

geographia



AGTA News
March 2016

- The Australian Federation
Of Societies For Studies Of
Society And Environment
- National Committee
- State Association Reports
*see what's happening
around the country...*

March AGTA News

Welcome to the fifth edition of the new look Geographia AGTA news.

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 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.

[New South Wales](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

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Glacier - New Zealand

GeoCareers



AGTA Website

The AGTA [Website](#) is your “go-to” site for any information about AGTA and national geography issues and activities.

Jump on and [register for the email newsletter](#) to keep up to date or check out the [Teaching resources](#), competitively priced and information for students about [GeoCareers: Geography opens a world of careers](#).

AGTA have a range of resources available to support the teaching of Geography

Australian Primary Principals Association

Australian Primary Principals Association has presented a position paper regarding the Primary Curriculum design and the range of subjects to be taught. It is an interesting and informing piece.

AC—Professional Learning

AGTA has been active in the provision of PL opportunities for a range of teachers across the whole country. Contact your local GTA for information about upcoming events. Also look out for exciting new opportunities in 2016. AGTA continues to fund experts to attend workshops and forums in different locations where a need has been identified. If you would like more information about this please contact AGTA via [this link](#) to see if we can help.

Don't forget to [sign up for the newsletter](#) so you can receive up to date information and offers.

GEOGSPACE

[GEOGSPACE](#) continues to evolve and new units and materials are being added over time.



It is seen as a dynamic, evolving resource and it is anticipated that GeogSpace will continue to grow and become even more interactive and comprehensive as it reflects the dynamism of geographical education in the 21st century.

AGTA welcomes feedback about the GeogSpace site and resources, and wishes all users every success in their teaching of geography in Australian classrooms.

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The Australian Federation Of Societies For Studies Of Society And Environment

The Australian Federation Of Societies For Studies Of Society And Environment (AFSSSE) is a consortium of four professional associations, namely the

Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), the Australian Geography Teachers' Association (AGTA), Business Educators Australasia (BEA) and the Social Educators Association of Australia (SEAA). AGTA has a representative that attends meetings and the group periodically produces relevant resources that can be utilised in the geography classroom. Check the [website](#) for more information.

Australian Curriculum: Geography



As a result of the federal review of the Australian Curriculum a new version – number 8 has been released. You can check the tracked changes document [here](#) to ensure you are implementing the most current version.



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National Committee for Geography

National Committee for Geography has made more progress on the Decadal plan for geography. It has been decided to develop a program called Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences. This will assist in explaining the role of geography to policy makers and decisions maker. This will include the development of an educative document organised around the Federal Government list of the five main focuses for strategic research to be delivered by March 2016.

Working parties will be formed to investigate and report on these five strands:

- Living in a changing environment
- Promoting population health and well being
- Managing our food and water assets
- Securing Australia's place in a changing world
- Lifting productivity and economic growth

All of these have explicit links to geographical research and the importance of geographical knowledge in the classroom. There

will be a sixth working party focussing on school geography and developing support for the foundational nature of Geography and the fundamental need for compulsory Geography F-10 in schools.

More information is available on the [Geographical Sciences – Australian Academy of Science website](#).

AGTA has supported this initiative by contribution to the seeding funding to begin the project. Look out for opportunities to get involved.

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AGTA Awards

Have you developed an exciting new teaching resource? As the conference program begins to take shape don't forget about the AGTA awards. The entry details will be added to the website soon. [Bookmark this link](#) to keep up to date with the process.

Free high quality resources

The GTAV has many of the Global Education Project resources free for schools to order. The only cost is the postage. You can [check out the range here](#). [Click here](#) to access the order form. These are very high quality targeted resources that were developed by the GEP before they were disbanded. [Contact the GTAV via email](#) if you have further questions or requests.



There are a comprehensive range of resources that support the teaching of different aspects of the AC...

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Around the Affiliates:

GTANSW

Currently, membership is just under 500. The 2015 Committee has 19 members in total – 17 from NSW and 2 from ACT. Susan Caldis is completing her third year as President.

Professional learning events for 2015 included the HSC Exam Review; Dubbo Mini Conference; Skills workshops for teachers new to teaching Geography; HSC Student Lectures; the Annual Conference and AGTA Roadshow. Each event was registered to enable teachers to work towards fulfilling accreditation requirements.

The new NSW K-10 Geography syllabus was released in July. The remainder of 2015 and all of 2016 will be 'familiarization and planning' with implementation scheduled for Years 7 and 9 in 2017. Primary

schools have the option of implementing in 2016. To support familiarization and planning, the AGTA Roadshow was hosted by GTANSW in Canberra, Sydney and Newcastle between 26-28 November. More than 210 teachers attended across the three days.

The 2015 Annual Conference was held on 5 November in Sydney and attended by over 120 educators.

The conference theme was 'Sustainability: our places, our environments and our subject'. Keynote speakers included Associate Professor Deirdre Dragovich; Associate Professor Simon Pinnegar; Dr Grant Kleeman; Dr Christine Evans; and primary teacher educators from Western Sydney University.

On 24 November, Paul Alger (Minute Secretary) and Susan Caldis (President) were the delighted recipients of the Professional Teacher Council 'Outstanding Service to the Profession' award. The GTANSW Council nominated Professor Phillip O'Neill from the Urban Research Centre, Western Sydney University for the McDonald Holmes Medal, which was awarded on November 30 at the Geographical Society of NSW awards night.

Susan Caldis (President)

Each AGTA roadshow event was registered to enable teachers to work towards fulfilling accreditation requirements.

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GHTANT

Our most significant event this year has been the Festival of Teaching, held 28 – 29 August 2015. This professional learning opportunity was the result of collaboration and cooperation between six professional teaching associations. The Northern Territory is a small jurisdiction so it makes sense to combine our resources. The project was initiated by GHTANT and the Science Teachers Association (STANT) and quickly grew to include the English, Maths, Languages, and Arts. Attendance was free to members of any of the professional associations. Registration

for non-members was the cost of membership to the professional association of their choice. The event was well supported by Northern Territory teachers and commended by both the Minister for Education and the Chief Executive of the Department, both of whom attended and spoke at the opening. As a result, the Festival of Teaching is set to become an annual event and has attracted significant funding commitments from both the Professional Teachers Association of the Northern Territory (PTANT) and the Department. The Chief Executive in particular is keen to ensure that regional and remote teachers have the opportunity to travel to Darwin to participate. The

event has also reinforced the important role that professional associations play in the professional development of teachers.

GHTANT would like to thank our presenters Dr. Terrence McClafferty (CDU), Anthony O'Flaherty (ESRI), Marg Girdham (DOE) and Malcolm McInerney (GTASA) for their excellent workshops; and an additional recognition and thanks to GTASA for their financial contribution by funding Malcolm's attendance at our conference.

Julie Hearnden (Treasurer)

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GTAQ

GTAQ has 234 financial members which includes 60 Associate members, a significant increase on previous years in response to the offer of free membership this year.

The annual Conference was held at QUT Gardens Point campus on Saturday July 25 with the theme 'Doing Geography'. Friday was the fieldwork day with 48 people attending while 138 attended the Conference sessions on Saturday. Other PD included an intensive one day workshop at the start of Term 4 to assist Geography teachers interpret the syllabus documents and discover new and exciting ways to teach and assess. This was facilitated by Anne-Marie Gerlach, Malcolm McInnery and local presenters, including the QCAA Assistant Director, Paul Ould, who spoke about

the changes happening to the Queensland education system, particularly those in the senior schooling area.

These changes involve the end of the OP and the Queensland Core Skills test and the adoption of the ATAR together with the introduction of some external assessment in every subject. The Year 11 cohort of 2018 will be the first group to experience these changes. In light of this and with the focus on Geography a number of members of Council are involved in various projects associated with these developments. In terms of HASS the Queensland Government has yet to make a formal response to this curriculum change by ACARA.

Our ongoing challenges include finding the 'best fit' to reach out and engage better with the regional members,

making 'sustainable' and ongoing contact with the teachers in the primary sector across the state, continuing an ongoing involvement in any new developments regarding senior secondary education in Queensland and sourcing a permanent 'home' for the association.

Russell Smerdon (President)

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Positive partnerships between GTASA and the universities continues to be a priority.

GTASA

We currently have 114 members: 99 financial members; 15 life members

After our AGM in May the following changes were made in the executive roles of our committee: Peter Mann - the role of Vice President; Alexandra Piggott - the role of Treasurer; and I have replaced Greg Way as President.

Our committee remains strong with 17 members. All members have a role on one or more sub-committees, which are responsible for organizing various aspects of the work of our association.

Our Annual Conference in May was well attended with 100 people registering for each day of the two-day conference. General feedback was very positive. It was pleasing to see many new faces at the conference. Ian Johnson continued to organize a superb program,

and has been asked to continue in this role for another year.

Mick Law presented a one day spatial technologies workshop at the beginning of Term 3. The workshop was attended by 25 teachers (all secondary school). General consensus was that these workshops are invaluable to teachers, and highlighted the continued need for workshops focused on spatial technology.

We are currently planning next year's events, which we are hoping will include the AGTA Roadshow in Term 1.

The online publication of SA Geographer has been favourably accepted by our members. Elise Walker and Melissa Mulholland have taken over the role of co-editors on this publication.

Slow progress is being made with the SSSI partnership project. Some teacher workshops have occurred this year. Malcolm McInerney and Dan Crane are the GTASA contacts in this project.

Rita Shepherd organized another successful Year 12 Geography Night in August. This annual event was well attended by many Year 12 students and teachers. The two guest lecturers from Adelaide University – Dr John Tibby and Dr Helen Feist – gave excellent presentations on issues related to water and population from a South Australian perspective. Positive partnerships between GTASA and the universities continues to be a priority. We are looking at ways we can develop these partnerships in the hope of further promoting Geography teaching and learning in this state.

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GTASA (cont.)

Executive members of the committee met recently to develop a calendar of events for 2016. The goal of the calendar is to be able to clearly present to our members what the association has to offer them, and what we are doing to promote Geography in our state.

The SACE Board is current developing the new Geography curriculum for Stage 1&2 (Years 11 & 12), due to be implemented in 2017 at Stage 1 and 2018 for Stage 2. The curriculum has been developed with reference to the ACARA Senior Geography Curriculum, however, with modifications to suit our local requirements. There has been considerable debate over what form the external assessment should take, and whether the current format of geography exams has any place in the new curriculum. This issue is yet to

be resolved, and no doubt will be subject to much discussion when the paper is released for public consultation in 2016.

Low numbers in Senior School still continues to be an issue in our state. Mandatory curriculum requirements in SACE (ie. PLP at Year 10 and Research Project at Year 11/12), along with an ambivalence towards the relevance of Geography in future careers, seem to be key factors affecting Geography numbers.

In August, Malcolm McInerney, representing GTASA, attended the NT Conference as a presenter. In 2016, we are hoping to offer similar support and partnership to our neighbouring state.

10 years ago the association was bequeathed a substantial sum of money. Recently, the President and Treasurer have investigated strategies for

wisely investing this money in order to increase the income capacity of the association.

GTASA, along with a couple of our executive members have been nominated for awards at the CEASA World Teachers' Day Awards (end of October).

2016 is the 80th anniversary of our Association. Plans are underway to make it a year of celebration, as we reflect on what was, what is, and what will be. CHANGE will be one obvious theme for the year-long celebrations. This will include the launch of a new logo for our association.

Joanne Wegner (President)

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GTAV

It has been another busy six months for GTAV. Our membership currently stands at 791 including 182 per-service teachers and 66 primary teachers. Our annual conference in August was a huge success and attracted 940 delegates over the three days. In addition, we have held a number of joint professional development activities with the History Teachers Association, particularly for primary and lower secondary teachers.

Our major resource production this year has centred on four senior years' textbooks (one for each semester) for the new Year 11 and 12 course which comes in next year. The books will

be available in electronic and print formats. We have continued to promote the incorporation of spatial technologies into Geography; a highlight in Term 3 was running a fieldwork day for selected secondary students from a range of schools showing them how to use such technologies in the real world. This day was made possible by SPP funding.

Trish Douglas (President)

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GAWA



2015 has seen membership numbers consolidate with 300 members. Our 2015 AGM was held in September where we had a number of experienced councillors retire and five first time councillors elected.

2015 has continued to be a busy year of professional development programs. Term 2 saw secondary and primary PD events held in May. Another Primary event in August term 3 with over 45 primary teachers attending. The GAWA Secondary Conference in August saw 150 delegates attending and in November we held our fourth Australian Curriculum:

Geography PD day. This was the AGTA/GAWA Road Show initiative focussing on the WA HASS P – 10 Curriculum: Geography.

The GAWA Bulletin has had four editions this year, examining the final concepts of the AC: Geography and then moving onto the cross curriculum priorities.

Sales of our new Year 11 Geography ATAR Course text, 'Hazards, Networks and Interconnections' have been very strong. A new text for the Year 12 Western Australian Curriculum Senior School ATAR Course, simply titled 'WA ATAR Geography – Units 3 and 4' is being produced by GAWA. We are taking a new direction by having a multi author approach with leading academics, industry specialists, curriculum developers and experienced teachers contributing chapters in their areas

of expertise. With the new course, GAWA will be developing a new 'WA ATAR yr. 12 Geography – Unit 3 & 4 Revision Guide' and we have recently appointed our chief Year 12 exam writer as the author.

The GAWA website has recently been upgraded and the new look went live on 1st October. During term 3 GAWA also launched its Facebook page. This resource is proving to be popular with and useful to both teachers and students.

Our 2015 annual WACE Stage 3 regional revision seminar at Bunbury sold out and our Perth seminar was attended by over 300 students.

The final release of the West Australian HASS Curriculum P-10 occurred in July for implementation in 2017. This brings to an end a curriculum development phase that some GAWA councillors and members have been involved

in for the last seven years. The hard work of all involved at both the national and state levels over this time is to be applauded.

Good numbers of students have chosen to study the new Year 11 ATAR geography course in 2015.

Now that the final WA HASS Curriculum: Geography has been released we expect our primary and secondary memberships to keep growing.

Darryl Michie (President)

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TGTA

The committee resolved to undertake a governance audit in May, in part because of the untimely death of Wayne Sutton (President) who processed most of the corporate knowledge and history about the TGTA.

The TGTA is conducting its first Professional Development opportunity for the year in October in conjunction with the AGM. Dr Peter Wilde (formerly lecturer in Geography,

University of Tasmania) will give a presentation called *"Population change within Tasmania's local areas: A taster to ABS spatial data"*.

The TGTA is a member of the Network of Education Associations of Tasmania. TGTA members are able to access NEAT events at no charge.

Debbie Claridge continues to maintain a data base of about 60 to disseminate information

too. The challenge for TGTA is convert more of these people into members.

The TGTA recently attended an ABS Demography Roadshow in Hobart in June.

Dr Greg Calvert

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Australian Geography Competition

Material will be sent to secondary schools in Early 2016. For further information, [visit the website](#), or contact [Bernard Fitzpatrick](#).



Geographical Education

The latest edition has been published with a focus on Complementary Geographies. It can be accessed [here](#). It is an excellent source of contemporary research and thinking the field of geographical education and well worth a close look.



AGTA 2017 Conference

Organisation of the next conference to be held in Melbourne from 19-12 January 2017 is well underway. Please bookmark this link to keep up to date with the developments. Details will be added as the program begins to take shape. But get excited about the converging of geographers on Melbourne in early 2017!

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