

# GEOGRAPHIA

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

JULY 2011

Occasional Newsletter of The Australian Geography Teachers' Association Limited

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## Exploring 21<sup>st</sup> Century Geography

A resource to support schools to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of geography

**ATTENTION:**  
Geography/SOSE Coordinators

### The DVD contains:

- Articles and resources on 21<sup>st</sup> century geography
- GIS skills development, GIS in Physical Geography and Historical GIS books – step-by-step instructions with student activities and teacher guidelines plus supporting geographical data all supplied on the DVD
- 21<sup>st</sup> century internet sites
- Technology in the geography classroom articles, internet sites and resources
- Inquiry project design and work samples.

Purchase from AGTA's website at [www.agta.asn.au/products](http://www.agta.asn.au/products) and pay by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or your PayPal account. Schools may purchase using an authorised purchase order.

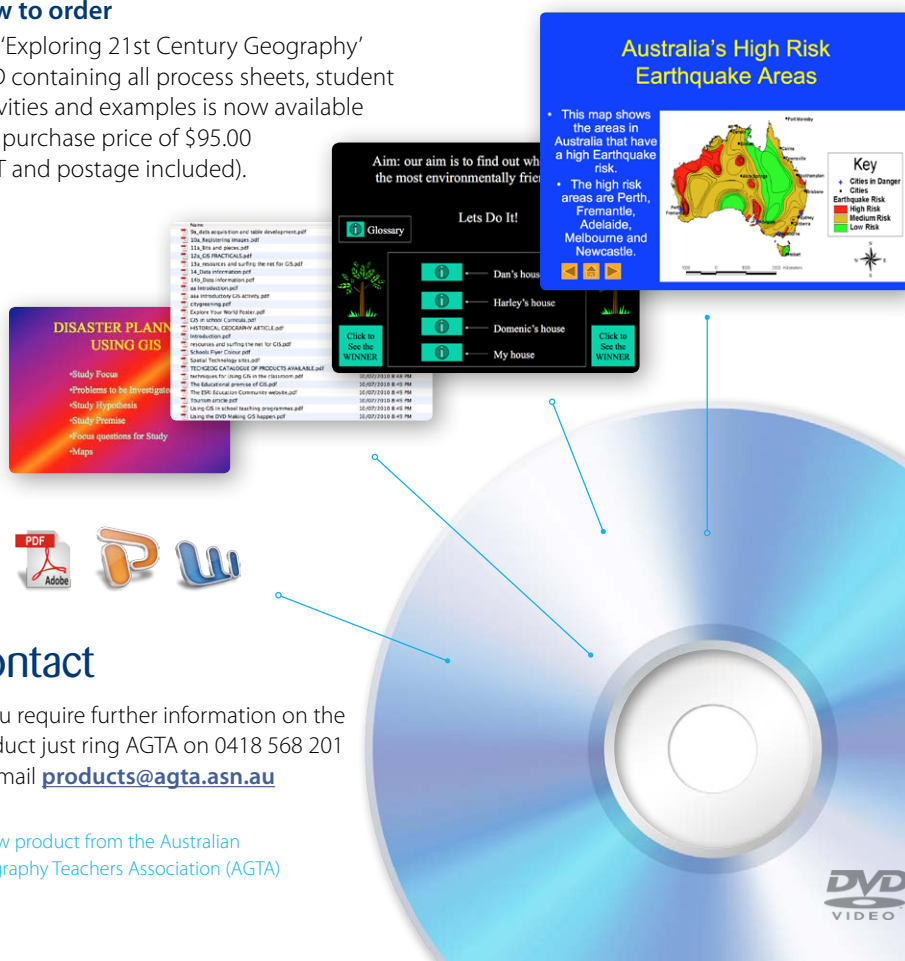
A copy of the DVD will be promptly dispatched to you following confirmation of payment.

**Only \$95.00 for the complete resource postage included**

Includes unlimited site license and copying rights in your school.

### How to order

The 'Exploring 21st Century Geography' DVD containing all process sheets, student activities and examples is now available at a purchase price of \$95.00 (GST and postage included).



## Contact

If you require further information on the product just ring AGTA on 0418 568 201 or email [products@agta.asn.au](mailto:products@agta.asn.au)

A new product from the Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA)

[www.agta.asn.au](http://www.agta.asn.au)





### National AGTA Conference January 2011

The highly successful AGTA conference, convened by the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia was held in Adelaide from January 8-13th 2011. Over 240 teachers attended the conference, titled "Geography going National", to hear wonderful keynote addresses from Peter Hill (CEO ACARA), Rita Gardner (Director RGS in the UK), Tim Costello (AGTA Patron) and Duncan Chessell (explorer). If you wish to view these excellent presentations and some of the workshop Powerpoints go to [www.agta.asn.au/conf\\_presentations/index.htm](http://www.agta.asn.au/conf_presentations/index.htm). Many thanks to the conference convenor Mark Manual and the GTASA Executive for their hard work in making the conference such a great success. I am sure we will look back on AGTA 2011 as a pivotal event in the development of the Australian Curriculum for geography.

### AGTA Patron announced

At AGTA 2011 we were pleased to announce that Tim Costello has agreed to become the AGTA Patron. We see the appointment of Tim as an important development to support AGTA's aim to promote geography in the public space. Tim is a well respected and involved member of the Australian community and as his articles in recent times show, a person convinced of the importance of geography for young people and the need to ensure geography has place in school education in Australia. Go to the AGTA website at [www.agta.asn.au/patron/index.htm](http://www.agta.asn.au/patron/index.htm) for more information on Tim and his perceived role as AGTA Patron.

### Geocareers Website

One of AGTA's important promotional activities is the Geocareers website at [www.geocareers.net.au](http://www.geocareers.net.au). The site, developed by Rob Berry, is proving to be an outstanding resource for educators and students, linking our discipline with potential careers. At present the major sections include Meet a Geographer, Studying Geography, Using Geography and Resources.

### Australian Curriculum for Geography

In January 2011 ACARA released the Shape of the Australian Curriculum: geography document. Since then ACARA has appointed writers and an advisory panel to develop the curriculum. In June 2011 ACARA released the first deliverable of the writing for targeted consultation processes with state jurisdictions and geography teachers associations (coordinated by AGTA). At this stage the future process for the Australian Curriculum: Geography has been announced as (naturally subject to change by ACARA):

- In August 2011 a National Forum of key stakeholders is tentatively planned to be held in Sydney to view and discuss the work to date. This should involve the viewing of the draft rationale, aims and a scope and sequence.
- A draft scope and sequence containing content descriptions (including elaborations) and achievement standards is planned to be released in September 2011 for national consultation. This on-line consultation is tentatively planned to be held between September-December 2011. This consultation period will be followed by another phase of curriculum writing guided by the advice provided from the consultation.
- A second National Forum is tentatively planned for February 2012 to discuss the revisions.
- Another national on-line consultation is tentatively planned to be held between May-June 2012, followed by revisions by the writers.
- At this stage ACARA is saying that the Australian Curriculum: Geography will be published on-line during September 2012

There is plenty going on in the world of Australian geography! We are facing the challenges of being closely involved in the development of an Australian Curriculum for geography, promoting the 'brand' of geography in the community whilst continuing our essential role as an association supporting teachers.

**Malcolm McInerney**  
AGTA Chair

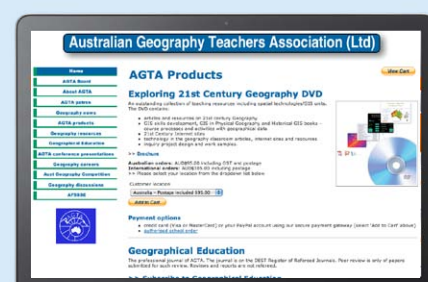
## AGTA Website

The AGTA 2011 Conference section has been the major area of development on the AGTA website since the last Board meeting. Fieldwork and workshop resources have been added as well as edited video highlights of the keynote presentations by Rita Gardner, Duncan Chessell and Tim Costello. Information about Tim Costello has been added to a new page on the website. A full report of the AGTA Award winners has been also been published.

In addition, a Facebook page has been set up with both general comments and an AGTA 2011 conference wall. A tribute to Rex Walford was one of the first postings added along with a selection of photos taken en route to the conference (an aerial photo of the Murray River mouth taken by Stephen Cranby), as well as during the preconference Kangaroo Island tour, field trips and the conference.

The Chairperson's annual report provides useful information for members about the achievements of AGTA whilst the 'Geography discussions' section provides links to Web 2.0 geography websites and a portal to a number of useful blogs, wikis, nings, forums, discussions and other participatory web applications that support geography teaching both in Australia and overseas. Other changes to the website include updates to the news section (e.g. latest issue of Geographia), Board members, affiliate details and resources. Updates have also been made to the national geography curriculum website, standards for geography teaching and details of affiliate conferences. The listing of state conferences has been updated where such details are known.

Finally, the online marketing of *Geographical Education* and some resources is now active on the website.



# Meeting 107 – Overview

The 107th meeting of AGTA Board was held in Sydney at Leichhardt Public School, Leichhardt NSW.

A special welcome was extended to Darryl Mitchie, Vice President, Geographical Association of Western Australia.

The structure of this meeting was changed to the norm with breakout groups being re-introduced to initiate pro-active planning on various topics to move AGTA into the future.

Since the 105 Board meeting a huge amount of work has been generated, particularly with the AGTA Conference that was held in Adelaide in January this year.

AGTA's financial position remains stable with the balance sheet as at the 7/5/2011 showing AGTA's total assets as \$177,483.05 and total liabilities as \$2,780.13 with net assets of \$180,263.18.

Associations are reminded that affiliation fees are payable for the year commencing after the AGM i.e. the 2010-2100 affiliation fees were due at the end of 2010 based on membership numbers as at 30 October 2010. Clause 11 of the constitution states that "If the subscription of a member shall remain unpaid for a period of two (2)

calendar months after it becomes due then the member may after notice of the default shall have been sent to the member by the Secretary be debarred by resolution of the Board from all privileges of membership and the member's name may be removed by the Board from the Register of Members."

Malcolm welcomed Susan Caldis (Senior Project Officer: Geography, ACARA) to the meeting. Susan provided an update / overview on where we are at with the Australia Curriculum and where AGTA can assist with the consultation and development process. It is imperative that GTA's give input into the Shape Paper regarding any highlights, issues and concerns.

Following queries by the Geographical Association of WA regarding the AGTA Constitution, AGTA engaged Barristers and Solicitors, Scammell and Co, to assess and amend the constitution to clarify any anomalies and inconsistencies. After minor



amendments were made the Board unanimously passed the following motion:

**Motion:** "That the constitution as amended be submitted to Geography Teachers' Associations for ratification at the Annual General Meeting in October 2011."

Moved: Malcolm McInerney  
Seconded: Steve Cranby  
Carried Unanimously

## Surveyors and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI)

The Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) is Australia and New Zealand's peak body representing the interests of surveying and spatial science professionals, combining the disciplines of land surveying, engineering & mining surveying, cartography, hydrography, remote sensing and spatial information science.

At the meeting in Canberra, **Professor Ken Lyons, University of Queensland** spoke of his work on the Queensland Workforce document. In particular, that demand is significantly greater than supply for spatial industry employment. Supply and demand were matching in the 1980s and 90s but since 2000 there has been a significant divergence. The trend is for fewer graduates, increased demand and overseas recruitment increasing. Problem is that demand is a 6 month growth timeline but creating supply

(graduates/retrained) can be anything up to 6-10 years. Presently the industry is lobbying government for the spatial industry employment to be supported by the Australian Government Critical Skills Fund. At this stage Professor Lyons consider the attempts to educate teachers in schools about the opportunities in the spatial industry has failed and needs to be revisited as an initiative.

The Spatial Industries Business Association proposal to develop a **Spatial Industry Statistics Program** discussion paper has considerable potential to provide quantitative data on the level of demand and opportunities in the spatial industry for course counselling in schools.

Roger Buckley, newly appointed SSSI CEO outlined the efforts by SSSI to promote the spatial industry in schools and the community. They are:

- Re-development of the Spatial technology in Schools competition
- Packaging of available career orientated DVD's into one portal

- New SSSI website focused on careers
- 'Destination Spatial' at [www.destinationspatial.org/](http://www.destinationspatial.org/) is an effort by the SSSI to promote spatial careers.

### Highlights of the event for AGTA

- The positive involvement in the advocacy work for geography by Liz Marchant (ANZLIC) and Roger Buckley (SSSI). In particular their offer to try to meet with Peter Hill in the near future to promote the importance of the spatial industry in terms of geography and all it can offer.
- The opportunity to brief the Spatial Industry people on the development with geography in Australia, in particular the Australian Curriculum: geography.
- Viewing of the destination spatial website at [www.destinationspatial.org/](http://www.destinationspatial.org/) and the Geospatial Revolution from Pennsylvania University at [www.youtube.com/v/ZdQjc30YPOk&hl=en\\_US&feature=player\\_embedded&version=3](http://www.youtube.com/v/ZdQjc30YPOk&hl=en_US&feature=player_embedded&version=3)



# NGC National Geography Competition



The Competition is managed by the Australian Geography Competition Committee. The number of students entering the 2011 Competition is provisionally 79,113. This includes students from schools who have not yet paid, and the number will therefore drop slightly.

The decline in numbers of the last two years continued in 2011, although Western Australia had record student numbers this year. Later in the year, the Committee will survey schools that competed in 2010 but not 2011 to try to establish reasons for the decrease.

State/Territory	2011 (interim)		2010	
	Students	Schools	Students	Schools
Australian Capital Territory	2 602	15	2 330	14
New South Wales	30 244	286	33 384	318
Northern Territory	114	4	336	7
Queensland	15 216	157	17 957	166
South Australia	4 209	38	4 771	49
Tasmania	713	21	787	16
Victoria	14 997	134	15 680	140
Western Australia	10 572	87	9 856	104
Other <sup>1</sup>	446	4	30	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79 113</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>85 131</b>	<b>815</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes External Territories and overseas



## Final for under 16s

Students won a place at the Final for under 16s based on their scores in the school round.

As part of the naming rights agreement, the Final for under 16s is held in Sydney. The Final was held on Monday 6 June at Foxtel Studios. National Geographic Channel will film the Final again. Malcolm McInerney officially represented AGTA at the Final. Sydney schools that entered the Competition were invited to attend. The students that came first and second at the Final represented Australia at the National Geographic World Championship in San Francisco in July 2011.



## Asia Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad

The 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Geography Olympiad was held from 4 to 9 July in Mérida on the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico. Four students were selected to represent Australia, based on their performances at the 2010 Geography's Big Week Out:

- Bridget Anderson, St Mary's College, Hobart
- Laura Bennett, Coffs Harbour Senior College

- Tarang Immidi, Sydney Grammar School
- Jonathan Steven, Camberwell Grammar School, Melbourne.

The next full International Geography Olympiad will be held in Cologne, Germany, in August 2012. Australia's team will be selected from students who excel at the 2011 Geography's Big Week Out.

## Geography's Big Week Out

The 2010 Geography's Big Week Out was another roaring success with great feedback from the participating students. It was held from 5 to 10 December in Perth and Rottnest Island. 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, who took part in the senior division of the Competition. Photos and comments from the students are on the website at [www.rgsq.org.au/gbwo.htm](http://www.rgsq.org.au/gbwo.htm).

### Thanks to the leaders who made Big Week Out possible:

- Kath Berg, Royal Geographical Society of Queensland
- Lidia DiGiuseppe, Geographical Association of Western Australia
- Mike Fazio, Geographical Association of Western Australia
- Ali Harris, Geographical Association of Western Australia
- Marc Harris, Woodvale Senior High School
- Trish Harris, Australian Geography Teachers' Association
- Phil Houweling, John Calvin Christian College
- Margaret McIvor, Australian Geography Teachers' Association
- Denise Moore, Geographical Association of Western Australia
- Simon Roos-Freeman, Leeming Senior High School
- Norm Snell, Geographical Association of Western Australia
- Emmy Terry, Australian Geography Teachers' Association

After two years in Perth, Big Week Out is shifting to Victoria in 2011. We very much appreciate that GTAV, with a committee under the leadership of Pat Beeson, has agreed to take on this responsibility.



Planning is underway for GBWO that will be held in Victoria. The venue will be at the Mornington Peninsula from Sunday 2 to Friday 7 October 2011.

Context is to study the challenges of managing the pressure of urban development and tourist growth in fragile environments and exploring polarization of socio-economic groups on the Mornington Peninsula.

Date	Program
Sunday 2nd October	Orientation to Melbourne – visits to Eureka Tower and ride on city circle tram. Travel to Mornington Peninsula.
Monday 3rd October	Orientation to peninsula with fieldsketch overlooking area, talk by CEO and others from shire. Study of Main creek- a drainage basin in a rural area largely untouched by urban development.
Tuesday 4th October	Impact of tourism and urban development on coastal ecosystems – ocean and bay beaches. St Andrews Beach and Rye.
Wednesday 5th October	Exploring socio economic divisions on the peninsula from Rosebud West to Portsea.
Thursday 6th October	Balcombe Creek. Urban development in a river catchment and impact of pressure groups.
Friday 7th October	GBWO assessment. Ferry to Queenscliff and transport to the airport, completes the clockwise circumnavigation of Port Phillip Bay.

Thank you is extended to GTAV and to coordinator, Pat Beeson for hosting this event.



## GeoCareers website

Changes and revisions 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](mailto:rberry@agta.asn.au)). Rob will then contact each person nominated and provide them with a standard proforma and agreement sheet.

## National Geographic World Championship

Australia will compete at the biennial National Geographic World Championship to be held from 23 to 28 July in San Francisco. Google is sponsoring the World Championship and the Final will be held at Google headquarters. Riley Kernaghan, MacGregor State High School, Brisbane, has been selected for the team from the 2010 Final for under-16s. The other two team members will be chosen from the 2011 Final.





## Comment



WITH WORLD  
VISION CEO  
TIM COSTELLO



### The shape of geography today

AS the head of a major aid and development agency, I all too often get to witness first-hand the devastation of natural disaster.

In the past 12 months, floods have killed about 2000 people in Pakistan, 800 in Brazil and nearly 40 in Australia. One thing that often strikes me is the vast differences such disasters have on different places, different countries and different communities. The frequency and intensity of natural disasters are also increasing while more government and non-government resources are required.

This real-world phenomenon is now part of a wider approach to geography that goes well beyond the stereotype of learning obscure landforms and capital cities. The recently released *Shape of the Australian curriculum: Geography* paints a far more dynamic, contemporary and engaging vision. It is a picture of geography that offers teachers and students the opportunity to inquire and wrestle with the interconnected, globalised world of the 21st century. It is one of the reasons I recently took on the role as Patron of the Australian Geography Teachers Association and addressed its national

conference in Adelaide.

Geography explores how and why places have their particular environmental and human characteristics. Students tackle the questions of how and why our world is changing. It equips our young people to analyse and evaluate if this change is just and sustainable.

One role of the new Australian curriculum is to prepare young Australians for the globalised and interdependent 21st century world. Geography will enable them to understand the nature of our interdependence and the responsibilities that come with being active and informed citizens. The major issues of climate change, migration, trade, urbanisation and global inequality are all addressed.

Geography has a unique role to play. No other learning area in school draws on both the natural sciences and social sciences in the same integrated way. The new geography curriculum offers a rigorous, real-world education and great hope for a more just and sustainable future.

As Michael Palin, former Python and current President of the Royal Geographical Society, has noted: "Geography explains the past, illuminates the present, and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?"

## Susan Caldis (Senior Project Officer: Geography)

As part of the consultation process on the draft broad outline of the curriculum for Geography, ACARA would like AGTA to be involved in the process.

On 27 May 2011 ACARA provided AGTA with the draft broad outline of the curriculum for geography, with the expectation that the documents would be shared with the Executive to provide some feedback to ACARA via teleconference and also in writing.

Geography is the investigation and understanding of the earth and its features and the distribution of life on earth, including human life and impacts. It is the study of the many different places of environments which

make up our world and is described as the 'why of where'

### What has been achieved for Geography?

- Initial scoping of curricula and the submission of a position paper (2009-2010)
- Development and publication of the Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography Paper (2010)
- National consultation on the above paper (2010)
- Publication of the Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography Paper (2011)
- Curriculum writing (2011)

Feedback will be sought on key areas including the rationale and aims; concepts F-12; Concepts: Place and Space and "big ticket: items such as:

- Fieldwork
- Spatial Technologies
- Defining 'environment'
- Defining 'sustainability'

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[www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)

Senior Project Officer, Geography:

[susan.caldis@acara.edu.au](mailto:susan.caldis@acara.edu.au)

### Timelines for Development:

Consultation	Publication of the Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography	1 February 2011
Curriculum Writing	Broad outline, scope and sequence Content description (and elaboration) and achievement standards	February to May 2011 May – August 2011
Consultation	National Consultation State and Territory jurisdiction consultation Trial Schools; curriculum mapping Curriculum revision and final consultation period	September – December 2011 May – June 2012 September – December 2011 February – August 2012
On-line Publication	Digital publication	August – September 2012

## 2010 AGTA Awards

The Australian Geography Teachers' Association presents biennial awards to producers of materials used in the teaching of geography. It is pleased to announce the winners of the 2010 Awards.

Category	Award Winner	Highly Commended
1. Primary school resource	<b>Get Connected</b> Publisher: World Vision Australia	<b>The Big Picture Book of Environments</b> Author: John Long Publisher: Allen & Unwin
2. Junior secondary school textbook	<b>Oxford Big Ideas Geography Level 6</b> Author: Mark Eason, Kirsty Leahy, John Ramsdale and Marianne Ward Publisher: Oxford University Press	<b>GTAV Geospatial Skills Activity Book Level 5</b> Publisher: GTAV
		<b>Oxford Big Ideas Geography Level 5</b> Author: Mark Eason Publisher: Oxford University Press
3. Senior secondary school textbook	<b>Our Global Future: the Geography of Planning Cities and Climate Change</b> Authors: Kathryn A Ford and Norman J Snell Publisher: GAWA	<b>VCE Geography New Perspectives Supplement</b> Authors: Raymond Pask and John Ramsdale Publisher: GTAV
4. Broadsheet, chart, wall map	<b>Oxford Big Atlas 2</b> Publisher: Oxford University Press	<b>Oxford Big Atlas 1</b> Publisher: Oxford University Press
		<b>GTAV 2008 Topographic Map Set</b> Publisher: GTAV
5. Atlas	<b>The Jacaranda Atlas Edition 7</b> Publisher: Jacaranda (John Wiley & Sons, Australia Ltd.)	<b>Oxford Atlas with OBook</b> Publisher: Oxford University Press
		<b>Oxford Atlas Project 1</b> Publisher: Oxford University Press
6. Video	No award	
7. DVD	No award	<b>Fraser Island World Heritage Area in Queensland</b> Author: Stephen Weingarh Publisher: Pro Doc
		<b>Geographers in the Field</b> Publisher: VEA
8. Website	<b>DataGenie</b> Publisher: Education Services Australia	
9. Non-commercial, teacher produced resource	<b>Building Global Awareness</b> Author: Mark Wildy Publisher: Global Education Centre of South Australia	
10. Geography teaching resource material	<b>Keys to Geography Essential Skills and Tools</b> Authors: Jeana Kriewaldt and Bob Digby Publisher: Macmillan Education Australia	<b>The 2010 GAWA Examination Package</b> Author: GAWA Publisher: GAWA
11. Geographical education publication	<b>GTAV Interaction Global Geography Volume 38 No 2 June 2010</b> Authors: Judy Mraz & Denise Miles Publisher: GTAV	

## National Education Forum

National Education Forum is an organisation representing approximately 32 associations. The NEF meets three times a year with a possibility of a fourth in Parliament House, Canberra during 2011.

### The meeting consisted of:

- A workshop session exploring the purpose and potential of Professional Teacher associations.
- Gaining feedback from groups to be the basis of a paper developed by the NEF on the purpose of Professional Teacher associations
- A Panel discussion with AITSL (CEO, Margery Evans), Angelo Gavrielatos (AEU National President ) and Jayne Johnstone (Executive Director Schools ACT)

In small groups the question was posed to the 32 association representatives: "Who are and what do professional teacher associations do?"

### Extensive discussion resulted in a number of responses including that professional associations are:

- predominately comprised of classroom teachers but also have membership from pre-service teachers, university lecturers, industry, curriculum authorities and retired educators. Some of the cross disciplines associations are also expanding the stakeholders in the educational enterprise beyond schools to include parents and carers
- representative through individual, school and institution membership structures provide for a diverse group of educators
- the voice of teachers representing teachers in the classroom a form of learning community where the only barrier to membership is a fee
- self-sustaining and not dependent on funding from government or jurisdictional bodies
- are independent voices not beholden to jurisdictions or employers, being responsible solely to their professional responsibility as educators
- not politically aligned and thus able to provide fearless an independent advice - balanced and professional view on issues
- providers of cost effective resources and professional learning as a result of the dedication of the professional to volunteer their services (in terms of intellectual and time) to the work of the association
- a value-add (not free) resource to jurisdictions and government education bodies wishing to develop and conduct education innovation and initiatives across Australia
- primarily focused on student learning and outcomes
- in some cases specific to a learning area but also may be cross-discipline
- involved in awareness raising activities concerning their area of education and increasingly being asked to operate as advocates for their members and area of education
- initiators of research in their area to support quality improvement and provide connection between research and practice
- able to provide a conduit and filter between the classroom and the National Agenda
- involved in developing professional teacher standards for their learning area
- regular publishers of journals, newsletters, websites and teaching resources for their members
- the major providers of professional learning for quality classroom practice in their area of learning.
- the providers of leadership with professional learning
- often asked to critique and have input into the educational policy agenda, but there is no evaluation of this relationship
- looked to by educators to provide expert advice in terms of content pedagogical knowledge
- represented on a wide variety of consultative and advisory bodies coordinated by industry, jurisdictions and national bodies
- at the 'cutting edge' of developments in their area of education and are usually the first adopters of technological and detaching practice in their field
- able to be responsive to innovation and changing education needs because they are not encumbered by bureaucratic risk-aversion inhibitors.
- closely involved in curriculum development via state education authorities and ACARA
- networkers between other teacher associations, jurisdictions, parent groups, industry, universities and schools
- able to provide through their membership mentoring of young teachers in remote and regional support to schools
- able to develop a sense of belonging for teachers through professional learning and social activities. Teacher self-identity that associations support is specifically related to one interested in professional learning and professional inquiry
- the enablers for professional identity and professionalism for individuals through identification with a professional body of like-minded individuals all operating as professionals
- representative of all states and territories of Australia and in most cases are truly national bodies
- comprised of educators from State, Catholic and Independent systems
- representative of professional engaged personnel willing to invest in membership of the associations, attend professional learning activities conducted by the associations and provide their intellectual property and commit as dedicated professionals to conduct and participate in activities outside of their normal duties as educators at particular work sites
- bodies with great credibility with educators across Australia because they are practitioners aware of the demands and requirement of educators working in their particular area of educational expertise
- groups who provide excellence in teaching initiatives to promote good practice and recognition of outstanding.

### Highlights of the event for AGTA

- Small group structure provided the opportunity to develop some very useful material for the paper on associations being developed by the NEF.
- Margery Evans (AITSL CEO) and Angelo Gavrielatos (AEU President) giving very good insight into the developments, thinking and politics of AITSL in relation to National Professional Standards for Teachers. They also stated that they are unclear of the role of associations in the future of professional learning to support the national agenda re: education.
- It was an excellent opportunity for Margery Evans to find out about the work of AGTA with GEOGstandards in particular.



## Geographical Teachers Association of Western Australia (GAWA)

President: Trish Harris

Current membership stands at approximately 250. In 2010 the association created a new website with login facilities and membership services have been expanded through access to the website.

A New to Geography Teaching Professional Development session was attended by approximately 40 teachers. A range of teaching resources to support each stage and Year 11 and 12 was provided in electronic format to all participants. A mapping and practical skills session was hosted by Sandra Tressider who also has extensive experience working with ESL students and was able to incorporate literacy and numeracy strategies.

GAWA held a very successful WACE revision seminar for Year 12 students in 2010. Based on the success of 2010 planning is underway for a similarly timed but less short notice revision event.

Planning for the 2010 Conference is underway that will be held from 19-21 August 2011 at the Joondalup Resort.

GAWA has agreed to host the 2013 AGTA conference. A subcommittee has been formed and initial preparations are in progress.

GAWA is proud to have produced 6 new texts for the new courses on offer in Western Australia. Regular sales are recorded for the **Year 11 and 12 texts: Hazards, Impacts and Responses** by Norman Snell and

**Sustainable Planet** by Tamara Boyer for Year 11; and **Our Global Future: Planning for Cities and Climate Change**, written by Kathryn Ford and Norman Snell for Year 12. Norm Snell's **The Geographers Toolkit** and its companion student activity book are GAWA's main skills texts.

In the pipeline for mid-2011 is a new text for Stage 3 Geography revision with a current working title **A Student's Guide to the Stage 3 Geography (WACE)**.

Late in 2010 GAWA published a new Stage 1 text **Coastal Environments at Risk – Unit 1 AGEO** written by Kate Ford to address a lack of resources for stage 1 students and teachers. Accompanying the text are extra resources on a CD. Sales have been strong and lots of positive feedback received.

The Stage 3A and Stage 2 GAWA Exams resources on offer include broadsheets (printed), mock exam and marking guide (digital and printed).

### GAWA's activities included:

- Participating in the GEES (Geography, Earth and Environmental Science Day) that was held on April 13. This event promoted Geography careers with practical hands on activities at the Perth Zoo. GIS activities were used to promote geographical understanding
- Hosting the **John Forrest Competition** provides an excellent opportunity for members to involve their students in an activity that focuses on application of knowledge and skills developed through their study of geography
- Acknowledging and rewarding excellence in Geography teaching and considering

nominations for **Joseph Gentili Memorial Award for Excellence in Geographical Education**. The Joseph Gentili Memorial Award for Excellence in Geographical Education is conferred on a GAWA member who has made an outstanding contribution to Geographical Education and in recognition of its importance the award comes with prize money of \$2000

- Hosting **The Big Week Out** in December 2010. Once again Mike Fazio as convener of the Big Week Out organised a terrific event. It was great to be able to tweak the program from the year before and the improvements were well received by staff and students
- Launching the website in 2010. The template and general operation of the website has been pleasing. Rob McFarlane populated the site and is diligent in maintaining the currency of the material. He has undergone training with the web design company and completed some diagnostics training, which is useful in tracking web traffic. The site also provides a 'login' capacity to further support the provision of service and resources to GAWA members
- Participating in the Australian Curriculum Geography Forum held on April 27. GAWA delegates provided feedback on the initial advice paper to inform the Geography Shaping Paper.



## Tasmanian Geography Teachers Association (TGTA)

President: Wayne Sutton

Membership continues to steadily increase and currently stands at 23 active members, with 20 of these teachers actually teaching Geography in 2011.

A Professional Development Day was held on Friday 11 February at Hobart College and was attended by most of the Year 11/12 Geography teachers from around Tasmania. In all, 17 teachers attended from as far a-field as Smithton, Burnie and Devonport in the northwest, Launceston in the north, as well as from Hobart in the south. Topics that were discussed included:

- The present Geography syllabus, as there are a number of teachers who are teaching Geography for the first time due to increased interest from students in schools that have not taught it previously or for some time. I feel that the greater

exposure of Geography as part of the Australian Curriculum has been a major factor and this growth reflects well on the activities of AGTA. There was a very good exchange of ideas and resources in this discussion between teachers. Informal regional groups were organised to support each other

- Teaching resources, many of which came from the AGTA Conference in Adelaide, were discussed and provided to all the attendees. Three of the participants who attended the conference, Julie, Caryn and Wayne, also gave presentations on topics from the seminars and fieldwork that they attended, as well as comments from the guest speakers
- the external assessment process for 2010, including the expectations of the markers and the state-wide results that were obtained by students and the ramifications for teachers in their teaching and learning.

Teachers in schools and colleges across Tasmania were actively encouraged to participate in The National Geographic Australian Geography Competition.

Statewide, the number of schools and colleges with viable Geography classes has further increased in 2011 to 18 and the number of students studying Geography in Year 11/12 in 2011 is slightly higher, but similar to the previous three years. The numbers that were gradually declining now seem to have stabilized over the past few years. There are also many students who study Geography in high school at private schools and two government schools.

TGTA has maintained good links with the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at UTAS in 2010 and this will be further enhanced in 2011 on an individual and at an association level.



## Geography Teachers Association of Victoria (GTAV)

President: Trish Douglas

Membership is slightly down from last year and currently stands at 538. Numbers have actually increased in many categories but some individual members have opted for school only membership, resulting in the decline. Membership is now provided on-line.

Global Education Project (GEP) provides access to pre-service and practicing teachers at both secondary and primary schools. In 2010 GEP provided professional learning to 4185 individuals amassing 10,063 contact hours.

All professional events have online registration with the system working well for the association. The GTAV has offered professional learning to experienced and inexperienced teachers of Geography including: - New teachers to VCE Geography Conference; Meet the Examiners; Help! How do I teach Geography for inexperienced teachers; GIS training at a number of levels; Primary Teachers Conference in May 2011. GTAV is also collaborating with Global Education Project and other subject associations to offer Professional Learning to teachers.

The following resources are in production or have been produced:

New Perspectives textbook 2nd edition; 2011 VCE Trial Exam; full-colour resource catalogue; full-colour Interaction x four editions; Borneo multimedia game – based on forest and cultural sustainability; Bushfires resource as a response to a recommendation from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission in conjunction with Education Services Australia and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority for the Australian Children's

Television Foundation – primary and lower secondary Geography worksheets based on the My Place TV series which will be available on the My Place website.

Global Education Project (GEP) - Staff now include the Director of Project as Project Manager and four Global Education staff who deliver the project. Three sessional contractors are also employed to assist during times of heavy demand. Resources produced or in production using GEP funds include: Forest and biodiversity CD-ROM; Forest: a global perspective: booklet for secondary students; Water booklet: based on the Global Education learning emphases and Geography skills and knowledge and understandings.

GTAV is part of Destination Spatial – a new Education Committee which includes representatives from the spatial industries, tertiary institutions and education (GTAV and Careers) – to promote career pathways into the spatial industry and has also developed a similar relationship with the Planning industry and has been approached by the Surveying Task Force to develop a similar role.

Other activities Include:

- Writing to newspapers highlighting the importance of studying Geography to coincide with Earth Hour
- Participating in the writing of curriculum material with a Geography focus for the second season of the television series "My Place" for the Australian Children's Television Foundation
- Developing a partnership with 'The Age' who will advertise GTAV activities and professional learning
- Hosting of the 'Big Week Out' in October. This week of activities is being coordinated by Pat Beeson (GTAV Committee member)
- Collaborating with other subject associations to provide Professional

Learning for teachers

- Hosting a Facebook page with approximately 100 members
- Hosting student lectures during the year and revision lectures at the end of the year
- Providing a primary and secondary school representative to an Australian Curriculum Consultative Panel hosted by Monica Bini at VCAA.

The Patron of the GTAV, Rob Gell, is keen to play a more active role within and for the Association – he will speak at the AGM and host a forum at Annual Conference. He has also written letters to the Victorian Minister for Education and Federal Minister for Education advocating the importance of Geography in the Curriculum.

GTAV is providing teachers with information about the Australian Curriculum via GTAV News, website and professional learning opportunities. For example, in May 2011, the GTAV will host the inaugural Geography Primary Conference to update primary educators on the place of Geography in the Australian Curriculum.

At the GTAV Annual Conference in August a forum will be held which will provide teachers with the opportunity to receive information and ask questions about the Australian Curriculum.



## Geography Teachers Association of South Australia (GTASA)

President: Alex Piggott

GTASA put in place an incentive to encourage renewal of membership. A Myer \$200 voucher will be drawn at conference.

Focus this year has been the AGTA conference so no other major projects have been implemented since January. The GTA will be conducting a one day conference on 27th May. Keynote is Professor Andrew Millington on deforestation and drugs in South America and Malcolm McInerney

is running a session on the Australian Curriculum, along with a collection of workshops.

The GTA continues to sell its map kits. Changes to the curriculum in SA has impacted significantly on student numbers in Geography (in one year a loss of 66%). The low up-take of Geography at year 12 level is due to the lack of a "subject pattern" in the SACE and reduction of study requirements for subjects from 5 to 4. This remains a significant and major issue for the subject of Geography.

The association has written to the Minister and will be scheduling a meeting to

present the GTA's views on changes to the curriculum. The association will continue to lobby the government and gather support from the media. The committee is also working with other subject associations to gather support for changes to the new senior curriculum.



## Geography Teachers Association of Queensland (GTAQ)

President: Anne-Marie Gerlach

Membership and committee/staff have remained stable.

Spatial technology workshops are currently being planned for later in the year.

GTAQ is hosting its state conference on 30th July at the University of Queensland. The theme is "Planning for Change. A dedicated website for the conference has been established along with a blog to help keep people up-to-date on the event including presenters, keynote addresses, how to register, sponsorship and trade display options and events. GTAQ will be trialling electronic registration for the first time this year.

The Queensland Studies Authority hosted a conference in April; Vision to reality: Queensland's new educational landscape". Topics related to: The future of Geography in the Classroom Years 4-12; Making Australia's Capital City a Must-do Excursion Destination Years 4-12; The Australian Curriculum: An Update – Geography; the Arts and Languages Years P-10; from SOSE to History and Geography and Beyond Years 4-10; and, Teaching geography in a One-to-One Environment Years 8-12.

GTAQ has continued its promotion of the discipline through the sale of Geography posters. A new initiative has been the new format of the journal which is now a much shorter, colourful and glossy publication and includes a new section showcasing schools and their work around the State.

The GTAQ website also has a new look being more user friendly, aiming to encourage a

larger number of contributors. A Facebook page is also being established.

Closer links have been established with World Vision and the Global Learning Centre. This has led to a wider variety of material being made available for the journal and the website.

A "Careers in Geography Day" is planned for Friday 22 July at the University of Queensland and conducted through the School of Geography, Planning School & Environmental Management. This will provide an opportunity for senior students to access presentations and workshops with current students and staff.



## Geography Teachers Association of New South Wales (GTANSW)

President: Nick Hutchinson

The GTA has approximately 370 financial members.

HSC Examination Review 2011 workshops were conducted in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. Experienced teachers and HSC markers shared their thoughts about the 2010 examinations.

A Contour Education workshop titled, Simple spatial technology – Primary and Secondary level was held in Stirling ACT.

Regional mini conferences are planned to be conducted in Newcastle, Orange, Coffs Harbour, Canberra and Nowra. This series of mini-conferences will focus on the development of the Australian Geography Curriculum; enhance skills in developing quality assessment tasks; assist non-Geography trained teachers to teach Geography skills (including a range of ICT-based skills); and to enhance participants' content knowledge in areas relevant to the Stage 4/5 and Stage 6 Geography syllabuses.

The annual conference to be held at Parliament House, Sydney Friday August 26 2011 has the theme People and Hazards, with presenters from EMA Australia, the Weather Channel, the ABS, ACARA and Contour Education.

The Parramatta Park project is a teaching program with worksheets for fieldwork/site study, focused on the World Heritage status of the park as one of the Australian Convict Sites. It is now being published on the Parramatta Park Trust website for schools. It will be launched in early August in conjunction with a teacher workshop for both history and geography teachers of Year 7 classes.

The NSW Global Education Project is now managed by the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW and financed by Australian Government AusAID while the Geography Bulletin is edited by Grant Kleeman and Susan Bliss.

In November, 2010 the Professional Teachers Council of NSW recognised the contributions of GTA Council members: Dr Grant Kleeman, Dr Susan Bliss and Mr Martin Plüss were all recognised for their contributions to teacher professional learning. Susan Bliss received an

Exceptional Service Award for her leadership in Global Education.

In February, 2011 GTANSW held two award presentations at Parliament House – the HSC Students' and Teachers' Awards, and, the Arthur Phillip Awards. Her Excellency, Administrator of the Commonwealth of Australia, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO was a guest at the awards.

Other Awards include: the GTA Fieldwork and Visual Presentation Award; the Global Education Fieldwork and Research Award; the Dr Don Biddle Issues in Australian Environments Fieldwork Award; the Brock Rowe Senior Geography Project Fieldwork Award; the Water for Life Fieldwork Award; the Dr Maurine Goldston-Morris Award for Excellence by Teachers and Schools; and, Geography Teachers' Association of NSW Award of Recognition and Appreciation



## Australian Capital Territory - Sub Branch of GTANSW

Coordinator: Carol Pogson

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

A very successful Professional Development Day was held on Tuesday 10th May in Canberra entitled, Simple spatial technology for ACT and regional Geography teachers

conducted by Mick Law, Contour Education.

A mini conference run by GTANSW is planned later this year, focusing on the development of the Australian Geography Curriculum; enhancing skills in developing quality assessment tasks; assisting non-Geography trained teachers to teach Geography skills (including a range of ICT-based skills).

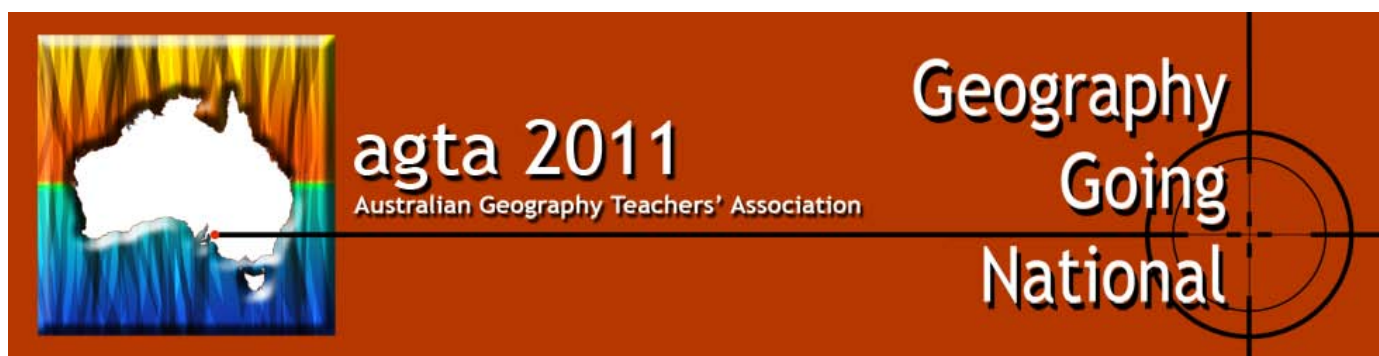
At our last sector meeting the GTA discussed that a fieldwork booklet on key ACT and Regional Fieldwork locations and activities should be developed to assist teachers of

Geography, especially in the light of the new National Curriculum's emphasis on Fieldwork. It is anticipated that this will be finalised by early 2012.

The ACT is building relations with universities, the ANU and University of Canberra re encouraging students to study Geography at university.

Teachers in schools and colleges in the ACT were actively encouraged to participate in The National Geographic Australian Geography Competition and to attend sub branch meetings.





## AGTA Conference

A total of 245 delegates attended the AGTA National Conference held in Adelaide in January this year.

Mark Manuel was congratulated for his outstanding work in organising the conference. Mark was ably supported by the very enthusiastic Geography Teachers Association from South Australia.

The overwhelming success of the Conference was affirmed the positive feedback from a variety of sources including the numerous emails praising the organisation, venue, keynotes, presenters, fieldwork, social events and the dinner. Comments include:

- "It was excellent in many ways, venue, atmosphere, balance, timing. All four speakers were stimulating and gave delegates plenty to think about"
- "What a fabulous 10 days. The Kangaroo Island trip was fantastic and resulted in some wonderful memories for all of us."
- "An outstanding conference, fantastic mix of inspirational keynotes practical and hands on workshops, interesting fieldtrips and great social events"
- In short the best conference I have ever been to.."
- "Thanks for organising an awesome event!"
- "It was a great Conference, one of the best I have ever attended."
- "last week was absolutely amazing, I can't think of any other way to describe it. The content, location, contacts and experiences were world class"

- "Congratulations on a most successful Conference. The hospitality, interesting program and varied fieldwork and social activities helped nurture the sense of geography community."
- "On behalf of myself and my two colleagues, I would like to thank you for all the work that went into organising such a professional conference. You and your staff organised the logistics of the event, provided interesting and informative keynote speakers and well as very practical workshops. The fieldwork days were a fabulous opportunity to see Adelaide and environs as well as gaining valuable fieldwork ideas. All this was done in a very calm professional way that enabled the delegates to have a very enjoyable experience."

**A conference such as this would not be possible without the support of an extensive number of people.**

**A big thank you to:**

- The super team of Malcolm McInerney and Rob Berry who managed the big picture. Malcolm with the keynotes, sponsors and patron, Rob with the website and financial management
- The organising Committee of Malcolm McInerney, Alexandra Piggott and Rita Shepherd for their help in managing the whole show and keeping it all in perspective
- GTASA Executive members who pulled together over the five days and worked sensationally as a team. (They have all been thanked personally)
- The fieldtrip presenters over the two

days. The fieldtrips received rave reviews from participants; they loved the lunches and the focus on teaching about fieldwork. They also appreciated the input from outside agencies. (Again they have been thanked)

- Sandy Stuart and Kate Johnson who hosted the Winery Tours – they were a huge success and set the tone for the week ahead
- Julian Cousins, Ross Johnson, Clive West and Greg Way who stepped up and took over the management of the buses in times of need. The participants appreciated the transport arrangements even if they were confused at times. Julian and Wayne Priest managed it famously
- Roger Smith and Graham Slater for the AGTA Games. A huge amount of fun and loved by all
- Scotch Staff, Malcolm Massie, Janet Rainey, Richard Blinco, Marty Coombe, Chef Paul Wharram and the Groundstaff for assisting in numerous ways. – an amazing team who volunteered their time in the holiday because they wanted to see it all work and help me out
- Walford, Russell Barnett and their drivers - their facilities were sensational and appreciated by all
- Eve Ayliffe and Kevin Pahl who made the Pre Conference Tour so special for all participants
- Finally, Scotch College for providing more than just the superb venue.

**Next Meeting 21-22 October 2011 Venue: Hobart**

*National Geographic Channel promotes and encourages Geography education in Australian schools.*

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