

GEOGRAPHIA

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

JANUARY 2013

Occasional Newsletter of The Australian Geography Teachers' Association Limited

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Geographia 110 Perth Western Australia

Welcome to AGTA 110 held on 28 October 2012 at the Schools of Isolated and Distance Education, Leederville, Western Australia.



AGTA Board 2012-2013

From left: Rob Berry(Vic), Grant Kleeman(NSW), Nick Hutchinson(NSW), Trish Harris(WA), Malcolm McInerney(SA), Greg Way(SA), Alex Piggott(SA), Darryl Michie(WA), Trish Douglas(VIC), Bec Nicholas (QLD)

Absent are Leonie Brown(Vic), Lerece Roberts (QLD), Wayne Sutton(TAS) and Stephen Matthews(Vic)

www.agta.asn.au

Chair of Director's Report 2012

Malcolm McInerney AGTA Limited, Chair of Directors



Putting together the National Jigsaw for geography

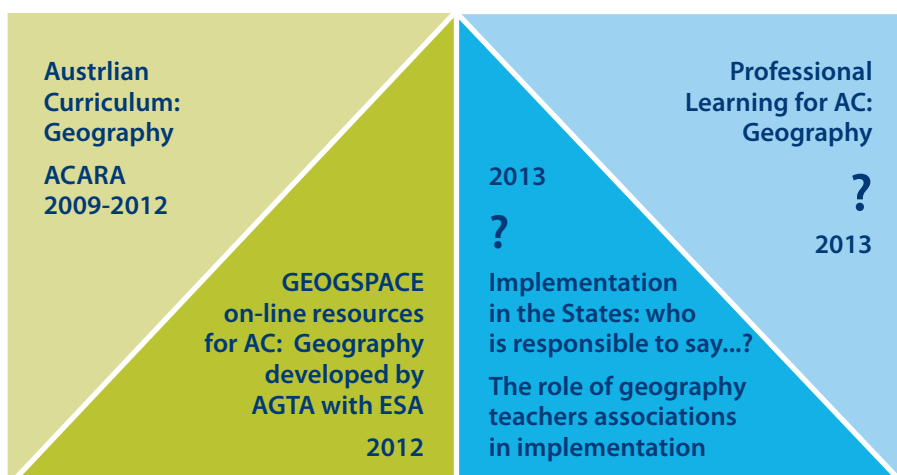
AGTA's work in 2012 has been dominated not only with the development of the Australian Curriculum: Geography through the work of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) but also with the development of on-line resources with Education Services Australia (ESA) to support the implementation of the new curriculum. AGTA considers that both of these developments are critical for the future growth of geography in our schools and certainly warrants the energy and financial commitment AGTA has made to the process. The curriculum has reached the final stages of writing, consultation and validation and is due for release in December 2012. Whilst this work has created an increased workload and investment from AGTA and its officers, this report will show that we continue to put together the 'National Geography Jigsaw' to promote geographical education in Australia. Our work in the second half of 2012 on the new GeogSpace project is a critical piece of the jigsaw.

This report briefly provides information on the key AGTA initiatives and happenings to provide an appreciation of why AGTA exists and how it is advancing the teaching of geography in Australia.

AGTA is considered an important member of many representative groups and as one of the associations with a **'Big picture' view of the need for representation via national umbrella organisations**. AGTA has always been prepared to invest in members of its board being represented at national meetings and to participate in national association initiatives. This attitude and perception of AGTA is especially important in terms of the new initiative by the National Education Forum (NEF) to develop a National body to represent all National teacher associations. At the NEF meeting in November 2012 the proposed structure for this body was discussed after a period of association consultation. Such a body would give national associations, such as AGTA, a national voice of significance in cahoots with the other national associations when issues of National Education are discussed. Associations want to be involved in the development of education policy impacting on learning areas and teachers, not just in consultation after policy has been drafted.

AGTA's continued involvement in the development of ACARA'S Australian Curriculum: Geography

In August 2012 ACARA released the revised scope and sequence of the Australian Curriculum: Geography for final consultation. AGTA continues to be heartened by ACARA's commitment to involve geography teachers and in particular AGTA in the process of curriculum development. To this end, several AGTA Board members and numerous members of AGTA affiliates have been closely involved as members of the ACARA Advisory Panels for geography over the past two years. The Australian Curriculum: Geography is due for publication in December 2012. Already AGTA's attention has turned to resource development for the new curriculum and I am sure in 2013 the issue of professional learning in geography will be at the centre of AGTA's work.



AGTA 2013 Geography's New Frontier Conference in Perth

The AGTA conference in Perth from 7-10 January 2011 is almost a reality. The conference is being held at Perth College and is being convened by the Geography Association of Western Australia (GAWA). The convenor for the conference is the highly competent and enthusiastic GAWA President, Darryl Michie. Darryl has developed a great program with plenty of field trips and classroom relevant workshops.

For many reasons this should be an exciting time for the geographers attending the conference in Perth. Professors David Lambert and Simon Catling from the United Kingdom and Professors Peter Newman and Lyn Beasley from Australia have accepted AGTA's invitation to be keynote speakers at the AGTA 2013 Conference in Perth. This is wonderful news given David Lambert and Simon Catling have considerable experience with the national curriculum in the United Kingdom. Simon Catling's experience with primary geography implementation in particular ensures that this conference will appeal to primary school teachers as well as secondary school teachers. These outstanding keynotes will be supported by over 51 workshops, 5 high quality fieldtrips and social activities every night of the conference.

The response to the conference program www.agta.asn.au/conf2013/index.htm has been very positive and we are expecting to see one of the biggest and best AGTA conferences in Perth in January 2013.

GeogSpace underway

In March 2012 Education Services Australia (ESA) contracted AGTA to develop on-line resources to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography. After some workshoping on the project at the May AGTA Board meeting, the project has been named as the GeogSpace project.

The Project Management Plan for GeogSpace states that:

GEOGSPACE is a national initiative for the improvement of primary and secondary Geography education. The project focuses on increasing the amount of inquiry-based learning undertaken by students and a commensurate reduction in the reliance on didactic pedagogies.

The GEOGSPACE project aims to:

- provide an online learning model for teachers to access
- create a framework to support teachers teaching Australian Curriculum: Geography
- develop the knowledge, skills and pedagogical capacity of teachers to teach geography
- be supportive of the non-geographically trained, as well as the trained geographer teacher
- cater for primary and secondary school implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography

- integrate ICT's relevant to the teaching of geography throughout the curriculum
- include exemplars from F-10 directly linked into the content and skills of the Australian Curriculum: Geography
- employ geographical inquiry and geographical thinking approaches throughout
- be resource rich, providing teachers with access to a range of quality geographical teaching resources available around the world.

A team of AGTA GeogSpace writers and editors are presently developing Curriculum Core and Curriculum Support units which will include resource links, classroom activities and pedagogical advice for teachers. The activities will take the form of film clips, websites and digital activities. A *GeogSpace stand-alone website* will provide a website capable of managing all traffic to the GeogSpace resources created by AGTA.

The creation of this unique resource as a website is an exciting and critical component of AGTA's work to support teachers teaching the Australian Curriculum: Geography. The GeogSpace website is due to be launched in March 2013 and will be accessible and free to all teachers around the world. There is much to look forward to with this significant piece of work for AGTA.

Student Geography competitions/activities

For many years AGTA has been involved in conducting in liaison with the RGSQ and GTAQ a range of geographical competitions and activities. These initiatives are extremely important in providing the goal for students to embark on geographical education whilst raising the profile of geography in the community. I would like to thank again Kath Berg (RGSQ) and the dedicated geographical educators from the GTAQ and GTAV for all their hard work with the following activities.

The National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition

is a joint initiative of AGTA and the RGSQ and is proudly sponsored by the National Geographic Channel. This competition continues to grow and be a great success in promoting geography in schools around Australia (<http://www.geographycompetition.org.au/>). In 2012, over 80 000 students again participated in the competition Australia wide. The U16 Final was held on the 18 June 2012 at the

Foxtel Studios, Sydney. The results were: 1st Jamie Abel, 2nd Sebastian Summersby-Mitchell and 3rd Yianni Van Gelder. Congratulations to all the students who participated in this major Australian-wide event.

The 2012 International Geography Olympiad was held in Cologne, Germany, from 21 to 28 August. The team comprised: Anthony Chen from Radford College in Canberra, Sarah Godman from Cootamundra High School, Sarah Naco from Canberra Girls' Grammar School, and Kate Parrott from Hobart College.



The 2011 Geography's Big Week Out was held on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria. The participating students won their places through outstanding performances in the National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition. Thanks to Pat Beeson and the GTAV team (and as always Kath Berg and Margaret McIvor) for their great work with this outstanding and important student focused initiative. Go to www.geographycompetition.org.au/geography%E2%80%99s-big-week-out for more information on this event.

Summary

The world of geography in Australian schools continues to be a dynamic and exciting one for teachers and students. AGTA's capacity to deliver continues to be tested by the challenges of promoting the 'brand' of geography in the new National Education Agenda and putting together the jigsaw for the implementation of a National Curriculum for Geography. AGTA continues to meet these challenges with confidence and to be seen by others in the education community as an association of high standards and professionalism. Such a reputation is only possible through the support and hard work of all Directors on the AGTA Board and teacher members of affiliates.

AGTA Awards 2013 report

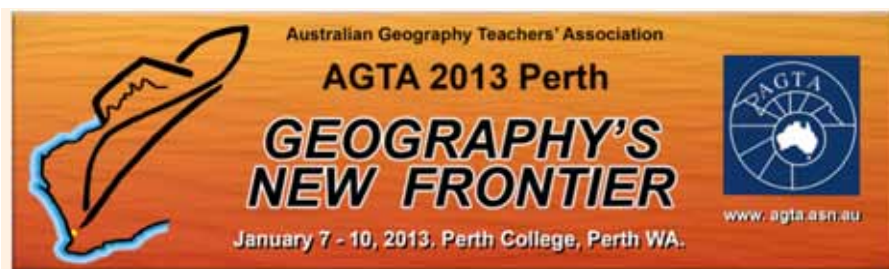
As per the decisions at the May AGTA Board meeting, the categories for the AGTA awards were revised from 13 to 6. Information on awards was sent to publishers, previous entrants, Affiliates in early September 2012 with entries due early October. The short turnaround time was unavoidable but it was considered that sufficient time was allowed for entries to be received. A total of 17 entries were submitted.

The AGTA awards judging were completed on 5 October at the GTAV offices. A panel of 5 people was involved, including a primary specialist, tertiary representative and practising teachers from metropolitan and rural Victoria. Finalists will be announced at the AGTA Conference in Perth in January 2013.

Recommendations

Award categories be broadened for 2015 conference to allow for increase in publications expected due to Australian Curriculum

A preliminary advice letter be sent to all likely interested parties in mid-2013 notifying of next AGTA awards so that they are on publisher's radars.



AGTA 2013 Biennial Conference – Geography's New Frontier.

January 7th – 10th Perth College, Perth WA.

Preparations for AGTA 2013 are almost complete. We are looking forward to a feast of varied and informative presentations and events as geography teachers from around Australia engage with the Australian Curriculum: Geography. We are pleased to have received 200 registrations with a good mix from all the states and a growing number of primary school teachers.

GAWA councillors and the Conference Committee have been working hard at last minute tasks to ensure a smooth conference experience for all delegates. We are looking forward to showing off the best of Perth through our various field trips and social events. We are sure that those who have chosen to participate in the pre-conference tour of the South West of WA are also in for a treat. The Sunday prior to the conference will include an optional Swan valley Winery Tour and a welcome barbecue and wine tasting for all delegates.

Looking forward to seeing you at AGTA 2013 – Geography's New Frontier.

Darryl Michie: Conference Convener

Website Report

The AGTA 2013 Conference section has been the major area of development on the AGTA website during the past six months. Online registration and payment for the conference is a key feature of the website. Payments using AGTA's PayPal and merchant account allow registrants to pay using Visa or MasterCard credit cards and authorised school purchase orders are also accepted.

The ability to limit the number of registrants for particular events such as the pre-conference tour, winery tour and conference dinner has been most useful. Several email campaigns to participants of previous AGTA conferences and people who registered to receive email updates have been sent out. This has been a low cost and highly effective means of publicising the conference. Information about the AGTA Awards including timelines, categories, conditions of entry and entry forms has also been added to the website.

Online sales of AGTA's *Exploring 20th Century Geography* DVD have continued to be well supported with purchasers able to complete payment by credit card or a school order form. Online subscriptions to Geographical Education have been withdrawn pending a decision about the future format and availability of the journal.

Other changes to the website include updates to the news section (eg latest issue of *Geographia*), Board members, affiliate details and resources. The listing of state conferences has been updated where such details are known.

Some new content and revisions to existing information have been made to the GeoCareers website thanks to the suggestions of people to be included in the profile section being forwarded to Rob Berry. Members are invited to send recommendations of people to be approached with a view to providing a profile for publication 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@agta.asn.au). Rob will then contact each person nominated and provide them with a standard proforma and agreement sheet.

The future GeogSpace website is currently under development with Education Services Australia (ESA). The new website with its own domain name and hosted by ESA will be based on a content management system. The information architecture, design layout and key graphic elements such as logo have been completed.

Rob Berry: Website Manager





AITSL Exemplar Project Report

The Australian Institute for School Teaching and Leadership (AITSL) commenced the development of support material for the National Professional Standards for Teachers (the Standards) in the second half of 2011 with work continuing in 2012 and 2013. AGTA was successful in receiving funding from AITSL to develop three exemplars or *Illustrations of practice* related to the Professional Standards.

AGTA's exemplars were prepared by Roger Smith and Rob Berry. Two of the exemplars are 'dynamic' video recordings and one is a 'static illustration' using print documents. The exemplars were submitted to AITSL during July and are currently being prepared for incorporation

into the Illustrations of Practice website (www.teacherstandards.aitsl.edu.au/Illustrations). It is anticipated that these will be made public later this year.

The three AGTA illustrations of practice are as follows.

1. Exemplar 1 relates to Standard 6 — Engage in professional learning Proficient level: Dynamic illustration Based on teachers' participation in a range of group activities during a professional learning day held on 7 March 2012 in Melbourne. Interviews were recorded with presenters and teachers attending to obtain feedback regarding the effectiveness of the strategies used and subsequent application in their teaching.
2. Exemplar 2 relates to Standard 2 — Professional knowledge Proficient level: Dynamic illustration This exemplar

illustrates how teachers can integrate ICT including spatial technologies into learning and teaching programs that make selected content relevant and meaningful. The illustration uses video recordings of teachers' use of ICT during a professional learning day held on 7 May 2012 in Adelaide.

3. Exemplar 3 relates to Standard 3 — Professional practice Proficient level: Static illustration This exemplar is based on teaching resources for fieldwork undertaken in Melbourne's Docklands to demonstrate the selection and use of relevant teaching strategies that develop knowledge, skills, problem solving, critical and creative thinking.

Feedback from AITSL at the conclusion of the project has been positive and we look forward to the release of these illustrations.

Financial Position

The profit and loss statement relates to the current financial year to 20 October 2012 and will change significantly over the year as monies are paid for various projects.

- Total income was \$246,510.14; total expenses amounted to \$53,502.33 resulting in a profit of \$193,007.81 from which substantial payment will be made during the second half of this financial year for work undertaken in relation to the GeogSpace project.
- Expenses for the remainder of this financial year will include costs related to the GeogSpace project, AGTA 2013 Conference, *Geographical Education*, *Geographia*, website and Board Meeting #110.
- The balance sheet as at the 20 October 2012 shows AGTA's total assets as \$487,466.69 and total liabilities as \$24,424.85 (plus anticipated expenses related to the GeogSpace project) with net assets of \$463,041.84.

Affiliation fees are payable for the year commencing after the AGM (ie the 2012-2013 affiliation fee is based on the membership numbers as at 30 October 2012) and will be due and payable on 1 January 2013 (AGTA Constitution Item 10). The amount payable increases annually in accordance with the change in the CPI for the previous 12 months.

Australian Geography Competition

Final for under 16s

Students under 16 years old win a place at the Final based on their scores in the school round. The programme for the prize weekend preceding the Final included climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge (surely the highpoint!), a behind-the-scenes tour with the reptiles at Taronga Zoo, and a performance in the Opera House of Opera Warriors by the visiting Shanxi Huajin Dance Art Troupe.

The Final was held at Foxtel Studios in Sydney on 18 June, and compered by media personality Ed Phillips in front of an audience of students, teachers and other invited guests. It was filmed and broadcast on National Geographic Channel on 16 July. The questions in the Final covered a large range of topics, including landforms, resources, demography and questions linked to the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The stimulus material included video footage, photos and maps. The results of the Final were:

- First** **James Abel**,
Shore School, Sydney
- Second** **Sebastian Summersby-Mitchell**,
Canberra Grammar School
- Third** **Yianni Van Gelder**,
Newington College, Sydney

James won a place on the Australian team which will compete in the 2013 National Geographic World Championship in St Petersburg, Russia. The other team members will be the top intermediate student from 2013, and either Sebastian or next year's second-placed student.

International Geography Olympiad

Australia took part in the International Geography Olympiad held in Cologne, Germany, from 21 to 28 August 2012. International Geography Olympiads are overseen by a Task Force of the International Geographical Union. Australia's team was chosen from the students in the Competition's senior division, via the 2011 Geography's Big Week Out:



Anthony Chen, Radford College, Canberra
Sarah Godman, Cootamundra High School
Sarah Naco, Canberra Girls' Grammar School
Kate Parrot, Hobart College

Sarah Naco won a Silver Medal, and Anthony and Kate Bronze Medals. Sarah Godman just missed out, scoring .4 of a mark below the Bronze Medal cut-off. Australia came seventh out of the 32 teams competing: Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macau, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey and United Kingdom.

The Olympiad programme includes three tests. The first two, a Written Response Test and a Multi-Media Quiz are conducted in the classroom. The third test is a substantial fieldwork exercise and in 2012 it related to urban renewal along the banks of the Rhine River. The Australian team always does well in the fieldwork, with our students benefitting from their preparation during Big Week Out. The programme also incorporated an intercultural event, and presentations by the students on a water-related issue in their country. It was a packed programme but there was time for one excursion, to look either at the redevelopment of old coal-mining areas, or at the management of cultural heritage sites along the middle Rhine.

Following the Olympiad, some teams went on a five-day trip to see more of Germany – Heidelberg, Nürnberg, Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin. Australia participated in this (with the cost covered personally by the leaders and students' parents) and thoroughly enjoyed learning more about Germany and getting to know some of our fellow students and leaders better.

The Australian team was accompanied by Competition Committee members Kath Berg and Margaret Mclvor (also an AGTA Director). Marg was a key member of the jury marking the Written Response Test, and Kath undertook a range of duties as the Secretary (now Co-Chair) of the Olympiad Task Force.

Geography's Big Week Out

The 2012 Geography's Big Week Out was another outstanding success with touchingly enthusiastic feedback from the participating students. It was held on the Mornington Peninsula from 30 September to 5 October. Details of the programme are included elsewhere in this newsletter. It was again organised by a committee of dedicated Victorian teachers, under the excellent leadership of Pat Beeson. The Competition Committee would like to record our gratitude to these leaders who made the 2012 Big Week Out such a success: Pat Beeson; Adrian Defanti; Shirley Lahtinen; Stephen Latham; Judy McPherson; Despina Polatidis; Gerry Smith; and, Karoline Walter.

Margaret Mclvor and Kath Berg also assisted during the week. Pat and Kath worked with Libby Hillman from GTAV to put a set of procedures in place to guide the organisation of this and future Big Week Outs.

The student participants were the highest-scoring male and female Year 10/11 students from each state and the combined territories, plus two other high-scoring students:

Fiona Anderson, St Mary's College, Hobart
Alex Bryant, Loreto College Kirribilli, Sydney
Emily Cadogan, Noosa District State High School
Mendel Castle-Kirsbaum, McKinnon Secondary College, Melbourne

Maxwell Davey, Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston

Oscar Fawkes, Sydney Grammar School

Alizanne Finnemore, St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Perth

James McCabe, Normanhurst Boys' High School, Sydney

James McColl, Radford College, Canberra

Jonas Mitchell, Albany Senior High School

Sarah Naco, Canberra Girls Grammar School

Lachlan Peat, Brisbane Grammar School

Brittany Simmons, Canterbury Girls' Secondary College, Melbourne

Courtney Thomas, Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth

Scott Wheeler, Bordertown High School

Rachael Xu, Walford Anglican School for Girls, Adelaide

Based on assessment completed during Big Week Out, the top four students will be selected to represent Australia at the International Geography Olympiad to be held in Kyoto from 30 July to 5 August 2013. The team will be accompanied by Pat Beeson and Kath Berg.

A couple of NSW teachers are currently considering organising the 2013 Geography's Big Week Out in northern Sydney.

School Round

Incentive prizes for participating schools were trialled as a means of increasing the number of schools entering. However, only one of the 109 schools competing for an incentive prize was a school new to the Competition. "Advertising" focussing more on the benefits of participation, and/or the revamped, more interactive website, and/or interest arising from the release of the draft national geography curriculum, were likely factors in the number of participating schools increasing from 746 to 774. A selection of teachers' comments is given in Appendix A.

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 other very high-scoring students, each receive a special certificate and a book prize. The prize-winning senior students also receive medals. This year, prizes were awarded to 7 schools and 56 students (excluding selection for Geography's Big Week Out).

2013 Competition

The Committee intends to organise the Australian Geography Competition and its associated activities along the same lines as last year, except for the major change that the Final for under 16s will be discontinued.

Selection of intermediate students for the Australian team to the National Geographic World Championship will be done using a different method. At the biennial World Championship all teams take two preliminary tests. (Australia has not advanced beyond this stage since 1995.) We currently pick Australia's third team member, from the second-placed Finalists in the years concerned, by giving them a written test using questions from past World Championship preliminary rounds. We will give this test to all state/territory intermediate winners and a few other very high-scoring students. Plus we will get those students to answer some questions over the phone, as we have been doing to determine Finalists in states with tied students. The selection of Australia's team to the National Geographic World Championship will then be based on the students' scores in these tests.

The draft 2013 timeline is:

late Oct	Direct mail all contact teachers
mid Jan	Direct mail all secondary schools with full Competition information
mid Feb	Direct mail reminder to all contact teachers
28 Feb	Deadline for entries
mid Mar	Question packs sent out
25 Mar - 5 Apr	Competition held in schools
end May	Post back results and certificates
27 Jul - 1 Aug	National Geographic World Championship, St Petersburg
30 Jul - 5 Aug	International Geography Olympiad, Kyoto
? Oct or Dec	Geography's Big Week Out, possibly Sydney area

During the year, the Committee and RGSQ staff will investigate extending the Competition to the upper primary years. The possibility of online delivery will be considered.

Feedback

A selection of what teachers have said about the Competition this year:

Lots of fun yet again! **Gail Munro, Koonung Secondary College**

I have finally retired after nearly 27 years at Loreto, Kirribilli and have thoroughly enjoyed running the competition and found it to be great preparation for exams for the girls. Thank you for all the work you put into running the competition and your interest in all matters geographical. May I compliment the writers of the competition on a high quality product over all these years. **Erica Wallace, Loreto College - Kirribilli**

Thanks for organising such great opportunities for geography students. **Amanda Donohue, Brisbane Grammar School**

The competition is so good for our students (obviously) and they keep asking about results! **Raymond Pask, Melbourne High School**

The Oceans Atlas prize has been put on display in the library with lots of kids viewing it during lunchtimes! **Georgina Hartley, Shenton College**

I have received the information about the Competition and I'm very impressed with the quality of the question booklet. **Anne Barratt, Moruya High School**

The prize we won of the Promethean Active Expressions has really been well used. The boys love them. Thanks again for all the work you do promoting geography. **Brett Marturia, Sydney Grammar School**

Thanks for all your efforts with the Geography competition. It is appreciated by teachers and students across the nation. **Garry Grosvenor, St Peters College**

I have certainly been struggling to maintain numbers in my senior geography as a consequence of the changes in our SACE. Competition achievements such as Scott's are very important to keep geography "on the map" in our school. **Sue Walter, Bordertown High School**

The geography competition is invaluable in motivating talented students. **Mark Cahill, St Josephs College**

Thanks for all the hard work promoting our subject. **Graham Pettit, Normanhurst Boys' High School**

Our School values highly the Australian Geography Competition and our students much appreciate the certificates which they receive for participating. **Martin McCarthy, Cootamundra High School**

Thanks very much for all your hard work; you do a great job in supporting and promoting Geography. **Patti Crothers, St Stephen's Catholic College**

Geographical Teachers Association of Western Australia (GAWA)

Membership numbers have remained stable over the last few years with the number of members at 240.

Professional Development

In May 2012 GAWA held **Geography in Action 2 – Urban Planning – Systems Thinking**, a thought provoking interactive workshop and Q&A discussion, on what we would like to see in Perth in terms of sustainable planning, facilitated by urban planner Peter Zadeian. A session in August was held on **Geography in Action 3 – Eco Education and Sustainable Forestry** focused on aspects of the 2B Course in terms of sustainable resource use. John Anderson, South West Project Officer with Eco Education gave a very interesting and practical presentation. Elaine Horne supported John as they discussed some of the resources and fieldwork options provided by the DEC.

On Monday 5th November GAWA will be holding a whole day event, **Geography in Action 4 - Unpacking the Australian Curriculum: Geography**, focussing on unpacking the Australian Curriculum: Geography. Leo Conti and the PD Committee have put together an informative and practical program.

GAWA is proud to be hosting the Australian **Geography Teachers Association's Biennial Conference**, 7th – 10th January for the first time since 1996. 'Geography's New Frontier' will focus on the new Australian Curriculum: Geography and will host an array of local, national and international presenters who will bring their experience and expertise to share. GAWA has not planned our own conference in 2012 however in 2013 we will once again be holding a state conference in August.

Publications

The GAWA council determined to produce 4 **Bulletins** this year under the editorial work of Anne Tumak.

GAWA **textbooks**, covering the Geography 1A, 2A, 2B and 3A/B courses continue to sell well.

GAWA's WACE Revision Guide, which focuses on the WACE course in general terms continues to sell well. Many schools are placing this text on their booklists for Year 12's.

GAWA are also exploring the possibilities of

producing a Year 7 Australian Curriculum: Geography text and a combined Yr. 8 Australian Curriculum: Geography/History text in collaboration with HTAWA.

With the **GAWA exam papers** selling very well we have expanded our range by providing both a Stage 2 and a Stage 2B, (Yr. 11) only exam for semester 2.

The School Curriculum Standards Authority, decided not to provide **WACE exam broadsheets** as a resource to teachers this year. GAWA, as a service to our members, decided to seek the copyright licences for each of the items on the broadsheet so as to be able to print replicas of this exam resource for teachers and students. This resource has been well received by GAWA members.

Promotion of Geography

The term 2 Bulletin contained a special **'Promoting Geography Package'** this year. The idea behind this initiative was to produce this information pack just prior to students making their 2013 subject selections.

The **GAWA website** is the first stop for members wishing to receive the latest information of Professional Learning events and for ordering resources. Members can upload classroom resources in the members' area.

Our 2011 annual **revision seminar for WACE Stage 3** students was held on the 22nd October at UWA. Once again this event was a sell-out. The same venue, same sell out hosted the 2012 revision seminar on the 20th October 2012. We did explore the possibility of holding regional revision seminars in 2012. Demand and logistics proved to be stumbling points however we may revisit the possibility in 2013.

The **Joseph Gentilli Memorial Award for Excellence in Geographical Education** is conferred on a GAWA member who has made an outstanding contribution to Geographical Education. In recognition of its importance the award comes with prize money of \$2000. This year's recipient, Mr William, (Bill), Dwyer, was further highlighted in an article the West Australian on World Teachers Day.

The **John Forrest Awards** are held every year providing students with an opportunity to showcase their field sketch and sketch map skills along with their ability to analyse relationships between components within the natural and cultural environment. A good number of applicants were received this year.

The **National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition**, run in conjunction with AGTA, attracted a good number of students and schools from WA.

School Curriculum & Standards Authority - Course Advisory Committee

GAWA is well represented on the Course Advisory Committee. Five GAWA Council members are on the committee and another eight GAWA members sit on the committee. This year, so far, has seen the re-inclusion of the Indian Ocean Dipole as a variable in climate change for teaching in 2013. GAWA also provided an analysis of the 2011 WACE exam to assist the examiners and authority in the writing of future exams. The need to complete a review of the 3B course has also been foregrounded by GAWA representatives.

Australian Curriculum

The first draft of the Australian Curriculum: Geography was released in October 2011 for consultation until February 2012. GAWA Councillors and members attended DoE, AISWA, CEO and SCSA forums where system and sector responses were formulated. GAWA then submitted its own response based on members' feedback and inputs recorded at these earlier forums. GAWA councillors were involved in further feedback sessions and participated in the July GTA Presidents teleconference with ACARA and AGTA representatives before the production of the August validation draft.

Issues and Challenges

The biggest immediate challenge for geography, as a school discipline in Western Australia, is the expected decrease in senior school enrolments in 2013 due to the half-year cohort, which will flow onto WACE enrolments in 2014. This will directly impact on the demand for geography teachers in 2013 and 2014. It is also having an impact on all Society and Environment senior school offerings. This reinforces the need to get Geography up and running in our Year 7 and/or 8 cohorts as part of faculty and school plans for the Australian Curriculum as soon as possible.

The next challenge for GAWA is to expand our membership and service provision to include teachers of lower secondary and primary geography, whilst maintaining our services to our traditional membership base. This may require an expansion of the GAWA Council to accommodate the extra workload, which will be associated with this evolution of our subject.

President: Darryl Michie



Geography Teachers Association of Victoria (GTAV)

Membership is currently 651 – 5% increase on 2011 and includes 87 pre-service members who receive free membership. The Global Education Project (GEP) also provides access to pre-service and practising teachers at both secondary and primary schools.

Professional Learning

In the latter half of 2012, the GTAV has offered/will offer professional learning to experienced and inexperienced teachers of Geography including:

- 46th Annual Conference at CQ Functions – held in conjunction with the Global Education Project and Australian Literacy Educators Association (ALEA)
- VCE-Fieldwork Conference
- GIS training at a number of levels
- Fieldwork Day on the Mornington Peninsula
- Up-skilling inexperienced teachers of geography
- Showcase of Geography at Education Show
- GTAV has collaborated with Global Education Project and the GEP has independently provided information/workshop sessions to pre-service teachers at University of Melbourne, LaTrobe University, Monash University, Deakin University, University of Ballarat, RMIT Bundoora, Victoria University and ACU Ballarat.
- GEP has undertaken workshops at a number of primary schools
- Most events have online registration for 2012 – more successful than in 2011.

The following resources are in production or have been produced:

- Geography Environments : VCE Units 1 & 2 – completed
- Resources and Perspectives : VCE Units 3 & 4 – completed
- 2012 VCE Trial Exam – completed
- Full-colour resource catalogue – in production for 2013
- Full-colour Interaction X four editions in 2012 – 3 published; December edition in production
- GTAV News X 8 editions (online in 2012 on a trial basis)
- Borneo multimedia game – based on forest and cultural sustainability – in production
- "Bushfires : A Geography resource for Australian students" in conjunction with

Country Fire

- Authority – completed and launched at GTAV Annual Conference
- Mapping your career in Geography - brochure and free powerpoint and Prezi presentation - complete
- AGTA Geospace – Why Teach Geography? Illustration - complete

Global Education Project (GEP)

- Staff includes the Director of Project as Project Manager and four Global Education staff who deliver the project. Four sessional contractors are also employed to assist during times of heavy demand.
- Resources produced/in production using GEP funds include:
 - "Water for life: investigating water as a global issue" based on the Global Education learning emphases and Geography skills and knowledge and understandings – complete and launched at the GTAV Annual Conference
 - "Global geographies of human wellbeing" - a resource for Year 10, Unit 2 in the draft Australian Curriculum : Geography (AusAID funded) – in production

Plans for the rest of 2012

- AGTA GeoSpace – Primary validation – Ongoing
- Spatial Skills Resource

Action for the Promotion of Geography

- GTAV continues to have an active involvement with Destination Spatial – the Education Committee which includes representatives from the spatial industries, tertiary institutions and education – to promote career pathways into the spatial industry. GTAV has convened the Bursary Award.
- GTAV has developed a similar relationship with the Planning industry and the Supply Chain and
- Logistics Industry.
- GTAV has submitted articles to "Inspire", "Australian Teacher Magazine", "VCAA".
- Patron of the GTAV, Rob Gell, has played an active role within and for the Association – he was the Master of Ceremonies at the Patrons' Function and at the Annual Conference. He has supported the association regarding the advertising campaign of Deakin Uni and also advocated for the Toolangi Forest Education Centre.
- Patron's Function – combined with the AGM – an evening function at the Melbourne Museum which brought together members of the Victorian

Geography community - teachers, tertiary, life members, publishers, spatial industry.

- GTAV hosted the 'Big Week Out' in October 2012. Pat Beeson, GTAV Committee member, led a team which included GTAV Education Officer Stephen Latham.
- GTAV is collaborating with other subject associations to provide professional learning for teachers.
- GTAV hosts a Facebook page with approximately 344 members. GTAV now has a Twitter account @GeographyVic
- GTAV is actively represented on the Committee of Management of CPTAV – the Council of Professional Teaching Associations of Victoria.
- GTAV is developing partnerships with other SPP funded organisations – including Melbourne Museum, Sovereign Hill, MCG, the National Trust, Australian Children's Television Foundation, Botanic Gardens,

Curriculum Developments

- GTAV is providing teachers with information about the Australian Curriculum via GTAV News, website and professional learning opportunities e.g. at the GTAV Annual Conference in August 2012, a forum was held which included Monica Bini – VCAA Curriculum Manager, Susan Caldis – ACARA Senior Project Officer Geography, Malcolm McInerney ACARA Australian Curriculum : Geography Advisory Group.
- Both Malcolm McInerney and Susan Bliss also provided a seminar.
- Steve Latham (Education Officer), Trish Douglas (President) and Judy Mraz (Director of Projects) have also provided information and feedback as requested when required.
- In collaboration with VCAA, the GTAV has provided the opportunity for primary and secondary teachers to provide feedback on the revised draft version of the Australian Curriculum: Geography.
- The GTAV has provided a written submission on behalf of the GTAV which encompassed

Other

- GTAV hosted a VCE student topic lecture in August – attendance 400 (20% increase compared with 2011).
- VCE revision lectures were held on October 20 – attendance approximately 800.

President: Trish Douglas



Geography Teachers Association of Queensland (GTAQ)

Membership is similar to the corresponding period for the past couple of years. Membership continues to be relatively stable in the low 200s (202 total members as at 18 October 2012).

Professional Development

Mick Law ran a presentation at the Environmental Education Centre on National Curriculum and how environmental education centres can contribute to the debate. Another work shop was planned to be held in Mt Isa in mid-November on simple spatial technologies, but has been cancelled until 2013.

GTAQ hosted its highly successful State conference on 28th July at the University of Queensland and its field work day on the day before. This was one of the biggest GTAQ conferences in recent years with over 200 people registering for the day. The format and content of the day provided for three keynote address sessions. Workshops covered topics ranging from teaching pedagogy, to senior, middle and primary Geography topics, to the use of a number of new technologies. This year the theme was "Geography in the 21st Century" and the conference committee constructed a fantastic day filled with workshops, guest speakers, and show bags full of "goodies". The huge number of trade displays not only filled the venue and looked great; they provided an opportunity to find out the latest and greatest products and purchase resources.

Delegates had the pleasure of listening and participating in a vast range of sessions including a primary Geography stream. Of particular acclaim was the key note presented Margaret Robertson and Steve Jacoby. Judy Smeed also ran a session on using data in Geography. Representatives from QSA, ACARA, State Panel and a range of expert presenters gave much needed up to date information along with our very own AGTA Chair Malcolm McInerney, discussing 21st Century Geography and the Australian Curriculum.

Destination Spatial was the conference gold sponsor while silver sponsorship came in kind from the University of Queensland for

the venue. QUT, Global Learning Centre, Second Nature and Contour Education made up the remainder of sponsors. Eleven trade displays were involved providing satchel inserts, prizes and participating in the passport activity. Organisations present included: Oxford University Press; Jacaranda ; SSSIQLD; Brisbane City Council Green Heart Schools; Pearson; SEQ Water; QUT; Destination Spatial; Second Nature; Contour Education; and the Global Learning Centre. Four field trips were offered and were very popular: Redcliffe – to look at the impact of sea level rise, Toohey Forest, Spatial Technology and Second Nature presenting on intercultural understanding and field work. This year's conference dinner was held at Kapsali's at Southbank with a large number of delegates attending.

A Geography Teachers' seminar hosted by Bond University and Gold Coast GeoNet was held at Bond University in early September. The day comprised of a number of sessions centred around the four key themes taught in senior.

Verification meetings this year took place on Monday 22 October in all districts and State Panel met on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8th November to discuss any submissions that were not resolved and to assess comparability of assessment across the state.

The AGM was held on Thursday November 22 at the Bleeding Heart Café. The evening event with the AGM was followed by a free 2hr PD session involving two separate presentation sessions.

Publications and Projects

At the conference this year GTAQ launched its new green and blue image. A lime green squiggle line represents the land and biophysical environment, above the Association's initials (gtaq) which have been written in a lowercase bold dark green/grey. The logo is a much more contemporary look.

The Association's journal has continued to make over this year with a new publishing house, new colours, new format, new logo and 21st century presentation. The decision has been made to keep the journal in hard copy format to encourage people to read the document. The new look has been widely applauded and very popular with members.

A new version of the GTAQ website is currently being built to reflect our new look

and this should be up and available very soon.

As part of GTAQ's new image this year for the state conference committee members were seen sporting corporate T-shirts. A dark blue shirt trimmed in lime green and with the logo on the left chest pocket clearly identified the committee and key individuals on the day.

A strategic planning meeting was held in September to discuss the Association's future direction. On this day the Association's vision for the future, mission statement and values were discussed. These documents are currently a work in progress and will continue to be worked on and refined in coming months. Four key strategic areas include Support, Profile, Communication and Structure. Another meeting is planned for 17th November.

Action for Promotion of Geography

Meetings have taken place throughout the year on a range of issues relating to Geography. These initiatives have been undertaken to provide feedback to ACARA and AGTA regarding the Australian Curriculum and to participate in teleconferences. In July Lerece and Anne-Marie participated in the ACARA Teleconference to discuss the draft curriculum proposal with members of other state GTA's.

The AGM was held on Thursday November 22 at Royal Geographic Society of Queensland.

President: Lerece Roberts



Geography Teachers Association of New South Wales (GTANSW)

GTANSW has 432 financial members are registered as of October 2012

Professional Development

HSC examinations reviews were held in February and March 2012 at Riverview, Sydney; Newcastle and Wollongong while the HSC and fieldwork awards were held at Sydney College of the Arts, Rozelle, May 2012.

HSC student lectures were conducted in Hurstville, Callaghan Secondary College, University of Wollongong and St Andrews Cathedral School.

GTANSW annual conference was held at the University of Western Sydney, (South Werrington Campus).

The Geography Bulletin, has been edited by Susan Bliss and Grant Kleeman.

Actions for the promotion of geography

Congratulations are extended to Luke Naivasha and Penny Spreitzer who have been awarded bursaries by GTANSW covering their registration fees and attendance at the conference dinner at the AGTA 2013 conference in Perth.

GTANSW continues to liaise with the Geographical Society NSW and is preparing for Big Day Out.

Curriculum development

Activities include:

- participation in the Australian Curriculum: Geography. and
- membership of the DET HSIE cross curriculum committee

Website

The GTANSW website has been updated a special thank is extended to Rob Berry for undertaking this work.

Issues or problems

As there appears to be a slight difficulty in maintaining quorum at meetings GTANSW is considering five face-to-face meetings and four electronic meetings.

For discussion

Mark Eldridge, Global Kidz Goals has extended an offer to GTAs and AGTA from ACCOR (Australasia) HOTELS to provide complimentary Conferencing facilities Australia wide to promote PD around a series of Teacher / Student workbooks

"Make a World of Difference: A Guide to the Global Citizen"

A proposal has also been put forward from Group Events to host AGTA 2015 conference in Rotorua, working in conjunction with GTANSW.

President: Nick Hutchinson



Australian Capital Territory - Sub Branch of GTANSW

Membership continues to be solid with good representation across government and non-government schools.

Professional Development

A Spatial Technology workshop was held in early November 2012 as many teachers expressed a desire to attend such a course. The presentation was delivered by Mick Law from Contour Education and financed by the ACT Education and Training Directorate. Professional development around geographical thinking and skills is planned by the Directorate for this term targeting

primary teachers in public schools.

Karen Tuhan presented several workshop sessions to students studying at The University of Canberra who were learning to be SOSE teachers, regarding life in the classroom and about the teaching of SOSE, including geography. The graduates were interested in hearing about how the Australian Curriculum would impact on them and about how it may be implemented and believed that the activities undertaken would be useful in their future teaching.

Publications and Projects

The fieldwork project is progressing slowly, but links are being made with teachers in schools who are supportive of the idea and are prepared to provide resources.

Action for Promotion of Geography

Teachers from across all three sectors in the ACT have been involved in feedback session with ACARA. These meetings have been important in driving geography thinking and curriculum planning and have provided impetus for teachers in the ACT to start discussions in their school settings.

Curriculum Developments in ACT

Curriculum development in the ACT is a school-based decision. Since the release of the draft geography document in 2011, some schools have dabbled in writing units of work. However, most schools are waiting for the final document and some guidance from the Directorate regarding implementation.

Coordinator: Carol Pogson

Tasmanian Geography Teachers Association (TGTA)

TGTA continued the circulation of resources and information to Geography teachers throughout the state. Teachers have been actively encouraged to attend the 2013 AGTA Conference in Perth.

Curriculum Developments in Tasmania

The Government Post Year 10 sector has finally transitioned back to the Department of Education. All schools in Tasmania are continuing to work with a reduced budget due to a fiscal shortage in Tasmania, which is adversely affecting all government services. This reduced budget will continue into 2013.

Other Activities and Developments

TGTA has continued to maintain good links with the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at UTAS, especially in the curriculum area with the Australian Curriculum: Geography and co-operation with fieldwork.

President: Wayne Sutton



Geography Teachers Association of South Australia (GTASA)

As expected membership grew due to renewals at the time of the May Conference from 85 to approximately 100.

Professional Development

GTASA made primary geography a significant focus at the May Conference and as the time frame shortens for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography there has been growing interest in PD from primary teachers. GTASA were invited to participate in a combined association Australian Curriculum Conference in August organized by Primary Mathematics Association. John Butler took on the task of presenting Australian Curriculum: Geography in a primary setting. He reported back that his session was very well attended and he received positive feedback. A number of participants took membership forms and hopefully this will translate into greater inclusion of primary teachers into the Association in the near future.

At our most recent committee meeting the notion of running a PD day for primary teachers on a weekend early in Term 1 2013 was proposed and a number of members have taken on the task of exploring this initiative.

Publications and Projects

- It has been proposed that a Year 12 Study guide will be published again next year. It will probably be delivered on CD rather than hard – copy as in previous years to reduce overheads. Once again Andrew Penny has put up his hand to take oversee this task.
- The success of the upper primary and lower middle school Inquiring into Pandas resource that Rita Shepherd and Alexandra Piggott created has inspired members of the Executive to consider more resources in 2013. A number of projects are in the pipeline.

Action for Promotion of Geography

- The School of Social Sciences in association with GTASA held its Year 12 Geography Night at Adelaide University on August 23. Speakers included Professor Graeme Hugo and Dr Doug Bardsley. Approximately 220 students and teachers attended and the feedback was extremely positive. Thanks to Rita Shepherd and her helpers on the night.
- Special Service Awards were made to long standing, tireless workers of the Association – Malcolm McInerney, Peter

Melnyk and Alexandra Piggott. These people were acknowledged for their efforts at the World Teachers' Day Award Ceremony on Friday October 26.

Curriculum Developments

- As 'G' day approaches Australian Curriculum: Geography is becoming a focus in many schools.
- SACE Curriculum refinements continue.

Issues or Problems

- Major points from the SACE Review Panel Response

Submissions particularly from teachers and their subject associations, expressed concern at the narrowing of subjects chosen by students particularly at Stage 2 (based on the now mandatory requirement of four full year subjects instead of the previous five); submissions suggested certain subject areas (humanities and languages in particular) were suffering more than on others.

Students are "research fatigued" given the extent of research type activities in other subjects.

In the main these concerns (which were voiced well before 2011) relate to a reduction in the number of students who are choosing to study a language other than English or a humanities subject at Stage 2. These concerns are accompanied by suggestions that there is a significant reduction in the number of schools now offering certain subjects at Stage 2 which will impact on the availability of experienced teachers specialising in these subjects who will be available to teach these subjects in future years of those which are most commonly selected (i.e. more than 1000 Stage 2 students in 2010 or 2011) the 20 credit subjects which have been most affected are shown in the table below:

Subject	Fewer Selections	% Reduction Relative to 2010	Fewer Schools Offering
Geography	723	69	43
Tourism	897	55	32
Society and Culture	771	48	21
Legal Studies	450	40	17
Modern History	495	31	26

The Panel has also examined the two year experience in subject choices at Stage 1 in 2010 and 2011 compared with previous years and has noted that there are both similarities and differences in subject selection compared with the former SACE. The most notable points are as follows: the reduction in selection of Geography, Tourism, Legal Studies and History has also

occurred at Stage 1 with reductions in the range of 15% to 40% occurring between the current SACE (Stage1 selections in 2010 and 2011) compared with the previous SACE in 2009 confirming the concerns of teachers of humanities and languages other than English about the narrowing of subject choices.

The longer term policy question for the SACE Board and education authorities in South Australia is the potential impact the emerging Australian Curriculum could have on the SACE. If there is to be a reversal of some of the early subject selection trends in humanities and languages identified above, the availability of skilled teachers in those and other subject areas will need to be carefully considered.

The Panel recommends that the SACE Board note the early trends in subject selection and, in conjunction with education authorities, continue to monitor the trends in subject selection at both Stage 1 and Stage 2. Further, with the emerging Australian Curriculum in mind, the Panel recommends that the authorities consider and address possible difficulties in the availability of skilled senior secondary teachers in subjects for which a reversal of the early trend in subject choices may occur in future.

Unintended consequences of the SACE are narrowing of subject Choices, impact on subject offerings and teacher availability.

The removal of the former SACE pattern and the reduction in total requirements has had a disproportionate impact on the enrolments in the subjects being studied at both Stage 1 and Stage 2 and has led to a reduction in the number of schools able to offer the subjects most affected. Many teachers in those subject areas at senior secondary level seem to have faced the alternatives of: teaching in the earlier years of secondary education and/or teaching the Research Project (for which many of them report feeling somewhat unprepared), or retiring.

Other issues

- Declining numbers of schools offering Geography at Stage 1&/or 2 affecting our membership.
- It is a major concern that many fulltime teachers appear to be finding it increasingly difficult to make themselves available for GTASA activities. Regular apologies from committee meetings due to being 'snowed under at school'. Too few have carried the load this year and it is a major focus to ensure that 2013 jobs are filled and evenly spread.

President: Greg Way



Geography's **Big Week Out**, Victoria 2012

Geography's Big Week Out was held on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, from Sunday 30th September to Friday 5th October with assessment and marking taking place at the GTAV offices the following day. Sixteen students, two from each state (territory except NT) and four from NSW took part with 8 staff from Victoria and Kath Berg and Margaret McIvor from Queensland. Gerry Smith from GTAV assisted with catering.

The 5 goals from 2011 framed the 2012 program:

- Learning and fun for the winners of the Australian Geography Competition
- Integrate technology into the program
- Provide a mutual learning experience for geography teachers.
- Raise the profile of Geography in Victoria
- Resources for Victorian Geography Teachers via the GTAV website and in professional development following the program

Four field studies were undertaken: Longitudinal study of a river- water quality, habitat and the channel system; Dune transect; Socio-economic comparison of two neighbourhoods; and Management within Mornington Peninsula National Park.

Students come to the program with very different backgrounds. For example only six students had studied rivers in some depth. Students valued the variety provided but consolidation of concepts and learning was restricted by time.

Two recreational activities, Bathing at Peninsula Hot Springs and Cycling in Pt. Nepean National Park tied in neatly with the fieldwork, contributed to student's knowledge of the area and were popular. One of the most enjoyable activities was the exchange of Op Shop gifts on the last evening and students asked that this tradition be continued.

Shire Engagement: Mornington Peninsula Shire graciously hosted the group again and provided morning tea. The students were addressed by Allan Cowley who is responsible for strategic planning in the shire. Allan kindly provided his presentation.

Technology: Ultimate Positioning provided sophisticated GNSS (global navigation satellite system) or GPS units for the dune transects and a staff member to assist. This company has offices around the country and I recommend they be approached if further work of this nature is required.



This year the accommodation had installed a wi-fi internet connection and several students brought their own laptops and used these, mainly for social purposes.

Lack of time, software and internet connection issues prevented students using GIS within the program. One student in his evaluation was disappointed that we could not integrate more GIS. From previous experience it would seem better to integrate GIS using a school based computer lab.

Booklet: The 2012 booklet was printed both in black and white, and where appropriate, in colour. It was wire bound, had a clear front cover and cardboard back cover. It was compiled in 10 separate sections using a common template. The sections may be used as resources for GTAV website. It is in digital format and will be provided with our 2011 booklet, and the 2009/2010 WA booklet. Student feedback indicated that the tasks were achievable although challenging.

Assessment: The 2011 assessment was used again in 2012. However, significant improvements to its presentation were made. This will be provided in digital format for future organisers of the Big Week Out.

Risk Assessment and 'Big Week Out' Guidelines: Kath Berg, in consultation with GTAV, developed a set of guidelines for Geography's Big Week Out. These were applicable for Victoria in 2012. In addition, in 2012 we undertook a risk assessment of the program similar to that expected by DEECD of teachers undertaking field work activities.

Student Comments: Two examples of student comments follow that affirm the value of this program.

Can i just say that i thoroughly enjoyed the experience because it was absolutely fantastic from start to end - the people, the geography, the location - it was all amazing. I know that none of it would have been possible without all of the work that you and all of the other staff went to so I would like to once again



*say thank you to you all. I guess what i wrote in the paragraphs sums it up pretty nicely - I made friendships with people I would have otherwise never met and have brought back memories which I will hold onto for a long time. The week really was amazing so once again thank you. **Lachlan Peat***

*Kath I also want to thank you, (and if you could pass it on to all the others), for putting on such an amazing week for all of us. Everything you have all done has been so appreciated, and I'm sure for me, if not for everybody, this will be an experience I won't ever forget. All of you have put such passion and energy into our experience, and have made it something truly incredible. I know I wrote it in my reflection, but I'll say it again, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to do what I really enjoy, at a level of depth and interestingness I have only ever been able to wish for, with people who give it their all. I've loved it, and trying to describe to Mum and Dad what it was like, I ended up saying that the week was what a perfect school should be like. Learning for the love of learning (and learning a LOT more than you do in a classroom), and having enormous amounts of fun and laughs along the way. You and all the other teachers made that happen, and have shared in the memories and the laughs. Thank you for giving me that opportunity, through all the effort, time, energy and love you put into our week. You have my heartfelt thank you. **Jamie***

*Thank you to Kath and the team of teachers who made the 2012 Geography's Big Week Out a success. **Pat Beeson, 14th October 2012.***

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