

GEOGRAPHIA

Geographia is the national newsletter of the Australian Geography Teachers' Association Limited.

DECEMBER 2009

Occasional Newsletter of The Australian Geography Teachers' Association Limited

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AGTA Board Meeting 103 Melbourne Victoria October 2009

This is an incredibly busy time for Geography – a lot of things are happening including the National Geography Curriculum. In terms of the National Curriculum, at this meeting we will be investigating in full what has happened in the past, AGTA's work to date towards the National Curriculum, and what we propose for the future. A welcome to delegates from the ACT – Carol Pogson (Canberra Grammar School) and Karen Tuhan (Alfred Deakin High School), who are looking at re-establishing a Geography Association in the ACT.

The Board Meeting also encompassed the Annual General Meeting of AGTA. Election and appointment of the board was ratified:

- Chair – **Malcolm McInerney**
- Deputy Chair – **Grant Kleeman**
- Secretary – **Rebecca Nicholas**
- Treasurer – **Rob Berry**
- Elected Directors – **Stephen Cranby, Nick Hutchinson, Margaret McIvor, Emmy Terry**
- Public Officer – **Jeanna Kriewaldt**

Australian Capital Territory

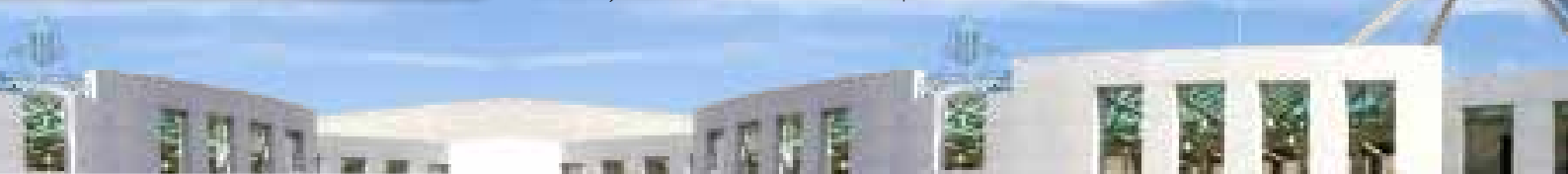
In establishing themselves in their formative year(s), delegates from the ACT proposed that they be accepted as a sub-branch of the GTANSW. As such ACT delegates would not fulfill a director's role but would be invited to attend board meetings. This option is still to be confirmed by the ACT branch as an alternative option is to become an incorporated association. AGTA will invite one delegate from the ACT to attend the next Board Meeting at a non-director level. The ACT branch may also opt to send a second delegate to the meeting at their own cost.

Capitation

Currently, capitation fees are \$13.20 (including GST). AGTA has become more visual and has taken a lead role with the National Curriculum. At the federal level, Government is only interested in talking to peak bodies. Three options were discussed - no change; small increment; CPI indexation. A letter will be sent to affiliates to determine the direction to be taken informing them of that fees be increased to \$15.00 (including GST). A special General Meeting will be conducted at the next Board Meeting to be held in May 2010, to address the issue of capitation.

Snippets

- AGTA is seeking Google Sponsorship for the conference. Although not big in sponsorship Google may be willing to provide some support for the Association.
- GTAV will coordinate the AGTA Awards – congratulations and thank you to South Australia for coordinating this important activity over the past three years.
- A GeoCareers Brochure has been developed to promote the website. Delegates are asked to promote this widely at this time when students are looking at their future options.
- Membership – invoices are sent out on 31 October 2009. Affiliates should identify total membership including students to determine the number of Geographical Education Journals required by affiliates. Affiliates who wish to provide the Journal to complimentary members (e.g. Life Members) must pay an affiliation fee for these members.





AGTA's GeoCareers Website

The GeoCareers website is a 'user friendly' resource for learning about geographical careers. The website contains resources and case studies of young people who have studied geography at school and see a link between what they learnt in geography and what they do in their job. The main sections of the website include:

Meet a Geographer

People who have studied geography are highly sought after in a wide range of careers for the special skills and knowledge they bring. In this section you can read about the interesting and rewarding careers in which people who have studied are employed. This section includes profiles of people working outdoors, indoors, helping people, engages in environmental care, sharing knowledge with others and undertaking research.

Studying Geography

Whether you are a secondary school student or enrolled in a tertiary institution such as a university or college this section will assist you to find the right course. It includes links to State and territory education departments, curriculum authorities and tertiary institutions offering geography.

Resources

A range of resources that help students make decisions about their future career include:

- Career pamphlets
- Online resources
- Geospatial careers
- Job search indexes
- Volunteer work

This is a great website for students, their teachers, career counsellors and subject/career selection personnel.



Geocareers Website

Only minor changes and revisions have been made to the GeoCareers website. Invitations to submit profiles have been sent, however, as yet response rates have been low despite follow-up letters being sent. Each affiliate was asked at the last AGTA Board meeting to make a special effort to send Rob Berry a list of people who might be invited to submit a profile for publication.

At present the major sections include Meet a Geographer, Studying Geography, Using Geography and Resources. Additions will

be made to each of these sections and if necessary, refined as the website extends its scope. Please forward suggestions of people who might be approached to submit a profile to Rob as there are still many career areas we would like to include. Please send the person's name, their email address and current area of employment to Rob (rberry@melbpc.org.au). Rob will then contact each person nominated and provide them with a standard proforma and agreement sheet.

Geography's Big Week Out

The 2009 Geography's Big Week Out will be held in Perth (Perth, Rottnest Island and Scarborough) from 7 to 11 December. A high-scoring male and female student in each State and the combined Territories, who are in Year 11 or lower, have accepted places, as have the next highest male and female student – a total of 16 students. It is worth noting that 9 of the 16 students are from outside capital cities (although 3 board at capital city schools). Australia's team to the 2010 International Geography Olympiad, 29 July - 4 August in Taipei, will be selected from this Big Week Out.



AGTA Website

The main changes made to the website have been the inclusion of a new section devoted to the AGTA 2011 conference in Adelaide. Graphic files and supporting material have been provided by Mark Manuel to enable an initial structure to be designed and populated with information. This will become an increasingly important section of the website providing information for participants, publishers and sponsors. Mark will provide Rob with updates during the lead up to the conference.

A new section providing links to Web 2.0 geography websites has also been added. This will provide a portal to a number of useful blogs, wikis, nings, forums, discussions and other participatory web applications that support geography teaching both in Australia and overseas.

Other changes to the website include updates to the news section, Board members, affiliate details, resources and the AGTA 2008 conference section. Updates have also been made to Geographia, the national geography curriculum website, standards for geography teaching and details of affiliate conferences. Please advise Rob of any changes to these details as they become known.

It is most important that affiliates forward details of changes when these occur so that the relevant pages can be updated. The listing of state conferences has been updated (where such details are known) with links to each state association's website.

Towards a National Geography Curriculum for Australia

The Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA), Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) and Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ) collaborated on a project, Towards a National Geography Curriculum for Australia.

The aim of the Project was to develop a joint statement to inform the rationale, content, structure and organisation of the forthcoming national curriculum in geography. The Project was led by a Steering Committee: Malcolm McInerney, Chair, AGTA; Kathryn Berg, Secretary, RGSQ; Nick Hutchinson, AGTA; Alaric Maude, IAG; Lucie Sorensen, RGSQ. Two experienced educators, Rob Berry and Roger Smith, were contracted to assist in the work of the Project, with Lucy Rahaley contracted to give advice on primary school aspects.

There was wide consultation with the geography community, starting with a meeting in Caloundra, coinciding with AGTA's biennial conference. This was followed later in the year by meetings in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. Input from these meetings, from over 125 responses to the online survey, from examination of Australian and selected overseas syllabuses, and from an extensive literature survey, resulted in a Background Report. This Report was the subject of more consultations, with feedback from written responses and from eight meetings – in the four cities above, plus Canberra, Darwin, Launceston and Perth. Based on the Background Report, feedback from the meetings and their own extensive reading the Steering Committee wrote the paper *Towards a National Geography Curriculum for Australia*.

In early June the Steering Committee found that the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) timeline for the development of the geography curriculum had been brought forward from what the Committee had been anticipating. The Committee took the decision that in order to maximize the influence of the Project, the final report should be sent to ACARA by 16 June. This entailed intensive work

Significant Timelines

The following ACARA timeline will give an idea of the 2009-2011 progression with the writing process for the national geography curriculum. Naturally, the time-line may change as time goes by but at this stage these are the dates, events and milestones ACARA has mapped out for the process:

- **October - December 2009:** The next phase is to write the initial advice paper for the national geography curriculum.
- National Forum to be held in Term 1 2010 in Sydney as ACARA will move to Sydney in December.
- **February 2010** national Forum to gather responses to the Initial Advice Paper.
- In **March 2010** ACARA will be advertising for writers.
- **February - March 2010** – Development of the Shape of Australian Curriculum: Geography Paper.
- **April 2010** – National consultation on the Shape of Australian Curriculum: Geography Paper.
- **June 2010** – Release of the final Shape of Australian Curriculum: Geography Paper.
- **June - December 2010** – Appointment of writers and an advisory group to develop the scope and sequence for the national curriculum. The writing to be accompanied by a consultation process for the scope and sequence document. Writing will be conducted in two 10 week blocks - scoping sequence for content description K-10;
- **September 2011** - content description; performance standards and elaborations finalized.
- **End of December 2010** - Draft Document will be published.
- **Beginning of 2011** – Consultation process.
- **January - June 2011:** Course writing in line with the final scope and sequence document for the national geography curriculum.
- **July 2011** – Publication of the final national geography curriculum.
- **January 2012** – Implementation of the National Curriculum.

and it was not possible to send a draft of the final report out to organisations for their feedback before submitting it. The report was therefore submitted with the disclaimer that it represented the view of the Steering Committee. ACARA has made it clear that its remit is to write the curriculum content descriptions and elaborations. ACARA will work in an ongoing collaboration with the jurisdictions and professional associations to meet the needs of teachers and students. This situation has prompted the Steering Committee to develop a submission to the Federal Government requesting funding to ensure that the new geography curriculum will be supported with appropriate and adequate teaching resources and professional learning opportunities for teachers across Australia. AGTA, IAG, RGSQ would join with other geographical organizations in this proposed project. To work on this submission have been taken from the *Towards a National Geography*.

ACARA is developing an internal position paper to address issues in geography including possible strands, possible senior courses, ICT and spatial technology, equity issues and crossover between science and geography. AGTA will have a significant role in working towards putting geography back into schools.

AGTA encourages all Australian geography teachers to keep informed of the ACARA process via their website at <http://www.acara.edu.au> and take advantage of the opportunities provided by ACARA and geography teachers' associations to feed comments and ideas into the process.

ACARA has not mandated hours for any subject – this has been stated within the Curriculum Design Paper. Possible hours are given to guide writers only. Schools are using the writers' hours as an indication to plan for the implementation of the discipline. Certification will belong to the states.

Geography Going National

agta 2011

Australian Geography
Teachers' Association

January 10-13, 2011
Scotch College, Adelaide,
South Australia
agta2011@scotch.sa.edu.au
www.agta.asn.au



AGTA Conference 2011

Theme GEOGRAPHY GOING NATIONAL
Venue: Scotch College, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Scotch College is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school of approximately 900 R-12 students. The College is set on adjoining campuses encompassing over 20 hectares. Set at the foot of the Mount Lofty Ranges, it is only eight kilometers from the Central Business district in Adelaide. We are pleased to announce that at this early stage, Dr Rita Gardner, Director of the Royal Geography Society in London has agreed to be our keynote speaker. Considering the experience her society and the UK Geography Association have had with the UK National Curriculum, her talk should be very influential in our implementation work with national geography in Australia. Much, much more will be communicated about this exciting geographical education event in coming months.

Program Outline

Monday 10 January 2011

– National Curriculum; Keynote plus workshops.

Tuesday 11 January 2011

– Fieldtrip Day 1

Wednesday 12 January 2011

– Fieldtrips Day 2

Thursday 13 January 2011

– National Curriculum; Keynote, panel discussion plus workshops; Conference dinner and close.

Social Events

Registration, welcome, drinks and BBQ on Sunday 9 January 2011; Tuesday: eating Out in Adelaide; BBQ and AGTA Cup Games; Pre-Conference winery Tour on Sunday to the McLaren Vale; post conference event in Adelaide is the TOUR down UNDER.

Accommodation options are currently being explored – budget accommodation – 60-80 single beds available at the Scotch Boarding House for \$40.00 per night including cooked or continental breakfast. Alternative options include: Caravan Parks sites and cabins; Beachside Parks; Hotels and Apartments – details will be provided at a later date.

Timeline

Sept 09: Fax out to all Secondary Schools: 50 expressions of interest so far from GTAV and Fax out.

Oct 09: Website development flyer to Affiliate Journals. Call for presenters through flyer and website

Jan/Feb 10: Fax out flyer and program brochure/booklet to state journals.

Feb/Mar 10: program finalized with abstracts.

April 10: Registrations open via website.

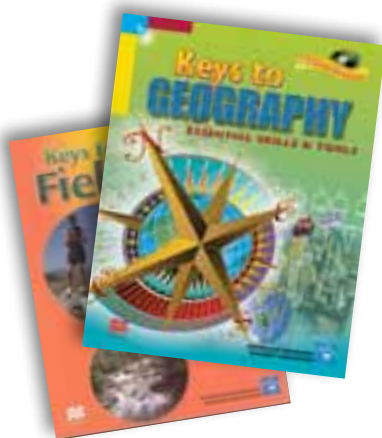
Oct 10: Early bird registrations close.

Nov 10: All registrations close.

Jan 11: Pre-conference Tour.

Keys to Geography

Edition 2



We are now well into the process of revising Keys to Geography for the second edition.

All major authors have kindly and generously agreed to revise their sections by the deadline of 7 November. Bob Digby is supporting the editing of the second edition. In addition others have offered to write new sections.

Proposal to produce a separate UK edition
Since the May 2009 report, Jeanna Kriewaldt negotiated a proposal from Macmillan to develop a UK edition which was subsequently revised twice. This proposal was put to the Geographical Association and they chose not to proceed.

There are still (at least) three reasons to produce Keys to Geography (UK)

1. AGTA has the potential to gain a new income stream (UK population is approx 61 million)
2. This project may strengthen the relationship between the Geographical Association which

has included collaboration in development of Olympics resources in 2008.

3. It is more efficient to review both products in parallel as some workload can be shared.

Jeanna also negotiated a new contract for Keys to Geography (Edition 2) which ensured no loss of entitlements for AGTA but which specifies the territory of the contract as Asia- Pacific. This means that AGTA has ownership of the word files to use as they wish outside the Asia- Pacific region. AGTA, for example, could enter into an arrangement with an organization to write for the UK market developing figures to suit that market. This opens up the possibility to come to an arrangement with the Geographical Association or another publisher and Bob will pursue this once we have the Australian edition submitted.

A full manuscript of the second edition will be delivered to MacMillan by 9 November with publication by August 2010.

Ensuring Quality Teaching in Geography

In partnership the Australian Geography Teachers' Association, Institute of Australian Geographers, National Committee for Geography of the Australian Academy of Science, Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Geographical Society of New South Wales and Royal Geographical Society of South Australia, a submission is being prepared to gain federal funding for a National Project to support teachers of the new geography curriculum led by the geographical profession.

Geography's need for Australian Government funding to support the implementation of the new curriculum is greater than that of any other subject, for the following reasons:

- Geography will be a subject in every year from K-12;
- Many of those teaching geography have limited formal training in the subject;
- There is no national program to improve teaching and learning in the discipline;
- Geography teachers students on topics and issues that are fast changing and sometimes contentious including environmental sustainability, climate change, diversity and difference, global interdependence and so on;
- The new curriculum is likely to require the teaching of digital technologies and most teachers have had no training in these technologies.

It is anticipated that the project will address three priority areas: materials for teachers and students on the new curriculum; professional learning programs for teachers; and a website as a focus of a nationwide learning community of geographers.

The National Project will have the following objectives:

- Build the capacity of teachers to deliver the national geography curriculum through a variety of professional learning programs;
- Support teachers in their own classrooms through the provision of high quality resource materials linked to the national geography curriculum;
- Develop communities of learning through which teachers can collaborate in continuous professional learning.

Three types of materials are being proposed:

- Electronic handbooks on the aims and philosophy of the new curriculum and on the methods of teaching it – primary and secondary.
- Substantial modules for teachers on content and ideas of each of the topics in the curriculum, with suggestions for teaching strategies.
- Units of work teachers can use in their classroom.

AGTA endorses the support of this proposal for the national geography curriculum project. Documents are currently being finalized in conjunction with partners.



Arc Linkage Project

Strengthening standards of teaching through linking standards and teacher learning: the development of professional standards for teaching school geography.

Project Phase 1:

All case studies are now complete (11 altogether). The final case study was conducted at Camberwell High School on Wednesday 22 April. Stephen Cranby's Year 9 class was filmed as they used ArcMap.

Project Phase 2:

Teacher panel meetings (18 projected altogether) have been conducted in 5 states (VIC – 4 panels; NSW – 2 panels; QLD – 1 panel; SA – 1 panel; WA – 1 panel).

Without exception, teachers have commented on how useful they have found the panel meetings in challenging their thinking about their own practice.

Teacher professional learning interviews:

In conjunction with the panel meetings, individual interviews are being conducted with participating teachers. Interviews are directed at exploring the links between activities directed at developing teaching standards (i.e. activities engaged in by panel members and their post-panel reflections) and teacher professional learning.

Towards Project Phase 3:

It is anticipated that a draft set of standards for the accomplished teaching of school geography will be available in late December 2009. Drawing on the interview data and field notes, analysis of the links between teaching standards and teacher professional learning is planned to inform the final design of the website. Our energies will also be directed to conceptualising and designing the final website.

Actions

1. Early next year we will ask affiliates to circulate details of the draft standards and invite feedback from members. This is part of the in kind contribution agreed at the start of the project.
2. Affiliates to consider:
 - including a brief launch of the standards in their annual conference in 2010.
 - offering workshops on Geography standards.



National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition



The final number of students participating in the 2009 Competition was 87,060 from 802 schools. This compares to 89,586 students from 819 schools last year.

Each student receives a detailed results sheet and a certificate in one of four categories – High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, and Participation. Winners of states and territories and very high-scoring students across Australia each receive a special certificate and a book prize. The prize-winning senior students also receive medals. Excluding participation in Geography's Big Week Out, prizes for 2009 were awarded to 15 students in the junior division, 31 students in the intermediate division and 9 students in the senior division. School prizes are based on the scores of the school's top five students under 16 years old and the top five 16 and over. In 2009 the school prizes were awarded to: ACT Canberra Grammar School; NSW Sydney Boys High School; Qld Ryan

Catholic College; SA Pembroke School; TAS Taroona High School; Vic Melbourne High School; WA Hale School.

Final for under 16s

The Final for under 16s was held in Sydney with the eight student finalists also spending the preceding weekend there. The weekend program included sea rafting in Chowder Bay, and dinner at King Street Wharf followed by the new Star Trek movie in Imax format. Sunday was to be the highlight with whale-watching from a sailing boat. It was certainly memorable, but not for the right reasons, with most of the students getting seasick. Still the sail out through the heads was very enjoyable, until the rough weather hit.

The Final for under 16s was held for the first time at Foxtel Studios, and filmed, which added another layer of complication. It was again compered by Jacinta Tynan of Sky News

and there was a "sell-out" crowd of students, teachers and other invited guests, including some of the other prize-winning students from Sydney. AGTA Chair Malcolm McInerney spoke at the Final. The questions in the Final covered a large range of topics: landforms, islands, cultural geography, Australian towns, etc. Another round used pieces of clothing – modeled by students from Ryde Secondary College – to support questions celebrating the International Year of Natural Fibres.

The results of the Final were:

- First **Nick Montgomery**, Melbourne Grammar School
- Second **Tim House**, Normanhurst Boys High School, Sydney
- Third **James Gillard**, Radford College, Canberra

Asia Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad

Australia participated for the first time in an Asia Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad at APRGO 09, held in Tsukuba, Japan, from 1 to 6 August 2009.

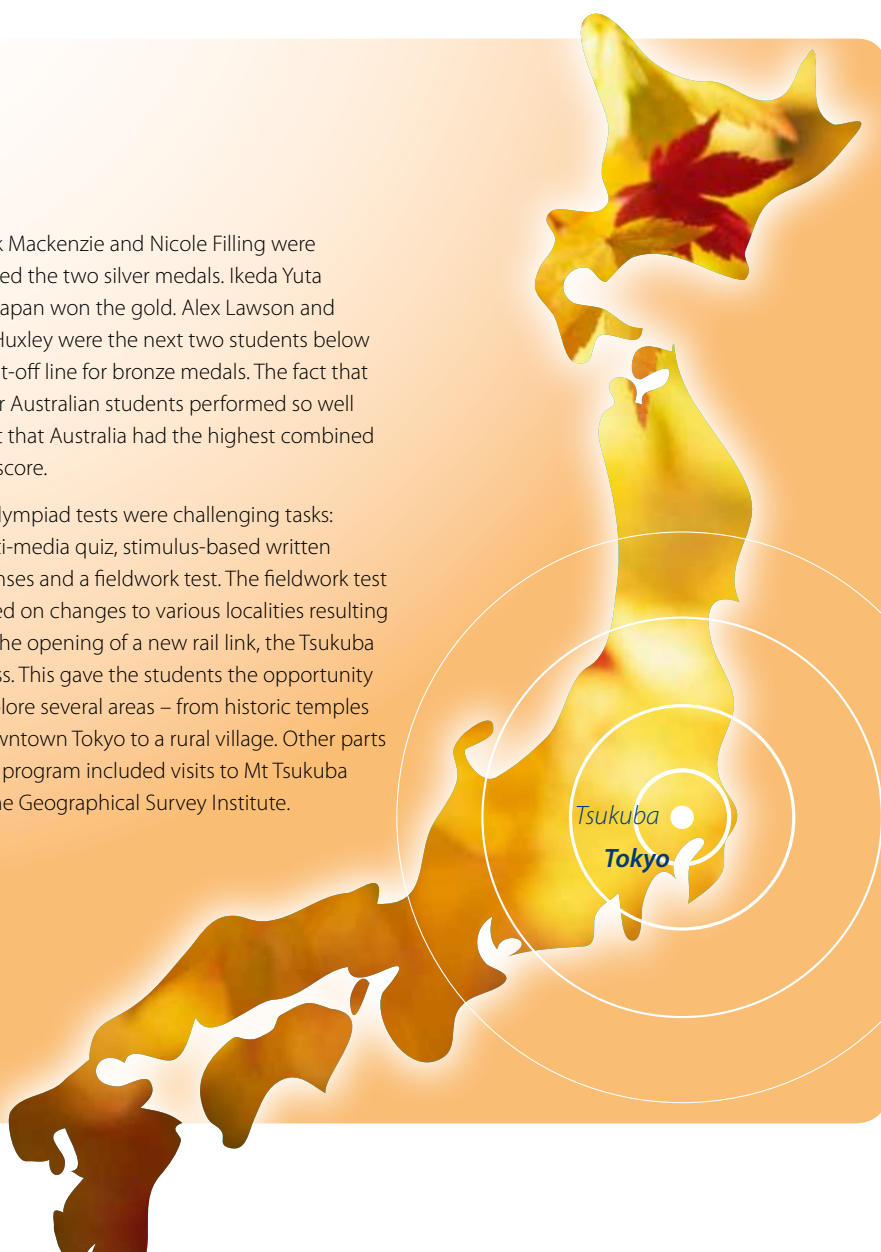
Countries taking part were Australia, Japan, Mexico and Taiwan. Australia's team was selected from students who competed in the senior level of the 2008 National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition, via Geography's Big Week Out:

- **Nicole Filling**
Geelong College
- **Pace Huxley**
Sydney Grammar School
- **Alex Lawson**
Brisbane Grammar School
- **Patrick Mackenzie**,
Christ Church Grammar School, Perth

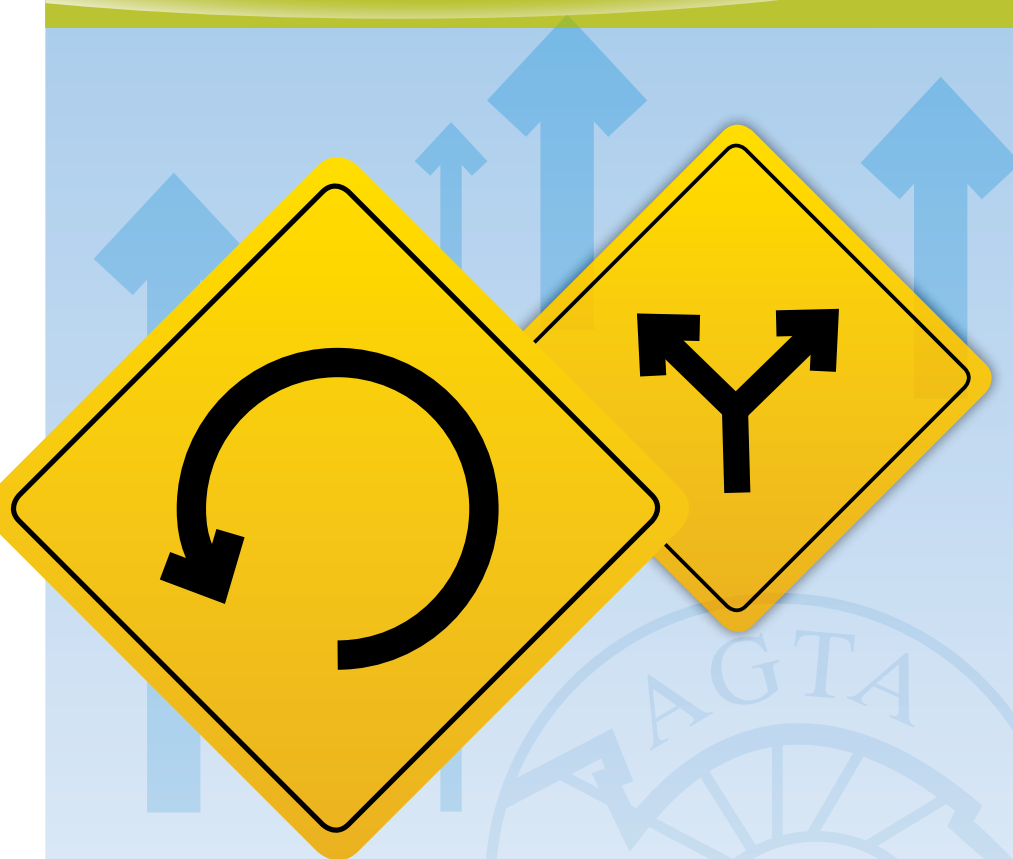
Patrick Mackenzie and Nicole Filling were awarded the two silver medals. Ikeda Yuta from Japan won the gold. Alex Lawson and Pace Huxley were the next two students below the cut-off line for bronze medals. The fact that all four Australian students performed so well meant that Australia had the highest combined team score.

The Olympiad tests were challenging tasks: a multi-media quiz, stimulus-based written responses and a fieldwork test. The fieldwork test focused on changes to various localities resulting from the opening of a new rail link, the Tsukuba Express. This gave the students the opportunity to explore several areas – from historic temples to downtown Tokyo to a rural village. Other parts of the program included visits to Mt Tsukuba and the Geographical Survey Institute.

The team was accompanied by Kath Berg and Margaret McIvor. As well as being responsible for the students, the leaders' roles include setting and marking questions in the tests, and for Kath, English editing of the tests.



National Education Forum



Chair, Malcolm McInerney attended the National Education Forum in Sydney in October and met with leaders in other teacher associations and discussed issues facing associations and the possibilities for co-operation. Malcolm identified the following as relevant points/information/perceptions in regards to AGTA:

- **Letter has been sent by the NEF** to Julia Gillard's office re: implementation of National Curriculum. No reply as yet. NEF will be following up with the letter.
- **Ministers should also get the submission** or reference to the fact that AGTA's submission has been sent to the Federal Minister because under National Partnership the jurisdictions will be responsible for implementation.
- **Nicole Panting from DEEWR** talked about the Improving Teacher Quality National Partnerships. Members of NEF at the meeting made it clear that in each state the associations played the key role in professional development and learning.
- As an ex-member of GAWA, Peter Hill also made it clear the associations had a key role to play in the implementation process and were crucial to professional learning of teachers at all stages. The point was made that it is important that a synergy is created between associations and jurisdictions now that the responsibility and funds for implementation of national initiatives such as the national curriculum has been devolved to states via the National Partnerships. Peter promised to take up this issue with DEEWR and Barry McGaw.
- **Peter Hill, ACARA CEO**, geography teacher and still passionate about the discipline of geography. Peter sees National Curriculum as an opportunity to get a national approach with curriculum and for curriculum to be a conduit to address teaching and learning.



National Geographic World Championship

Australia participated in the 9th National Geographic World Championship held in Mexico City from 11 to 16 July 2009.

This international contest, held every two years, is organised by the National Geographic Society. The teams taking part in 2009 were: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Taiwan, United Kingdom and USA. This is fewer teams than in previous years, as a result of a combination of the global financial crisis, swine flu and visa problems.

Each team consists of three students. Australia's team was selected from students who excelled in the intermediate levels of the 2008 and 2009 Australian Competitions. The first-placed student from each Final and one of the second-placed students (chosen by a 75-question decider) made up the team:

- David Giles, Pembroke School, Adelaide (2nd in 2008)
- Nick Montgomery, Melbourne Grammar School (1st in 2009)
- Miguel Vera-Cruz, Fort Street High School, Sydney (1st in 2008)

Australia performed very creditably, coming sixth, in a field where the top teams were reasonably close. The score range was 56 to 136, and Australia scored 112. This result is satisfactory as Australia chooses to design its national competition to match Australian needs, not to maximize our chance of winning in this international competition. In the Final for the top three teams, Canada was the convincing winner, with the United States coming second just one point ahead of Poland.

The National Geographic Society put on a great program for the students. Highlights included time spent in the historic centre of Mexico City and among the step pyramids at Teotihuacan. Following the World Championship, the Australian team (minus Nick who had to return to Melbourne) stayed a few extra days and travelled with the Taiwanese team to Oaxaca in southern Mexico. We also visited some of the villages in the area famous for their handicrafts and the archaeological sites of Monte Alban and Mitla.

Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) Council Meeting



At the Annual meeting Malcolm McNerney met with geography academics from around Australia and had the opportunity to inform academic geography leaders responsible for IAG activities about the work of AGTA and in particular the 'Towards a National Geography Curriculum' project and the ACARA National Geography Curriculum process. Malcolm invited IAG Council to participate in the action plans of AGTA over the next few years. In particular the proposed 'Ambassadors' program.

Relevant points/information/perceptions in regards to AGTA

- The IAG Council produces an excellent publication titled, 'Geographical Research'. The refereed journal is published 4 times a year and has very healthy readership (mainly electronically now) across the world. They have had some interesting issues with their publisher Wiley. We can learn quite a bit from their streamlined process and it would be worth us talking to the two retiring editors about their process and distribution strategy for the IAG

journal. It seems electronic journal is the way to go to improve readership and dispersal.

- Alaric Maude has written an article on the 'Towards a National Geography Curriculum' project for the next IAG 'Geographical Research' journal.
- The IAG will place the PowerPoint presentation and journal article on their website to inform their membership of the National Geography Curriculum work of the 'Towards a National Geography Curriculum' project and ACARA.
- The 'Ambassador's program is an ideal opportunity to develop a proposal to the IAG because for it to be successful the university geography department must be heavily involved in supplying the young people to be ambassadors.
- Half of the meeting was dedicated to the 'Towards a National Geography Curriculum' project report and the submission to the Federal Government. The meeting was very impressed and positive about AGTA's work

(and RGSQ) on the project and are keen to support the initiative in any way possible. They are happy to be signatures to the Federal submission and will consider the edited promotion strategy and 'Ambassadors' proposal.

- One study group is planning to go to web 2.0 technology to encourage discussion. The IAG website has the ability to be interactive this technology. AGTA could investigate for its website to improve interactivity and communication to members. AGTA also needs to look at the member's only aspect of the IAG website.



Teacher guide

Pacific Neighbours: Understanding the Pacific islands has been produced to help students develop their knowledge and understanding of the Pacific region, its history and geography, its political and social development, and its people and their cultures. They will examine a range of issues that impact on the region, consider Australia's place and role in the Pacific and explore opportunities to take action.

This book is designed for students in Years 7–10 in all states and territories of Australia. It aims to develop the key concepts, processes (social, historical and geographical inquiries), skills and values that will enable students to gain a deep knowledge of the Pacific region.

Australia is geographically located in the Pacific region, and the Pacific island countries are our closest neighbours, so developing our appreciation of the countries in our region is a fundamental step towards fulfilling our role as responsible global citizens.

The countries of the Pacific Islands Forum, excluding Australia and New Zealand, are the main focus of this book: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru,

Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Some of these island nations are made up of thousands of micro-cultures.

Structure and key concepts

Pacific Neighbours: Understanding the Pacific islands provides teachers with a variety of source material and inquiry-based teaching activities to encourage students to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills and to consider their own level of engagement with their Pacific neighbours.

Each chapter begins with a general summary and a list of key words, then includes a variety of texts, tables, maps and graphs that can be explored through three levels of thinking

– 'Thinking about', 'Thinking more deeply' and 'Collecting our thoughts'. End-of-chapter activities can be used to stimulate discussion around the theme and explore possibilities for taking action. Teachers may integrate the content and teaching activities in their geography, history or economics curriculum, or select short sections for deeper study, or allocate a particular country to small groups for investigation.

The first chapter gives a brief overview of the geographic, socioeconomic and cultural features of the Pacific island countries. It includes important background information that will support the achievement of the learning outcomes in the other five chapters which are structured around the learning emphases of *Global Perspectives: A framework for global education in Australian schools*.

Summary of chapter 1

Chapter 1 – Let's get specific about the Pacific!

This chapter starts with an overview of the geographic, socioeconomic and cultural features of the Pacific island countries. Students will be given opportunities to observe, record and describe the social and physical environmental patterns of activity.

AFSSSE

Arab Project
Asia Pacific

Further information is available on:

www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go/pid/140
www.agta.asn.au

TAS

Tasmanian Geography Teachers Association

Membership

Membership currently stands at 19 teachers (16 teaching Geography and 3 without a class this year) due to the increasing number of schools and colleges teaching Geography this year. As in 2008, I have made membership free to all Geography teachers in 2009 to maintain a viable membership base. I will continue to compensate financially by charging a little more for any resources produced by AGTA. Members are now mainly from Year 11/12 government colleges and private schools. These are the only places where Geography is still taught as a distinct subject. At government high schools where the Tasmanian Curriculum is taught from Year 7 to 10, Geography is a part of a large group of subjects called Society and History.

Professional Development

A Statewide PD session for Geography teachers was held on 10th March in Launceston to discuss the future of Year 11 and 12 SOSE subjects, as all

these subjects are up for re-accreditation in 2009. Geography teachers submitted a strong recommendation that Geography be re-accredited in its present form until the introduction of the National Curriculum.

Similarly, a Statewide session for Geography teachers was held on Saturday 9th May in Launceston to discuss the background report on the National Geography Curriculum, chaired by Rob and Roger. Out of the 19 members, 10 were able to make the trip to Launceston. There was also some time for teachers to share resources and ideas.

Curriculum Developments in Tasmania

Post Year 10 – the major re-structure of TAFE and Year 11 and 12 Colleges into Academies and Polytechnics has occurred with all of TAFE and half of the colleges making the transition in 2009. The other colleges are now not likely to follow until 2011. Many of the systems, such as , finance, enrolment, attendance, student databases, leadership structure and ICT were not ready at the start of the year and this has led to ongoing problems all year, many of which still have not been rectified.

Present colleges are unlikely to join until there are major improvements or a change in government (state election in March next year).

Other Activities and Developments

The present Geography syllabus has been re-accredited until the introduction of the National Curriculum for Geography. Introductory foundation courses have also been written for SOSE syllabuses. The foundation course for Geography is called World and the Environment.

Issues or Problems

The restructure of Post Year 10 education should have allowed more opportunities for consultation and interaction between the newly formed Academies and the University of Tasmania. That is one of the main purposes of it. However, overcoming the ongoing problems with the restructure has resulted in very little time being available in 2009.



QLD

Geography Teachers Association of Queensland

Membership

Membership is similar to the corresponding period for 2008. Membership continues to be relatively stable at 214 total members (as at 15 October 2009).

Professional Development

- Three GIS and spatial technology workshops were held in 2009: Townsville, Gold Coast and Toowoomba. These sessions were subsidised by GTAQ to members and they were run by Contour - Education-Mick Law.
- GTAQ is hosted its State conference on 1st August this year at the University of Queensland with the theme - Q150:
- Past, Present and Future. The day was a huge success with close to a hundred delegates, a range of trade and publisher displays, heaps of opportunities to mix and mingle with colleagues as well as listen to some topical professional discussions. Areas included the

position of Year 10 in the curriculum, QSA Guidelines, learning about wikis, blogs and pod casts, geocaching and sexing it up in the city with SIMCITY. Adjunct Professor in Urban Design (QUT), John Byre held the audience captivated with his keynote address on the links between urban design, sustainability and planning. By exploring the recent award winning CPTED Guidelines he discussed strategies and recommendations to develop supportive social environments.

- The University of Queensland hosted its highly successful Careers Day on the 24 July. This day incorporates lectures and presentations for students about the huge range of careers and options available to them at after a Geographical course of study at school or university. Meegan has been approached to organize the 2010 conference at the same venue and rooms and caterers have already been booked.

Currently there are 299 schools studying Geography at senior level in 13 districts. SE Qld makes up over half the numbers in total, with Brisbane Central (29) and Sunshine Coast (29) as the two largest individual districts.

Publications and Projects

GTAQ has continued its promotion of the discipline through the sale of AGTA posters. Furthermore, the Brisbane City Council has invited GTAQ to collaborate with them to produce materials. Michael Rohweder will represent GTAQ.

Issues

Revenue raising - This needs to be considered in the context of providing members with more professional development opportunities and resources – servicing members. Possible membership rise at AGM.

Web site management - David Lergessner is currently managing the web site and updating information however this may not be the case in 2010 as David has flagged his desire for more travel in coming years.



SA

Geography Teachers Association of South Australia

Membership

Membership currently stands at 123. As anticipated there were more members that subscribed for the conference.

Professional Development

GIS training was held over two days and conducted by Mick Law of Contour Education with the support of the GTASA. GTASA provided publicity to members and sent flyers to schools. The training was hosted at Pembroke School with use of the computer network and facilities.

GTASA Annual Conference was held May 14 and 15 with the theme "Resourceful Geography". It was well attended with a variety of attendees from Government and Independent schools as well as some student teachers. The conference incorporated a repeat program to allow attendees to attend as many of the workshops as possible. A popular choice of workshop focused on the relatively new Year 12 Course. As SA enters a new phase next year with the introduction of the new SACE, GTASA is expecting teachers to seek further support in the teaching of senior Geography. Fieldwork sessions were conducted on the afternoon of the second day which enabled all participants to engage in practical fieldwork. Key note speakers included Graeme Hugo on migrants and remittances as a development strategy and Alan Nobel on the flexibility offered by Google.

At the conference there was also a session on the work of the steering committee regarding the progress of the National Curriculum for Geography. Conference participants were able to ask questions and get a better understanding of the process and anticipated outcomes. Conference feedback was positive and GTASA have made plans to run the conference a little later in Term 2 next year at the end of May 2010.

Regional Support – Clive West, a long term member of the GTASA Executive travelled to Clare to provide a PD session for teachers on the teaching of geography in the Middle Years. He showed them some simple lesson plans and shared resources.

DD HARRIS Award

The annual DD Harris award for excellence in geography teaching was awarded to Greg Way and we also acknowledged long service to the GTASA from Fran Slater with a special award for her years of involvement with the GTASA executive.

WILKINS Award / EDEN Prize

The Wilkins Award was presented for the second year to students with a particular focus on environmental studies. In addition the GTASA was able to manage the running and awarding of the first Eden Prize since the 1960's. This was awarded to a Year 10 student in a Government School who wrote an essay on "How to make the world a more sustainable place".

Malcolm McInerney has been instrumental in reinstating the award and linking it to the work of the GTASA.

Publications and Projects

Study Guide- the editors are hard at work revising the last edition and giving it a new look. Publication date will be early in term 1 2010 to ensure that students have full access

to the advice on the two external assessments. GTASA has decided not to include the exam from 2010 as many teachers prefer to use this as their trial exam later in the year.

Map Kit – progress has been made on the production of a new Map Kit to follow the success of the Goolwa Map Kit which is now sold out. Subject to demand GTASA may conduct another print run next year. It is anticipated that publication will be in early term 1 2010.

Year 12 Geography Student Night – was organised by Rita Shepherd in conjunction with the University of Adelaide. Again it was a great success with the event booked out and very positive comments coming from all attendees. A series of short presentations was given by some of the University lecturers that linked to the examined topics of the Year 12 syllabus.

- Professor Graeme Hugo-New Global Migration: Some Implications for Australia
- Dr Douglas Bardsley-Geographers Responding to Climate Change
- Dr John Tibby-Water Resource Issues in the Lower Murray Darling Basin

Their presentations are available to download on the GTASA website.

Action for Promotion of Geography

- People who have signed onto the GTASA updates list via the website continue to be sent regular information updates.
- The GTASA Conference several awards have been presented:
- The Wilkins Prizes for student Environmental Action
- DD Harris Awards for Excellence in Geography Teaching

- The Eden Prize that focuses on sustainability
- 30 Years of service to GTASA

An open session on the progress towards the National Curriculum at the annual conference.

Updates in the GTASA journal of the progress towards the National Curriculum.

Curriculum Developments

New SACE is slated to begin teaching Year 11 in 2010. The current Y10 cohort is completing the Personal Learning Plan and Year 12 teaching will occur in 2011. All subjects in Year 12 must have 30% external assessment and no assessment component will be used to moderate another e.g. exam performance will no longer be used to moderate school assessed work.

In Year 12 all students will do a Research Project on any topic (worth 10 points/semester subject) plus 4 subjects (grouping of subjects has been abolished) In Year 12 the TER will be calculated on their 3 best subjects /20 plus the best of either their 4th subject, or ½ the 4th subject and the Research Project.

There is general tension and nervousness from the Geography teaching fraternity (in fact all senior teachers in SA) as the new curriculum is moving towards the use of Performance Standards which is a major shift in pedagogy. The SACE board of SA has actively sought assistance from all the Subject Associations in order to develop support materials for the new course. As GTASA is a volunteer organisation it has been difficult for teachers to allocate time to this.

It is anticipated that enquiries to the website will increase exponentially early next year as teachers come to terms with the new course and seek affirmation from their colleagues.

Numbers in Year 12 Geography are stable at this stage. However the New SACE does not require students to select language rich subjects as well as quantitative subjects and so there is anticipation that some subjects will see a big drop in numbers at Year 11 and Year 12.

Languages are particularly vulnerable as well as the humanities generally. It is likely that we may initially see a drop in numbers.

With the advent of the New SACE some schools that offer the IB program are seeing an increase in uptake. Once metropolitan school has seen a shift to 50% of the cohort opting for the IB program. GTASA may see members seeking assistance in the teaching of IB geography in the future?



NSW

**Geography Teachers Association
of New South Wales**

The GTA has had another successful year, especially in terms of the scope of its professional development program.

Membership

GTANSW has 400 fully paid-up members. We still hope to secure a total membership of 500 by the end of 2010. It is the GTANSW's intention to send out the membership renewal forms for 2010 in mid-November. This will bring forward our principal income flow. Membership fees now provide the Association with an income base of approximately \$70,000.00.

Global Education

The GTA has been associated with AusAid's Global Education initiative for two contractual periods. Dr Sue Bliss has managed the project over this time and is to be congratulated on its tremendous success. The strength of the program is, in no small measure, due to Sue's passionate commitment to the ideals of Global Education.

The GTA will continue to be an active supporter of Global Education. We will receive \$16,000 a year to support a range of Global Education initiatives including a GE issue of the Geography Bulletin.

Geography Bulletin

The *Geography Bulletin* continues to be the principal means by which the Association communicates with, and supports the work of, its members in schools. The design of the journal continues to evolve and costs have been reduced substantially through more competitive pricing, aligning the print run to the number of members and moving the design process to the PTC. We hope to further reduce the cost of producing the journal in coming months.

The amount (and in some instances the quality) of the material submitted for publication has increased. Upcoming issues of the journal will focus on water and values education, with a supplementary focus on Global Education issues.

Sue Field will edit the water issue and has volunteered to edit two issues in 2010.

Website

The Association's website, ably managed by Martin Pluss, continues to be upgraded and made more accessible. This ongoing process will be made a priority in 2010.

Professional Development Initiatives

The GTA's year got off to a busy start with a range of professional development activities. The first

event was the HSC Exam Review meetings held at St Ignatius College and Merewether High School in Newcastle. These well-attended gatherings were followed by a series of Geography skills workshops held in Sydney (Leichhardt), Wollongong (Dapto) and Newcastle (Wallsend). Again these activities were highly popular, especially with those teachers of Geography without an academic background in the subject.

The achievements of last year's HSC students were recognised at an awards ceremony held at Sydney's Intercontinental Hotel. The teachers of the top 10 candidates in HSC Geography also had their achievements celebrated.

Towards the end of first term, the GTA held a well-attended forum on the National Geography Curriculum at its base in Leichhardt. This forum is an important element in the development of the National Curriculum for Geography. The outcome of the consultation process is the publication of a position paper: Towards a National geography Curriculum for Australia, the latest version of which can be accessed at: <http://www.ngc.org.au/> The paper is an initiative of the Australian Geography Teachers' Association Ltd. (AGTA), the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland (RGSQ), and the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG).

Term 2 featured a series of workshops on Engaging Students in Geography (Years 7-10). These were held in Sydney (Taronga Zoo), Newcastle (Catholic Education Office), Wollongong (Nan Tien Temple) and Canberra (Indonesian Embassy). Sue Bliss and Sue Field coordinated these well-received activities.

Also in Term 2 was a Leadership Conference, a joint initiative with the Economics and Business Studies Association. The Conference was held at the Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College in North Sydney. Sarah Manassa, ably assisted by other Council members, coordinated this very successful activity on behalf of the GTA.

Towards the end of Term 2 the GTA held its annual HSC Student Lecture Days in Wollongong (University), the Central Coast (Brisbane Waters Secondary College), Sydney (St Andrews College) and Newcastle (Callaghan College). More than 400 students attended the lectures, which were well received. Lorraine Chaffer, Rod Land, David Hamper, Chris Tanna, Aaron Williams all contributed to the program of lectures and Keith Hopkins, John Lewis, Ray McCosker and Cath Donnelly helped facilitate the activity. A big thank you to all those involved.

The final activity of the first half-year was a workshop focusing on Warragamba Dam as a Fieldwork Location. Sue Field coordinated this new initiative and Susan Bliss and Pam Gregg provided

valuable support. Further activities related to water will be conducted over the next 18 months as a result of our successful Water for Life funding application. Sue Field has taken a leadership role in this element of the GTA's program.

Early in Term 3 the GTA held two professional development activities for members. The first of these, a collaboration with the DET, was a broadcast to remote DET schools on the topic: Origins of the continent from an Aboriginal perspective. This provided an opportunity for students and teachers to speak with and listen to Bob Randall, an Aboriginal Elder and traditional owner of Uluru. Bob has been awarded the honour of Indigenous Person of the Year. He is well known for his singing and song-writing, but more recently for the DVD Kanyini explaining the Aboriginal connection to the land. The second major event was the Association's Annual Conference at Parliament House in Macquarie Street. The theme of the conference was: Future Challenges for Australia. Bob Randall was one of the keynote speakers at the conference talking about reconciliation in Australia and issues for the Mutjulu community at Uluru. Also contributing was Malcolm McNerney and Lucie Sorensen (the National Curriculum), Professor Nicholas Klomp (Environmental Sustainability) and Ed Santow (Human Rights). Sarah Menassa, Sue Field and Sharon Mclean are to be congratulated on putting together such an excellent conference program. Thanks also to all the members of Council who helped out on the day. The GTA has also been supportive of the project to develop a set of national standards for Geography teachers.

The final events for 2009 will be the Association's Governor Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Awards and a workshop at Olympic Park: Water: Making a difference coordinated by Sue Field.

While the size of GTA's program has expanded significantly in recent years there are, I believe, a number of issues that need to be addressed. These include:

- not allowing the program to become too closely identified with a small group of contributors;
- ensuring that the program is not too narrowly focused;
- the need to involve the younger members of Council in the delivery of the professional development program; and
- ensuring that we meet the challenge of supporting the introduction of the National Curriculum for Geography.



Membership

The Association is robust and strongly supported by its membership, which remains stable at 250. Most schools in the state that offer Geography are members. Issues and factors relating to the introduction 52 new courses for Year 11 and 12 have caused a reduction in Geography student numbers.

Professional Learning

- Cheryl O'Connell convenor of the Professional Development Committee organised the Winter Solstice Professional Development commencing with a breakfast at Hillary's Boat Harbour and then on to the Fisheries Department facilities nearby. A relatively new education centre called **The Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre** is incorporated within the facility. The facility is a useful resource for those schools studying the Stage 2B Course –renewable resources and sustainability.
- GAWA was represented at the June 'Promoting Society and Environment Conference' held at the Constitution Centre of Western Australia. Phil Houweling from John Calvin Christian School and Denise Moore from Penrhos College ran sessions to promote best practice in the subject and foster Geography teaching and Geography skills in lower secondary years. Their contribution was well received by approximately 70 attendees.
- The highlight for the year has been our annual Conference themed **"In a Brave New World"**. The first keynote speaker Richard Weller, Professor of Landscape Architecture, UWA, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, spoke of a visionary plan for Perth through the use of his research and subsequent book; **Boomtown 2050: Scenarios for A Rapidly Growing City**. Charles Johnson, Executive Planner – Special Projects for the Office of the Director General, was the second keynote and complemented the visionary reflection of Professor Weller with the actual planning and modeling input that has derived Perth Directions 2031: **New Spatial Framework Plan for the development of the Perth & Peel Regions**.

- GAWA collaborated with the Curtin University of Technology School of Agriculture and Environment Muresk Campus to produce a Broadsheet. This was presented as class sets to all conference participants, providing detailed data and stimulus material to support the Stage 2B Mixed Crop and Livestock Agriculture context. Eloise Paust and Norman Snell are to be congratulated for their efforts.
- There was also an array of fieldwork opportunities with direct links to all the Geography WACE stages. Michael Bourke from the Department of Fisheries demonstrated the links and resources to support the Stage 2B Course. Peter Monks, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Perth, dealt with Stage 3A planning issues for the city whilst, Sue Martin from Penrhos College, undertook an excellent and practical fieldtrip for the Stage 1 Course. Phil Houweling shared his technological expertise with practical GIS in the field and lab.
- Prior to the conference, a small group of teachers met with Jeanna Kriewaldt and Sarah-Louise North to complete the consultation process for the joint AGTA and Melbourne University project that is looking to develop National Geography Standards. The consultation and construction of these standards will assist our Geography teachers in guiding professional development and ensure a profile at a national level.
- GAWA presented the final round of TEE revision seminars North and South of Perth, Bunbury and Esperance to approximately 365 students.
- In September, Cathy Henkel writer, producer and director of the **Burning Season**, met with GAWA representatives to discuss her film as a relevant resource for all stages of the new Geography Course. It is hoped that the film will be introduced at the AGM. Planning is underway for the AGM be held at the Perth Zoo to combine with a screening of the **Burning Season**. The date is yet to be confirmed but is typically scheduled for November.
- This year GAWA was invited to join in the organisational committee of the teacher stream for the **WALIS (Western Australian Land Information System)** Conference 12 – 13 November 2009, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. This is a premier event for the spatial science community with around

800 delegates and provides an opportunity for teachers to hone their Geographic Information Systems expertise.

- http://www.walis.wa.gov.au/forum/teachers_stream/professional-development-program-outline/

Resources/Publications

- Hazards, Impacts and Responses** by Norman Snell has sales of 2212 and has had to be reprinted.
- Sustainable Planet** by Tamara Boyer has sold 2134 and is about to be reprinted.
- With the new course invigilated for the first time next year, the last edition of A Student's Guide to the Geography TEE, compiled by Alan May.
- The Curriculum Council has stated they will be producing resources to develop standards in all areas which may impact on GAWA's revision book publication. This text has been a relatively stable revenue stream for the Association. The Association will be considering how to support course revision for the new Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) exam.
- To support Geography teachers as they become familiar with the WACE Course, GAWA is about to publish our new Stage 3 text: Our Global Future: Planning for Cities and Climate Change, written by Kathryn Ford and Norman Snell.
- GAWA Exam Papers** - In January GAWA Council made the decision to produce Trial Examinations. With limited resources to support the new course the decision was to produce a broadsheet and exam paper for the Stage 2 course and a 'swansong' Mock TEE exam for the trusty E code. The Bulletin
- Under the guidance of Editor Anne Tumak, the **GAWA Bulletin** in its new form has been well received. There has been a greater emphasis on the provision of classroom teaching resources, articles and the publication of useful websites and events.
- Website** - The new GAWA website is nearing completion. The web convenor, Rob McFarlane, has the template GAWA hopes to have it ready for an official launch at the AGM. In the meantime, the current site has a high degree of currency and will continue to do so until the replacement is ready.

Australian Geography Competition - Results have been sent to schools for the *National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition* with. I was delighted to have been able to present awards to winners to a number of students from both private and public schools.

The **Big Week Out** (BWO) is being hosted by GAWA in 2009 and 2010. Mike Fazio and the BWO Committee are currently engaged in developing a fantastically rich and diverse Geography program for the week.

The *John Forrest Awards* are yet to be finalised. At the planning committee meeting in January, strategies to better promote this award will be considered. GAWA hopes to align it to the new course so that it can be completed as part of the teaching and learning program. It will focus on the provision of a purposeful assessment with practical application of the Geography course.

Issues

With the implementation of the new WACE Geography Course and its first external exam next year, there is considerable tension about the composition of the exam.

One official sample for each stage will be produced for release in February next year.

There are concerns about the lack of time to consider the implications of the exam on course development.



VIC

Geography Teachers Association of Victoria

Since the last AGTA meeting the Association has been busy celebrating its 50th birthday.

Professional Development

Over 100 Geographers attended a dinner to celebrate the GTAV 50th birthday celebrations held concurrently with the Annual Conference dinner. One significant speech on the occasion was the speech inaugural GTAV President, Alex Lyne. Significantly, Alex will celebrate his 100th birthday on October 23. His speech was remarkably informative and brought the odd tear to many. This occasion was also marked by the production of the "The First Fifty Years" booklet which chronicled each decade, highlighting key challenges of the Association at that point in time. We thanked two key people with these events: Rob Berry and Geoff Patterson. The next edition of the Oral History for GTAV has been finished and will be in print by the end of the year. This will be an important resource for Geographers and those interested in curriculum in the future.

Approximately 300 people attend the GTAV annual conference in August. Student lectures were popular with over three hundred attendees. In November GTAV is hosting a VCE Conference and hope that 100 teachers will participate in this activity.

GAGE Award for Geographic Excellence

The Association was also celebrating the GAGE Award for excellence in Geographic education being given to Geoff Patterson. Geoff has been a quiet achiever of the Association. GTAV was delighted to recognize Geoff's achievements.

Resources/Publications

The GEP with the support of the GTAV has been successful in tendering for delivering Aus Aid programs over the next three years. The GTAV also tendered with a University for an extensive assessment project which covering Geography, PE and Thinking Processes. Although unsuccessful, GTAV felt that the experience gained was worth the effort.

Conversations with VCAA, the organization responsible for senior courses and exams has indicated that they will not consider a course review until the National Curriculum is implemented. Under normal circumstances the GTAV earns considerable funds in the first year of a new course as a result of increased professional learning and the production of a new senior text. This will create a gap GTAV finances. As a consequence the Association has been cost cutting expenses and reviewing the manner in which it services teachers.

To circumvent this loss of expenditure, some innovative strategies are being implemented:

- Producing a supplement to the current senior textbook. This will have two chapters; one on population change and the other on the Murray Darling Basin. These represent the compulsory units at year 12.

- Developing a second publication is a Geospatial Skills book for junior secondary students. This publication is also aimed at assisting teachers without Geography background. We also plan for more publications next year.
- Increasing the range and offerings of the Professional Learning program in 2009, as an additional service to teachers.
- Developing more GIS professional learning activities.
- Engaging with the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne to develop a GIS fieldwork activity on the renewed Guilfoyle's Volcano. This is a re-establishment of an old relic in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. The site has been buried and "lost" over many years and is now in the process of being re created as a water storage area and sustainable garden exhibition. GTAV is delighted to be in partnership with the RBG and hope that this is the start of closer links. Out of this initial partnership will come more fieldwork activities for teachers and students. The written materials produced from this partnership will also be co branded, RBG and GTAV.
- Contemplating putting the GTAV News on line and membership access and rights to our website are being investigated.





Teaching Australia

Teaching Australia is in flux awaiting DEEWR to make decisions on its future. Hence the meeting was not as action based as previously. Too many unknowns meant that no decision could be made in relation to creating an on-going teacher association network.

ACARA continues to not see their role as implementing national curriculum. ACARA is saying that the associations will have a key role in implementation and providing professional learning.

Malcolm sees the key action being to work with NEF to investigate possibilities for the future of association networks.

Points for associations to consider:

- Ensure clarity of purpose: Defining the mission of our association – plus five or six objectives to achieve the Mission.
- Make practical plans with objectives linked to 'activity based costing' budgets and financial reports.
- Should the structure of the association be a federal body with separate state and territory associations compared to single-entirety national associations? This would reduce duplication of resources, be national in membership, enable pooling of resources and gain economies of scale.
- What is the correct level of equity and hence profit required to attain this? Be strategic, spend if required or plan to increase cash-flow if not.
- Can we afford not to have staff? Can we afford to have staff? With staff the Board moves from management to governance. Having staff should be money making in potential.
- Constitution should be easy, understandable, up-to-date and reviewed regularly (5 years at least). Constitution does not have to be a micro-manager!
- Consider the size (9-12), composition (non-teachers?), balance between fresh ideas and institutional memory and term limits (yearly elections).
- Develop a marketing strategy to recruit new Board members.
- To attract members, find out what they need.
- Being commercialised as an association is not a dirty word! Is a means to develop cash-flow and service members.

Geographical Education

Volume 22

Geography Teaching Standards in Australia the revised theme for 2009 volume 22 of *Geographical Education*. This volume will be timely as we move towards having standards for teachers in a range of discipline areas – especially ones that are already announced in the new national curriculum.

Volume 22 will build on the papers in volume 21 on Australia's national curriculum. So as a form of national curriculum is released, so too will a form of teaching standards be available for use (albeit with slightly different timeframes).

Nick Hutchinson and Malcolm McInerney are the main people looking after the development of this year's *Geographical Education*, with Office Logistics the publishing of the journal. It is anticipated that the journal will be published and distributed during January 2010.

Geoffrey Paterson will be editing editor of the book reviews and other learning resources in that section of the journal as usual.

Volume 23

In 2010 the theme noted in earlier reports will be: *Geography in Australia's national curriculum* and a number of papers from different writers has already been received for next year's journal. More for review are always welcome!

Opportunity is available for jurisdictions (affiliates) to provide a snapshot of the National Curriculum from a state perspective.



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