

geographia



AGTA News
December 2013



AGTA Conference



GeoCareers



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

Welcome to November's AGTA News!

Welcome to the second edition of the new look Geographia AGTA news reporting on the events of the second board meeting and the AGM held in October.

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

AGTA Membership.

Membership of AGTA: as of the last board meeting in October with a new constitution; AGTA now has 15 directors. These consist of two directors from each member affiliate, one being the President of the Affiliate Association and the other being nominated by the

Association to represent them at a national level. There are 7 Affiliate Associations: GTANSW, (ACT is represented as a sub-branch of the GTANSW) GTAV, GTAQ, GAWA, GTASA, TGTA and the newly added GHTANT (Geography and History Teachers Association of Northern Territory). The additional director is the Immediate past-President of AGTA – Malcolm McInerney who was nominated by the new board.

Individuals cannot become a member of AGTA. The organisation exists as a national body that is made up from the state Geography teacher organisations called the Affiliates. Individual members of each of these organisations are represented by their elected President and one other nominated

member. Individuals can only make representation to AGTA through their association to bring issues to the national attention.

AGTA exists as a national body representing the interests of Geography Teachers across Australia. If you have an issue that you believe would merit national attention you can raise it through your local state Geography Association. You can inquire about membership and connect with your local associations through these links:

[New South Wales](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Victoria](#)

[Western Australia](#)

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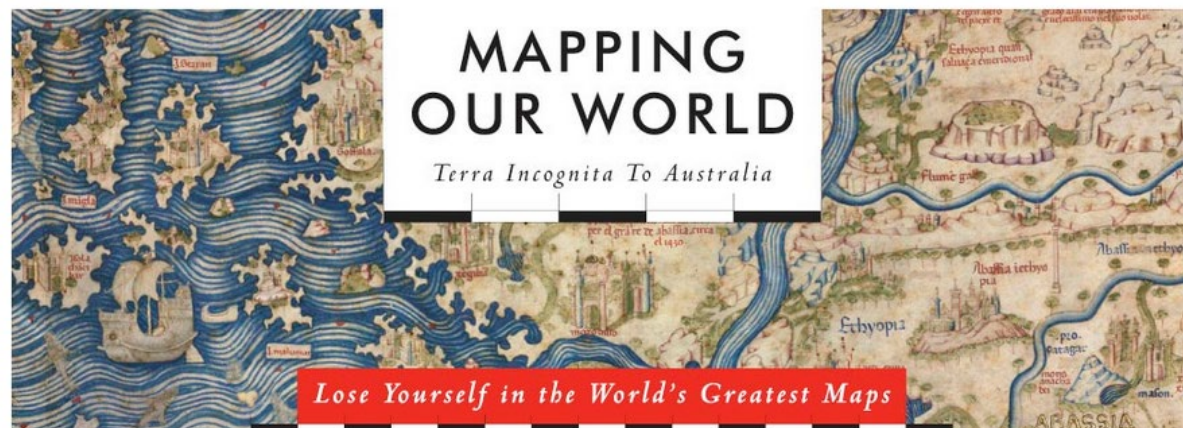
Fabulous Flinders Ranges

Mapping our world.

"Mapping our world" is an exciting exhibition of antique and rare maps being held in the National Library in Canberra until 10 March 2014. It includes a Saxon map from the 11th century, the Psalter world map from 1265 and early maps from James Cook and Matthew Flinders documenting the initial settlement of Australia. It is well worth a visit to the nation's capital and you can [find out more online](#).

It is well worth
a visit to
the nation's
capital...

Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia



Date: 7 November 2013 to 10 March 2014

Opening hours:

Only at the National Library of Australia
open from 10.00am daily with last entry at 5.00pm
(closed Christmas Day)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

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AGTA's flagship journal available soon!

The flagship journal of AGTA Geographical Education is in final editing and will soon be available electronically.

Geographical Education Volume 26, 2013, 'Building Geography's new frontier' contains four papers: David Lambert provides a threefold answer to his question 'Who hung the humanities?', Simon Catling reflects upon Primary School Geography in the English national curriculum, Nick Hutchinson examines the nature of world views in teaching and learning about the Australian Curriculum: Geography, and, Ken Purnell examines the challenges and opportunities afforded by the implementation of this curriculum.

The journal contains two reports: the 'Chair's report' by Malcolm McNerney and 'Empowering the next generation to make their own world' by Nick Hutchinson. Geoffrey Paterson has edited nine teaching and learning reviews. AGTA thanks Ken Purnell for his skills as editor of the Journal 2003-2013.

Support your journal-AGTA invites your participation in producing future editions of this journal. Geographical Education encourages school, university teachers and all others interested in geography

to share their ideas and experiences in order to promote sound practice, innovative strategies, modern developments and reflection in geographical education.

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AGTA conference

The next AGTA conference is to be held in January 2015 and is to be located in Rotorua, New Zealand.

The AGTA board have formed a relationship with Group Events in order to run an exciting and thought-provoking conference with the opportunity to visit a new location. Initial expressions of interest forms are available [online](#) and further information about the proposed program and activities can be [found here](#).

This is a great opportunity to connect with other geography teachers and to learn new

skills and share ideas. The AGTA conferences are always well attended and many people make lifelong friends. The geography teacher's community is very welcoming of new attendees and a lot of fun is had by everyone.

As an attendee of the last three conferences I can certainly recommend them as a way to meet new people and have a great time.



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Geospace

Geospace, the innovative online support devised and developed through the work of the AGATA Board has been launched.



Geospace enables the implementation of the AC Geography and all teachers delivering the AC Geography curriculum are encouraged to tour this set of resources, which include Core units and Support Units.

The site will be consistently updated with new materials, ultimately hoping to provide comprehensive support for the whole curriculum.

In this edition of Geographia AGTA News we focus on the Years 5-6 section. Here teachers can find further explanation of the 7 key concepts of the curriculum. These are supported by two illustrations that offer teachers PowerPoints that can be used to build authentic and engaging geography lessons for students in the later years of primary education and activities involving the development of map and atlas skills.

In addition the website includes a range of exemplars to show how these ideas and concepts might look in the Primary classroom. Each one is clearly explained and the links to the other parts of the Australian Curriculum are explicitly stated.

All resources are specified and a suggested structure of the lesson or series of lessons is shown. Any teacher who is faced with delivering parts of the AC Geography and feels they lack in any expertise is encouraged to visit the website and utilise the resource available.

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Thinking geographically

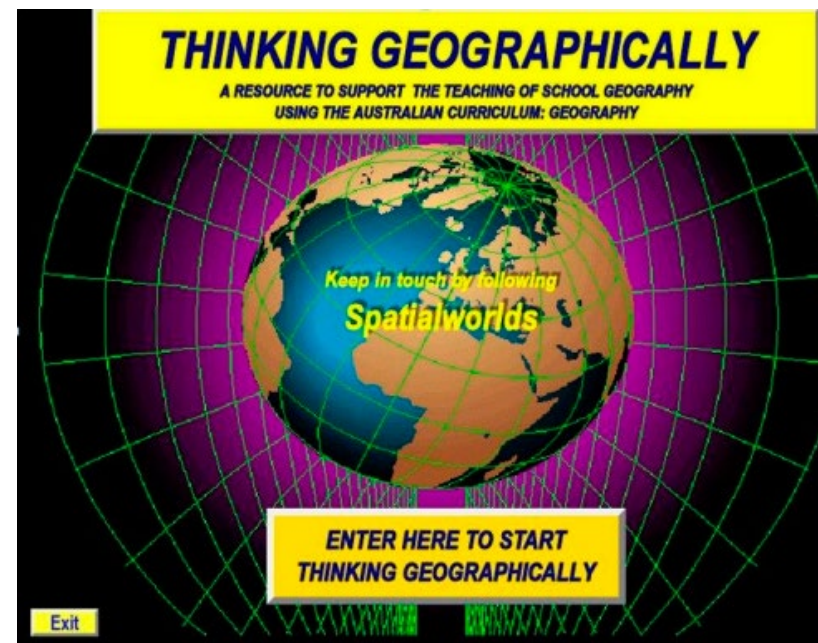
AGTA is delighted to offer a new resource to support the teaching of geography in schools.

In association with Malcolm McNerny who has developed the resource, AGTA is offering a DVD entitled "Thinking geographically". The DVD contains geographical thinking examples, exercises, articles, over 50 Thinkpieces on geography (thought provoking articles on geographical education in schools, curriculum planning and assessment processes and templates. In addition to this there are also hundreds of direct links to Internet sites to support geographical thinking and the teaching of geography presentations and video resource links to support professional learning.

The DVD is available through the [AGTA website](#). Purchases can be made securely online

and the cost of the resource is only AUD\$99 for an unlimited license.

It is definitely a "must-have" resource for all Australian Geography teachers, offering lesson materials, professional learning and curriculum planning materials alongside a range of other materials.



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Around the Affiliates:

GTANSW

Welcomed a new president in Susan Caldis who has recently moved back into the classroom at Castle Hill High School after working for on the AC Geography for ACARA for 3 years.

Extensive resources of interest to geography teachers can be found at:

<http://www.gtansw.org.au/resources.php>

<http://www.gtansw.org.au/resources.php#AGCScoopit>

<http://gtansw.org.au/resources.php#AGCScoopit>

<http://www.ozteacher.com.au/pd/associations/the-geography-teachers-association-of-new-south-wales/24365>

The association acknowledges the retirement of Barbara Heath and Susan Bliss. Both have held long associations with the GTANSW and they are congratulated on their achievements.

Barbara Heath retires from Council this year. Barbara explains, 'The forty three years that I have been on the Council have been totally rewarding for me. I have been privileged to have met and worked with some outstanding teachers who love Geography as much as I do and who do much to promote it.' Barbara was the inveterate volunteer at student lectures and GTA conferences.

She was the first to raise her hand when there was a job to be done whether it was cleaning out the cupboard full of resources at Gladesville

Public School are checking of the names of students of hordes of students at conferences. Barbara always made sure that such students behaved themselves. We wish her well with on an extended holiday after her stint as invigilator at the HSC exams.

Susan Bliss retires from Council this year. Susan explains, 'As a member of GTA for over 52 years I have decided to retire from the Council and spend more time with family. I am proud to have met extraordinary and hard working geographers on my journey through life and how their love of the subject has been effectively transferred to future generations'.

Susan was the indefatigable organiser, organised enough to complete both a Masters and Doctorate of Education, author a dozen textbooks

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GTANSW (cont)

and over fifty articles in the Geography Bulletin, present at conferences, lecture at universities and serve as Editor, Vice President and President of the Association. Susan has accumulated a suite of awards including a GTANSW Fellowship, University of Sydney Teaching Excellence Award, Geoff Conolly Award for an outstanding contribution to Geography Bulletin, McDonald Holmes Medal and Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW. We wish her well looking after her grand children and travelling the world.

GHTANT

GHTANT is newly formed and has been accepted as an affiliate member of AGTA. While they have a small membership at this stage interest is growing as evidenced by over 60 people attending recent workshop on the AC Geography.

GTAQ

It is an exciting time to be a geographer in Queensland with the F-10 Australian Curriculum being officially implemented in 2014. Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) has published the draft standards for discussion on their website.

At the AGM on 21 November, there will be a Forum held on the Australian Curriculum Senior Geography for Senior Geography teachers with a panel of three QSA representatives - see GTAQ website for registration.

The Senior Syllabus implementation at this stage appears to be in 2017 (2016 Syllabus) timelines still flexible.

GTAQ has provided:-

- three field work experiences ,
- the annual Conference (250 delegates attended),

It is an
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geographer in
Queensland

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It was great to see increased attendance at this year's GTASA Conference in May.

GTAQ (cont)

- three hour introductory session on Geography Awareness and promotion of resources including Geogspace with Malcolm McInerney and
- on 19th October we held two sessions- Senior Planning with Planning Institute of Australia and Year 7 unpacking units and ideas on field work.

GTAQ are aiming for Queensland members to receive two more "Queensland Geographers" this year! Even with our busy lifestyles we are an enthusiastic, optimistic, engaging and generally efficient group of volunteers so please consider joining this team. We are in need of primary teacher representatives and encourage you all to consider participating.

GTASA

CEASA has been supporting our professional associations by running a number of Combined Associations Conferences. The most recent was Australian Curriculum: Putting it Into Practice R-8 on October 11. Malcom McInerney and John Butler have generously given up their time to run workshops.

It was great to see increased attendance at this year's GTASA Conference in May. Ian Johnson and his sub-committee along with the workshop presenters and fieldwork organisers did a terrific job.

At the conference the DD Harris Award was presented to Alexandra Piggott for the enormous contribution she has made encouraging the development of ideas, materials and practice in the teaching of Geography over many years.

The release of GeogSpace during our conference was very well received.

The AGM held at the conference saw three new faces join the Executive – Peter Mann, Joanne Wegener and Ben Whyte. We thank them for volunteering and look forward to their contributions and expertise. Ross Johnson stepped down as Secretary after many years of service. He has been a tireless worker for GTASA and will continue to be involved as a member of the Executive. Yolanda Hyde has taken over as GTASA Secretary.

Agencies involved in DRASEN (Disaster Resilient Australia School Education Network) have developed some fantastic resources to support the teaching of hazard preparedness and mitigation mapped against Australian Curriculum Learning Areas English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography. These can be found [online](#).

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A sub-committee is currently looking at building a new GTASA website with increased functionality

GTASA (cont)

The School of Social Sciences in association with GTASA held its Year 12 Geography Night at Adelaide University on August 22nd. Extremely interesting lectures were given by Professor Graeme Hugo on 'Growth of Youth Population in the Asia and Pacific: Patterns and Implications' and Dr John Tibby on 'Ecological Footprints'. These lectures and those of previous years can be found on the GTASA [website](#).

Rita Shepherd has been organizing this evening for many years and it is a great opportunity for Year 12 students to gain valuable insight into aspects of the Stage 2 course, see Adelaide University and mix with their peers. A sub-committee is currently looking at building a new GTASA website with increased functionality. We hope to have it operational early in 2014.

GTAV

GATV membership currently stands at 644, including pre-service teachers who are offered free membership.

Highlights of GTAV activities in the second half of 2013 have included:

- our 47th Annual Conference held in August attracted an attendance of over 820 people across three days. Highlights included key note addresses from Tim Flannery and Bob Brown.
- Cross curriculum collaboration including Thinking without Borders a collaboration with Melbourne Museum, HTAV and VCAA at Melbourne Museum; Language of Belonging: Collaboration for Primary Geography with Australian Children's Television Foundation, GEP and Australian Teachers of Media and 21st Century Geography workshop in conjunction with VITTA.

- production of resources for the Australian Curriculum such as Year 7 Unit 2 and Year 9, Unit 2 with Victoria Walks encompassing field activities and uploading prepared walks (maps and annotated photos) and action ideas to a website and Geographies of global well being - a resource for Year 10, Unit 2 by the AusAID funded GEP team.

Our Scoop.it and Facebook sites are being increasingly accessed and GTAV is active also on Twitter.

One area of concern is the possibility of federal government funding cuts to our organisation for the Global Education Project.

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2013 has been a stand-out year in terms of professional development.

GAWA

2013 has been a stand-out year in terms of professional development. We have managed to deliver 2 conferences in 8 months with the staging of the 2013 AGTA Biennial Conference in January and our State Conference in August. The state conference filled our venue and a range of excellent keynote addresses, workshops and fieldtrips were presented for both primary and secondary based delegates.

We have also held a New and Beginning Teachers Day, an evening presentation exploring the topic of Climate Change and on the 4th November GAWA will be holding our second AC: Geography PD day with AGTA

Immediate Past Chair, Malcolm McInerney and World Vision Manager of Global Education, Rod Yule presenting. Our year 12 revision seminars have been fully subscribed, including a regional seminar.

Our new Australian Curriculum Year 8 geography and history textbook, 'People, Places and Perspectives' will be available in December 2013. We hope to produce Year 9 and 10 texts in the same series in future years. We are also very hopeful that a Year 5/6 Australian Curriculum textbook will be produced by GAWA in the next 24 months.

This year we have produced promotional posters for primary staff and students, a secondary-focussed flyer, and are producing a document outlining all of the

geography-related offerings at the tertiary institutions in Western Australia

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is presently 'adopting and adapting' the AC: Geography senior school units with the view of integrating these units with our present Courses of Study. These new units will be introduced in Year 11 in 2015 and Year 12, in 2016. GAWA is well represented on the committee undertaking this task.

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IGTA

Currently, membership stands at 22 active members, with 17 of these teachers actually teaching Geography in 2013, mainly in the senior secondary sector. It is hoped that some, if not many, of the primary and high school teachers attending the AGTA workshop on the Australian Curriculum: Geography on 29 November, will also join.

The introduction of the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* will occur in 2014 in all the sectors of education, government, independent and

catholic. Units 1 and 2 of the Senior Secondary curriculum will also start in 2014 and units 3 and 4 will commence in 2015.

Malcolm McNerney is running an AGTA workshop in Hobart for the Australian Curriculum: Geography on Friday 29 November. Over 50 teachers from mainly independent schools around the state are attending at the moment. The workshop is now being promoted in the government sector.

Curriculum personnel started promoting the new Geography curriculum in the government sector in afternoon seminars in September around the state. They are also promoting the AGTA workshop with Malcolm at the end of their seminar and will advertise it in their curriculum newsletter so that all government schools are aware of it.

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GeoCareers

One of the most common experiences for geography teachers is interacting with students and parents who declare they love the subject but what career does it lead to?

GEOCAREERS is a specific website resource developed by AGTA to enable geography teachers to promote the vocational value of the subject to their students and schools. It contains lots of resources to support teachers in this activity as well as interviews with a range of people who have

studied geography and explain how it has been important in their final career direction.

There are also downloadable and printable resources that can be used in careers evenings or for subject selection events. Alongside this is a range of online resources and search engines.

The site also links directly to tertiary course in each state that have geographical elements. It's a one stop shop for geography careers.



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