

GEOGRAPHIA

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

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Occasional Newsletter of The Australian Geography Teachers' Association Limited

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AGTA 109

Canberra ACT 19-20 May 2012

Malcolm McInerney, AGTA Chairman, welcomed all to the 109th AGTA Meeting held at Canberra Grammar School on 19-20 May 2012. A special welcome was extended to Susan Bliss and guests from Canberra including Anne Holland (Canberra Grammar School) and Michael da Roza (St Edmund's College).

AGTA acknowledges the great contribution made by Stephen Cranby who has resigned from AGTA Board due to family circumstances. We wish Stephen all the best for the future.

Interestingly, Rebecca (AGTA Secretary) is receiving an increasing number of calls from primary teachers questioning how they can become a Geography teacher. Common requirements now exist across the nation for accreditation (AITSL requirements).

Financially, AGTA continues to prosper with the balance sheet as at the 13 May 2012 showing AGTA's total assets as \$250,426.00 and total liabilities as \$6,147.87 with net assets of \$244,278.13.

Affiliates are reminded that affiliation fees are payable for the year commencing after the AGM (i.e. the 2011-2012 affiliation fee is based on the membership numbers as at 30 October 2011) and were due and payable on 1 January 2012 (AGTA Constitution Item 10). The amount payable increases annually in accordance with the change in the CPI for the previous 12 months.

Due to the changes that occur to membership numbers during the period of affiliation, a notice will be sent by the treasurer to each member association during the second half of the year requesting an update to the association's membership numbers that were supplied when the tax invoice was paid. Member associations with increased membership will be sent a tax invoice for the additional capitation fee due. The association will then be entitled to receive additional copies of *Geographical Education* for

Communication from the Chair

It has been a busy time for AGTA since the last Geographia. With the Australian Curriculum: Geography almost at the publication stage we are finding that the demands on AGTA have grown – which is all good for geography in Australian schools. These demands have involved coordinating the consultation of the draft scope and sequence of the Australian Curriculum: Geography, establishment of an on-line resource project with Educational Services Australia (ESA), work with the National Education Forum giving voice to professional teachers associations and continued work on the AGTA constitution.

Education Services Australia (ESA) Supporting Australian Curriculum Online (SACOL) Geography Project



Over the past 8 months AGTA has been negotiating with ESA to be the providers of on-line resources to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography. AGTA is presently establishing the project, to be known as GEOGSPACE and will report more about the nature of the resources and format of the on-line delivery in the next Geographia.

This excerpt from our submission for the project to ESA will give an idea of what we hope the project delivers.

AGTA is committed to the development of materials and professional learning opportunities to support teachers to teach the ACARA Australian Curriculum: Geography in coming years. This proposal being presented to ESA is an important part of what AGTA consider is required to ensure the successful implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography in the future.

AGTA sees the ESA materials developed as more than just online resources for teachers to access, they will also provide the framework, content pedagogical knowledge, teaching approaches and resources to support professional learning across Australia once the curriculum is published in December 2012.

The project is to:

- *provide an online learning model for teachers to access*
- *create a framework for professional learning, suitable for online and/or face to face application*
- *aim at developing 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 throughout the curriculum relevant to the teaching of geography*
- *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 the plethora of quality geographical teaching resources available around the world.*

The project has an extremely tight timeline and is due for release in March 2013. We look forward to this work being critical in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography from 2013 onwards.

Australian Curriculum: Geography update

Presently the consultation feedback on the October 2011 draft scope and sequence of the Australian Curriculum: Geography is being considered and the curriculum is being redrafted in response. The publication date for the curriculum has been firmed up by ACARA to be December 13th 2012. Maybe we should call this G Day for Geography. The following timeline may be useful to show where we have been and where we are going as we develop the Australian Curriculum: Geography.

- **May 2009:** ACARA presented with the TNGC Background Paper and Position Paper.
- **October 2009:** ACARA Geography Reference Group established to develop a draft AC: Geography Shape Paper.
- **June 2010:** Draft AC: Geography Shape Paper released for on-line consultation.
- **July 2010:** ACARA Advisory Group appointed to produce the final AC: Geography shape paper.
- **January 2011:** AC: Geography shape paper released.
- **March – October 2011:** A group of writers and Advisors worked on developing a draft scope and sequence.
- **October 2011:** Draft scope and sequence released for on-line consultation.
- **March – June 2012:** Writer and advisors respond to feedback and draft a new scope and sequence.
- **July 2012:** Draft goes to jurisdictions and GTA's for feedback.
- **August-October 2012:** Final rewrite by writers and advisors.
- **13 December 2012:** On-line publication of the Australian Curriculum: Geography.

The writing of the Australian Curriculum: Geography continues to be an exciting period for geography in Australia. With the publication of the document we must turn our attention to the other great needs for the implementation of the curriculum: resources and professional learning.



AGTA Constitution rewrite

The process of rewriting the AGTA Constitution dates back to May 2010 when several members of the Board suggested that we needed to review the constitution. Over the past two years considerable work and advice has been undertaken on behalf of AGTA affiliates to make this happen. I would particularly like to thank Alan May and the GAWA Executive for all their work on this project. At the May AGTA Board meeting in Canberra the following clauses were agreed to which will provide the basis of the final constitutional rewrite. This new version of the constitution will go to the October AGTA Board meeting for ratification (coincidentally to be held in Perth for the first time in many years). We look forward to have a brand new constitution to guide the work of AGTA into the future.

Clause 34: "Thereafter the Board of Directors shall consist of six (6) appointed Directors, being the respective Presidents of each of the member associations and six (6) nominated Directors who shall be persons nominated by each of the six (6) member associations of AGTA. The total number of Directors (appointed and nominated) is to be twelve (12), two from each member association unless altered pursuant to Clause 38 of this Constitution. A member association may decide to not nominate a nominated Director. In such a case, the AGTA Board are to determine the number of Directors required pursuant to Clause 38 of this Constitution. The Chair, Deputy Chair/s, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board are to be appointed by the Board from the appointed and nominated Directors unless requiring the provision outlined in Clause 57."

Clause 38: The Board shall have power at any time, and from time to time, to co-opt any person to the Board, as an addition to the existing Directors of the Board. Any person so co-opted shall be entitled to vote and shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting.

Clause 57: The AGTA Board office bearers of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall in accordance with the Law be appointed by the Board for such term, at such remuneration and upon such condition as it thinks fit; and any office bearer so appointed may be removed by it. The AGTA Board may appoint two (2) Vice Chairs for the following year at the AGM if they consider it warranted. The decision of appointing two (2) Vice Chairs is to be reviewed at the next AGM. Nothing herein shall prevent the Board from appointing a Director of the Company as an office bearer and any Director so appointed shall forthwith become an officer of the Company and be subject to Clause 65 of the Constitution. If the appointee is not already a Director of the Board, they may be co-opted to the Board in accordance with Clause 38 of the Constitution. Any Office Bearer co-opted to the Board who is not a serving Director shall be entitled to vote and hold office only until the next Annual General Meeting.

AGTA plays a role on the National Education Forum

The National Education Forum (NEF) is a body established to provide the opportunity for national professional teachers association to discuss the national agenda for education. The NEF meets three times a year and comprises 36 national professional teachers association. The NEF is not a decision making body but does play an important role in 'getting the ear' of key players in education in Australia. Over the past year the NEF has met with Minister Garret (twice, Margery Evans (AITSL CEO), Susan Mann (ESA CEO) and Professor Alan Reid (ACE) address the forum. The opportunity to communicate our concerns and aspirations directly to such entities is particular valuable for associations.

As a member of the NEF management committee, AGTA Chair Malcolm McInerney has been closely involved in getting the NEF to consider the possibility of creating a body similar to the NEF to do more than

Thanks from AGTA

Finally AGTA would like to make special mention of two Board members who have left and are leaving the Board in 2012.

Stephen Cranby

Stephen resigned from the Board in January due to personal reasons. The Board was disappointed to lose Stephen because of his incisive, creative and energetic presence. Stephen has only recently taken on the Vice Chair role of AGTA after being the Chair of AGTA from 2002-2004. We would like to thank Stephen for his time and work on AGTA for many years and wish him all the best for the future.

Emmy Terry

Emmy has indicated that the October meeting will be her last and that she will not renominate to be an AGTA Director. Emmy was also an AGTA President, doing the job from 2004-6. For many years Emmy has been a Board member and the AGTA's representative on a range of bodies such as AFSSSE and Geography Big Week Out. For the past four years Emmy has been extremely dedicated in producing Geographia, which is a valuable contribution to our association. Emmy has done a wonderful job keeping the doors of communication open between affiliates. We thank her for all her dedication, time and energy on behalf of AGTA over these years.



just talk. That is, a body which actually promotes in real terms the agenda of national professional associations in the national educational landscape. Associations are often asked their opinion after the development has been undertaken on initiatives. Members of the NEF think that as bodies representing thousands of classroom teachers around Australian we should be part of the decision making in some way. The creation of such a body, whether the NEF in its current form or another body with more representational power, could ensure that happens in the future.

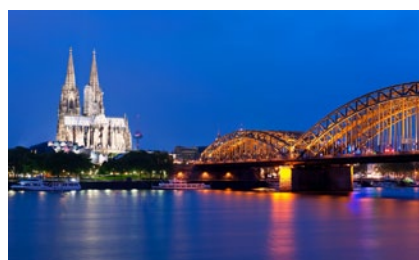
A group of NEF delegates met in June in Canberra to work through these issues. A report will be in the next Geographia informing affiliates of any progress on the initiative to increase the voice of national professional teachers association in the national educational agenda.

Geography's Big Week Out

The 2012 Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) will be held on the Mornington Peninsula, from 30 September to 5 October. It will again be organised by a committee of dedicated Victorian teachers, under the excellent leadership of Pat Beeson. The Competition Committee is very appreciative of the essential work of these teachers in realising this programme.

GBWO has now been held in Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria. In 2013 it is due to shift to a new venue. The Competition Committee requests that state GTAs consider offering to host GBWO in 2013 (and hopefully 2014). Ideally the new host can be decided in time for one or two representatives to participate in the 2012 GBWO.

International Geography Olympiad



The 2012 International Geography Olympiad will be held from 21 to 28 August in Cologne, Germany. Four students have been selected to represent Australia, based on their outstanding performances at the 2011 Geography's Big Week Out:

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

The team will be accompanied by Competition Coordinator Kath Berg and AGTA Director Margaret McIvor. Kath is currently Secretary of the International Geographical Union Olympiad Task Force. The Olympiad International Board has elected her co-chair of the Task Force for 2012-2016, an appointment still to be ratified by the IGU Congress in August.



National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition

School Round

This year, 79,170 students from 774 schools entered the Competition. The number of schools went up slightly and the number of students stayed much the same. Western Australia had record student numbers again this year and Queensland had a record number of schools entering. The 2012 school round was held from 26 March to 4 April. See the appendix for a list of the major prize-winners.



Final for under 16s

Students win a place at the Final for under 16s based on their scores in the school round. The Final will be held on Monday 18 June at Foxtel Studios in Sydney. The programme for the prize weekend will include a Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb and a behind-the-scenes tour at Taronga Zoo. Nick Hutchinson will officially represent

AGTA at the Final. Sydney schools that entered the Competition have been invited to attend and there is currently a waiting list for places.

The Final will be broadcast on National Geographic Channel at 10.30am AEST Monday 16 July.

National Geographic World Championship

Australia is intending to compete at the biennial National Geographic World Championship (NGWC), to be held from 27 July to 1 August 2013 in St Petersburg, Russia. The team of three students will include the winner of the 2012 Final for under 16s.



2012 National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition Major Prize-winners

State/ Territory	Junior Winner	Intermediate Winner	Senior Winner	School Winner
NSW	* Jacob Howe, Mulwaree High School, Goulburn	Yianni Van Gelder, Newington College National Runner-up/Finalist: Jamie Abel, Shore School	Oscar Fawkes, Sydney Grammar School	* Sydney Grammar School
Qld	William Snell, St Stephen's Catholic College, Mareeba	William Snell, St Stephen's Catholic College, Mareeba	Tom Hayward, Brisbane State High School	Brisbane Grammar School
SA	Charlie Dubois, Blackfriars Priory School Tara Mutze, Westminster School	Timothy Moy, Concordia College Finalist: Phoebe Smith, Walford Anglican School for Girls	Baden Gilbert, University Senior College	Pembroke School
Tas	Matthew Behrens, The Hutchins School	Thomas Foster, Launceston Church Grammar School	Joshua Argent, Launceston Church Grammar School	Launceston Church Grammar School
Territories ¹	Kirsten Butt, Lyneham High School Dominic Behrens, Canberra Grammar School Hugh Douglas, Canberra Grammar School Elise Keleher, Telopea Park School	Sebastian Summersby-Mitchell, Canberra Grammar School	Michael Skene, Narrabundah College	Canberra Grammar School
Vic	Alec Barber, Scotch College Nicholas Ibrahim, Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School (Boys)	Benjamin Siow, Highvale Secondary College Finalist: Rebecca Li, Methodist Ladies' College	* Marcus Young, Glenvale School (Hamilton Campus)	Melbourne High School
WA	Kyle Bartlett, Perth Modern School	Jonathon Grigg, Frederick Irwin Anglican School, Mandurah	Samuel Clements, Guildford Grammar School	Shenton College

¹ ACT, NT, Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling

* 1st in Australia

Australian Alps Resource Kit

The Australian Alps Education Kit is designed for students, teachers and anyone else keen to learn about this spectacular region of Australia. These educational materials form an organised resource focusing on iconic, awe-inspiring and accessible areas within the Australian Alps. The contents range from the resilient yet fragile plant communities that grow in the harsh alpine environment, to the cultural impact of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electricity Scheme; and from the First People's connection with the mountain landscape to the Alps' cycles of weather and climate. Take a look - there is so much to learn from the Australian Alps.

For more detailed information for teachers, including content and suggestions on

linking this resource to current curriculum, see the Teacher's notes at <http://www.australionalps.environment.gov.au/learn/index.html>

The Australian Alps - in all their richness, complexity and power to engage - are presented as a resource for secondary students and their teachers who are studying...

- Aboriginal Studies
- Geography
- Australian History
- Biology
- Outdoor and Environmental Science, and
- Tourism

...with resources grouped within a series of facts sheets on soils, climate, vegetation, fauna, fire, Aboriginal people, mining, grazing, water catchment, recreation and tourism, conservation.



AITSL Illustrations of Practice

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 are being prepared by Roger Smith and Rob Berry. Two of the exemplars will be 'dynamic' in that they will be based on video recordings and the other one will be a 'static illustration' using print documents.

Work completed to date has been as follows.

1. Exemplar 1 is a dynamic illustration relating to Standard 6 — Engage in professional learning at the proficient level. It is based on teachers' participation in a range of group activities during a professional learning day held on 7 March 2012 in Melbourne. Interviews have been recorded with presenters and teachers

attending to obtain feedback regarding the effectiveness of the strategies used and subsequent application in teaching.

2. Exemplar 2 is also a dynamic illustration and relating to Standard 2 — Professional knowledge at the proficient level. This exemplar illustrates how teachers can integrate ICT including spatial technologies into learning and teaching programs that make selected content relevant and meaningful. It 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 at the proficient level. It is a static illustration based on teaching resources for fieldwork undertaken in Melbourne's Docklands and demonstrates the selection and use of teaching strategies that develop knowledge, skills, problem solving, critical and creative thinking.

It is anticipated that AGTA's project will be completed by the end of June 2012.



AGTA Launches 'Going Global' Poster

To mark the 2012-13 launch of the Australian Curriculum: Geography, AGTA has released a poster highlighting the Curriculum's key concepts. State-based affiliates will organise the distribution of the posters to member schools in coming months.

AGTA website

A new section devoted to the AGTA 2013 Conference in Perth has been created and additions will be made to this throughout the coming year. Online registration and payment for the conference will be a key feature of the website. Expressions of interest in presenting a workshop at the conference have been handled online and the number of people registering to receive conference newsletters has been most encouraging.

The AGTA 2011 Conference section is still attracting a considerable number of online visitors particularly to the keynote video presentations by Rita Gardner, Duncan Chessell and Tim Costello. The AGTA Facebook page has been set up with both general comments and this will extend to an AGTA 2013 conference wall. A full listing of the AGTA Award winners can also be viewed at the AGTA website.

Online sales of AGTA's *Exploring 21st Century Geography* DVD have continued to be supported with purchasers able to complete payment by credit card, a school order form or cheque.

The Chairperson's annual report provides much useful information for members about the achievements of AGTA. 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 (eg 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.

GeoCareers website

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



Geographical Teachers Association of Western Australia (GAWA)

GAWA Currently has 221 members from 117 schools. Most schools in the state that offer Geography are members.

Professional Development

Professional Development for 2012 commenced in early March with the *New and Beginning Teachers Day* held at the Claremont Yacht Club. Approximately 30 teachers attended. It is surprising how many 'new' teachers to Geography we attract to these sessions every year. The day was facilitated by the PD Committee who coordinated the collection of a range of teaching resources to support each stage and Year 11 and 12 units. The volume and quality of resources contributed by GAWA members was outstanding! Each delegate received their resources electronically, and reports from our new teachers were very positive. This year we also offered a session on the reflections of a new Geography teacher, which helped the delegates see that there is light at the end of the tunnel!

PD Sessions have been/will be conducted in: Geography in Action 3A Professional Development Titled *Urban Planning – Systems Thinking*; Geography in Action 2A Professional Development will take place in August on the topic *Sustainable Forestry in the Jarrah Forest*; a whole day event in November to look at the *Australian Curriculum: Geography*.

AGTA National Conference January 2013 - The GAWA AGTA conference committee and Darryl Michie are continuing work on the 2013 AGTA Conference. With over 70 pre-registrations received and on line registrations about to open the anticipation is rising. A Primary Geography stream will be held on the Thursday with dedicated workshops.

Publications and Projects

4 Bulletins are produced each year that provide relevant and topical articles, classroom teaching resources and the publication of useful websites and events. This journal is now in electronic form for most members.

GAWA text books are now available for all WA courses and continue to enjoy good sales. The GAWA WACE Revision Guide continues to sell well since the format was changed from an exam review text to a study skills and course review text. This change was forced upon us due to the *School Curriculum and Standards Authority*, SCSA, no longer releasing the copyright permissions for the final exams to publishers.

The GAWA Stage 2 and Stage 3 WACE Exam papers and answer guides continue to sell

very well. These resources are offered in both hardcopy and/or email copies for semester one and two.

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) have not provided access to the final Year 12 WACE Exam Broadsheets for the past 2 years. GAWA has taken up the mantle of producing copies for sale at cost to members and teachers. In 2012 this has proved to be very problematic as determining who owns the copyright for various images used and then trying to gain copyright permissions has been a tedious process. Whilst we will see this through in 2012 we are more than likely going to call the SCSA to account in 2013 and let them know that it is their responsibility to produce this resource. Members of the Course Advisory Committee, SCSA, have endorsed this position.

Action to Promote Geography

A new initiative for our term 2 Bulletin this year is a special supplement on '*Promoting Geography*' aimed at year 10 students and teachers. With students choosing their Senior School subjects at the end of term 2/ beginning of term 3 this edition contains information on; what is geography, careers linked to geography, all the tertiary course in Western Australia with a link to geography or a geographical perspective, the faculties involved and their contact details, profiles of geographers and web links. We hope this will provide a useful guide to teachers, course counsellors and to students thinking about future options.

The GAWA website continues to be the public face for our association. All members have access to a password protected area in which countless resources reside, like the presentations of our keynote speakers from previous year's conference.

In October GAWA will present its annual revision seminar at UWA for WACE Stage 3 Geography students. This year we will revisit the possibility of holding student revision seminars in the southwest in Bunbury and in the mid-west at Geraldton.

The Joseph Gentilli Memorial Award for Excellence in Geographical Education is awarded to 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.

The John Forrest Award is a competition for students undertaking Geography. The competition is designed so that the activities involved can be incorporated into the assessment programs of the students. In this way it is not an extra burden on the normal school program. Entries are due the end of term 2 for senior students and the end of term 2 for middle school.

The National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition was conducted in March.

Curriculum Developments

GAWA continues to have a strong representation on the SCSA *Course Advisory Committee*. With our own courses, GAWA continues to have a strong input and has righted some of the concerns expressed by members. The issue of the Indian Ocean Dipole and 'climate cycles and variations' highlighted in our October report has been resolved in the positive at the May CAC meeting. Our Stage 3B course, (second semester year 12), will be reviewed in 2013, depending on progress and timelines associated with the Australian Curriculum Senior School geography units. GAWA also submitted a thorough critique of the 2011 WACE exam. 2011 was the second year our new WACE courses have been examined at Year 12 level for graduation and university entry purposes. GAWA remains active in its feedback to the SCSA in relation to the senior school courses.

In terms of the Australian Curriculum both WA members of the Advisory Group are on the CAC and are GAWA stalwarts, keeping us well informed of the most recent developments.

A strong round of Australian Curriculum: Geography feedback workshops were held by the various systems and sectors in Western Australia. Many of the GAWA councillors and members attended one or more of these sessions thus strongly contributing to the various submissions. GAWA also submitted a submission to AGTA and ACARA on behalf of its members.

Issues and Concerns

- GAWA's main concerns have been highlighted above as the wheels appear to turn slowly when it comes to dealing with course changes and refinements.
- As the 'half year cohort' moves into year 11 in 2013 this will impact on senior school Geography course enrolments in general plus resource sales for GAWA.
- GAWA will be seeking to service the needs and increase the GAWA membership of primary teachers as the Australian Curriculum is released. This will be a challenging endeavour.
- General busyness seems to be putting everyone under pressure and the GAWA committee has not been immune from this.

Darryl Michie
GAWA President



Geography Teachers Association of Victoria (GTAV)

Membership of GTAV is currently 525 – approximately the same numbers as May 2011.

A successful Strategic Planning Day facilitated by GTAV Patron Rob Gell was held in March 2012. Steve Latham has been employed as the fulltime Education Officer for GTAV.

In the first half of 2012, the GTAV has offered/will offer professional learning to experienced and inexperienced teachers of Geography including: VCE for new teachers of Geography; Help! How do I teach Geography for inexperienced teachers; Meet the examiners and increasing your VCE Geography student numbers; Using web-based technologies in the classroom; Up-skilling in Geography; 21st Century Geography and Getting to grips with GIS; and, hosted a VCE student topic lecture in March – attendance 400 (20% increase compared with 2011). A Topic lecture is also scheduled in August and VCE revision lectures in October.

GTAV has collaborated with Global Education Project and the GEP has independently provided information/workshop sessions to pre-service teachers at the University of Melbourne, LaTrobe University, Monash University, Deakin University, University of Ballarat, RMIT Bundoora, Victoria University and ACU Ballarat. GEP has also 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 – in production; Full-colour resource catalogue – produced for 2012; Full-colour Interaction X four editions in 2012– 1 published; June 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 available in late May 2012 ; and Geography careers brochure in production.

• Global Education Project (GEP)

This project includes a number of staff as well as three sessional contractors who assist the project 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 at end of May 2012
- “Global well-being” - a resource for Year 10, Unit 2 in the draft Australian Curriculum: Geography (AusAID funded) – in production

Actions to Promote 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. A similar relationship has been developed with the Planning industry.

GTAV has been pro-active in developing relationships with media and other organisations / associations including: submitting articles to “Inspire”, “Australian Teacher Magazine”, “VCAA”, consulting with The Age in relation to the content of The Age Natural Disasters posters published in 2012, collaborating with other subject associations to provide professional learning for teachers, hosting a Facebook page with approximately 250 members, initiating a Twitter account @ GeographyVic, developing partnerships with other SPP funded organisations – including Melbourne Museum, Sovereign Hill, MCG, the National Trust, Australian Children's Television Foundation, collaborated with Channel 31 in production of “Why Study Geography” – a short segment in the series ‘Today's schools’ – shown in May 2012. This is available for use at careers/subject selection events, being actively represented on the Committee of Management of CPTAV – the Council of Professional Teaching Associations of Victoria, and hosting ‘Big Week Out’ in October 2012.

In addition the Patron of the GTAV, Rob Gell, has played an active role within and for the Association through facilitating the GTAV Strategic Planning Day and being the Master of Ceremonies at the Patrons' Function that will be combined with the AGM. This

function at the Melbourne Museum will bring together members of the Victorian Geography community - teachers, tertiary, life members, publishers, spatial industry.

Curriculum Developments

GTAV is providing teachers with information about the Australian Curriculum via GTAV News, website and professional learning opportunities e.g. VCE Conference provided a workshop session facilitated by Monica Bini (VCAA) and EO Terry McMeekin in which over 100 attendees provided feedback. Terry McMeekin/Steve Latham (Education Officers) and Trish Douglas (President) have also provided information and feedback as requested when required.

In collaboration with VCAA, the GTAV provided the opportunity for primary and secondary teachers to provide feedback on the Draft Australian Curriculum Geography. 245 primary and secondary teachers of Geography in Victoria provided feedback via 8 face-to-face consultation sessions held across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria and one online forum. 32 Teachers also responded to the GTAV survey on the GTAV website. The Education Officers and the Director of Projects provided a written submission on behalf of the GTAV which encompassed feedback from all consultation modes.

Geography Big Week Out

The GTAV would like the Board members of AGTA to consider the role of the State Program Coordinator of the Big Week Out. The Coordinator of the Mornington Peninsula program spent hundreds of hours preparing and executing the week long fieldwork event – an essential component of the National Geographic Competition. As such, the GTAV proposed that the AGTA Board consider the plausibility of the notion that the state BWO Coordinator should be provided with the offer to be one of those accompanying the winners of the BWO to the International Competition.

Destination Spatial Project

GTAV has for 18 months been a partner in Destination Spatial (DS). The Committee which includes representatives from the spatial industry, tertiary institutions and education aims to promote career pathways into the spatial industry. Within this role GTAV has assisted in developing marketing material and facilitated the distribution of the material at appropriate student and

teacher events. There is recognition by the Spatial Industry that there is a need to foster the development of spatial skills throughout all levels of education which would in turn develop an awareness of career pathways in the spatial industry sector. This would provide the underpinning link from the school sector to courses offered at the diploma and certificate level.

DS wishes to support the development of a sequential standalone spatial skills resource and recognises that the GTAV has

the capacity to undertake the development of such a resource. The sequential skills would be embedded into the new Australian Curriculum with online free resource developed in a number of phases across an 18-24 month time frame.

DS has identified a number of possible funding opportunities for this resource and the GTAV has developed a preliminary outline of the submission which has been well received by the spatial industry and tertiary sector.

AGTA is supportive of this project and will be guided by the GTAV in relation to AGTA endorsement of the project.

Trish Douglas
GTAV President



Geography Teachers Association of New South Wales (GTANSW)

Currently GTANSW has 408 financial members

Professional development activities included HSC examination reviews in Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle (online documents available <http://www.gtansw.org.au/>), and the 2011 HSC Awards ceremony; Arthur Phillip Awards Ceremony.

During July the GTANSW Annual Conference, will be held at the university of Western Sydney (refer <http://www.gtansw.org.au/>).

GTANSW has awarded TWO BURSARIES for teachers to attend the AGTA Conference in Perth in 2013. Congratulations 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.

The IAG's 2012 Conference is being held at Macquarie University, Sydney, on 2-4 July. This is a great opportunity for Geography Teachers to engage with Australia's leading academic geographers. The Conference program is designed to encouraging wide participation from secondary geography teachers. It will feature a number of education-focused sessions. -bird registration will close April 27, and full conference registration will close June 25.



The GTANSW Geography Bulletin is edited by Grant Kleeman and Susan Bliss. GTANSW Members can access VOLUME 44, No. 1 & No. 2 — 2012 issues online.

Action for Promotion of Geography

GTANSW encouraged teachers/schools/ students to participate In The World Meteorological Day, Close the Gap Day and Australia's Population Challenge: What Really Counts.

Schools and the broader community around Australia were asked to show their support to Close the Gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. On registering, participants received the learning resources and

materials required to successfully facilitate this event in their school including:

- a Schools Action Kit packed with ideas, activities, a step-by-step event guide and tools for students to take the lead and run the activities;
- classroom and assembly resources including video stories, photos, factsheets and a copy of the National Close the Gap Day DVD.

Nick Hutchinson
GTANSW President



Geography Teachers Association of Queensland (GTAQ)

There are currently 180 financial members, and growing steadily compared to the same period last year. GTAQ has demonstrated growth in State and Private School Institutional membership while individual membership has remained steady. The increase at this early stage could be attributed to a number of factors including early Professional Development, interest in National Curriculum for Geography and following up on member renewals.

There are no new members on our State Council this year however there have been changes in Executive positions held. Current committee members are - President: Lerece Roberts, Vice President: Anne-Marie Gerlach, Secretary: Shane Albertson, Treasurer: Kaye Schwede, Membership Secretary: Sandy Frismanis and Journal Editor: Mick Law. Other committee members include Jackie Dunk, Margaret McIvor, Russell Smerdon, Terri Burke and Rebecca Nicholas.

GTAQ is endeavouring to support teachers with curriculum change and assessment development. A three hour **Senior Geography Assessment Workshop** was held at Global Learning Centre. The response was tremendous with over

seventy teachers attending. Teachers travelled from as far as Mackay and Bundaberg with the majority from South East Queensland.

The first **Primary teachers Geography Day** (5 hours) was hosted at St Margaret's. Forty teachers attended this workshop and were provided with a copy of *Keys to Geography*. The workshops aimed to provide professional development opportunities to members at a minimal cost. From the positive feedback received, this was achieved.

Other planned professional development for the 2012 includes: Annual Conference 27/28 July where a new logo will be launched; and, during Term 4 an Australian Curriculum Geography Workshop will be held providing professional development in regional centres in a cost effective manner remains an issue.

It is anticipated that the journal "Queensland Geographer" will be distributed to members in the last Queensland school calendar week of each term, with each journal having a theme. Much discussion has occurred over the pros and cons of producing the journal in an electronic format. At this stage no change is envisaged but further investigation will be conducted on issues such as electronic copyright, access, style and demand.

A forum was held on the Draft Australian Curriculum Geography on 9 February at RGSQ where 30 geographers gathered to discuss and respond to the Draft. Simultaneously Gold Coast GeoNet and Wide bay teachers also reviewed the Draft curriculum and sent feedback to us. Other regions such as Townsville and Sunshine Coast gave responses that were collated. Individual teachers were also encouraged to respond to the survey as well as the collective voice of GTAQ.

GTAQ encouraged schools to participate in the annual Australian Geography Competition through journal advertising/ articles, emails and GTAQ website. As a result, Queensland demonstrated an increase in schools participating.

GTAQ website is updated regularly and has links to UQ Geography Careers Day, AGTA Conference 2013 and other resources. The AGTA conference has been promoted at recent Professional Development activities and the Journal will continue to support the conference including sending official flyers.

Lerece Roberts

GTAQ President



Australian Capital Territory - Sub Branch of GTANSW

Membership includes a core of 6-11 people from Act public and non-government schools and NSW schools.

A professional development half day was held on Friday 18 May at Stirling ACT. It was attended by teachers from all three sectors. Malcolm McInerney, Susan Bliss and Rebecca Nichols presented on aspects of the Australian Curriculum.

Action for Promotion of Geography

- The 2013 AGTA Conference was discussed and members have expressed interest in attending.

- ACT resources to support the Australian Curriculum Geography was tabled.
- The ANU organised a forum for teachers of Environmental Science, Geology & Geography to determine how they could best support ACT teachers. Great opportunities were discussed. There is further work to do in this area.
- The sub-branch has moved forward in its work on developing a resources for ACT teachers around fieldwork and excursions.

Curriculum Developments in ACT

Teachers from each sector provided feedback into the draft Australian Curriculum: Geography paper. Three schools (two secondary and one primary)

participated in the formal trial of the curriculum during the consultation phase. As the ACT is a Lead jurisdiction some teachers are choosing to trial aspects of the curriculum in an informal way – ready for implementation.

The ACT region sub branch is proposing to organise a Geography Conference in 2013 to commemorate the Centenary of Canberra.

Karen Tuhon

Secretary of ACT/ region
– sub branch of NSWGTA

Tasmanian Geography Teachers Association (TGTA)

Membership currently stands at 23 active members, with 17 of these teachers actually teaching Geography in 2012. Two successful state-wide PD days were held in 2011.

Teachers in schools and colleges across Tasmania were actively encouraged to participate in The National Geographic Australian Geography Competition and we hope that there was an increase in the number of students participating from Tasmania.

Teachers are also being actively encouraged

to attend the 2013 AGTA Conference in Perth.

The Government Post Year 10 sector is still transitioning back to the Department of Education. All schools in Tasmania are working with a reduced budget due to a fiscal shortage in Tasmania, which is adversely affecting all government services.

State-wide, the number of schools and colleges with viable Geography classes is slightly down in 2012 from 18 to 16 but the number of students studying Geography in Year 11/12 is similar to the previous four years with about 220 students. There are also many students who study Geography in high school at private schools and two

government schools.

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.

Wayne Sutton
TGTA President



Geography Teachers Association of South Australia (GTASA)

Current membership is 85 to date but GTASA are currently registering for their conference which is when memberships are traditionally renewed. GTASA is contemplating changing the effective dates for membership renewals to make it match with conference dates. It is anticipated that this will have a positive impact on numbers each year.

The Executive remains fairly unchanged. As with other Associations there is an ongoing concern regarding succession planning due to demands of fulltime teaching loads and the ability of being able to commit time to conduct GTASA business. GTASA has a new President who was elected at the AGM in May –Greg Way is an experienced teacher of geography from Cabra College.

Professional Development

The annual conference was conducted from 24-25 May with the theme being Sustainable Geography. The conference convener Ian Johnson completed a great job in rounding up presenters and generally organizing the two days. Workshops ranged from Cool Australia to Y12 Folio workshop

and many sessions matched upper primary and lower middle school curriculum in an endeavour to attract more primary teachers.

In terms of promoting Geography the GTASA has:

Publications and Projects

- Year 12 Study guide – updated and published to support students undertaking the year 12 SACE. Thanks to Sandy Stuart, Andrew Penny and John Coop.
- Inquiring into Pandas – a resource to support the teaching of geographical skills in upper primary and lower middle school focusing around the Giant Panda. Thanks to Rita Shepherd and Alexandra Piggott.

Action for Promotion of Geography

- Ran the AC Geography consultation meeting. Over 40 teachers attended and submitted their feedback to the draft.
- Ran the GTASA 75 year anniversary dinner. Prof Nick Harvey presented. Thanks to Roger Smith, Mark Manuel and Margaret Calder who organised the dinner and thanks to Leonie Brown and Rob Berry who attended from Victoria.

Curriculum Developments:

- AC geography is the main focus for most people. Keen to see the final structure.
- The SACE program in its second year continues to be refined.

Issues and Concerns:

- New SACE review being undertaken by a group appointed by the SA Government. Due to report back in early July. Schools and associations have submitted responses.
- Ongoing issues with change in assessment in SACE.
- Declining student numbers affecting our membership although we think there has been a slight increase there is still less than half of the 2010 enrolment.

Alex Piggott
GTASA President





AGTA 2013 Update

Keynote Speakers

Our 4 keynote speakers have now been confirmed. As you may already know renowned international Geographical educators Professor Simon Catling, from Oxford Brookes University, and Professor David Lambert, Geographical Association Chief Executive and University of London, will be two of our keynote presenters sharing their expertise in F – 12 Geography education and curriculum development. Professor Peter Newman will also be a Keynote speaker. Peter is the Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University and Director of the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute. He has recently been appointed as Chief Writer – Transport for the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Our 4th keynote will be Professor Lyn Beasley. Lyn is the Western Australia Chief Scientist and patron of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative – WA, (AuSTI-WA). She recently addressed the Royal Geographical Society, at the invite of their President – Michael Palin, on the topic of, Western Australia; Exploring The Secrets of an Ancient Land. She received a standing ovation from the 700 members present. All who have heard Lyn speak are amazed by her energy and passion.

Workshops

We have secured over 50 workshop presentations covering a wide range of topics. Implementing the Australian Curriculum is a theme that runs through many with workshops in this area specifically aimed at both Secondary and Primary teachers. (So tell all your Primary Teacher friends to come along)! The cross-curricular foci of Asia, Sustainability and Indigenous Australia will also be well represented at the conference. Workshops on curriculum, pedagogy, technology in and out of the classroom plus useful resources for the Geography teacher will be highlighted.



Fieldtrips

Our fieldtrips have been designed to get you out and about in Perth and the surrounding hinterland as well as give you some great ideas about teaching good Geography. We are encouraging all delegates to choose the Rottnest Island trip as one of their 2 choices. Rottnest is Perth's aquatic playground with beautiful clear bays fed by warm tropical ocean currents, which result in corals growing off the coast of Perth! This field trip will also start with a cruise down the Swan River to Fremantle. Other field trips will include bush walking in the Perth hills, participation in various aspects of local indigenous culture, a visit to a bauxite mine, a visit to Mandurah, (Perth's other aquatic playground), and the canal developments, a walking tour of Perth, a look at one of Australia's biggest Urban Renewal projects, a visit to the state governments transport hub to see how traffic in Australia's fastest growing city is kept on the move and our own very own Amazing Race.

Social Program

AGTA conferences are always a lot of FUN as you meet new people and take part in new experiences. Optional events will include a Swan Valley Winery Tour on the Sunday before the conference and the conference dinner at the Western Australia Golf Club on the final night of the conference. The WAGC is on the highest point of the Swan Coastal Plain and offers beautiful views of the Perth CBD. Events included as part of your Conference fees include a welcome BBQ on the Sunday evening, The AGTA Awards and canapés function and the AGTA Cup games, (State vs State – Barefoot Bowls and BBQ). Each day of the conference program will include a

Sun downer and one evening will be free to enjoy the local cuisine at discounted prices at selected venues.

Pre Conference Tour

An outstanding program of activities and visits have been organised for a pre conference tour through the South West corner of WA. With one night in the tall timber town of Pemberton and two in the heart of the famous Margaret River wine growing region participants will experience a feast of visual and culinary delights. Likely PCT fee, \$650

Accommodation

Budget accommodation at the Perth College Boarding House, across the road from conference venue, including breakfast - \$40 pp/pn.

Packages with Rydges Perth – 4 ½ star CBD hotel \$155 pr/pn. City Stay Apartments 2 Bedroom - \$175 pn, 1 Bedroom - \$155 pn. Details on website .

Website

To enhance your chances of getting your preferred workshops and field trips you will need to register early. Likely registration fees, Early Bird \$550, Full \$650.

We are really looking forward to meeting you and sharing together in what is shaping up as a great AGTA Conference.

www.agta.asn.au/conf2013/index.htm

For further information contact:

Darryl Michie

AGTA 2013 Conference Convenor
agta2013@iinet.net.au

Next Meeting:
Date: 27 – 28 October 2012

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