTA lies not in any one individual but in the collective group. I am honoured to be the current Chair of AGTA but I pay tribute to all Board members, past and present, for their contribution to our organisation.

Thank you to Nick Hutchinson for editing this important documentation of AGTA's first half century. I trust you will enjoy reading this account.