

geographia



AGTA News
Dec 2014



AGTA Conference



Review of Australian
Curriculum



State Association Reports
*see what's happening
around the country...*

December 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 Association.

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

[New South Wales](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Victoria](#)

[Western Australia](#)

- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates

- | | |
|--------|------|
| GTANSW | GTAV |
| GHTANT | GTWA |
| GTAQ | TGTA |
| GTASA | |



Glacier - New Zealand

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.



We are looking forward to seeing you all at the conference!

There will be a tribe of Australian Geography teachers making their way across the Tasman to take part in the AGTA conference in January.

You can see what's on offer and get a taste of the area through these links:

[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.

- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates
 - GTANSW GTAV
 - GHTANT GTWA
 - GTAQ TGTA
 - GTASA

AGTA website

The [Australian Geography Teachers Association Website](#) is your 'go-to' site for any information about AGTA and national geography issues and activities. 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](#).

AGTA is proud to be a founding member of the newly formed AAAE.

AAAE

AGTA is proud to be a founding member of the newly formed [AAAE](#). This 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. The AAAE has begun to develop Position Statements on a variety of issues of interest to educators, please check the website for further information.

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

Thinking Geographically

'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



GeoCareers

- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates

- | | |
|--------|------|
| GTANSW | GTAV |
| GHTANT | GTWA |
| GTAQ | TGTA |
| GTASA | |

The Australian Federation Of Societies For Studies Of Society And Environment

The Australian Federation Of Societies For Studies Of Society And Environment (AFSSSE) is a consortium of four professional associations, namely the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), the Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA), Business Educators Australasia (BEA) and the Social Educators Association of Australia (SEAA). AGTA has a representative that attends meetings and the group periodically produces relevant resources that can be utilised in the geography classroom. Check the [website](#) for more information.

Exploring 21st Century Geography

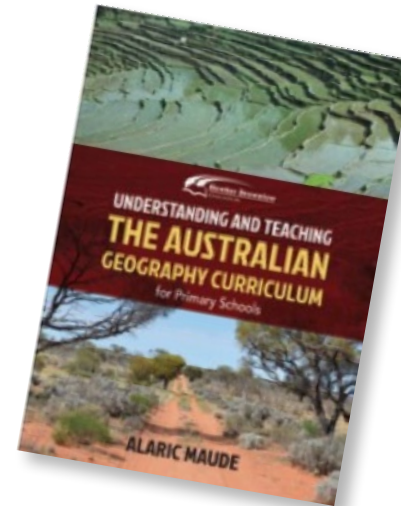
'Exploring 21st Century Geography' DVD purchase here is an interactive resource ideal for use in Geography Faculties and to develop a richer understanding of the new directions geography is taking. Purchase [here](#).

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.

AGTA recommends

Associate Professor Alaric Maude, lead writer on the AG Geography has published a new book *Understanding and Teaching the Australian Curriculum: Geography for Primary Schools* it is a vital companion to planning any Primary School geography curriculum. It is published by Hawker Brownlow and is available [here](#) or through your usual book distributor.



AC- Professional Learning

AG Professional Learning – AGTA has been active in the provision of PL opportunities for a range of teachers across the whole country. Contact your local GTA for information about upcoming events. Also look out for exciting new opportunities in 2015. 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.

Don't forget to [sign up](#) for the newsletter so you can receive up to date information and offers.

- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates
 - GTANSW GTAV
 - GHTANT GTWA
 - GTAQ TGTA
 - GTASA

Primary Geography Challenge

AGTA and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland are developing a geography competition for primary school students. At this early stage, we are planning an online competition that tests a wide range of geographical skills and knowledge in an engaging way, using a variety of

question types and graphics. The competition will be aimed at Year 6 students, at least initially. If you are interested in providing feedback as the competition is developed, or in registering an early expression of interest in entering your students, please [email Kath Berg](#).

Geographical Education

Geographical Education is the flagship journal for the Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA). It is published online once a year and contains a raft of articles that connect directly with best practice teaching a delivery of the geography curriculum. It is relevant for all levels of schooling and

all the articles are refereed making it an academic source for all geography educators. There are also some comprehensive and useful book reviews of new texts or books relevant to geography.

The latest edition will be available [here](#).



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- AGTA members
 - Curriculum Review
 - AGTA Conference
 - AGTA Website
 - AAAE Membership
 - Teaching Resources
 - Thinking Geographically
 - Big Week Out
 - GeogSpace
 - National Competition
 - Geography Olympiad
 - Around the affiliates
- | | |
|--------|------|
| GTANSW | GTAV |
| GHTANT | GTWA |
| GTAQ | TGTA |
| GTASA | |

GEOG SPACE

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

GEOGSPACE continues to evolve and new units and materials are being added over time. It is seen as a dynamic, evolving resource.

It is anticipated GeogSpace will continue to grow and become even more interactive and comprehensive as it reflects the dynamism of geographical education in the 21st century. AGTA welcomes feedback about the GeogSpace site and resources, and wishes all users every success in their teaching of geography in Australian classrooms.

GEOGSPACE
continues to
evolve...



- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates

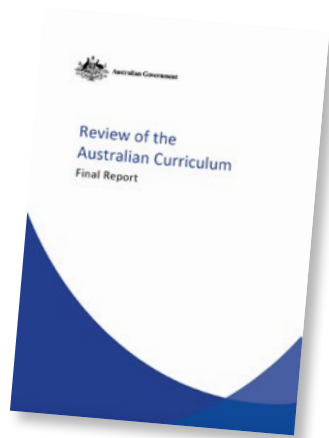
- GTANSW GTAV
- GHTANT GTWA
- GTAQ TGTA
- GTASA

Australian Curriculum Review

The Federal government has completed a review of the Australian Curriculum as it has been written by ACARA. This took place over a very short period of time and the report was released on 12 October 2014. You can access the report [here](#).

The notes from the single reviewer (a geography teacher in Queensland) can be found [here](#). While the GTASA welcomes critical analysis of any curriculum there is some disquiet about the disconnections and often contradictions that exist between the reviewers report and the final recommendations.

Along with this there is some concern that while the curriculum took many months of consultation and a large group of experts working together to refine and develop it, the review is based on the opinion of a single geography teacher.



AGTA as the peak body representing all Geography Teacher Associations is making a rigorous and comprehensive submission on our behalf. We encourage you to look at the report and to consider the implications for your site and context.

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Decadal Plan for geography

National Committee for Geography has made more progress on the Decadal plan for geography. It has been decided to develop a program called Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences. This will assist in explaining the role of geography to policy makers and decisions maker. This will include the development of an educative document organised around the Federal Government list of the five main focuses for strategic research to be delivered by March 2016.

Working parties will be formed to investigate and report on these five strands:

- √ Living in a changing environment

- √ Promoting population health and well being
- √ Managing our food and water assets
- √ Securing Australia's place in a changing world
- √ Lifting productivity and economic growth

All of these have explicit links to geographical research and the importance of geographical knowledge in the classroom. There will be a sixth working party focusing on school geography and developing support for the foundational nature of Geography and the fundamental need for compulsory Geography F-10 in schools.

More information is available at the [Geographical Sciences - Australian Academy of Science](#). AGTA has supported this initiative by contribution to the seeding funding to begin the project. Look out for opportunities to get involved.

- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates

- GTANSW
- GTAV
- GHTANT
- GTWA
- GTAQ
- TGTA
- GTASA

Around the Affiliates:

GTANSW

Currently, membership is 428; this has risen from 370 during May 2014. The executive remains constant and active. The agreed focus for 2014 professional learning and student engagement program was around Stage 5 and 6 Geography – skills, content, inquiry based learning and fieldwork; and in providing support for early career teachers and those new to teaching Geography.

Professional development and student engagement events included the Arthur Phillip Awards, the HSC Exam Review series; a Hunter Valley Mini Conference; Global Education's Australia's Engagement with Asia: Indonesia; the HSC Geography student lecture series; the Annual Conference; and Geography's Big Week Out.

The agreed focus for 2015 will continue to be in explicitly providing support for early career teachers and those new to teaching Geography; and also to connect more directly with regional NSW teachers.

Strategies such as greater provision of accredited workshops; greater incorporation of fieldwork, inquiry and skills based activities in to professional development workshops; an improved presence in regional NSW; and a new meeting venue are proposed for helping achieve these focus areas and help raise the profile of Geography education.

The Geography Bulletin continues to receive positive feedback from members about the quality of articles included, and

the 2015 AGTA Conference continues to gain interest from members. GTANSW Council members have been regularly approached by various organisations to assist with teacher professional learning and the development of geographical education resources. GTANSW contributed extensively to the development of and consultation on the draft K-10 Geography syllabus incorporating Australian Curriculum content during 2014. A formal GTANSW response to NSW BOSTES was compiled by Susan Caldis on behalf of the Council, and will be published in Issue 3 of the Geography Bulletin

Susan Caldis (President)

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- AGTA members
 - Curriculum Review
 - AGTA Conference
 - AGTA Website
 - AAAE Membership
 - Teaching Resources
 - Thinking Geographically
 - Big Week Out
 - GeogSpace
 - National Competition
 - Geography Olympiad
 - Around the affiliates
- | | |
|--------|------|
| GTANSW | GTAV |
| GHTANT | GTWA |
| GTAQ | TGTA |
| GTASA | |

GHTANT

Currently our membership stands at 33, and at our June AGM we welcomed a number of new and enthusiastic council members.

Three successful professional learning workshops were presented in recent months. During a guided tour of the NT Library, teachers were able to view historical records of Darwin's development as a settlement, including the effects of WWII and Cyclone Tracy remodelling of the town. The inaugural NT Geography Challenge with the theme of People and Places was launched in June. The competition aims to raise the awareness and engagement in

the Geography Inquiry. At the workshop teachers developed plans and ideas on how to incorporate this competition in their program planning.

The August Mini-Conference offered a mixture of Geography and History workshops in the morning, then a field visit in the afternoon. The Geography workshops included a Meteorological Bureau presentation on the roll-out of MetEye and Cyclones as hazards; a historical look at Cyclone Tracy; ESRI Story Maps; and programming for primary Australian Curriculum: Geography. The afternoon fieldtrip showcased Rapid Creek, a great site for a range of fieldwork opportunities from Primary to Senior classes; and could be applied to other sites.

Our thanks to also go to Rod Yule for presenting the World Vision materials Australia's Engagement with Asia: Indonesia, in Alice Springs and Darwin.

GHTANT is sponsoring 2 members to attend the 2015 AGTA Conference in New Zealand, and we look forward to those attending to share their experiences with other NT members on their return.

Julie Hearnden (Treasurer)

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-  AGTA members
 -  Curriculum Review
 -  AGTA Conference
 -  AGTA Website
 -  AAAE Membership
 -  Teaching Resources
 -  Thinking Geographically
 -  Big Week Out
 -  GeogSpace
 -  National Competition
 -  Geography Olympiad
 -  Around the affiliates
-
- | | |
|--|--|
|  GTANSW |  GTAV |
|  GHTANT |  GTWA |
|  GTAQ |  TGTA |
|  GTASA | |



GTAQ

2015 GTAQ will celebrate 50 years of our Journal 'Queensland Geographer' and 55 Years of GTAQ. If you have any personal recollections of events with GTAQ members or memorabilia including photos from past years please [email us](#). Keep a regular check on our website next year!

We have 228 members and growing. The Annual Conference 2014- 'Rising Tides-People, Places and Pedagogy' was held on 25 (three fieldwork full day options) and 26 of July.

On Saturday two informative keynote speakers were Auntie Rose Elu who presented a Torres Strait Islander perspective on Saibai Islands given the impact that rising tides are having on their community and Sandi Cornish who presented confronting statistics on world refugees and the role of Australia. Many of the workshops presentation are available on the GTAQ website. Thanks to all presenters who willingly shared their knowledge and skills with fellow geographers and to the participants that provided us with positive feedback.

Lerece Roberts (President)



Members from GTAQ conference

Thanks to all presenters who willingly shared their knowledge and skills...

-  AGTA members
 -  Curriculum Review
 -  AGTA Conference
 -  AGTA Website
 -  AAAE Membership
 -  Teaching Resources
 -  Thinking Geographically
 -  Big Week Out
 -  GeogSpace
 -  National Competition
 -  Geography Olympiad
 -  Around the affiliates
-
-  GTANSW
 -  GTAV
 -  GHTANT
 -  GTWA
 -  GTAQ
 -  TGTA
 -  GTASA



GTASA

We expect to have approximately 100 members again this year. The GTASA executive has benefited from the energy and technological savvy of newer members and we have launched a new website available here and we have now moved to an online digital journal SA Geographer will be housed in a 'Members only' section.

This is to enable more access and readership for busy teachers. In addition it has moved to become a more school centred publication with practical teaching strategies, resources and explicit links to the AC: Geography. The AC: Geography continues to be a significant focus for teachers and there is an ongoing

demand for support, advice and resources to enable effective implementation.

We were delighted that one of our early career members of the Executive won an award on World teachers Day. Elise Walker has been an active member of the GTASA since she was a student teacher and her dedication to the subject, her innovative and resourceful teaching practices has won her recognition from her peers and helped to reintroduce the subject at Year 12 level in her current school.

GTASA also awarded two DD Harris Scholarships to newly qualified Geography teachers

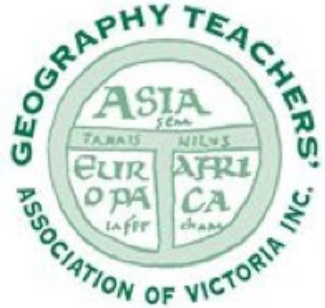
in recognition of their emerging skills and abilities as excellent classroom practioners and Geography Teachers, well done to Liam Sloane and Tamara Jamal-Awar.

2015 looks like an exciting time for the GTASA with new energy and enthusiasm driving positive action and innovation.

Greg Way (President)

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-  AGTA members
 -  Curriculum Review
 -  AGTA Conference
 -  AGTA Website
 -  AAAE Membership
 -  Teaching Resources
 -  Thinking Geographically
 -  Big Week Out
 -  GeogSpace
 -  National Competition
 -  Geography Olympiad
 -  Around the affiliates
- | | |
|--|--|
|  GTANSW |  GTAV |
|  GHTANT |  GTWA |
|  GTAQ |  TGTA |
|  GTASA | |



GTAV

Membership is currently 732 including free memberships to pre-service teachers and primary schools, an increase on this time last year.

With the full implementation of the Australian Curriculum approaching, we have had great interest in our professional learning activities. Our annual conference held in August was a huge success with 888 delegates attending across the three days.

We have also provided consultation to our curriculum authority, VCAA, on the new senior level geography course which is expected to be publicly released soon for implementation in 2016.

We have produced a number of new resources including two sets of Geography Concept Posters linked to the Australian Curriculum: one for

Primary years and the other for Years 7-10. Each comes with support activities for the classroom and can be ordered via our [website](#) (check link for resources).

Sadly, the Global Education Project (Victoria) which has operated out of GTAV for the past fifteen years will finish in December 2014 due to the Federal Government decision to cease funding for this project across Australia. We thank those staff members who have delivered this project for their professionalism and expertise and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Trish Douglas (President)

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- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates
 - GTANSW GTAV
 - GHTANT GTWA
 - GTAQ TGTA
 - GTASA



GAWA

GAWA membership stands at over 320, our primary membership base is growing. September saw the 2014 AGM, voting in the new council with an unprecedented 7 additional council nominations to the existing board, making a total 22 elected, appointed and co-opted council members and three staff.

The GAWA Secondary Conference in August saw 130 attending and 26 presenters with a high quality program focused on the New WACE 2015 Courses and the Australian Curriculum: Geography. The first Primary based 'GeogSwap' event was held in August with 25 attendees. The third Australian Curriculum: Geography PD day in November will focus on the new Year 11 General

Studies and ATAR units to be introduced in 2015. Plans for 2015 are to focus onto the content and skills within the various AC Geography units. August also saw the launch of the new Australian Curriculum Year 9 geography and history textbook, 'People, Places and Perspectives', with pleasing sales. In 2015 the new Year 11 Geography ATAR Course text, 'Hazards, Networks and Interconnections' will be available, the first AC: Geography senior school textbook produced in Australia. There has been strong interest so far.

A review of the GAWA website is underway and Anna Griffin is also re-organising some of the content. Our 2014 annual revision seminars for Year 12 students were held at the UWA, Bunbury and Karratha in October. Past GAWA and AGTA president Lachlan MacKinnon

was GAWA's nomination for this year's PTCWA Outstanding Professional Service Award. It was an honour to acknowledge Lach's contributions over the years.

As reported earlier the new West Australian Curriculum will be implemented in 2015 for Year 11 and in 2016 for Year 12. GAWA is represented on the Course Advisory Committees focussing on the Australian Curriculum HASS courses. The curriculum authority is aiming to publish the West Australian Curriculum for F – 10 in 2016 for full implementation in 2017.

Darryl Michie (President)

It was an honour to acknowledge Lach's contributions over the years.

- AGTA members
 - Curriculum Review
 - AGTA Conference
 - AGTA Website
 - AAAE Membership
 - Teaching Resources
 - Thinking Geographically
 - Big Week Out
 - GeogSpace
 - National Competition
 - Geography Olympiad
 - Around the affiliates
- | | |
|--|--|
|  GTANSW |  GTAV |
|  GHTANT |  GTWA |
|  GTAQ |  TGTA |
|  GTASA | |

TGTA

Membership still stands at 22 members. A number of teachers from Tasmania attended the GTAV Conference and TGTA members were able to attend at member rates and some primary school teachers attended just for the primary day, thanks to a kind and generous offer from Trish, the GTAV President. It is hoped that similar arrangements would continue for future GTAV Conferences.

Rod Yule from World Vision is coming over to run a PD on Australia's Engagement with

Asia: Indonesia on Thursday 30th October. There has been a lot of interest amongst teachers, with positive feedback from Tasmanian teachers who attended the session at the GTAV Conference.

The Australian Curriculum: Geography from K– 10 commenced this year in all Tasmanian primary and high schools. The Senior Secondary syllabus has been written and approved by the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority (TQA) and will start in 2015. A big thank you is extended to the two writers, Debbie Claridge and Robert Owens. TGTA will organise some sessions for senior secondary teachers to get

together to develop and share resources for the new syllabus.

The new Liberal government has absorbed the functions of the TQA into the Education Department in an endeavour to save money.

Wayne Sutton (President)

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- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates
 - GTANSW GTAV
 - GHTANT GTWA
 - GTAQ TGTA
 - GTASA

Australian Geography Competition

This year 70,766 students from 760 schools entered the Competition. Tasmania had a record number of students entering, and Victoria, Tasmania and ACT had record numbers of schools. The 2014 Competition included more skills questions and fewer based on place-specific knowledge. This led to an increase in students' mean scores of between 3 and 5

marks across the age levels. Next year's 2015 Competition will be held in schools from 23 March to 1 April 2015. Material will be sent to secondary schools in January. For further information, see the [website](#) or [email](#) Bernard Fitzpatrick.



- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates
 - GTANSW GTAV
 - GHTANT GTWA
 - GTAQ TGTA
 - GTASA



Analysing the data – The geospatial classroom with Mick Law



Out in the field



Participants in this year's Geography's Big Week Out.

Geography's Big Week Out

The 2014 Geography's Big Week Out program focused on the impact of human activity on catchments and estuaries, and how to manage these impacts. The fieldwork at Narrabeen Lagoon, Pittwater estuary and Sydney's northern beaches, was complemented by using geospatial technologies to record,

analyse and present data. The student participants were chosen from the senior level of the Australian Geography Competition. Thanks to Milton Brown from GTANSW for organising the event, with the support of teachers from GTAQ.

[Visit the website](#) for more information.

I learnt so much both in terms of content but also generally how broad geography can be and how applicable it is to so many things. I have a far better appreciation of what a good subject it is now than I ever did just through school. I also enjoyed everything so much and I know a lot of that was down to the leaders' enthusiasm and passion in everything we did. I don't think I've ever seen a better example of what teaching should really be all about.

Keita Richardson, Normanhurst Boys' High School

- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeoSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates

- GTANSW
- GTAV
- GHTANT
- GTWA
- GTAQ
- TGTA
- GTASA

International Geography Olympiad

The Australian team performed exceptionally well at the 2014 International Geography Olympiad in Krakow, Poland, coming second in the team rankings out of the 36 countries

participating. Australia's team was chosen from the students at the 2013 Geography's Big Week Out. Janice Mui (MacRobertson Girls' High School) and Stephen Roche (Sydney Grammar School)

won Gold Medals, coming 3rd and 7th respectively out of 144 students. Oscar Fawkes (Sydney Grammar School) won a Silver Medal, and Leon Shi (Melbourne High School) a Bronze Medal. Compared to some countries, Australia does very little preparation of its team once selected. Our results are therefore a reflection of the standard of teaching in our students' schools, and the learning experiences and targeted team selection during Big Week Out.

[Visit the website](#) for more information.



The Australian team with their medals

- AGTA members
- Curriculum Review
- AGTA Conference
- AGTA Website
- AAAE Membership
- Teaching Resources
- Thinking Geographically
- Big Week Out
- GeogSpace
- National Competition
- Geography Olympiad
- Around the affiliates
 - GTANSW GTAV
 - GHTANT GTWA
 - GTAQ TGTA
 - GTASA



The opening ceremony



Fieldwork in Krakow

The Olympiad for me was a fantastic experience, not only having the opportunity to test yourself against the best geographers in the world, but also to meet so many amazing people from a huge range of different cultures who all share similar interests. The best part of the whole Olympiad was spending time with these new friends exploring Poland's attractions and culture, with my favourites being the cultural evening, Krakow's Old Town market square and the Wieliczka Salt Mine. However that being said, the geography was very fun too!

Stephen Roche

- AGTA members
 - Curriculum Review
 - AGTA Conference
 - AGTA Website
 - AAAE Membership
 - Teaching Resources
 - Thinking Geographically
 - Big Week Out
 - GeogSpace
 - National Competition
 - Geography Olympiad
 - Around the affiliates
- | | |
|--------|------|
| GTANSW | GTAV |
| GHTANT | GTWA |
| GTAQ | TGTA |
| GTASA | |