



AGTA Recollections by Kath Berg

Kath Berg

Formerly on the secretariat of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland

As Coordinator of the Australian Geography Competition from its start in 1995 until 2015, I participated in many AGTA meetings to report on the Competition, a joint project of AGTA and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. AGTA meetings are hard work. Instead of spending the weekend with family and friends, on Saturday you spend hours sitting in a meeting room concentrating on reports, and making hopefully intelligent contributions to discussions – and then you back it up with more hours on Sunday.

So, just like at Conferences, the food breaks are important. The meetings in Melbourne *take the cake* in this regard. The GTAV had a favourite caterer who always produced yummy and healthy finger food lunches, and at morning tea we were spoilt with home-made biscuits and slices from Leonie Brown. However, the morning tea highlight would have to be a Sydney meeting where we

were around the corner from a Max Brenner café. An indulgent hot chocolate was just the sugar hit we needed to get us through the day.

The Saturday night dinner, and drinks in a local pub beforehand, are a long AGTA tradition. This of course is not about the food but about networking. The socialising gave us all a chance to reinforce contacts and get new ideas from our colleagues from around Australia. It also was an opportunity to discuss, at greater length, issues that had come up at the meeting, but that needed more consideration before a decision was made on the Sunday.

In my early years at AGTA, there was another tradition – going to a casino after dinner. However, the thought of the meeting the next day usually sent me, and the less party-minded of the group, back to our beds.