

geographia



AGTA News
February 2017

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to 2016 International Geography
Olympiad, Beijing China!

 AAEE Update

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AGTA Geographia 2016/2017

Welcome to the latest edition of *Geographia*, the national newsletter of the Australian Geography Teachers' Association.

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

AGTA Membership.

The Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) has seven members being the geography professional associations in each State and Northern Territory. Individuals, schools and other institutions, non-government organisations and businesses should join the relevant member association in each State or Territory (NT). AGTA's 15 directors 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.

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[Northern Territory](#)

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The AGTA Board



AGTA Board Members 2016-17
at the October AGM, Sydney

The AGTA Board met in Sydney in October for the biannual meeting and AGM. There were some significant changes to the Executive. In a changing of the guard, Grant Kleeman completed his term as President and was replaced by Trish Douglas. As such, Malcolm McInerney also completed his term as Immediate Past Chair. AGTA would like to formally express their thanks to both Grant and Malcolm for their outstanding

leadership and support of the organisation and for the teaching of Geography in Australia.

The AGTA Board Executive 2016-17:

President: Trish Douglas (VIC)

Vice President: Darryl Mitchie (WA)

Secretary: Susan Caldis (NSW)

Treasurer & Immediate Past Chair:
Dr. Grant Kleeman (NSW)

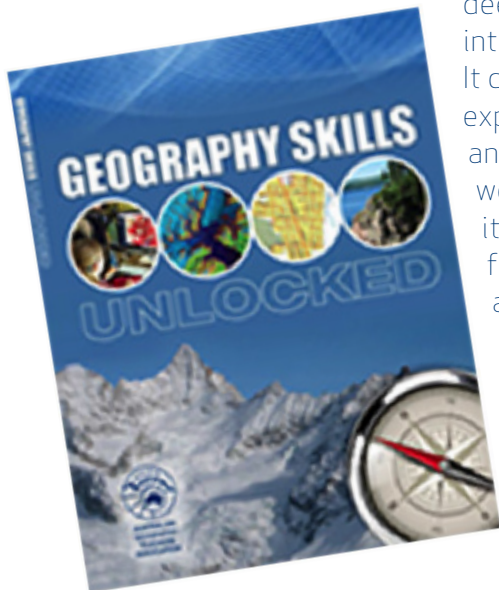
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Geography Skills Unlocked Textbook

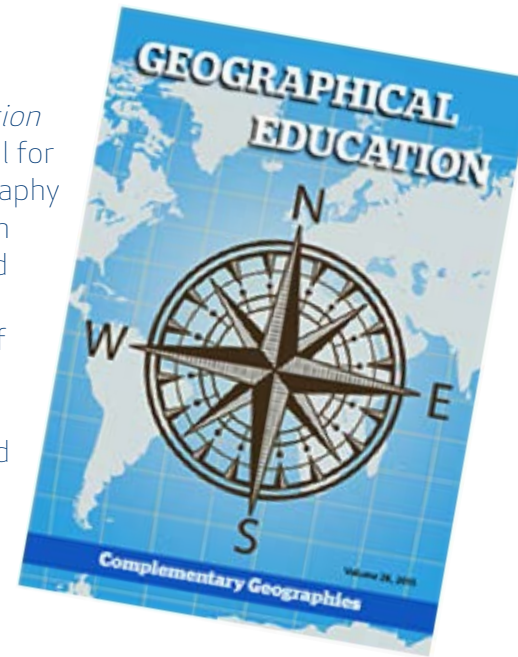
Hot off the presses! AGTA is very proud to announce the publication of our most recent textbook, Geography Skills Unlocked. This exciting new skills book is up-to-date with the demands and requirements of teaching geography today. Written with the Australian Curriculum and contemporary student in mind, the book covers the range of skills young geographers require to dive deeply and successfully into the study of geography. It contains step-by-step explanations, descriptions and worked examples. With a wealth of stimulus material, it is also a great reference for teachers. More details are available [here](#).

Contact your state or territory affiliate to order an inspection copy, or class set, today.



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 connected directly with best practice teaching and of the Geography curriculum. The 2016 issue will feature articles on landscape and fieldwork along with book reviews and an annual report. It is relevant to all year levels and is available [here](#).



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From Australian Geography Competition entrants to winners at the 2016 International Geography Olympiad, Beijing China!



2016 iGeo winning team, left to right: Deepan Kumar (Narrabundah College, ACT), Andreas Orsmond (Sydney Grammar School, NSW), Claire Yung (Narrabundah College, ACT), Georgia Worner (Loreto College Kirribilli, NSW).

The Australian Geography Competition is a joint initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers Association. With over 65,000 students in years 7-12 from 670 schools entering the Competition in 2016, it is one of the biggest events of its kind held annually in secondary

schools across Australia. The Competition is widely respected by teachers for its relevance and innovative use of maps and graphics in geographic inquiry and it is also regarded as the foremost means of raising awareness of geography in schools around Australia.

"Aligned with the Australian National Curriculum, the Competition questions

address both local and global geographical challenges", said Bernard Fitzpatrick, the Competition Coordinator. "Geography helps students understand the world around them, and the interconnections of the physical and social sciences within their local and global communities", he added.

Sixteen high-scoring Year 11 students from the Australian Geography Competition take part in Geography's Big Week Out - an extensive fieldwork based event that serves as both training and selection for Australia's team to the International Geography Olympiad, held in conjunction with the IGU.

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From Australian Geography Competition entrants to winners at the 2016 International Geography Olympiad, Beijing China! (cont...)



Field exercise, 2015
Geography's Big Week Out,
North Stradbroke Island,
Queensland.

In 2016, the Australian team outperformed 44 other countries to win first place in the 13th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held in Beijing from 16 to 22 August, 2016. Singapore, Thailand, Russia and China-Taipei were placed second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.

As Margaret McIvor, the Australian Team Leader,

commented "The value of the iGeo experience cannot be underestimated. This is an outstanding result for our team and Australia. It demonstrates strong performances from all the students across the three tests but especially in the fieldwork component. The result reinforces the value of our geography curriculum in teaching students to

understand, analyse and evaluate information". This is also supported by Andreas Orsmond one of the students at the iGeo "The creativity that was required to complete the tasks was an excellent chance to show off our understanding of base geographic principles, and apply them to real-world scenarios" he said.

The Australian team for the 2017 Olympiad, being held in Belgrade, Serbia, will be selected from the students participating in this year's GBWO on the North Stradbroke Island, Queensland.

The **2017 Australian Geography Competition** will be organised in schools in the period of 26 April - 9 May, 2017. To find out more and to enter the please visit the competition [website](#).

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GEOGSPACE



GEOGSPACE is a website created by AGTA offering quality primary and secondary geography resource materials for all teachers of geography, including those that are very experienced and those just commencing their involvement. The materials will support teachers to develop their knowledge, skills and pedagogical capacity to teach geography of the highest quality.

Featured Resource: The GeoSix and the Swamp Monster Story

If you are teaching Year 4 Geography, why not dive into the theme 'The Earth's environment sustains all life' through a creative story?

The GeoSix are a band of cousins who love geo-adventures and exciting challenges. This teaching resource allows students to explore the concept of sustainability and attitudes to waste through the eyes of the GeoSix as they explore a swamp, surely a habitat for monsters?

The full resource contains Introductory and Extension Activities, teacher instructions, resource links and suggestions for cross-curricular connections with English, Maths, Science and History.

Visit the Geogspace website [here](#) to download the full resource and take your students on a swampy monster adventure.

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AAAE Update

AGTA is a founding member of the Australian Alliance of Associations in Education (AAAE) <http://aaae.edu.au/> and continues to play a pivotal role in the development of this important organisation that has been created to be the voice of national professional teacher associations in Australia.

As a result of the engagement with ACARA, AITSL and ESA at AAAE Member Forum meetings in 2015 and 2016, AAAE has:

- been invited to participate in consultation processes with ESA as they develop their future structures
- had Malcolm McNerney (AGTA Past Chair) appointed as a member of AITSL's Teaching Expert Standing Committee (TESC).
- seen ACARA project officers making direct contact with AAAE members to follow-up discussions from the March 2016 meeting at the ACARA offices in Sydney

The meeting in Sydney on 5 November 2016 discussed the possibility of **Social Ventures Australia** (<http://www.socialventures.com.au>) developing a joint project with AAAE. AAAE considers that there is great potential for AAAE member associations to work with the Social Ventures evidence of Learning resource at <http://www.socialventures.com.au/work/evidence-for-learning/>. More about that in 2017!

In the meantime, AGTA's delegates to AAAE will continue to work towards AAAE fulfilling its potential as a representative body for national professional teacher associations in Australia, such as AGTA.

AGTA's delegates to AAAE will continue to work towards AAAE fulfilling its potential as a representative body...

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More Resources and News

The World of Work

Of 702 occupations 47% could become redundant

The Future of Employment: How susceptible are jobs to computerisation? Sep 2013

The authors examine how likely occupations are to be replaced by computerisation. The study examined the US labour market and the relationship between an occupation being replaced by computers, wages and educational attainment.

According to their estimates, about 47 per cent of total US employment is at risk. They further provide evidence that wages and educational attainment exhibit a strong negative relationship with an occupation's probability of computerisation.

<http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/publications/view/1314>

Spatial Science Industry in Australia

The Australian Spatial Science industry has developed a strategic direction called the 2026 Agenda. The Agenda document looks at GIS (Geographic Information Systems), GPS (Geographic Positioning Systems) and also GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems) and proposes a vision statement for the industry and a statement of needs to achieve this.

The 2026 Agenda team is asking for input; see the website for further information.

<https://2026agenda.com/>

Mapping resource using Tasmania

The major mapping resource produced by the Tasmanian government is at <https://www.thelist.tas.gov.au/app/content/home>.

The site includes also includes historic maps of Tasmania (VDL) <http://dpiwae-au.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=3b12b428175c4d3e94fa925f994e0976>

The TGTA recently had a professional development session using the Spatial Resources section of the site <http://dpiwae.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania/spatial-discovery>

A key component of the site for teachers and students is the handbook at <http://listdata.thelist.tas.gov.au/public/outgoing/sif/listmaphelp.pdf>

Also see the video at youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJOd4Iq585g&list=PLwrDIAzmUtsTBkVTsLRtsyaDpuGaMk0>

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Geography and Careers Options

For an interesting discussion about migration and Geography as a career:

Examine the current Skilled Occupations List (SOL) used for migration purposes, which has the following occupations listed that might call on geography related skills and highlights the shortage of people with these skills in Australia.

- Valuer
- Cartographer
- Spatial Scientist
- Surveyor
- Agricultural Consultant
- Agricultural Scientist
- Forester

(See <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/skilled-occupations-lists/SOL>)

And the list becomes much longer when the CSOL list used by employers to sponsor employees is taken into account.

- Urban and regional planner
- Environmental Health Officer
- Environmental Manager
- Travel Agency Manager
- Conference and Event Organiser
- Flight Attendant
- Travel Attendants
- Wide range of agriculture related occupations

The detailed descriptors of each occupation are found on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website in the ANZCO Dictionary.

(See <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/skilled-occupations-lists/CSOL>)

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GTANSW

Currently, membership is 353 and membership renewals are in process. Susan Caldis completed her third year as President and stepped down from the role at the AGM held on Tuesday 26 October. Leading the Association in 2016-2017 will be Lorraine Chaffer, working with a full committee that is representative of regional NSW and the ACT.

Since May 2016, GTANSW has run HSC Student Lectures in Wollongong, Newcastle and Sydney and regional conferences in Coffs Harbour and Wagga Wagga. The HSC Student lectures are becoming well attended by teachers who are seeking to update their knowledge and understanding about requirements of the HSC course. The regional

conference program has mirrored the key messages of the Annual Conference. This is a model we are seeking to repeat in 2017. Each professional learning event held throughout the year has been registered to enable teachers to work towards fulfilling accreditation requirements.

Having been proactive and successful in delivering support to NSW teachers as part of the planning and familiarization year for the new Geography syllabus; obtaining a strong, positive and popular media presence; gaining representation on Council and further engagement with regional NSW geography teachers; and recently finding a suitable meeting venue with teleconference and Adobe

Connect type facilities, the Association feels it would like to move towards developing a distinct online strategy in 2017 and commence development of primary-specific resources outside of articles submitted to the Geography Bulletin.

In closing my tenure as President GTANSW I would like to particularly thank Grant Kleeman and Lorraine Chaffer for being a tremendous source of support, encouragement, advice and friendship

Susan Caldis
(President 2014- 2016)

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GHTANT

Our membership has grown in the last financial year to 34 Individual and 10 Institutional members.

GHTANT Executive Officers

President: Loraine Caldwell

Vice-President: Anna Hind

Treasurer: Julie Hearnden

Secretary: John Shield

Our Committee has also taken on a more Territory-wide look with members in Alice Springs and Katherine.

The key professional learning event for the second half of 2016 was the second annual Festival Of Teaching. This saw over 200 teachers from across the Territory attend a full day program from across the NT's professional associations. A huge thank you to AGTA board members Susan Caldis (NSW) and Joanne Wegener (SA) for sharing their Geographical knowledge and experience through the workshops they provided.

The Northern Territory has fully implemented the Australian Curriculum (K-10) with next year's Year 11 students being the first to study Stage 1 Geography based on the Australian Curriculum at a senior level. The focus for GHTANT in the coming year is to support teachers in their implementation of the new curriculum.

Anna Hind (Vice-President)

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GTAQ

As we finish 2016 our membership stands at 297 with 88 preservice teachers.

Our committee members continue to be active in the various aspect of the development of the new system of senior education for Queensland. This new system will now be in place in 2020 with a year's delay recently announced.

Since the successful visit by two Council members to Cairns in May, teachers in Mackay have also suggested a workshop to be held early in 2017.

Our annual conference was held on Saturday July 30 at QUT Gardens Point. There were 116 teachers and pre-service teachers in attendance. The fieldwork on Friday, July 29, attracted 25 participants. The feedback this year was extremely positive.

We have been publishing online Journals this year which seem to have been well received. We plan to survey our members before the end of the year to get feedback from them about this change.

Issues and challenges for 2017:

- Can we continue to develop the connections with our regional members by offering PD days?
- To make 'sustainable' and ongoing contact with the teachers in the primary sector across the state.
- To continue an ongoing involvement in any new developments regarding senior secondary education in Queensland.

Russell Smerdon (President)

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GTASA

GTASA has enjoyed strong membership throughout 2016, with around 130 members. We were saddened by the loss of Life Member John Sibly, a great contributor to Geography in SA, who passed away in October after illness.

We have hosted a number of professional learning events throughout the year. Our Annual 2-day conference in May was well attended, and a 2-hour workshop in August titled "Help! I'm teaching Geography" was popular for early career, pre-service teachers and out-of-subject geography teachers. In 2017

we hope to offer more short workshops with a focus on skill development.

In August GTASA, with Adelaide University held a Year 12 Geography Night, which attracted about 80 students and teachers from across the state. This event has been important in forging links between school and university so that students can see future pathways in geographical studies.

In 2017 a new curriculum for SACE Stage 1 Geography will be implemented in schools across the state. The curriculum has been

developed following the Australian Curriculum Senior School Geography. Key topics are: Sustainable Places; Natural & Biological Hazards; Contemporary Geographical Issues. In 2018 Stage 2 will be taught. The topics of Stage 2 relate to the Australian Curriculum Senior Geography.

In October GTASA won the award for the Innovative Association at the annual CEASA World Teachers' Day celebration. This was an exciting achievement for GTASA, especially in the year we celebrated our 80th anniversary as an association!

Joanne Wegner (President)

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TGTA

At our October AGM we elected a new President Rowan Harris and another northern representative to our small committee. The AGTA Geography Roadshow was an outstanding success with 52 teachers attending from around the state from all year levels and all sectors. The feedback was excellent. Membership was bolstered by the Roadshow with five new schools joining as members. It also provided some much needed revenue to TGTA. Many teachers requested more professional development, particularly of a practical nature – skills based and ICT.

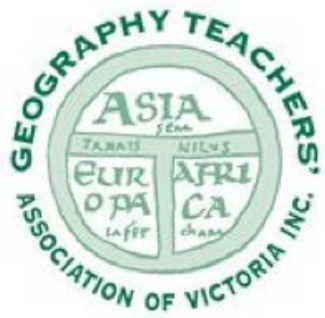
A successful spatial Discovery PD using ListMAP with Scott Strong from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment was held to address the request for skills based PD.

The creation of a TGTA [website](#) and email correspondence to members and HASS teachers, as well as network meetings have provided opportunities to actively promote and discuss both the VIC and AGTA conferences. The Australian Geography Competition is also promoted on the website and via email. A new TGTA logo has been created.

Tasmania continues to follow the Australian Curriculum from F to 8 and assessment in Geography is mandated. Humanities and Social Sciences has become one curriculum area which includes History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business in primary schools.

Debbie Claridge (President)

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GTAV

GTAV continues to be a vibrant and active association with membership reaching 908 including 221 free memberships for primary and pre-service teachers. Our annual conference in August attracted over 900 people across the three packed days of over 80 workshops, masterclasses, keynote speakers and fieldwork trips. We have continued to deliver additional support to teachers in regional areas in combination with the History Teachers Association of Victoria as well as sessions on spatial technologies.

Our VCE student revision lectures proved extremely popular with both students and teachers with over 780 students attending the sessions held at both Monash University and the University of Melbourne. For both primary and secondary students, GTAV is working in collaboration with Cardinia Shire Council on MapIT! – a mapping challenge based in their local area using spatial technology. The intention is for this program to be rolled out across LGAs across Victoria.

We recently finalised a new Geography promotion brochure for Years 8–10 which has been provided to AGTA affiliates to help encourage the uptake of students studying Geography beyond the compulsory year levels.

On a sad note we mourned the death of our Office Administrator in July 2016. She will be greatly missed.

We look forward to hosting Geography teachers from around Australia at the AGTA Conference in Melbourne 9–12 January 2017.

Trish Douglas (President)

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GAWA

Membership as of
31 October: 197

GAWA Executive Officers:

President: Anna Griffin

Vice Presidents:
Melissa Balfus & Sarah McGill

Treasurer: Cheryl O'Connell

Secretary: Lidia Di Giuseppe

Immediate Past President:
Darryl Michie

2016 GAWA annual conference was held in August and had over 130 participants. There was prominent keynote speakers, such as Dr Julian Bolleter and a large array of field work excursions available. The conference ran over two days and we received very positive feedback from our members.

We have offered a variety of Primary PD's over the course of the year and the numbers are slowly improving. This will be an area of emphasis in the New Year.

GAWA is busy trying to support Western Australian teachers implementing the New Western Australian HASS curriculum from F-10 and the new ATAR course in Year 12. Western Australia had their first Year 12 ATAR examination of the new course in November and it was generally well received by teachers.

Anna Griffin (President)

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